

# Louisburg

## Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

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December 2023 - January 2024

## What makes Louisburg a vibrant community?

Here's your chance to tell City officials what makes or does not make Louisburg a great place to live.

City staff is working to align the goals of the City's Bright Future Comprehensive Plan and other master plans with current needs and wants. The community can help by providing feedback to two survey questions.

According to the introduction section of Louisburg's Bright Future Plan, it is a planning and decision-making guidebook and will influence community development policy. Generally comprehensive plans have a 20-year shelf life.

The Bright Future Plan "builds on Louisburg's assets and strengths while looking forward to an enhanced quality of life, new job opportunities, a revitalized downtown and vibrant neighborhoods and shopping districts."

The City's current comprehensive plan was adopted in December 2017.

A comprehensive plan works hand-in-hand with zoning regulations. The comp plan serves as a guide on how land should be used while zoning regulations regulate land uses as recommended by the plan.

To determine if plans and goals need to be adjusted to meet new community desires, staff is asking for feedback from the community.

The two questions are: what elements are present now that make Louisburg a vibrant community and what more can or should be done to maintain a truly vibrant community.

Residents can find the survey on the City's website under the Community News section. Completed surveys should be dropped off at City Hall either at the front counter or the drop box on the west side of the building. The information will also be posted on the City's Facebook page.

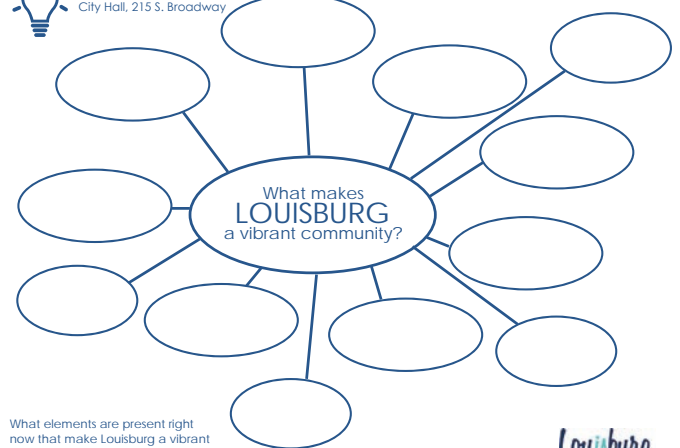
All answers will be compiled to gain a better understanding of what citizens want Louisburg to look like in the future.

Residents are asked to complete the surveys and return by Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Results will be shared during public meetings.



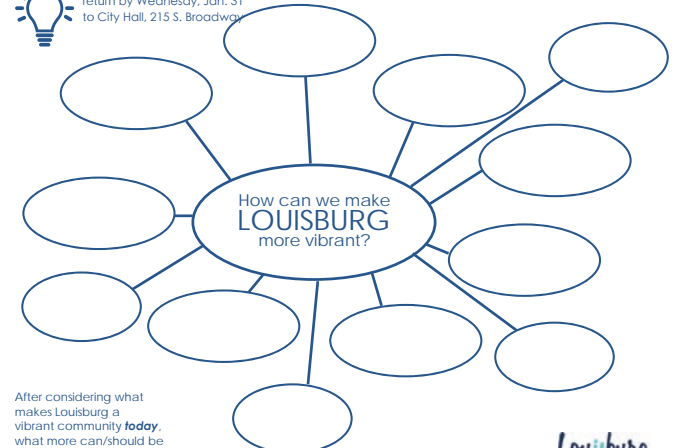
Fill out as many bubbles as you want, and return by Wednesday, Jan. 31 to City Hall, 215 S. Broadway



What elements are present right now that make Louisburg a vibrant community? Think big or small, we want to hear it all!



Fill out as many bubbles as you want, and return by Wednesday, Jan. 31 to City Hall, 215 S. Broadway



After considering what makes Louisburg a vibrant community today, what more can/should be done to further establish and maintain a truly vibrant community?



City of Louisburg residents can find these surveys on the City's website under the Community News section on the homepage.



