

INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

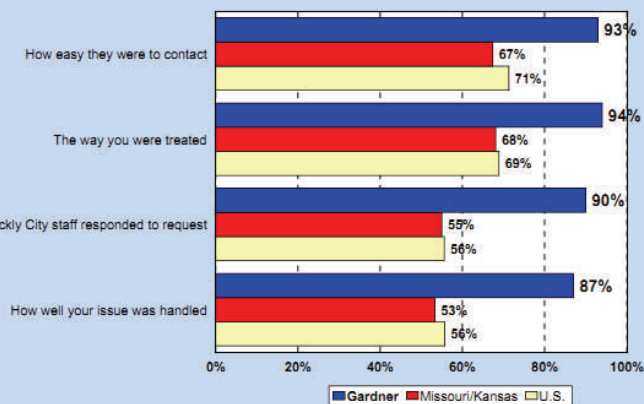
January - February 2012

Citizen Survey and 2012 Budget Shows Gardner Blazing Positive Trails

The City of Gardner conducts a bi-annual citizen survey. The results delivered to the City Council last year showed Gardner was above average in eight of the nine major city services areas addressed by the national surveying company. The City scored exceptionally well in the areas of quality of customer service provided by City employees, effectiveness of communication with the public and maintenance of City streets, buildings and facilities. Gardner also rated equally as high when compared to the Kansas City area communities that participate.

Overall Satisfaction with Customer Service Gardner vs. Missouri/Kansas vs. the U.S

by percentage of respondents who rated the item 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 was "very satisfied" and 1 was "very dissatisfied" (excluding don't knows)



Source: 2011 ETC Institute

Residents that were randomly selected to respond to the survey last summer indicated that the City should continue emphasis on traffic flow, maintenance of streets, buildings and facilities, and provision of service for water, electric and wastewater. The City's 2012 Budget focuses on these areas.

To facilitate traffic flow, City staff is

working on developing plans for the Center and Main Street intersection improvement, which is scheduled for construction in 2013. The City also maintained its commitment to take care of its existing infrastructure by allocating dollars for maintenance of the Aquatic Center for painting of the lap lane pool and replacement of deck furniture to ensure a safe and fun time at the pool this summer. Additional dollars in the 2012 budget are allowing staff to upgrade and replace aging equipment at the City's water treatment plant and are allowing Gardner Energy to extend electric distribution lines to attract development to the east-side of I-35.

One area where the City saw a decrease in its 2011 survey results was in the area of code enforcement. Last spring, the City Council adopted a new property maintenance code which is addressing the concerns of residents about the appearance and safety of the community. City staff is working with property owners to address concerns and help enhance the overall appearance of the community with this new code, as well as safety issues that are often related with properties that violate these codes. Although Gardner did see a drop in the area in 2011, Gardner ranks at or above the metro and national averages in property maintenance. With the new property maintenance code, it is the goal to improve and meet the desires of the community and make Gardner the best place to live.

Those surveyed also indicated that their most important maintenance issue is snow removal. In 2011, the City experienced multiple problems with one of its dump trucks used in plowing operations. As part of the 2012 budget process, the City Council determined that replacement of the aging vehicle would benefit residents and businesses by providing a much more reliable vehicle for this critical

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Smart Lights for Smart Cities

The City of Gardner has recently completed installation of nearly 200 new street light fixtures as part of a grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).



Gardner was one of twenty-six cities in the Kansas City metropolitan area that received funding. The new street light fixtures use new technology that will reduce energy costs and reduce CO₂ emissions.

As a member of the "Smart Lights Coalition," the City will return half of the money saved on energy costs back into the program to purchase additional high-efficiency lighting fixtures. These lights have been installed along the US-56/Main Street corridor from I-35 to Center Street, along the business district at Cedar Niles and US-56 and along Center Street/South Gardner Road from I-35 to Madison Street. For more information, please visit the ARRA website at www.recovery.gov.

