



# the Lindsborg City View

Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 57 - MAY 2021

## Sprout House Child Development Center

COMING SPRING 2022



Caring for infants, toddlers, preschoolers & afterschool

Learn more at [www.childcareforlindsborg.org](http://www.childcareforlindsborg.org)

### WISDOM — n.

1. the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.
2. scholarly knowledge or learning: [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com)

Have you heard about the City's partnership with Sprout House Learning Center to improve and expand access to childcare in Lindsborg?

The construction costs are being privately fundraised; approximately \$1.5 million of the \$2 million cost has already been pledged. So what is the City's involvement? City Council has provided the old Tree Station for the project at the cost of \$1 for a 99-year lease; that has an approximately \$50,000 value to the project. The City has also dedicated a significant amount of the Assistant City Administrator's time to see this important economic development project come to fruition.

The primary goal for the City is to see childcare that is a driver of economic activity. Currently, throughout McPherson and Saline counties, there are open jobs that receive few, if any, qualified

applicants. We believe that exceptional childcare will make it easier for families considering relocating to Central Kansas—who might take jobs at USD 400, Bethany College, Bethany Village, Lindsborg Community Hospital, or industry in Salina or McPherson.

We hope you share our excitement!



THE CITY OF LINDSBORG

## Get Connected with Lindsborg



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BROADCAST

Visit our City web page at [www.lindsborgcity.org](http://www.lindsborgcity.org)



## CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CITY HALL

Access to the public in all city offices resumed April 5, 2021. City offices are now open to the public and no longer by appointment only.

### SEWER RATES

Residential sewer rates are calculated each spring and based on a household's average use of water from the previous November, December, January and February. These four months are used because it is assumed that there is no yard/garden watering during this time period and that the water used during these months will reflect the normal volume of water used in a household which enters the sanitary sewer system. Once this rate is established, it becomes static for the next 12 months.

The revenue from the sewer fees are to cover the cost of the operations and maintenance of the wastewater collection system, the wastewater treatment facility and to build reserve funds for future upgrades. The wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment facility require constant maintenance to ensure that they are always operating properly. The collection system and wastewater treatment facility operate 24 hours a day 365 days a year and are subject to the elements of the environment and the harsh conditions of the wastewater. The operations and maintenance of the wastewater plant is very cost intensive due to the environment and hours of continual operation.

There are also constantly new and more stringent regulations placed on the treatment process by the EPA and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). These regulations force the City to make continual upgrades to the wastewater facility on average, every 10 to 15 years and cost millions of dollars. If you should have questions about your sewer rate, please call City Hall at 785-227-3355.

### BOOK SUGGESTION FROM ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Looking for a book to read with your family or with your book club? In order to facilitate book clubs reading together, the City placed 50 copies of "So You Want to Talk About Race" at the Lindsborg library. It is our hope that reading this book will lead to important conversations about how we can all be better neighbors.



## Council Member Contact Information

**Mayor Becky Anderson:** [banderson@lindsborgcity.org](mailto:banderson@lindsborgcity.org)

**Rebecca Van Der Wege:** [rvanderwege@lindsborgcity.org](mailto:rvanderwege@lindsborgcity.org)

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# CITY OF LINDSBORG FINANCE DIRECTOR LARRY LINDGREN RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS



After serving the City of Lindsborg for over 32 years, Finance Director, Larry Lindgren, crunched the numbers and decided it was time to retire. Larry had dedicated his working hours to balancing the books, creating budgets and overseeing all things related to finance. After retirement, Larry said he would like to travel and spend time with his family, including his two new pups. Congratulations to Larry and we wish him many happy years in retirement bliss. Thank you for your hard work and dedication Larry Lindgren!



## DAVID HAY HIRED AS THE NEW FINANCE MANAGER

The City of Lindsborg welcomed David Hay as the new Finance Manager in March 2021. He comes to the city with over 10 years of experience in the finance and accounting fields. David said he was eager to get started and looked forward to working with everyone at the City of Lindsborg.





