

INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community
July—August 2010

Another Difficult Budget Process faces the City Council

On Monday, June 28th, the City Council began a series of meetings that will extend until early August to plan the 2011 Budget. The Council faces tough decisions regarding property taxes in light of delinquencies on payment of property taxes in several business districts. The City uses the property taxes generated from these areas to pay for debt that was issued to put in roads and utility infrastructure for the business districts. The debt cannot be deferred, and therefore will have to be paid. To learn more visit www.gardnerkansas.gov.



Prior to the loss of tax revenues from those new business districts, the City was facing problems in its General Fund that pays for services such as parks, police, fire and streets maintenance. After much consideration, on May 6th, the City Council determined that it needed to lay off six employees. These employees were chosen from the Community Development Department which had been experiencing slower activity due to decreased construction and development activities. Staffing in the area went from nine full time employees to just three. Community Development is responsible for new development, construction permitting, and code enforcement for things such as signs and weeds. The Council is asking residents to be patient with staff in this area as they take on a significant workload due to the loss of six of their team members.

The City of Gardner invites you to provide thoughts, comments, or questions for consideration during discussions of the 2011 budget. Please email those comments to mmundt@gardnerkansas.gov, or email the City Council by going to www.gardnerkansas.gov. The website also contains a comprehensive and up to date listing of all meetings for the 2011 budget. Additionally on July 10th, the Mayor will host a Town Hall Meeting on the Budget at 10 a.m. at City Hall.

Public Works is Seeking your help for Safety in Work Zones

It is the middle of construction season, and Gardner has just finished celebrating National Safety month and its safety record on the job. City of Gardner employees are now requesting your assistance to promote safety in Gardner work zones throughout the year. Exercise caution, slow down, put down your cell phones, and be aware of construction workers. Work zone safety is a growing roadway safety concern. In 2008, there were 720 work zone fatalities; this figure represents 2% of all roadway fatalities for the year. Over four out of every five work zone fatalities were motorists. In addition, there are over 40,000 injuries in work zones.

City employees and their families thank you for your efforts to keep our community's work zone safe for everyone!

Local Refuse Hauler Announces Plans to Start Curbside Recycling in July

Beginning in July, Gardner area residents are able to sign up for \$5 per month curbside recycling through Gardner Disposal by calling 913-856-3851. This service will allow the community to recycle aluminum, plastics (1-7), flattened cardboard, newspaper, paper, and steel cans. One 18-gallon recycle container will be supplied to those that call to sign up for service at no additional charge. However, recycling is not limited to the 18 gallon recycling container, other options are available at no cost or for a small monthly fee. To learn more about this new service visit www.gardnerdisposalservice.com.

The last day for Saturday drop off service is June 26th, 2010. Curbside recycling is replacing this service. However, glass drop off will continue at the same location.



City Earns Praise for Two Different Fiscal Reporting Publications

The City received its *first* Distinguished Budget award for the 2010 Budget. The award represents a significant achievement by the City. The budget award reflects the commitment of the Governing Body and Staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, an operations guide, and as a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.



The City also received recognition for excellence in financial reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Statement or CAFR. This is the 5th year the City has received this award for going beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.



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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,

As we move through these hot and humid days, I think of the lyrics of Nat King Cole, "Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, you'll wish that summer could always be here."

Our summer kicked off this year with the Kansas City Hot Air Balloon Invitational. This is the second year for the event, but the first year in Gardner. Before the event, the organizers were not sure how well attended it would be. All involved were pleasantly surprised. We had our own traffic jam here in Gardner with the evening launches and night glows gave us estimates of 30,000 visitors over the weekend. We had lots of out of town guests who had high praise for Celebration Park. It was a great success; it let Gardner shine and we are already thinking about ways to manage next year should they decide to return.

Gardner also excelled on June 12. A big tip of the hat to the Festival on the Trails committee for a great day. It was touch and go in the morning with some heavy downpours, but the sun came out in the afternoon. Families began trickling in, and the day was capped off with two great bands playing to a fantastic crowd Saturday night. A special thanks to the sponsors and to the volunteers who made this year's festival a great success.

There are several significant transportation projects in the works this summer. The Moonlight and Main expansion is in full swing. Your patience is needed to see this through, but once completed it will make a difference in traffic flow at our busiest intersection. Please make an extra effort to support the businesses in that area to help them through as well.

The 56/Old 56 Highway intersection will be completed. This will allow continuous flow of west bound traffic while providing signalized control of turns to and from Old 56.

