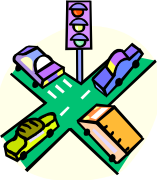




INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

March-April 2011



Gardner Receives Funding to Improve Center and Main Street Intersection

The Kansas Department of Transportation has selected the Center Street & Main Street Intersection project for funding through its Corridor Management Program. KDOT's share of the \$1,220,000 project will be \$870,000. The City will be responsible for the remaining \$350,000.

The City's Transportation Master Plan and the Kansas Department of Transportation's US-56 Corridor Study identified improvements to the Center Street and Main Street intersection to enhance safety and to increase its traffic capacity. A concept plan for the intersection was developed in the US-56 Corridor Study. This plan includes widening both US 56 and Center Street at the intersection to add dedicated turn lanes.

Construction of this project is planned to begin in early 2013. The City will begin the selection of a design engineer during the first half of 2011. Once a design engineer has been retained, the engineer and City staff will meet with property owners and the public to understand their issues and concerns. The designer will then develop preliminary design concepts that will attempt, where possible, to balance those concerns and issues with the traffic capacity and safety requirements for the project.

A meeting schedule for the project has not been established at this time. Please contact the Public Works Department at 913-856-0914 if you have questions or comments.



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 that will run from 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 free CFL light bulbs from the Take Charge Challenge grant and they are available at City Hall.** Stop by to pick up your free CFL light bulb today! Then log your light bulb switches at www.GardnerGreen.com.

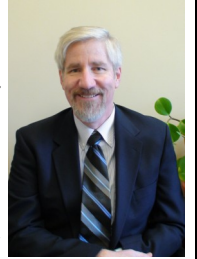
Are you part of a community group that would like to learn more about the Take Charge Challenge? Contact Melissa Mundt, Assistant City Administrator at 913-856-0939 or mmundt@gardnerkansas.gov to schedule a speaker for your community group to help them learn more about the Take Charge Challenge.

Ever considered an energy audit of your home or business? 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.GardnerGreen.com to learn about this great deal on a home energy audit that is a limited time offer. 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.GardnerGreen.com for links to energy saving websites. If Gardner wins the contest, it will receive a \$100,000 prize to apply to a large energy saving project for the community from the federal government!!



Gardner Bids Farewell as City Administrator Accepts New Position in Oklahoma

Gardner City Administrator Stewart Fairburn has tendered his resignation effective March 7, 2011, as he has accepted the position of City Manager for the City of Chickasha, Oklahoma.



Mr. Fairburn began as the Gardner City Administrator December, 2000, when the population was 9,400. He has overseen the growth of the City to about twice the size as when he began ten years ago. Major projects during this time to meet the growth demands of the area were: new Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant expansion, new Electric Substation, Fire Station, City Hall expansion, Center Street and Moonlight improvements, Celebration Park, Aquatics Center, Stone Creek Park and Winwood Park. There have also been several economic development projects achieved during this time, such as Midwest Commerce Center, Wal-Mart, and the New Century Business Park.

Regarding Fairburn's replacement, Mayor Drovetta stated, "The Governing Body will be instituting a search as soon as possible, but the replacement will be chosen by the new Governing Body after April's election. In the interim, Melissa Mundt, Assistant City Administrator will manage the day to day operations of the City."

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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,

Spring is a season of change and we will be seeing some change here in Gardner. Most notably, Stewart Fairburn our City Administrator has accepted a position in Chickasha, Oklahoma. Stewart has served our community well for the past 10 years. He has seen us through a period of unprecedented growth and challenge. We all wish him well and I for one will miss him. We will be conducting a search for his replacement and Melissa Mundt will be serving in the capacity of Administrator until a decision is made on a permanent replacement by the new Council.

Speaking of a new Council, we will be seating three new Council Members following the April election. You are all well aware of the importance of this process and how critical it is that we elect thoughtful, open-minded and objective leaders. It is important that you exercise your duty as voters to assure that we have the best possible representation in our governing body. I encourage all of you to contact and find out as much as you can about the 8 candidates vying for the three open positions before you cast your votes.

KDOT has approved funding for the Main and Center expansion. We will be identifying an engineering firm to create the design for the improvement of the intersection. After Main and Moonlight, this intersection was identified by us, the residents, as the next needed improvement. This project will impact property owners along Main and Center so it will be imperative that we seek their input during the design phase. Once we have selected an engineering firm, we will be hosting public meetings to gather comments to ensure the project meets the needs of the community while minimizing impact on property owners and residents.

