

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

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August-September 2024



Fireworks lit up the sky at Lewis-Young Park during last year's July Freedom Fest celebration in Louisburg.

Louisburg's 2024 Freedom Fest is being rebranded as Freedom Fest 2.0 and will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 5 at Lewis-Young Park. The event was canceled July 4 when heavy rains meant the firework set-up could potentially damage the fields at the park.

Most activities planned for July 4 will be replicated at the event Oct. 5, which starts at 5:30 p.m. with fireworks about 8:15 p.m.

Coming home to provide music will be Louisburg's own Luke Hupp. Hupp, a 2014 LHS graduate, is pursuing his career in country music in Nashville. Hupp performs a high energy show and will appeal to young and old alike.

Several area organizations will have or will sponsor booths with games for the kiddos, face painting and give-aways including water, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, homemade cookies and more.

The local American Legion will be giving rides to the little ones on their Legion train.

The event is free with a free-will donation taken at the gate to help offset the cost of the fireworks. Area businesses generously support the fireworks fund. It will cost about \$9,000 to produce the fireworks show this year.

There are a few items at the celebration that will require money and

include the food trucks and inflatables for the kids. Inflatables tickets are \$1 each, seven for \$5 or the all-you-can-ride wristband for \$10.

Freedom Fest 2.0 is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce's Cider Run, which will take place earlier that evening in downtown Louisburg at 4 p.m. with a 10K and 5K run/walk. Residents are encouraged to hit the run event and then come out to Lewis-Young Park for a delayed patriotic celebration.

The Louisburg Convention and Tourism Committee is also partnering to help sponsor the event.



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City Hall

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Monday-Friday

Police Department

Chief Josh Weber
209 S. Metcalf Rd.
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913-837-3191

Fire Department

Chief Gerald Rittinghouse
205 S. Metcalf Rd.
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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.

Brush dump concerns

Issues like the trash shown in this picture continue to hamper the City's brush dump, located south of the Public Works building on S. Rogers Road.

Illegal dumping along with poor weather conditions kept City crews from burning trees and brush in the dump for several weeks this summer.

When trash is dumped, it has to be removed before a burn can be initiated. Too much debris can also hamper the ability to burn.

The City Council has discussed options to curb illegal dumping but has not settled on a resolution.



MAYOR'S MINUTE

As your Mayor, I need your input and so do your council members. If you don't know who your council person is, you can look your ward up on the City's website. Just email them and they should respond back. If you accidentally email the wrong council person, they can tell you if you give them your actual street address. Or you can call City Hall and ask them.

It is budget time and all I hear is please do not increase our taxes. It isn't just the city's budget that increases taxes. Look on your Miami County Real Estate Tax Statement. It shows what percentage goes to each taxing entity. Some of those other entities but not all are: County, School Dist 416, Louisburg Library, and Louisburg Recreation Commission that also play a role in it. We, the City, can do our part by staying Revenue Neutral and not exceeding. We are elected to represent our constituents. So please let the council know your thoughts.

The council did a preliminary vote to exceed Revenue Neutral at their July 15 meeting; however, your governing body will have their final vote on Revenue Neutral on September 16. As your Mayor, I am for staying revenue neutral. I do not get a vote on this unless it is a tie. I know we can adjust our budget by cutting things here and there to stay that way. I also believe it is what we need to do for our citizens.

I hear that people do not want to come to the council meetings be-

cause the governing body will do what they want anyway; so why make any comments to them or even go to a meeting. We are voted out the same way we are voted in. If you want to be heard either, come to meetings with your thoughts/ideas, call your council person or by your vote at election time.

We also have to do some progressive thinking for the future. We need to have funds for future items such as a new fire truck which costs approximately \$4.5 million, which we try and buy used from other fire departments but an engine alone is \$700,000 to replace.

Now that I've talked enough about taxes/budget, on a brighter note, we are making headway on storm water issues and fixing sidewalks. It is just a slower process than what I like.