The final big project is the resurfacing of Madison. In order to complete the project before the fair, the road has to be shut down. This should only be a 5-week inconvenience.

There is plenty of summer left to enjoy. Make sure you celebrate our nation's independence with the annual fireworks display at the high school, and be sure to attend the Johnson County Fair Aug 2-7.

May the rest of your "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" be safe and enjoyable.

Sincerely,
David C. Drovetta, Mayor

Calendar of Meetings and City Hall Closures

July	5	City Hall Closed in observance of Independence Day
July	6	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
July	10	Town Hall Meeting—10 AM
July	12	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM Electric Utility Work Session—7:00 PM
July	19	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
July	27	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM
Aug	2	City Council Meeting- 7:00 PM
Aug	5	Electric Utility Board Meeting—7:00 PM
Aug	9	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM Electric Utility Work Session—7:00 PM
Aug	24	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM

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

Brian Broxterman, Council Member
913-884-8180 (Home)
bbroxterman@gardnerkansas.gov

Steve Hale, Vice President
913-856-7028 (Home)
shale@gardnerkansas.gov

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

Dan Newburg, Council Member
913-856-8053 (Home)
dnewburg@gardnerkansas.gov

Todd Winters, President
913-271-3587 (Home)
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov

City Management
City Administrator
Stewart Fairburn
sfairburn@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-0939

Assistant City Administrator/
Director Community Development
Melissa Mundt
mmundt@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-0939

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

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

Public Safety Director
Ken Francis
kfrancis@gardnerkansas.gov
913-856-7312

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

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

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

Items of Note and Project Updates

State Wide Smoking Ban Takes Effect July 1

On July 1, 2010, smoking is prohibited in most of the following indoor locations in Kansas:

- Public Places
 - Place of Employment
 - Restaurants
 - Bars
 - Within 10 feet of any doorway, open window or air intake where smoking is prohibited.
- Businesses will be required to post signs stating that smoking is prohibited by State law.



If you have thoughts about quitting, you can contact Kansas Tobacco Quitline, and a counselor will work with you to create your own plan to quit during free one-on-one phone calls. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Pet Owners Help Your Fellow Residents Enjoy Our Parks

Pets must be kept on a leash in the City when outside a fenced yard, including in recreation areas in the parks and along the Greenway. Please be sure to clean up after your pet. Disposal bags are located along the Gardner Greenway to assist you in your efforts to provide clean and quality spaces for both humans and pets to enjoy.



Eric Schultz Appointed to Electric Utility Board

On June 7, 2010, the Gardner City Council voted to appoint Eric Schultz to the Electric Utility Board. He is filling a

vacancy left by Brian Broxterman, who was recently appointed to the City Council by Mayor Drovetta. Schultz' term expires February 1, 2011.



Schultz has over 17 years experience in the electric utility industry. He has worked on public and private projects throughout his career, both domestically and internationally. He has been involved in various utility projects including generation start-ups, substation design and the implementation of SCADA automation systems.

Schultz has served our community previously on the City Council and Planning Commission and has been a volunteer for Festival on the Trails.

Have you been Mowing Regularly?

The City of Gardner would like to remind all residents and business owners there are restrictions on the maximum height of grass. The code states that grass and weeds shall not exceed 8" and noxious weeds are not permitted at any height.



City staff will send out a notice to the owner if any property is found to be in violation of the maximum height requirement. Once a notice is sent the property owner has Ten (10) days to mow the property or city staff will have the property mowed / abated. If the property is found to be in violation again during the same calendar year the City will have the property mowed without sending a new notice. The average cost for the city to abate a property is \$95.

Upcoming Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

- Gardner Aquatic Center begins adjusted hours after August 11, 2010. It will be open weekends only from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day.
- 9th Annual DANISCO Prairie Punisher Duathlon will be held on July 24, 2010 at Celebration Park. (The event is USAT sanctioned.) The event also features a separate 5K Run and a 5K Walk. Registration deadline is July 17, 2010. To register visit www.active.com.
- Check out Gardner Parks and Recreation website at www.gardnerkansas.gov for detailed information for these and more Fall Activities:

