

Louisburg

Speaks ^{KS}

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December 2024 - January 2025

City projects underway

Several projects are either underway or will start soon in the city.

AMITY SIDEWALK

One of the most anticipated projects is the Amity sidewalk project. This project will provide a safe way for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel from downtown Louisburg to the commercial/service area on the west side of the community.

The City Council accepted a \$368,080.75 bid from G-B Construction at its Nov. 18 meeting to complete the project. The project design was done by SMH Consultants. The route will follow along the south side of S. First St. from Mulberry to Rogers Road. From there the sidewalk will turn north along the east side of Rogers Road where it will cross Rogers Road. Part of

the project includes a Rectangle Rapid Flashing Beacon. Travelers will cross Amity at the beacon and travel along the north side of Amity. The sidewalk will be located between the highway and the cemetery frontage road. A new sidewalk will be constructed in front Casey's and Price Chopper and will connect to the existing sidewalk between those properties. Residents should see work starting soon with the project completed in 2025.

STORMWATER PROJECT

The next project will address stormwater from Rogers Road to S. Fifth St. Phase 1 of the project tackles the area from S. Eighth and Rogers to S. Sixth and Doyle and will be starting before the end of the year.

The Council approved a \$977,743.40

bid from G-B Construction for this improvement project. The project is targeted for completion in 2025.

LAC IMPROVEMENTS

A team from Carrothers Construction has already started on improvements at the Louisburg Aquatic Center.

This project will see changes made to the zero-depth entry including new play features for younger children, a new handicap accessible chair for pool entry, additional shade areas and a swing rope.

The Council approved the \$1.137 million bid from Carrothers at its Nov. 4 meeting.

Pending weather delays that project is slated to be finished in time for opening day in May.



This route shows the new Amity sidewalk that will take pedestrians and bicyclists from the downtown area to the commercial/service area on the west side of town.



New sewer rate available for businesses with irrigation

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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

Changes were recently approved by the City Council for commercial sewer rates for those businesses that use water that is not returned to the City's wastewater collection system. This includes businesses that only have one water meter that has a professionally installed irrigation system.

To qualify for the program a business must provide proof of installation and annual backflow inspection and complete an application for approval. The sewer charge will be based on the average of the water metered in the months of December, January and February and be billed 12 months beginning in April of each year. New customers will be billed on actual usage for the



prior to their first winter period. This mirrors how residential sewer rates are established.

If you own a business and think you might qualify, please contact the Utility Clerk at 913-837-5371.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

It is hard to believe 2024 is over. I understand what they mean by as you get older; it seems like the years go faster. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's and your New Year's resolution comes true. I definitely will have black eyed peas and collard greens even though some people say it is an old wives' tale that you are to eat them on New Year's Day for good luck and wealth. We will see.

We have a new city planner that started in December. It will be great to have someone to help guide our city's future before Overland Park takes us over. We will be starting on the new sidewalk from Broadway going west to Price Chopper. This will now let people who are walking or biking to go from the east side of Louisburg to the west without having to use the cemetery to walk thru or bike/walk on the highway. This is a much needed safety concern for Louisburg.

We will be tackling one of our storm-water issues starting this spring. It will take care of part of the issues from S. 5th and Broadway Street to S. 9th and Rogers Road. We will be starting

from S. 9th and Rogers and working toward S. 5th St. We will not be able to complete the entire scope of it at one time due to monetary reasons; however, the biggest flooding area will be corrected.

A few goals for this year will be: helping promote Louisburg more; working on ways not to raise taxes or utilities which will be all of the city employees working together to help with this — not just the governing body; would like to start our budget process for 2026 in January instead of May for council input.

A last note for you to ponder about — annexation of land for Louisburg's growth? What do you think of this? I would rather have buy land and let it lay there until we decide what way to grow, instead of Overland Park annexing up to our current city limits. Please email or mail me comments on this.



DONNA COOK

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.

BITS 'N PIECES

Community sign

The City's digital sign located near the Louisburg Cemetery is available to share your community event.

No advertising is allowed.

If you or your group or organization has a message to share, contact City Hall to see if the message qualifies. You may call City Hall at 913-837-5371, drop off your flyer at City Hall or email the information to jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov

New council takes office in January

Newly elected councilmember Ryan Graves, representing Ward 3, and Donna Cook, re-elected as mayor, will be sworn into office by City Clerk Jessica McGowin at a special City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13 at City Hall.

