



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner



Extension Cord Safety Tips from Gardner Energy

- Before unwinding your extension cord and hooking it up to a power tool, read the label and check for product specifications. **If it is rated for indoor use, only use it indoors.** While you can use an outdoor power cord indoors, **never** use an indoor-rated extension cord for an outside job. This could result in electric shock or create a fire hazard. It only takes a few seconds, but it might just save you from injury or property damage!

- When shopping for extension cords, only purchase those that bear the UL symbol, which means samples of that particular type of cord have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories and received consumer safety approval.
- Don't use extension cords with cut or damaged insulation; this could put you at risk for fire, burns and electrical shock.
- Do not cut, file, or otherwise alter an extension cord grounding pin or plug blades to make it easier to plug into an outlet! If the extension cord plug doesn't fit into an older outlet, have an electrician replace the receptacle.
- Extended exposure to outdoor conditions can cause cords to deteriorate, so store all extension cords inside when they're not in use.
- Regardless of whether or not it's being used, as long as a power extension cord is plugged into an outlet, it's conducting electricity. To avoid potential safety hazards, always remember to unplug extension cords when they're not in use!

If your extension cord can accommodate multiple plugs but not all outlets are being used, block unused openings with outlet covers to prevent injury to children and pets.

Save Money on your Utility Bill

Conserve water and save money! Because sewer charges are based on water consumption, residential customers that conserve water during the winter months will reap the rewards all year long. The Winter Averaging Program for monthly sewer charges will be calculated using the winter averages from December, January, February and March. The winter months are used to figure the average, as that time period provides a true picture of interior water use when water consumption is not impacted by outdoor water use.

The averaged or calculated consumption of the four winter periods will be set and used for the monthly billing of your sewer charges until the next year when once again the water consumption during the winter months is averaged.

Since monthly sewer fees will be directly tied to winter water consumption, customers who use less water during the winter months will pay less for sewer services over the next eight months. Remember, this program affects only the sewer portion of your utility bill.

Customers initiating wastewater service after March will be billed for actual wastewater use or 8,000 gallons, whichever is less, until an actual winter average can be established.

October Town Hall Meetings –Hosted By Mayor Drovetta

Mayor Drovetta will host town hall meetings on **October 23, 2010 at 10 a.m. at Gardner City Hall.** Topics for each session will be placed on the website the week of the meeting. Sessions are informal and allow for question and answers related to issues concerning the City. Please consider taking time to join the Mayor to discuss issues affecting Gardner.

Halloween Safety for Your Ghosts and Goblins

"Trick or treat!" That's the phrase shouted with glee by many a youngster across the community on Halloween night. But before your ghosts and goblins trick or treat this year, parents should keep in mind these trick or treating safety tips.

Have each child carry or wear something lit, such as a flashlight, glow bracelet or necklace, or flashing attire for visibility. Light-up shoes are also practical and ever-so-noticeable on a dark Halloween night.

Adults should plan out a route in advance and check it during the daylight for such obstacles as broken sidewalks (or no sidewalks), construction timber, or other obstacles that could trip up trick or trickers. Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods or areas.

Avoid costumes that drag on the ground. While cute initially, costumes that drag can trip up little feet, get caught on bushes, and create a tussle that sometimes results in the child wanting to remove the costume. Remember, kids who trick or treat want to be costumed AND comfortable.

Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility and breathing. Spiderman masks, for example, sometimes only have small eye slits and nothing for the nose or mouth. Parents should try on masks for size and not hesitate to cut out larger openings for a trick or treaters' comfort. If possible, find a mask that "breathes" and is easy to put on and off. The types of mask that easily can slide up on the head and then pulled down are best.

Trick or treaters should walk, not run, and should never cut across lawns or driveways. Obstacles could exist that aren't readily visible in the evening.

Only trick or treat at houses that are lit. Residents who do not wish to be bothered by trick or treaters often leave off their lights as a sign; respect their preference by only going to houses that are lit.

Keep track of time and don't trick or treat after 9 p.m. (general recommendation). That allows ample time for children to trick or treat, and by then, the excitement of the evening and the candy/treats means little ghouls will be tired, anyhow.



HALLOWEEN BOO BASH



Gardner Parks and Recreation is gearing up for our 14th Annual Halloween Boo Bash. Due to the incredible growth and success of this event, we have decided to move to Celebration Park this year. Participants can still expect all of the favorites like carnival games, a DJ and prizes along with some new features like a hayrack ride along the trails and inflatables. A \$2 wristband for kids ages 2-12 gets them unlimited access to all of the games and activities. We invite everyone to come out to Celebration Park on Wednesday, October 27th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm for another "Spooktacular" Halloween Bash.



NOTICE: All City Hall offices will be closed in observance of **Veteran's Day** on Thursday, November 11th, 2010. For all Power and Water emergencies during this time, please call 913-856-6802. All departments will reopen on Friday, November 12th.