# **FALL 2016**

# TOWN TALK



# Garnett, Kansas



#### **City Commission**



Greg Gwin, Mayor



Gordon Blackie, Commissioner



Jody Cole, Commissioner

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## From The Commission...

Do you own a house or business in Garnett? Do you have children or grandchildren in a Garnett school? Do you seek health care in Garnett? If so, a rare opportunity is upon us, an opportunity to not only catch Garnett up to today's expected level of Internet access but to also move our town/county forward toward future growth. A fiber optic company KsFiberNet is giving us the opportunity to bring high speed fiber optics to Garnett and potentially parts of the county. It's up to us to grasp this chance and its inherent benefits.

This may sound too good to be true, so what is the catch? First off, KsFiberNet does not sell Internet services to residential customers. Their primary business is fiber optics, networking, and wholesale bandwidth supply. They have planned a cable route of least resistance and greatest opportunity to reach the largest number of businesses possible within Garnett. They are currently seeking "Soft" commitments from potential business owners who have interest in business-grade Internet services.

This company has a limited amount of capital, and unlimited places to invest it. They are currently calculating the cost to put the network in the city of Garnett in order to supply high speed Internet services. This sum will represent the total infrastructure cost. In order to make this cost-effective, they need as many businesses as possible to sign up to purchase services and get them to a point of profitability. The more people sign up, the cheaper the services can be for everyone involved. They need to achieve a return on their investment for it to make sense for them. We must first get them to the break-even point, and that takes commitments and conversations.

They have not asked anyone to sign on any dotted line yet, as they do not have their costs completed.

So, how do we help? Spread the word. We need everyone to contact anyone who could benefit from this. Schools, libraries, hospitals, health care providers and government offices are their biggest target because of their high demand for data. However, any business can receive services from them as well.

To provide for residential customers, there would have to be a wholesale commitment from a local provider to purchase bandwidth and then re-sell it to end users. This is a very important piece of the puzzle as they would be a LARGE customer for the provider and offset much of the infrastructure costs. Therefore, the opportunity we have is two-fold.

First, the businesses that are sizeable enough to handle true business class service are being given the opportunity to purchase up to 100 GB service directly. This is a huge opportunity for the local businesses to enter the 21st Century with internet speeds that are required in today's business market. This sets Garnett up to be competitive in the business world. To attract new business, we need to provide Internet speeds that are currently not available.

Secondly, they would seek to sell wholesale Internet services to a local provider who would then re-sell their Internet services directly to individuals or smaller business owners who don't have the demand for their business class service. This still would take our top tier Internet availability (10/2MB) and potentially take that to 10 Gig service. That is over 1,000 times faster. Even though residents are not buying directly,



### Continued from page 1...

the opportunity through the re-seller makes this high-speed Internet available to them. Consequently, EVERY resident could benefit from this.

The returns to our city, and potentially the county, are greater than just the financial aspects. They include the greater benefits of narrowing the digital divide between generations, enhancing the quality of health care, providing  $21^{\rm st}$  Century learning opportunities for our students, and providing services at public libraries for all citizens. Now it's up to us to avail ourselves of this opportunity; it may not come again very soon, if ever.

Respectfully,

**Jody Cole** 

## From The City Manager...

This article features the Garnett Community Foundation which was established in July of 2010. There are five (5) members who are entrusted with overseeing all donations and expenditures for the many projects that funds are received for. This board meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month. Their projects have earned money to purchase equipment for the recreation center, equipment for the tot lot and supplies for the After School program.

In the beginning, the foundation accepted donations from the Goppert Foundation to help convert the armory building into the now very popular Recreation Center. Monies received were used to install a gym floor, purchase exercise equipment and install air conditioning. Over the years, individuals and community organizations have donated funds and various grants were received to purchase additional equipment that now fills the cardio room, the exercise room and the room built for YOGA, ZUMBA and SPIN classes.

