

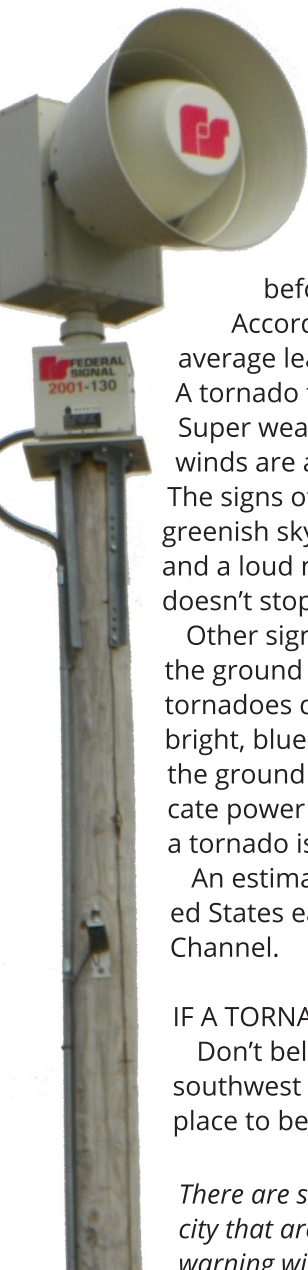
Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

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Springtime means tornado time



Springtime in the Midwest means severe weather and tornado season is here. The peak months for tornadoes are March through June. While we certainly hope the “big one” never strikes Louisburg, it’s always a good idea to have a plan before bad weather hits.

According to the Weather Channel the average lead time to take shelter is 13 minutes. A tornado typically strikes between 3-9 p.m. Super weather cells, strong updraft and veering winds are all strong indications of a tornado. The signs of a potential tornado include a dark, greenish sky; rotating clouds; hail or heavy rain; and a loud noise that sounds like a train or doesn’t stop like thunder does.

Other signs include whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base — sometimes tornadoes don’t have a funnel. At night small bright, blue-green or white flashes of light near the ground during a thunderstorm could indicate power lines being snapped which can mean a tornado is nearby.

An estimated 1,200 tornadoes strike the United States each year, according to the Weather Channel.

IF A TORNADO HITS

Don’t believe the old wives’ tale that the southwest corner of your basement is the safest place to be in the event of a tornado.

There are six outdoor sirens located inside the city that are activated any time there is a tornado warning within the county.

According to a Weather Channel broadcast in late March, the safest part of your basement is the center preferably under a mattress or sleeping bag or some structure that will keep debris from striking you.

It’s also a good idea to strap on a bike or football helmet for added protection and wear shoes. Many injuries in tornadoes are a result of flying or falling debris and stepping on debris.

BE PREPARED

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) there are several ways to prepare for tornado and severe weather season. The first is to be weather-ready by staying informed about the potential for watches and warnings. Sign up for notifications. Miami County offers a CodeRED alert system that makes notifications by phone call, text or email message about severe weather warnings. CodeRED sign ups are available on the Miami County website at www.miamicountyks.org.

The NWS also encourages families to have a communication plan so everyone in the family knows where to go in the event of an emergency and to have a designated meeting place after the storm passes. The safest place in a tornado is a storm shelter, basement, or interior room or closet without windows. If those aren’t an option, under a stairwell or even a bath tub can offer some protection. If you are outside and don’t have access to a sturdy building, get in a low-lying area like a ditch and cover your head. Never seek shelter under a bridge or overpass, which can cause traffic hazards and offers little protection from flying debris.

WHAT TO DO IN LOUISBURG

A public storm shelter is available in the basement of the Fire Station, 205 S. Metcalf Road, and is open during tornado warnings. There is a lift for those unable to navigate the steps. Pets are welcome but must be contained in a kennel at all times.

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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 Recreation Commission

The Louisburg Recreation Commission began operations Feb. 15, 2018. The LRC will offer programs for the Louisburg community and strive to meet the recreational needs of all ages.

LRC has taken over all Louisburg Area Recreation Association (LARA) activities and those of the Louisburg Soccer Club. LRC will offer baseball, softball, T-ball, soccer, volleyball, flag football and basketball. It is in the process of implementing activities for seniors and adults.

Board members are: Sam Long, chairman; Brock Elliott, co-chairman; Tiffany Ellison, secretary; Greg Prettyman, treasurer; and Scott Hipp, member at-large.



The director of LRC is Louisburg resident Diana Moore. The office is located on the west side of Broadmoor Elementary School. The mailing address is PO Box 937, Louisburg, KS 66053.

Diana can be reached at 913-837-1910 or at diana.louisburgrec@gmail.com.

The board meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at City Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

You can follow the LRC on its Facebook page titled "Louisburg Rec."

