

Spring 2022

Town Talk

www.simplygarnett.com



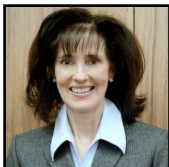
City Commission



Greg A. Gwin,
Mayor



Jason Sheahan,
Commissioner



Jody Cole,
Commissioner

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 2... From the City Manager
- Page 3... From the Fire Chief
- Pages 4-5... It's Happening Calendar
- Pages 6-7... New Trash Route Map
- Page 8... Did You Know?
- Page 9... 2022 Guide to Outdoor Recreation
- Page 10... An Exciting Year Ahead
- Page 10... Spring Is Here!
- Page 11... An Important Message From the Gas Department
- Page 12... From the Office of Economic Development

Garnett, Kansas

From The Mayor...

As of this writing, the country of Ukraine is in a vicious battle fighting for their freedom. It saddens me to see their entire country quickly getting destroyed beyond repair. May God strengthen them and give them the courage and resolve to conquer their fight to remain a free people. It goes to show that the price for freedom is not free and comes at a huge cost of blood, sweat, and tears. May this remind us all that the symbols of freedom here at home, such as the American flag, and *The Star-Spangled Banner* came at an enormous cost for us as well. Hopefully moving forward, the American people will show more respect to our symbols of freedom and to our military, past and present, and the sacrifices that are made.

As Covid seems to be somewhat in our rear-view mirror, I just want to remind you that we are in full operation and ready to accommodate you. There have been some new and exciting activities planned for the summer. One of our local gems, the Farmers' Market, is getting ready for a new season and has added new vendors. What a huge asset this is to our community! All of the programs through the Recreation Department have been planned and are being implemented as well. In addition to those, we've got the swimming pool, the Chamber Players Community Theatre, Cornstock, churches, and various clubs and organizations all planning their events. We look forward to seeing you this summer and enjoying the activities.

The City of Garnett has a few openings on various boards and also has some employment opportunities available. Check out the website

for more information on these positions. The Commission has discussed, in brief, several new topics that may be developed further in the near future. Some of these items will affect you and your finances. It is my hope that you and others will attend the City Commission meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall and become involved in these discussions as they evolve.

Respectfully,

Greg A. Gwin,
Mayor

From Our Newest Commissioner...

In the last *Town Talk*, a great article was written by staff sharing some of my professional and volunteer experience, plus a few of my philosophies on leadership and management. This time I get to share a little about my personal life.

Past:

I moved to Garnett in 2016 with my children Leo, a Freshman at Emporia State University and Clarissa, a Senior at Anderson County High School (ACHS), to start a new journey. We moved in with my future wife and stepdaughter, Samantha (Overstreet) Sheahan, a 4th-grade teacher at Williamsburg Elementary, and Alexis, a Sophomore at ACHS. I soon learned that Miley (#1 dog) was the one who ran the show. Since then, Isaac

Continued on page 2.

From Our Newest Commissioner...

Continued from page 1.

and Bare (bear) have joined the pack.

After a difficult divorce, we moved to Garnett, where I was ordered, by a Guardian Ad Litem and the court, primary residence for children. Words cannot express how Samantha, Alexis, Anderson County Jr-Sr High School, and the community changed our lives forever. There have been good days and rough days, as on every journey, but the love and support helped give us new hope in life. I am grateful for the people who challenged and encouraged us to heal and helped provide opportunities Leo and Clarissa would not have in Kansas City.

Present:

I believe it helps to provide insight into my unique personality, mixed with being a geek professionally, and in my hobbies, as my loving wife would say, "plus a flair for dramatics". I have a collection of Holiday-themed suit coats. Currently, I have four Christmas coats, and each year I look for a closeout special to add one more. Without taking up four pages in this edition of

Town Talk, the easiest way to explain my strengths and areas of needed improvement is to look up the Myers Briggs personality Protangist (ENFJ-A). After years of different leadership training and feedback from others, this profile is probably the most accurate description.

For the last three months, I have been learning new things every day regarding local government. I am excited about the opportunities to serve the residents of Garnett, support the city staff, and continue helping create a fantastic community. Please feel to reach out and share your thoughts on issues. My email address is on the city website or connect with me on my Facebook page.

Sincerely,

Jason Sheahan,
Commissioner

From the City Manager...

2022 is in full swing and has been a bit crazy with weather. A couple of weeks of snow followed by a week of 60-to-80 degree spring weather. I truly hope everyone is enjoying it.

Just as in the past years, we have several projects that we continue to work on. I am happy to report that after a long 18 months of waiting, the National Park Service approved our Park Conversion Plan, which allowed us to move forward to the land acquisition phase of the project. On February 24th, the City closed on a piece of land for that park conversion. With this hitch in new water plant project behind us, we are still hoping to go to bid on the project this summer to keep it moving toward construction.

We have already begun shifting things around at the South Lake. The first thing being the relocation of the bulk water station. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused during the relocation; however, the bulk water station is back up and operational, located north of the current water plant, on the north side of the road.

To follow up on some updates from my previous *Town Talk* article, the underground storm drainage project on Maple Street (Highway 59) is still being designed and discussed. However, the bidding for this project has been pushed back to late Spring. The Garnett Airport runway reconstruction and expansion project has moved into its next phase with the environmental study underway. More news to come on these projects as they develop and move forward.

I would like to remind everyone to register your dogs and cats. The fees for the registrations are as follows:

- * \$7.50 for each neutered or sexually altered dog or cat.
- * \$20.00 for each dog or cat that has not been neutered or sexually altered.

