

Louisburg Speaks KS

October-November 2020

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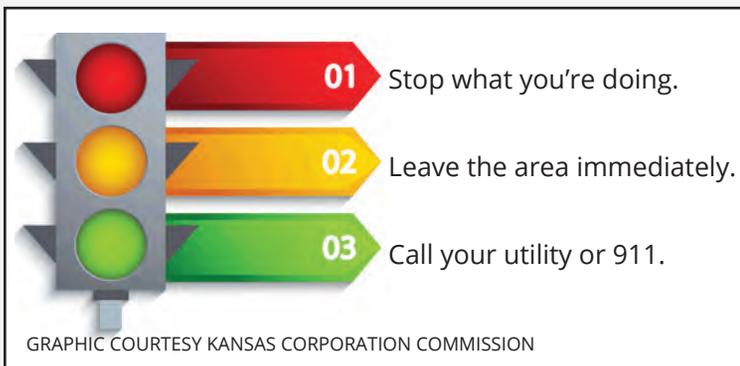
Know the warning signs of natural gas leak

Natural gas is generally a safe energy source that is used to heat our homes and provide hot water to our faucets and often run other appliances like ranges, dryers and fireplaces. Occasionally, though, pipelines that carry natural gas can leak, either by being ruptured during excavation or other accident, worn-out seals on gas appliances and just plain old pipes.

Natural gas is odorless, colorless and is lighter than air. When it is released in an enclosed area, such as a home, it can't diffuse quickly and can become trapped within the house and can trigger an explosion inside your home.

All gas providers, the City of Louisburg included, put an additive into the gas distribution system that smells like rotten eggs or that "gas smell" that is generally associated with a gas leak.

If you think you smell gas either inside your home or while outdoors, you should follow the steps on the stoplight image provided by the Kansas Corporation Commission, the state agency that oversees natural gas safety in the state.



The City of Louisburg responds to gas emergencies and also performs required maintenance on gas lines located within easements and rights-of-way. Gas customers are required to maintain lines on their property and home or business. Shrubs, trees, buildings, fences and other obstruc-

tions must be kept clear of the utility meter and gas line.

WHAT NOT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK:

- Do not use any electrical device that would ignite the natural gas. That includes light switches, telephones/cell phones, or garage door openers.
- Do not start a vehicle or engine.
- Do not light a cigarette or smoke.
- Do not cause any friction that could result in a spark.
- Do not try to locate the leak yourself or shut off any gas valves to appliances.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK:

- Immediately leave the area — on foot — in an upwind direction.
- Avoid potential ignition sources.
- Warn others to stay away.
- From a safe distance, call the City of Louisburg at 913-837-5371 and follow the prompts or dial 911.

SIGNS OF A NATURAL GAS LEAK:

- Rotten egg smell.
- Blowing or hissing sound.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area.
- Dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
- Bubbling in wet or flooded areas.

LEARN MORE AT THE KCC:

The KCC, the state's natural gas regulatory agency, has more information on natural gas safety on its website: <https://kcc.ks.gov/natural-gas-pipeline-safety-liquid-pipeline/natural-gas-safety>.

We've got that small-town spirit

Do a quick internet search on attributes of a small town and you'll find things like family friendly, town pride, supporting community and school activities and small-town friendly. This particular internet page described that last attribute as looking out for and helping your neighbor.

There are a few current ways Louisburg residents can live up to this small-town attribute.

SNOW BUDDIES

Snow Buddies is seeking volunteers to help our elderly residents shovel snow from their sidewalks and along the drive so they can get into their car, go to the mailbox or take out the trash.



This program matches volunteers with senior citizens who need help shoveling snow.

As of the end of September, there were eight persons on the Buddy list with only one shoveling volunteer. In years past there have been on average 22 senior citizens with 12 shoveling volunteers on the list.

The program is available on a first-come, first-served basis for senior citizens or those who are disabled and unable to shovel snow. Buddies must live in a single-family residence. The program is designed to shovel sidewalks at the residence and to shovel a path from the home to the end of the driveway. Volunteers are not asked to shovel the entire driveway and are asked not to accept payment for the service.

