

# Louisburg Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

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## Are you prepared for winter driving?

Sliding off into a snowbank never sounds like fun, and Louisburg Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse encourages all drivers to be prepared for that scenario.

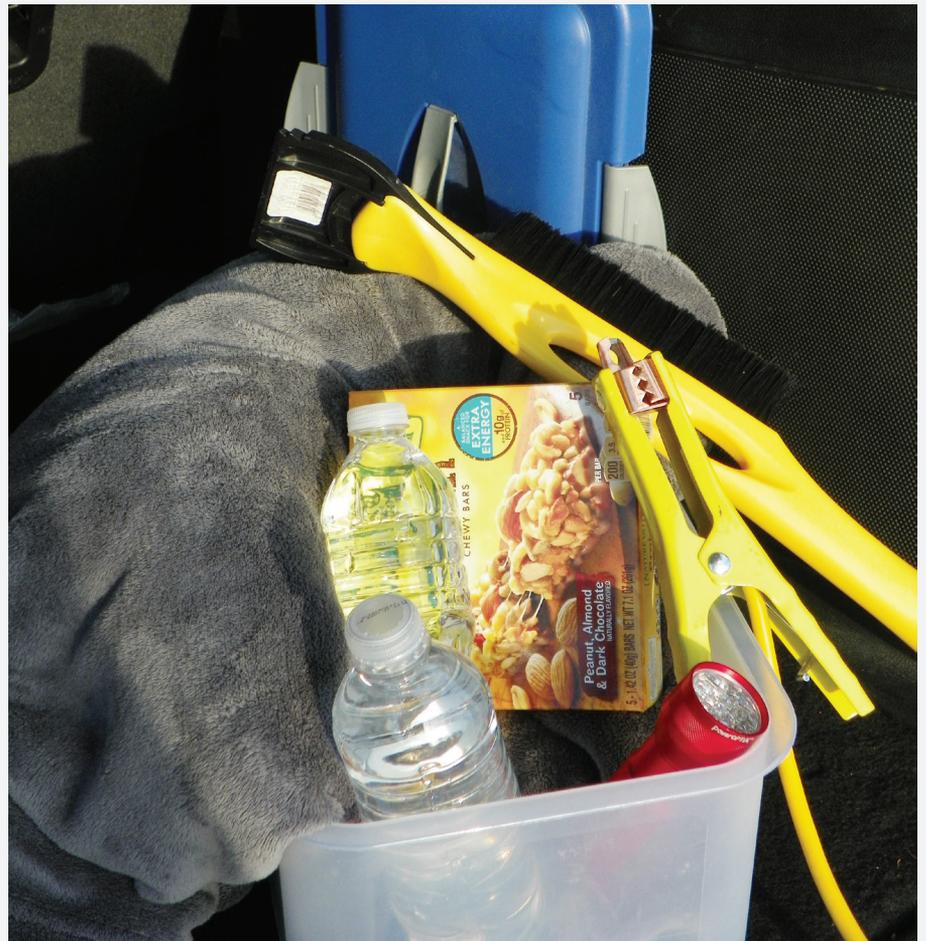
He and Louisburg Police Chief Tim Bauer recommend all vehicles be equipped with a winter emergency kit. Rittinghouse said you never know when that emergency kit will come in handy and the family that delivered a baby on U.S. 69 wished they would have had an emergency kit with blankets.

Both chiefs said a kit should contain a blanket, warm hat & gloves, bottled water, snacks such as protein bars, flashlight, ice scraper, phone charger, jumper cables and a first aid kit. Other items could include winter boots, hand tools and kitty litter is helpful for traction under the tires.

Chief Bauer reminds travelers to plan their route from destination to destination and make sure others know your travel plans. He said have a back-up plan and be sure to have enough financial resources in case of unexpected delays in your travels.

### WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Snowy or icy roads can provide plenty of white-knuckle driving. Bauer recommends if your vehicle goes into a slide, let off the gas pedal and steer the vehicle into the direction of the slide. This maneuver, he said, should help regain control of the vehicle. Once the vehicle is under control, either brake very slowly and lightly to come to a stop or slowly provide pressure on the gas pedal to continue traveling forward.