On March 1st, the registration fees double to the following fees:

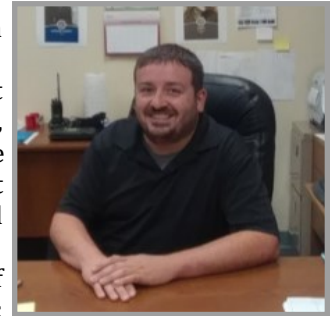
- * \$15.00 for each neutered or sexually altered dog or cat.
- * \$40.00 for each dog or cat that has not been neutered or sexually altered.

Our utility billing payment options will remain the same as in prior years. You can pay with a check or by cash, either in person, at the counter, or drive-up window, as well as leave a check or cash payment in one of our drop boxes located at the front or rear of the city hall building. You can also pay with a debit or credit card over the phone or online at simplygarnett.com. If you wish to have your utility bill set up on auto draft, that is also an option if you bank with a local bank. If you wish to sign up for email billing, sign-up on our website or give us a call and we will get you added to the list.

One thing I would like to do in my *Town Talk* articles is give a brief insight to certain city operations. The one I would like to hit on in this article is the Power Plant. Over the past few months, I have received some phone calls about our Power Plant asking why we do not generate year-round. Currently, the City buys our electricity wholesale from four separate entities: Southwestern Power Administration (SPA), Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA), and Kansas Municipal Energy Agency's Energy Management Project No. 1 (EMP1), all through Evergy. In 2021, the City spent \$1,952,075.53 on electricity that was supplied to us by Evergy. To best answer this, we have seven generators at the Power Plant, each one with different diesel usage per hour. Below is a diesel usage breakdown for each generator:

Engine #1 uses 81 gallons of diesel per hour
Engine #2 uses 55 gallons of diesel per hour
Engine #3 uses 83 gallons of diesel per hour
Engine #4 uses 52 gallons of diesel per hour

Engine #5 uses 160 gallons of diesel per hour
Engine #6 uses 142 gallons of diesel per hour
Engine #7 uses 154 gallons of diesel per hour



If generating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year equals out to 8,760 hours of run time per engine. The current Kansas State average for diesel fuel is \$3.91.

Below is a breakdown of diesel costs by engine if we ran them every day for the year at the current diesel prices:

Engine #1 81 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$2,774,379.60
Engine #2 55 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$1,883,838.00
Engine #3 83 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$2,842,882.80
Engine #4 52 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$1,781,083.20
Engine #5 160 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$5,480,256.00
Engine #6 142 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$4,863,727.20
Engine #7 154 gallons per hour X 8,760 hours X \$3.91 per gallon equals \$5,274,746.40

If we were to generate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, the cost for the diesel fuel alone would be \$24,900,913.20. Of course, this number would fluctuate with the price of diesel; however, it is not cost effective for the City to run every day, all year.

Another item I wanted to touch on was the fuel adjustment cost on the utility bills as we have received some questions on it. Effective January 1, 2007, the City adopted Ordinance 3678 which established the Fuel Cost Rate Adjustment. In the Ordinance it states, "the energy charge for Garnett's municipal electric utility, as otherwise fixed by this section, shall be increased, or decreased by the average cost of fuel which either exceeds or falls below five cents (\$.05) per kilowatt hour delivered to the system at the net generation level." If the electricity that we purchase cost more than \$0.05 per kilowatt, those electric costs are passed onto the utility customers on their utility bills.

I hope everyone can get outside and enjoy all the upcoming events throughout the year. Please go out and support these organizations as a lot of work gets put into each event. I would also like to thank each person who is involved in these events. Your hard work and dedication to the community is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for the support I have been shown since becoming the City Manager. I appreciate everyone who has reached out to me via phone conversation, text message, Facebook message, stopped in my office, or talked to me in public. I promise to work as hard as I can to see these projects to completion.

Again, thank you all for the support, and I wish you all nothing but the best in 2022.

Sincerely,

Travis Wilson,
City Clerk/City Manager

From the Fire Chief...

With springtime here the risk for severe weather is here as well. I invite you to sign up for **CodeRed** Emergency Notification with Anderson County Emergency Management. The system identifies persons who have signed up for the service whose location is in the path of a tornado, severe thunderstorm, or flooding. The system uses National Weather Service alerts received electronically, selects the appropriate subscribers, and delivers the warnings. It can also be used for evacuation, boil water notices and missing children. The link can be found at www.simplygarnett.com in the "Emergency Information" tab. Also listed are all the severe weather shelters in the city and county. Shelter locations in Garnett are 9th and Oak Street (south of Brummel Farm Service) and the Methodist Church at 205 S. Oak. Street. I encourage you to locate these before it is an emergency situation. Do not rely on the outdoor tornado sirens to warn you of approaching danger. These are designed to alert those that are outdoors, outside of any structure, of dangerous weather approaching. It is recommended that you remain indoors during a weather watch and monitor local news for information.

With the recent increase in structure fires we are asking you to take the appropriate steps to protect yourself and your property. According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), working smoke alarms cut the risk of serious injury or death in a home fire by nearly 55%. Almost three out of five fatal home fires were caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms (41 percent) or smoke alarms that failed to operate (16 per-

cent). Smoke alarms are relatively inexpensive, easy to install and could save your life. Some modern detectors have a 10-year battery and require no battery changing. All smoke detectors should be tested frequently with just a touch of a button. If you have children, practice a home escape plan in the case of an emergency. Designate a meeting place so all family members can be accounted for. Portable fire extinguishers are also effective but do have limitations. Only use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing, everyone has exited the building, the fire department has been called or is being called, and the room is not filled with smoke. With your help we can all make Garnett a safer place to live.