# FLYING TO NEW HEIGHTS

In the past year, travel has come entirely to a halt or, at a minimum, has slowed to a pace that is very different than we are accustomed to, around the globe. While the challenges this has posed have sometimes seemed daunting, they presented opportunities to reimagine activities, encouraging both visitors and residents to experience Lindsborg in new ways.

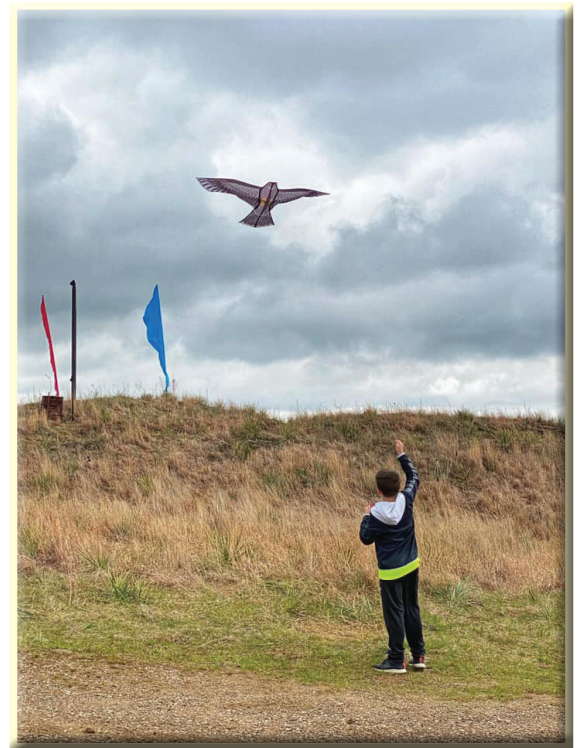
Early in 2021, a Lindsborg CVB Board Member, commented that she wondered if a kiting event would be something that people of all ages would enjoy. With the blessing of the CVB Board, staff began planning this event, contacting

a kite company in Wichita to ask if they would be willing to provide some basic kite instruction and

kits for eventgoers to put together and fly. Not only were they willing, but they were also interested in this event taking place at Coronado Heights. Late in February we scheduled the date for April 17, expecting that this would provide great spring temperatures and just the right amount of wind.

Saturday, April 17 arrived and was cooler than we anticipated, but the wind was perfect for kiting, staying at a steady 12 – 14 MPH all day long. Wings of the Wind Kite and Toy Company arrived at 9:00 am to

begin setup and by 10:00 am start time, people began arriving to make and fly kites. 183 people trickled in and out during the day, some making kites and others bringing their own specialty kites. One professional kiter stayed all day long, flying one of his 12' wide kites from 10:30 am until we closed up at 4:30 in the afternoon. Not once did it drop from the sky. Paul was amazing, assisting individuals with learning how to achieve lift and keep their kite in the sky. Drone operators also attended the event throughout the day, filming footage of flying kites that was offered to the CVB office for future promotional use.





# ALMA SWENSSON MEMORIAL GARDEN



Alma Christina Lind Swensson (1859-1939) in 1881 established the renowned Messiah oratorio chorus, which has been performed in Lindsborg for 140 years. In 1892 she co-founded the Augustana Women's Missionary Society. As wife of Carl Aaron Swensson (pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church and president of Bethany College), she graciously performed duties hospitable, practical, and pastoral. She was Swensson's partner and confidante. She also served 40 years as organist for Bethany Church and 31 years as editor of the Missionary Society's journal. With her love of music, her devotion to church, community, and college, and her unflagging service, Alma Swensson has inspired generations.

It was rightly said of her, "She never confessed to defeat."

## The Alma Swensson Memorial Garden will-

- honor the memory of Alma Swensson, founder of Handel's Messiah chorus of Lindsborg
- provide an aesthetic and restful space for reflection and respite
- memorialize the place where Alma Swensson co-founded the Augustana Women's Missionary Society
- pay tribute to Alma Swensson as musician, conductor, teacher, writer, and leader
- recognize Alma Swensson's gifts of faith, talent, generosity, and devotion
- become a focal point of Swensson park
- inspire future artists and performers, visionaries and leaders



## A gift to the Alma Swensson Memorial Garden will make possible-

- a life-sized statue of Alma Swensson executed by sculptor Michaela Valli Groeblacher
- landscaped beds of hardy trees, shrubs and perennials
- a decorative iron gateway and benches
- attractive lighting for safety and aesthetic appeal
- chimes to enhance visits to the garden
- paths and plantings
- permanent signage to recognize donors
- Contact Gary Shogren at 785-227-3355 for more information.



