

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

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April-May 2024

City surveys indoor plumbing

The City of Louisburg is surveying its water customers to take an inventory of pipe materials to comply with a federal mandate.

The survey was included with March utility bills and is also available on the City's website.

RETURN COMPLETED SURVEY BY MAY 10

Residents are asked to complete the survey and return it by May 10, the due date of the April utility bill. Customers who complete and return the survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit. Three bill credits will be awarded in a random drawing. Surveys must be valid to qualify for the drawing. Please fill out the survey to the best of your knowledge. This information is crucial to complete the system's material evaluation.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is requiring all public water supply systems to conduct a lead service line inventory of both public and privately owned water services.

There have been no issues, past or present, with lead in the City of Louisburg's water supply system. The lead and copper survey is an effort to obtain information about the privately owned (customer side) service lines within the system.

5 EASY WAYS TO TELL IF YOUR PIPES ARE LEAD

- Age of your home — most homes built before 1986 may have been constructed using lead pipes.
- Color of the pipe — Dull gray pipes that may darken with age. Remember fittings you can see may have been changed



Lead pipes can usually be found in older homes, those built before 1986, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

out over the years and pipes behind the walls could be lead.

- Hire a professional — A licensed plumber will have specialized equipment that can help confirm if your home or business has lead pipes.
- Conduct a home lead test — purchase a test from a hardware store or online to help detect lead in your lines.
- Assess water quality — If your water has a metallic taste or is dis-

colored, could mean lead pipes are leaching lead into the water used in your home or business.

City Public Works crews will be conducting surveys to collect data on the public, or street side, of the meter.

Only one survey per address should be received by May 10 to be included in the drawing. The survey may be dropped off at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or in the dropbox on the west side of the building. The form may also be completed online and emailed to: jmcgowin@louisburgkansas.gov. If you have any other questions, please contact Louisburg City Hall at 913-837-5371.

Renters may complete the survey or ask their landlord for assistance.

If you would like to 'Opt-Out' and not provide the information, please sign and date for confirmation and return the survey by the deadline.

Scan this QR code with your cell phone's camera to get a copy of the survey.





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City Hall

Nathan Law
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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

Annual flag competition

Calling all artists! The City of Louisburg is looking for a flag design to display in City Hall for the next year. The contest is open for ages 10-13. Participants can use any kind of media to create their design.

The deadline for entry is 4:30 p.m. May 15. Entries should be dropped off at City Hall. Entries should explain the reasoning behind the design.

Then sixth grader Landon Worthington kicked off the flag idea for the city when he spoke at a council meeting in September 2022. Landon's flag is on display at City Hall. This is intended to be an annual contest and each year display a new flag at City Hall.

Election filing deadline

The filing deadline for the November election is noon, Monday, June 3.

Two Louisburg city council seats are up for election this year; the mayor's seat, currently held by Donna Cook, and the Ward 3 seat, currently held by Clint Ernst.

All county level or below candidates file at the County Clerk's office, Paola, 201 S. Pearl, Suite 102.

Drug Take-Back

The Louisburg Police Department will once again be a location for the DEA Drug-Take Back Day.

Residents can bring their unwanted or outdated medications to the event from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 27.

The take-back day provides a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of medications.

More information can be found on the City's website.

Pool gears up for 26th season

The pool opens for its 26th season at noon, Saturday, May 25. The pool closes for the season at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

POOL PASSES

Pool passes are \$30 per person and can be purchased online through the LAC Marketplace. Look for a link on the City's homepage. Children 2 and under and patrons over 65 get in free but seniors must have a pass to gain admittance. Seniors can pick up their free passes at City Hall beginning May 6. New this year will be an ePass option in which an ePass is emailed to the recipient and stored in their Apple or Android wallet app. Every pass purchaser will get the ePass option and can choose to also get the traditional pass cards.

DAILY ADMISSION & HOURS

Residents may also pay daily admission of \$4 at the pool. A 10-day punch card for \$30 can also be purchased at the pool.

Pool hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Lap swim is available from 8-9 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lap swim may be canceled on Fridays due to a pool party. Please watch the information board at the pool or follow the Louisburg Aquatic Center's Facebook page for these notifications.

SWIM LESSONS

Swim lessons are provided by the Louisburg Barracuda swim team. More information is available on their website.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Lockers to hold valuables are available for rent for a \$5 deposit, which is returned when the key is returned.
- In the event of severe weather, patrons will be asked to leave the pool. Walkers and bicyclists are required to shelter in the bathrooms unless they can get a ride home. Watch the Aquatic Center's Facebook page for cancellations.

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.

Summer Blessings feeds children during summer

Where do hungry children get fed during the summer when school is not in session? In Louisburg, that's through Summer Blessings, a volunteer effort led by Sarah Simmons and Katie York.

Summer Blessings, in its eighth year this summer, was inspired by the Blessings in a Backpack program in which children in need get a backpack of food to help them get through the weekend during the school year.