Youth Program:	Registration Deadline:	Age/Grade:	Costs:
Playgroup at Celebration Park	July 22 nd	Age 0-8	Free
Playgroup at Cornerstone Park	July 30 th	Age 0-8	\$5
Soccer (fall)	July 23 rd	Age 4-16	\$60
Competitive Baseball (fall)	July 30 th	U8,U10,U12,U14	\$650 team
Micro Soccer (fall)	August 6 th	Age 3-4	\$50
Hunter Safety	August 17 th , 31 st	Age 11-Up	\$10
Tennis Lessons	August 20 th	Age 6-12	\$35
Flag Football	September 3 rd	Grade 1-8	\$50
Cheerleading	September 3 rd	Grade K-6	\$50/\$30
Volleyball	September 3 rd	Grade 3-6	\$50



Adult Programs	Registration Deadline:	Age/Grade:	Costs:
Digital Photography	July 2 nd	16 & Up	\$15
Ju Jitsu	Monthly	16 & Up	\$50, \$85, \$160
Fall Softball (Mens)	August 27 th	18 & Up	\$400 team
Fall Softball (Co-Rec)	August 27 th	18 & Up	\$400 team
Women's Volleyball	August 27 th	18 & Up	\$150 team
HAMS Radio Training	August 27 th	Any	\$35
Martial Arts (Family/Youth)	September 17 th	5 & Up	\$35-\$50



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Gardner, Kansas

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**August 2nd -7th , 2010
Johnson County Fair Grounds
Gardner, Kansas**

“Wild ‘N Woolly”
at the Johnson County Fair

www.jocokansasfair.com for Schedule of Fair Events

Here are a few highlights:

- Monday, August 2nd –Youth Rodeo
- Tuesday, August 3rd – Family Fun Night
- Wednesday, August 4th – Firefighter and Police Demonstrations
- Thursday, August 5th – Amateur Flat Track Races
- Friday, August 6th – Bull Blast and Barrel Racing
- Saturday, August 7th –Fair Parade in Downtown Gardner and Demolition Derby

Town Hall Meeting Hosted By Mayor Drovetta

On Saturday, July 10th at 10 a.m. at Gardner City Hall, the Mayor will host an informal Town Hall Meeting on the Budget for 2011. Everyone is welcome to come ask questions about the City’s budget and operations. See you there!



As in years past, the Gardner Dept. of Public Safety would like to inform the citizens of our community on rules and regulations regarding fireworks so that everyone can enjoy the 4th of July Holiday.

Fireworks are strictly prohibited within the City Limits of Gardner. Gardner Ordinance 2331 Subsections 10.30 and 10.31 prohibits the discharge and sale of fireworks within our community.

The Gardner Public Safety Department will have a **ZERO TOLERANCE**, and fireworks will be confiscated and possible citations may be issued.

A professional fireworks display will occur on July 4th, 2010 at dusk (around 9:30PM) at the Gardner Edgerton High School, 425 N. Waverly Road. Please let’s all work to be safe and make our Fourth of July celebration an event for all to enjoy!!

Summer Means Theatre in Gardner

The Gardner Community Theatre has a packed lineup of fun for the whole family this summer. From camps to productions, they have it all. To learn more about the variety of activities visit www.gardnercommunitytheatre.org.

This summer’s production is **Annie**. Tickets are available at Price Chopper for \$7 or \$8 at the door. Dates for the performances are:

- July 9 at 7:00PM
- July 10 at 7:00PM
- July 11 at 2:00PM

- July 16 at 7:00PM
- July 17 at 7:00PM
- July 18 at 2:00PM



Gardner Historical Museum Upcoming Special Exhibits

August –Tribute to Mildred (Schulz) Steed, with a showing of her quilts, quilt wall-hangings and projects, plus memorabilia from her years with The Gardner Needle Club.

There will be live demonstrations of quilt finishing on Friday, August 6th, 4-7pm and Saturday, August 7th, before & after the Johnson County Fair Parade. Donations will be taken for an opportunity to win a “snuggle-size” quilt. (Drawing after Labor Day.)

For Special tours, call: 913-856-4447
Admission is FREE (donations are appreciated)
www.gardnerhistorymuseum.org

Stake Your Claim on the Trail

This fundraising campaign is an opportunity to lend a helping hand. Our goal is to raise \$115,000 to pay off our mortgage (we still have \$92,000 to go). It is designed to help celebrate ancestry, family legacies, or to honor a special person or group. By purchasing a portion of the museum in the name of your family or group, you have the chance to give back to those who came before and remind those still to come of their legacy and this area’s rich history. We have recently added “*The Next Step*” to this campaign to include each step of the inside staircase, the chicken house and the possibility of future memorial gardens. As part of this next step, we have also reduced the cost of several portions of the Museum fundraising costs.