**Mayor**

Donna Cook  
dcook@louisburgkansas.gov

**Ward 1**

Scott Margrave  
smargrave@louisburgkansas.gov

**Ward 2**

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**Ward 4**

TJ Williams  
twilliams@louisburgkansas.gov

**At-Large**

Steve Town  
stown@louisburgkansas.gov

**City Hall**

Nathan Law  
City Administrator  
215 S. Broadway  
Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-5371  
www.louisburgkansas.gov  
Hours: 7 am - 4:30 pm  
Monday-Friday

**Police Department**

Chief Josh Weber  
209 S. Metcalf Rd.  
Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-3191

**Fire Department**

Chief Gerald Rittinghouse  
205 S. Metcalf Rd.  
Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-4700

Louisburg Speaks is published six times a year by the City of Louisburg for its residents. Please direct questions or comments to jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov

The City of Louisburg requires building permits. Please call the Building & Zoning Department at 913-837-5811 before beginning any construction project.



*A new fence graces the south side of the old section of the Louisburg Cemetery. The fence replaces a taller fence that was damaged in a motor vehicle accident last fall. At right: A time capsule was recovered during fence work.*



## Safety measures made to old cemetery

The Fox Hall/Cemetery Board deliberated over several months to determine how best to fix a fence that was damaged in a motor vehicle crash last fall. The fence ran parallel to Amity Street along the south side of the Louisburg Cemetery with a significant section removed after the accident.

Part of that discussion by board members included how to make the exit drive from the old cemetery safer for drivers. The final resolution was to remove part of the stone entrance/exit monuments and have a shorter fence installed. Both of those measures have increased driver visibility when exiting the cemetery.

The Edwin Perdue dedication plaques that were located in those monuments were saved. Board members will consider where those might be relocated in the cemetery at a future meeting.

Also recovered during the monument removal was a small time capsule placed behind a dedication plaque.

The board is also expected to discuss when and where the time capsule should be opened at a future meeting.

The board also approved adding a fence along the west side of the new section of the cemetery. This fence helps provide a visual barrier between the new cemetery and the commercial district located directly to the west.

## New community sign coming to town

A new Electronic Message Center sign will soon replace the old community sign located at the western edge of the cemetery.

The City Council approved using one-third of the funds that came from the sale of the city-owned property located at the corner of Amity and Metcalf last spring to be used to purchase the sign.

The EMC will allow more community-oriented messages to be displayed, which will be helpful when multiple events are occur within a few days of each other.

When the Council discussed the need for the sign, Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse said that such a sign could be very beneficial in emergency situations.



*This is the artist's rendering of the new EMC sign that will soon come to Louisburg.*

# BITS 'N PIECES

## New council takes office in January

Newly elected councilmember Kalee Smith-Stone, representing Ward 4, and Steve Town, re-elected to his At-Large council seat, will be sworn into office by City Clerk Jessica McGowin at a special City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8.

Both were elected to office in the recent November general election. Both councilmembers will serve a three-year term. That will be the only item of business at the meeting.

## UTV tags

UTV tags are up for renewal Jan. 1. City residents who wish to drive their UTV on most city streets must have the vehicle tagged through the Police Department. Tags are good through one calendar year and may be purchased at City Hall during regular business hours.

The renewal fee is \$50. Owners must provide a copy of current insurance and a valid driver's license to renew the vehicle. A sticker will be issued for renewal.

Those who would like to get a tag for the first time should make an appointment with the Police Department by calling 913-837-3191. The vehicle will undergo an inspection, and the driver will complete an application.

If you did not renew your vehicle last year, the vehicle must be inspected by the Police Department and an application completed by the driver.

UTVs may not be driven on Amity/K-68.

## Dog tags

Dog owners are reminded their pet's dog tags are due Jan. 1. Dogs older than six months are required to be licensed per City Code. Tags are good for one calendar year. For a spayed or neutered pet the tag is \$3 and \$5 for a pet not spayed or neutered. A copy of the pet's rabies vaccine is also required.

