



the Lindsborg City View

City Newsletter - Issue 71 - JANUARY 2025

A New Year brings a chance to reflect and look towards the future

By Kristi Northcutt, City Administrator

There's a New Year's quote that says, "find inspiration around you and motivation within you."

The January edition of the newsletter is an opportunity for staff to look back on the things that motivated them to improve the City of Lindsborg—to create inspiration for you to continue to live, work, and play here. Some of these are detailed in the following pages, others are not; but here's a snapshot of some of 2024's highlights:

- **Public Safety Renovation:** The renovation ended on time and under budget with a ribbon cutting in April 2024. The center's updates have proven to be valuable and have positively impacted the efficiency of the staff and accessibility to the public. It is built for growth and is equipped with tech and safety.
- **Troy Miller Field:** Opened the same week as the Public Safety Center, the field was also completed on time and under budget. This was a joint project between USD400 and the City, paid almost entirely by grant funding received by the City toward the project. An MOU is in place for ongoing operations and maintenance.
- **Grants Awarded:** ADA sidewalks (\$10,000), Pool training manikins (\$2,800), Tourism podcasts (\$4,000); Love, Kansas (\$5,000); Eyewash Station (\$10,000); Sundstrom Showtimes (\$2,500); Bulletproof vests (\$3,480); HEAL Grant for The Good Merchant (\$115,000). Staff also applied for, but did not receive (or still pending), more than \$800,000 in additional grant dollars.
- **K-4 Grade Separation Project:** After a highly successful Local Consult process in Fall 2023, the project was selected by KDOT in March 2024 and announced during a press conference at the Capitol. KDOT requested the City's attendance and Councilmember Peterson spoke, accepting the project award on behalf of the city. This is an \$8M+ project funded by KDOT.
- **Proactive Code Compliance:** After a successful rollout of the policy in 2023 and the McPherson County Community Foundation benchmarking survey indicating the community's desire to increase compliance efforts & reduce blight, 61 letters were issued, and 49 successfully resolved.
- **Bike Share:** Established in May 2023, Lindsborg consistently had highest use of any community across the state continued through 2024.
- **Substation Transformer Project:** This two-year project was successfully completed, as well as additional repairs to the old transformer. This provides additional reliability to the City's power grid, as well as redundancy.

We hope that in the following pages, you'll be inspired by some of the work that's been done in the City and motivated to come alongside of us in 2025 to make the Hyllningsfest motto more than a motto—let's work together to ensure that Lindsborg truly is "the best square mile on Earth!"





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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New phone payment system debuts in January

Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) was introduced this month as the primary option for making payments over the phone when you call City Hall. The reason for the switch to this automated program is security, according to Finance Director David Hay.

"IVR allows residents to input their credit card and account info safely and eliminates the need to read their card number out loud to a live person."

The new system does come with a \$1.25 service fee that residents will be responsible for, but the city will continue to pay the processing fee that card companies charge. More details on the new payment system can be found on the front page of the city's website, lindsborgcity.org.

Dog tags for your pups for 2025

Stop by City Hall Monday-Friday anytime from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (bring rabies vaccine info from your vet) and purchase your tag. The current rate to license a dog is \$5 for those that are spayed or neutered and \$25 for those that are not. Residents may purchase a one-time licensing fee for microchipped dogs for \$35 and a lost tag/replacement fee of \$5.

Call City Hall at 785-227-3355 if you have any questions.

Council rewind and election info

In 2024, the Lindsborg City Council held 24 regular meetings, 10 study sessions, and two special budget meetings, and voted on 81 items. City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, 101 S. Main St.

This year is an election year for the City Council. Four City Council seats are up for election (one in each ward), as well as the Mayor (elected at large). They are: (Ward 1) Tanner Corwin; (Ward 2) John Presley; (Ward 3) Blaine Heble; (Ward 4) Corey Peterson; and (Mayor) Clark Shultz.

City Council terms are for four years, and the mayor serves a two-year term. Those interested in filing for candidacy must do so by June 1 at the County Clerk's office in McPherson.

Visit lindsborgcity.org/city-council for more information.

Welcome to Lindsborg!

