



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner

Upcoming City Hall Closures



All City Hall offices will be closed on **Monday, January 16th** in observance of Martin Luther King Day and will reopen the morning of Tuesday, January 17th.

For electric and water emergencies during this time, please call 913-856-6802.

Water and Wastewater Rate Changes 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

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 \$6.85 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$2.25 per month.

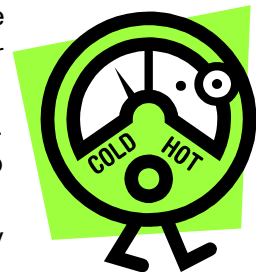
Water rates

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.

Winter Time Energy Saving Tips

With winter's arrival, you can take some steps to reduce the amount of energy that you're using to reduce your utility bill. Some suggestions are:

- **Turn down your thermostat** to 68 degrees. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5% on heating costs. Snuggle up in a warm sweater or blanket instead of turning up the heat!
- **Replace or clean furnace filters** once a month. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted will reduce energy use, saving up to 5% of heating costs.
- **Take advantage of the sun** by opening your curtains during the day and letting the sun's energy warm your house. Pull the curtains at night to help stop heat from escaping through the glass.
- **Seal up the leaks** by caulking around windows and doors. Look for places where you have pipes, vents or electrical conduits that go through the wall, ceiling or floor. Check the bathroom, underneath the kitchen sink, pipes inside a closet, etc. If you find a gap at the point where the pipe or vents go through the wall, seal it up. Caulk works best on small gaps, but check your hardware store for products to close the larger gaps.
- **Reduce your hot water temperature** by setting your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120-degrees Fahrenheit. Savings are 7 to 11% of water heating costs.



Do not resort to using a BBQ or camp stove for heat! Such equipment is designed to be used only outdoors and present significant safety hazards when used in any enclosed or partially enclosed setting. Besides the obvious fire hazard, they can produce high levels of carbon monoxide (CO). Remember that you cannot smell or see CO! If you start to feel dizzy, weak or sick, get to fresh air right away and seek medical attention if symptoms become serious!

For more energy saving tips, please visit www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/winter.html or www.energysavers.gov/tips.

Utility Assistance Information



Gardner Energy wants all of our customers to be warm and safe throughout the cold weather months. You or someone you know may be eligible for help with home heating bills this winter. For information or assistance, please contact the organizations below:

United Way 2-1-1 is an easy to remember phone number connecting people with available community resources including assistance with utility bills. You'll reach a trained, caring professional 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. All calls are free and confidential. **Dial 211 or 1-866-320-5764** for the following counties: Franklin, Johnson, Leavenworth, Linn and Miami.

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit. For more information, or to request an application, contact LIEAP at **1-800-432-0043** or visit www.srskansas.org/ISD/ees/lieap.htm.

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.



Upcoming Recycling, Refuse and 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 waste haulers plan to offer curbside yard waste collection services to their customers on a subscription basis. Yard waste will be required to be bagged and bundled appropriately for composting per instruction from your hauler.

- **Backyard Compost Bin**

Leaves, grass clippings and even food waste can be easily managed on-site in a backyard composting bin. Compost can be used to fertilize lawns and gardens. *To purchase a discounted backyard compost bin call the K-State Extension Office at 913-715-7000 or visit www.johnson.ksu.edu.*



- **Leave it on the Lawn**

Leave any grass clippings on the lawn by using a mulch mower. Not only do the grass clippings help retain moisture, but they also return up to 25% of the nitrogen needed to fertilize the soil. Leaves can also be mulched back onto the lawn with a mulching mower.

- **Drop-Off**

There are several locations in the area where residents can drop-off yard waste for composting. Fees apply and no plastic bags are allowed.

Also, please remember that dumping leaves and grass clippings into storm drains and creeks is illegal and may result in enforcement action! For more information, please contact the Johnson County Environmental Department by calling **913-715-6900** or visit www.jocorecycles.org.

Gardner Police Department's Tips for Driving in Snow and Ice



The best advice for driving in bad weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it!

Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions. It's helpful to practice your winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your car's owner manual for tips specific to your vehicle.