Louisburg Speaks KS

inside this issue:
- Home addresses
- Hometown Heroes
- Mayor's Minute
- Calendar

April - May 2022

Events planned to share history of Louisburg

The history of Louisburg will take center stage this year as the Historic Preservation Commission has activities showcasing the town's history planned throughout the year.

One of the first activities is something the entire family can enjoy together.

If you love hide and seek or have always wanted to be a treasure hunter, the group's June activity will provide fun for all ages.

The commission is launching five "Geocaches" that will go live in mid-June. These will highlight a number of unique features and landmarks across the community.

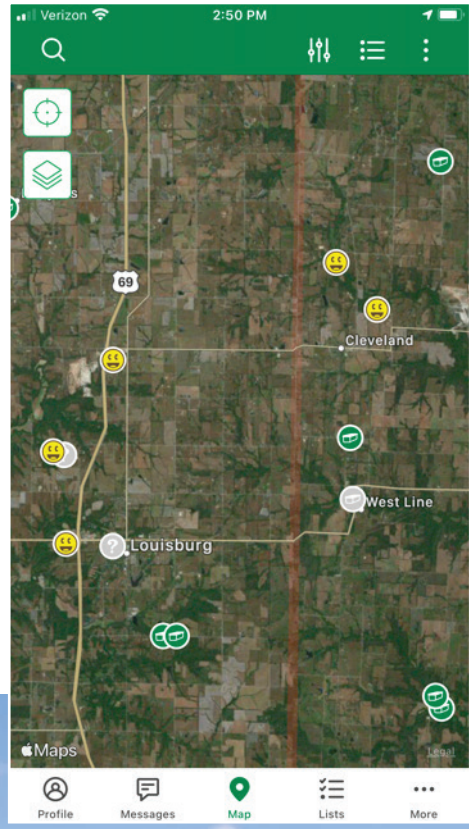
Geocaching is a high-tech scavenger hunt — a great way to get outdoors for an adventure and explore our community, says Pauline Hintz, the commission member who is organizing the event. Using a GPS-enabled device or the free Geocaching app, players navigate to hidden caches using technology, maps and hints to locate the cache — usually a small tube, canister or waterproof box. The cache will contain a paper log, so bring a pencil or pen to sign your name before returning it to its hiding place for the next geocacher to discover.

Coming in August will be an informational session open to anyone interested in historic preservation, which will include a "hands-on" survey activity of the downtown. Travis Thompson, the HPC chair, and member Brad Sarver are organizing this activity.

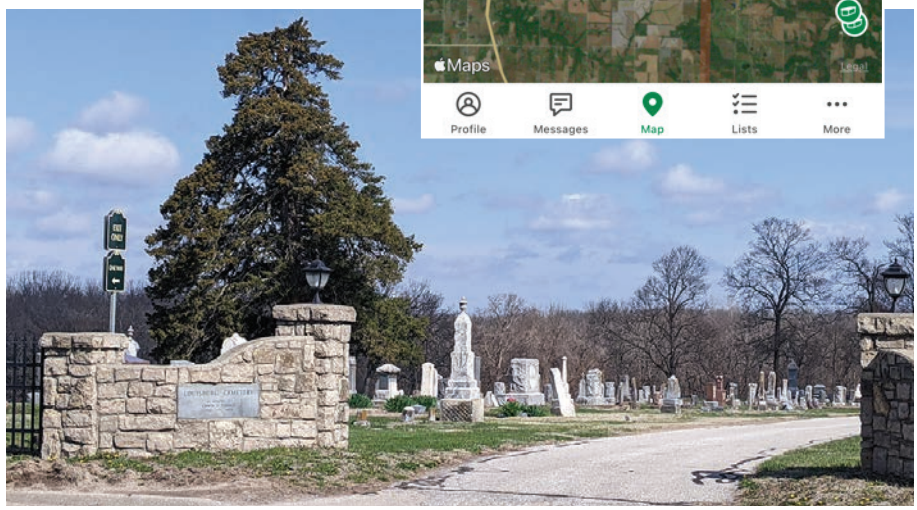
Talking Tombstones is planned for early October with commission member Doug Carder organizing this activity. This event will include a life story presentation of five or six Louisburg residents who are buried in the cemetery.

Watch the City's website and Facebook for more information on these and other HPC events.

The HPC meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Residents are welcome to attend the meetings.



At left: There are already a number of geocaches hidden in our area as seen in this screen shot. The Historic Preservation Commission's caches will be available in mid-June. More information on geocaching can be found at https://www.geocaching.com. Players can also download a free app at their favorite app store. Below: The Louisburg Cemetery will be the location of a Talking Tombstone series planned for early October.



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Monday-Friday

Police Department
Chief Tim Bauer
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913-837-3191

Fire Department
Chief Gerald Rittinghouse
205 S. Metcalf Rd.
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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.