Open House - Main and Center Street Intersection Improvements Plan

The City has tentatively scheduled an open-house to share plans regarding the upcoming Center and Main Street Intersection improvement project for Thursday, February 23, 2012. The meeting will be held in the City Hall lobby from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For updates or changes to the schedule, check www.gardnerkansas.gov

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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,

We have finished the second year of the Christmas for Children program. Just like last year, the generosity of the area residents was tremendous; 264 children from 95 families registered, and all were adopted. Again this year, the list for those needing a little help was smaller than the list of those wishing to help. The generosity of cash donations was extraordinary and allowed us to give each family a \$100 gift card to purchase groceries. The gratitude of the recipients was humbling. Some commented they could not believe the generosity of strangers. One commented their faith in their fellow man was restored. That, I think, was the gift that everyone gave, the message that we are a caring community.

We begin a new year with optimism and hope. There is much work to be done to improve our financial health, but there are signs of recovery. Sales tax revenues, for example, were higher than anticipated, a small sign of increased confidence. There are several projects waiting in the wings that we hope will bolster our commercial and industrial base, strengthening our tax base through more diversification.

The New Year always brings a sense of anticipation and excitement. There is much to look forward to in 2012. We will still need to look for innovative ways to keep Gardner a safe, affordable place to live, work and play, but I am confident that we will consider those in the coming months and hopefully find a few more.

I wish each of you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

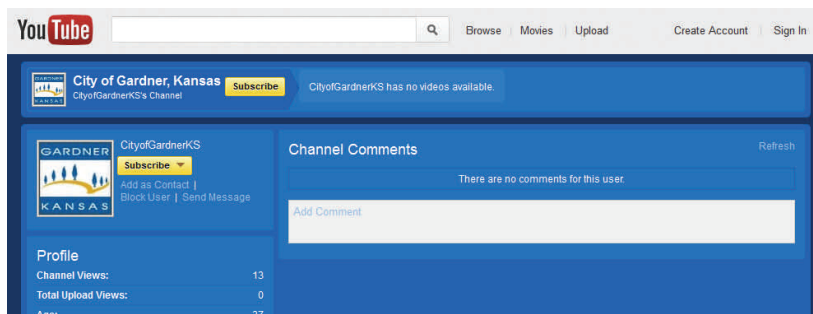
Sincerely,

Calendar of Meetings and City Hall Closures

Jan	24	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb	6	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb	13	City Council Work Session—6:30 PM
Feb	20	City Council Meeting—7:00 PM
Feb	28	Planning Commission Meeting—7:00 PM

City Council and Planning Commission Meetings Now Available on YouTube!

The Gardner City Council and Planning Commission meetings will now start appearing on YouTube for Government starting with the January 17th City Council meeting. All meetings will be posted the day after the meeting to allow those that are not able to attend to view the meeting at their convenience. The location on the YouTube for Government site is www.gardnerkansas.gov/council_agenda_minutes or can be found by searching CityofGardnerKS on YouTube.



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

City Management

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913-856-0941

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Melissa Mundt
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913-856-0939

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913-856-7535

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Jeff Stewart
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913-856-0936

Police Chief
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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

New and Improved Traveler Information Available



The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has released new features for KanDrive, the traveler information gateway for Kansas and surrounding states. Specifically, several new features have been added to the 511 map page.

These features include:

- RSS and GeoRSS feeds for roadwork activities and weather conditions
- Live motion camera views for many cameras along I-70 between Goodland and Auburn Road west of Topeka
- Eight new cameras and nine new electronic message signs have been added on highways
- "Metro Traffic Sites" provides drop-down links to metro traffic information websites

KDOT also encourages travelers to use free information services:

- The **511 Mobile site** at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, work zone and event information, and links to weather.
- **511 Phone** lets travelers call 5-1-1 (or 1-866-511-KDOT) from anywhere in Kansas to get route-specific road conditions, work zone information, including detours and closed roads, and travel-related weather information to help plan their trips or for updates as they travel.

Visit www.kandrive.org or www.ksdot.org for more information!

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winter operation and other uses as needed by the Streets Division. The new dump truck and plow are on order and scheduled to arrive sometime early this spring.

In the area of customer service, Gardner rated exceptionally high as noted on page one. The City's mission is to ensure this satisfaction continues, and we will continue to lead the way in being responsive to our residents and businesses.

To learn more about the survey, please visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/citizen_survey, or about the 2012 Budget, visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/budget.

January is Pet Registration Month!

