



INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

January - February 2013

Rate Changes Approved for Water and Wastewater

The City Council approved rate changes for water and wastewater at its October 15, 2012 meeting. For your usage in January 2013, water rates will increase 8% and wastewater rates will increase 11%. These changes will be reflected in your statement starting February 2013. The following is a summary of the rate changes by utility:



Water Rates

Water rates will be increasing 8%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$10.70 to \$11.55. The cost for the first 40,000 gallons of water will go from \$4.80 per thousand gallons to \$5.15 per thousand gallons. The average increase for a residential water customer is \$3.05 per month.

Wastewater Rates

Wastewater rates will be increasing 11%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$10.70 to \$11.90. The usage charge will go from \$6.85 per thousand gallons to \$7.60 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$4.90 per month.

City Administrator Begins Visioning Process



In September 2012, City Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee began the process of developing a vision and strategic plan for the City of Gardner. This process involves gathering suggestions and information from both external and internal resources, establishing priorities, aligning the City's financial resources and implementing the plan.

The first part of the external component was meeting with local businesses through a series of three Chamber "Meet and Greet" sessions. Session one included representatives from large retail and financial institutions/banks; session two included small business; and session three included manufacturing and medical. Attendees were asked to complete a short survey and engage in an open dialogue with Ms. Harrison-Lee about what priorities they would like the City to focus on in the future. From this feedback, a list of common themes was established for each session.

A wrap-up session was then held at the beginning of December and included representatives from all of the previous sessions. At this meeting, a list of priorities was provided, discussed and narrowed down to these final three:

1. Improving the focus and direction of the City by implementing a mission statement, vision and strategic plan
2. Changing the attitude and culture of City Hall to become more business friendly
3. Accepting and focusing on growth

These final 3 priorities will be presented to City staff and Councilmembers at an upcoming Visioning Workshop. The second part of the external component is the establishment of a Citizen Visioning Committee. The Mayor and Councilmembers have each selected 3 citizens, for a total of 18 committee members, who will begin meeting in early 2013. These meetings will mirror the Chamber "Meet and Greet" sessions with the completion of a survey and open dialogue, selection of three final priorities, and the presentation of the final priorities to City staff and Councilmembers.

By gathering this information, staff and Council will be better informed of the needs and wants of the community while finalizing the vision and strategic plan.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

The City of Gardner wants to congratulate the following winners of the 2012 Holiday Home Decorating Contest:

Most Creative Display

Doris Kessler
212 W. Park

Most Twinkling Lights

Kris Leshovsky
32955 W. 143rd St.

Mayor's Choice

Julie Aldridge
513 S. Locust



2012 Public Works Projects

Over 200 incandescent streetlights were replaced with LED lights along Main Street and Center Street. The project was funded by the Smart Lights for Smart Cities program, administered by the Mid-America Regional Council.

Battery back-up systems were installed at the traffic signals at the Moonlight and Main Street and Cedar Niles and US-56 intersections. During a power outage, the back-up systems will keep the signals operating normally for up to four hours, or on a four-way red flash for up to an additional eight hours.



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A newsletter published for the residents of
the City of Gardner
City Hall • 120 E. Main St.
Gardner, KS 66030 • 856-0939

Mayor's Message to Gardner Residents



To my fellow residents,

Once again, I have been humbled by the generosity of our community through participation in the Christmas for Children Program and the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund; seventy-eight families and over two hundred children had a brighter holiday. The generosity of our citizens and corporate entities will allow us to help others throughout the year as needs arise. This aspect of my service to Gardner is a true joy and reinforces my belief that Gardner is indeed the best place to live and raise a family.

2013 has just begun, and I am excited about what lies ahead for Gardner. We continue to have events that showcase our town. In the summer of 2013, the Paralympics 2013 Boccia America's Cup Tournament will take place at New Century Fieldhouse, giving us the opportunity to welcome athletes and their families from all around America.

In 2012, we hired our new City Administrator, Cheryl Harrison-Lee, and she and I have been working together to prepare Gardner for our recovering economy. When she came on board, we worked on a plan to familiarize her with the community and the community with her. We agreed the first priority was to meet with the local business community, which she did in three separate sessions. We wrapped up those meetings with a summary discussion the first week of December. From that summary, we have developed a list of priorities. Our next goal is to conduct the same process with residents. Each member of the governing body has identified three residents to participate in these visioning sessions. Once the vision has been established, we will have a comprehensive tool to drive priorities and projects for staff and the governing body.

I asked Cheryl to review our organization and develop a structure that would allow us to affordably manage the coming growth and change. We have worked together to reorganize our staff to better serve our community needs and prepare for the gradual increase in development without increasing payroll. In fact, we have added positions to the 2013 plan while coming under the approved budget for 2013. We are in the process of hiring a new Community Development Director who will work closely with our Chamber and Economic Development Corporation to capitalize on the logistics park set to open in September. We will also establish a development plan that makes sense for our town, protects our citizens, and provides a tool for orderly growth.

2013 looks to be an exciting year for Gardner and the surrounding area. We have positioned ourselves to be successful, but it will take the continued hard work of our dedicated staff to realize the full potential of what is ahead for Gardner. I have been privileged to serve as your Mayor and look forward to being part of the exciting future of our great community.

Sincerely,

Calendar of Meetings

Jan	1	City Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day
Jan	7	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Jan	21	City Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day
Jan	22	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Jan	29	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb	4	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb	18	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb	26	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM

Gardner City Council

David C. Drovetta, Mayor
913-856-6463 (Home)
ddrovetta@gardnerkansas.gov

Larry Fotovich, Council Member
913-856-4458 (Home)
lfotovich@gardnerkansas.gov

Heath Freeman, Council Member
913-908-2627 (Cell)
hfreeman@gardnerkansas.gov

Randy Gregorcyk, Council Member
316-644-0292 (Cell)
rgregorcyk@gardnerkansas.gov

Kristy Harrison Council Member
913-884-2115 (Home)
kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov

Chris Morrow, Council Member
913-269-8495 (Cell)
cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov

Messages may also be left for any
Council Member or the Mayor at
913-856-0939

City Management

City Administrator
Cheryl Harrison-Lee
charrison-lee@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-0941

Finance Director
Laura Gourley
lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-7535

Parks & Recreation Director
Jeff Stewart
jstewart@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-0936

Interim Police Chief
James Moore
jmoore@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-7312

Public Works Director
David Greene
dgreene@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-0914

Electric Utility Director
William Krawczyk
bkrawczyk@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-7256

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The guardrail for the 159th Street bridge over Kill Creek, just east of Celebration Park, was upgraded in November to meet current standards and enhance safety.

Design has been completed for improvements at the Center and Main Street intersection. The project will provide traffic safety and traffic capacity improvements by installing a new traffic signal and adding dedicated left turn lanes on Main Street. Right-of-way and easement acquisition for the project has begun, and construction of the project will begin in late Spring with full completion expected by early Fall. Cost of construction will be funded by a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation through its Corridor Management Construction Program.

Construction for the Grand Street Improvements Project has begun, which includes the extension of Grand Street between Cedar Streets and the Plum Creek Estates subdivision, and water and sanitary sewer improvements needed to serve the new USD 231 elementary and middle school campus. Costs are funded from a benefit district that is equally funded by the City of Gardner and USD 231. Intersection improvements and a traffic signal at Grand Street and Moonlight Road will be constructed under a separate contract. Completion of both projects is anticipated for mid-summer of 2013.

Baseball and Softball Registration

Registration deadline for youth baseball, softball and t-ball is **March 1st**. Drafts will be held in late March with practices starting in early April. Games will begin early to mid-May and generally (weather permitting) will wrap-up by late June to early July. We offer t-ball for the 5 and 6 year olds, and baseball and softball for the 7 and 8 year olds through 14 year olds. Uniforms will be provided. For more details or questions about the leagues, please call Parks and Recreation at 913-856-0936.



Find Your Next Job at Gardner Parks and Recreation

Gardner Parks and Recreation is currently accepting applications for the 2013 summer season. Applications will be accepted through February 1, 2013. For further information, and/or to download an application, please visit the following website: www.gardnerkansas.gov/seasonal_openings/.

Return completed applications to:

Gardner Parks and Recreation
120 E. Main St.
Gardner, KS 66030

POSITIONS INCLUDE

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| *Pool Manager | *Concessions Manager |
| *Assistant Pool Managers | *Concessions Workers |
| *Swimming Lesson Coordinator | *Park Maintenance Staff |
| *Lifeguards | *Pool Maintenance Staff |
| *Pool Facility Attendants | *Facility Supervisors |
| *Swim Lesson Instructors | *Soccer Officials |
| *Aquacore Instructor | *Umpires |



Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Program	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Cost
Martial Arts Warriors	Jan 6	Jan 4	3 to 6 years	\$50
Teens N' Taekwondo	Jan 6	Jan 4	10 to 15 years	\$50
Tumble and Twirl	Jan 14	Jan 9	3 to 5 years	\$50
Jazz I and II	Jan 14	Jan 9	5 to 11 years	\$50
Kid's Wii Bowling Tournament	Jan 26	Jan 21	5 to 14 years	\$10
Parent/Child Bowling Tournament	Feb 9	Feb 4	Any	\$15/couple
Spring Soccer	Mar 23	Feb 15	K - 8th grade	\$65/\$45
Micro Soccer	Apr 6	Feb 22	2, 3, 4 years	\$55
Daddy Daughter Ball	Feb 23	Feb 15	3 to 10 years	\$35/couple
Competitive Baseball	Apr-July	Feb 15	U8 to U14	\$900/team
Rec Baseball/Softball/T-Ball	Apr-Jun	Mar 1	6 to 14 years	\$50 to \$80
Adult/Family Programs				
Cardio Fit Bootcamp for Women	Jan 8	Jan 4	18 and up	\$55
Martial Arts Family	Jan 6	Jan 4	5 and up	\$50/\$40/\$35
Adult Basketball	Jan 18	Jan 6	18 and older	\$350
Scrapbooking	Jan 18, Feb 9	Tues. before crop	12 and older	\$5
Bunco Babes	Feb 7	Feb 1	18 and older	\$20
Washington/Oregon Travelogue	Feb 12	Feb 11	Adult	Travelogue is free Trip \$2,991.47/ea.

Additional program information can be found at www.gardnerkansas.gov/parks/



City of Gardner
120 E. Main Street
Gardner, Kansas

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GARDNER, KS 66030**

Gardner Historical Museum—Upcoming Events



Hours:

Gardner Historical Museum - 204 W. Main St.

Saturday through Tuesday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Friday: 4:00 to 7:00 PM

The Bray House - 207 W. Shawnee St.

Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)

January:

Small doll exhibit will run mid-January through Mid-February

February:

Doll Clinic & Tea to be held on Saturday, February 9th

Join the Museum for a fundraiser and chance for girls of all ages to have tea while learning about the care and glamour of dolls.

For more information, call 913-856-4447 and be sure to visit the NEW website at www.gardnerhistoricalmuseum.com.

Kansas Highway Projects Scheduled

Hundreds of projects that will enhance traveler safety and preserve or expand the state highway system have been scheduled for the next two years.



More than 430 projects scheduled for the 2013-14 fiscal years will improve 1,600 miles of highway and replace or repair 209 bridges and interchanges. The 2013 state fiscal year began July 1 and many of the projects are under way. The estimated cost of the projects is \$1.1 billion.

“The majority of these projects are considered preservation work and will protect the investment Kansans have made in their transportation system,” said Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King. “But there are also some big projects that will expand capacity on some of the state’s busiest corridors and spur economic development.”

All of the projects, including the Johnson County Gateway interchange project at the K-10/I-435/I-35 junction, are part of the 2010 T-WORKS transportation program. “These projects have an important role to play in the state’s economic recovery and that’s why Gov. Brownback included implementation of T-WORKS in his Road Map for Kansas,” Secretary King said. “They will create jobs during construction and will provide the infrastructure business needs to operate efficiently and to grow.”

The projects can be viewed by county or route on the T-WORKS website, <http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWorks/>.

New at the Gardner Library this Winter



Help us celebrate 75 years of distinguished picture books! The first Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children was awarded in 1938 to *Animals of the Bible*, illustrated by Dorothy P. Lathrop.

Bring the kids and stop by the Gardner library any time for a different Caldecott-related hands-on activity each month. Be sure to check out a Caldecott Medal winner while you are here!

Gardner Police Department

Pet Registrations



Animal Control Ordinance 2255 states that all dogs and cats must be licensed in the City of Gardner, Kansas through the Gardner Police Department. City licenses are issued each calendar year (January through December). Fees are as follows:

- Unneutered male dog/cat \$14.00 ea.
- Unspayed female dog/cat \$14.00 ea.
- Neutered male dog/cat \$7.00 ea.
- Spayed female dog/cat \$7.00 ea.
- Special Permit \$55.00
- Breeders Permit \$30.00

Tags can be purchased at the Gardner Police Department building or by mail. To purchase a City license for your animal, you will need to provide a copy of a current rabies vaccination. Licenses may be purchased with cash or a personal check; no credit or debit cards will be accepted. For more information, please contact the Animal Control Officer at www.gardnerkansas.gov/pet_license/ or 913-856-7312.

Emergency Call-Out Listing for Business Owners

The Gardner Police Department maintains a listing of all businesses within our jurisdiction for the purpose of emergency call-outs. In the event that officers locate an open door, a burglary or any other type of emergency, they will have the ability to contact a responsible party for that business.

If you are a new business, or need to update your emergency contact information, please complete the Business Emergency Contact Listing Form available on the website at: www.gardnerkansas.gov/police_department_business_owners

For more information, please contact Police Clerk Kathy Wilmoth at 913-856-7312 or kwilmoth@gardnerkansas.gov.