

Louisburg Speaks KS

December 2020-January 2021

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Volunteers vital to city success

While most cities have a mayor, city council and staff, many cities owe their success to the many volunteers who donate their time and often their expertise to make communities a better place.

Louisburg is no exception and has a number of volunteers that serve on various boards and commissions that put in countless and often thankless hours, helping the City to conduct its business.

The end of the year is often a time when everyone reflects back on the year and looks to successes. The City of Louisburg is very fortunate to have a great group of folks that help out the community.

So from the Mayor, City Council and City staff, a big shout-out goes to those folks who volunteer for the City.

The planning commission is a group of appointed officials who oversees city planning and zoning issues. This group is charged with controlling growth, promoting economic health, and improving the quality of life for all citizens. Terms are for three years. The planning commission consists of nine members, two of whom may reside outside the city limits but within three miles of the city limits.

Members of this commission include: Andy Sauber, chair; Nate Apple, Lee Baer, George Bazin, Michelle Olson, Les Page, McKenzie Phillips, Rick Phillips and Michael Sharp.

The Board of Zoning Appeals hears and decides special exceptions, variance interpretations and appeals of any decision or determination of the Zoning Administrator in the enforcement and administration of the Land Use Ordinance. Terms are for three years. Two members from the

planning commission serve on this board while the other three are at-large. Two members may reside outside the city limits but must live within three miles of the city limits. This group includes: Andy Sauber, chair; Betty Brown, McKenzie Phillips, Danny Quinn and Dusti Travis.

The Park and Tree Board is responsible for all the city's parks including City Park, located between South Third and South Fourth streets and Olive and Vine streets; Ron Weers Park, located at City Lake at South Metcalf and South 16th St.; and Lewis-Young Park, located at 26600 Jingo Road, northwest of town. Members serve three year terms and

are responsible for a certain park or duty. There are six voting members and one non-voting member representing the Louisburg Recreation Commission.

Members include: Bob Bazin, chair; Andy Gibbons, City Park; Jack Kline, forestry manager; Wayne Knop, Ron Weers Park; David Maddax, Louisburg Aquatic Center, and Michael McClellan, Lewis-Young Park.

The Fox Hall and Cemetery board is a 5-member board that oversees operations of

Fox Hall, the community center located next to City Hall, and Louisburg Cemetery. There are no term limits for this board. Membership includes: Dennis DeShazer, chair; Debbie Landau, Mis Brummel, George Karnaze and Brad Sarver.

Historic Preservation Commission oversees the efforts to recognize and protect historic places within Louisburg. Members serve three-year terms appointed by the mayor.

Members include: Travis Thompson, chair; Brad Sarver, Jacob Vickrey and Heather Wilson



Thank You



Mayor

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City Hall

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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.

Firefighters to get new gear

Louisburg Fire Department and Fire District #1 personnel will soon be getting new bunker gear, according to Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse.

Rittinghouse said new gear is needed because of COVID issues and the Clean Cab concept. Clean Cab is an industry standard to help alleviate exposure to cancer-causing agents that firefighters might be exposed to in the field. Gear has to be thoroughly cleaned after each fire.

Each firefighter will receive two sets of gear so they always have a clean set ready to go.

The City of Louisburg and Fire District #1 split the cost of the new gear. One set of gear costs about \$3,200.

Bunker gear includes pants, jacket, hood and gloves and is considered a firefighter's PPE. The National Fire Protection Association recommends gear be changed every 5 years.

There are 20 firefighters on the rosters. Each set of gear is custom made and should arrive about mid-February.



Josh Weber, Louisburg Fire Department captain, tries on a sample bunker gear set for sizing purposes. Local firefighters will soon be getting new gear.

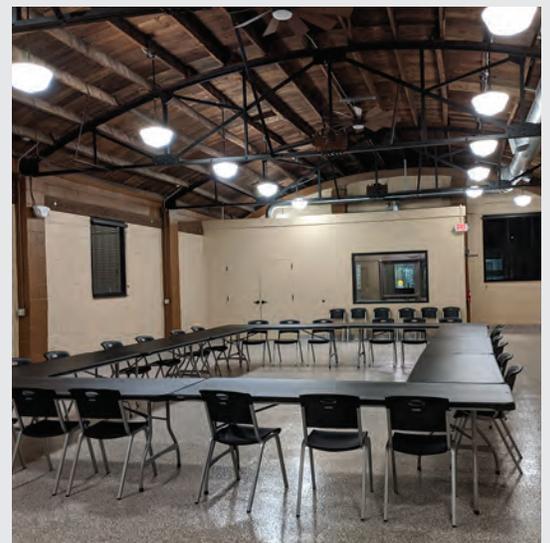
Fox Hall community building spruced up, ready to host your event

The recently renovated Fox Hall community building in downtown Louisburg is ready to host your next event.

Hall rental includes chairs for 112 and 14, six- and eight-foot tables. The building rents for \$25 per hour or \$75 for the entire day. To check on rental availability please contact the building manager at 913-837-2585.

Fox Hall is ADA accessible and has a warming kitchen. It also has two restrooms with changing tables in each restroom.

The building is a great place for showers, birthday or anniversary celebrations, family reunions, fund-raising events, meetings and yes, even garage sales, a historic use of the building throughout the years.



Fox Hall was completely renovated last winter.

COVID testing in county

Free COVID testing is available in Miami County through at least the end of the year, reports the Miami County Emergency Management Office. The testing location is part of the state's "Go Get Tested" campaign.