The Take Charge Challenge has begun and I hope you all take the time to find out more about it. It is a great program that is designed to help residents and small businesses identify areas for energy and consequently cost savings. We are competing with three other area communities for a \$100,000 grant. Your participation will help us win that grant. Participation can be as simple as installing energy efficient bulbs, insulation in electrical outlets, installing a programmable thermostat or having a whole house energy audit. We even get participation points by presenting to community groups and other organizations. If you're interested in having us present to your group, call Melissa Mundt.

Change can be unsettling, but it can also be exciting. I am looking forward to working with a new Council and new Administrator. There are great things to come and I'm excited to keep Gardner moving forward in a way that benefits our residents and our businesses.

Sincerely,

Calendar of Meetings*

Mar.	3	Electric Utility Board – 7:00 PM
Mar.	7	City Council Meeting–7:00 PM
Mar.	14	City Council Work Session–6:30 PM
Mar.	21	City Council Meeting–7:00 PM; Electric Utility Board Work Session–7 PM
Mar.	22	Planning Commission Meeting–7:00 PM
Apr.	4	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Apr.	5	City Council Election–see pg. 4 for more information
Apr.	7	Electric Utility Board – 7:00 PM
Apr.	11	City Council Work Session–6:30 PM
Apr.	18	City Council Meeting–7:00 PM; Electric Utility Board Work Session–7 PM
Apr.	26	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

**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

Spring Brings Plans for Outdoor Projects

Spring is here and many of you have thoughts of outdoor improvement projects. Before you begin building that fence, shed or deck, keep in mind that the City of Gardner may require a permit for your project.

If you're building a fence or a deck (over 30" off the ground) you will need to apply for a building permit. Permits for both are \$30 and require a completed permit application and a copy of your plot plan (or survey) with the location of the proposed fence or deck indicated on it. Plot plans can usually be found in your mortgage paperwork. If you do not have one, Community Development can generally locate one for you, although it could take a few days. For decks over 30" off the ground, you will need to supply drawings of the proposed work, indicating the deck dimensions, size and spacing of the stud members used.



When choosing the location for your deck, keep in mind that most backyards have a 25 ft. rear and 9 ft. side setback, which means you cannot build within those areas.

Fences can be placed right on the property line, but cannot extend past the front plane of the house. Homes on corner lots and backing up to streets may also have some additional restrictions. Fence permits can usually be issued while you wait, while deck permits usually take a couple of days for approval.

If you are building a shed, the size determines whether a permit is required or not. Anything smaller than 120 sq. ft. in total size (i.e. 10 ft. x 12 ft.) does not require a permit, however they still need to be placed at least 5 ft from the property line and no closer than 15 feet from your home. Sheds that are 120-250 sq. ft. require a permit and must meet the same setback requirements. A shed larger than 250 sq. ft. cannot be placed closer than 9 ft. from the side property lines and 25 ft. from the rear property line, in addition to maintaining a

distance of at least 15 ft. from your home. Shed permits are \$20. For those less than 250 sq. ft., permits can usually be approved while you wait. Larger sheds will take a couple of days.

If you have additional questions regarding decks or fences, please feel free to call the Community Development Department at 856-0913.

Severe Weather Season Information

Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 7 - 11, 2011
Tornado Safety Drill, Tuesday, March 8th - 1:30 p.m.



The National Weather Service wants to remind you that the Outdoor Sirens are just that...an *Outdoor Warning System*.

To be prepared, know your local media stations and have an All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio to get information concerning severe weather watches and warnings. Do not wait for the sirens to be your warning system at home, day or night. Oftentimes in the heat of the spring and summer, it is impossible to hear outdoor sirens over running air conditioners. A NOAA Weather Radio with a back-up battery can make the difference for you and your family.

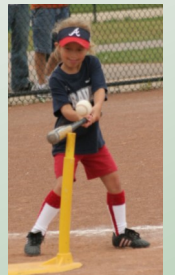
Sirens may not be activated for other severe threats such as damaging straight line winds in excess of 60 mph, large hail, and flooding. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio and local media, then take the appropriate action for the severe weather threat. If it appears that a severe thunderstorm is approaching your location, do not wait for the outdoor sirens; take immediate action to protect your life and the lives of others in your home.

Take responsibility...listen to the media...take protective action....survive to enjoy the wonderful warm sunny days that also come this time of year.

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Baseball & Softball Registration -The registration deadline for youth baseball, softball and t-ball is coming up March 4th. Drafts will be held late March and practices will begin early April. Games will begin mid early to mid May and generally (weather permitting) will wrap up by early July. We offer T-ball for the 5 and 6 year olds all the way to baseball and softball for the 13 and 14 year olds. Questions regarding the leagues? Call 913-856-0936 for more details. Additional program information can be found at www.gardnerkansas.gov.