During this time of transition you can find additional information at <http://larasports.simplesite.com> or at www.louisburgsoccerclub.com

tornado

(Continued from page 1)

Outdoor sirens are located in six locations: Amity Street on the west and east ends of town; near S. 10th & Metcalf; near N. Metcalf and N. 14th Street; at the public works building on Rogers Road south of Hidden Creek; and at Lewis-Young Park. These sirens are activated if a tornado warning is issued for Miami County.

AFTER THE STORM

If a tornado hits, remain together and wait for emergency personnel. Stay away from downed power lines and avoid stepping on broken glass, nails or other debris. Stay out of any structure that has been heavily damaged as it could collapse. Do not use matches or lighters in case there is a gas leak. Wait for information or instruction from emergency crews or local officials.

With these safety precautions and tips in place, the citizens of Louisburg can be ready in the event a tornado strikes.

150th wine

CHEERS to Louisburg's Sesquicentennial year!

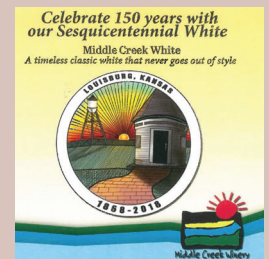
The Louisburg Historical Society has partnered with Middle Creek Winery to produce a commemorative wine to honor the city's 150th year.

This limited release wine, "Sesquicentennial White," is crafted solely to commemorate the milestone year.

A portion of the proceeds from all sales will be donated to the Louisburg Historical Society.

Sesquicentennial White will be unveiled to the public at Wine & Dine, a wine-tasting event, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at Stuty III Bar & Grill, 19 S. Broadway.

The commemorative wine will be available initially at local liquor stores, as well as New Lancaster General Store, 36688 New Lancaster Road, Paola, Kan.



Sesquicentennial wine label

Learning from our high school students

As I was sitting down to write this column, the news was playing on the TV behind me. It got me to thinking about all the craziness going on in the world today and how many of the problems or issues could easily occur in Louisburg as well. One of the great parts of our community and in our slice of the world is we are all in this together. We can count on each other for support during both the good times and the bad. It's one of the things I love the most about Louisburg.

During the last few weeks the students at the high school have been talking about reaching out to more students that are not normally included in activities or at lunch. Some of them are going to try and make a conscious effort to develop relationships with more of their peers. How contagious would it be if we tried to do the same thing as adults? Everyone wants to be included at least on some level. It would be great if we tried to broaden our circles and find at least one person that we do not normally interact with to include this week. I am going to at least try and just maybe we can show others what it is like to live in our little slice of the world.

Marty Southard

MAYOR'S MINUTE



The Louisburg Aquatic Center will be ready for opening day May 26 with roof replacement on the buildings last fall and the interior of the pool basin getting a fresh coat of paint this spring.

Pool passes available now

Season passes to the Louisburg Aquatic Center are now available to purchase at City Hall. A 10 percent discount is offered if passes are purchased by Friday, May 11.

This year the City has invested in a new pool pass card program. Each pool user will be issued a pass with a bar code that will be scanned to gain entrance into the Aquatic Center. Pictures will be taken of users for verification. If you are unable to bring your child to City Hall for the pictures, those pictures will be taken at the pool.

A family of four who lives in Miami County can purchase a discounted pool pass for \$90 and \$22.50 for each additional family member added to the pass. An individual pass can be purchased at the discounted rate of \$52.

The regular price of a season pass for a Miami County family of four is \$100. It's \$25 for each additional family member. An individual pass is \$60.

Non-county residents may purchase an individual pass at \$65, \$120 for a family of four and \$30 for each

additional family member.

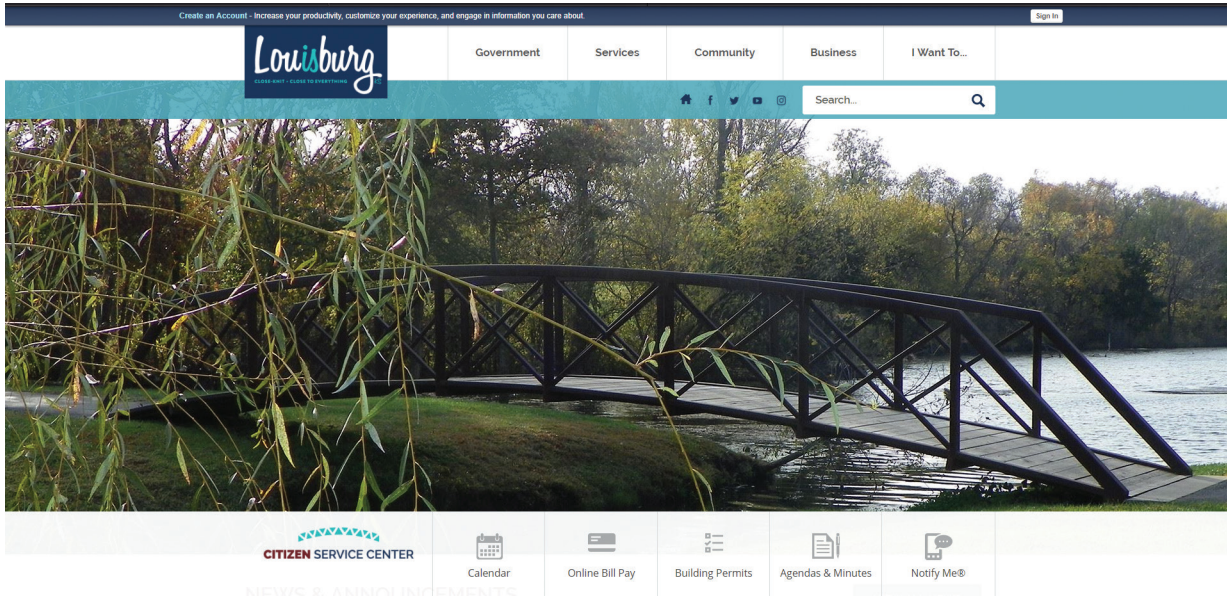
Day care provider passes are \$100 plus \$10 per child. A 10-punch card pass is available for \$30. These passes are not offered at a discount.

