

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

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December 2025-January 2026

A winter car kit can be lifesaving

Old Man Winter surprised eastern Kansas on the first day of December with an early season snowfall. While the snow didn't amount to much, the Louisburg Fire Department assisted with several emergency calls during the all-day storm.

Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse reminded City Council at its meeting that night that being prepared is critical in staying safe during winter driving.

"We all think we are making short trips somewhere during the winter months and it's very cold outside." He said those short trips generally catch people unprepared.

"If you do get stranded in your car or for some reason your car dies, make sure you have your own personal blanket and water bottle in your car. A winter car kit is vital," the chief said.

He cautioned that during an extreme event, it may take emergency services some time to reach your car.

An emergency car kit should contain a blanket, warm hat & gloves and bottled water for each person. Don't forget to include non-perishable high-protein snacks and a flashlight, ice scraper, phone charger, jumper cables and first-aid kit.

Other items to consider adding to your kit are winter boots, if you aren't already wearing them, hand tools and kitty litter, which is helpful for traction under the tires. A package of hand warmers would be nice if you are stranded for a significant length of time.

Rittinghouse said it is important to make sure to fuel your vehicle once it drops below half full. This gives you a cushion if you do get stuck and need to run the engine to stay warm. Rittinghouse reminded motorists if they do



A winter car kit should include a variety of items to keep you safe and warm in the event you get stranded during cold, snowy weather.

get stuck in a snow drift to make sure to keep the vehicle's exhaust pipe free from snow to prevent carbon monoxide build-up inside the car.

If your car starts sliding, Rittinghouse said the best thing to do is let off the gas and steer the car in the direction of the

slide. This maneuver should help you gain control of the vehicle. Once you have control of the vehicle, either brake very slowly and lightly to come to a stop or slowly provide pressure on the gas pedal to continue traveling forward.

2027 budget workshops

City staff and the Governing Body will soon begin to work on the 2027 budget. A joint workshop between the Council and the various boards/commissions will again be conducted in late February to discuss individual board goals and budget needs. Governing Body workshops will start soon after that. Work wraps up on the budget in late summer.

Watch the City's website for information on upcoming workshop dates.



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City Hall

Nathan Law
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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

Utility changes

Work continues to move the City's financial system to the new Enterprise Resource Planning system that began just after the new year. The Utility Billing system is going live in December, and the Municipal Justice (Court) system is scheduled to go live in March 2026.

For the December utility bills, there will be some accommodations in the normal process due to the implementation. For most utility accounts, the usage will be based on the historical usage for the account for that same time period. This timeline change will require an estimate for gas and water usage for December based on the previous year's usage. This is a one-time variance and the normal billing process will return for the January billing process. Any variance between estimated and actual usage for the December bill will "true-up" with the January bill. City staff realizes this may inconvenience some utility customers and apologizes for the temporary change in billing for those two months.

Council swearing-in takes place in January

Re-elected councilmembers Scott Margrave, Ward 1, and Tiffany Ellison, Ward 2, will be sworn into office at a special meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12. Margrave and Ellison retained their seats during the November election.

Wintertime natural gas safety

City gas customers should remove snow or ice from their gas meters during the winter by brushing away snow and ice either with a broom or their hand. Never kick the meter.

Chimneys and vents for natural gas appliances should also be kept free of snow or ice to prevent the build up of carbon monoxide in the home or business.

Gas leaks are possible in the winter due to ground shifting in cold weather. If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate the area and call 911.

Tag renewals begin Jan. 1

Pet licenses and UTV tags renew in the City starting Jan. 1. Tags are valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 annually.

Pet licenses are \$3 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$5 for other pets. A copy of the rabies vaccine must be presented when purchasing a pet tag.

The UTV renewal fee is \$50 and may be paid during regular business hours at City Hall. Owners must provide a copy of current insurance and valid driver's license. A sticker will be issued for the renewal.

Any resident who wants to drive a UTV on city streets must have the vehicle tagged through the Police Department. If you have a new UTV and need to get it tagged, please call the Police Department's non-emergency number at 913-837-3191 to make an appointment for an inspection. More information on tagging UTVs can be found on the Police Department page on the City's website.

Community garden

A community garden is in the works organized by the Louisburg Recreation Commission. Recreation Director Brad Sells received the go-ahead at the City Council's Dec. 1 meeting to use the space located behind Fox Hall.

Initially the garden will have 10 raised beds with the ability to expand in the future if there is demand. The LRC will manage the garden. A lottery system will be used to determine who will get each garden spot.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help construct the garden or is interested in a plot, please contact Sells at brad@louisburgrec.com or 913-594-0244.

Property fraud alert

Miami County's Register of Deeds warns residents of property fraud. This type of fraud happens when someone illegally uses your property for financial gain. It occurs when the scammer sends a fraudulent document to the County for recording.

Scan the QR code and go to the County Register of Deeds web page to learn more and to register your property in the property fraud alert system.



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.

FLIP, building permit waivers renewed for 2026

The Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program and the new home construction building permit waiver has been renewed by the City Council. FLIP began in 2018 while the building permit waiver has been offered since 2022.

FLIP offers residents up to \$2,500 for making improvements to their home's facade. Eligible items include foundation or concrete work, windows, doors, painting or siding and trees/landscape. The commercial program assists businesses with a \$2,500 grant to make similar improvements to

the fronts of their businesses including brick tucking, lighting and signage. Up to \$5,000 can be received when making life safety improvements such as structural work, wiring, additional egress and similar types of needs.

The building permit waiver allows a homeowner for a new single family home to save an estimated \$1,900 on a 2,000 sq. ft. home.

