

# Louisburg

## Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

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October-November 2021

## Hero banners fly in downtown



*Hometown Hero banners will hang in downtown Louisburg through Veterans Day this fall. Left: A Louisburg public works employee hangs a banner honoring Vernon White next to a Louisburg Library banner.*

Hometown Heroes banners are flying in downtown Louisburg.

The banner program, a joint project by the Louisburg American Legion John P. Hand Post 250, Chamber of Commerce and City of Louisburg, allowed family members or friends to purchase a banner to honor a Miami-County area service member. The banners are hanging on the light poles in the downtown area.

Biographies of each banner honoree are posted on the Chamber's website, [www.louisburgkansas.com](http://www.louisburgkansas.com), then click on the Hometown Heroes link in the bar at the top of the page or use this direct link:

<http://www.louisburgkansas.com/hometown-heroes/>

Legion Commander Wayne Knop said this is a project the group has been wanting to do for some time.

"It's important to give the community a way of remembering our veterans in all the different wars and conflicts they have served in. It's also really important, I think, to the younger generation who might not have had the opportunity to meet grandparents, great- or great-great grandparents. The bios give them, and the entire community, a chance to read about those family members' military service."

Banners are hung randomly throughout the area although family members are grouped together, if possible.

The banner locations near the gateway arch feature four men who lost their lives during their service. The first banner recognizes John P. Hand, a young 26-year-old, who was killed just weeks prior to the Armistice in WWI. The local legion post is named after John. The second banner honors Herman Edwin Rosner, the first young man from the Holy Rosary honor roll at Wea. He was killed when his ship was hit by a suicide submarine in Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan, during WWII. The next banner salutes Corporal Lawrence Edward "Eddie" Bauer who was killed in Vietnam when his howitzer ran over a hidden enemy land mine. He was killed in action just days after turning 23. The last banner is a tribute to Clarence Lewis who also was killed in Vietnam. He was a co-pilot on a C-130 Hercules conducting a resupply mission when the plane was struck by enemy fire as it was taking off. He died a few days later in a hospital in Japan.

The banners will hang prior to Veterans Day and again at Memorial Day for two years. At that time, organizers will decide if the project will be continued.

Interest has been high in the Hometown Hero banners. All light poles in the downtown area are filled so organizers are considering other options for banners for next Memorial Day. Follow the City's Facebook page and website for more information as it becomes available.



**Mayor**

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**City Hall**

Nathan Law  
City Administrator  
215 S. Broadway  
Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-5371  
www.louisburgkansas.gov  
Hours: 7 am - 4:30 pm  
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](mailto: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.

# November election information

The November general election is fast approaching on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

In addition to national, state and area elections, City of Louisburg voters will be deciding two City Council races: the mayor and Ward 3 seats. Current Ward 2 Councilmember Donna Cook is running for mayor. Mayor Marty Southard decided not to seek re-election.

Sandy Harris chose not to rerun for his Ward 3 seat so vying for that seat are George Bazin and Clint Ernst.

Advance voting by mail and in-person began Oct. 13. In-person advance voting closes at noon Monday, Nov. 1. In-person voting takes place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the county clerk's office in Paola.

Advance ballots must be requested by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26. Information on advance ballots can be found on the county clerk's web page at: [miamicounty.org/255/Advance-Voting](http://miamicounty.org/255/Advance-Voting).

Registered voters may find a sample



*Voters that request an advanced ballot may return their ballot to these kiosks available at several locations throughout the county. One is located in the alley on the east side of Louisburg City Hall.*

ballot, their polling location and other information such as their voting history at: [myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView), a website maintained by the Kansas Secretary of State.

Polls in Kansas are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 2. All city residents vote at the United Methodist Church, 249 N. Metcalf.

## MAYOR'S MINUTE

### Respect makes a better neighbor

A few weeks ago, I read a Facebook post from a person talking about how someone had stolen his yard signs and neighbors had stopped talking to each other due to who they supported in the upcoming local school board election. Why would this be happening here?

Obviously one of the many joys of raising a family in Louisburg is that we know each other and we look out for each other. My daughters all said that they knew if they did something wrong a neighbor would always notice, even if their parents did not notice. One of my daughters loves to say, "Dad we are all productive adults in society; you worried for no reason, the gray hair and balding is not our fault." Honestly, I am extremely proud of them and they all do have careers that they seem to enjoy, but it amazes me how three people raised in the same environment can be so different with sometimes opposing views and ideas. It takes differing ideas sometimes to bring

about change and a person's perspective and life experiences make a huge difference.

