

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

inside this issue:

- Election, voter information
- Wild critters
- Structure fire training
- Bits and Pieces
- Calender

October-November 2025

Holiday Magic returns to downtown



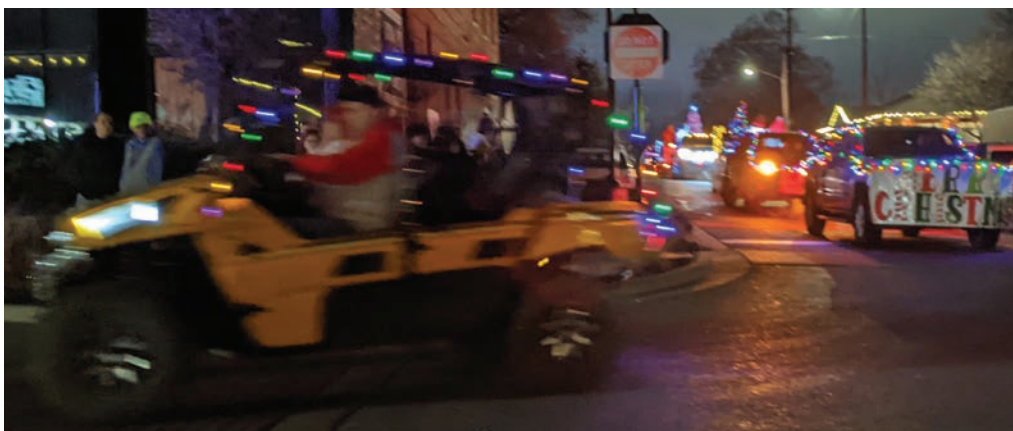
This year's Holiday Magic on Broadway is moving to the first Saturday in December, Dec. 6.

This family-fun activity brings Santa Claus to Louisburg to visit with good girls and boys. Santa will be at City Hall from 2-4 p.m. by appointment. Appointments can be made beginning Monday, Nov. 17 by calling City Hall at 913-837-5371 during regular business hours. At 4:30 p.m., Santa will explore the downtown area and will be available for a quick photo if your kids are too old to greet Santa at City Hall.

In addition to Santa, the Grinch will be on hand for a photo op.

A new holiday tree, purchased in the memory of Gene and Edith Elliott, will be on display next to City Hall. The tree's lights will be switched on at 5:45 p.m. followed by the annual light-up parade at 6 p.m. If you would like to participate in the parade, please email Brad Sells at brad@louisburgrec.com

The event is sponsored by the City, Chamber of Commerce, Louisburg Library and Recreation Commission. Watch the event's Facebook page (search Holiday Magic on Broadway) or the City's web page for more information.





Mayor

Donna Cook
dcook@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 1

Scott Margrave
smargrave@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 2

Tiffany Ellison
tellison@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 3

Ryan Graves
rgraves@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 4

Kalee Stone
kstone@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

BITS 'N PIECES

Change those batteries

Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse would like to remind residents to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when they change their clocks at the end of Daylight Saving Time, Sunday, Nov. 2.

Rittinghouse also said the Fire Department has an ongoing smoke detector program. Contact the department for information. The department will also change the batteries in detectors for those that are unable to do so safely.

Cemetery clean-up

The LHS National Honor Society will be making a sweep of the cemetery cleaning up old flower displays and trash in preparation for Veteran's Day. That work will take place Saturday, Nov. 1.

Families are encouraged to pick up any items they would like saved.

The City and Cemetery Board are not responsible for the care of real or artificial flowers or the containers in which they are placed. Regulations call for cut flowers to be picked up within five days and artificial flowers should be picked up within 15 days.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

As the leaves are falling and the air turning crisp, November invites us to pause and reflect on the many things we're grateful for — our families, our freedoms, and our community.

I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you who contributes to making our city a better place to live and work.

I was told that I forgot to mention a specific business in Louisburg when I was listing businesses with storefronts. I didn't forget. I just haven't gotten to all of them yet. Here are some more including theirs and this is still not all in Louisburg: Wildcat Storage, SMS Electrical, Louisburg Athletic Club, Wildcat Veterinary Clinic, Edwards Jones Financial Advisor, Louisburg Animal Clinic, Louisburg Family Dental, Family Dollar, Louisburg Discount Liquor, Waters Tru Value, Hunter Family Vision, Don's Body Shop, High Efficiency Heating and Cooling, White's Automotive, Miami County Dance, Louisburg Jiu-Jitsu, Liquor Depot, The Art Studio, The Hair Barn, Western Metal, Gerken Rent-all, Miami County Auto, Lucas Limited, Napa, Dollar General, The Hound Lounge, Simply Selah Home Décor and Antiques, Captain Cook's Treasure Chest, Louisburg Barber Shop, Farm Bureau Insurance, State Farm Insurance, Agape Grace, Destination

Fun Travel, Safari Hair, Woolworks and Cut & Dry Hair Salon. More coming in the next issue.

As the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas approaches, I encourage everyone to help support our local food banks — a great way to give back this season.

Whether it's volunteering at a food pantry, attending a meeting, or just checking in on a neighbor, your actions help strengthen the heart of our community.

The Planning Commission and our City Planning & Development person have been working on a development in Hidden Creek Estates.

