



INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

January-February 2011



Gardner Joins Take Charge Challenge – Let's Go 66030!

The City of Gardner, in partnership with the Climate and Energy Project and the Kansas Office of Energy, is fired up and is asking you to join the enthusiasm about the Take Charge Challenge to save on energy use in Gardner and the 66030 zip code.

This is a friendly challenge between the cities of Gardner, Ottawa, Paola and Baldwin City starting January 1 through October 2011. The City is working on plans to get everyone involved in saving energy money and helping the environment get a little greener! The City has received a grant to help and will be using the funds to purchase CFL light bulbs to hand out at community events as well as other energy saving devices. If Gardner wins, it will receive a \$100,000 prize to apply to a large energy saving project for the community that comes from the American Recovery and Reinvest Act of 2009!!

The City is asking you to think about how you can help in this effort... organize a project within the neighborhood or at your local business, work with the local boy or girl scout troop, ask how the church can participate in saving energy, and then do something fun to start saving. Once the project has been put together, there will be a place to log the efforts and to help Gardner win the Take Charge Challenge! So strike up that Gardner pride and the "can do" spirit to see how much energy Gardner can save and help the environment too. Groups can get credit for Gardner by organizing events that promote energy saving ideas and concepts to share with others in the community, not just for the actual savings from projects.

Ever considered an energy audit of your home or business? Well, there are reduced costs for the audit through federal funding if you are participating in Gardner's Take Charge Challenge within the 66030 zip code. Visit www.encykansas.com to learn about this great deal on a home energy audit that will run through September 2011 for Gardner participants. For only \$100, you will receive a thorough audit with action steps prioritizing the biggest savings for your hard earned dollars. Then track your participation, and help Gardner show how it is kicking the energy monster out of town. Visit www.takechargekansas.org to log your CFL light bulb conversions! Or visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner_green for links many great energy saving websites.

Looking Back on 2010 Accomplishments and Ahead to 2011

Despite difficult economic times, the City was able to focus on several large and important transportation projects in 2010 and has lined up important needed work for 2011.

- With funds from the federal governments American Resources and Reinvestment Program of 2009, Old 56 Hwy and 56 Hwy intersection was upgraded to improve the safety of that intersection.
- With funds from Johnson County CARS program, the City was able to overlay Madison St. east of Center St. and improve the quality of the roadway surface.
- The City also completed restriping Center St. to help improve turning sight distance at the Madison St. intersection.
- At 175th St. and Waverly Rd., the City upgraded the intersection to a four way stop to improve traffic safety.

In addition to transportation related projects in 2010, the City and the Fire District reached an agreement to transfer fire service solely to the district. Gardner no longer has a Public Safety Department, it now has a Police Department. Fire services are now provided by Fire District No. 1.

In 2011, the City will focus on these projects:

- The City will improve 183rd Street east of Center St. with funds from Johnson County CARS program.

(Continued on page 4)

New Street Parking Regulations Go Into Effect

After December 10, 2010, **only** passenger cars, passenger vans, pickup trucks, and motorcycles may park on public residential streets within the City of Gardner. All other vehicles are allowed to park on residential streets only when necessary for loading and unloading, when performing a service, or when used in connection with construction or maintenance authorized by the City or upon property within the block that vehicle is parked.



Prior to the adoption of this ordinance, the Municipal Code did not restrict the types of vehicles that could be parked on public residential streets except as covered by

(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue

Mayor's Message	.....	Pg 2
Contact Us	.....	Pg 2
Upcoming Events	.....	Pg 2
Updates and Projects	.....	Pg 3-4
Parks & Rec. Programs	.....	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,

We leave 2010 with a sense of community pride for an extraordinary group of young men who, through their efforts on the field of play, thrust our town into the national spotlight. We leave 2010 with gratitude for the generosity of our area residents and businesses who purchased gifts which ensured a happy Christmas for over 200 children who live in our school district. You also gave over \$30,000 to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund which will continue to help those less fortunate throughout the year. We leave 2010 with a broken heart for three children lost to tragic accidents and saw our community rise up with overwhelming compassion for those whose grief we cannot scarcely imagine. 2010 demonstrated through its challenges and opportunities that we live and work in a truly warm and caring community.

It's hard to believe another year is just beginning. I am excited for our new year. The economy is slowly beginning to thaw; projects are beginning, and more will follow. Our Council is committed to working so that Gardner is ready to reap the benefits from an improving economy. We have developed a vision and mission for our City from which we will build strategies to guide us to a successful future.

