

Louisburg Speaks

Your Community Magazine Volume 1, Issue 1 • www.louisburgkansas.gov

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Welcome!

The Louisburg City Council and Staff hope you enjoy a new way for the City to communicate with its citizens — a quarterly newsletter.

Each newsletter will highlight events in the City, like the upcoming Halloween on Broadway or timely information such as the new rules governing political signs.

This issue also includes some important information on the Downtown Broadway Complete Street — Green Street Plan. The City Council will be making some big decisions soon concerning the downtown improvements and your input is vital to the success of this project. Please be sure to read the information and participate in the voting process.

Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Inc. gang — otherwise known as the Andy Brown family — Ally, Jennifer, Carter, Andy and Jordan.



Halloween on Broadway

Louisburg Speaks

Mayor

Marty Southard
msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 1

Lonnie Kunz
lkunz@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 2

David Cannon
dcannon@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 3

Dave Maddax
dmaddax@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 4

Carol Aust
caust@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

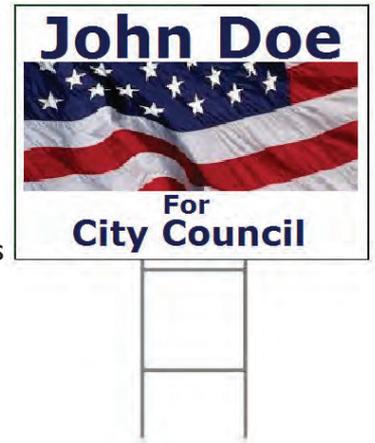
Chief Paul Richards
207 S. Metcalf Rd.
Louisburg, KS 66053
913-837-4700

Legislature makes changes to rules governing political signs

More political signs might be showing up in cities and counties across the state after action taken by state legislators during last year's legislative session. State lawmakers passed a law, which was signed by Gov. Sam Brownback, that allows political signs to be placed in public or private rights of way prior to elections. Many cities and counties had previously banned such sign placement.

Within the city limits of Louisburg, no sign is allowed in the sight triangle of an intersection. A sign can also not be attached to a tree or utility pole. These rules are similar to other Kansas municipalities.

The exact language of the new law is: *No city or county shall regulate or prohibit the placement of or the number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way for city streets or county roads on private property during the 45-day period prior to any election and the two-day period following any such election. Cities and counties may regulate the size and a set-back distance for placement of signs so as not to impede sight lines or sight distance for safety reasons.*



Would a mini-grant help your business?

Louisburg has partnered with Miami County to offer mini-grants to local businesses to help them with technical assistance in hopes to make that business more successful.

A \$250 base mini-grant is available through Miami County and the City of Louisburg will match that grant with another \$250 for a total mini-grant of \$500.

The funds may be used by business owners to pay for training courses in areas such as customer service training, workforce training or financial management. The firm's owner or key employees may take advantage of the training.

The mini-grant can also be used for counseling or professional service assistance such as consulting with an attorney, accountant or marketing spe-

cialist. This could target areas regarding the business' services, operations or potential for expansion.

There is an application process that business owners must fill out to qualify for the mini-grants. The program is open to existing businesses or small start-ups.

The funds provided by Miami County are from a grant from the East Central Kansas Tax Credit Foundation and the funds from the City of Louisburg come from the general fund.

There is a limited amount of funding available for these mini-grants. For more information or for a complete list of eligibility requirements, contact Nathan Law at the City of Louisburg or Janet McRae, Miami County Director of Economic Development, 913-294-4045.

HALLOWEEN on Broadway

Ghosts, football players, princesses, witches and other creatures of all sizes and shapes will descend on downtown Louisburg for the Chamber of Commerce's annual Halloween on Broadway. The event this year will be from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29. Broadway from Amity to South Third streets will be closed for the fun.



Waldo has been found in Louisburg! Dr. Damon Dennis has fun dressing up for trick-or-treaters on Broadway. Chief Tim Bauer poses with a future police officer.

WATCH THE BAND, +OO!

After trick-or-treating, head over to Wildcat Stadium and watch the band perform in the annual Electric Light Show at 7:30 p.m. with free admission. Louisburg High School band director John Cisetti, marching here in the Labor Day parade, leads the band in the 16th annual light show that ends in a fireworks spectacular.