Youth Programs:	Date:	Registration Deadline:	Age/Grade:	Costs:
Baseball, Softball, T-Ball	March 28-July 1	March 4	5-14 years	\$45-\$75
Babysitting Clinic	March 12	March 4	11 and Older	\$55
Rockin Robots Camp	March 14 - 18	March 7	7 - 13 years	\$140
Secret Agent Lab Camp	March 14 - 18	March 7	7 - 13 years	\$130
Kids Only Garage Sale	March 19	March 11	6 - 16 years	\$7
Tumbling Tots	April 7 - May 26	April 1	3 - 6 years	\$65
Cheer/Dance I	April 7 - May 26	April 1	3 - 6 years	\$65
Cheer/Dance II	April 7 - May 26	April 1	6 - 10 years	\$65
Easter Eggstravaganza	April 16	April 8	4 - 12 years	\$15
Little Buckaroo Day	May 1	April 22	7 - 12 years	\$60
Adult / Family Programs:				
Fit Moms	March 15 - April 21	March 11	Adult	\$40 per session
Adult Softball (Co-rec)	April 10-May 22	March 18	18 and Older	\$400 per team
Adult Softball (Men's)	April 4-May 9	March 18	18 and Older	\$400 per team
Just Once Piano	April 11	April 4	Adult	\$25, + \$33 supplies
Women's Volleyball	April 19	April 8	Adult	\$150
Earth Day Celebration	April 30	April 15	Any	Free
Leaves, Lighthouses & Lobsters Trip Preview	April 26	April 22	Adult	Free
Acupuncture Workshop	April 25	April 22	16 and Older	Free
Midwest Baseball Tour	August 8-14	June 1	7 yrs. to Adult	\$900-\$825

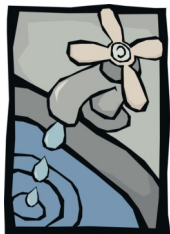




City of Gardner
120 E. Main Street
Gardner, Kansas

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Gardner Changes Winter Sewer Average

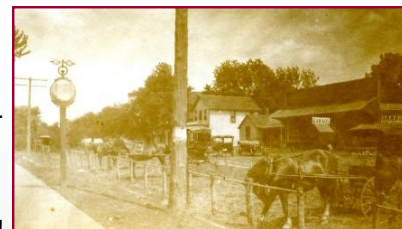
The City of Gardner made adjustments to its winter sewer average ordinance on Monday, February 7, 2011, to benefit customers that sometimes use outdoor water in November and March. Previously, the City used the months of December through March to calculate customers' "winter average" sewer charges, but will now only use the water usage from bills issued in January and February. This will benefit customers that may still be watering in the months of November and March.

Sewer usage is not calculated by direct metering of sewer; instead, the City uses water consumption for the winter months to determine sewer charges for the remainder of the year due to the fact that minimal outside watering is typically occurring at that time. Consequently, the water usage during the winter months is a true reflection of how much consumed water is going back into the sewer system for treatment.

The City conducted an analysis of the impact of such a change at the request of several residents that stated they typically are still watering in November and March. The change to a January-February average will not impact most customers' sewer charges. For those that have significant water usage in November and March, there may be a slight decrease in their future bills based on this change.

Gardner Historical Museum News

Hours: Saturday thru Tues.
from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.



KANSAS is 150 Years Old!

The Museum is partnering with the Gardner Branch of the Johnson County Library to celebrate the State's Sesquicentennial.

The Library is 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.

Starting Late February: The Library will also host the exhibit "First Women Trailblazers", originally shown at the Museum in May 2010. Learn about many of the "first" women of Kansas & Gardner, who "blazed the trail" to open jobs, careers, positions of authority—respect. Visitors are encouraged to take extra time to read the information compiled from the research done by Marcia Gay & Solene Hollingshead.

New at the Gardner Library this spring, March 25-April 29:

Baby Time
Friday mornings at 11:15

Toddler Story time
Friday mornings at 10:15



Call the library at 820-4600 for complete program listing, or find us online at www.jocolibrary.org.

Gardner Goes Social –Join Us on Facebook and Twitter!

The City of Gardner is on Facebook and Twitter. 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 basis 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.



Utility Bill E-Notification is now available!

- Help the environment! Conserve paper by viewing online copies of your paper statements.
- Receive an email each month alerting you that your statement is available for viewing online.

- Have less mail to sort through and fewer papers to file.

To sign up for paperless billing, please e-mail a written request including your name, address and account number to utilities@gardnerkansas.gov.

City to Hold Council Election on April 5, 2011

The City of Gardner will hold elections for three of the five seats on the City Council on **Tuesday, April 5, 2011**. The terms of the new members will begin April 18th, 2011 through April 2015.

To find out information on who has filed for the open positions on the City Council, visit the Johnson County Election Website at www.jocoelections.org.

