

# Louisburg Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

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## FREEDOM FEST

The Freedom Fest 2019 committee is gearing up for the big Fourth of July event at Lewis-Young Park. Festivities kick off at 6 p.m. at the park. Area businesses and organizations will have booths, many with games, activities for the kids and treats for all. The Duke Mason band will play toe-tapping music while the Louisburg Lions Club will provide two bikes to give away. There will also be door prize drawings throughout the evening. The American Legion kiddie train will be giving free rides. Kids can also play on the inflatables for a nominal charge. The evening concludes with a fireworks display about 9:30 p.m. A free-will donation to help cover the cost of the fireworks will be accepted at the park entrance. Like and follow the City's Facebook page to get all the details.



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**City Hall**

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913-837-5371  
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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

**The City of Louisburg requires building permits. Please call the Building & Zoning Department at 913-837-5811 before beginning any construction project.**

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)

## Free smoke detectors for seniors

Free smoke detectors are available from the Louisburg Fire Department for those Louisburg city residents who are 65 and over and currently don't have a working smoke detector in their home. Smoke detectors are also available for senior residents whose current detector is more than 10 years old.

The Fire Department received a \$300 grant from First Option Bank's Trusteed Foundations this spring to purchase smoke detectors and install them in the homes of Louisburg residents over 65.

The detectors will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis. As part of the program, local firefighters will install the detectors at no charge. A limited number of smoke detectors will be available. The program will end once all the detectors are placed in residents' homes. Each qualifying resident will receive two detectors — one for the bedroom area and one in the kitchen. You do not have to own your home to qualify.



*Smoke detectors older than 10 years, like this one, should be changed to assure they work properly.*

To receive your free smoke detector, please call Jean Carder at City Hall, 913-837-2324. Do not call the Fire Department. The detector program will be administered through City Hall staff.

## CALENDAR & REMINDERS

- The Louisburg Aquatic Center will close at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 4.
- Freedom Fest — 6 p.m., Thursday, July 4, Lewis-Young Park. The fireworks rain-out date is Saturday, July 6.
- Building a fence or deck this summer? Don't forget you need a permit for that. Call the Building and Zoning Office for details. 913-837-5811.
- The Louisburg Aquatic Center will close for the season at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11.
- Annual dog tags are required for all dogs living inside the city limits. Tags are \$3 for a dog that is spayed or neutered or \$5 otherwise. A copy of the dog's rabies vaccine is required. Tags may be purchased at City Hall during regular business hours.
- Become a friend of the City's Facebook page. Follow and like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LouisburgKS>.



## Fireworks illegal in city limits

Fireworks inside the city limits are illegal. This includes firecrackers, sparklers, Roman candles and any other similar type of combustible or explosive device. Louisburg police have the discretion of ticketing any offender. Be safe this year and enjoy the Freedom Fest fireworks show July 4 at Lewis-Young Park.

# Good news on wastewater treatment plant

The Louisburg City Council heard good news on the wastewater treatment plant at its meeting in early June.

City staff informed Council construction bids came in lower than expected when the bids were opened in late May.

The bids were between \$1.368 and \$2.178 million lower than the engineer's estimate of \$13.418 million and the \$12.608 million project construction estimate

that was presented to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Couple the construction savings with the loan forgiveness that has been granted by KDHE, and the plant should cost much less than the original \$15-16 million that was originally estimated back in late 2015.

Rates are not intended to increase in 2020 as previously planned from the rate study completed in 2016.



*The current south sewer lagoons will be replaced with a wastewater treatment facility that should be sufficient for Louisburg's needs for the next 20 years.*

## Playing Go Fish gives new perspective on life lessons

Summer is always a fun time of the year.

Recently, several of our Louisburg High School seniors tried out for graduation speeches where they talked about their hopes, dreams, and life goals. Many of them talked about the ups and downs of their school careers and reflected on what they had learned in the past 13 years. They also talked about learning to share and get along with others on a daily basis.

This really made me smile since I have had the opportunity to spend some time playing Go Fish with my five-year-old granddaughter. She loves playing that game and is starting to understand the importance of paying attention to others and all the details of how to figure out which cards each player has at the table and when to ask for each card.

This simple card game helps teach skills that the seniors displayed in their speeches and even we as elected officials use when making decisions.

The city interacts with all types of businesses, organizations and individuals who all have their own goals,

plans and ideas. Sometimes there is agreement but sometimes there is not, but we still treat each other with respect and allow all to sit at the card table.

That simple card game also has taught my granddaughter how to keep playing, since you do not win every game that you play. It is teaching her not to give up.

At times as elected officials we upset patrons, we can't please all or we do not get a grant after a lengthy application process which requires jumping through several hoops. All of these are extremely frustrating but we don't throw down our cards and give up. We take what has been learned from previous turns and keep going, just like in Go Fish; a simple child's card game that can teach us valuable lessons that will be used throughout our lives.



*Marty Southard*

Getting to know....

# Fire Department



If the doors are open, Louisburg firefighters are home.

An open door policy will welcome area residents to the station, located on S. Metcalf near S. Second Street.

Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse's philosophy is to be a visual presence in the community and plans for the fire crew to be out in the community regularly. One of the first things the new fire chief implemented is having the fire truck bay doors open when staff is at the station. Rittinghouse took command of the station in late April.

Anytime the doors are open, area residents are invited to stop in for a tour and a visit. Children are especially encouraged to stop by this summer, he said.

Rittinghouse also said residents may see the trucks out and about more as they will conduct training sessions on the trucks throughout town. Firefighters have training meetings two nights a month. Rittinghouse will use some of this time to take the trucks and the crew on the road.

A fire truck will also be at Freedom Fest, July 4 at Lewis-Young Park. This will give area residents a chance to see a fire truck up close.

The Louisburg Fire Department is made up of about 20 volunteer firefighters. Some have served on the crew for almost 46 years. Several members of the crew are professional firefighters in Johnson County and fill in at Louisburg on their days off.

Rittinghouse said the fire crew is encouraging residents to be vigilant during spring and summer storm season. He reminds residents that a tornado shelter is located in the basement of the fire station and is open if a tornado warning is activated by the National Weather Service. The shelter has an elevator for those that are unable to use the stairs.

Tornado sirens sound across the county anytime a tornado warning is issued for any county location.



*Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse stands in front of a fire truck at the station located at 204 S. Metcalf.*

Dogs and cats are welcome into the shelter as long as they are contained in a kennel and must remain in the kennel the entire duration they are at the shelter. Pets should not be disruptive to others.