The past year has seen a sizable number of new residents move into the community. To those folks, we offer a warm welcome and hope they're settling in and it feels like home. Moving to a new community is a daunting task, whether you're moving from a neighboring town or halfway across the country. To try and make that transition a bit easier, we're transforming our 'New Resident Information' page at Lindsborgcity.org into a more user-friendly resource. In addition to signing up for utilities and other city services, we hope this will provide a more comprehensive outlook for Lindsborg as a whole. Info on schools, the hospital, senior services, and more will be located on this page. We want to do whatever we can to help take some of the stress out of moving and show some well-known Lindsborg hospitality.

Visit Lindsborgcity.org/new-resident-information to view some helpful info or scan the QR code (right).

You can also stop into City Hall for a printed, one-page handout with those resources listed.

We're happy you've decided to make Lindsborg your new home!



City says farewell to two directors and names interims

Upon the December retirement of 26-year employee Chris Lindholm, Denny Walker was named as Interim Director of Public Works and appointed by Mayor Shultz on Dec. 16, 2024. Denny has been with the City of Lindsborg for 25 years and most recently has served as the Water/Wastewater Superintendent. He continues to oversee that department in addition to the Streets and Electric Departments.



Departing on the same day in December as Chris, Chief Michael Davis completed five years of service with the City. Terry Reed, who has been with the City for 21 years, serving in police, fire, and EMS roles, has been named the Interim Chief/Director of Public Safety, and was also appointed by Mayor Shultz on Dec. 16, 2024.



“The City of Lindsborg is so fortunate to have depth within our departments that allows for succession planning and the chance for our employees to step into new roles,” said Kristi Northcutt, City Administrator. “With a staff of only 32 full-time employees, that isn’t always possible, so we do not take for granted how lucky we are in Lindsborg to have longevity, loyalty, and experience that lead to opportunity.”

Clockwise from top left: Chris Lindholm, Denny Walker, Terry Reed, and Michael Davis.

Staff spotlights

Lineman Gavin Soukup, Public Works, was accepted into the Kansas Arborist Association in 2024.

Milton Collins, Community Development Director, served as vice chair of the McPherson Housing Coalition Board of Directors and is on the McPherson County Housing Task Force.

Lauren Doak, Recreation Director, was awarded the Larry Heeb Professional Development Scholarship and will use that award to attend the annual Kansas Recreation & Park Association conference in Manhattan, Kansas. She also earned her certification as a StarGuard instructor which will be beneficial in lifeguard training and pool safety.

Roxie Sjogren, City Clerk, became a Kansas Certified Municipal Clerk and achieved Master Municipal Clerk status, which is the highest one can achieve in the profession.

Interim Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Terry Reed completed his Certified Public Manager program at the University of Kansas. He was also awarded a Rising Star scholarship and took classes toward his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Kansas Wesleyan University.

Kristi Northcutt, City Administrator, received a full scholarship to attend the American Public Power Association fall institute and also earned Certified Public Manager with Distinction status from KU.

Detective Blake Nichols and SRO Mike Adams completed Crisis Intervention Training. Officer Adams was also certified to be a DARE instructor and Detective Nichols took classes toward his degree at Kansas Wesleyan.

Electric Superintendent Rod Schrage instructed underground and overhead courses for Kansas Municipal Utilities.

Grants snapshot

Grant writing is always a priority for city staff each year. Grants are an incredibly important asset for any community, especially smaller ones, because it can ease the tax burden on residents in helping pay for city projects. The grant writing responsibility is an all-hands-on-deck-type approach by staff. Many of the department directors will research, write, and submit grants on a local, state, and national level. Below is a glance at the grant process for Lindsborg in 2024.

Grants awarded:
\$151,000

Grants pending:
\$231,000

Other grants applied for:
\$650,000

Lindsborg in review 2024

2024 seemed to fly by in a flash. That didn't stop our community from hosting great events and getting a lot done. Here we highlight just a portion of the accomplishments, successes, and hard work of our staff and community.

Local Government Day

City Clerk Roxie Sjogren, Communications Director Marcus Petty, Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege, and City Administrator Kristi Northcutt spent the day in Topeka meeting with state legislators and learning about bills that could impact Lindsborg.



