



INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community
November–December 2010

Visioning Process Begins for City Council

On October 9th, the City Council began the work to develop a vision and mission statement for the City as well as determining core values and strategic goals to help guide the community for the next ten years. The Council's goal is to use these elements to guide decisions, especially as part of the budgetary process and as it relates to economic development. Discussion will continue on November 8th at the City Council Work Session. The completed vision, mission, core values and strategic goals are planned for beginning of 2011.



City of Gardner Recognized for Performance Management Successes

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) presented the City of Gardner the Certificate of Achievement for superior performance management efforts from the ICMA Center for Performance Measurement™ (CPM) at its annual conference in October. Gardner is among eight jurisdictions nationally receiving such an honor this year.

"The City implemented its performance measurement program to tell us what we are doing well and what we need to improve," said Assistant City Administrator, Melissa Mundt. "This award signals that our program as designed and implemented will be an effective tool to help us continuously improve."

"The certificate program is one of the pillars of CPM," says Michael Lawson, director of CPM. "Through our certificate program, local governments are recognized for their exceptional commitment to continuous learning and improvement. The criteria on which the certificates are based serve as a checklist of effective, results-oriented management practices."

The certificate program assesses a local government's performance management program and encourages analysis of results by comparing to peers and gauging performance over time. Performance management aids in cost reduction, program prioritization, and quality improvement. It also encourages accountability and transparency.

Gardner Public Safety to Transfer Fire Service to Johnson County Fire District No. 1

On October 18th, the City Council approved an agreement with Johnson County Fire District No.1 to provide all fire services to the City of Gardner via contract. The Fire District will be taking over all fire operations on or before January 1, 2011. After several months of discussion between the City Council and Fire District No.1 Board, an agreement was approved that will transfer City of Gardner Fire Station #2 on 183rd Street along with fire equipment and vehicles. Fire District No.1 will also be hiring several Gardner Public Safety officers that specialized in fire operations as part of the agreement. The agreement is for an initial three year term, at which time both parties have agreed to a study to determine if the contractual arrangement will continue or formally consolidate to the Fire District.



Residents and businesses will not be impacted by the change in service provider due to a prior and continued positive working relationship between the City of Gardner and Johnson County Fire District No. 1.

20th Annual Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Receives A Grand Donation

The 20th Anniversary of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund began its season with a special gift from Capitol Federal Bank which recently opened a new location inside the Price Chopper Store in Gardner, KS. The Capitol Federal Foundation has chosen to make a financial commitment up to \$10,000 to match dollar-for-dollar every donation made to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund this year.

The Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund is established to provide resources for those families in the Gardner community who are facing financial challenges in the holiday season and throughout the year.

"This generous gift from Capitol Federal will ensure we reach our goal and allow us to provide the necessary resources for many families this year," said Drovetta. "To have a new business come into our community and demonstrate their commitment to supporting our local residents at this level is truly an overwhelming display of generosity and belief in the quality of our community."

To make a gift to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, and be eligible to double the impact of your gift through the dollar-for-dollar match from Capitol Federal, drop off your donation at City Hall, the Gardner Multi-Services Center, or the Gardner Area Chamber of Commerce. Each donation is tax-deductible, so please make checks payable to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. See pg. 4 for more information.

Inside This Issue

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Mayor's Message | | Pg 2 |
| Contact Us | | Pg 2 |
| Upcoming Events | | Pg 2-3 |
| Updates | | Pg 3 |
| Community Info | | Pg 4 |

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,

Much has transpired in our community since our last newsletter including a nationally televised football game at our district athletic complex. It was a wonderful night seeing our community rally around our Trailblazers.

Another notable event was the announcement from BNSF that they intend to proceed with development of their facility sometime next year, perhaps as soon as the weather breaks in the spring. While the facility is not within our corporate city limits, our Council is committed to creating benefit for our community from its development. We are also committed to working hard to manage the impact of the change that will result from the commercial growth spurred by this project.