The Garnett Community Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and falls under the regulations of the IRS. At the present time, the funds are managed through the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

People can make donations in memory or honor of someone or for a specific program. These programs include not only the recreation center, but the sports complex, general recreation programs, the Garnett Public Library, any of the parks, Cedar Valley Reservoir, the Donna Harris Memorial Park, Santa Fe Depot, Arthur Capper Memorial, Fourth Avenue Streetscape, Garnett Downtown Development/Community Network, Veteran's Banners, Garnett Area Paint Project and the new disc golf course at the North Lake.

Thousands of dollars have flowed through the Foundation to purchase the Veteran's Memorial Banners that were displayed in Garnett's downtown and along Highway 59. Because of the generosity of the Goppert Foundation, funds were given to the Garnett Community Foundation to install new windows at the

Garnett Public Library and assist the Garnett Senior Center in the demolition of two (2) buildings that made way for the construction of a new parking lot.

All donations are tax deductible and can be left at the Garnett City Hall or mailed to PO Box H; Garnett, Kansas 66032. The following levels of donations will result in the donor's name being placed on the memorial board at the Recreation Center: White-Foundation (\$100 - \$200); Bronze- Builder (\$201-\$499); Silver-Wall of Memories (\$500-\$999); Gold - Raise the Roof (\$1,000+) and Platinum - Over the Top (\$5,000+).

Donation cards are available at the Garnett City Hall and the Recreation Center. Please feel free to stop by either of these facilities to leave a donation. City staff will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Garnett is truly blessed by the many hours given by our volunteers who serve on the various city advisory boards. They give so much of their personal time with no compensation. They volunteer because they truly believe in what they are doing and are proud of their accomplishments. My heartfelt thanks to all of them.

Respectfully,

Joyce E. Martin, City Manager

## **Notice about Your Drinking Water**

The City of Garnett is required to monitor your drinking water for PESTICIDES on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the seasonal period of May 1 – June 30, 2016, we did not monitor for BHC-GAMMA, CHLORDANE, ENDRIN, HEPTACHLOR, HEPTACHLOR EPOXIDE, LASSO, METH-OXYCHLOR, SIMZANE, TOTAL POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB) AND TOXAPHENE. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we will do to correct the situation. THERE IS NOTHING YOU NEED TO DO AT THIS TIME.

The last sample was collected on May 19, 2015. The next sample will be taken during the time period of May 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017. Water plant personnel are required to do this sampling once per year during the time period indicated.

For more information, please contact Jim James, Water Plant Superintendent at 785-448-3327. You may also send your comments to City Hall at PO Box H, Garnett, Kansas 66032.



## **Protect People First, Then Property**

Important Information You Need to Know...

The purpose of our natural gas mains and service lines are to transport the gas to our businesses and individual homes. It is estimated that there are more than 800,000 miles of underground gas mains and service lines in the United States today. Fortunately, pipeline accidents are extremely rare, but they can occur. Natural gas is very flammable, potentially hazardous and can be explosive under certain conditions.

Garnett has approximately 44 miles of natural gas mains and 20 miles of service lines that are made up of bare steel, protected steel, polyethylene plastic and some PVC, all of which are monitored for problems and leaks.

The City invests significant time and money to maintain the quality and integrity of its gas system. Yearly we conduct a leak survey of all underground mains and service lines up to the structure's foundation wall. We odorize our gas system 24/7, 365 days a year, so that a gas leak can be detected by smell and reported. The Garnett Gas Department monitors construction and excavation activities taking place around all natural gas facilities and we prioritize and identify the areas in our system that need maintenance (also known as, "Integrity Management").

The City is responsible for the safety and security of our pipeline and pipeline facilities. To help maintain the integrity of our facilities and right-of-ways, it is important that you play a role in helping us protect against unauthorized excavations and destructive activities. Here is what you can do to help:

Be familiar with our natural gas facilities in your area. Things such as meters, regulator facilities and pipeline marker signs. Know the telephone numbers to call and keep them handy:

Garnett City Hall - (785) 448-5496

Anderson County Emergency Communications (Dispatch) - (785) 448-6823

Emergency - DIAL 9-1-1

BEFORE you dig, call Kansas One Call: (800) DIG-SAFE or 1-800-344-7233 OR dial 8-1-1.

811 is a federally mandated number to get utilities located before you dig.