Tree City USA

For the 39th consecutive year, Lindsborg received this distinguished designation.



Quality time with the 3rd graders from Soderstrom Elementary

City staff spent some time with the students and discussed what it's like to work for a city. Many questions were asked by the inquisitive audience during the session. The best was saved for last when they got to tour a firetruck and check out some of the gear worn by our firefighters.

Busy season for the pool and golf course

The pool was a popular spot in the summer between memberships, events, and programs, while the golf course increased their membership from a year ago and hit 136.

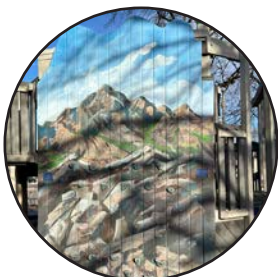
K-4 project announcement at the Capitol

Staff pose with Kansas Secretary of Transportation Calvin Reed at the Capitol after the \$8 million K4 project was announced as part of the IKE program.



Streets Department covered a lot of ground

2024 kept the staff moving with continued work of crack sealing on city streets for maintenance, ongoing tree trimming, mastic repair of larger cracks on city streets, and more. That work, along with more projects, is on the calendar for the new year.



Progress in the parks

A big focus in 2024 for the Parks Department staff was improving Lindsborg's already great parks. New mulch was installed at the playgrounds, new seating with a canopy was installed in Viking Valley, bathrooms at Swensson Park were repainted, and the mountain image (left) was repainted in Viking Valley.

Public Safety Center renovation completed

The newly renovated building included the addition of a new locker room, two interview rooms, updated technology room and equipment, expanded evidence areas, and a lot more. The project came in on time and under budget, and was also awarded grant dollars to help ease the burden on taxpayers.



Bethany College Resource Fair

Members of the City staff attended the back-to-school fair at Bethany in an effort to educate students about important public safety issues and helpful programs for them to utilize during the school year.



Recreation is a team game

Parks Director Noah Flores and Recreation Director Lauren Doak debuted Chalk the Walk Day during the summer. Residents were invited to let their imaginations run wild and use chalk to draw on the sidewalks of Riverside Park. Lauren and SRO Adams also participated in the elementary school's Field Day (*left*).

New ambulance added to the fleet

Acquired a new ambulance equipped with advanced features which include, upgraded lighting, modernized controls, updated cabinetry, and an internal camera system in the treatment area to enhance patient safety and monitoring. Additionally, it also features a Stryker Power Load System, which improves patient safety by providing support and stability during cot loading and unloading while reducing the risk of operator injuries. The full cost of the new ambulance was reimbursed by McPherson County through ARPA funds.

Troy Miller Field opens with community teamwork

Working together to accomplish important projects is a must, especially in smaller communities. The opening of Troy Miller Field highlights just what can happen when people work towards a common goal. City staff and USD400 worked closely on all aspects of getting the field built, and that hard work payed off at the ribbon cutting on Friday, April 5. The field's namesake, Coach Troy Miller, sadly passed away later in the year.



Lift Up Lindsborg offers helping hand

The LUL program added seven home projects in 2024 totaling \$16,500 in funds going back into the community. The projects ranged from new windows, a new front porch, and five houses repainted.



The award-winning CVB works to highlight Lindsborg

Tourism is a big part of the Lindsborg economy, and in October the Lindsborg CVB was recognized for its efforts in driving visitors to our community. At the Kansas Tourism Conference, Visit Lindsborg was awarded 1st Place in four of the six marketing categories for mid-sized communities with marketing budgets of \$20,000-\$100,000.



Busy and productive 2024 for Community Development

Often times, the day-to-day work for the Community Development staff is never the same. Speaking with residents regarding various topics, inspections, committee meetings, permits review, and a lot more keep the workday moving. 2024 saw a lot of successes and progress for our community. Below is a brief year-in-review for Community Development.

