

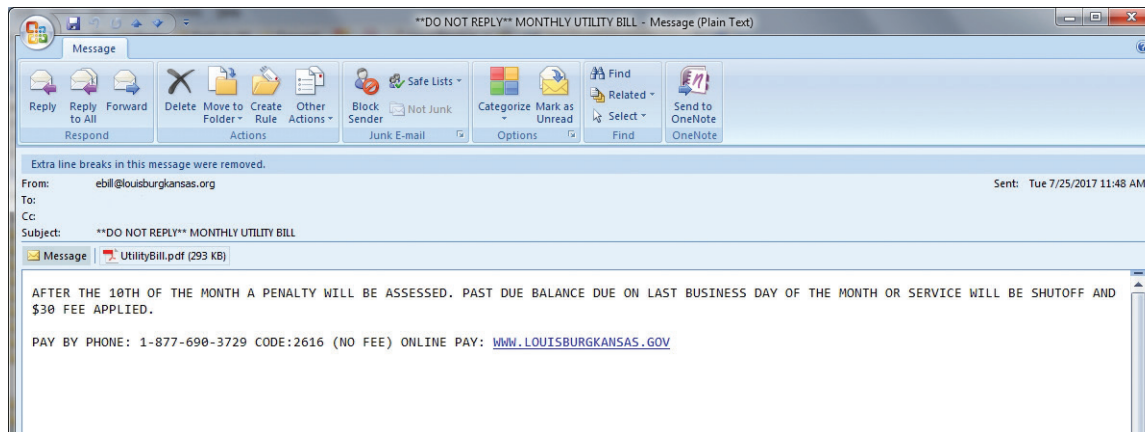
Louisburg Speaks

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Coming to an inbox near you... your utility bill



The City of Louisburg will offer utility bills sent via email.

The City of Louisburg is going green and residents can sign up to receive utility bills by email, says Jessica Stiles, the city utility clerk.

Stiles said a form is included in this utility bill in which residents can sign up for the utility ebills. There is also an additional form in which residents can sign up for emergency response notification.

Those that sign up to receive their utility bill by email will receive those bills about a week earlier than those that receive them by mail. Bills are generally ready to go out by about the 20th of each month and would hit the postal stream a few days after that.

The ebill information will contain the same information as a mailed bill with instructions on how to pay via phone or online. Payments are still accepted at City Hall, 215 S. Broadway.

The bills come from the email address "ebill@louisburgkansas.org" and contain a PDF of the actual bill.

"Late notices are still mailed and will not be emailed," Stiles said.

Those that sign up for utility ebills will receive next month's statement by email and would also receive the City newsletter or other supplemental information as an attachment when those items would be included in the mailed bill.

The emergency response notification form is also included in this utility bill. This service notifies residents of utility emergencies or service work. It does not notify residents of any weather-related emergencies.

"This notification is specifically for utilities," Stiles said.

The emergency notification would alert a customer if service would be disconnected for non-payment the day before shut off. Other alerts would be sent if there

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Louisburg Speaks

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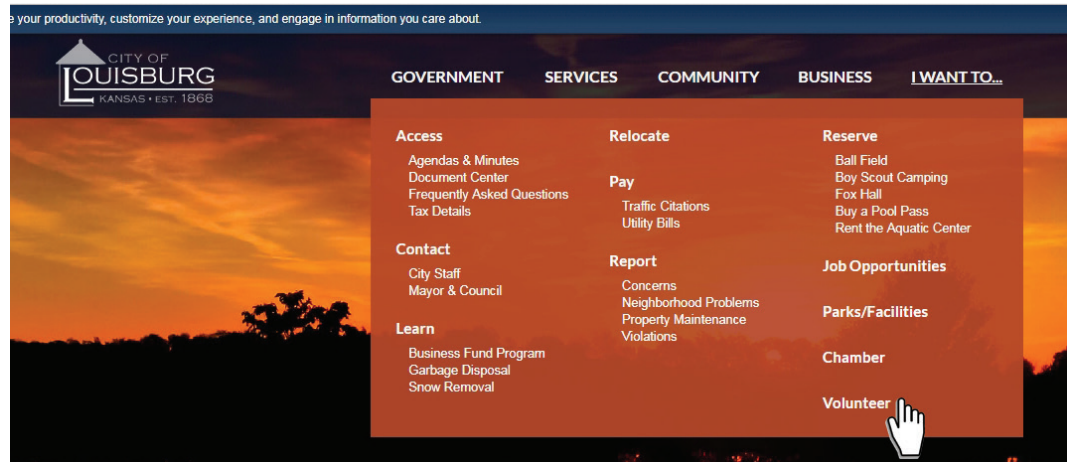
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Louisburg Speaks is published six times a year by the City of Louisburg for its residents. Please direct questions or comments to:
jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov



Louisburg lends a helping hand

The willingness for people to pitch in and help each other is an attribute that Louisburg is known for. But sometimes trying to find those volunteer opportunities has been difficult.

Not any more.

For those persons that would like to volunteer and even those looking for assistance, help is just a click away at the City of Louisburg's website.

Several volunteer opportunities are listed on the website including the city's fishing derby and Freedom Fest, the Chamber of Commerce's Cider Run, activities at the Louisburg Library and a section called "Good Neighbors."

Good Neighbors includes opportunities like the Agape Food Pantry, community clean-up, beautification and Snow Buddies.

Civic organizations will also be able to have volunteer opportunities posted to the web page.

To have a volunteer opportunity posted to the website, the activity has to be an event that benefits the community or disadvantaged members of the community and is not just a promotion of an event. All events are posted and approved by City staff.

The idea for the volunteer portal came from the City's 5x5 Vision Plan, which included five initiatives for the

City to work on over the course of five years. The plan was adopted by the City Council in 2013.

