



INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

September-October 2011

2012 Budget Approved by City Council

On August 15th, the City Council approved the 2012 Budget that begins January 1, 2012. The City Council approved the 2012 Budget with no increase in total property tax mills. The City did move property tax revenues (mills) from the Bond and Interest Fund to the General Fund due to the change from in house fire service to having the Fire District serve Gardner. The City sold its fire station and several large pieces of fire equipment, and also changed to an annual payment to the Fire District for contracted services in its General Fund. The station and equipment were previously paid for from the Bond and Interest Fund, so when sold to the Fire District, they became part of the contractual cost, which is paid out of the General Fund.

General Fund

The 2012 Budget for the General Fund continues the impact of the economic downturn on the City's staffing levels. The General Fund employs just 71 employees, down from 99 in 2008. The staff paid from the General Fund run the Police, Public Works, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and any general administrative services for more than 19,500 residents of Gardner. Nine of the positions that were reduced in the General Fund were due to transfer of personnel from Gardner Public Safety to Fire District No. 1 in late 2010. Other reductions were due to layoffs in May 2010 in Community Development and reduction in positions when vacancies have arisen since 2008 in all other departments.

These staffing reductions are primarily related to decreased revenues in property taxes associated with declining home values. Providing quality services continues to be the focus, despite the significant decline in staff to devote attention to the variety of programs and services the City provides.

Gardner receives high rankings for responsiveness to resident concerns; the recent 2011 Citizen Satisfaction Survey shows that 93% of those surveyed were satisfied with the City's responsiveness compared to 67% regionally and 71% nationally.

Other ratings also show 94% were satisfied with how they were treated compared to 68% regionally and 69% nationally.

One of the major challenges for the 2012 Budget was the need to increase police officer staffing. The department is at 1.23 officers per thousand, down from 1.80 in 2010. National standards for officers per thousand target 1.8 to 2.0 officers per thousand. Due to the financial constraints facing the City, hiring additional officers was not able to be included for 2012.

Even with the staffing challenges, the 2011 Citizen Satisfaction Survey showed the City continuing to see increasing satisfaction in Police, Fire and Ambulance services. An 87% satisfaction rating in Police Services and the Gardner Police Department far outranks its local and national comparison communities. Other ratings reflect an 83% satisfaction with visibility of police officers in your neighborhoods, compared to only 55% satisfaction in other metro Kansas City communities and 57% nationally.

General Fund expenditures from 2008 to 2011 Estimated expenditures were down over 9%. In 2012, the City anticipates an increase in expenditures of approximately 6% over the 2011 Estimates. Increased expenditures in 2012 are for a pay increase of 3% for employees—the first since 2009—and replacement of several vehicles including four police squad cars, bob cat, crack sealer and a dump truck used by Public Works for maintenance and repairs of infrastructure and snow plowing.



To view the 2012 budget in its entirety, please visit:

www.gardnerkansas.gov/budget

The City prides itself in superior snow removal, which is evident in how Gardner compares to its regional and national comparables. Gardner rates 81% satisfaction on the clearing of major streets, compared to 49% which is the regional and national comparisons.

Water/Wastewater Funds

Included in the approved 2012 budget are rate increases for both water and wastewater consumption. The Water rate is forecasted to increase 3% and the Wastewater rate is forecasted to increase 6%. The resulting impact to an average homeowner for both increases would be approximately \$27 a year, or \$3.25 per month. The rate increase creates revenue to cover the increased operating and maintenance costs, as well as the infrastructure payments.

Capital Improvement Funds

The City has continued to delay a variety of other projects for streets, parks and public safety due to lack of funds. The City is not able to invest in infrastructure expansion or major improvements for the next few years, with the exception of several County supported overlay projects. The City expects to see challenges related to citizen satisfaction in maintenance of streets, where the City currently rates well against its local and national comparisons; 69% satisfaction for Gardner, compared to 62% for the Kansas City metro and 59% nationally.

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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,

The start of school signifies the end of summer. One district in particular, Joplin, Missouri, is going back in unfamiliar surroundings. Thank you all for your generosity in providing school supplies for students in Joplin and Reading, Kansas.