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 for 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. The tag fee is \$3 for a spayed or neutered pet 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.

FLIP, building permit waiver extended in 2025

The Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program for residential and commercial projects has been extended for 2025 with the unbudgeted funds coming from the General Fund.

FLIP-Residential awards up to \$1,000 for improvements to the front of a single-family home. FLIP-Commercial awards up to \$2,500 for improvements to the facade of a business and up to \$5,000 for certain improvements inside the building that would address life safety concerns under FLIP-Enhanced.

The Council allocated \$10,000 for FLIP-Residential, \$10,000 for FLIP-Commercial and \$15,000 for FLIP-Enhanced.

More information on the program can be found on the City's website. Applications for 2025 will be taken starting Jan. 2, 2025. The program is open on a first-come, first-served basis.

The City Council also approved extending the building permit waiver for the construction of new single-family homes.

The waiver can save new home builders on average almost \$2,000 on permit fees.

More information can be found on the City's website or contacting the

City's Building and Zoning Department.

Is your furnace ready for cold weather?

Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse urges residents to have their furnaces checked before bitterly cold weather arrives.

Gas furnaces in particular should be checked annually to be sure they aren't leaking carbon monoxide. CO is an invisible, odorless poison gas that kills or injures many people each year, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Rittinghouse encourages those with a gas furnace to install a CO detector in the home. Rittinghouse said homeowners with wood burning stoves or fireplaces should also have those units checked and cleaned annually to prevent fires.

Half of all home heating fires occur between December and February, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The NFPA provides these winter heating safety tips:

- Have a three-foot "kid-free" zone around a heat source.
- Never use your oven to heat a room.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks landing outside the fireplace.
- Test smoke detectors monthly.

Keep your sidewalks snow free

With the winter season upon us, residents and businesses are asked to lend a helping hand to keep sidewalks, trails and crosswalks clear of snow and ice.

It is the responsibility of the resident or business to keep adjacent sidewalks on their property free of snow and ice.

Residents can help

Controlling blue-green algae in Louisburg Lake

Blue-green algae has been an issue at Louisburg Lake the past several years. The issue has been discussed by the Louisburg Park & Tree Board, most recently at its September meeting when the lake was in a watch status for the algae. At that meeting, board members asked city staff to assist in educating the public on ways to prevent the algae in the lake.

With winter approaching and lawn maintenance essentially dormant, now is a good time to review what causes the algae and how to prevent it.

WHAT IS BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

This algae is a natural part of the environment and causes problems when phosphorus and nitrogen are present in concentrations above what would occur naturally, according to the Harmful Algal Blooms brochure from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Blue-green algae is a bacteria that can grow quickly. The algae can produce toxins that can be harmful to people, pets, livestock and wildlife.

HOW TO PREVENT BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

KHDE offers these solutions to prevent blue-green algae:

- Plant rain gardens to reduce runoff.
- Only fertilize when necessary and



Blue-green algae and other water-growing weeds can cause water quality issues at Louisburg Lake.

follow instructions on bag. More is not better.

- Pet waste and waterfowl droppings can contribute to water quality issues. Reducing these nutrients will improve water quality.

A representative of KDHE's Bureau of Environmental Field Services — Watershed Management Section said lawn fertilizers and geese pose the biggest issues for lakes like Louisburg Lake.

He said if homeowners in the Lake's watershed, which includes an area from about S. Fifth and Metcalf east to Aquatic Drive, limit lawn fertilizer that would be helpful. City staff are also weighing the benefit of allowing lake shore grasses to grow taller to discourage geese from staying at the lake long-term. A single goose can produce 2 lbs of feces daily and are a big contributor of nitrogen in water.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, Jan 6
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee

6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 8
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council special meeting- new council installation

6:30 pm Monday, Jan 13
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Park & Tree Board

6:45 pm Monday, Jan. 13
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

City Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

Monday, Jan. 20

Louisburg City Council

moved to Tuesday due to Monday holiday

6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 21
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission

6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 21
LRC Office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 29
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 3
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 5
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board

6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 10
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee

6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 12
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

moved to Tuesday due to Monday federal holiday

6:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 18
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission

6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 18
LRC Office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

Fox Hall/Cemetery Board

6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 24
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 26
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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