In September, I started looking into upgrading to a newer fire truck. I submitted a grant proposal and we, the Garnett Fire Department, were awarded \$100,000 towards the purchase of a fire truck.. Along with a contribution from the City of Garnett, this 2008 Pierce was purchased from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus in Alabama. It will replace our "first out" engine, a 1992 E-One, which will go to reserve. Our current reserve engine is a 1988 E-One. It will be sold.

The fire department has not received any apparatus since the purchase of the 1996 ladder truck in 2009. It took many hours

Continued on page 8.



Spring Calendar of Activities and Events

Check out our Bulletin Board, Community and Special Events Calendars - www.simplygarnett.com



APRIL

- 1 A.M. Yoga**
Every M-W-F
Garnett Rec Center, 8:45-10 a.m.
- April 1-3 "Doublewide Texas" presented by The Chamber Players Community Theatre**
Thelma Moore Playhouse
- 4 Anderson County Commission Meeting,**
Every Monday, Annex Building, 9 a.m.
Garnett Lions Club Meeting
First and Third Monday
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
Garnett Celebrate Recovery
Every Monday,
Garnett Church of the Nazarene, 6-8 p.m.
- 5 Storytime for Preschoolers**
Every Tuesday (through May 17),
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
Rotary International Club Meeting
Every Tuesday
Dutch Country Café, 12 p.m.
Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
Community Foundation Meeting
Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.
P.M. Yoga
Every T-TH, Garnett Rec Center, 5:30 p.m.
American Legion Bingo
Every Tuesday,
VFW Post 6397, 6-8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous
Every T-TH, 510 S. Oak, 7 p.m.
Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting
Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.
- 6 Duplicate Bridge**
Every Wednesday, Garnett Hotel & RV Park, 1 p.m.
- 7 TOPS Meeting**
Every Thursday
Garnett First United Methodist Church, 9-10 a.m.

- 7 13-Point Pitch & Snacks**
Every Thursday, Garnett Senior Center, 6 p.m.
USD 365 Board of Education Meeting
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 8 Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 9 Spring City Wide Garage Sale Day**
hosted by Garnett Publishing, Inc.
Egg Drop Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Garnett Church of the Nazarene
Garnett Municipal Airport, 10 a.m.
Friends of the Library Book and Bag Sale, Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 11 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.
Library Board Meeting
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.
Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
City Hall, 6 p.m.
American Legion Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.
Garnett Housing Authority Board Meeting
Housing Authority Office, 7 p.m.
- 12 Anderson County Recycling Trailer**
Country Mart Parking Lot
City Commission Meeting
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 13 Remember When Wednesday**
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
VFW Post 6397 Meeting
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
VFW Auxiliary Meeting
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
Friends of the PSRT Meeting
Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.
- 14 Morning Mingle**
Garnett Public Library, 8 a.m.
Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt & Festival** hosted by Hope Anthem Church
North Lake Park, Rock Stadium 1-3 p.m.
Gospel Music on the Square
Courthouse Square, 6 p.m.
- 17 Easter Sunday**
VFW Breakfast
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 18 New Trash Route Begins**
Please have your trash ready for pickup by 6 a.m.
- 19 ACDA - Economic Development Meeting**, City Hall 5 p.m.
BPW Meeting
Town Hall Center, 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 21 Caffeine & Colors**
Garnett Public Library, 1-2 p.m.
Walker Art Committee Meeting
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 25-29 Brush Only Cleanup Week**
Crews will begin on the north side of the city, working south. Be ready!
- 26 City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 27 Book Discussion**
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 28 Emergency Food Distribution - Harvesters**
Quonset-North Lake Park, 2 p.m.
- MAY**
- 3 Anderson County Historical Museum - Opens for summer,**
Weekly: Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m.
Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
Garnett Community Foundation Board Meeting
Rec Center, 5:30 p.m.
Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting
Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.
- May 5-October 6: Garnett Farmers Market Season** hosted by the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce
Every Thursday, Main Street, 4:30-7 p.m.
- 5 13-Point Pitch & Snacks**
Garnett Senior Center, 6 p.m.
Anderson County Historical Society Meeting
Museum, 6:30 p.m.
USD 365 Board of Education Meeting
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 7 Air Fair** hosted by Garnett Industrial Airport
Garnett Industrial Airport, 8 a.m.-1p.m.
49th Annual Square Fair, hosted by Garnett BPW, Town Square, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 8 Happy Mother's Day!**
- 9 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.
Library Board Meeting
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.
Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
City Hall, 6 p.m.
American Legion Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.

MAY continued...

- 9 **Garnett Housing Authority Board Meeting**
Housing Authority Office, 7 p.m.
- 10 **Anderson County Recycling Trailer Plant Exchange**
Garnett Public Library, 11 a.m.
- City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 11 **Remember When Wednesday**
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, Rec Center, 6 p.m.**
- VFW Post 6397 Meeting**
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
- Friends of the PSRT Meeting**
Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.
- 12 **Morning Mingle**
Garnett Public Library, 8 a.m.
- Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting**
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 15 **VFW Breakfast**
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 17 **ACDA - Economic Development Meeting, City Hall, 5 p.m.**
- BPW Meeting**
Garnett Public Library, 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 19 **Caffeine & Colors**
Garnett Public Library, 1 p.m.
- 20 **Walker Art Committee Meeting**
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 21-22 **Sprint Track Races hosted by Kansas City Karting Association**
Sprint Track-North Lake Park
- Gospel Music on the Square**
Downtown Square, 6-8 p.m.
- 24 **City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- Book Discussion TBA**
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 26 **Garnett Remembers Patriotic Banners Celebration of Service**
- Cruise Night & Tour, hosted by City of Garnett Community Development and Tourism**
Town Square and Courthouse Lawn
- Emergency Food Distribution - Harvesters, Quonset Hut-North Lake Park, 2 p.m.**