Volunteers should be able to shovel within 24 hours of a snow event measuring 2 inches or more.

The program assists as many seniors as there are available volunteers. To be placed on the list as either a Buddy or a volunteer, please complete the form on the City's website at: <https://bit.ly/33U5of1>

If you need assistance completing the form, please call City Hall at 913-837-2324.

LOUISBURG HELPING LOUISBURG

Another local program also provides assistance for those in need, specifically those affected by COVID-19.

Louisburg Helping Louisburg is a program directed



Louisburg Helping Louisburg

by the Louisburg Ministerial Alliance that provides assistance with utility bills, purchasing groceries or paying rent. This program is geared to those who may have lost jobs or had their work hours cut due to the pandemic and the shutdown that occurred earlier this year.

If Louisburg area residents need this type of assistance, they can reach out to the Ministerial Alliance at these churches: Faith Chapel, 837-2108; First Baptist Church, 837-4393; First Christian Church, 837-4760, Immaculate Conception Church, 837-2295; Journey Church, 913-777-1885; Louisburg Baptist Temple, 837-2979; or Louisburg United Methodist Church, 837-2374.

The Ministerial Alliance is also accepting cash donations to reach as many in need as possible. Contact one of the churches to provide a donation.

You may also contact City Hall at 913-837-2324 and you will be connected with a Ministerial Alliance representative.

COATS FOR FOLKS

Coats for Folks is another community-wide program that collects coats to distribute to those of any age who might need a coat, jacket or sweatshirt.



This year's coat drive will be a bit different due to COVID-19, says Leslie Baker, an event organizer.

This year, the group will take requests for coats and then try and fill those requests through donations rather than having a "shop" day, she said. They also will not be putting out the bins for the coat collections as in years past. If you would like to request a coat, or would like to donate either a gently used or new coat, please email your contact information to: coatsforfolkslouisburg@gmail.com.



Mayor

Marty Southard

msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 1

Kalee Smith

ksmith@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 2

Donna Cook

dcook@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 3

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Ward 4

Thorvald McKiernan

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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.

Sewer line work to start

Sewer maintenance will begin in parts of Louisburg later this fall and should be completed by year's end.

The work includes line cleaning and a camera inspection to look for potential problems in the sewer system.

The inspection allows the Public Works department to find minor problems and make repairs before major work is required, says Craig Hufferd, public works supervisor.

This is phase two of the project and this phase generally encompasses the area between S. Third Street south to S. 10th Street and west of Metcalf. There are a few additional areas outside this geographic area. A map of the area to be inspected can be found on the City's website under the News & Announcement section.

This high pressure cleaning can occasionally cause backflow or odor, Hufferd said. It's recommended that residents leave the toilet seat down.

Door hangers will be left a day or so prior to work beginning in each area.

Notifications will also be sent via Swift911, the City's emergency utility notification service. To sign up for the free service text *Swift911* to 99538 or download the Swift911 app and sign up through the app. This service can notify for utility disconnects due to non-payment and for emergency utility situations such as a water or gas leak. Notifications can also be sent for utility maintenance work such as the planned sewer maintenance.

This & that Halloween

'Off' Broadway during COVID-19

The annual trick-or-treat event for Louisburg area kids is a go for 2020 with extra precautions taking place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that includes a move to a new location off Broadway.

The event is being rebranded as "Halloween Off Broadway" and will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, at the High School Leikam, along with other co-workers at Dr. Jake Polzin's Louisburg Chiropractic Center, said in early October.

Leikem said she heard concerns from businesses and parents about maintaining safe distances and when considering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's trick-or-treating guidelines, a change to this year's event made sense. The annual trick-or-treating event will be a drive-by affair. Leikam is encouraging businesses to participate and would like to see not only the kids dressed up but the business folks dressing up too.

Leikam said if health conditions were to change leading up the event, the event could undergo additional changes or be canceled.

Freedom Fest

volunteers needed

The current Freedom Fest committee is looking for persons who might be interested in serving on the committee and help set up and work future July 4 celebrations at Lewis-Young Park.