Information on these programs can be found on the City's website.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Hello Louisburg,

As your Mayor, I hope everyone had a great Christmas and the beginning of a wonderful New Year. This last year went by in a wink of an eye.

This past year the City has done yearly maintenance on streets, new sidewalks, and some of the old infrastructure that we have had to fix due to breakage; with more needing attention for our future projects and budgeting. At our City Park, we did maintenance on our tennis/pickleball/basketball courts. We also fixed items at the Lewis-Young Park. This just touches on a few things. There is no way I can touch on everything we have done for the City. The city now has a new ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system that will help streamline everything from invoicing, budgets, to helping with the court system. I know they have been working hard on this at city hall all year.



Tate, the Louisburg Police Department's K-9, takes a minute out of his busy day to pose with Mayor Donna Cook and Chief Josh Weber.

I would like to express my gratitude for the community's resilience, support, and involvement in all that we do to make this community a great place to live. We may not all agree on what or how things should be done; however, we do come together in times when the community needs us.

I would like to formally introduce our canine support, Tate.

Tate is a 3.5-year-old pure bred English Lab. Tate came from CARES, Inc. in Concordia, Kan., and is a statutory compliant service animal. Tate spent the first 15 months of his life partnered with an inmate at Leavenworth correctional facility where he was taught commands and obedience. After Tate was released from Leavenworth, he went through acclimation and finishing training with the CARES staff in Concordia. Tate and his handler Chief Weber completed the handler K-9 team prescribed training course and testing March of 2024. Tate graduated as a professional therapy canine and began his duties with the Louisburg Police Department in March of 2024. Tate was used on over 70 various law enforcement calls in the remaining 8 months of 2024 such as mental health crisis, victim support, death notifications, crimes involving children, critical incident debriefings just to name a few. Tate enjoys visiting the various assisted living facilities in town along with all the schools. Tate is sponsored by Wildcat Vet Clinic for veterinary care and Hill's Pet Nutrition for food, so Tate's maintenance cost to the taxpayers is nothing other than a few routine grooming supplies. In Tate's spare time, he performs duties as the top dog for "Blue Paws for a Cause", which is a 501(c)(3) tax

deductible organization that assists those experiencing hardship in our local community. For more information on Blue Paws or to meet Tate, please contact the Louisburg Police Department.

Some more of our local businesses in Louisburg are Black Barrel Bar and Grill, Stilwell Heating and Cooling, Jaccard Chiropractic, MD Electric, Inc, Arrowhead Land Company, Endeavor Technology Consultants, The Magic Touch, Louisburg Attic Storage, Bomgaars, Louisburg Market Street, Dandel Chiropractic and Acupuncture, Louisburg Chiropractic Center, Renewed Life Chiropractic, O'Reilly Auto, Price Chopper, Vapor Maven, Q-Nails, Shear Beauty Studio, Keller Williams, Serenity the Brand, Coffelt Land Title, Chris Benjamin Law, iDredge, Victoria Rose Studios, Twist, Magnum ENP, Antisdell's Photography, Security 1st Title, Shelter Insurance, Skeeters Barber Shop, Bobcat Oil, Iron Horse Dental, Liberty Tax Service, and L&M Construction. More to come.

The City is still working on the pedestrian crossing at Amity and Rogers to make it safer.

Community gardens are being discussed at meetings (council and board) to see what it would entail to get one started here.

Everyone have a wonderful beginning of a new year and as I've said before, get involved in our wonderful community and be a part of it growing.



Donna

More facilities available to rent, updates made in parks

More park facilities are available to rent after a recommendation by the Park & Tree Board and action taken by the City Council in October.

Previously the only amenities available to rent were Ron Weers Park Shelter, City Park bandstand and the shelters north of the lake at Lewis-Young Park.

Newly added facilities to the rental list include the soccer pavilion and area outside the concession stand at Lewis-Young Park and the tennis/pickleball courts at City Park.

The Council also accepted a recommendation for an adjustment in the rental fees for some of these locations.

Ron Weers Park shelter remains available to rent for \$25 per four hours (8 a.m.-noon, noon-4 p.m. or 4-8 p.m.) or an all day rental for \$50.

The City Park bandstand and the LYP shelters, soccer pavilion, and concession area are available to rent in four-hour increments, 8 a.m.-noon, noon-4 p.m. or 4-8 p.m., for \$10.

The tennis/pickleball courts at City Park are now available to rent for \$10 per hour.

All park amenities remain free to use on a first-come, first-served basis un-



The two shelters located north of the Lewis-Young Park lake got a rehab the end of the summer by City employees. Additional concrete was poured around each of the structures to allow for the placement of two additional picnic tables. All three picnic tables are manufactured using recycled tires, similar to the tables located near the concession stand. The shelters also got a fresh coat of paint.

less the facility has been rented. Facilities available to rent have signage that will indicate if the amenity is rented.

Other improvements coming to the

parks this spring include new grills at the LYP shelters and Ron Weers Park and a light above the basketball goal at City Park.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 5
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council swearing-in newly elected officials
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 12
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Park & Tree Board
6:45 pm Monday, Jan. 12
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 13
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
5 pm Wednesday, Jan. 14
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

MLK Day observance
Monday, Jan. 19, 2026
City Hall closed

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 20
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
moves to Tuesday due to Monday holiday

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 20
LRC office at Broadmoor School

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 27
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 28
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 2
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 4
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 10
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Convention & Tourism Committee
5 pm Wednesday, Feb. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Presidents' Day observance
Monday, Feb. 16, 2026
City Hall closed

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
moves to Tuesday due to Monday holiday

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 17
LRC office at Broadmoor School

Municipal Court
4:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 24
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

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