- 27-30 **Avenue of Flags hosted by Garnett Parks and Recreation**
Garnett Municipal Cemetery
- 28 **Garnett Municipal Pool Opens for Summer, North Lake Park**
garnettrecreation.recdesk.com
- 30 **City Hall closed, Memorial Day Holiday observed. Note: Trash service will run one (1) day late this week.**
- 30 **Memorial Day Service**
Garnett Municipal Cemetery, conducted by American Legion Post 48 & VFW 6397, 10 a.m.

JUNE

- 2 **Historical Society Meeting**
Historical Museum, 6:30 p.m.
- USD 365 Board of Education Meeting, Board Office, 7 p.m.**
- 4 **6th Annual Car, Bike & Truck Show hosted by Southland Cruisers**
Town Square, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Hot Wheels Hot Deals hosted by Morning Mingle**
- 4-5 **Kart Races hosted by Garnett Enduro Kart Club**
Lake Garnett Road Course
- 4-5 **Dual Sport Safari hosted by Garnett Lions Club**
Garnett VFW
- 7 **Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
- Garnett Community Foundation Board Meeting, Garnett Rec Center, 5:30 p.m.**
- Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting, Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.**
- 8 **Remember When Wednesday**
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
- VFW Post 6397 Meeting**
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
- Friends of the PSRT Meeting**
Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.
- 9 **Morning Mingle**
City Hall, 8 a.m.
- Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting**
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.
- 10-12, 16-19 **"Dead Giveaway" hosted by The Chamber Players Community Theatre, Thelma Moore Playhouse**
- 10 **Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.

- 13 **American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.
- Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- Library Board Meeting**
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.
- Garnett Housing Authority Board Meeting**
Housing Authority Office, 7 p.m.
- American Legion Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.
- 14 **Anderson County Recycling Trailer City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 16 **Walker Art Committee Meeting**
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 19 **VFW Breakfast**
VFW Post Home, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 21 **ACDA - Economic Development Meeting, City Hall, 5 p.m.**
- BPW Meeting**
Town Hall Center, 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 22 **Book Discussion TBA**
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 23 **Emergency Food Distribution - Harvesters, Quonset Hut-North Lake Park, 2 p.m.**
- 28 **City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.

*Please Note:

All activities, events and dates are subject to change.



BUSINESS HOURS AT CITY HALL

Monday - Friday (excluding holidays)
Front Office: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Drive-Up Window: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
131 W. 5th Avenue 785.448.5496