The Police Department has now begun to issue pet licenses for 2012. Durable tags can be purchased at the Police Department or by mail. Altered animal fees are \$7.00 per year, and Non-Altered animal fees are \$14.00. A copy of your pets' current rabies vaccination is required before a license may be issued. *Checks and cash are the only forms of payment accepted.* Tags can be purchased Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, or anytime by mail. The Police Department is located at 440 E. Main Street. The telephone number is (913) 856-7312 should you have any questions. Please remember your pets are a part of your family, and registering your pet is not only responsible, but is required by City Ordinance.



2012 Summer Job Opportunities with Gardner Parks and Recreation



The Gardner Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for seasonal positions for the 2012 spring and summer season. Applications will be accepted through February 3, 2012. For further information, call the Gardner Parks and Recreation Department at 913-856-0936. Application 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
- *Aquatics Facility Assistant Manager
- *Swimming Lesson Coordinator
- *Lifeguards
- *Aquatics Facility Attendants
- *Swimming Lesson Instructors
- *Concessions Manager
- *Concession Workers
- *Park Maintenance Staff
- *Aquatic Facility Maintenance Staff
- *Facility Supervisors
- *Soccer Officials
- *Umpires

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Cost
Kids Wii Bowling Tourney	January 28	January 23	5-14 years	\$7
Parent/Child Wii Bowling	February 11	February 6	Any	\$12/couple
Daddy Daughter Ball	February 25	February 10	3-10 years	\$40/couple \$15 additional
Youth Spring Soccer	Late March	February 17	K-8 grade	\$60 or \$45
Micro Soccer	Late March	February 17	3-4 years	\$50
Competitive Baseball	Late April-Mid July	February 17	U8-U14	\$900 per team
Rec. Baseball/Softball/T-Ball	Late April-End June	March 2	6-14 years	\$45-\$75
Adult/Family Programs				
Belly Dance: Skills N Drills	Feb 23-Mar 29	February 17	14 and Older	\$65
BUNCO Babes	Feb 2-Feb 23	January 27	21 and Older	\$20
Scrapbooking	Jan 6/Feb 3/Mar 2	Tuesday before crop	12 and Older	\$5

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



City of Gardner
120 E. Main Street
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.

Call 913-882-9750 to schedule a tour.

Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)

February: Beginning in mid-February, the Museum will feature Gardner Businesses—Past to Present. Come in and see how many of the featured businesses you remember! To suggest a business for this exhibit (by providing photos, artifacts & memorabilia for loan or donation) please contact Laura at 913-856-4447 or 913-882-9750 by February 10th.

Save us a Stamp: Print off your 2012 dues contribution form via our website at www.gardnerhistorymuseum.org.

New at the Gardner Library this Winter

Stop by the Gardner Library anytime with your little ones to explore engaging activities that enhance children's pre-reading skills. Storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers starting soon!



Call the library at 913-826-4600 for a complete program listing or find us online at www.jocolibrary.org.

Reminder Recycling, Refuse and Yard Waste Changes



Beginning January 1, 2012, trash haulers are 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.jcocreycles.org.

NEW: Online Payment Available for Municipal Courts



Gardner Municipal Court is excited to announce that they now offer online payments for your ticket. For more information, visit www.municipalonlinepayments.com/gardnerks or contact the Gardner Municipal Court at 913-856-0904. You may also use the link from the City of Gardner website to pay your ticket online. Please be aware that some citations are still required to be paid at City Hall.

Burn Permits

Effective December 1, 2011, all burn permits within the city limits of Gardner are now issued by the staff at Johnson County Fire District #1. Please contact Fire District staff by calling 913-782-3258 for information on how to obtain a burn permit and their requirements.



For more information, please visit www.jocofd1.org.

Water and Wastewater Rate Changes Approved for 2012



The City Council approved rate changes for water and wastewater at its August 15, 2011 meeting. For your usage in January 2012, wastewater rates will increase 6%, and water rates will increase 3%. These changes will be reflected in your statement starting February 2012. The following is a summary of the rate changes by utility:

Wastewater Rates will be increasing 6%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$10.20 to \$10.70. The usage charge will go from \$6.50 per thousand gallons to \$7.85 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$2.35 per month.

Water Rates will be increasing 3%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$10.40 to \$10.70. The cost for the first 40,000 gallons of water will go from \$4.65 per thousand gallons to \$4.80 per thousand gallons. The average increase for a residential water customer is \$1.00 per month.