



INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

November - December 2011

City Annexes for USD 231 and Agrees to Tax Increase for Gardner to Support Plan

On October 17th, the City Council approved the annexation of approximately 40 acres of land between Center Street and Moonlight Road, north of 18rd Street, for USD 231. In January 2012, USD 231 will be asking voters to support a school bond issue for development of a new elementary and middle school on this newly annexed land. Because this area was not previously in the City limits, and will require installation or extension of City-owned infrastructure for streets, water and sewer, an annexation agreement was passed.



This agreement states the City will participate in the cost of infrastructure to serve this school campus. Typically, the cost of infrastructure improvements is borne by the developer, not the City. The school district asked the City to fund 50% of the street improvements required for Grand Street and to participate in 50% of the cost for extending water lines and sanitary sewer required to serve the proposed campus. Additionally, the City will need to begin construction of sewer capacity improvements to an existing interceptor two years earlier than currently planned.

To construct the Grand Street connector, the City's portion of the cost will be capped at \$2,031,000, which will require approximately 2 mills increase in the City's property tax levy to cover the annual debt service payments.

The Council consented to paying for 50% of the water and wastewater line extension to the site through special benefit district participation.

- The City's cost for 50% of the waterline will be capped at \$128,000, which would require an approximate rate increase of 0.5% to cover the annual debt service payment; this is in addition to previously forecasted rate increases.

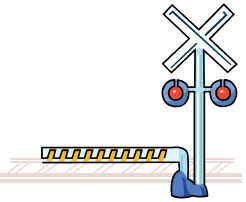
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Quiet Zone at Moonlight and 56 Hwy

The City of Gardner has been working for some time on improving the at-grade crossing on Moonlight Road and the BNSF tracks just south of Old 56 Highway (Main Street). All trains are required to sound their horns at this and all other railroad crossings unless approval is obtained for a Quiet Zone. As part of the Moonlight Road project, and follow up on the Intermodal Review Committee recommendations, the City and the BNSF Railroad have modified this crossing to qualify for approval from the Federal Railroad Administration for the designation of a Quiet Zone. This means that trains will not be required to blow their horn every time they cross Moonlight Road. The City is happy to announce that on October 27 at 12:01 a.m., trains were no longer required to sound horns at this busy crossing.

There are exceptions to the Quiet Zone regulations:

For safety reasons, the train engineers are responsible for sounding their horns, even within the Quiet



Zone, when workers are within 25 feet of the tracks or when other hazardous situations are observed, including the presence of persons, animals, or vehicles. An average of 88 trains travel though the City daily. During the transition to a Quiet Zone, residents and visitors are asked to be patient as train engineers adjust to the new exemptions.

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Take Charge Challenge Final Standings

From January 1 through September 30, 2011, the City of Gardner participated in the Take Charge

Challenge (TCC) against Ottawa, Paola and Baldwin City to see which city could become the most energy efficient. Each community was scored in three categories: home energy audits, light bulb and programmable thermostat switches, and community participation in TCC events.

Funding for the City was provided with \$25,000 grants from both Efficiency Kansas and Johnson County. The City earned points by making presentations to community groups and elementary schools, holding weatherization classes, organizing a grand opening celebration for the TCC Headquarters, and hosting informational booths at the Earth Day/Arbor Day Cleanup and the Festival on the Trails. The City also handed out a variety of free items, such as 350+ weatherization kits, 300+ programmable thermostats and 3,000 CFL light bulbs. These efforts contributed to 58,204 light bulbs switched, 1,066 thermostats installed, 142 events and 144 energy audits completed for the northeast region.

Unfortunately, Gardner was not the winner for the northeast region. Gardner wishes to congratulate Baldwin City on their win and to thank the citizens of Gardner for helping make our community more energy efficient!

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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,

It is hard for me to believe we are in the middle of fall, fast approaching winter. The holiday season is a great time of year. Family gatherings filled with old traditions and new ones being made. This is also the season for the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund and Christmas for Children. Last year was a huge success; I hope this year will be as well. All the families in need were adopted and enough money was raised to be able to provide gift cards for groceries. Let's make this year as successful as

last.

We'll of course be kicking off the season with Christmas in the Park on November 28. I look forward to lighting up the park and listening to the great voices of our talented students. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving and setting up in the workshop.