Something fun and beneficial will begin in 2011. We will be taking part in the Take Charge Challenge in which we will be competing with Ottawa, Paola and Baldwin for a \$100,000 energy grant. We will be working to increase the energy efficiency of our homes, businesses and City facilities. A group of stakeholders made up of citizens, and business and school representatives will be leading this effort.

We will be electing three City Council members in April. I encourage everyone to become informed and exercise your right to vote.

It was a privilege to serve as your Mayor this past year. I am looking forward to 2011 with confidence and optimism for our wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Calendar of Meetings*

Jan.	3	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Jan.	6	Electric Utility Board Meeting—7:00 PM
Jan.	10	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM
Jan.	17	City Hall Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Day
Jan.	18	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM Electric Utility Board Work Session—7:00 PM
Jan.	25	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb.	3	Electric Utility Board Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb.	7	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb.	14	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM
Feb.	21	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM Electric Utility Board Work Session—7:00 PM
Feb.	22	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/
Community Development Director
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

Police Chief
Ken Francis
kfrancis@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

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

(Continued from page 1)

Truck Route regulations. However, existing Municipal Code regulates the types of vehicles that can be parked on private residential properties. Parking of vehicles in excess of one ton on private residential properties is prohibited and recreational vehicles cannot be parked in residential driveways except for temporary periods for loading and unloading.

The Gardner Police Department will issue warnings for violations for 30 days. After that time, violations will be subject to the fine schedule in the ordinance.

The parking restrictions of this ordinance are similar to those adopted by other cities within the Metro Area. The purpose of the ordinance is to improve safety by limiting the size of vehicles that can be parked within residential areas.

For more information on [this ordinance](#), please call the Gardner Police Department at 913-856-7312 or the Public Works Department at 913-856-0914.

Storage Container Regulations Passed

With the upcoming construction of the intermodal facility and growing use of residential and commercial storage containers, the City Council has passed regulations for use and placement of storage containers throughout Gardner. If you are considering using "PODS" or other similar services for storing items for short-term or long-term storage **at your home**, you will need to apply for a free permit. These permits are good for an initial two week period. These units must be placed on a paved surface and off of the street. Additionally,

they cannot block the sight line for drivers or interfere with traffic safety. To apply for a permit, you can visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/build_permits

New Design Standards Approved

In December, the City Council with support from the Planning Commission approved new design guidelines for development and redevelopment in the City. These new standards will help guide the process for new construction and renovations. The goal of the new standards is to promote quality building, create vibrant commercial and industrial areas, and foster visual and physical continuity while encouraging diversity of developments. It is also set up to encourage unique streetscapes and soften the impact of the automobile over time. The City will be working with the development community to implement these new regulations. The Design Standards are available at www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner%20design_standards.

Moonlight Road Project Nears Completion

After many months of work, Moonlight Road traffic has been opened to the new lanes. Work to complete the project will occur until late Spring 2011. Construction of sidewalks, completion of driveway entrances, retaining walls, tree plantings, and work by BNSF to lower the tracks and smooth the crossing are all scheduled to occur this Winter and Spring of 2011.

2011 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Gardner Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for seasonal positions for the 2011 Spring and Summer season. Applications will be accepted through February 4, 2011. For further information, call the Gardner Parks and Recreation Department at 913-856-0936. Applications forms can be found online at www.gardnerkansas.gov or at Gardner City Hall. Return completed applications to City Hall, attn: Gardner Parks and Recreation Department. Positions Include:

- Aquatics Facility Manager
- Concession Workers
- Aquatic Facility Maintenance Staff
- Park Maintenance Staff
- Scorekeepers
- Aquatics Facility Assistant Manager
- Lifeguards
- Swimming Lesson Instructors
- Facility Supervisors
- Umpires
- Swimming Lesson Coordinator
- Aquatics Facility Attendants
- Concessions Manager
- Soccer Officials

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events:

