

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

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April - May 2025

Work continues on city improvement projects

A box culvert under Rogers Road is part of a new, improved conveyance system that helps divert water from flooding streets and neighborhoods and moves it downstream.

This box culvert is located on Rogers Road just north of S. Ninth Street and is the final leg in the planned two-phase project.

Work continues upstream to tie in all new infrastructure to this box culvert. This is the first phase of a stormwater project with the starting point near S. Sixth & Doyle. The unbudgeted phase two will see similar improvements from S. Sixth & Doyle to just east of S. Fifth and Broadway. There is no timeline on when phase 2 will be funded.

AMITY SIDEWALK

Work has also started on the Amity sidewalk with most of the sidewalk along S. First Street in place.

The sidewalk along Rogers Road and the cemetery property should be in place by the end of April. The Rectangular Rapid Flashing beacons that will indicate the crosswalk near Rogers Road and Amity will



be the last part of the project to be completed. The sidewalk should be open for summertime use.



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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

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.



LAC SNEAK PEEK

The aquatic center project is moving along nicely and remains on time and under budget. This view shows the new built-up zero-depth entry that will feature a toddler fun zone. A wall that provides a separation to the deeper end will also provide a place for parents to sit and watch their kiddos. The large umbrella, once located at the entrance to the zero-depth area will now be located on this wall. Patrons will be able to enter the pool via the new steps to the west side of the wall, pictured here, or a ramp to the right of the splash pad.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

We are all so happy it is warm weather again. I love all the flowers, shrubs and greenness that come with spring/summer. The birds are going crazy. The movie "The Birds" could have been filmed at my house with all the starlings in the trees and yard. Eerie with their swirling and swooping patterns in the sky.

I want to say WE have the best community for helping and rallying around our families when in need. The month of March was a hard month for our city and county. WE are blessed to live in a great circle of people.

Have you been out driving around Louisburg to see all the improvements that are happening, from the aquatic center splash pad to sidewalks? I know people hate the road closures, orange cones, etc. while it is in progress but I know you will like the outcome. There is a large lot subdivision going in on S. Rogers Rd and 287th St. for those of you that don't drive that direction.

It is budget time for Louisburg. Are there items, projects that you would like to see happen for our town? As I have said in the past, we will grow as a city whether you want it or not; we just need to plan on how we grow. So what is your vision for Louisburg in 5, 10, 20 years? Bedroom community? Have more thriving commerce here? Or as I have heard, we want to stay

the same and not grow, which is not going to happen with Overland Park coming our direction. Overland Park is at 630,000 and is projected to be over a million people in the next decade.

People want to have a voice in the community. You can do that by running for city/county positions. The city of Louisburg has two council seats up for election in November: Ward 1 and Ward 2. The filing deadline is June 2 at noon. You can get on the city website and look up the Ward maps to see what area that encompasses. This is a way to make your voice heard for all your constituents in your ward.

Don't forget the Fishing Derby on Father's Day weekend: June 14th. Everyone get your poles ready. Worms are furnished. Plus, hot dogs for everyone.

As we are gearing up for cleaning our yards and planting in our gardens; take time to be with family and friends. They are the most precious resource we have. Have a great Easter everyone.



DONNA COOK

Donna

BITS 'N PIECES

Election filing

Two City ward seats will be open in the upcoming November election. The open seats are in the Ward 1 and Ward 2 districts. Ward 1 is generally the traditional area of Louisburg, while Ward 2 includes Cedar Run, Summerfield Farms and those subdivisions to the north.

Scott Margrave currently sits in the Ward 1 seat, while Tiffany Ellison is the Ward 2 council member.

The filing deadline is noon, Monday, June 2 and must be done at the Miami County Administration Building, 201 S. Pearl, Paola.

Citywide Clean-up

The City's annual citywide clean-up is set for Saturday, April 26. Items should be at the curbs by 6:30 a.m.

This event is for city residents only. Commercial/business accounts are not eligible for citywide clean-up day and that includes Rockville Ridge and Wea Creek apartment locations.

Small items should be contained in bags or boxes. Refrigerators and freezers must be emptied, with doors removed, locked or steel banded and turned face down. Doors of other large appliances should be secured.

White goods — refrigerators, dishwashers, etc. — will be picked up by City of Louisburg crews on Monday, April 28.

Items that are not accepted include: brush or limbs, regular household trash, and hazardous waste, tires or batteries — this includes paint, thinners, varnishes, pesticides, oil, gasoline motors, etc. Demolition and construction material will not be picked up.

Household hazardous waste such as some paints, insecticides, pesticides, pool chemicals, etc. can be dropped off at the County's Road & Bridge Department, located at 327th & Hospital Drive (use the first driveway). Drop-offs are accepted from 9 a.m.-noon each Wednesday. For more information call 913-294-9578.

During the County's countywide clean-up from May 1 to Oct. 31, residents are allowed one drop-off per resident that weighs up to 4,000 lbs at the County's Sanitary Landfill. This

includes appliances with Freon and tires. There is an extra fee for appliances and tires. This service, which includes a recycling center, is located at the Sanitary Landfill, 327th & Hospital Drive (use the second driveway). The Sanitary Landfill is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of each month. For more information call 913-745-1912.

Cemetery clean-up

The LHS National Honor Society will be doing a sweep of the City's cemetery Saturday, May 3 picking up trash, old flowers and decorations in preparation of Memorial Day.

Cemetery regulations call that no memorial, tree, plant, object or embellishment be placed upon any grave space. Cut flowers must be picked up within five days and plastic flowers within 15 days and can be removed without notice.