- 61 compliance notices issued; 49 successfully resolved
- 91 permits issued
- Housing Development (approximately)
 - o Five homes for sale currently;
 - o Three homes for rent including duplexes; and
 - o 17 new constructed homes built in 2024.
- Lift Up Lindsborg 2024: Included seven home projects totaling to \$16,500.00 in program funds back into the community:
 - o One resident added windows;
 - o One resident built a new front porch; and
 - o Five residents painted their homes
- Bike Share 2024: First full year with KanCycle Bike Share Program (see chart on the right).
- HEAL Grant: \$115,000 awarded to the City of Lindsborg as the grantee for The Good Merchant as the sub-grantee. Project included exterior paint, windows, awning, signage, and roof.

Bike Share for 2024

Lindsborg leads the way!

Lindsborg

January	19
February	87
March	73
April	59
May	191
June	97
July	52
August	73
September	104
October	140
November	39

934
*total rides

Salina
671
Concordia
85



*December numbers not available at time of print

Welcome to Lindsborg!

Lindsborg welcomed a host of new businesses to the community in 2024. Small businesses are vital to the longevity and success of local communities and we hope for the best for these new additions!



Barnyard Creamery (top left): Small town family-owned business serving ice cream and limited lunch items. Located at 201 N. Harrison St. (next to White's).



Valkyrie-Dala Fitness (top right): A 10,000 sq. ft. building located at 115 N. Main St., housing a fitness center offering free weights, machines of all kinds, and classes to help on your fitness journey.



Smoky Valley Restoration & Upholstery (bottom left): Owner-operated small upholstery business capable of doing small and large jobs. Located at 125 N. Main St. (same building as Indigo Moo'd).



Smoky Valley Bakery (bottom right): Full service bakery with freshly made pastries along with coffee, lunch options, and daily specials. Located at 118 S. Main St.

988 Hotline is a Resource in the New Year

The holidays are known as the “Hap-happiest time of the year,” but for many, they can be the hardest. As the new year starts, mental health is a topic that should be discussed, and there is a resource that is often overlooked.

9-1-1 dispatchers must answer every call that comes in, but 60% of calls are requests for information, nonemergency police calls, or mental health issues that would be better served by calling the local crisis line. The 9-8-8 Lifeline is available 24/7 for those facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or who just need someone to talk to. Caring, trained counselors are available to talk. You can even text or chat online with a counselor, as well. Conversations are free and confidential.

In 2023*, McPherson County had calls that were coded:

- 52 - Mental Disorder (behavioral problems)
- 107 - Threatening Suicide/Attempted Suicide
- 41 - Overdose/Poisoning (mostly drug ODs)
- 21 - Psychiatric/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt



24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, signed into law after the passage of bipartisan legislation in 2020, authorized 988 as a new three-digit number for suicide and mental health crisis. All telephone service and text providers in the U.S. and the five major U.S. territories were required by the federal government to activate 988 by July 2022. This was a culmination of a three-year joint effort by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to put crisis care more in reach for people in need and became an accelerated priority after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. had one death by suicide every 11 minutes in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for young people aged 10-14 and 25-34. From April 2020 to 2021, more than 100,000 people died from drug overdoses. Studies have shown that after speaking with a trained crisis counselor, most Lifeline callers are significantly more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful.

As always, the Lindsborg Police Department and our officers are here for you, as well. Never hesitate to call 911 if you need help or someone to talk to. Both 988 and 911 are resources to help address the needs in our community.

**2024 data was not available at press time.*



The renovation of the Public Safety Building was a major milestone for the city in 2024. The city scape mural (above) resides in the training/break room and the Lindsborg city seal carved and painted by Councilmember John Presley (top, far right) hangs in the waiting area.



Public Works projects summary heading into the new year

No department's work scope and versatility matches the responsibilities of Public Works. From electricity, water, streets, and more, the Public Works staff's impact on day-to-day life in Lindsborg is vast. With the departure of long-time director Chris Lindholm last month, now is the perfect time to take a look at some of the department's projects and provide a status update.

AMI upgrade water

Water endpoints did not arrive until late 2022. Installation began in the spring of 2023, but the process has been slow because of several other water projects and upgrades to the billing software at City Hall. At the end of 2023, 40% of the endpoints had been installed. Installation continues and as of the end of June 2024, 65% of the installation is complete. As of the end of November 2024, 80% of the endpoints have been installed. The remaining endpoints will include the replacement of the water meter of which most of them are residential and the remaining will be 1.5" or larger meters.

