



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner



**HELP GARDNER
WIN THE
TAKE CHARGE
CHALLENGE!**

Ends September 30th!

Ever Considered an Energy Audit of Your Home or Business?

To help Gardner win the Take Charge Challenge, residents are encouraged to participate in the Efficiency Kansas program, which offers Kansas residents the opportunity for energy audits at a discounted rate. For only \$100 you can receive a complete audit with action steps prioritizing the biggest savings for your hard earned dollars !

A full list of local participating auditors is available at http://www.efficiencykansas.com/auditors_list.php .

The Challenge ends September 30, 2011, so visit the Take Charge Challenge Headquarters TODAY!

Take Charge Challenge Headquarters
29550 W. 191st Street, Suite B
(191st and Gardner Road–Shell Station)
For information, please call 913-543-3572

For all of the latest Take Charge Challenge information, please visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner_green.

Utility Bill Overview

The City of Gardner owns and operates three utilities. These utilities include Water, Sewer and Electric. In order to control costs, the monthly utility bill mailed out by the City contains charges for all three services. This one bill itemizes the usage and charges for each utility including the previous and current meter readings, the consumption for each service, the previous months total charge and the new charges. In addition, the bill displays a graph for Electric and Water which provides a 13 month history of the usage on your account.



When you have a question about any of these three services, a Utility Billing representative can assist you. The phone number is 913-856-7535. You can also call this number to start or stop service or to ask a question about any of these accounts. If you need to report an Electric problem, call 913-856-6802 anytime. If you need to report a Water or Wastewater/ Sewer problem, call 913-856-7535 during business hours and 913-856-6802 after business hours including weekends and holidays.

Please visit the City's website at www.gardnerkansas.gov for more information on your utilities.

FREE Fan for Those in Need



Thanks to the goodwill of the CenturyLink Gardner Data Center employees, the City of Gardner has fans to give to those in need for the hot days we've been having.

Fans are still available at the Utility Billing counter in City Hall for any utility customer over 60 years of age or listed with a medical frailty on their utility account. Fans will be distributed on a *first come, first serve* basis.

Upcoming 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.

- **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.

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.

Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that about one-third of all residential smoke detectors in the United States do not work properly. To make sure you don't have one of those malfunctioning units, follow these useful tips:

- **Test your detector** - Experts recommend that you should run a test of every detector in your house anywhere from once a week to once a month. All units should have an easily-accessible test button.
- **Check your batteries!** - You should check your batteries every six months, and change them every year. A good rule of thumb is to check the batteries when you turn your clocks ahead in the spring, and then change the batteries when you turn your clocks back in the fall. If a battery is starting to lose its power, the unit will usually chirp to warn you.
- **Don't ignore false alarms!** - Smoke detectors don't just sound for no reason. If your unit seems to have more than its share of unfounded false alarms, replace it.
- **Keep your detectors clean** - At least once a year, vacuum or blow out any dust that might accumulate inside the unit and in the slats on the outside cover.
- **NEVER borrow a battery** - NEVER borrow a battery from an alarm to use somewhere else. You might forget to replace it, or the battery might get worn down faster from the other appliance.
- **NEVER paint a smoke detector** - Painting a unit can block the vents in the cover, preventing smoke from getting to the sensors.
- **Replace your smoke detectors** - Replace your smoke detectors every ten years.