Again, we remind you to CALL before you DIG. It is toll-free and it is required by law. Anytime you plan projects that require digging call the Kansas One Call number or 8-1-1.

The gas department regularly communicates, plans and trains with our local emergency personnel, such as the fire department, police and police dispatchers. Upon a report of a gas leak or related incident, the proper departments can be dispatched to provide public safety assistance and to respond to the gas emergency.

#### Can you recognize a natural gas leak?

Answer: Trust your senses. Seeing continuous bubbling in a wet or flooded area, dead vegetation or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy environment could signal a possible gas leak. A quiet to loud hissing sound could also indicate a possible natural gas leak. In most cases, here in Garnett gas leaks are recognized using the sense of smell. Our gas system is odorized all the time so that you can detect a possible gas leak by smell.

#### How to report a natural gas leak:

If you think you smell natural gas inside or outside a structure, report it to the gas department as soon as possible by calling Garnett City Hall **(785) 448-5496**. If after business hours please call the Anderson County Emergency Communications (Dispatch Center) at **(785) 448-6823**. If you have a gas emergency and the gas odor is very strong and it seems to be everywhere, DO NOT OPERATE any light switches or attempt to air out the building. Exit the property, go to a neighbor and then notify the gas department by calling **9-1-1**. Wait there for emergency personnel to arrive.

Any additional gas safety related information is always free and available at Garnett City Hall.



## Paint the Town Pink - WINGS **Cancer Awareness Month**

**WINGS Walk A Mile In Her Shoes** 1 5K Run/Walk

6 p.m., Lake Garnett

3 **Anderson Co. Commission Meeting** 9 a.m., Annex Building **Celebrate Recovery** 5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene

**Library Board Meeting** 5 p.m., Garnett Public Library **Community Foundation Meeting** 

5:30 p.m., Garnett Rec. Center

- **TOPS Meeting** 9 a.m., United Methodist Church **Storytime for Preschoolers** 10 a.m., Garnett Public Library **Rotary Meeting** 12 p.m., Garnett Inn
  - Health Festival, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., Anderson County Hospital

**American Legion Bingo** 6 p.m., VFW Post 6397

5 **Duplicate Bridge** 1 p.m., Garnett Inn **Tourism Advisory Board Meeting** 5:30 p.m., City Hall **ACHS Booster Club Meeting** 

5:30 p.m., ACHS **GES PTO Meeting** 6 p.m., GES

6 Farmer's Market 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Garnett Square 13-Point Pitch & Snacks 6 p.m., Garnett Senior Center **Anderson Co. Historical Society** Meeting 6:30 p.m., Welda Community Bldg.

**USD 365 Endowment Association** 6:30 p.m., ACHS **USD 365 BOE Meeting** 

7 p.m., School Board Office

- 8 **Tastes & Talents Art & Wine Stroll** 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., register at Walker Art Gallery
- 8-9 **Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival** Lake Garnett – more info. at lggpr.org
- 9-15 **National Fire Prevention Week**
- 10 **Anderson Co. Commission Meeting** 9 a.m., Annex Building **Celebrate Recovery** 5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene **Airport Advisory Board Meeting** 5:30 p.m., City Hall **Garnett Housing Authority Board** of Directors Meeting 7 p.m., GHA Office
- 11 **Recycle Trailer at Country Mart TOPS Meeting** 9 a.m., United Methodist Church **Storytime for Preschoolers** 10 a.m., Garnett Public Library **Rotary Meeting** 12 p.m., Garnett Inn **American Legion Bingo** 6 p.m., VFW Post 6397 **City Commission Meeting** 6 p.m., City Hall

**Alzheimer's Support Group** 

6 p.m., Golden Heights Living

- Center 12 **Duplicate Bridge** 1 p.m., Garnett Inn Parks & Rec. Advisory Board 5:30 p.m., City Hall Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail **Trail Meeting** 7 p.m., Santa Fe Depot
- 13 **GACC Ambassadors Meeting** 8:30 a.m., Call for location Farmer's Market, Chili Contest 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Garnett Square **Fire Department Open House** 5 p.m. -8 p.m., Tour and free hotdogs **GACC Board Meeting**