This quote from George Herbert Shaw really makes this point, "Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society. The optimist invents the aeroplane, the pessimist the parachute." Depending on your needs both items might be beneficial.

I guess my point is we can have different points of view, but still get along and treat each other with respect. No matter what is happening in the world around us, let's never lose sight of the fact that Louisburg is a community where we help and look out for each other.

Although, I still think raising three daughters earned a few gray hairs.



**MARTY SOUTHARD**

# Government Spending — Short- vs Long-Term

In the last series of Government 101, the focus was on sources of revenue that help support City of Louisburg services. This article is focused on the other side, the sometimes misunderstood “government spending”.

The City’s budget document is the roadmap for spending tax and other revenue dollars between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of each year in these primary funds:

- General
- Special Highway
- Parks Contributions
- Fox Hall
- Excise Tax
- Gas Operating
- Wastewater Operating
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Debt Service
- Stormwater Management
- Louisburg Cemetery
- Cops for Kids
- Aquatic Center
- Water Operating

Aside from the general fund, funds listed above are for the specific purpose named in each title. The general fund, however, is divided into a series of departments:

- Administration
- Police
- Streets
- Building Inspections
- Special Events
- Fire
- Court
- Building and Zoning
- Parks

Separately accounted for within the general fund are transfers and reserve balance, and are shown both as an expenditure to the fund they leave and a revenue to the fund they enter. Transfers, like any other expenditure a government makes, have three requirements: legal authority, budget authority, and cash to cover the expense. As for the reserve balance, the City of Louisburg maintains a reserve/carryover balance sufficient to help retain the current A1 bond rating. Bond ratings help determine creditworthiness and security of investment of a government entity, and helps determine interest rates of debt issued by the City. Of the notable aspects of a bond rating review, reserve/carryover balance is one of the only controllable aspects to help retain that rating.

## WHAT’S IN A FUND?

Just by looking at the various funds and departments, it is easy to see the City of Louisburg, like most local governments, provides a great many services year-round. Not all of those services are funded in whole or even in part by property taxes. The departments within the general fund are funded through property tax, sales tax, and the various revenue sources listed in the last article. Debt services fund is partly funded by property tax as well as transfers from other funds for which debt was issued as a part of a project. Special highway fund is supported by property tax but is also supported by a Kansas special highway fund, which is a distribution of the motor-vehicle fuel tax specifically for road maintenance and construction. Excise tax fund is supported only by the fees charged on newly platted property. The infrastructure improvement fund is supported solely by a dedicated sales tax. The aquatic center fund is supported primarily by a dedicated sales tax, but also receives revenue from pool pass and concession sales. Utility funds — gas, water, wastewater and stormwater — are all currently supported only by the fees or rates charged for

those services, and do not transfer to other unrelated funds.

The debt service fund does receive some property tax each year. Aside from debt service, the City also has some large expense vehicles that were purchased through a separate method you may be more familiar with — lease-purchase. Separate legal authority governs lease-purchase equipment/vehicles/services. Within the past six years, the City has purchased two relatively expensive fire vehicles by lease-purchase. The payments for both trucks are budgeted for the fire department within the general fund to make the required payments.

## LET’S TAKE A MOMENT FOR A QUICK BIT OF TRIVIA!

**Q:** What funds are budgeted only once, considered spent, but are available in any future year?

**A:** If you knew the answer is non-budgeted reserve funds then you are ready for a career in government budgeting. This action is possible because the transfer to one of these funds is required, by legal authority, to be budgeted out of an operations fund to the reserve fund. Once those funds are in the separate reserve, they are considered already spent and need not be budgeted again. There are some exceptions. An example of this is the gas capital improvements reserve. If a natural gas system capital, or infrastructure, improvement needs made, these funds are specifically available to be used to make that improvement and will not reduce the budget authority or dollars available in the gas operating fund. Once funds are spent out of a reserve, that expense is shown on the following year budget document to account for the use of reserves but is not budgeted to be used beforehand. This is similar to having a personal savings account to use for emergencies.

Included in most every department and fund are categories of budgeted expenses. These include: salaries, contractual, commodities, and capital outlay. Sometimes included are transfers to other funds or perhaps a specific project that is planned to be funded that calendar year. The salaries line item includes hourly or salary pay for employees and also any benefits provided to employees.