It also came from a community initiative, Festival of Ideas, conducted by staff at the Louisburg Library.

Some of the volunteer information is still to be collected and will be posted as it becomes available.

Some opportunities, like Freedom Fest, only occur one time a year while others, like Snow Buddies, is a seasonal need.

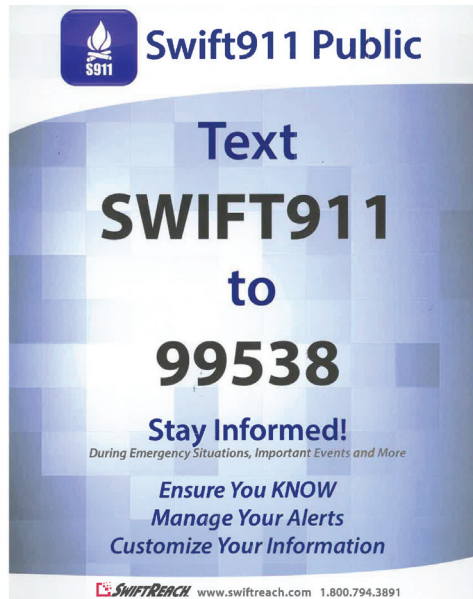
Volunteers will be able to choose the activity in which they would like to help. After they register online, they will receive a follow-up from the organization that sponsors the activity.

Some of the opportunities also allow people to sign up for assistance. The Snow Buddies program is an example of that. This program matches senior citizens who need help shoveling snow from their sidewalks with a volunteer to do the shoveling.

The volunteer information can be found at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the "I Want To..." tab and then the volunteer page.

If you have a volunteer opportunity that you would like to have considered for posting, contact Jean Carder at City Hall.

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SwiftReach is the provider the City will use to make emergency utility notifications.

is a water main break or gas leak that would affect that customer or if service might be disrupted due to planned repairs to utility infrastructure.

The emergency notification will take several months to become fully operational as the database that maintains it will need to be built, Stiles said, and it needs utility customers to sign up to be able to do that.

The emergency notification option is offered through SwiftReach. While customers may use the form included in this bill to sign up, they are encouraged to either sign up via text or download the app, Stiles said. A utility customer can text SWIFT911 to 99538 or use the Swift911 Public app available on Google Play or iTunes.

Electronic billing and automated meter reading (as highlighted in the last newsletter) are two examples of the City fulfilling more of the 5x5 Vision Plan initiatives.

Life lessons from an employer

Sometimes being an elected official for city government feels like trying to learn to juggle. Anyone who knows me probably would attest that my eye-hand coordination leaves a little bit to be desired to say the least.

Mayor's Minute

Every decision that is made angers some and makes others happy. Twice a month we meet to make decisions and hopefully move the city in a positive direction. It is always helpful when citizens show up to provide input for the meetings. Being an elected official is difficult but everyone who serves on the council does it in order to help the citizens in their ward and the community at large.

Twenty years ago I came to Louisburg for an interview and met with a man who kind of intimidated me. He was a large man, but you quickly learned that he was a no-nonsense kind of guy with a heart of gold who would always say "How is it going to benefit the kids?" If I could answer that question in a positive way, we were always able to add whatever service was needed.

I know that those involved in city government follow the same philosophy and ask: "How does this benefit the city?" with every decision that we make. It was a great priority all those years ago when I took a job with the school district and it still holds true today in my job with the school and in my role in city government. It makes trying to juggle the many issues a little bit easier if we all have the same guiding principle.

Thanks, Mr. Knox, for the life lesson and rest in peace.

CodeRED weather alerts

Louisburg offers emergency notifications including weather warnings through Miami County Emergency Management's CodeRED service.

According to Tim Gibbs, the county's emergency management coordinator, the CodeRED will notify those who sign up with alerts about weather, boil orders, missing child reports, evacuation notices and other emergency information. The weather alerts are activated by the National Weather Service and all other alerts are created and sent out through the 911 dispatch center or Louisburg Police Department.

A resident can go to the County's website: www.miamicountyks.org and click on the "How Do I" tab, and click on "Register" and then click on "CodeRED" to sign up for the service. The user will be directed to the CodeRED page that will ask for the person's address and what type of notification should be received. That could include general or emergency notifications or weather-related alerts including tornadoes, severe thunderstorms or flash floods.

Notifications can be received via phone, email or text message.



Getting to know.....MDC PUA

What is the MDC PUA?

That's the Marais Des Cygnes Public Utility Authority water plant jointly owned by the cities of Louisburg and Paola. This treatment plant provides water to all the residents of the two communities.

The plant has the ability to treat 2.5 million gallons of water per day and currently treats about 1.5 million gallons. The raw water comes from the Marais Des Cygnes river near 343rd St. The plant has four full-time employees and one part-time employee.

The raw water is treated with chlorine and ozone.

The plant is very efficient in its processes. It takes just under an hour to treat water and have it ready for consumption.

The plant fills three 750,000 gallon tanks. One is located at 311th & Spring Valley Road, the other near Louisburg High School and the other near Paola Middle School. There is also a 1 million gallon holding tank on the plant's site.

Staff at the plant constantly check the water so if a problem were to occur plant operators would know before it reaches taps in the communities it serves.

The plant is gravity feed and only needs two mechanical pumps — one to pump water from the river to the plant and one to pump the water to the towers.

The operators have compiled a list of tips and suggestions to care for the home water system. Some of these suggestions include cost-saving and water-saving tips. The list is available on the City's website under the Government - Utilities tab.



Left: The various treatment sections of the water plant.

Above: The on-site water holding tank has a capacity of 1 million gallons of treated water.

Below: A chemical injection pump is used to start the water filtration process chemically.