No more than three dogs and only five pets total are allowed per household.

Owners who have not purchased their pet's license by May 1 will be charged a \$5 late penalty fee, per City Code.

Tags can be purchased from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at City Hall.

## Natural gas safety

If snow or ice collects near your home's gas meter, it should be removed by brushing it off with a broom or your hand.

Chimneys and vents for natural gas appliances should also be kept clear of snow or ice to prevent carbon monoxide build-up.

Gas leaks are possible during the winter due to ground shifting during extreme cold weather.

If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate the area immediately and call 911 after you are a safe distance away from a suspected leak.

## MAYOR'S MINUTE

I want to wish everyone a great New Year and pray that your Christmas was wonderful with family and friends.

This year has flown by. I look back on what has transpired in our city, and I am amazed at the projects and businesses that are happening. New restaurants, retail/service stores, new sidewalks, some stormwater drainage issues fixed with more to come, new cemetery fence (it also helped with the safety issue of exiting out of the cemetery) and new traffic stoplights are just some of the items. We still have projects to complete and areas to fix. As they say, in order to eat an elephant, it is one bite at a time even though I'd like to go faster because I don't have a lot of patience.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

I'm still working on how to publish community events for our city to keep people informed. Where there is a will, there is a way.

### GOALS/PROJECTS

As we start this year off, some goals/

projects for the New Year I want to continue working on are: enhance the current Farmers Market, sidewalk connecting downtown to Price Chopper, more stormwater improvements, keep working on wayfinding signs for the businesses and area, help our new Convention and Tourism Committee with their projects for attracting people to come to Louisburg.

### INPUT NEEDED

As your Mayor, I need your input also. Are there goals you would like to see your city work towards this year? You might have ideas that we as the Governing Body would like to hear that we haven't thought about. I know it is hard for everyone to come to City Council meetings; however, we do have a livestream link for people that can't make the meetings. The more informed our citizens are helps us with decisions that need to be made and not just relying on social media information that is out there.

### THANK YOU

As I start this year off, I just want to

say thank you for everyone that has helped the Mayor and Council in making our city a better place to live, not only for you but for the future of Louisburg. We have a great community that I believe we all strive to help by volunteering on city boards/commissions and other committees that our town needs; from the Library, Chamber of Commerce, Senior Center, Louisburg Recreation, Summer Blessings, USD 416 and so many more that our citizens help with on a daily basis that the list just goes on and on.

On a last note, if you would please fill out a volunteer form that is on the website for the different city boards. You look under the tab Government then Boards and Commissions tab. Some boards you do not have to be a Louisburg resident.

Once again, thank you!



**DONNA  
COOK**

*Donna*



## A look back at Holiday Magic on Broadway

Left: A visit with Santa Claus is a must at Holiday Magic on Broadway. Finley, 4, even has his own Santa whiskers as he visits with St. Nick along with big brother Gabriel, 11. Right: The Grinch is another popular stop during the afternoon's festivities. Bottom left: Cookie decorating takes a lot of concentration for this youngster at Mrs. Claus' Bakeshop. Bottom: The PTO won the Cheermeister award for their "Frozen" booth and Light-Up Parade float.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**City Hall closed in observance of Christmas**  
Monday, Dec. 25

**City Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day**  
Monday, Jan. 1

**Louisburg City Council**  
*moved to Tuesday due to holiday*  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 2  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council-special meeting**  
*swearing in of newly elected officials*  
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 8  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:45 pm Monday, Jan. 8  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Convention & Tourism Committee**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 10  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
*moved to Tuesday due to holiday*  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 16  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 16  
LRC Board office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 31  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 5  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 12  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Convention & Tourism Committee**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 14  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
*moved to Tuesday due to holiday*  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 20  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 20  
LRC Board office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 28  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

*An updated calendar as well as agendas and minutes for city meetings can be found at [www.louisburgkansas.gov](http://www.louisburgkansas.gov) under the Agendas & Minutes icon.*