Legend

1000 ft

Monday Refuse Route

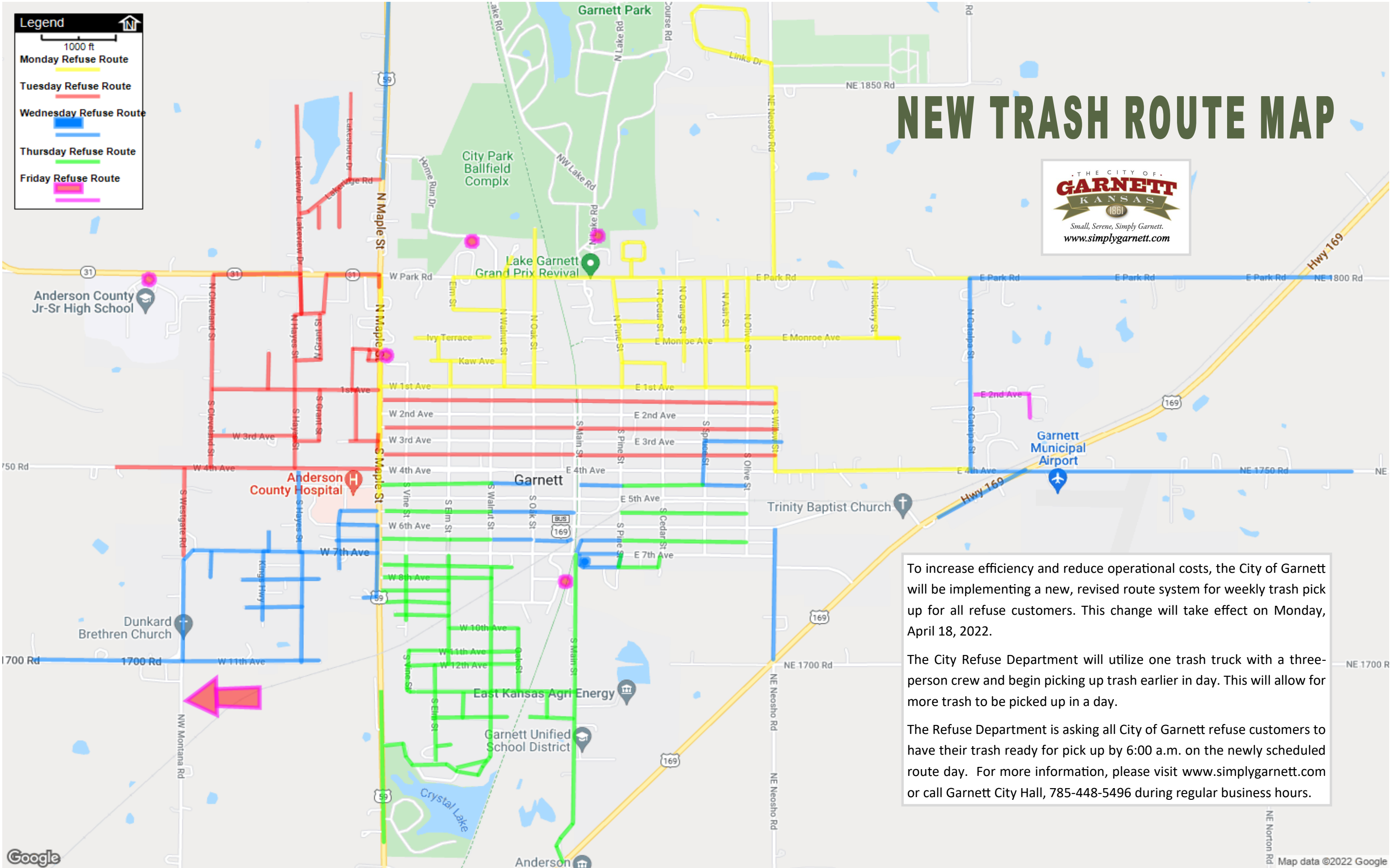
Tuesday Refuse Route

Wednesday Refuse Route

Thursday Refuse Route

Friday Refuse Route

NEW TRASH ROUTE MAP



To increase efficiency and reduce operational costs, the City of Garnett will be implementing a new, revised route system for weekly trash pick up for all refuse customers. This change will take effect on Monday, April 18, 2022.

The City Refuse Department will utilize one trash truck with a three-person crew and begin picking up trash earlier in day. This will allow for more trash to be picked up in a day.

The Refuse Department is asking all City of Garnett refuse customers to have their trash ready for pick up by 6:00 a.m. on the newly scheduled route day. For more information, please visit www.simplygarnett.com or call Garnett City Hall, 785-448-5496 during regular business hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City welcomes new employees: **Austin Edens**, Water & Gas Maintenance Worker, **Deborah Swanson**, Patrol Officer, and **Dawna Worrell**, Garnett Housing Authority Maintenance Worker.

Milestone Accomplishments: The following city employees are celebrating years of service anniversaries:

Greg A. Gwin, Commissioner/Mayor – 15 years

Duane Hastert, Electric Distribution Assistant
Superintendent – 15 years

Heather Palmer, Concessions/Recreation – 5 years

Colton Palmer, Parks and Recreation – 5 years

Congratulations to the following employees selected to be honored as Employees of the Month:

December 2021 – **Michéal Bachman**, Water Plant Operator

January 2022 – **Garen Hunt**, Garnett Housing Authority

Maintenance Worker

February 2022 – **Charlotte Lutz**, Librarian

Trainings and Certifications: **Kurt King**, Police Chief and **Nick Goodwin**, Sergeant, attended the Midwest Tactical Officers Association Conference, receiving 16 hours of training on high risk situations, tactics and problem solving. **Josh Miller**, Patrol Officer, attended Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training. **Deborah Swanson** joined the Garnett Police Department in February. She has 15 years of law enforcement experience and has a BA in Psychology from the University of Iowa and an MBA in Business from the University of Bellevue. **James DePriest**, Public Works Director, and **Raymond Arnett**, Gas and Water Maintenance Worker, received Backflow and Cross Connection certification. **James DePriest**, **Raymond Arnett**, **Shawn Bond**, Street Department Maintenance Worker, and **Gary McAuley**, Street Department Maintenance Worker, attended Excavation and Safety training.

James Howard, Water Production Superintendent and **Jeff Mucklow**, Water Plant Operator, attended Lead and Copper training through the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) and were recognized by the State of Kansas for their high standard of achievement through the Apprenticeship Program. Congratulations to **James Howard** on acquiring his Class 4 Water Treatment License and **Jeff Mucklow** for receiving his Class 2 Water Treatment License. Both of these certifications require intense testing and accuracy and were achieved in a very short period of time.

Pat Schettler, Airport Manager, is training to obtain his Basic Ground Instructor rating (BGI). BGI rating is necessary for ground instruction as part of the process to train pilots at the Garnett Industrial Airport. Look for the option for individuals to participate in the new ground school and pilot training to be offered for a sport pilot, recreational pilot or for private pilot flight review soon.

Julie Tunipseed, Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA) Director, attended KDOC Grassroots Economic Development 101 (11-week) training, KEDA Professional Development monthly webinars, and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development and Education Summit.

Changes to Trash Service Schedule: To help streamline the efficiency of trash pickup services, Public Works has changed the day and time of day of most trash routes. Please see the two-page map (pages 4-5). We are asking customers to please have trash at your normal pickup location (street or alley) ready by 6 a.m. on the day specified on the map to ensure timely pickup. Those trash routes being affected will change to the new sched-

ule effective Monday, April 18th.

Spring Brush Only Clean-Up will take place the week of **April 25-29** and again in the fall the week of **October 24-28**. The City will hold this free-of-charge brush pick-up service for all City of Garnett refuse customers. Brush is to be piled in the alley or curbside near the location where weekly trash is picked up. Accepted will be tree limbs, yard and garden debris. No refuse, trash or household items will be allowed to be mixed in with brush. The City is able to dispose of the brush at the city-owned burn site. Information about the Brush Only Clean-Up Week and other programs the City has for special pick-up requests can be found on the City's website, www.simplygarnett.com.

Once again, the City is offering a cost sharing program for sidewalk replacement within Garnett. The **Sidewalk Program** includes both residential and commercial properties. The sidewalk improvement is on a cost sharing basis with the City paying \$2.00 per square foot toward the cost of the sidewalk replacement. The application for this program must be approved prior to any construction. Funds are available on a first come, first serve basis until the annual sidewalk funds are depleted. Plan now to take advantage of this special program. Contact City Hall for details.

The **new bulk water station** can be found north, across the road from the previous bulk water station location in Veterans Memorial Park. The coin operated water facility provides approximately 55 gallons of water for 50 cents. The upgrade was not only needed but the change in location was necessary for the upcoming new water plant construction. Several customers who frequently use the bulk water station have made favorable comments.

The City of Garnett will be hosting a "cruise night and tour" during this year's **Celebration of Service** to be held on the town square on Thursday, May 26, starting at 6 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. Bring your family and friends and lawn chairs. Enjoy the music. Visit the **Anderson County Veterans Memorial**. Join us as we cruise the route of the Garnett Remembers Patriotic Banner project, on display which includes 320 banners honoring our local veterans. Enjoy this social time and pay tribute to those who have served and sacrificed. During Memorial Day Weekend be sure to visit the Garnett Municipal Cemetery, where over 300 American flags are exhibited in the **Avenue of Flags**. Each flag represents someone who served our country and is buried within the the city cemetery. On Monday, May 31, the Garnett American Legion Post 48 and VFW Post 6397 host the annual **Memorial Day Service** at 10 a.m. The placing of the wreath, Taps and tribute is an event you won't want to miss.

From the Fire Chief... Continued from page 3.

of phone calls, emails and paperwork to get this project to completion. This engine will serve the community well for many years to come. Protecting our residents, homes and businesses is our top priority. Newer equipment allows us to better fulfill our duties to those we serve.

Please join us as we are humbled by the generosity and support of all entities involved that made this opportunity possible.

Respectfully,

Wesley Skillman, Chief
Garnett Fire Department
Station: 785-448-3042
wskillman@garnettks.net
www.facebook.com/GarnettFD

2022 Guide to Garnett Outdoor Recreation



Watersports

As a participant in the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Communities Fisheries Assistance Program, the City of Garnett does not require city boating and fishing permits. However, state boater's registration and state fishing licenses are required. All existing ordinances regulating city parks are in effect. Copies of city park regulations are available at Garnett City Hall, 131 West 5th Avenue or online at www.simplygarnett.com.

Boating

Valid Kansas boater's registration is required to boat on Garnett city lakes.

Lake Garnett (a/k/a North Lake Park), 700 N. Lake Road.

Speed boating and water-skiing is permitted on Lake Garnett May 1 to November 15, on the following specified days: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, the first and third Saturdays of each month, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day, from 8:30 a.m. to sunset.

Crystal Lake (a/k/a South Lake), Veterans Memorial Park, 424 W. Veteran's Circle Drive (on US 59).

Canoes and fishing boats with electric powered motors are allowed on Crystal Lake. However, gas powered motors are prohibited.

Cedar Valley Reservoir, 20499 NW 1500 Road (located approximately 7 miles west of Garnett at Kentucky and 1500 Road).

Boating can be enjoyed year round on Cedar Valley Reservoir, weather permitting. This lake has 3 boat ramps and 3 floating docks.

Fishing

Game fish stocked in Garnett's fishing areas include Walleye, Wiper, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Bluegill, Bullhead, White Bass, Green Sunfish, White Crappie, Black Crappie, Black Buffalo, Red-ear Sunfish, Large Mouth Bass and Rainbow Trout. Kansas fishing permits required.

Lake Garnett and Crystal Lake Length Limits

Catfish, except Bullhead, must be	15 inches
Walleye or Wiper must be	18 inches
Crappie must be	10 inches
Black Bass must be less than	13 inches
or more than	18 inches

Lake Garnett and Crystal Lake Creel Limits

Bluegill (Crystal Lake only)	10
Black Bass	5
Catfish, except Bullhead	2
Crappie	10
Walleye	2
Wiper	2

Cedar Valley Reservoir Length Limits

Black Bass, Walleye or Wiper	18 inches
------------------------------	-----------

Cedar Valley Reservoir Creel Limits

Black Bass	5
Walleye	2
Wiper	2
Crappie	50
Catfish, except Bullhead	5

Rainbow Trout Season

Rainbow Trout Season is held annually at Crystal Lake from approximately November 1 thru April 15. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism requires that Kansas anglers 16 through 74 years of age and non-Kansas residents 16 and older must possess a valid fishing license. All anglers over 16 must possess a state trout permit. Anglers 15 years and younger no longer must possess a trout permit to fish in designated trout waters.

However, there is a daily creel limit of two (2) trout unless they purchase a trout permit which allows a full daily trout creel limit. The daily creel limit is 5 trout.

Camping

PLEASE NOTE: All camping is by reservations in advance, online, using the RecDesk portal, garnettrecreation.recdesk.com.

Camping facilities are available in designated areas at all three city owned lakes.

Lake Garnett

Fourteen camping spots are located at the Clubhouse Bend Campground on the east side of Lake Garnett (adjacent golf course) with electric and water hookups. Twelve camping spots with electric only hookups are located at the Red Jacket Campground on the north side of the lake (near dam). A designated wilderness campsite (tent camping or no hookup) is also located within the Red Jacket Campground area.

Crystal Lake

Five camping spots with electric and water can be found on the south side of Crystal Lake. Wilderness camping is permitted in a designated area near Prairie Spirit Trail.

Cedar Valley Reservoir

Wilderness camping is very popular at this scenic lake. There are 12 camping spots close to the park entrance providing electrical hookups for camping. Nearby restroom facilities are also available from April 3 to October 1.

Reservations and Fees:

Campsites located at all three lakes may be reserved online or by contacting Garnett Recreation Center. **You must have a RecDesk account to reserve campsites.** Please visit garnettrecreation.recdesk.com. Large camping groups are encouraged to make advanced reservations with Garnett Rec Center, 785.448.3023, or by email: reccenter@garnettks.net. During community events camping availability may be limited.

Check-out time is 1:00 p.m. on the day of departure.

Camping Permits:

Wilderness overnight camping per unit, per night:

Garnett resident	\$5
Anderson County resident	\$7
All others	\$9

Electric hookup, overnight camping per unit, per night:

Garnett resident	\$10
Anderson County resident	\$12
All others	\$14

Electric and water hookup, overnight camping per unit, per night:

Garnett resident	\$12
Anderson County resident	\$14
All others	\$16



ATV Regulations

City permits are required for anyone operating a motorized, non-highway vehicle at Cedar Valley Reservoir. Anyone possessing an age restricted permit (under 16 years of age) can operate an ATV only when accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older) who possesses a valid city ATV permit and who is riding in the general proximity of the age restricted permittee. ATV permits can be purchased at Garnett City Hall, 131 W. 5th Avenue. Call 785-448-5496 for further information.

Quiet Time: Please note that "quiet time" is to be observed within any city park, from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. (CST).



An Exciting Year Ahead...

We have an exciting year ahead for the airport!

On April 9th, the airport is partnering with the Garnett Church of the Nazarene to host the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Drop at the airport. The Garnett Church of the Nazarene is bringing inflatables and providing hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone to enjoy with freewill donations being accepted. We are hoping for a special visit from the Easter Bunny. Last year, his entrance was on a motorcycle. This year we are hoping to step it up a notch! There will be an area for only small children to hunt eggs and a large area to hunt for eggs dropped from airplanes. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date for the event is April 10th.



Another great event coming up is the Air Fair, in conjunction with the annual Square Fair on May 7th. We are planning to have airplane rides, jeep rides, an aircraft fly-in, food vendors, military static displays and aircraft static displays. We are also hosting the Wichita Commemorative Air Force and they are bringing their WWII Bobcat (the Bamboo Bomber) to give rides in. There are some costs associated with the aircraft rides. We are also adding other activities as we get closer to the event.

As far as progress on rebuilding our runway, as of this writing, we are about midway through our environmental study. The study measures how the project will affect water runoff, bird and animal impact, and other environmental type things. This is typical in projects that are funded by the Federal government who is picking up the tab for between 90 and 100 percent of the project cost. The airport board and I are hoping to move forward on the next stage of the project later on this year.

I am working to start a pilot's ground school out at the airport. We have a couple students that have begun taking classes here at the airport. They have begun studying the necessary materials so they can pass their ground school exam and start the flying part of their private pilot journey.

If you ever have any questions about the airport or wish to know more about exploring a job in aviation or just learning to fly, don't hesitate to come out and talk to me at the airport.

Mark your calendar to be at the airport on April 9th and May 7th. Bring the family. There is no admission charged, so we hope to see you then.

Thank you,

Pat Schettler,
Airport Manager



Spring is Here!



Mowing and yard clean-up is now in progress. Just a friendly reminder:

- Keep grass on your property and in your yard mowed to less than 8" in height.
- Do not mow/rake grass clippings and/or leaves into the street. This creates hazards for cyclists and clogs up our storm water systems.
- We will NOT be having City Wide Clean-Up Week again this year. However, the City of Garnett will provide a Brush Only Clean-Up Week the last week in April. Please make adequate arrangements for your leaves and grass clippings as the mowing season progresses.
- Please do not allow accumulation of old furniture, appliances, construction material, or other debris on your property and in alleyways. These areas need to be readily accessible to emergency and city vehicles in case of emergencies. If you have such items that need to be disposed of that the city refuse department won't pick up, you can schedule a "Special Pick-Up" with City Hall for a fee. To request this service please call (785) 448-5496.

Springtime is also great dog walking weather! Remember:

- Keep all dogs on a leash. This is for the safety of the animals and others that may be out enjoying the weather.
- Please keep current registration and vaccination tags on ALL of your dogs and cats! This allows us to promptly identify your animals if they happen to get loose. We want them to get home fast and safe!

Do you know what to do if you find a young, orphaned or injured animal (other than a dog or cat)? Always contact local Kansas Wildlife & Parks officials before touching or moving an animal. Here is contact information to keep handy:

Local Kansas Wildlife/Game Warden:
Franklin County Game Warden - 785-221-2694
Linn County Game Warden - 785-230-3567
Kansas Wildlife Dispatch - 785-273-6740 (M-F, 8a-4:45 pm)
Wildlife Refuge - Operation Wildlife (O.W.L.) - 785-542-3625
Northeast Kansas Wildlife Rescue - 785-575-1991
City of Garnett Animal Control—785-433-1314 or
785-448-5496 (M-F 8a-5p)

Have a Safe and Enjoyable summer!

Darin Schmoe,
Code Enforcement/Animal Control

An Important Message From the Gas Department...

For safety's sake, read this!

Things you should know:

- How, when and where to report a possible gas leak, gas odor, or carbon monoxide problem;
- Call Kansas One Call before you dig;
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as "The Silent Killer";
- Gas appliance connectors;
- Be aware of bare steel gas service lines;
- Excess Flow Valve (EFV) requirements.