Daily admission to the Aquatic Center is \$4 for ages 3 to 64 and free for those ages 2 and under or 65 and over.

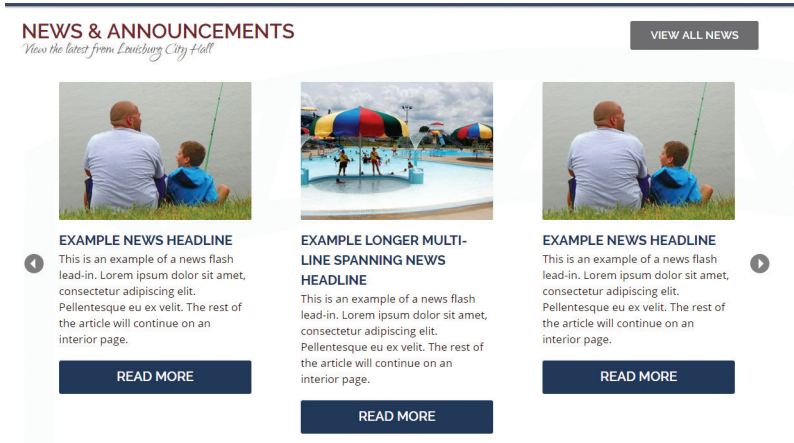
The pool will open for the season at noon Saturday, May 26. Pool hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Lap swim will be offered with times to be determined. The Louisburg Athletic Club will be offering water aerobics two days a week. Those days are still to be determined so watch for more information.

Swim lessons are managed by the Louisburg Barracudas swim team. Swim lesson sign-ups will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21. More information is available on the City's website under the Government Tab, then select Department - Aquatic Center. Pool passes will also be sold during those times.

Getting to know.....the City Website



A redesigned City of Louisburg website went live in mid April.

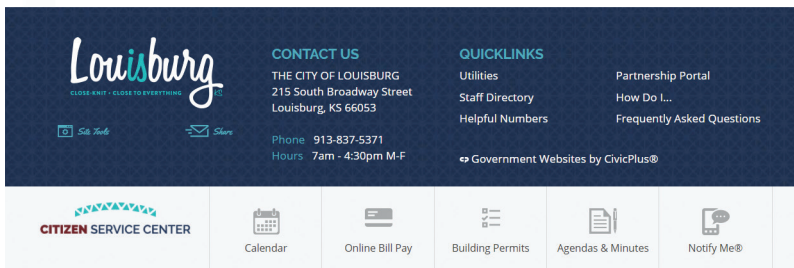


In addition to incorporating the new logo and colors into the website, the site allows for more pictures and information to be added to the site to keep it fresh and interesting.

The News & Announcements section of the website will be a carousel of news bites and information. This will be the place to look for information that is highlighted on Facebook but may be too much for that format.

The other goal of the redesign is to present information in a more organized format that makes it easier to find needed details on permits, parks, comprehensive and trails plans, meeting agendas and minutes and more.

Take a few minutes and check out the new website look at www.louisburgkansas.gov.



A redesigned website for the City debuted April 19. The redesign updates the website and allows more information to be presented to visitors to the site.

"We are refreshing the website in order to make it more user friendly and easier to find needed information," says Mayor Marty Southard.

Mayor Southard and City staff worked with the website host, CivicPlus®, Manhattan, Kan., to make the changes over a five-month period.

CALENDAR & REMINDERS

- Citywide clean-up April 28
- Pool passes sold at a discount through May 11.
- 23rd Annual Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 16. Registration at 7 a.m. Derby runs from 8-10 a.m. Hot dog lunch provided.
 - July 4 Freedom Fest, Lewis-Young Park. Fun starts at 6 p.m. Fireworks around 9:30.
 - Facade of Louisburg Improvement Program applications are being taken now for those businesses that are on Broadway between Amity and S. Third St. and those homes located in the older part of town. For complete details, check out the homepage on the City's website.