By the time you read this, it will be Labor Day with the Legion's Tractor Pull, ALA #250 BBQ chicken dinner, bingo, corn hole tournament and other activities at the American Legion Building at 9th and South Broadway.

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and are getting ready for the crisp fall weather and the raking of leaves....



DONNA COOK

Donna

BITS 'N PIECES

Voter information

Louisburg residents will vote in the national general election Nov. 5 with the Louisburg Methodist Church, 249 N. Metcalf, serving as the polling location. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 15. Voters may register to vote at the Miami County Election Office at the County's Administration Building in Paola or register online on the Kansas Secretary of State's website: <https://www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/Voter-Reg>

Residents may also request an advance ballot by mail for any election by completing a form from the Secretary of State's office. These ballots may be mailed or dropped off at the election office in Paola, completed ballots may also be left at an election ballot drop box with several boxes located throughout Miami County. One of these boxes is located on the east side of Louisburg City Hall, 215 S. Broadway.

Residents who want to view a sample ballot may do so by logging into the Voter View website, managed by the Kansas Secretary of State. Registered voters may view a sample ballot, check past elections in which they have voted and also find their polling location. This site also allows you to confirm your address, your party association, the status of a mail-in ballot and verify voting districts in which you live.

Auto billing/E-billing for utilities

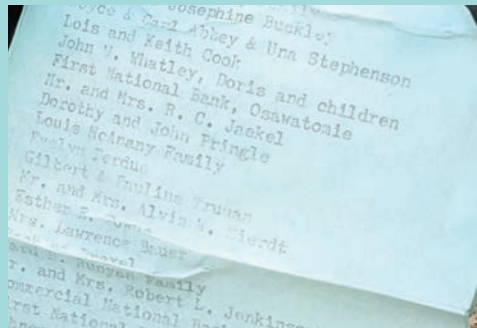
Residential and commercial utility customers in Louisburg can receive their statement via email by completing a form on the City's website: <https://bit.ly/3YEHdiH>.

Utility customers have several ways to pay their bill: 1) mailing a check for amount due to City Hall; 2) dropping off a payment at City Hall either during regular business hours or in the drop box located on the west side of the building; 3) paying by phone at 877-690-3729 and using jurisdiction

code 2616; or 4) signing up for auto pay at: <https://bit.ly/3AhQtPO>.

All bills are mailed out around the 20th of each month by our third-party vendor who prepares the bills for mailing. If you feel like your bill arrives past the usual time, you may want to consider signing up for e-bills.

Cemetery time capsule



At a recent Fox Hall/Cemetery Board meeting, Mayor Donna Cook did the honors of opening the time capsule that was removed during the demolition of the entrance and exit monuments at the old section of the cemetery earlier this year.

The capsule contained a list of probable donors that enabled the monument to be constructed in 1980.

City officials will have the lists framed to display at City Hall.

Tall grass, grass clippings

The City of Louisburg has City Code that addresses unmowed grass or weeds and grass clippings left in City streets. The Code is the City's set of laws governing various aspects of the community. One of these Codes is grass/weeds may not be more than 8 inches tall as that can be a cause of blighting in the neighborhood. The other Code states that residents should not dispose of grass clippings, branches or leaves in City streets. Residents should not allow grass clippings to remain on sidewalks, street pavements, gutters or curbs.

This action can trigger a nuisance violation in which a certified letter is mailed to the property owner or agent in charge of the property. Failure to comply with the violation after a set period of time, generally any-

where from 10-15 days, would allow the City to have the issue rectified and the resulting cost of the service can be assessed as a lien to the property's taxes.

Free smoke detector program

The Louisburg Fire Department is reinstating a program to install smoke detectors in homes that might not have a working smoke detector.

The smoke detectors will be installed by the volunteer members of the Fire Department. The program will target senior citizens and persons whose children might qualify for free or reduced lunches at school, although no income statements will be required. This is a continuation of a grant program from 2019 that saw the fire department install about 30 to 40 smoke detectors.