Legible addresses needed

If the address on your mailbox or home is looking a bit tired, plan to give it a bit of love when sprucing up your home this spring.

Louisburg Fire Department officials say an illegible or missing address can delay emergency responders from quickly locating your home.

Drug Take-Back Day April 30 at police station

The semi-annual DEA Drug Take-Back Day is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30. This year's location will be at Vohs Pharmacy, 100 W. Crestview, in conjunction with the Miami County Sheriff's Department.

Area residents may bring their unused or outdated medications to the drop off site located in the parking lot in front of the station, which will be monitored by a local officer.

The service is free and is anonymous. According to information from the DEA, unused or expired medications are a public safety issue and can lead to accidental poisoning, misuse or overdose.

For more information, including how to dispose of unwanted medications if you can't attend the event, can be found on the City's website.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

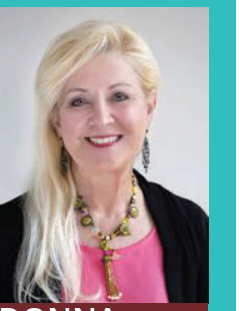
City highlights

We hear you!! We are working on all the Sudden Link issues and are getting updates daily from them. It will be smoother going forward.

A reminder, your home address needs to be legible from the street for emergency reasons. The fire and police departments need to be able to find your home or business quickly. Please consider giving your address numbers a face lift if they are illegible or too small to be seen from the street.

Be on the lookout for the Historical Preservation Commission's upcoming events to promote the history of Louisburg. The commission is working on several events for this year such as geocaching, which is a fun outdoor activity in which the participants hunt for an item using GPS app on your mobile device.

Please remember the days you are allowed to burn leaves within the city limits — Fridays and Saturdays. Look on the City website for details on burning within the city limits and on burn bans due to wind or dry conditions.


DONNA COOK

We are working on better ways, outside of Facebook and the City Website, to keep people informed about events/issues that are going on in the city. As some people are not on social media, we'd like to find alternative methods of communication to get the news out to all of our citizens.

You can always join the conversation and share your opinions about the needs for our town at our monthly City Council, Planning, Park & Tree and Historic Preservation meetings, which are available to watch via a livestream link, as well as in person.

Donna

Hometown Heroes banners

Orders end May 2

There is still time to order a Hometown Hero banner for your favorite veteran or military member.

The banners, which are displayed in downtown Louisburg at Memorial Day and Veterans Day, honors veterans (living or deceased) and active-duty military personnel who are from Louisburg or Miami County.

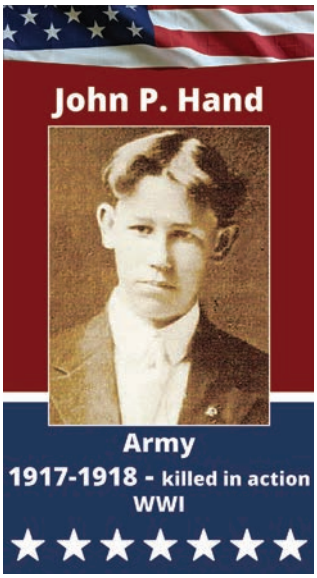
The Hometown Hero program is a joint effort between the Louisburg American Legion, Chamber of Commerce and City.

A grant from the Baehr Foundation, managed by the First Option Trusteed Foundation, will pay for the fabrication of banner holders. These flag holders allow for more banners to be displayed downtown. They are being made by the Ft. Scott Community College's Paola branch welding class.

Banners cost $75 and may be ordered on the City's website. More information is available at: https://bit.ly/3L9IeWV.

Banner sales will end May 2.

Persons purchasing a banner may also submit a biography of the honoree's time in the military. These bios are then posted to the Chamber of Commerce's website under the Hometown Hero tab: www.louisburgkansas.com/hometown-heroes/.



This Hometown Heroes banner honors John P. Hand, the first Louisburg area resident killed during World War I and for whom the local American Legion chapter is named.

UTVs on City streets

Changes to the City UTV regulations are expected soon. Recently clarification on use of K-68 was provided to our police department, the result of which is going to limit UTVs operating on the highway even inside city limits. UTVs are allowed to cross over the highway, but may not travel along the highway, regardless of posted speed limit of the area. Council will work to adjust local regulations to reflect this requirement. In the meantime, if you travel by UTV, do not do so on the K-68/Amity Street.

Public tornado shelter

A tornado shelter is located in the basement of the fire station, 205 S. Metcalf. In the event of a tornado warning, the shelter will open. Parking is located behind the station. Persons will be directed by a fire department representative on where to enter the building. A lift is available for those unable to use the stairs. Dogs and cats are welcome as long as they are kenneled.

Persons using the shelter are encouraged to bring their medicines, water & snacks, food for their pets and activities for the kids. In the event a tornado would strike Louisburg, persons may be required to shelter for several hours or more. Information on severe weather preparedness can be found on the City's website: https://bit.ly/3KkOH0j

FLIP

At an April City Council meeting, councilmembers approved increasing the cap in property valuation requirements for Facade of Louisburg Improvement Program applications.