The committee generally meets three or four times a year for a lunchtime meeting at City Hall.

If you are interested in helping with this community event and are available July 4, please contact City Hall at 913-837-5371.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

City parks, trails good way to enjoy fall

The other day, I saw a T-shirt that said, "I would like to give a shout out to the sidewalks for keeping me off the streets." After I finished laughing, I thought that is fairly timely for our city as we have tried to add many more sidewalks and walking trails to make the city safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. It is nice to see students walking to school and people walking their pets without having to enter the roadway. We are continuing to add more trails and sidewalks throughout the city limits with the hope that the walkability of our city will continue to improve. Feel free to notify me if you have ideas how to keep the city improving in this area.

It is important during this time of a pandemic to give citizens a place to get outside and spread out, if necessary, while maybe getting a little extra exercise. Several people have been using the parks in which new equipment has been added. At Lewis-Young Park, work is finishing up on the installation of the disc golf course. The new accessible play equipment by the Aquatic Center was being used by several people on a warm weekend in late September.

My granddaughter brought a friend to visit the Cider Mill to enjoy donuts and then visit some of the city's parks to play. My granddaughter enjoyed the new equipment, but was really excited to go back to City Park so she could use the monkey bars. I guess when you are six years old the toys do not have to be fancy to have a good time, it's all about play time with your friends.

I hope you can take time this fall to enjoy the fall colors while exploring Louisburg's sidewalks, trails and parks with your friends and family.



MARTY SOUTHARD

CANCELED
PER EVENT
ORGANIZERS

Congratulations, Officer Bates

Officer Woody Bates is the 2020 Best of Miami County Law Enforcement Officer as part of the Best of Miami County readership competition in the *Miami County Republic*.

The newspaper's readers vote on their favorite people, places and businesses within Miami County. The results of all the Best of votes appeared in the newspaper this month.

A Facebook campaign through the City's Facebook pages encouraged readers to vote for Officer Bates in August.

Louisburg Police Chief Tim Bauer said in August that Officer Bates is the longest serving officer with the local agency. Bates has been with the local agency in a part-time role for almost 28 years.

"While a number of excellent and deserving law enforcement officers in Miami County come to mind, Woody definitely warrants the recognition and honor," Bauer said after learning of the award.

A question and answer segment on Bates appeared in the last issue of *Louisburg Speaks*. If you missed it and want to check it out, it can be found on the City's website under the Services tab in the Newsletter section.

Congratulations!

Louisburg Police Officer

Woody Bates

*Best of Miami County
Law Enforcement
Officer*



Thank you to all City of Louisburg personnel who work tirelessly to keep our citizens safe.
We appreciate all each of you do!

Louisburg

Rescheduled citywide clean-up this weekend

The citywide clean-up, rescheduled from this spring, will be this Saturday, Oct. 24. This event is for city residents only. Please have items at the curb by 6:30 a.m.

Small items should be contained in boxes or bags. Refrigerators or freezers must be emptied, with doors removed, locked or steel banded and turned face down.

Items not picked up include: brush or limbs; regular household trash; and hazardous waste, tires or batter-

ies, which includes paint, thinners, varnishes, pesticides, oil, gasoline motors, etc. Contact Miami County Sanitary Landfill at 913-294-2674 about disposing of those items.

No demolition or construction material will be picked up.

Commercial/business accounts are not eligible for citywide clean-up and this includes Rockville Ridge and Wea Creek apartment locations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Citywide Clean-up
6:30 am Saturday, Oct. 24

Halloween Off-Broadway
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm, Oct. 24
CANCELED school parking lot

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

Daylight Saving Time Ends
2 am, Sunday, Nov. 1

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Nov. 2
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

General Election Tuesday, Nov. 3
Polls open 7 am - 7 pm
City of Louisburg residents vote
at the United Methodist Church,
249 N. Metcalf

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Nov. 9
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Nov. 16
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 17
meeting moved to LRC office at
Broadmoor Elementary School

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 18,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Hall closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 26-27

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

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