# A GUIDE FOR BUILDING PERMITS

Building season has arrived, and construction activity in Lindsborg is already setting a record pace. Obtaining a building permit is a fundamental part of many projects. Failure to obtain the proper permit can lead to delays. Many cosmetic projects like painting, carpet replacement, even roofing do not require permits. Projects requiring building permits include:

- New residential housing or commercial buildings
- Additions or structural changes
- Accessory buildings greater than 120 square feet including carports
- Swimming pools
- Covered decks
- Electrical service changes
- Fences (there is no charge for fence permits)

## Steps to Obtain a Permit

Contact the Development Department at City Hall and provide needed information for the application:

1. Your full name or business, address and contact information (email and mobile phone).
2. Owner's name, address and contact information, if a contractor is applying.
3. A general description of the project, including expected time to complete.
4. Approximate cost of the project.

Send back a signed application and pay permitting fees. Payment can be made at City Hall Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm, or use the drop box outside the main entrance on Lincoln Street. Credit/Debit cards can be used by calling 785-227-3355 before 4:30 pm. Please have the permit application number handy.

Depending on the project, be prepared to submit a site map of the proposed construction. Scaled maps of your lot are available from the Development Department. Additionally, drawings may be required, preferably in digital format. Architectural or engineered drawings are not necessarily required, but plans must be sufficient to confirm building code compliance.

Once the permit is approved, it is sent to the applicant, preferably by email. The permit should be printed and kept on site for the inspector's use. All inspections are scheduled by contacting 816-768-0805 or [inspectkc@ibts.org](mailto:inspectkc@ibts.org) and leaving a message providing:

1. Project address and city.
2. Permit number.
3. Inspection type.
4. Preferred inspection time (AM/PM).
5. Contact name and phone number.
6. Requests must be made by 3 pm for next day inspections.

The City of Lindsborg does not require licenses for general contractors, but does require licenses for electricians and plumbers. Contact City Hall at 785-227-3355 for more information.

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# A GUIDE FOR BUILDING PERMITS

## Why Does the City Require Permits



The purpose of a building permit is twofold. The first reason is to ensure that building modifications comply with zoning restrictions of the community. Setback requirements, lot coverage and use limitations are some of the things that are reviewed when the application is initially processed. The second purpose is to ensure that the work is in compliance with all building codes and safety standards. The work will be reviewed by certified inspectors to ensure that professional standards are met. Both issues are critical

to verify that proper building standards are maintained for our homes and that the zoning and property tax records are kept up to date.

## Frequently Asked Questions-

### **Is a permit required to install/construct a deck?**

If the walking surface of the deck is more than 30 inches above grade and/or will be covered, a building permit is required.

### **Is a permit required to put up a fence?**

Yes, but there is no charge for a fence permit. The main purpose of a fence permit is to make sure that owners are aware of zoning regulations, such as placement near or on property lines, fence height limitations (6-1/2 feet), and front yard restrictions. Line of sight on corner lots is also a major concern.

### **Is a permit required to replace a roof?**

No. Lindsborg does not require roofing permits, nor does it license roofing contractors performing work within the city limits. Always check references and look for an established company whose record and reputation you can check out.

### **Is a permit required to replace my water heater, furnace or air conditioner?**

Not unless additional wiring to the panel or structural changes to walls or ceilings are required.

### **Are garden sheds subject to permitting?**

A permit is required to build or install any detached storage structure larger than 120 square feet. Even if a permit is not required, the structure must still meet all building and zoning codes, including being tied down to prevent wind displacement.

### **Can a homeowner do work on his or her home?**

If a person is the owner occupant of a single-family dwelling, he or she may do any work on that dwelling that would otherwise require a licensed or registered contractor. The owner-occupant is still required to obtain permits, inspections, and comply with the applicable codes.