5:30 p.m., Dornes Insurance

MUSIC-SHOPPING-WINE-FOOI www.garnettchamber.org

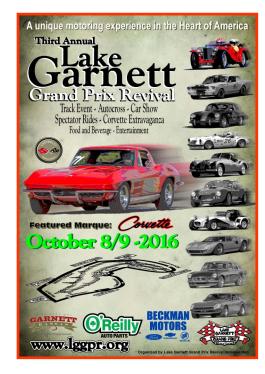
13-Point Pitch 6 p.m., Senior Center

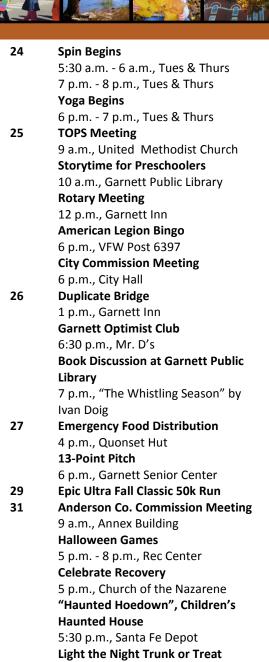
- 16 A Way Out Support Meeting 6:30 p.m., Extension Office
- **Anderson Co. Commission Meeting** 17 9 a.m., Annex Building **Celebrate Recovery** 5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene
- 18 **TOPS Meeting** 9 a.m., United Methodist Church **Storytime for Preschoolers** 10 a.m., Garnett Public Library **Rotary Meeting** 12 p.m., Garnett Inn

**ACDA - Economic Development** Meeting 5 p.m., City Hall **Garnett BPW Meeting** 5:30 p.m., Archer Room Library **American Legion Bingo** 6 p.m., VFW Post 6397

- 19 **Duplicate Bridge** 1 p.m., Garnett Inn 13-Point Pitch 6 p.m., Garnett Senior Center
- 20 **Walker Art Committee Meeting** 4 p.m., City Hall
- 24 **Anderson Co. Commission Meeting** 9 a.m., Annex Building **Caregivers Support Group** 1 p.m., Park Plaza North **Celebrate Recovery** 5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene **Core & Cardio Begins**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Mon & Wed





Church **NOVEMBER TOPS Meeting** 9 a.m., United Methodist Church **Storytime for Preschoolers** 10 a.m., Garnett Public Library **Rotary Meeting** 12 p.m., Garnett Inn **American Legion Bingo** 6 p.m., VFW Post 6397 2 **Duplicate Bridge** 1 p.m., Garnett Inn **Tourism Advisory Board Meeting** 5:30 p.m., City Hall **ACHS Booster Club Meeting** 5:30 p.m., ACHS

6 p.m. - 8 p.m., First Christian

2 Garnett Elementary Center
PTO Meeting
6 p.m., GES

3 13-Point Pitch & Snacks
6 p.m., Garnett Senior Center
Anderson Co. Historical Society
Meeting
6:30 p.m., Home of Jonas and
Loraine Borntrager
USD 365 Endowment Association

6:30 p.m., ACHS
USD 365 BOE Meeting
7 p.m., School Board Office

4 Holiday Open House Weekend Shop Local! Friends of the Library

6:30 p.m., 30th Anniversary Bash
St. Rose Craft Show & Bierock Sale
9 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. Rose Gym

7 Anderson Co. Commission Meeting
9 a.m., Annex Building
Celebrate Recovery
5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene
Library Board Meeting
5 p.m., Garnett Public Library
Community Foundation Meeting
5:30 p.m., Garnett Rec. Center

8 Recycle Trailer at Country Mart
TOPS Meeting
9 a.m., United Methodist Church
Storytime for Preschoolers
10 a.m., Garnett Public Library
Rotary Meeting
12 p.m., Garnett Inn

American Legion Bingo 6 p.m., VFW Post 6397 City Commission Meeting 6 p.m., City Hall