*Emergency kits for your vehicle are a good idea during wintertime driving. The Old Farmer's Almanac is calling for below normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation this winter for our area. The snowiest times will be early to mid December and January and mid February.*

If your vehicle slides off the road, Bauer said to remain calm and check for injuries to you and your passengers. Call 911 if there are injuries and administer first aid until help arrives. If there are no injuries and the vehicle doesn't pose any immediate danger to you or others, call the

*See Winter Driving page 3*



# City budget information comes in easy-to-understand format

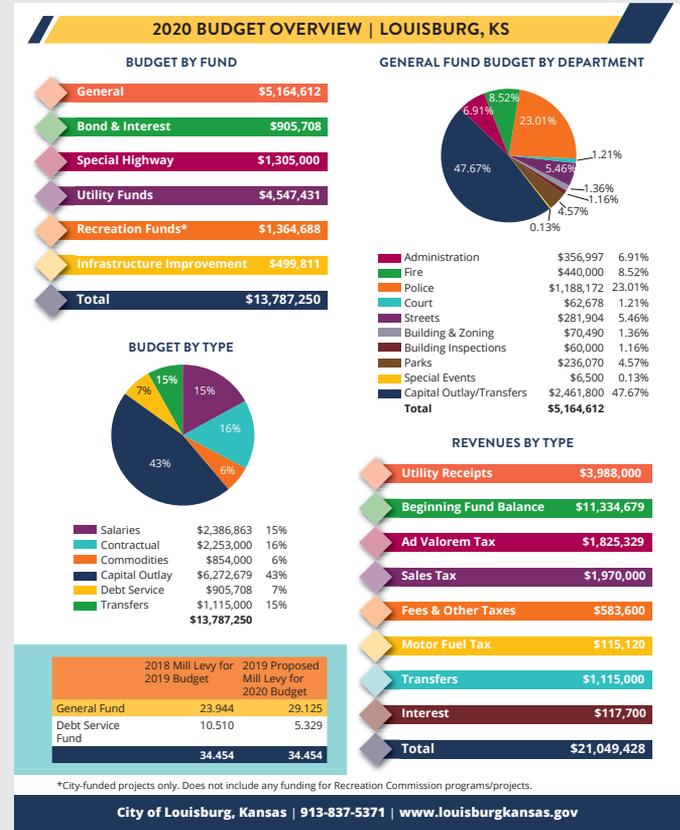
The City's 2020 budget information is included as an insert with this newsletter. The flyer is a communication tool to inform and educate residents about the City's financial health.

"The budget is arguably the single most important policy local governments pass all year," says Pat McQueen, the City's finance director. "While setting spending priorities and allocating public resources, the budget should ultimately reflect a community's values."

City Administrator Nathan Law said the sources of funds that make up the budget come from property tax, sales tax, fees, fines and occasionally grants, gifts and/or donations.

Law says the budget process begins early each year when department heads make a list of their department spending needs. City staff seeks out the City Council's budget priorities in March or April. A draft budget is then prepared and returned to City Council in June or July where a public hearing is conducted to get citizen feedback and to approve the final budget.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to reach out to their council representative, the council-at-large representative



The 2020 city budget flyer is included with this newsletter.

tative or the mayor to share their input for budget priorities.

"While a detailed budget can be daunting, the budget flyer allows for a quick reference of planned revenues and expenditures for the upcoming budget year," says Law. "The hope is that the information is easy to read and understand."

The City has an A1 bond rating from Moody's Investor Services, which is very favorable. These ratings are usually indicative of a city's financial health, McQueen said.

## Receive emergency utility notices from Swift911

The maintenance to the Spring Valley Road water tower that caused water discoloration in the City last month is a good example of why residents are encouraged to sign up for the City's emergency utility notification, Swift911.

Had that maintenance work caused the need for a boil order, residents would be alerted through the Swift911 notification.

The emergency notification service is

used for any utility emergency such as a gas leak or water main break that would cause a disruption in service or potential dangerous situation.

The notification also alerts customers of service disconnection for non-payment of a utility bill.

Residents may sign up for the service by texting SWIFT911 to 99538 or download the Swift911 Public app.

### Mayor

Marty Southard

msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov

### Ward 1

Kalee Smith

ksmith@louisburgkansas.gov

### Ward 2

Lee Baer

lbaer@louisburgkansas.gov

### Ward 3

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### Ward 4

Thorvald McKiernan

tmckiernan@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 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

### Police Department

Chief Tim Bauer

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

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.

# Smoke detectors for seniors

Free smoke detectors have been installed in the homes of about a dozen Louisburg senior citizens thanks to a grant from First Option Bank's Trusteed Foundation.

The bank provided a grant of \$300 this spring to purchase the battery-operated smoke detectors. The Paola Wal-Mart donated enough detectors to have 34 of the alarms to place in residents' homes.