Contractual expenses are primarily those services contracted by the City because the City does not or cannot provide the service. A very visible example of that is solid waste (trash and recycling) collection, which is contracted on a multi-year basis to provide city-wide collection. Commodities are items that once purchased are used. An example would be buying a book of stamps; the stamps may not be used right away, but they are intended to be.

Capital outlay are funds that may account for unforeseeable expenses in an operations fund, may be for a number of specific projects that have to do with infrastructure work, or may be a means to account for some operational fund reserve/carryover. An operational fund reserve/carryover may be set by ordinance as a minimum to ensure the services provided by that department or fund, or may simply be the result of cautious budgeting.

To learn more about the City’s budgets, audits and understanding taxes, check out the department finance page on the City’s website: [www.louisburgkansas.gov/132/finance](http://www.louisburgkansas.gov/132/finance).

# Holiday Magic on Broadway

Holiday Magic on Broadway will bring lots of fun activities to downtown Louisburg for families to celebrate the holiday season.

Santa Claus will visit with the kids from 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at City Hall, 215 S. Broadway.

Families can take a photo with the Grinch at the Louisburg Library, 206 S. Broadway.

Appointments will be taken starting Nov. 15 for both Santa and the Grinch to alleviate waiting long in line. Call City Hall at 837-5371 or the Library at 837-2217 to make an appointment. Appointments will be available until all time slots are filled.

Other activities for families to enjoy will be axe throwing (ages 10 and up), sleigh rides and hot cocoa. The Mayor's Christmas tree lighting will occur about 6:10 p.m. All activities are free.

The Magic will end with a lighted parade with Santa leading the way. Businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the parade. Call Jessica at City Hall at 837-5217 to sign up for the parade.

Broadway from S. First through S. Third St. will be closed from 2-7 p.m. and the street will be closed to S. Fifth for the parade at 6 p.m.

Holiday Magic on Broadway is sponsored by the City, Chamber of Commerce, Louisburg Library and the Louisburg Recreation Commission.

# It's time to sign up for Snow Buddies

It's hard to imagine with this beautiful fall weather that snow and winter are just around the corner. That means it's time for Snow Buddies!

Snow Buddies is a volunteer program that matches our city's senior citizens or those who may have a disability and are unable to shovel snow from their sidewalks with a volunteer who is able to assist with snow shoveling.

The program also asks for volunteers to shovel a path from the front door to the sidewalk or street, if there is no sidewalk on the property.

To qualify, you must be a senior citizen or have a disability that makes it difficult to shovel snow. You must also



own your home or live in a single-family residence.

Those who would like to volunteer are asked to commit for the entire winter season and to shovel any sidewalk on the property as well as a path from the front door to the street/

sidewalk. Volunteers are not expected to shovel the entire driveway.

You may sign up for the program on the City's website under the "Volunteer" section. Look for the Snow Buddies sign-up under the Good Neighbors section. If you are unable to sign up online, please call City Hall at 913-837-2324. The program is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is based on the number of volunteer shovelers. The City administers the program.

## Have an emergency? Call 911

Louisburg Police Chief Tim Bauer would like to remind residents that if you require an officer to respond for a non-emergency call, dial 913-294-3232, choose option #4. For emergency calls you should always dial 911. Bauer said the department has received several calls to the station lately in which an officer is needed to respond and a delay in the officer's response time can occur by calling the police station directly. He said those calls need to go through dispatch for quicker dispatching and reporting purposes.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

**Election Day**  
7 am-7 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 2

**Historic Preservation Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 3  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, Nov. 15  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Nov. 16  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 17  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway  
*meeting moved due to holiday*

**City Hall closed for Thanksgiving**  
Nov. 25-26

**Fox Hall Board**  
5 pm Monday, Nov. 29  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Historic Preservation Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Dec. 1  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:30 pm Monday, Dec. 13  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Dec. 15  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway  
*meeting moved due to holidays*

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, Dec. 20  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Dec. 21  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**City Hall closed for Christmas**  
Dec. 23-24

**City Hall closed for New Year's**  
Dec. 30-31

*An updated calendar as well as agendas and minutes for city meetings can be found at [www.louisburgkansas.gov](http://www.louisburgkansas.gov) under the Agendas & Minutes icon. Meetings can be watched via the livestream link on the homepage of the City's website.*