



# Louisburg Speaks

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## Freedom Fest 2017



*Photo by: John VanPelt/Miami County Republic*

Fireworks and fun will be part of Freedom Fest July 4 at Lewis-Young Park. The gates will open at 6 p.m. on Independence Day.

The fireworks display will start about 9:40 p.m. Members of the Louisburg Fire Department spearhead the display, which lasts about a half hour.

Music, games, give-aways and drawings will be part of the evening fun.

The Duke Mason Band is returning to the stage this

*Ground-effects fireworks provide a special touch at Louisburg's Freedom Fest.*

year. Duke and his band showcase a little bit of everything from old time rock and roll, to country with a little bit of Elvis Presley and the Beach Boys thrown in for good measure.

The Louisburg Library will host Grego the Balloon

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# Louisburg Speaks

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Monday-Friday

## Police Department

Chief Tim Bauer  
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Louisburg, KS 66053  
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## Fire Department

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jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov

Photo by: John VanPelt/Miami County Republic



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Man, a balloon artist that kids of all ages will enjoy.

Happy Days BBQ will have its food truck there serving up all the usual BBQ fare. Last year's turkey legs were such a hit the Happy Days crew plans to prepare even more this year.

Cool Cats will also return and sell snow cones.

There will be inflatables for the kids — including a 30 ft. obstacle course and a single lane slide. Ride tickets

Arlen Thompson (left) and Steve Town of the Louisburg Fire Department set the fuses in the electronically-triggered fireworks for last year's Freedom Fest. The fireworks lined up in the background were all hand lit during the show.

are \$1 per ticket, six tickets for \$5 or a wristband for \$10 for unlimited rides throughout the evening.

The Lions Club will have a drawing for their annual bike give-away and will also be handing out free slices of watermelon.

The American Legion kiddie train will give rides to the kids.

There will also be door prizes and other give-aways during the evening.

Members of the Louisburg High School Marching Band, directed by John Cisetti, will perform the National Anthem to kick off the evening's festivities.

Shuttles and handicap parking will also be available.

A free-will offering will be taken at the gate to help defer the cost of the fireworks.

Photo by: John VanPelt/Miami County Republic



# What's that hole in my water meter lid?

City Hall has received a few inquiries about holes that have been showing up in the lids of water meters.

Those holes are paving the way for automated reading of water meters.

Crews are in the process of drilling the holes and then plugging the hole with the automated equipment.

Automated reading will free up city crews from spending about three to five days manually reading the meters. It will also enable utilities staff to process bills faster and in turn get them mailed to water customers a few days sooner.



*Water meter lids that are being prepped for automatic meter reader equipment.*

The City will soon move to an emergency notification system, Swift 911. This system will allow residents who have signed up for the service to receive overdue bill reminders, shut-off information and other emergency information such as broken water lines.

Watch for more information and sign-ups for the Swift 911 coming soon on the City's website, Facebook page and in future utility bills.

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## Rumors, gossip can run rampant on social media

Have you heard any rumors lately?

Have you read anything interesting on social media?

My daughters have tried hard to make sure that I stay up with at least some type of social media platform. I have a Facebook page that I normally use to keep up with old classmates, pictures of the granddaughter, and friends both near and far. I enjoy using it on a regular basis. Snapchat never worked since I don't like taking selfies and I'm not sure anyone would want my selfies. Twitter just does not make any sense to me either, with people following my random thoughts. The one thing these platforms do have in common is to get information out in lightning speed.

Unfortunately for the City the information spread through social media by the public is often inaccurate, false, or just the same old incorrect gossip that has been going through the community for years. Just last week someone put on social media that the City turned down a Wal-Mart and a couple of name-brand restaurants.

This just is not true.

The other rumor going around is the Metcalf and Amity intersection is going to be a round-about and that construction there will involve a pilot car.

Again two rumors that are just not true!

For the record the intersection will be a stoplight and no pilot cars will be used in construction.

The point here is that you cannot always believe what you read on social media. But do not be afraid to ask and seek out the truth among the gossip. Go straight to the source. Call me at 913.908.6384 or email me at [msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov](mailto:msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov) to find out what is fact or fiction.

This is our community and you have right to the correct information. Contact any of your elected officials as we are here to serve you.

**Mayor's  
Minute**

*Marty Southard*

# Getting to know.....Nuisance Code

Nuisance code violations have become a talking point with the City Council in the past few weeks. Council members have determined there are some areas in town that could use a little more attention by City Staff. During the summer Staff focuses on unmowed grass, weeds and brush piles that could harbor rodents and insects. Inoperable or non-tagged vehicles are other areas that City Staff try to address year round.

The City and Council are guided by the City Code which spells out what is included in a health or environmental nuisance. In addition to the unmowed grass and inoperable vehicles, it is unlawful for any place or structure or substance to emit or cause any offensive, disagreeable, or nauseous odors; stagnant ponds or pools of water; and abandoned refrigerators or freezers kept on the premises in which the door has not been removed.

Blighted properties, whether residential or non-residential, are also prohibited. A blighted property can include dead trees or other unsightly natural growth; and unsightly stored or parked material, equipment, supplies, machinery, trucks or automobiles; vermin infestation; and inadequate drainage.

The City Council has instructed City Staff to address some of the more problematic nuisance issues. City Administrator Nathan Law said at a recent City Council meeting that Staff could take a slow and steady approach to nuisance enforcement. Law said when addressing code issues, that Staff looks at an entire neighborhood and addresses the very worst offender in the neighborhood. This process allows offenders to be treated fairly and individually.

During a nuisance code enforcement, Staff sends a certified letter to the property owner stating the nature of the nuisance violation and the action items to correct the violation.

In the event a property owner or individual disagrees with Staff findings of nuisance violations, the City Council will conduct a hearing with the property owner or individual.

Council members understand that correcting some potential nuisance problems might be burdensome for the elderly. The City has resources in the community that have volunteered to help citizens correct potential



*City Staff use this tool to help determine when grass or weeds are too tall and have become a nuisance. Grass or weeds consistently taller than 8 inches can prompt a nuisance violation.*

nuisance violations if they are physically unable to do so.

Council members have directed Staff to explore ways that beautification efforts can be established to assist such property owners.

The City Council will be examining these beautification topics at upcoming meetings.

The best way to avoid receiving a nuisance code violation is to maintain grass and address weeds when and where possible; don't store items outside that could be construed as being junk or abandoned; and all vehicles should be operable, tagged and have insurance.