Alzheimer's Support Group 6 p.m., Golden Heights

9 Duplicate Bridge
1 p.m., Garnett Inn
Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail
Trail

7 p.m., Santa Fe Depot

GACC Ambassadors Meeting
8:30 a.m., Call for location
GACC Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., Dornes Insurance
13-Point Pitch
6 p.m., Senior Center

11 Veteran's Day City Offices Closed
 14 Anderson Co. Commission Meeting
 9 a.m., Annex Building
 Anderson Co. Coalition Meeting

1:30 p.m., Extension Office

14 Celebrate Recovery
5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene
Airport Advisory Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., City Hall

Garnett Housing Authority Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m., Park Plaza North

15 TOPS Meeting

9 a.m., United Methodist Church Storytime for Preschoolers 10 a.m., Garnett Public Library Rotary Meeting 12 p.m., Garnett Inn

ACDA - Anderson Co. Economic Development Meeting

5 p.m., City Hall

**Garnett BPW Meeting** 5:30 p.m., Archer Room Library

American Legion Bingo 6 p.m., VFW Post 6397

16 Duplicate Bridge 1 p.m., Garnett Inn

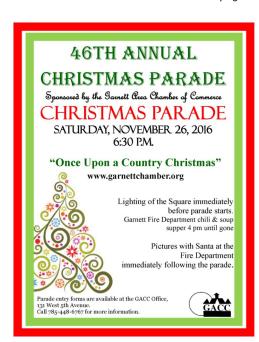
17 13-Point Pitch
6 p.m., Senior Center
Walker Art Committee Meeting
4 p.m., City Hall

A Way Out Support Meeting 6:30 p.m., Extension Office

Anderson Co. Commission Meeting
 9 a.m., Annex Building
 Celebrate Recovery
 5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene

TOPS Meeting
9 a.m., United Methodist Church

Continued on page 6...





1 p.m., Begins at First Baptist Church **Garnett BPW Holiday Boutique** 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., at The Kirk House **Anderson Co. Commission Meeting** 9 a.m., Annex Building

**Celebrate Recovery** 

**Library Board Meeting** 

5 p.m., Church of the Nazarene

Alzheimer's Support Group 6 p.m., Golden Heights 14 **Duplicate Bridge** 1 p.m., Garnett Inn Parks & Rec. Advisory Board 5:30 p.m., City Hall Friends of the PSRT

15

7 p.m., Santa Fe Depot

6 p.m., Senior Center

**Walker Art Committee Meeting** 

13-Point Pitch

**JANUARY** Happy New Year!

## Friends of the Library

**Holiday Homes Tour** December 4, 2016 1-4 p.m.



5



## "The Greatest Investment You Can Make is in Yourself" Garnett Recreation Center - Goppert Wellness Center 510 North Lake Road ~ (785) 448-3023

#### JOIN TODAY!

Pump iron, burn calories, hustle and tone. Those words best describe what happens when you visit the local "Rec Center". Enjoy the vast array of elliptical, treadmills, exercise machines, stationary bikes, free weights and multipurpose rooms.

Begin investing in what matters most in life, your life -today. Our friendly staff looks forward to seeing you!

The Garnett Recreation Center is owned and operated by the City of Garnett.

#### **MEMBERSHIP FEES\***

Payment options allow you to pay daily, monthly or annually.

Daily Fee (12+) \$ 3

Single (11-18) \$15/month or \$150 annual

Annual savings: \$30

Single (19-54) \$25/month or \$250 annual

Annual savings: \$50

Family \$35/month\* or \$350 annual

Annual savings: \$70

Senior (55 & over) \$15/month or \$150 annual

Annual savings: \$30

\*Family of four includes mother, father and two kids or a single parent and three kids. Any additional kids up to the age of 18 years of age will be an additional \$10 per month. A married couple qualifies for the family plan.

Any child 11 years of age and under cannot use the facility without being accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or adult. No fee will be charged for those under the age of 11. However, if the parent, legal guardian or adult accompanying someone in this age group wants to use the facility, they must have a membership or pay a daily/monthly fee.

\*Fees subject to change.