## ANNUAL BACKFLOW PREVENTER TESTING

Why do I receive a letter every year telling me that I need to have my backflow device tested? Does my irrigation system really need a backflow preventor? Why do I need to pay someone to test it every year, wouldn't every other year be good enough? These are a few of the common questions that homeowners have regarding the backflow device that is a part of their irrigation system.

A backflow device is a critical part of an irrigation system and its job is to protect the public water supply. A backflow device can be thought of as a one-way check valve that will close and prevent water from flowing in the opposite direction. So why does that make a backflow device a critical part of your irrigation system? Think about all the bacteria and other organisms living in the soil within your yard. There are also several fertilizers and chemicals that are broadcast and sprayed on yards each year. There is not anyone of those contaminants that you would want to be added to a glass of water you are about to drink. A backflow device prevents any contaminants from being drawn into the water system if a low-pressure situation were to occur within the public water system. This could be caused by a water main break or possibly a large use of water due to crews fighting a fire. This situation could cause those contaminants from the yard to be drawn into the water system by what is known as back siphonage. There is a potential that those contaminants could eventually find their way into your homes plumbing system. This could pose a significant health risk to the homeowner and possibly the public.

The reason that backflow devices must be tested every year is to make sure that they are in proper working order. Testing the unit ensures that all the parts of the device are free and operating. These devices do have parts that can leak and can get stuck. Most of the time they sit outside and are subject to the extremes of weather. Yearly testing helps to ensure that a device will operate properly if a backflow situation occurs.

The average amount of water used in town during the winter is 250,000 gallons per day while the average amount of water used in town during the summer is 435,000 gallons per day. There are several factors that influence the use of water during the summer months, however a large portion of the additional use of

water during this time of year is directly related to irrigation systems for yards and gardens. Many homes have irrigation systems and each one of those systems pose a potential source of contamination to the public water supply.

The human body is made up of around 60% water and we can only survive 3 to 5 days without fluids. Water plays an important role in regulating our body temperature, transporting nutrients, helping with digestion, and flushing waste from our body. It can not be understated how important clean, fresh drinking water is for our survival and how important it is it is to protect that water supply.





# Protect Your Property; Don't Leave It Visible In Your Car

One of the most popular crimes committed by criminals is thefts from vehicles. As we have had several incidents already this year, I am bringing this topic forward. We have known for many years that basic crime prevention is the most effective way to reduce the likelihood of becoming a crime victim; especially when it involves thefts from vehicles. We also know that most criminals are opportunistic in nature and will look for an easy job with the least resistance to complete their crime. Past interviews with suspects involved in this type of crime give credence to the fact that residents, visitors, and the business community can take small and simple steps to prevent thefts from vehicles, vehicle thefts and other burglaries from occurring in the city.

When criminals, who commit similar crimes are asked how they committed their crimes, the suspects said they spend hours walking through parking lots and residential streets checking door handles, looking into vehicles for anything of value that was visible through the windows. When they see an item, they can smash the window or more commonly open the unlocked door and take the items they want. What suspects have told us is when a vehicle is examined with nothing visible through the windows, they tend to simply move on to another vehicle.

These types of continued arrests and subsequent interviews should remind all of us that on any given day and at any given time, hundreds of criminals are looking for an easy target. The theft of purses and wallets from vehicles is a pre-cursor to identity theft and other related crimes. In addition to the loss of valuable property, vehicle owners can also bear the cost of damage to their vehicle.

The wisdom we have learned from these types of arrests is that a clean passenger compartment in a vehicle is most likely going to reduce your chances of being victimized.