Getting to know..... City Hall



Louisburg's new-old City Hall opened for business in December 2015. Rob George, Legacy Contractors LLC of Paola, worked with the City on the design-build project to create a space that would look like it had anchored the downtown area for many years rather than a few months. The location at 215 S. Broadway was once home to Louisburg Ford. The building was gutted, added onto and office space and a new council chamber that seats 80 citizens was crafted in the space. The finishings in the building create an atmosphere that resembles a time when Louisburg's oldest downtown structures were built.

Public spaces and offices are decorated with photos from Louisburg's early days and were provided by the Louisburg Historical Society.

The project came in under budget at \$1.59 million and was paid for using cash on hand and three-year temporary notes which will be paid off in 2018.

If you haven't toured the building yet, City staff invite you to stop by anytime!



The new council chamber seats 80 citizens for City Council and other meetings. The entry hall and many of the offices feature photos of historical Louisburg and benches from a church in Hillsdale.

What do you think?

Your opinion matters so share yours today!



Downtown Broadway Complete Street – Green Street

Louisburg, Kansas

June 2016



Much has been accomplished since 2013 when Louisburg received a grant from the Mid-America Regional Council to examine ways to improve downtown Louisburg. But there are still some big decisions to be made.

The City Council chose Olsson Associates as consultants for the project. After meeting with the City Council, City staff and having several community forums, Olsson Associates rolled all those ideas in a plan presented and accepted by the City Council in June 2016. The Downtown Broadway Complete

Street – Green Street Plan addresses the area from Amity/K-68 to South Third Street and from Peoria on the east to Mulberry on the west. The plan addresses the necessary changes to improve access to current businesses and it is hoped to spur new investment and activities.

Some of these changes will be easily noticeable such as new sidewalks and handicap access to businesses along Broadway and adding green space. Other changes might not be as apparent such as fixing storm water run-off and making updates to utilities.



One of the biggest suggestions that came from the plan was to consider changing Broadway to a one-way street south from Amity to South Third street. Olsson Associates said parking considerations were some of the biggest comments from the public during the forums. Changing Broadway to one-way traffic allows for the most parking along the street and also opens up Peoria and Mulberry streets for more development of retail and other businesses. Olsson Associates also provided an alternate plan to leave Broadway open to two-way traffic.

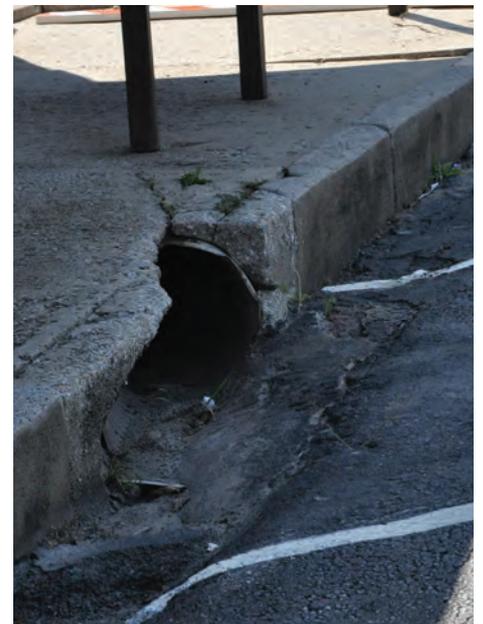
The City is at the point where a decision will soon need to be made on which alternative makes the most sense for the community. In July 2016, the City Council passed a budget with an additional 2 mills to help fund the downtown revitalization. Work is expected to start on Broadway in Spring 2017.

This is an opportunity for the citizens of Louisburg to help shape the look of Downtown Louisburg. Along with this newsletter in your utility bill, you'll

find a card that simply asks: Check here to make Broadway a one-way street or Check here to keep Broadway as a two-way street. There will be two ballots in each bill. You may cast your vote one of two ways. You can fill out the ballot and return it to City Hall, the Louisburg Library, First National Bank, First Option Bank, Landmark National Bank, Peoples Bank or Price Chopper in a drop box located at all the locations. Or you may vote online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/98QDQVW> or scan the QR code at the right to take you directly to the survey. Please be sure to enter the number from your paper ballot into the comment section of the online ballot.

If you'd like more information on the Downtown Broadway Complete Street – Green Street Plan, you can check out the information on the City's website at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the Downtown Broadway Project tab or stop in at City Hall and ask to see the document.

The deadline to cast your ballot is Oct. 10.



New sidewalks with handicap access for businesses and better storm water controls will be part of infrastructure improvements to downtown.

