



# Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner



## Gardner Joins Take Charge Challenge –Let’s Go 66030!

The City of Gardner, in partnership with the Climate and Energy Project and the Kansas Office of Energy, is fired up and is asking you to join the enthusiasm about the Take Charge Challenge to save on energy use in Gardner and the 66030 zip code. This is a friendly challenge between the cities of Gardner, Ottawa, Paola and Baldwin City starting January 1 through October 2011. The City is working on plans to get

everyone involved in saving energy money and helping the environment get a little greener! The City has received a grant to help and will be using the funds to purchase CFL light bulbs to hand out at community events as well as other energy saving devices. If Gardner wins, it will receive a \$100,000 prize to apply to a large energy saving project for the community that comes from the American Recovery and Reinvest Act of 2009!!

The City is asking you to think about how you can help in this effort... organize a project within the neighborhood or at your local business, work with the local boy or girl scout troop, ask how the church can participate in saving energy, and then do something fun to start saving. Once the project has been put together, there will be a place to log the efforts and to help Gardner win the Take Charge Challenge! So strike up that Gardner pride and the “can do” spirit to see how much energy Gardner can save and help the environment too. Groups can get credit for Gardner by organizing events that promote energy saving ideas and concepts to share with others in the community, not just for the actual savings from projects.

Ever considered an energy audit of your home or business? Well, there are reduced costs for the audit through federal funding if you are participating in Gardner’s Take Charge Challenge within the 66030 zip code. Visit [www.encykansas.com](http://www.encykansas.com) to learn about this great deal on a home energy audit that will run through September 2011 for Gardner participants. For only \$100, you will receive a thorough audit with action steps prioritizing the biggest savings for your hard earned dollars. Then track your participation, and help Gardner show how it is kicking the energy monster out of town. Visit [www.takechargekansas.org](http://www.takechargekansas.org) to log your CFL light bulb conversions! Or visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner\\_green](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner_green) for links many great energy saving websites.

## Rate Changes Approved for Wastewater and Water

The City Council approved rate changes for water and wastewater at its December 6, 2010 meeting. For your usage in January 2011, wastewater rates will increase 8%, and water rates will increase 5%. These changes will be reflected in your statement starting February 2011. The following is a summary of the rate changes by utility:

### Wastewater Rates

Wastewater rates will be increasing 8%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$9.45 to \$10.20. The usage charge will go from \$6.00 per thousand gallons to \$6.50 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$3.83 per month.

### Water Rates

Water rates will be increasing 5%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$9.90 to \$10.40. The cost for the first 40,000 gallons of water will go from \$4.45 per thousand gallons to \$4.65 per thousand gallons. The average increase for a residential water customer is \$2.25 per month.

## Electric Utility Board Member and Former City Council Member, Vern Pickert, Officially Retires

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Vernon Pickert moved to Gardner in 1953. Pickert worked in various positions related to the electrical industry throughout the years and retired in 1994. However, Pickert did not really “retire”. He instead chose to work in the community and serve the City of Gardner and its citizens in various capacities as a volunteer.

In his new career Pickert was a member of the City Council for 13 years, on the School Board for 8 years, on the Board of Zoning Appeals for 8 years and was a Volunteer Fireman for the City for 21 years. He is currently on the Electric Utility Board, having been selected by the Mayor and appointed by the Council in 2008.

Pickert has recently decided to “retire” at the end of his term in January 2011. The City and Electric Board is recognizing Pickert for his public service commitment at their meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

The City is proud to have worked with Vern Pickert in various capacities and very grateful for his giving attitude, not only to the City but to its residents. Throughout the years he has given up personal time to attend meetings and functions and to be an active participant in each and every one of these organizations.

## 2011 Tree Trimming Program

Gardner Energy is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service. Trees and good electric service are both important to the community. Unfortunately, the two aren't always compatible. Gardner Energy must trim trees for two safety purposes:

1. Public Safety
2. Reliability of electric service



Many service outages and interruptions are caused by tree limbs which fall into power lines causing damage to wires, short circuits and other problems. That creates potential danger for you and your property; danger that can be avoided by not planting tall-growing trees under or near electric wires and by routine tree-trimming.

Through the RFP and Bid process, Gardner Energy has selected Asplundh to perform the 2011 Electric Line Tree Trimming Program, which will begin in early January, 2011.

To read more about Gardner Energy's tree trimming practices, visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/tree\\_trimming/](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/tree_trimming/)

## Changes to Service Line Materials

The City of Gardner has changed the policy regarding water service line materials for lines up to 2 inches.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the City will no longer supply the materials for water service lines up to 2" size. That means the contractor will need to supply, for all meters up to 2" size, the following items:

- Meter Pit
- Meter Setter
- Copper piping for the service line from the water main the meter setter, and for 3' past the meter setter.
- Installation of the above items.

The City will inspect the installation and will make the tap on the main up to the 2" size.

For all meters over 2" size, (no change to current policy) the contractor will also arrange for the tap to be made by an approved sub-contractor, supply the meter (per City specifications), and supply the concrete meter vault and plumbing inside the vault.



**NOTICE:** All City Hall offices will be closed in observance of **Martin Luther King Day** on, January 17, 2011. All departments will reopen on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

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