Summer Blessings continues the effort to feed children from the Louisburg school district during a once-a-week meal. Simmons and York work with area individuals, businesses and organizations to secure food and money to prepare a hot meal for children each Tuesday. This year the program starts June 4 and runs eight weeks. Summer Blessings partners with the Louisburg Library and its Summer Bash activities, and children participate in a Bash activity after the Tuesday lunch served at Fox Hall. The meals are served from noon-12:30 p.m.

Simmons said on average they feed about 150 and one week last year they served 250. All children are welcome to attend.

The organizers also distribute a bag of food for families in need. No pre-qualification is necessary, Simmons said. The food bags continue through Aug. 6 to get families to the start of school, she said.

Last year was the first year the bag of food contained fresh

meat. Simmons said Marcela Egea was instrumental in donating frozen hamburger and others soon stepped up so fresh meat could be part of each week's bag. This year they are planning to put together 60 bags up from last summer's 40 bags. Each week the bag contains a meal kit, which might be fixings for tacos or spaghetti, and also includes breakfast items and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Simmons said Timbercreek Bar and Grill donates kitchen space so each week's meal can be prepped before serving at Fox Hall.

Cash donations are welcome, Simmons said, and can be dropped off at Landmark National Bank, Louisburg Library or Vohs Pharmacy. Food donations should be coordinated through the organizers.

At the end of the summer the group also hands out a pantry bag made up of items like flour, sugar, baking soda and other pantry staples

They are in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

Simmons said the community support is really what has made this program so successful for so many years.

"It takes a village and Louisburg is an awesome village," Simmons said

If you would like to make a food or pantry donation, contact Summer Blessings at summerblessingslouisburgks@yahoo.com.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

It is hard to believe summer is here. We not only have our own projects getting things spruced up outside, so does the city. Our crews have been busy starting to see what needs some TLC after this cold winter.

As we talk about spring clean-up, our codes of the city are what we use to determine when the nasty nuisance letter goes out to residents about their property. One code is about weeds: Chapter 8, Article 3 talks about height of weeds not being over 8 inches and no noxious weeds such as musk thistles or Johnson grass. Louisburg is unique in that we have agricultural land within the city limits, so you might see some over 8 inches. I think it is time we go over our city codes a section at a time to see what needs to be changed. We do change codes; however, it seems like it is more crisis management instead of forward thinking.

With the 2025 budget starting, are

there items or areas of interests that you think we need to address? If you think of something, email your council person or myself, so we can bring it up during budget time. We still have stormwater and sidewalks on the never-ending punch list which we are trying to start taking bites out of these areas a little at a time. When the city's different boards meet, such as the Park and Tree board, they discuss how to improve the city and what we might need. I know I've heard them mention more playground equipment, pickle ball courts, etc. that our community might need.

All our board meetings are live streamed; so, if you have time please listen in to see what they are working on for your community. The Convention and Tourism board has a sub-committee working on a proposed event for next June 14, 2025, called the Louisburg Stampede that will be a country music festival at Lewis-Young

Park with a parade downtown in the morning.

We as your governing body need your feedback on all areas pertaining to our city. I attended a seminar on coaching and listened to HR Partners present ideas on feedback and that we all need to hear it. A quote she gave, "Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things." -Winston Churchill

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy the Farmers Market and all the events we have going on in the city.



**DONNA
COOK**

Donna

Historic photo contest announced

Photo and historic enthusiasts should train their cameras on Louisburg's historic sites for the Historic Places photo contest that runs from May 20-June 21.

The event is sponsored by the Louisburg Historic Preservation Commission in honor of Historic Preservation Month in May.

The commission is looking for photos that highlight Louisburg's historic (50+ years old) buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and places that matter to Louisburg residents.

The rules include:

- Contest begins May 20th, 2024.
- Deadline for entries is 4 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21, 2024.

• Amateur and professional photographers may participate

• There will be one category for youth (photographers 17-years-old and younger), and one category for adults (photographers 18+).

- Photos must be taken in 2024.

• Contestants may submit up to two original photos that are unedited (no Photoshop or digital manipulation).

• Submit photos in jpg format to Louisburg.Photo.Contest@gmail.com and include:

- Name of photographer
- Phone number
- Email
- Youth or adult photographer



This historic postcard shows the "Old Swimming Hole" that was once located in Louisburg on Rabbit Creek, north of the community's downtown.

- Title of photograph
- Where photograph was taken
- Why did you choose this location? Why is it important to you or to Louisburg?

Winners will be chosen by drawing from all complete entries in their category. Winners will be announced at the city council meeting July 1, 2024.

By entering a picture in the contest,

you agree to have your picture displayed online and at Louisburg City Hall. You also agree that the information accompanying your entry (title, photographer's first and last name, location and your description) may be shared publicly.

Share what matters to you by submitting a photograph of your favorite historic place in Louisburg!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Citywide Clean-up Day
6-11 a.m. Saturday, April 27

Drug Take-Back Day
10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 27
Louisburg Police Station

Historic Preservation Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, May 1
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, May 6
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday, May 8
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway **Louisburg**

Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, May 13
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, May 20
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, May 21
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Aquatic Center Opens
noon, Saturday, May 25

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, May 29
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, June 3
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, June 10
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday, June 12
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, June 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, April 18
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, June 26
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway