



INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

September - October 2013

City Council Approves 2014 Budget

Following a series of public workshops and meetings, the City Council approved the 2014 Budget at their August 5, 2013 meeting. Using the best practice of "Priority-Based Budgeting," the Governing Body identified the following strategic goals to guide its vision for the City:

- Promote economic development
- Improve quality of life
- Fiscal Stewardship
- Infrastructure and asset management



Staff presented a budget that begins the process of aligning resources to support these strategic goals while managing outstanding obligations. The approved 2014 Budget totals \$49.4 million and includes:

- 1% increase in property tax revenue
- 2.5% increase in city sales reflecting historical trend and current data
- 2% increase in county sales tax
- No increase in the mill levy
- 8% increase in water rates and the implementation of a graduated rate structure
- 11% increase in wastewater rates

Funding for an update to the City's existing Comprehensive Plan is also included. In upcoming months, consultants Houseal Lavigne Associates, City staff and the Governing Body will be seeking input from residents in the form of a Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC). Members of the CPAC will participate in roundtable workshops which will help the consultants identify residential and business concerns and aspirations for the City of Gardner.

City Administrator, Cheryl Harrison-Lee notes, "The overall budget reflects the City's commitment to focus on the highest level of service to the citizens, develop new economic opportunities, ensure maintenance and development of adequate infrastructure and maintain a high level of fiscal stewardship."

Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/budget to view the 2014 budget in its entirety.

Frequently Asked Questions

To better serve our residents, below are some Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA):

What is an open record?

Most records maintained by public entities are open for inspection and copying by individuals. Commonly requested records include ordinances, resolutions, agendas and minutes from open meetings, financial documents and budgets. There are several exceptions: personnel information of public employees, medical treatment records, records protected by attorney-client privilege or rules of evidence, records containing personal information compiled for Census purposes, notes and preliminary drafts and other specific documents.

How can I request a record?

Requests should be submitted in writing to the City Clerk, who serves as the City's Freedom of Information Officer and a receipt of your request will be provided within three business days. The Clerk will work with the appropriate department's records custodian and inform you of the expected timeframe and costs involved. Copying and mailing fees may be requested in advance, but will not be collected for readily available documents.



New Uniforms for Gardner Police

The Gardner Police Department has purchased new uniforms which were debuted by officers in mid-August.

The Gardner Police Department has previously worn the same uniform style since 1987. The uniforms have had variations throughout the years, but the shirts have remained a French blue in color with navy pants bearing a stripe down the leg.

With the arrival of new Police Chief Gerald Cullumber in July 2013, comes a fresh look for the Gardner Police Department. Chief Cullumber expressed that "he wants the professionalism of this agency to equal or exceed that of every other agency within the area." The new uniforms are similar to what other area jurisdictions utilize, such as the Olathe Police Department, the Lenexa Police Department and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. They will be a Midnight Navy in color, but appear black, and will be more serviceable for officers.

Chief Cullumber said, "The officers are very excited to receive the new uniforms. This is just the first of many changes to come."



Adams Pro Photo

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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



Greetings fellow citizens,

This year, August marks the beginning of a new school year for students and parents, however, new beginnings are not exclusively the domain of our award winning school district. In fact, this summer and fall new beginnings are evident every which way you turn in Gardner.

In August, Gardner opened a newly constructed extension of Grand Street. This project had long been planned, but was expedited by the passage of a USD 231 bond issue that included the construction of two new schools with Grand Street addresses. The City provided infrastructure improvements that benefit Grand Star Elementary School, which opened in August, and Trail Ridge Middle School, which will go online next school year. These improvements include 4,000 feet of freshly paved road, the first roundabout constructed in the city limits, a new traffic signal at Moonlight and Grand, and new electric, water and wastewater service. These improvements not only support our schools, but are also a visible sign of investment in the future of Gardner, both for our infrastructure and for our families. It also shows a significant commitment to growth in our community.

This past summer saw the dedication of the new Big Bull Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, a joint program with our friends and neighbors to the southwest in Edgerton. This partnership, unprecedented in the history of our two cities, provides for both parties' increased sewer capacity, opportunity for future development, and significant cost savings on development and expansion in Gardner and Edgerton.

There are new beginnings visible elsewhere, perhaps most notably on Main Street where improvements are being made on the new Five Star Trucking office, ground has been broken on a new Arvest Bank Building and the new, highly visible QuikTrip is nearing completion and should open in September. There will also be construction starting soon at Main Street and Center, which should improve traffic and safety at one of our City's busiest intersections.

Public Works Director Brian Faust joined the City staff over the summer along with many others. The Police Department also has a new 21st century presence around Gardner including new uniforms, a new facebook page and a new citizen police academy starting this fall. We also have six newly appointed citizens serving our residents on the Planning Commission, Electric Utility Board and Airport Board.

With so many new beginnings all around Gardner, I remind everyone to keep your cool and be understanding of any temporary inconveniences these new beginnings create, and please be safe as you negotiate your way around town.

Best regards,

Calendar of Meetings

Sept	2	City Hall Closed in Observance of Labor Day
Sept	3	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM (NOTE: date change due to holiday)
Sept	5	Electric Utility Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Sept	16	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Sept	16	Electric Utility Board Work Session - 7:00 PM
Sept	24	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM
Oct	3	Electric Utility Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Oct	7	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Oct	21	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Oct	21	Electric Utility Board Work Session - 7:00 PM
Oct	22	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM

Gardner City Council

Chris Morrow, Mayor

913-269-8495 (Cell)
cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov

Kristy Harrison, Council President

913-884-2115 (Home)
kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov

Larry Fotovich, Council Vice President

913-856-4458 (Home)
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Heath Freeman, Council Member

913-908-2627 (Cell)
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Tory Roberts, Council Member

913-449-5522 (Cell)
troberts@gardnerkansas.gov

Steve Shute, Council Member

913-938-6887 (Cell)
sshute@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
913-856-0939

Community Development Director

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Police Chief

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913-856-7312

Public Works Director

Brian Faust
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913-856-0914

Electric Utility Director

William Krawczyk
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Items of Note, Project Updates & Community Information

Everyday Habits Impact Water Quality

Did you know that your everyday habits impact our water quality? Even small amounts of pollution can add up to big problems when it comes from an area the size of the Kansas City region. Leaving harmful materials on yards and streets can pose dangers to the health and safety of our neighborhoods and the environment.



When it rains, water runs across rooftops, down streets and across parking lots and yards, picking up substances along the way. This stormwater “runoff” often contains materials like chemical fertilizer, pet waste, litter, automotive fluids and yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings. Runoff then washes down storm drains and is eventually deposited into local rivers and streams, causing pollution and endangering public health. You can reduce water pollution by:

- Using a rain barrel
- Landscaping with native plants and rain gardens
- Picking up after your pets
- Using lawn chemicals sparingly
- Not sweeping grass clippings or leaves into the street

Remember, if it’s on the **ground**, it’s in our **water**. For more information, visit Mid-America Regional Council at www.marc.org.

Grand Street Now Open to Traffic

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 8, 2013, to officially open Grand Street to traffic. Construction began December of 2012. The new street connects Moonlight Road and Cedar Street, providing access to the newly constructed Grand Star Elementary. This project also includes Gardner’s first roundabout at the intersection of Grand Street and White Drive.



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, City Administrator; Tory Roberts, City Councilmember; Kristy Harrison, City Councilmember; Mayor Chris Morrow; Mark Grannell, USD 231 Board of Education; Mary Herbert, USD 231 Board of Education; Dr. Christy Ziegler, USD 231 Interim Superintendent; Pam Tate, Principal of Grand Star Elementary

Upcoming Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Youth Tennis	September 8,15,22,29	September 3	5-12 years	\$35.00
NFL Punt/Pass/Kick	September 8	September 6	6-14 Years Old	Free
Touch a Truck	September 21	N/A	Any	Free
Ready Set Action Classes	September 23	September 9	6-12 years	\$30/mo or \$90/semester
Mom/Son Sports Night	October 12	October 4	5-12 years	\$35/couple \$15/additional
Tumbling Tots	Oct 14 – Nov 18	October 9	3-6 years	\$50.00
Ballet	Oct 14 – Nov 18	October 9	3-6 years	\$50.00
Jazz	Oct 14 – Nov 18	October 9	7 - 10 years	\$50.00
TallGrass Theatre:	Oct 14-18	October 9	2 nd - 8 th grade	\$80.00
Ghoul School Camp				
Youth Basketball	Late November	October 18	Grades 1-6	\$60.00
Adult / Family Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Fishing Derby	September 7	September 3	12 and Under	\$5.00
Women’s Tennis	September 8,15,22,29	September 3	18 and Older	\$35.00
Acupuncture	September 24	September 20	16 and Older	\$5.00
KC Chief’s Tickets	Oct 20, 27, Nov 24	2 weeks in advance	Any	\$35/ticket
Women’s Basketball	October 23	October 11	18 and Older	\$350/team

Additional program information can be found by visiting www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs_activities/.

17th Annual Halloween Boo Bash

Gardner Parks and Recreation is holding its 17th Annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park on October 29th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Join us for an evening of ghastly games, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes, a hayrack ride through the trails and much, much more. \$3 wristbands for kids ages 2 to 12 gets you unlimited access to all the games and activities and a chance to win some amazing prizes. See you at the party! **Wristbands will be sold in advance at City Hall from October 14th to October 29th at 4:00 PM.**

In case of inclement weather, this event will be postponed to Wednesday, October 30th. A decision will be made by noon and the weather hotline will be updated at (913)543-5305.





City of Gardner
120 E. Main Street
Gardner, Kansas

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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

Call 913-856-4447 to schedule a tour.

Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)



September and October will feature a Military Tribute & Exhibit at the Museum and the Olathe Naval Air Station Exhibit at the Bray House.

USO Show

Saturday, September 28th

3:00 - Presentation of colors

4:00 - Veterans recognition

Dusk - Flag retirement ceremony

Free pie will be available while supplies last!

Gardner Cemetery Walk

Thursday, September 5th and Saturday, September 7th

Visit the Gardner Historical Museum's NEW website at www.gardnerhistoricalmuseum.com for more information.

Grand Star Elementary Open House

Gardner Edgerton USD 231 welcomes you to Timberwolves Territory with a Ribbon Cutting and Community Open House for Grand Star Elementary!

Thursday, September 19

6:00 to 7:30 PM

401 E. Grand St.

This event is open to the public.



New at the Gardner Library this Fall



Help us celebrate 75 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, and be sure to check-out a Caldecott Medal winner while you are there!

Visit the Gardner Library or www.jocolibrary.org to learn more.

Trained to Protect, But So Much More

School Resource Officers (SROs) Anthony Garcia and Ryan Fulks were recently featured in the Summer 2013 edition of the *Gardner Edgerton Horizon*.

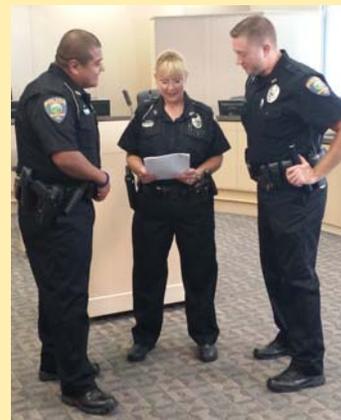
Eighteen years ago, USD 231 in partnership with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and Gardner Police Department, assigned a police officer to the Gardner Edgerton School District. As a small community, it was an idea ahead of its time.

Today, the Gardner Edgerton SRO program consists of two, well-trained Gardner police officers who work with the district administrators and students at every level from elementary to high school. Officer Garcia is assigned to the high school while Officer Fulks travels the two middle schools, and both share the responsibility at the elementary level when needed.

The two officers share many important roles. They act as liaison between the police, fire and social services departments; conduct drills; serve as consultants to administrators and staff; serve on the District Crisis Team; provide a highly visible law enforcement presence to students; and most of all, create a safe environment in all USD 231 school communities.

Officer Fulks, a 13-year police veteran, says it is all about relationship building. "Building a positive relationship with the administration and students, and the understanding of each other's role, is crucial to the success of our job," he said.

"In addition, students understand our position in the schools and respect our presence. They know we are all working together for the benefit of everyone."



To view the full article, visit www.usd231.com

Pictured above, from left to right: SRO Anthony Garcia; Public Information Officer Ilena Spalding; SRO Ryan Fulks

Do You "Like" the City of Gardner



The City of Gardner has launched a new and improved Facebook page! Using your smartphone, scan the QR code (located to the left) to be added as a fan of **City of Gardner, KS Government**. The page serves as a tool to keep residents up-to-date on City events, projects, meetings and more!