Judge John Anderson, Peggy Mann, my wife Margaret and I delivered the supplies to Joplin on August 6th. It was very inspirational to see all the work that is going on there; lots of volunteers sorting, stacking and getting ready for the school year. We took two truckloads of supplies and a flat panel television. Thanks to the area Walgreen's for adding to our supplies as well.

We were taken aback by the devastation that fell upon the community of Joplin. The area around St. John's Hospital was hit the hardest. It was heartbreaking to see the landscape completely wiped of trees and buildings. There were some remnants of buildings, a U.S. flag mounted to what was left of a tree, a large cross standing over the emptiness that was once filled with homes. There were, however, new homes being built, people working on their businesses, lots of activity that indicated the people of Joplin have not given up in spite of their terrible loss.

It was a very humbling experience for me. It reinforced in me the sense of what is and is not important. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,



Photos below: Students of Joplin High School help unload and sort donated school supplies on their first day of school on August 17th.



Charlie Riedel/Associated Press

Calendar of Meetings and City Hall Closures

| | | |
|------|----|---|
| Sept | 1 | Electric Utility Board Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Sept | 5 | City Hall closed in observance of Labor Day |
| Sept | 6 | City Council Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Sept | 19 | Electric Utility Board Work Session—7:00 PM |
| Sept | 27 | Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Oct | 3 | City Council Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Oct | 10 | City Council Work Session—6:30 PM |
| Oct | 17 | City Council Meeting—7:00 PM |
| Oct | 25 | 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

Larry Fotovich, Council Member
 913-856-4458 (Home)
 lfotovich@gardnerkansas.gov

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

Chris Morrow, Council Member
 913-269-8495 (Cell)
 cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov

Dennis Pugh, Council Member
 913-856-8030 (Home)
 dpugh@gardnerkansas.gov

City Management

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

Finance Director
Laura Gourley
 lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov
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Ken Francis
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David Greene
 dgreene@gardnerkansas.gov
 913-856-0914

Electric Utility Director
William Krawczyk
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 913-856-7256

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

Moonlight Road Update

The Moonlight Road construction project is substantially complete, except for minor punch list items currently being worked on by the contractor. Moonlight Road is open to traffic and lane closures are not anticipated to be necessary while the contractor is completing the punch list items. All major construction is now completed, except for sodding and landscaping, which will be installed this fall. Please contact the Gardner Public Works Department at 913-856-0914 if you have any questions regarding this project.

Utility Bill Overview

The City of Gardner owns and operates 3 utilities. These utilities include Water, Sewer and Electric. In order to control costs, the monthly utility bill mailed out by the City contains charges for all three services.



This one bill itemizes the usage and charges for each utility including the previous and current meter readings, the consumption for each service, the previous months total charge and the new charges. In addition, the bill displays a graph for Electric and Water which provides a 13 month history of the usage on your account.

When you have a question about any of these three services, a Utility Billing representative can assist you. The phone number is 913-856-7535. You can also call this number to start or stop service or to ask a question about any of these accounts. If you need to report an Electric problem, call 913-856-6802 anytime. If you need to report a Water or Wastewater/Sewer problem, call 913-856-7535 during business hours and 913-856-6802 after business hours including weekends and holidays.

Please visit the City's website at www.gardnerkansas.gov for more information on your utilities.

Are You "Up to Code?"

Did you know that code violations are enforced by either the City's Code Enforcement division or the Police Department? Some examples are listed below:

Trash Containers and Trash Bags - Code Enforcement

No residential occupant should set out their solid waste or recycling containers more than 24 hours in advance of their scheduled collection. When not placed out for collection, these containers should be screened from view from any public right-of-way or adjoining property line and located behind the existing property line.

Storage of Recreational Vehicles - Code Enforcement

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.**

Property Fenced Pools - Code Enforcement

Swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a fence or other permanent enclosure around the perimeter of the pool and/or the private property which it is located. The enclosure or fence shall not be less than five-feet high and any gates equipped with locks shall be locked when the pool is not attended.

Noise Complaints - Police Department

Noise complaints should be reported to the Gardner Police Department.

