



# Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner



**Take Charge!**  
CHALLENGE

WITH



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

**FREE CFL light bulbs are still available at the Utility Billing counter in City Hall; stop by and get yours today!**

## Learn More at an Upcoming Energy Efficiency Class!

Join the City of Gardner on **Wednesday, July 13th** for a class at the new Home Energy Efficiency Demonstration & Learning Center (Take Charge Challenge HQ) where we will cover the following topics:

- Tips on how to weather proof your home
- What a home energy audit is, the benefits of completing one and demonstrations
- How you can help Gardner become more efficient and win the Take Charge Challenge!

### WHEN

Wednesday, July 13th  
6:00 p.m. AND 7:00 p.m.  
More dates to be added soon!



### WHERE

Home Energy Efficiency Demonstration & Learning Center  
191st and Gardner Road (Shell Station)

***FREE weather proofing kit and CFL light bulbs!***

For more information, please call 913-543-3572.

## Back by Popular Demand...THERMOSTATS!

Thanks to additional funding provided by Johnson County, the City of Gardner will again be offering free programmable thermostats during the Take Charge Challenge. The thermostats will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis *while supplies last* and will be available at the Utility Billing counter at City Hall.

Please check our website at [www.gardnerkansas.gov](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov) for notification of when the thermostats will be available.

## 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 ***AND be entered to win one of ten \$1,000 rebates for energy efficient appliances!***

Keep up with all the latest Take Charge Challenge information at [www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner\\_green](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner_green).



## FREE Fan for Those in Need

Thanks to the good will of the CenturyLink Gardner Data Center employees, the City of Gardner has fans to give to those in need for the hot days ahead.

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

## State Vulnerable Needs Information System



The website <http://helpmekansas.org> allows residents with special needs the opportunity to provide information to assist emergency management agencies in planning to meet the needs of vulnerable populations before, during and after emergencies. **If you or someone you know is a member of a vulnerable population, please take the time to complete the "Individual System Form" available on the website.**

The website also provides both volunteers and facilities the opportunity to complete a "Facility System Form" and/or a "Volunteer System Form" providing information regarding how they might provide assistance to vulnerable populations during emergency events.

Please remember there is no substitute for personal preparation! In an emergency or disaster, the government and emergency response agencies may not be able to meet your needs. It is important for all residents to make individual plans and preparations for their care and safety in any emergency.

To better prepare for emergencies and disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) recommend all citizens take the following simple steps:

1. **Get a disaster kit**—These typically include water, non-perishable food, NOAA weather radio, flashlight and extra batteries, first aid kit, whistle, dust masks, local maps, sanitation items and a cell phone charger
2. **Make a disaster plan**—Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for online and downloadable forms
3. **Be informed**—Learn about the emergency plans established by your state and local government

If you have any questions, please contact Johnson County Emergency Management at 913-782-3038.

## Lawn Mower Safety Tips

The drone of the lawn mower is a familiar sound during the summer months, but this routine task can have devastating effects if safety guidelines aren't followed. Safety is especially important considering that more young people are taking on this chore at home and in their neighborhoods as a way to earn extra income. Following are some safety reminders to help you and your family prevent injuries and accidents:

- Children should be at least 12 years old before they operate a lawn mower, and at least 16 years old for a ride-on.
- Wear appropriate shoes to avoid slipping. Never wear sandals.
- Watch out for stones and branches that could become projectiles. If mowing near a road or house, mow with the chute opposite to oncoming traffic or the house.
- Make sure children are safely away from the mowing area.
- For operator safety, always wear both eye and ear protection.
- Never let anyone else, especially children, ride as a passenger on a riding lawn mower.
- Never refuel a running lawn mower. Stop the engine and let it cool down before adding gas or oil.
- Use a mower with a control that stops it from moving forward if the handle is released.
- Never pull backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary—carefully look for others behind you when you do.
- Never reach into the discharge chute of a still running lawn mower to clear debris. Always wait for the engine to stop and blades to stop turning when removing a grass catcher attachment.