Substation transformer project

- Work took place all of 2023 preparing for the additional transformer—construction of a new base and containment pit for the new transformer, moving around old breakers and preparing for new breaker installation, new wiring pulled in, and new relays and controls added.
- The new transformer arrived in August and was tested for service.
- The new breakers arrived in December 2023. KMEA Mid-States and the Electric staff worked on the final high-side connections to have the new transformer operational by mid-spring 2024.
- Work continued through the early part of the year to finish various parts of the control system and bus bar connections.
- The final checks were made in the first part of May and on May 7, 2024 the loads were split. The west and central circuits went onto the new transformer and the east circuit along with MKC remained on the old transformer.
- Sunbelt Solomon was on site the week of October 21 and did the maintenance and testing of the old transformer. KMEA crews did the work on the LTC controls and finished the change out of the new primary feed to the old transformer.

Cow Creek sedimentation removal

- Phase One finished in late summer of 2023. Some conversations have taken place with Phase Two holdouts and have been productive.
- Additional conversations have taken place with the first property owner on the north side of town. Wilson & Co. completed a basic project plan for what needs to be done on that property. Staff met with the property owners and discussed plans and the work that needs to be done.

Crack and Mastic sealing work on Streets

- The Street Department sealed cracks using the normal crack sealing machine. They follow up on previous years' sealing as well as expand each year onto other streets working to stay ahead of small problems before they become larger issues.
- For the second straight year they also utilized a Mastic Crack sealant which helps seal larger cracks and helps to improve ride quality on streets with larger cracks.

Chip sealing

- Crews from APAC were in Lindsborg during July to complete 39,024 sq/yds of chip seal.

2024 park improvements

A good parks system is conducive to a healthy and vibrant community. Knowing this, the Parks Department takes pride in our facilities and has continued to expand and maintain our features. One important and beloved feature is the community-built Viking Valley Playground at Swensson Park.

Some may have noticed the fresh paint at Viking Valley recently. Not only has the playground been improved, but other items in our parks have been addressed.

The following items were completed in 2024 or are in the process of being completed for 2025:

- New mulch at the playgrounds was installed
- Features in the Viking Valley playground have been painted
- New seating with a canopy was installed in Viking Valley
- The bathrooms at Swensson park were repainted inside
- New skylights were installed in the bathrooms at Swensson Park
- Grading of the ground was done to mitigate water pooling around the bandshell at Swensson Park and the Bandshell was sealed to protect it from further water infiltration
- Playground platforms at Riverside Park are being replaced
- New playground equipment has been ordered with a plan to install over the winter. These items include a slide, swings, swing mats, and a rope ladder.
- ADA sidewalks will be added in Swensson Park to connect features to Main Street and to each other within the park. This is possible thanks to a grant from the McPherson County Community Foundation.



The importance of urban forestry

This year, the Kansas Forest Service collected data and mapped all of Lindsborg's street trees. A street tree is a tree that is located between the sidewalk and the street. The data collected includes the species, condition, diameter, and location. This data will be input into charts and percentages to easily decipher the data. These factors are important in assessing the condition of our urban canopy. This data will enable the city to make well-informed decisions in the future and see continuing trends in our urban forest.

It is important that the community uses this data to compare diversity within our tree canopy. Due to possible disease, age, and drought, identifying species and conditions is important. There is a need to diversify between species and ages to keep our canopy healthy and maximize the benefits they can provide. Pine wilt and emerald ash borer are examples of factors that can decimate only pines and elms. So, a community would want to have a diverse canopy that would have resilience and be able to lose a portion but have other species to fill in the canopy.

There are many benefits to our urban canopy; a few are listed below.

- Trees reduce energy costs by shading buildings;
- Trees reduce carbon emissions, a greenhouse gas;
- Trees provide animal habitat;
- Trees increase property values; and
- Trees create comfortable outdoor spaces for recreation and exercise.

Thank you to the Tree Board for their hard work and guidance to assist with this project.