Inoperable Vehicles - Both

Inoperable vehicles on private property are described as being junked, wrecked, wholly or partially dismantled, discarded, abandoned or unable to perform the functions or purpose for which it was originally constructed and should be reported to Codes Enforcement. A motor vehicle parked in the city street must be parked legally and moved every 48 to 72 hours. If it is not moved during this timeframe, it is deemed inoperable and can be reported to the Gardner Police Department.

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

| Youth Programs | Date | Registration Deadline | Age/Grade | Cost |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Touch A Truck | Sept. 17 | N/A | Any | Free |
| Ready Set Action Theatre | Sept. 27–Dec. 15 | Sept. 19 | 6–12 years | \$40/mo. \$120/session |
| Tumbling Tots | Oct. 10–Nov. 21 | Oct. 3 | 3–6 years | \$65 |
| Nutcracker Ballet | Oct. 10–Nov. 21 | Oct. 3 | 7–9 years | \$65 |
| Ghoul School | Oct. 10–14 | Oct. 1 | 4 years–1st grade | \$45 |
| Babysitting Clinic | Oct. 22 | Oct. 14 | 2nd–8th grade | \$50 |
| Halloween Boo Bash | Oct. 27 | N/A | 11 and older | \$50 |
| Youth Basketball | Nov. 28 | Oct. 21 | 2–12 years | \$3/wristband |
| | | | 1st–6th grade | \$55 |
| Adult/Family Programs | | | | |
| Beginning Belly Dance | Sept. 7, 14, 21 | Sept. 2 | 14 and older | \$36 |
| Movie in the Park | Sept. 10 | N/A | Any | Free |
| Acupuncture | Sept. 20 | Sept. 16 | 16 and older | Free |
| Just Once Piano | Oct. 3 | Sept. 28 | 14 and older | \$25 + materials |
| Martial Arts | Sept. 25 | Sept. 23 | 3 and older | \$45 to \$50 |
| Belly Dance with Veils | Nov. 2, 9, 16 | Oct. 28 | 14 and older | \$36 |



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



City of Gardner
120 E. Main Street
Gardner, Kansas

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POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030

Gardner Historical Museum Upcoming Special Exhibit

Hours:

Saturday through Tuesday

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)



September:

USO Show on Saturday, September 24th

Enjoy music and dancing, reminiscent of the USO shows of WWII as the Gardner Historical Museum kick-offs their annual Military Tribute & Exhibit which runs through November!

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!

September-October: featuring the Little Cloud by Eric Carle.

Upcoming Yard Waste Changes

Beginning January 1, 2012, trash haulers will be required 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 can 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.

Movie in the Park



Grab your blankets and lawn chairs and head out to Cornerstone Park on Saturday, September 10th. The Gardner Parks and Recreation Department will be showing Toy Story 3 for FREE! Movie will start at about 8:30 PM. Concession stand will open at 7:30 PM. Get there early to save your spot!

Boo Bash

Gardner Parks and Recreation is holding their 15th Annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park. Join us for an evening of ghastly games, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes and a hayrack ride through the trails and much more! \$3 wristbands for kids ages 2 to 12 gets you unlimited access to all the games and activities and a chance to win some amazing prizes. Event will be held October 27th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. See you at the party!



Wristbands will be sold in advance at City Hall from October 17th to October 27th at noon.

In case of inclement weather, this event will be postponed to Friday, October 28th. A decision will be made by noon, so please check the hotline at 913-905-1770 for an update.

Electronic Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Saturday, September 10th and Saturday, October 8th
8:00 to 11:30 a.m., BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

To make an appointment, please call 913-715-6900



The Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program will be collecting electronic waste for recycling, in addition to household hazardous waste (HHW). Residents must make an appointment to drop-off their electronic waste and HHW for recycling!

Accepted electronic items include batteries, cameras, CD players, cell phones, all computer equipment, faxes, printers, video games and more. A fee will apply for monitors (\$10) and TVs (\$15); all other items are free.

Contact the Johnson County Environmental Department at 913-715-6900 or www.jocorecycles.org for more information.