The message is very clear:

**LOCK YOUR VEHICLE, HIDE VALUABLES, and DON'T BE A VICTIM.**



**Lindsborg**  
Police  
Department  
(785) 227-2988  
[www.lindsborgcity.org/  
departments/  
PublicSafety](http://www.lindsborgcity.org/departments/PublicSafety)



**LOCK YOUR VEHICLE**  
CIERRE SU VEHICULO

**TAKE or HIDE VALUABLES**  
Esconda o lleve Consigo Sus Objetos de Valor

**DON'T BE A VICTIM**  
NO SEA VICTIMA

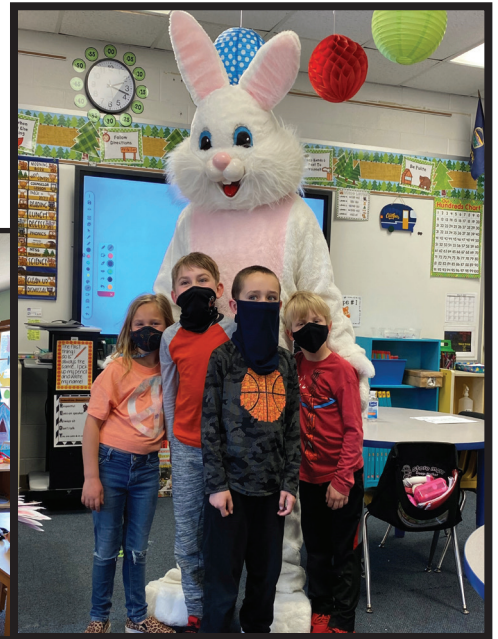




## Easter Egg Drop 2021

While still trying to keep COVID19 away, the Recreation Department added a new addition to the Easter season. The Rec Department, with the help of other City staff, was able to put together a fun Easter activity package for each Soderstrom Elementary student. The Easter Bunny delivered the packages and enjoyed being able to meet with students and staff for an Easter Break send off.

The Easter Bunny also made stops at local daycares to say hello and drop off midmorning and afternoon snacks. It was a fun activity added to the week.



## Visit the Lindsborg Golf Course!

1541 Svensk Road, Lindsborg, KS • [www.golflindsborg.com](http://www.golflindsborg.com) • 785-227-2244 • [bethf@lindsborgcity.org](mailto:bethf@lindsborgcity.org)  
Clubhouse hours: Monday – Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Saturday/Sunday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM.



The Golf Course staff have been hard at work this off season on updating many things. The clubhouse, welcome signage, and improvements around the course have made the venue very welcoming for a hopeful beautiful season. Mark Grosland and the City Public Works staff worked hard on the concrete addition to the 9th hole cart path, as well as the practice hitting area that is located on the South side of the cart shed. Thank you to Mark Lysell and the Ol' Stuga Golf Tournament for the help of funds for the concrete and other generous member donations to see these new additions come to light.



## Youth Soccer

Youth Soccer is up and running again. With a total of 172 kids participating this year, we were able to hold practices on Monday and Tuesdays and games on Thursday evenings. It has been fun seeing the kids out enjoying sports and being able to run around outdoors.



Recreation Director Beth Ferguson • 101 S. Main St. • Lindsborg, KS 67456 • (785) 227-3333  
 bethf@lindsborgcity.org • [www.lindsborgcity.org](http://www.lindsborgcity.org) • [www.golflindsborg.com](http://www.golflindsborg.com)







The City of Lindsborg  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

City Council Meetings – May 3 & 17, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19  
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting – May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17  
Midsummer Festival – June 12 – Downtown only  
Old Fashioned 4th – July 4  
Broadway RFD “Mamma Mia!” – July 23 & 24, 30 & 31  
Smoky Valley Classic Car Show – August 3  
Lindsborg Annual Downtown Street Dance – August 21  
City View Newsletter – Issue 58 (August 2021)  
Recycling Center – (Open 24/7) Be considerate please



Due to the COVID19 Pandemic - scheduled events are subject to change. As more events are scheduled, they will be posted at: <https://www.visitlindsborg.com/lindsborg-calendar-of-events>

For additional events, please view the calendars at [www.visitlindsborg.com](http://www.visitlindsborg.com) or [www.lindsborgcity.org](http://www.lindsborgcity.org)

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Police, Fire and Ambulance:	911
Police, Fire and Ambulance:	785.227.2988 (non-emergency)
Water, Sewer, Electric, Streets:	785.227.3428
Water, Sewer, Electric, Streets:	785.227.3469 (after hours, weekends and holidays)