Plenty already on tap for Rec in the new year

2024 by any measure was a great year for Lindsborg Recreation. Healthy registration for youth activities, more than 130 golf memberships, and the introduction of programs, such as pickleball, have been a hit. 2025 promises to be just as busy, fun, and successful! Below are some of the programs we have planned to kick off the first part of the new year! For more info on the listed events and to register (if needed), visit Lindsborgrec.org.

Ties & Tiaras is back Jan. 11 and promises to be a fun-filled evening for everyone. This event is for children accompanied by an adult loved one (dads, moms, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.). There will be a DJ, crafts, hot cocoa, refreshments, and more!

Youth soccer registration begins on Feb. 12. Practices are set to start sometime in mid-March, with the season running through April 17. Games will take place on Monday and Thursday evenings.

It might be cold and wintery now, but springtime and golf weather will be here before you know it! The Lindsborg Golf Course is scheduled to open for the season on Monday, March 31. Membership applications will be available in early February.

Baseball and softball was a big success last year and we're looking to build on that in 2025! Registration for both will open on April 4.

A community favorite event returns on Saturday, April 19 from 2-4 p.m. Egg-stravaganza returns to Riverside Park for an afternoon of egg hunting and visits with the Peter Cottontail! Mark your calendars for this can't-miss event.

It is going to be an exciting and busy time for Lindsborg Rec, and we can't wait! The Summer Program brochure will be released in April and it will be filled with spring and summer activities for youth and adults. You'll also be able to find it online at Lindsborgrec.org. Thanks for a great 2024 and we're ready for an even better 2025!

For more program/event details, and to register, be sure to visit Lindsborgrec.org.

Rec Rewind

Pics from 2024 with an eye on an action-packed 2025!



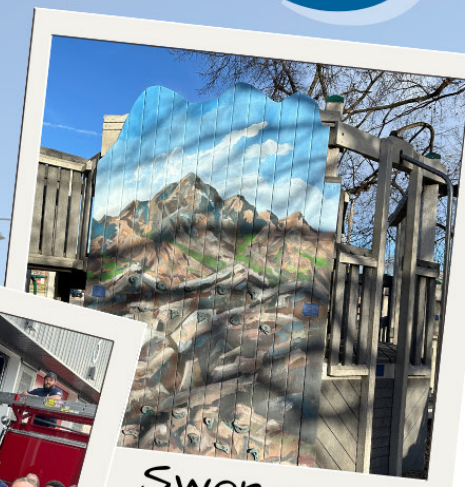
Look back Lindsborg



? time



Public Safety Center



Swensson Park mural



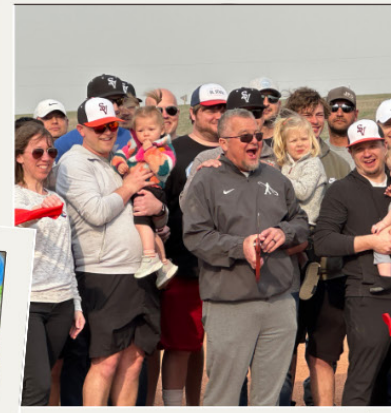
fun in the park



Broadway RFD



chalk day in the park



Troy Miller Field dedication



St. Lucia



Christmas in July



2024 is in the rearview...
full speed ahead for 2025



The City of Lindsborg
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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.visitlindsborg.com/lindsborg-calendar-of-events
www.lindsborgcity.org

City Council Meetings: Jan. 6 & 21*, Feb. 3 & 17, March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21; 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
*Meetings are streamed on our Facebook and YouTube channels. *Meeting on Tuesday due to holiday.*

City Offices Closed: Jan. 15 (staff training), and Jan. 20 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Events calendar: Jan. 2-Feb. 8 Lindsborg Cultural Crawl; Jan. 11 Ties & Tiaras Dance at the Sundstrom; Jan. 24 Bethany College Alumni & Friends Friday; Feb. 8 Annual Art Lover's Affair and Auction at the Sundstrom; April 12 Chalk the Valk; and Egg-stravaganza at Riverside Park April 19.



VisitLindsborg.com has more details on holiday events; **scheduled events are subject to change.**

Visit **Lindsborgcity.org** for city-related news, committee meeting info, online bill pay, and more.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

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