



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner

Upcoming City Hall Closures



All City Hall offices will be closed on **Friday, December 23rd** and **Monday, December 26th** in observance of Christmas and will reopen the morning of Tuesday, December 27th.

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

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.

Standard Snow Removal Schedule & Policy

Priority 1

Thoroughfares, bridges and on-traffic routes to schools: plowed by single axle dump trucks continuously during snowfall.

Priority 2

Collector and industrial commercial streets: plowed by single axle dump trucks continuously during snowfall.

Priority 3

Residential streets: plowed continuously during snowfall after Priority 2 is completed.

Priority 4

Cul-de-sacs: plowed after snowfall and after Priority 2 and Priority 3 streets are cleared.

If ice or only light snow occurs (less than 2"), and plowing is not required, city trucks will spot-treat with materials only.

How long does it take to clear the streets? It takes, on average, about 8-12 hours to salt and 24-36 hours to plow the city for one cycle. However, depending on the intensity of the snow event, the number of parked cars, and the traffic volume it can take several cycles to complete the entire operation.

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What do I do if a snow plow truck causes damage to my property? Unfortunately, damage does sometimes occur to yards and mailboxes. Damages can be reported to the Public Works Department by calling 913-856-0922. Sod damage and sprinkler damage are logged and repaired in the spring. If a mailbox is damaged, a temporary mailbox is installed and permanent repairs are generally made with 48-72 hours.

Who plows Main Street and highways? The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) plows US 56 Hwy, which is Main Street in Gardner. They also plow highways and ramps to I-35.

Additional Snow Removal Policies

- Private streets are maintained by applicable property owners.
- City of Gardner does not plow sidewalks or driveways unless part of city-owned property.
- Driveways may be blocked during snow removal operations. We attempt to minimize this as much as possible. However, property owners are responsible for clearing their driveways.
- Residents are reminded to remove parked vehicles from the roadway. Vehicles on roadways may be towed if they impede normal snow removal operations. Snow removal is more thoroughly accomplished if vehicles and other equipment are removed from the road.
- Residents are also reminded to remove portable basketball goals during inclement weather.
- City equipment will not be used to conduct privately-owned vehicle recovery operations.
- City does not have designated emergency snow routes.
- Medical emergencies are referred to 911 for validation.

For the full list of policies and procedures, please visit the website at www.gardnerkansas.gov/snow_ice_removal.



Safety Tips from the Gardner Police Department

Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov for holiday shopping and winter driving safety tips from the Gardner Police Department!

Fun Facts About Electricity

Gardner Energy presents some fun facts about electricity:

- Electricity travels at the speed of light—more than 186,000 miles per second!
- If you had a light bulb on the moon connected to a switch in your bedroom, it would take only 1.26 seconds for that bulb to light up over 238,857 miles away.
- If you traveled as fast as electricity (about 300,000 kilometers = 186,411.358 miles per second) you could go around the world 8 times in the time it takes to turn on a light switch.
- A spark of static electricity can measure up to 3,000 volts.
- A bolt of lightning can measure up to 3,000,000 volts and it lasts less than one second and has enough electricity to service 200,000 homes!
- Every year, American homes waste more than \$13 billion in energy—an average of \$150 per family.
- Thomas Edison didn't invent the first light bulb, but he did invent one that stayed lit for more than a few seconds. Thomas Edison invented more than 2,000 new products, including almost everything needed for us to use electricity in our homes: switches, fuses, sockets and meters.
- Ben Franklin didn't discover electricity, but he did prove that lightning is a form of electrical energy.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has a fun and informative website 'not just for kids.' Besides providing great information, it also has games and activities.

Check it out at www.eia.gov/kids/index.cfm!