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

Youth Programs:	Date:	Registration Deadline:	Age/Grade:	Costs:
Snow Sculpture Contest	November 1	March 31	Any	Free
Tumbling Tots	Jan 6 - Feb 24	December 30	3 - 6 years	\$65
Fairy Princess Dance	Jan 6 - Feb 24	December 30	3 - 6 years	\$65
Barbie Jazz Dance	Jan 6 - Feb 24	December 30	6 - 10 years	\$65
Daddy Daughter Ball	February 4	January 21	5 - 12 years	\$55 per couple
Wii Bowling Tourney	February 12	February 7	5 - 12 years	\$7
Little Valentines	February 14	February 1	3 - 6 years	\$7
Soccer	Starts Late March	February 18	K - 6 grade	\$60
Micro Soccer	Starts Late March	February 18	3-4 years	\$50
Adult / Family Programs:				
Fabulous Faux Painting	February 2	January 26	Adult	\$25, + \$33 supplies
Just Once Piano	February 16	February 9	Adult	\$25, + \$33 supplies
Midwest Baseball Tour	August 8-14	June 1	7 yrs. to Adult	\$900-\$825
Leaves, Lighthouses & Lobsters	October 15-22	July 15	Adult	\$2779 double/ occupancy



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Rate Changes Approved for Wastewater and Water

The City Council approved rate changes for water and wastewater at its December 6, 2010 meeting. For your usage in January 2011, wastewater rates will increase 8%, and water rates will increase 5%. These changes will be reflected in your statement starting February 2011. The following is a summary of the rate changes by utility:

Wastewater Rates

Wastewater rates will be increasing 8%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$9.45 to \$10.20. The usage charge will go from \$6.00 per thousand gallons to \$6.50 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$3.83 per month.

Water Rates

Water rates will be increasing 5%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$9.90 to \$10.40. The cost for the first 40,000 gallons of water will go from \$4.45 per thousand gallons to \$4.65 per thousand gallons. The average increase for a residential water customer is \$2.25 per month.

Electric Utility Board Member and Former City Council Member, Vern Pickert, Officially Retires

Vernon Pickert moved to Gardner in 1953. Pickert worked in various positions related to the electrical industry throughout the years and retired in 1994. However, Pickert did not really "retire". He instead chose to work in the community and serve the City of Gardner and its citizens in various capacities as a volunteer.

In his new career Pickert was a member of the City Council for 13 years, on the School Board for 8 years, on the Board of Zoning Appeals for 8 years and was a Volunteer Fireman for the City for 21 years. He is currently on the Electric Utility Board, having been selected by the Mayor and appointed by the Council in 2008.

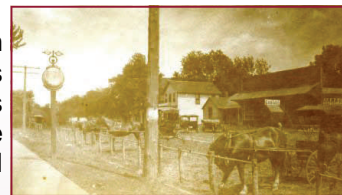
Pickert has recently decided to "retire" at the end of his term in January 2011. The City and Electric Board is recognizing Pickert for his public service commitment at their meeting on January 6th.

The City is proud to have worked with Vern Pickert in various capacities and very grateful for his giving attitude, not only to the City but to its residents. Throughout the years he has given up personal time to attend meetings and functions and to be an active participant in each and every one of these organizations.



Gardner Historical Museum

Until January 15th, the Museum will be open for private tours only. Staff will be *in and out*, as the Museum has purchased the **Bray House**, immediately behind the Museum at 207 W. Shawnee. The Museum will be using this time to clean, paint, repair, etc. and move our administration, research & archive offices to that location.



January & February -Kansas is 150 Years Old! The Museum will be partnering with the Gardner Branch of the Johnson County Library to celebrate the State's Sesquicentennial.

January -The Library will be exhibiting the spectacular mural, painted by local artist, Jamie Lavin, funded by the Johnson County Heritage Trust and owned by the Museum. It features a prairie sunset of Kansas magnitude, with painstakingly painted tiles attached, to create a timeline from the settlement of this area to 1959.

February-The Library will host the exhibit "First Women Trailblazers", originally shown at the Museum in May. Learn about many of the "first" women of Kansas & Gardner, who "blazed the trail" to open jobs, careers, positions of authority for women.



Gardner Goes Social –Join Us on Facebook and Twitter!

The City of Gardner has started its own Facebook and Twitter pages, since the last edition of Inside Gardner. To follow the City of Gardner on Facebook search "City of Gardner, Kansas" and on Twitter by typing in <http://twitter.com/GardnerKansas> into your web browser. The City will share updates on a regular bases through both of these sites. Additionally, the City will continue to provide up to date information on www.gardnerkansas.gov, the primary source of current information regarding the City.

(Continued from page 1)

- Use federal funds for a drainage improvement project at the Gardner Municipal Airport
- Repaint and conduct maintenance on the 183rd St. and Downtown water towers.
- Engineer Gardner lake spillway rehabilitation and prepare it for bidding
- Draft preliminary plans for the Kill Creek Wastewater treatment plant expansion.

The City ended 2010 with more home starts than 2009, which is a good sign for the local economy.