There are some fun programs planned: Breakfast at the North Pole on the morning of December 17; then that evening, a Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt under the lights at Cornerstone Park and the next day, the Jingle Bell Shop.

Don't forget to have the kids visit the Santa Shop at the American Legion; watch for information on that. The Gardner Historical Museum is selling Christmas Cards featuring our very own Jamie Lavin's painting of Christmas in the Park. They are a great way to share our tradition with your friends and family.

This is a time of year for giving thanks for all we have, spending time with family, and sharing our blessings with others. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,

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- The City's cost for 50% of the wastewater line is \$242,000, which would require an approximate rate increase of 1% to cover the annual debt service payment.
- The City will pay for 100% of the wastewater capacity upgrade project at a cost of approximately \$1,300,000, which was originally planned to start in 2016 and will need to be moved up to 2014.



The City's project upgrade equates to approximately a 5% rate increase for a total of approximately 6% increase to sewer rates; this is in addition to previously forecasted rate increases.

Calendar of Meetings and City Hall Closures

Nov	7	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Nov	11	City Hall Closed in observance of Veteran's Day
Nov	14	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM
Nov	21	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Nov	24-25	City Hall Closed in observance of Thanksgiving
Dec	5	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Dec	12	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM
Dec	19	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Dec	23-26	City Hall Closed in observance of Christmas

Gardner City Council

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913-856-0914

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913-856-7256

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

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Please be aware that there are still two at-grade railroad crossings located within the City that are not currently designated as Quiet Zones. These crossings are located on the west side of Gardner by the cemetery and near Grand Street, west of Center Street. Trains are still required to sound their horns at these crossings, so you may still hear horns depending upon your location. The City plans to perform design modifications and seek approval for a Quiet Zone designation at these crossings sometime in the future when funding is available. Please contact Public Works at 856-0914 if you have any questions regarding the Quiet Zone.

183rd Street Improvements



In August 2011, the City of Gardner contracted with O'Donnell and Sons Construction to improve 183rd Street between Center Street and Moonlight Road.

The project included pavement reconstruction and ditch grading

improvements for the western half-mile, and a 2-inch pavement overlay and drainage improvements for the eastern half-mile. A 10-foot wide concrete sidewalk was also constructed on the north side of the road from Gardner Road east to Maple Street. Disturbed areas were seeded or sodded and restored to original conditions.

The total cost of construction was \$562,203.25 and was funded by a Johnson County Community Development Block Grant (\$45,565), Johnson County CARS program (\$281,101.63) and the City of Gardner (\$235,536.62). Design and construction inspection services were provided by the City of Gardner engineering staff.

Construction began on August 22 and was substantially completed by October 21. We appreciated the patience of drivers during construction.

City Upgrades and Repairs to Water Storage Facilities

Downtown Storage Tank—The downtown standpipe is the above-ground tank at Sycamore and Shawnee Streets. It was constructed around 1950 and was repainted on the exterior for the first time in 2009. At that time, City staff determined additional work was also needed on the interior of the structure, which was last repainted in 1993.

In June 2011, the City's contractor began work to paint the interior of the standpipe and repair the structural supports for the roof of the tank. The repairs and painting were completed in early August. The contractor is set to return in November to complete final work on the tank by replacing the ladder and safety devices to meet current safety standards.



183rd Street Water Tower—The 183rd Street Water Tower is located about halfway between Center and Moonlight on the north side of 183rd Street. This tower was constructed in 1993 and had not been repainted since that time. The City hired a contractor this summer that began work on painting the tower on September 6th and completed the work on October 7th. Loose material was removed to bare metal, primed, painted and then a second coat was added. The "Gardner" was repainted on the tower to be visible from I-35.

Both repair projects should last 15-20 years with only minor touch-ups. The interior of the 183rd Street Tower will need to be painted in 2013 or 2014. The total cost of the project is \$196,817 for painting both structures and was significantly below the forecasted budget of \$337,000.

Street Repairs in the Pumpkin Ridge Subdivision

American Marking and Paving began and completed street repairs in the Pumpkin Ridge Subdivision during the week of October 17. The work consisted of full depth pavement repair and resurfacing on Pumpkin Ridge between Moonlight Road and Stone Creek Drive and the Witch Hollow Cul-de-sac west of Creekside Drive. The final cost was approximately \$10,000 below the contract amount of \$94,740 due to the actual quantity of full depth street repair required being less than anticipated.