Our Council met on a Saturday, October 9th, to begin the process of establishing a vision for our community. We made great progress and have a draft that is built around assuring an affordable place to live and raise a family. As a Council we are committed to having a city with a great sense of community, outstanding recreational amenities, quality schools, diverse housing choices, and a positive business climate. I look forward to having this vision process finalized and hopefully featured in our next newsletter.

Finally, it is time again for Christmas in the Park. I am especially excited this year since it is the 20th anniversary of this great event. It is also the official kick off of the Christmas for Kids and Mayor's Christmas Tree fund even though much is happening already. Our newest corporate citizen, Capitol Federal, has generously pledged \$10,000 in matching funds to all donations to the Christmas Tree fund this year. That could mean \$20,000 in our 20th year - "20 for 20". This is a great program since it provides a fun Christmas for children in need, and the fund supports our neediest citizens throughout the year with utility and rent assistance.

As we move into the Holiday Season, I wish happiness and success for you and yours, and I hope you come out and celebrate at Christmas in the Park on November 29.

Sincerely,

David C. Drovetta, Mayor

Calendar of Meetings and City Hall Closures

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|--|
| Nov | 4 | Electric Utility Board Meeting—Cancelled |
| Nov | 8 | City Council Work Session—6:30 PM |
| Nov | 11 | City Hall Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day |
| Nov | 15 | City Council Meeting—7:00 PM Electric Utility Board Special Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Nov | 23 | Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Nov | 25 & 26 | City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving |
| Dec | 2 | Electric Utility Board Meeting |
| Dec | 6 | City Council Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Dec | 13 | City Council Work Session - 6:30 PM |
| Dec | 14 | Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Dec | 16 | Electric Utility Work Session—7:00 PM |
| Dec | 20 | City Council Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Dec | 23 & 24 | City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday |
| Dec | 31 | City Hall Closed in Observance of New Years Holiday |

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

Items of Note and Project Updates

Moonlight Road Update

Favorable weather in September and October contributed to great progress on the Moonlight Road construction project. The eastern two lanes were completed the first week of September. Traffic was switched over to these lanes so that the contractor could begin work on the two western lanes. Grading, curb and gutter, and the first two lifts of asphalt have been constructed on the western lanes from Madison Street north to 166th Street. The contractor plans to begin laying asphalt on the south side of Madison Street by the beginning of November and begin working on Moonlight Road south of US 56 and the railroad crossing.

The contractor completed the two eastern lanes south of US 56, and BNSF has installed the signal and temporary railroad crossing. Once the project is completed, BNSF plans to raise the railroad crossing to match the new pavement to eliminate roughness as vehicles drive over the railroad crossing.

The original schedule included completion of the project by the end of November 2010. Due to a utility conflict, the

contractor has requested that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) consider a revised completion date since KDOT is the project administrator. Road work would be completed by the end of 2010, and completion of all related site work by the end of 2010, or no later than Spring 2011 if inclement weather occurs.

The City of Gardner appreciates your patience along Moonlight Road as construction nears completion.

BNSF Intermodal Update

On Monday, October 18th, BNSF announced contractors for construction of the 400 plus acre KC Logistics Hub. These contractors will be hiring over 600 employees, many of which will be hired locally. The two contractors chosen by BNSF are T.J. Lambrecht Construction and Walsh Construction based out of Illinois. BNSF has not yet issued a notice to start construction, but has stated that it anticipates doing so by the end of 2010. BNSF will receive a \$35 million grant from the State of Kansas if it begins construction on the site prior to the end of 2010.

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

| Youth Programs: | Date: | Registration Deadline: | Age/Grade: | Costs: |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Snow Sculpture Contest | Starts November 1 | March 31 | Any | Free |
| Christmas in the Park | November 29 | N/A | All | Free |
| Santa's Workshop | December 5, 12 & 19 | N/A | All | Free |
| Candy Cane Hunt | December 18 | December 15 | 2 - 10 years | \$3.00 |
| Jingle Bell Shop | December 18 | December 11 | 3 - 12 years | 1 can of food + cost of gift item |
| Adult Programs: | | | | |
| Just Once Piano | November 12 | November 5 | Adult | \$25-class |
| Men's Winter Basketball | Starts January | January 7 th | 18 & Up | \$350 team |
| Ju Jitsu | On Going | Anytime | 16 & Up | \$50-\$160 |
| Martial Arts (Family) | Starts January 9 | January 7 th | 5 & Older | \$35-\$50 |



Snow Removal Guidelines You Should Know for the Winter!