Previously only those homes valued at or below $197,750 were eligible to apply for the program. As property valuations have increased on average about 13 percent in the community, the Council voted to increase the valuation requirement to $223,000.

FLIP can provide a reimbursement grant of up to $1,000 for homeowners or renters who want to make improvements to the front of their homes. Allowed improvements can include siding or painting, window or door replacement and concrete work like driveways and walkways. For a complete list of eligible projects, project guidelines and the application, visit the "Popular Links" section of the City's website and look for the FLIP Residential & Commercial button.

Citywide Clean-up

Citywide clean-up day is Saturday, April 23 in which residents may clean out the garage or basement and set out trash for a free pick-up.

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. Doors or lids of other large appliances should be secured.

Items not picked up: brush or limbs; regular household trash; and hazardous waste, tires or batteries — this 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 that includes Rockville Ridge and Wea Creek apartment locations.

Cemetery Clean-up

A clean-up of Louisburg Cemetery is planned for Saturday, April 30 with volunteers from the Louisburg High School's National Honor Society organization making a sweep of the cemetery to pick up artificial flowers and other debris. Any keepsakes that are not in vases attached to the graves will be removed. Persons who want to save any items should plan to pick them up before that weekend.

Cemetery rules call for fresh flowers to be disposed of after five days and 15 days for artificial decorations.

The City appreciates the organization taking on this task to ready the cemetery for Memorial Day.

Pool passes sales

Louisburg Aquatic Center pool passes are being sold online only this season and a link to purchase can be found on the City's website either at the top left of the home page or in the "Popular Links" section on the home page. Passes are $25 per person with children 2 and under free. Patrons over 65 get in free but must have a pass to gain admittance. Seniors are asked to stop by City Hall during regular business hours of 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to pick up their pass.

The LAC Marketplace allows residents to purchase passes online and also prepay for concession items online. A 5 percent transaction fee is applicable. Passes are $1 per pass with a $4 household transaction fee. Passes are mailed to residents' homes. Allow two weeks for delivery.

While patrons may continue to use cash to purchase concession items, the LAC Marketplace will allow parents to pre-purchase tickets for concession purchases. The tickets may be printed and presented at the concession stand or scanned from an email. Lost or stolen concession tickets can be claimed by logging back onto the LAC Marketplace website.

The pool opens for the season at noon, Saturday, May 28.

The pool will be closed Saturday, July 23 as the Barracuda swim team is hosting the league meet.

Open burning inside city

Open burning is only allowed inside the City limits on Fridays and Saturdays as long as weather conditions are favorable, Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse reminds residents. Burn ban days, when weather conditions that are unsafe to burn, are posted to the City's Facebook page. Residents may also call the Miami County Dispatch at 913-249-3232 option 4 to verify if conditions are conducive to burning.

Chief Rittinghouse reminds City residents that any burning should not create hazy, smoky conditions. Wind speeds should be between 5-15 mph to move any smoke out of the neighborhood.

Filing deadline

The filing deadline for the two open City Council seats is noon, Wednesday, June 1. The Ward 1 and 2 seats will be on the November ballot.

Interested candidates should file at the County Clerk's office, 201 S. Pearl, Suite 102, Paola.

City receives grants

The City recently received word it was awarded three grants through the Baehr Foundation managed by the First Option Bank Trusteed Foundation.

One grant, for $980, will pay for the fabrication of the banner flag holders for the Hometown Hero project.

Another grant for $3,649 will purchase acoustic tiles for installation at Fox Hall.

A $36,823 grant will go to the Miami County Fire District #1/Louisburg Fire Department to purchase and equip a UTV to be used in fighting fires in hilly, muddy or heavily timbered areas that might be difficult for a regular truck to reach. It can also be used in search and rescue situations or as a medical unit at large events.

The unit and trailer will be equipped with a slide-in pump and a rescue sled.

Thanks to volunteers

City staff would like to send a big thank you to volunteers who worked in City parks April 2 spreading mulch under play equipment, raking leaves and picking up sticks. Volunteers also picked up trash along N. Broadway and on West Amity. Several groups also helped out as Home Buddies doing spruce-up work for senior citizens.

The efforts are greatly appreciated to prep the parks for summer use.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

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

Historic Preservation Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, May 4
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:45 pm Monday, May 9
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, May 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, May 25
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Aquatic Center opens noon, Saturday, May 28

Louisburg City Hall closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

Fox Hall/Cemetery Board
6:30 pm Tuesday, May 31
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Election filing deadline for City Council
noon, Wednesday, June 1
County Election Office, Paola

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

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

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

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

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Monday, June 21
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

An updated calendar as well as agendas and minutes for city meetings can be found at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the Agendas & Minutes icon.

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