#### HOURS OF OPERATION

### Fall/Winter

Monday-Friday 5:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

> Saturday 8 a.m. - noon Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Summer

Monday-Friday 6 a.m. - 9 a.m. Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - noon Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

## Did You Know...

The City of Garnett welcomes the following new employees: *Jenny Schooler*, Account Clerk/Assistant Court Clerk; *Stephen Callow, Rodney Hirt, Shane Holloway, Simeon White* and *Michael Wilson*, Volunteer Firefighters, and *Johnathan Chitwood*, Power Plant Operator.

Congratulations to *Raymond Arnett*, Refuse Department Assistant Superintendent, for reaching his 10-year anniversary of working for the city.

Garnett is the place to be on Halloween night.

- 4:00-8:00 p.m. Light the Night 2016, parking lot-First Christian Church, 2nd & Walnut. Trunk-or-Treat, free hotdogs and hot chocolate.
- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Halloween Games, Garnett Recreation Center. Free games and treats!
- 5:30 7:30 p.m. Children's Haunted House, Santa Fe Depot, hosted by Friends of the Prairie Spirit Trail.
   Free hotdogs and treats for all. Donations of canned food or non-perishable items for local food pantry will be accepted.

City of Garnett utility customers are encouraged to contact the Utility Billing Department at City Hall to update their current phone number in the event contact needs to be made. Your cooperation is appreciated.



Garnett, KS 66032

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S. POSTAGE PAID EDDM Retail

Learn more about Garnett and what's happening simply by visiting:

## www.simplygarnett.com

## Do You Love The Arts?

The Walker Art Committee, which oversees the renowned Walker Art Collection and the Garnett City Art Collection, has a vacancy on their committee. They are looking for someone who has a strong interest in providing information about the collections through Facebook and the Internet and would be willing to oversee the annual Juried Art Show. This committee has eight (8) members and meets the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall. They participate in many community events and provide docent tours of the Walker Gallery by appointment. Anyone interested in being a member of this committee should contact the City Manager at the Garnett City Hall, 785-448-5496. Names will be given to the City Commission for their selection. The only requirements are an interest in the arts and wanting to be a part of a very interesting group of people.

Members have been making holiday "orbs" which can be seen in the garden in front of City Hall and in one of the trees at the Donna Harris Park. They will have a workshop on Saturday, October  $15^{\rm th}$  from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Archer Room at the Garnett Public Library. Cost is \$10 which will provide a kit and instructions on how to make the "orbs". No preregistration is required.

## News from the Fire Chief

### **SCAM ALERT!**

Twenty years ago it was almost unheard of that untrustworthy people would take advantage of our local businesses. Unfortunately, in today's world it is a different story. We need to be protective of our records at all levels, from personal to business, both financial and confidential account information.

Below are a few tips that might help:

- Do your homework make sure the soliciting business or individual is legitimate before donating/paying.
- Do not rely solely on someone else's reference, and don't make impulse decisions based on someone else's decisions.
   Do your homework.
- ALWAYS get an invoice and make sure the invoice has the business name and contact information in the event you need to contact them.
- Be leery of a demand for payment in advance or requiring cash only payment.

You can check the status of most businesses on the Better Business Bureau website at www.bbb.org, and always feel free to contact the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce at 785.448.6767 for assistance.

Desiree Donovan, GACC Executive Director/Administrative Assistant

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who attended our first ever BBQ in July and for everyone's support throughout the summer. The department responded to quite a few fires this summer that could have been prevented.

We have 5 new firefighters in training: Stephen Callow, Rodney Hirt, Shane Holloway, Simeon White and Michael Wilson. Two firefighters, Dane Byerley and Mike Gonzales, recently completed EMT training in Chanute and are preparing to take their state boards. Several firefighters have built a training room on City property that is used by firefighters from across the region. Spear heading this effort was Lt. Wes Skillman. Fire Prevention week is October 9th - 15th. We plan to visit every classroom in Garnett and will have an open house on Thursday, October 13th.

Please remember to check your furnaces and heating units prior to the first use of the season. Do not light the stove or furnace without checking it first.

Our town would not be a safe town without the dedication and bravery of the volunteer firefighters. If you know a firefighter please thank them for the job they do.