Events at Lewis-Young

There are two upcoming events at Lewis-Young Park that residents might want to be aware, especially those that walk the trails at the park.

April 25-27 will see several hundred visitors to Louisburg for a youth mountain biking competition. This event will take place on the new mountain bike trails located in the natural area of the park.

Then May 9-11 will see a working dog championship event. That event is expected to bring almost 1,000 people and their working dogs to the park for a national competition. Dogs will be put through paces in tracking and other skills.

While the City does have a leash law, it is also realized that many pet owners take their pets to the park to run as the owners walk or jog the trails. If this applies to you, please keep your pet on a leash during those weekends in particular to keep event participants and your pet safe.

Meet & Greet

Come meet the chairpersons of two of the City's boards during a Louisburg Library sponsored Meet & Greet session in May. Park & Tree

Board chairman Wayne Knop will be on hand at the library from 6-6:30, Tuesday, May 13, while Anna Sprague, chairwoman of the Convention and Tourism Committee, will be available from 6-6:30, Wednesday, May 21.

Residents can visit with each board chairperson and learn more about those particular boards and in what ways they assist the City.

Budget season

We are only a few months in the year but City officials have already started work on the 2026 budget. The anticipated timeline of the budget process includes: February through April — department heads and Governing Body are considering capital requests for the coming year; April — the Governing Body provides top level financial goals for the budget process; May — departments finalize budget requests, staff prepare a draft budget based on the direction provided by the Governing Body and submitted requests; June & July — public workshops are held discussing the budget; July & August — the Governing Body will schedule a public hearing in which the public can comment on the budget; August & September — the budget is finalized and published.

The budget process establishes the mill levy that will be utilized to compute the ad valorem taxes assessed for the coming year. The other main component of the computation is the value assessed on property through the county's appraisal process. Since there are two main components of the computation, an increase in the mill levy over the prior year may or may not result in an increase of taxes, just as a decrease in the mill levy may or may not decrease taxes.

Public tornado shelter

A public tornado shelter is located in the basement of the Fire Station, 205 S. Metcalf Road.

In the event of a tornado warning, the shelter will be open to the public.

Residents, along with leashed dogs and cats in carriers, are welcome in the shelter. Currently the elevator is waiting on repairs so the only access to the basement is the stairs.

Council, boards discuss budget priorities

At a recent joint workshop, City Council members met with a representative of the City's five boards and commissions to discuss budget priorities for 2026 and beyond.

Each board and commission had been tasked to develop a list of five items they would like the council to consider funding as part of their board/commission's goals. The City's five boards include: Cemetery/Fox Hall; Convention and Tourism, Historic Preservation, Park and Tree and Planning.

CEMETERY/FOX HALL

Cemetery/Fox Hall was represented by member C.E. Purvis and he provided the following list:

- tree care at the cemetery;
- continued headstone maintenance/cleaning primarily at the old cemetery;
- cemetery software to manage records and plot sales;
- extend and loop the road in the new cemetery to the north;
- secure annual or semi annual deep cleaning of Fox Hall.

CONVENTION & TOURISM

Convention & Tourism was represented by Anna Sprague, chairwoman, and she provided the following list:

- Music at the Market, providing fam-

ily-oriented music once a month from May through September during Farmers Market events;

- potential larger musical event;
- promotional advertising targeting tourists, especially those that will be attending the 2026 World Cup in Kansas City;
- Dinner on Broadway or Farm to Table dinners.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Travis Thompson, chairman, represented this commission. The group's list includes:

- architectural inventory of Louisburg's buildings and places;
- establish a historical property list and create a fund, similar to FLIP, to aid residents or building owners to make improvements with preservation in mind;
- providing funding for professional training for Historic Preservation members as this is a specialized group.

PARK & TREE

Park & Tree chairman Wayne Knop provided the following list:

- sidewalks at City Park, which fulfills a Parks Master Plan goal;
- add a parking area at the northeast corner of City Park;

- pave the parking area at the south entrance to Lewis-Young Park and also pave the drive to the football fields, fulfilling a Master Parks Plan goal;
- install trail lighting on the south side of the Lake trail at Ron Weers Park, fulfilling a Master Parks Plan goal;
- expand the parking area at Ron Weers Park, fulfilling a Master Parks Plan goal.

PLANNING

Chris Hoffman, vice chair, represented the Planning Commission and provided this list:

- infrastructure expansion, which would see sewer lines expanded to the north end of town to aid in development, and annex island properties located within the City limits;
- downtown pavilion potentially located behind Fox Hall;
- updating codes and fines;
- economic development;
- continued sidewalk improvements in the older part of town and park improvements.

The Council will use these recommendations to determine what can be added to the 2026 budget and what should be targeted for future budget years.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, May 5
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court

4:30 pm Tuesday, May 6
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, May 7
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Park & Tree Board

6:30 pm Monday, May 12
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee

5 pm Wednesday, May 14
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, May 19
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court

4:30 pm Tuesday, May 20
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission

6 pm Tuesday, May 20
LRC office at Broadmoor School

Louisburg Aquatic Center

opens for the season
noon, Saturday, May 24
402 Aquatic Dr.

Memorial Day observance

Monday, May 26
City Hall / Police Department closed

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, May 28
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, June 2
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board

6:30 pm Monday, June 9
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court

4:30 pm Tuesday, June 10
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee

5 pm Wednesday, June 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Fishing Derby

Registration at 7 am/Fishing 8-10 am
Saturday, June 14
Ron Weers Park

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, June 16
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission

6 pm Tuesday, April 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court

4:30 pm Tuesday, June 24
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, June 25
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway