

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

August-September 2020

inside this issue:

- Officer Woody Bates
- Snow Buddies
- Free PPE available
- Mayor's Minute
- Calendar

Trail opportunities are in your neighborhood

The number of trail and sidewalk miles in Louisburg is growing with the recent completion of the 1.5 mile asphalt trail at Lewis-Young Park.

Next year almost a half mile of trail will be constructed as part of the Amity Bike/Ped trail project that will stretch from Broadway to Crestview Circle on the west side of town. In 2022, just under a mile of sidewalk and bike/ped trail is planned to be constructed on both sides of the street as part of the Metcalf 2.0 project.

The City Council has also indicated interest in constructing a sidewalk along N. Broadway from Amity to N. Ninth Street. Requests for Proposals are currently being sought on that project.

A casual look at the City's trails and sidewalks seems to indicate more residents are getting outside and enjoying a walk, run or bike ride during the COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home orders we saw in April and May.

Local residents who want to enjoy more natural trails can use almost three miles of wooded hiking trails at Lewis-Young Park. A trail map can be found on the City website at: <https://bit.ly/2Pn0Fvj>.

Those who want to hike or bike a bit further from home, or even take their horse trail-riding, can use trails at Hillsdale Lake or the new Flint Hills Trail that starts in Osawatomie.

The Flint Hills trailhead just opened in Osawatomie this year and is located near the Karl E. Cole Sports Complex. The Flint Hills Trail State Park is a 117 mile trail that, once complete, will extend from Osawatomie to Herington. Currently 96 miles of the trail is complete from Osawatomie to Council Grove. This trail is the longest trail in Kansas and is the seventh-longest trail in the nation, according to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) website. It follows the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The Kanza Rails-Trail Conservancy spearheaded efforts to create the trail

Right: When using trails at state parks such as Hillsdale, users will see trail courtesy signs such as this one that explains who has the trail right-of-way.

Far right: Other signs on trails can provide interpretive or safety information such as this snake warning sign recently posted at the new trail at Lewis-Young Park.



PHOTO COURTESY KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM



and still works with KDWPT on trail development.

Recently a resident reached out to City Staff and asked if we could provide information on trail etiquette with the addition of new trail and sidewalk connections.

Here are some tips and unwritten rules culled from several hiking and biking sources:

- When bringing a pet on a hike, be sure to keep it on a leash and under control. Don't forget to pick up pet waste.
- Don't feed the wildlife or collect plant or animal material.
- Walk through the mud or puddle and not around it on a nature trail, unless you can do so without going off the trail. Widening a trail by going around puddles, etc. is bad for trail sustainability. Help preserve the trail by staying on the trail.
- If traveling in a group, don't take up the whole width of the trail; allow others to pass.
- Travel on the right, pass on the left.
- Cyclists should announce "on your left" when approaching walkers or slower cyclists from behind.
- Cyclists should remember to "yield to heels" and slow down when the trail is crowded.
- If you stop, get off the trail. Allow others to pass.
- Be visible, wear reflective clothing and use lights at night.



Mayor

Marty Southard

msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 1

Kalee Smith

ksmith@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 2

Donna Cook

dcook@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 3

Sandy Harris

sharris@louisburgkansas.gov

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.

Officer Woody for Best of Miami County Law Enforcement

In early August Louisburg Police Officer Woody Bates' name was thrown in the running for the Best of Miami County award in the Law Enforcement Officer category.

The Best of Miami County gives readers of the countywide newspaper the opportunity to vote on their favorite people, places and businesses.

Woody's face has been a familiar one in Louisburg as he has patrolled city streets for almost 28 years. Many Louisburg long-timers will remember Woody in his dual role as a Blues Brothers during National Night Out Against Crime events that were sponsored by the City in the late '90s and early 2000s.

Woody tells of his alter ego.

"A Spring Hill Officer and I used to do the Blues Brothers for the National Night Out Against Crime every year. Ken Oziah moved out of state, and we quit doing it locally of course. I am old enough to remember when the Blues Brothers were actually touring the country with their blues band in the 1980s. Talk about cool!

"Well, Ken and I did our own vocals and had a blast for many years. We became so good we were getting requests to play parties all over Kansas City. The best part is at EVERY gig, we had more fun than the folks listening and applauding. What a ride! If I see a 1974 Dodge Monaco black and white for sale, and I happen to have a few bucks in my pocket....."

Enjoy this Q&A with Woody.

What made you want to be a police officer?

When I was young, I always admired police officers and their commitment and dedication, sometimes in trying situations. I felt if I could somehow be a part of that, that would be something I would be proud of for the rest of my life. Making a contribution to the community your kids are growing up in and actually making a difference were important to me. It is not easy getting in to law enforcement, I learned at the outset. I'm proud and honored to be a part of the department I am with.

You must enjoy it to continue to log the miles you drive. How many miles have you logged as an officer?

It is surely a rough guess, but I would say



Louisburg Police Officer Woody Bates

I have logged at least 75,000 miles in a district car over 27 years.

What are the best and worst parts of being a Louisburg officer?

The best part of being a Louisburg Police Officer might be talking to kids and seeing how they look at you when you are on duty. Their eyes get big and they seem somewhat in awe. Its humorous, and at the same time humbling. The worst part is having to handle a call involving a child getting hurt. I have to hide my emotions and that is very difficult.

What would you tell someone considering a law enforcement career?

If someone is wanting to get in to police work, I encourage them and remind them of the integrity and honor that comes with it. And also comment if they want to make a lot of money, that might not happen, at least not at the beginning. But the other sides of being an officer make up for the pay in so many ways.

Louisburg folks anonymously pay for my meal when I'm at a café or restaurant in town in uniform. I have been in the drive-in lane, and sometimes when I get up to the window I find out the car in front of me paid for my order. Louisburg citizens stop me when I am out and about walking around and thank me for my service. Some I've never seen before in my life. They wave at my patrol car when I'm driving by their

house while they are mowing their yard. And to augment the situation, the City also pays me. Does it get any better than that?

Woody is the longest serving officer with the agency says Police Chief Tim Bauer. "Woody is a great candidate for the Best in Miami County's Law Enforcement award because he embodies the attributes and characteristics desired in a good police officer and community member. Woody patrols the streets and enjoys talking with residents and business individuals in the community. Woody is known by most of the community for his pleasant demeanor and willingness to help others.

"Woody has said on numerous occasions, that though he works a full-time job Monday through Friday in a different professional field, its Saturday and Sunday that he looks forward to every week, when he gets to come in and work as a Police Officer and serve in this community," Bauer said.

"Whether Woody should win the award and recognition or not, one thing is for sure, Woody will always have a smile and be willing to serve and help others."

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Heroes are all around us. Where's yours?

The work of the Louisburg Fire Department and Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse are more examples of what makes Louisburg a special place to live and have a business.

A company called Insurance Services Office, ISO, rates fire departments on a scale of 1-10 on their ability to provide fire protection to their community. The lower the score the more protected your property is considered. Some insurance companies use this factor when determining homeowners' insurance rates. According to the article,

"How Do ISO Fire Ratings Impact Homeowner Insurance Rates?" by Mark Fitzpatrick, the following four main criteria are used:

- 50 percent comes from the quality of your local fire department including staffing levels, training and proximity of the firehouse;
- 40 percent comes from availability of water supply, including the prevalence of fire hydrants and how much water is available for putting out fires;
- 10 percent comes from the quality of the area's emergency communications systems (911);
- An extra 5.5 percent comes from community outreach, including fire prevention and safety courses.

A 5 rating is the most common score with lower, better, scores usually going to urban cities with larger fire stations that are closer together and are operated by a full-time staff.

Earlier this summer, I was notified that Louisburg's ISO score was lowered from a 4 to a 3. This is a huge accomplishment and has not gone unnoticed. This improved rating was made possible by the continued hard work of all Louisburg Fire Department personnel, and especially Fire Chief Rittinghouse. I have often said that it is the people that make this community special and this is another example of staff working hard to benefit the city and we who call it home.



MARTY SOUTHARD

Marty Southard

This & that

Bike Map

A trails and bike map for the area served by the Mid-America Regional Council is available on the MARC website at marc.org/bikemap.

This site provides information for Miami, Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties in Kansas and Cass, Jackson, Clay, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri.

This QR Code will also take you to the map.

A new printed map will be available this fall at area visitor centers, libraries and other public spaces, including City Hall.



Snow Buddies

sign-up

Snow Buddies, the volunteer program that matches those who can shovel snow for those who can't, is accepting volunteer shovelers and applications for those that need shoveling assistance.

Volunteers are asked to complete the volunteer form on the City's website. The link can be found on the homepage under the News & Announcements section.

Volunteers should be able to commit to shoveling all sidewalks and a path from the front door of the home to the sidewalk or end of driveway when the area receives more than 2 inches of snow. Volunteers are not expected to shovel the entire driveway.

The program assists those 65 and older, or who have a disability, with snow shoveling.

Last year about 25 persons benefited from the program with about 16 volunteer shovelers.



Free PPE for area businesses

Miami County area businesses that need Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, can score free supplies through the Miami County Emergency Management office through the end of August.

Mark Whelan, the County's emergency management coordinator, said the County's PPE supplies varies on what the Kansas Department of Emergency Management can supply, donations received from a Midwest foundation that assists rural counties with health care and health education, and what the County purchases.

"We try and maintain a month supply for Emergency Services along with health care providers. The KDEM 90-day program sends supplies to the 105 counties in Kansas based on business needs in the community. Miami County will be purchasing a significant amount of PPE using SPARKS funds so we can continue to support emergency services, health care providers and businesses," Whelan said.

The free PPE is available to food supply including restaurants and grocery stores; faith-based organizations; dentists, chiropractors and other medical offices; utility workers; schools and educational organizations; and other essential businesses such as manufacturing, warehouses and financial services.

The available supplies include disposable masks including KN95, cloth masks, face shields, reusable cloth gowns and one-time use gowns.

If you are unsure if your business or organization qualifies contact Whelan at mwhelan@sheriffmiamicountyks.gov.



Do you need access to PPE in order to operate safely?

Miami County Emergency Management has identified two sources of PPE that are offering free, 90-day supplies of PPE to these entities:

- Faith-based organizations including churches
- Food supply including restaurants and grocery stores
- Dentist, chiropractors and similar medical offices
- Utility workers including water, electric, cable, etc.
- Other essential businesses such as manufacturing, warehouses and financial services
- Schools and educational organizations

The types of PPE available include:

- Disposable masks including KN95
- Cloth masks
- Face shields
- Cloth reusable (washable) gowns
- One time use, semi-impermeable gowns

Available only if your business has not already participated in a previous round!

To obtain this equipment, you must complete the online survey at <https://bit.ly/micoppe>

by the close of business Monday, Aug. 31

If you are unsure if you are eligible for this offer, contact MWhelan@sheriffmiamicountyks.gov for clarification.

The donations are being made available by the **Kansas Department of Emergency Management** and the **Patterson Family Foundation**. The Patterson Family Foundation is a family-led, non-profit private foundation extending the legacy of Neal and Jeanne Patterson through collaborations in health care, education and rural communities. Originally founded in 2007 by Cerner co-founder Neal Patterson and his wife Jeanne, when Neal passed away in 2017, he made a one-billion-dollar provision to expand the work of the foundation. Today, Neal's adult children and the small staff of the Patterson Family Foundation honor Neal and Jeanne's memory by working on behalf of the rural Midwestern communities they loved.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 14,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 20,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Labor Day weekend activities Parade Downtown 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 7 - watch for updated information

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm, Tuesday, Sept. 15,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

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

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Sept. 8,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
meeting moves to Tuesday due to Labor Day holiday

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 21,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 12,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Halloween on Broadway - watch for details coming soon!

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm, Monday, Oct. 19,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the Agenda & Minutes icon.