Paving of 159th Street between Gardner Road and Celebration Park

Johnson County has completed the installation of an asphalt surface on 159th Street from Gardner Road to Celebration Park. This was a cooperative venture between the City of Gardner and Johnson County. The City of Gardner will fund approximately \$50,000 of the estimated project cost of \$300,000. Johnson County will fund the balance.

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Cost
Santa's Workshop	Dec. 4, 11	N/A	All	Free
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	Dec. 17	Dec. 14	2-10 years	\$3.00
Breakfast at the North Pole	Dec. 17	Dec. 9	10 and under	\$8/couple -\$4 extras
Jingle Bell Shop	Dec. 18	Dec. 12	3-12 years	\$2 to \$5 items
Adult/Family Programs				
Just Once Piano	Nov. 10	Nov. 3	14 and older	\$25 + materials
Belly Dancing with Veils	Nov. 2, 9, 16	Oct. 28	14 and older	\$36

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



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Gardner, Kansas

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Gardner Historical Museum—Upcoming Events

Hours:

Saturday through Tuesday -1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday -4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Museum will be CLOSED December 1 through January 15, but available for special tours. Call 913-882-9750 to schedule.

Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)



November:

The annual Military Tribute & Exhibit will run through the end of November. Museum will be open extended hours of 1:00–7:00 pm for Veteran’s Day on Friday, November 11th! Join the Museum on Saturday, November 19th to learn about various eras of military service and witness a flag retirement ceremony.

Upcoming Recycling, Refuse and Yard Waste Changes



Beginning January 1, 2012, trash haulers will be required by Johnson County to provide curbside recycling to all single-family homes and use volume-based pricing. In addition, Johnson County residents will no longer be able to dispose of yard waste in landfills. Instead, the following options will help you properly dispose of it:

- **Conveniently Curbside** -Most haulers plan to provide curbside yard waste collection services to their customers for a fee.
- **Backyard Compost Bin** -Leaves, grass clippings and even food waste can be easily managed on site with a backyard composting bin.
- **Leave it on the Lawn** -Grass clippings and fallen leaves can be mulched onto the lawn using a mulching mower.
- **Drop-off** -There are several locations in the area where residents are able to drop-off yard waste for composting. Fees apply.

For more information, contact the Johnson County Environmental Department at 913-715-6900 or www.jocorecycles.org.

Are You “Up to Code” with your Recreational Vehicle?

With summer activities ending, Code Enforcement would like to remind you how to properly store your recreational vehicles:

- Only one of the following may be stored at a residential site: boat, camper, pickup camper, motor home, recreational vehicle and trailer/flat bed
- None of these are permitted to be stored in the front yard, driveway, or in the street
- Storage can occur in the side yard or rear yard, **but not in a side yard of a corner lot**

For questions or to report a violation, please call 913-856-0913.

**Johnson County Meals on Wheels
Gardner Volunteers Needed**



Johnson County Meals on Wheels is a service of the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging, providing nutritious meals delivered by volunteers to county residents who are 60 or older; homebound; unable to drive, shop for groceries, or cook their own meals; or have no one to assist with preparation.

The program depends totally on volunteer drivers. Because of an increase in the need for meals in Gardner, an additional volunteer route is being formed. Meals are delivered 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Monday-Friday, but individual volunteers typically choose one day each week to deliver. Some deliver more often. Others make themselves available as substitutes. To volunteer or for more information, contact Elvina Kroemer at 913-715-8895 or at Elvina.Kroemer@jocogov.org.

Christmas in the Park

The 21st Annual “Christmas in the Park” holiday event kicks off with the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 28, 2011, at Cornerstone Park. Seasonal music will be performed by local school children.



The event will include a Christmastime message from Mayor Dave Drovetta, as well as a visit from Santa himself. 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, Mrs. Claus and their elves in action!

Santa’s Workshop

Moms and dads, bring the whole family to this place full of holiday joy! Join us immediately after Christmas in the Park and on December 4th and 11th.

Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/parks/ for more information.

New at the Gardner Library this Fall



Stop by the Gardner Library anytime with your preschooler to share early literacy activities based on a picture book. Explore engaging activities that enhance children’s pre-reading skills. 6 by 6...where getting ready to read meets having fun! No registration is necessary.