As you are reading this, the election for City of Louisburg council people and the USD 416 ball fields will be taking place on November 4. As I was told growing up, "if you don't vote, you don't have a right to complain". So everyone, please get out and vote.

Everyone have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas and remember the real reason we celebrate these occasions.



DONNA COOK

Donna

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.

Election information found on city website

Louisburg residents will vote in the national general election Nov. 4 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 at noon, Tuesday, Oct. 14. Voters may register to vote at the Miami County Election Office at the County's Administration Building in Paola or register online. The QR code will take you to the City's website, which provides links to important election web pages.

Residents may also request an advance ballot by mail for any election by completing a form from the Secretary of State's office. Completed ballots may be mailed or dropped off at the election office in Paola or deposited 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.

LOCAL ELECTION

Councilmember Scott Margrave representing Ward 1 is running unopposed in the General Election.

In Ward 2, incumbent Tiffany Ellison is being challenged by Penny Blair McCaskill.



This QR code can be scanned with your phone's camera and will take you to the City's website, which contains more detailed election information.

Wild critters found in town

In early October a family playing in City Park observed a snake, later identified as a copperhead. They notified the Police Department who handled the situation. No one was bitten by the snake. The same week, a direct message was received on the City's Facebook page to report a bobcat has been seen a few times in town.

Wild animals can be quite common in Kansas' towns and cities according to educational material from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.



Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' "Something Wild" is one of the department's educational materials available on its website, www.ksoutdoors.gov

SNAKES

Information available on KDWP's web page, it notes that copperheads are mild-mannered snakes and prefer to lie still when approached. Their patterning, usually a copper-colored head and a light brown body with chestnut stripes, allows these snakes to blend into their rocky and wooded habitat. Female snakes give live birth to two to 10 snakes in August or September. In Kansas, these snakes are mostly found east of the Flint Hills.

How to spot a venomous snake in Kansas:

- They generally have a triangular shaped head
- Elliptical or slit-like pupils, much like a cat's
- Fairly thick body
- Pits located between its eyes and nostrils

- Long fangs
- May or may not have a tail rattle
- Juveniles look like adult snakes, but the ends of the tail range in color from yellow to green

There are 4 types of venomous snakes in Kansas: copperhead, prairie rattlesnake, massasauga rattlesnake, and timber rattlesnake.

The best way to avoid being bitten by a snake is wearing closed-toe shoes to protect your feet and ankles and observe any snake from a distance.

Information taken from KDWP's publication, Something WILD!

BOBCATS

Are the only permanent native wild cat found in Kansas. They may be found across the state but are generally located in the wooded eastern part of the state. Their range is typically about 5 square miles. They are

extremely shy and are nocturnal so they may be hard to spot. They have an above average sense of sight and hearing. They can jump seven to 10 feet and often hang out in trees for rest and observation. They breed in January to July and can have anywhere from two to seven kittens generally from February to May.

Deter a bobcat from hanging out at your home or neighborhood by

- securing trash stored outside
- don't leave pet food or water bowls outside
- trimming back thick vegetation and remove debris from yard
- avoid feeding birds and squirrels in your yard, the bobcat's main food source in addition to rabbits
- secure backyard chickens

Information taken from KDWP's publication, Nature's Notebook.

RED FOXES

Red foxes have been a common sight in Louisburg the past few years. They can be found across the state, but are generally found in eastern Kansas near towns and suburban areas that offer protection from coyotes.

Red foxes are familiar for their red to orange fur, black ears and legs and white bellies and tail tips.

Use the same methods to deter foxes that are used to make bobcats unwelcome to your yard or neighborhood.

Fire departments train on structure fires

Members of the volunteer fire departments from Louisburg and Paola joined together to train in a structure firefighting simulator at the Louisburg Fire Station Saturday, Sept. 27.

Lucas Everett, trainer with the Kansas Fire Rescue Training Institute, said area firefighters worked in the structure fire simulator combating kitchen and bedroom fires. Part of the training included how to fight a rollover fire, which is when the fire engulfs a room and starts up the walls and rolls into the ceiling. The simulator, housed in a semi trailer, allows for firefighters to practice in a safe and controlled environment, Everett said.

The simulator can be set up to mimic different rooms and fires in a home including a basement bedroom with no egress. For that drill, firefighters climb to the top of the trailer and crawl through it to locate the bedroom fire.

Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse said there were 16 firefighters participating in the entry training and four command staff overseeing the drill.



Smoke rolls over a firefighter during a structure fire training at the Louisburg Fire Station in late September. At left: Firefighters prepare to enter the structure fire simulator.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Election Day
Polls open 7 am-7 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 4
at 249 N. Metcalf

Historic Preservation Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 5
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Nov. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Nov. 11
LRC office at Broadmoor School

Convention & Tourism Committee
5 pm Wednesday, Nov. 12
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 19
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Nov. 25
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Thanksgiving observance
Thursday & Friday, Nov. 27-28
City Hall closed

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Dec. 1
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 2
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Dec. 8
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
5 pm Wednesday, Dec. 10
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Dec. 15
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 16
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Dec. 16
LRC office at Broadmoor School

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Dec. 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Christmas Day observance
Thursday, Dec. 25
City Hall closed

New Year's Day observance
Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026
City Hall closed

An updated calendar as well as agendas and minutes for city meetings can be found at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the Agendas & Minutes icon.