"We really want to focus on getting working smoke detectors in the homes of folks that can't otherwise afford them or might have difficulty in installation," Chief Gerald Rittinghouse said.

Like the previous program, detectors will be installed on a first-come, first-served basis until funding runs out. The program is open to residents of the City of Louisburg.

If you would like to be considered for a smoke detector, please contact City Hall at 837-2324 or email Jean Carder at jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov.

Snow Buddies

Even though summer it not yet officially over, winter is right around the corner and that means the chance of Louisburg seeing some of that white stuff this year. The City is once again managing the Snow Buddy program. This program connects the community's senior citizens that might not be able to shovel their driveways or sidewalks with younger folk who are willing to lend a hand.

If you need assisting shoveling, or would like to volunteer to shovel, please sign up on the City's website.

What's in a name: Lewis-Young Park

Louisburg has several public properties that are named for individuals that have ties to the community. Over the course of the next few newsletters, we'll explore those facilities.

LEWIS-YOUNG PARK

The 220-acre Lewis-Young Park was gifted to the City of Louisburg in 1976 or 1977, historical city records have conflicting dates.

Esther E. (Lewis) Young bequeathed the land to the city as part of her estate. Mayor J.T. McGuirk and Council members, Leonard Shea, Dean Larsen, Jimmie S. Cain, Sam Cook and R.G. Criss, accepted the gift on behalf of the City. The bequest was subject to the City operating the land as a park for the enjoyment for area residents, and Mrs. Young indicated the name of the park should be "Lewis-Young Park."

The park and approximately another 500 acres was purchased by Esther's father, Thomas Polk Lewis, in the 1860s from the U.S. Government. This land was part of the Louisiana Purchase. Esther grew up in a home on the park property that at one time served as the residence for the park's caretaker. Esther and her husband Albert Young were life-long Louisburg residents.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The park offers soccer, baseball, softball and flag football fields along with wooded trails and a 1.5-mile paved trail, shelters, BBQ grills, playground, seasonal restrooms and open field areas that can accommodate the small-



The playground at Lewis-Young Park offers two specialty swings. One is a parent/tot swing, and the other is specifically designed for wheelchair users.

est or largest of events.

USD 416 and Louisburg Recreation Association have priority use of the athletic fields otherwise members of the public may use the fields at no cost. To gain exclusive use of a field it may be rented by the hour. More information can be found on the City's website.

A 18-hole quick-play disc golf course was completed in late 2020 and is being expanded to 36 holes by an area disc golf organization. The back 18

holes will offer more challenging play. A map of the current course and hole par information can be found on the City's website.

The local TrailCats, a competitive youth mountain biking organization, is improving the park's wooded trails and adding trails for the riders to use.

A camping area for Scouts is also available.

The American Legion also operates its annual tractor pull across the street from the park's soccer fields.

A shelter with several picnic tables can be found near the soccer fields.

Horseback riding is not allowed at the park. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the natural or paved trails.

FISHING LAKE

The 2-acre fishing lake is managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks. A fishing license is required. More information on this lake can be found on the KDWP website: <https://bit.ly/3eBon3l>

POWELL OBSERVATORY

The park is also home to Powell Observatory that is operated by the Astronomical Society of Kansas City.

Volunteers host weekly star parties from May to October. More information about observatory activities can be found on its website: askc.org.

HOW TO GET THERE

The main entrance of the park is located on Jingo Road, one mile north of 271st Street.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

City Hall closed in observance of Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 2

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 16
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 7
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Halloween on Broadway
4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19
Downtown Louisburg

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Sept. 3
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
(meeting moved due to holiday)

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Sept. 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday, Oct. 9
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 21
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 9
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 25
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 14
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Fox Hall/Cemetery Board
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 28
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Freedom Fest 2.0
5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5
Lewis-Young Park

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Oct. 15
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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