- | | |
|---|---|
| Priority 1 Main thoroughfares, bridges and secondary thoroughfares and traffic routes to schools | Plowed continuously during snowfall. |
| Priority 2 Collector and industrial commercial streets | Plowed after Priority 1 is completed. |
| Priority 3 Residential streets and Cul-de-sacs | Plowed after snowfall and after Priority 1 and Priority 2 streets are cleared. If ice or only light snow occurs (less than 2"), and plowing is not required, City trucks will spread salt and sand only. |

Additional Snow Removal Policy:

- Private streets are maintained by applicable property owners.
- City of Gardner does not plow sidewalks or driveways unless part of city-owned property.
- Driveways may be blocked during snow removal operations; the City will try to minimize this as much as possible. However, property owners are responsible for clearing their driveways.
- City equipment will not be used to conduct privately-owned vehicle recovery operations.

Please remember to move your vehicles from City streets, when possible, to make plowing easier and more effective for you!

Reporting a Snow and Ice Problem

To report snow and ice problems: e-mail rosse@gardnerkansas.gov or call the Street Maintenance Division, 913-856-0922, with a description, location of the problem and any other pertinent information. Regular business hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Visit http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/snow_ice_removal/.





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20th Annual "Christmas in the Park"

Christmas in the Park holiday event kicks off with the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Monday, November 29, 2010 at 7 p.m. in Cornerstone Park. Seasonal music will be performed by area school children. The event will include a Christmas time message from Mayor Dave Drovetta as well as a visit from Santa himself.



Santa's Workshop

A lucky individual will be selected to flip the switch that turns on thousands of beautiful lights throughout Cornerstone. To cap the festivities, Santa's Workshop will open to all boys and girls who wish to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves in action! See page 3 of this newsletter for details on dates and times.

2010 Mayor's "Christmas For Children"

The Mayor's Christmas for Children project had a wonderful year in 2009, due to the generosity of the many Gardner residents and businesses that became adopters and volunteers who support the program. Those that would like to participate as an adopter in 2010 may do so by contacting Tana Johnson at 913-856-0930 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or you may email Margaret Drovetta at drovettam@yahoo.com. In the email indicate the number of children you are interested in adopting for the holiday season. Food donations will not be necessary this year. The City of Gardner will be working with local stores to provide a gift card for food items to each family of the children adopted. After the application process is completed in November, volunteers will contact you with the specific information for children you have requested.



If you prefer to make a cash donation, checks should be made payable to the Mayor's Christmas for Children Fund and mailed to Gardner City Hall at 120 E. Main, Gardner, KS 66030. If you have any questions about the Mayor's Christmas for Children, call 913-856-0939 or 913-856-6463 for assistance.



Performances will be held at Wheatridge Middle School
318 E. Washington Street Gardner, KS 66030
December 4 at 7:00PM
December 5 at 2:00PM
December 11 at 2:00PM and 7:00PM
December 12 at 2:00PM

Safety Tips for Holiday Shopping from Public Safety



Gardner Public Safety would like to offer some suggestions and safety tips to use while doing holiday shopping.

- At all times, be aware of your surroundings. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Walk with authority.
- Shop during daylight hours if at all possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Always park where there is plenty of light, not only around your vehicle, but also from your car to the store entrance. Try to park your vehicle as close to the entrance/exit as possible.
- Once you have parked your car, familiarize yourself with its location so you can find it without delay.
- Don't hesitate to ask for a security escort if you feel unsafe or have many packages.
- Have your keys in your hand before you go to your vehicle. Use the car alarm on your key fob if you are approached by a stranger; this may scare them away.
- Keep your vehicle locked while you are shopping, and once you enter your vehicle lock the doors.
- Keep all packages in the truck or concealed inside your vehicle so that they don't become easy targets for criminals!
- If a weapon is involved, don't resist. It is not worth your life!