Miami County's testing site is at the Paola Adult Education Center, 1710 Industrial Rd. Testing began at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18. The site will be open from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday through at least the end of the year. The site will not be open Dec. 24 or 25.

Those who wish to be tested are encouraged to make an appointment on the state's Go Get Tested website, gogettested.com/kansas.

Appointments are preferred but are not required.

The saliva test is free and no insurance is required. No official ID is required; only name, phone number or email are needed (in case someone is positive). An authorization and consent form will need to be signed. There is no minimum age to be tested. The site is not open to out-of-state

COVID-19 UPDATE



residents.

Patients will be notified of test results within 48-96 hours by email or text message.

A patient experience brochure is available that includes information on how to register, what to expect at the testing site, how sampling is conducted, what patients receive as they await results and guidance for a positive test.

More information is available, including what patients might expect during the testing, on the COVID-19 page on the City's website.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Encouragement leads the way to future

Well, 2020 has finally come to a close. We made it to the end. Next year has to be better, right? This past year has been difficult to say the least. It has been easy to get discouraged. Thomas Edison once said, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." He is right. We have to keep going and striving for our goals even when it is hard. We have to get encouragement from others.

In this newsletter we take the opportunity to thank the volunteers on the numerous boards and commissions that help the City run smoothly. As Mayor, it is very encouraging to work with people who have the enormous passion to make this City better. All of us elected officials will hopefully continue to have a passion to make this City the best it can be now and into the future.

It is hard to find that passion at times, but for me all I have to do is spend time with my children. They are a great resource of energy and encouragement as to why Louisburg should always keep moving forward and getting better and better, even when it is difficult.



MARTY SOUTHARD

This & that UTV renewal tags due Jan. 1

As a reminder, if you tagged your UTV in 2020, that tag is up for renewal Jan. 1. Registrations are valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 annually.

The renewal fee is \$50 and may be paid at City Hall during regular business hours. Owners must provide a copy of insurance and a valid driver's license. A sticker will be issued for the renewal.

Services offered by Louisburg Police

If you need a tag for your UTV or fingerprinting services for a job or background check, the Louisburg Police Department is here to help.

UTV registration and fingerprinting services are offered on most Thursdays and Fridays by appointment.

The UTV registration application can be found on the City's website at: <https://bit.ly/34eESND>

The UTV registration and tag fee is \$100 and renewals are \$50.

Most state- or federal-required licensed professions require applications and fingerprints to be submitted to be checked before a license will be issued. Some of these professions include teachers, day care workers, stock brokers, insurance agents, cosmetologists, private investigators, bondsmen, security officers, alcohol producers or distributors, passport applicants and anyone working in the hemp farming or hemp related production industry.

Fees vary for fingerprinting services. More information can be found on the City's website under the Police Department page.

Appointments for both services are available from 12:30-4 p.m. Thursday and Friday afternoons. Appointments can be made by calling the police department at 913-837-3191.

Council extends housing programs

Louisburg residents, or residents who would like to live in Louisburg, can take advantage of two programs extended by City Council in November. The new home building permit waiver and the Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program were continued for 2021.

More information on both programs is on the City's website or call City Hall at 913-837-5811.

NEW HOME BUILDING WAIVER

New single-family residential building permit fee waivers will continue in the City of Louisburg for 2021.

A homebuilder on average can save between \$1,200 and \$1,500 on permit fees on a 2,000 square foot home. Building permit fees are based on the assessed value of the home so savings can vary depending on the home's value. The builder must be licensed in Miami County to take advantage of the permit fee waiver.

Building lots are available in several areas of the city.



FLIP

FLIP is continuing for another year in the City of Louisburg but with a change that will allow for more homeowner participation.

FLIP provides grant dollars for residents or business owners to make improvements to the front of their homes or businesses.

In renewing the program, the Council made an adjust-



ment to the residential program. Under the old program, homes had to be valued under \$175,000 but beginning in 2021, homes that are valued at \$197,750 will be eligible for the program.

"The change in valuation will be great news to many homeowners in Louisburg," Mayor Marty Southard said. "Since the program's inception in 2018, home valuation in the city has gone up 13 percent. The City Council decided to increase the valuation requirements the same amount. This will allow more of the City's residents to take advantage of FLIP."

Under the residential program, residents get a dollar for dollar match up to \$500 for improvements that range from new doors and windows to exterior siding and painting. Concrete work such as a new driveway, stoop or sidewalk or foundation repair is also eligible as is landscaping or lighting. Check the application for additional requirements and a complete list of eligible repairs.

The commercial program is open to all businesses inside the city limits and can include items such as exterior painting, brick tucking, window and door replacement, signage and lighting.

Businesses are eligible for a reimbursement up to 40 percent of the project costs although the City's reimbursable amount will not exceed \$2,500. Businesses should check the application for additional eligibility requirements. Each business application is scored by the Miami County Economic Development staff and the scoring metric is available in the program details and application.

Both programs are available on a first-come, first-served basis with \$10,000 set aside for FLIP-Residential and \$15,000 for FLIP-Commercial.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Louisburg City Hall closed for Christmas Dec. 24-25.

Louisburg City Hall closed for New Year's, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 4
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
special meeting to swear in newly elected councilmembers

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:45 pm Monday, Jan. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 18

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 19
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
meeting moved to Tuesday

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 19
meeting moved to LRC office at Broadmoor Elementary School

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 27
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 1
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 8
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 16
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
meeting moved to Tuesday

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 16
meeting moved to LRC office at Broadmoor Elementary School

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 24,
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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