Louisburg Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse and other fire crew personnel installed the detectors this fall.

The program provided detectors for those 65 and over who currently didn't have a working smoke alarm in their home or whose detector was more than 10 years old. Rittinghouse reminds everyone that smoke detectors should be changed every 10 years and batteries changed every six months.



*Louisburg Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse installs a smoke detector in the home of a area senior.*

## Winter driving

*From Page 1*

police or others for assistance and wait for help. If you can't notify police or others, you'll have to make a choice whether to stay with the vehicle or walk for help. If you decide to leave your vehicle, always leave a note on the vehicle's dash stating the date, time and direction you were walking for help. It is usually best to stay with the vehicle, Bauer said, as it's easier for emergency personnel to find you in a vehicle than locate you on foot.

### COMMUTING IN WINTER

Winter driving for commuters is not much different, Bauer said. He recommends commuters pay attention to weather and traffic reports before departing for their destination.

The best tips for commuters and

travelers is to plan extra time to reach their destination or choose alternate routes to avoid delays. And remember it's best to use main roads as the safest travel routes. Reducing speed and remaining patient is Bauer's best advice when traveling in winter weather.

### YOU ARE THE DRIVER

"While vehicle technology and capabilities have increased and come a long way through the years, the vast majority of vehicles traveling on the roadways are still being operated by a person called the 'driver.' It's the driver that controls how safely the vehicle gets us from place to place as well as the safety of others along our route," says Bauer. He urges all drivers to drive carefully this winter.

## New council takes office in January

Newly elected councilmembers Kalee Smith, Ward 1, and Donna Cook, Ward 2, will be sworn into office by City Clerk Traci Storey at a special City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13.

Both were elected to office in the recent November general election. Both councilmembers will serve a three-year term. That will be the only item of business at the meeting.

## MAYOR'S MINUTE

### Looking back

The end of the year is a great time to reflect on all we accomplished as a city and look forward to what we want to accomplish in the future.

We can start by looking at park improvements we've made the past year including the diffuser at City Lake, repairs to baseball backstops at Lewis-Young Field, working on the pavilion at City Park and will be installing new play equipment with some features for special needs children next spring.

Sidewalks in the city have been enhanced and will continue to be improved in order to make our city more walkable and safer for pedestrians.

We will continue to prioritize and start correcting stormwater issues in some of the affected areas.

We are working with the County in order to move forward with the Metcalf 2.0 project. All of these projects will make our city a better place to live.

As I've said many times, we have to continue to work together even when we disagree in order to accomplish our goals.



**MARTY SOUTHARD**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marty Southard'.

# Residents, businesses reminded to clear sidewalks of snow

With the winter season here residents and businesses are asked to lend a helping hand to keep sidewalks, trails and crosswalks clear of snow and ice.

The City continues to work to make connections throughout town by filling in sidewalk and trail gaps. But with that comes the need for keeping those sidewalks and trails free of snow, ice and other debris.

It is the responsibility of the resident or business to keep adjacent sidewalks on their property free of debris.

The City Code states: (a) *It shall be unlawful for the owner and/or occupant of any lots abutting upon any sidewalk to fail to cause to be removed from such sidewalks all snow and ice within 5 hours from the time that the snow fall or ice storm ceases. If the snow falls or ice accumulates upon the sidewalks in the night time, removal of same must be made before 12 o'clock noon on the following day.* (b) *It shall be unlawful for any person to place snow removed from private property upon any public street, alley or sidewalk.*

Children and others who walk or ride bikes to school, work or shopping depend on clean sidewalks.

City crews clean sidewalks along city-owned property after streets are cleaned. This includes The Lake trail, the sidewalk along city-owned property at Metcalf and Amity including the intersection and the sidewalk along city property west of that intersection, at the aquatic center and the nearby water tower, and at the Farmers Market.



*These Snow Buddies from last year clean sidewalks at their Buddy's home.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**City Hall closed for Christmas observance** — Dec. 24-25

**City Hall closed for New Year's observance** — Dec. 31-Jan 1

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

Newly elected City Council members take office,  
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 13,  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:45 pm Monday, Jan. 13,  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**City Hall closed for Martin Luther King observance**  
— Monday, Jan 20

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 21,  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 21,  
LRC office at Broadmoor School

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 29,  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

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

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 18,  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 18,  
LRC office at Broadmoor School

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb 26,  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

*Agendas and minutes can be found on the City website under the Agenda & Minutes icon:  
[www.louisburgkansas.gov](http://www.louisburgkansas.gov)*