It is that time to inform our customers on the hazards of natural gas, and what precautions to take to keep us all safe. Natural gas is very flammable, potentially hazardous, and can be explosive under certain conditions. You can recognize a gas leak by using your senses. Seeing bubbles appear in a wet or flooded area, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise healthy environment, or a sometimes quiet to rather loud hissing sound can be signs of a gas leak. However, in most cases a leak can be recognized by a weak to strong smell of odorant. Our gas system is always odorized so that people can easily detect a leak by its smell.

How to report a possible gas leak

If you smell gas inside or outside a home, business or other structure, please report it to the gas department by calling Garnett City Hall at 785.448.5496. Call the Law Enforcement Dispatch Center at 785.448.6823 after normal business hours. If you have a gas emergency and the odor of natural gas is very strong and seems to be everywhere, DO NOT operate any light switches or try to air out the building, or even use your phone. EXIT IMMEDIATELY to a safe area away from the potential gas leak, such as going to a neighbor's house, and then call 9-1-1. Wait at your safe place for emergency personnel to arrive.

Our natural gas system transports gas to businesses and homes within the City of Garnett. Overall, this system is very reliable and in good condition. We have procedures, such as gas leak surveys, to determine where problem areas may exist and adapt as necessary. Accidents on gas systems are extremely rare but they can occur.

The gas department regularly trains with local emergency personnel, including fire, police and dispatchers. When a gas leak or related incident is reported, the proper department can be dispatched to provide public safety assistance and to respond to the gas emergency.

Dig Safe - Call BEFORE you dig!

Always call Kansas One Call before you dig to have utilities marked. Do this not only for your safety, but because it is the law. Kansas One Call will notify utility companies to mark the area with paint and flags, if their utilities exist. If there are no utilities in the project area usually "OK" is painted on the ground along with a flag, or the utility company will contact you by phone. Contact Kansas One Call by dialing 8-1-1 (not 9-1-1) or by calling 1-800-DIG-SAFE. If you see what appears to be unauthorized excavation or destructive activities around our gas system, please give us a call at city hall at 784.448.5496 so we can investigate.

The Silent Killer!

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a very toxic and sometimes deadly gas that is colorless and odorless. This gas is a product of incomplete combustion. Whenever you use your furnace, wood stove, hot water tank, stove, automobile or even your charcoal grill, CO is the gas that is produced and vented out of your home

through a chimney, flue or vent pipe. All gas burning equipment needs to be inspected and maintained regularly to keep it in good running condition. Chimneys and vent pipes need to be vented and kept in good working order as well. Carbon monoxide poisoning gives you flu like symptoms. So if you are seemingly not feeling very well, especially when at home, it could be a carbon monoxide problem. Call us. We can help by checking if carbon monoxide is a problem in your gas burning appliances. Every home should have a carbon monoxide detector and a smoke detector to help ensure your safety.

Gas Appliance Connectors

Gas connectors are corrugated metal tubes used to connect gas appliances in your home to gas supply pipes. Some of these old brass colored connectors can have a flaw in how the tubing was made and over time can separate causing a potentially serious gas leak. These uncoated brass connectors have not been made for almost 30 years now, but many are still in use. Although not all brass connectors have a flaw, it is very difficult to tell which ones do. Therefore, any uncoated brass colored connector should be replaced with either a plastic coated brass or stainless steel connector. Connectors can wear out from too much moving and bending and should always be inspected closely whenever an appliance is replaced or moved from its location.

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

Bare Steel Gas Lines

Do I need to have my bare steel gas line replaced?

The Answer: Yes.

All bare steel gas lines are slowly corroding and will eventually leak and have to be replaced. We don't know when these lines may begin to leak which is why they need to be replaced before any leakage occurs. The Garnett Gas Department already has an ongoing program to replace all of the city's bare steel mains and service lines.

Back on August 28, 2007, the city commission passed an ordinance requiring the replacement of any existing customer owned gas service line at the time of the sale of the property or when any change in ownership occurs. It usually takes less than a day for one of our local, qualified plumbers to replace most bare steel service lines. Most of these plumbers will give you an estimate of how much it will cost.

Excess Flow Valve (EFV)

As of 2017, federal regulations require every natural gas utility, including the City of Garnett, to notify customers about the potential benefits of an Excess Flow Valve (EFV), who is responsible for the initial installation costs and who is responsible for replacement and maintenance with an EFV. EFVs are mechanical shut-off devices that can be installed on the gas service line and is designed to shut off the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line breaks, say for instance, if a vehicle hits a meter or an excavation accident. We have detailed information online at www.simplygarnett.com/efv.html. I will include an article about this in an upcoming newsletter. Watch for it.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your natural gas service.

Thank you,

John Rogers, Director
Gas and Water Distribution



131 West Fifth Avenue
P.O. Box H
Garnett, KS 66032

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

From the Office of Economic Development...

The most current topics in the Economic Development world are Housing, Childcare and Workforce. All which are extremely challenging. The "Great Resignation" has made workforce development a significant challenge. Housing is also very difficult trying to find developers to build new affordable housing or market rate homes. Childcare is a problem we had before the pandemic and COVID only made it much worse.



As I wrote in my *Winter Town Talk* article, ACDA is working hard to address the lack of childcare in Anderson County. We are making some progress in this area. After holding a Child Care Providers Recruitment event we have potentially four new providers working to be licensed and starting a childcare business. We are also partnering with an entity in recruiting a childcare center. We hope to be able to announce this new business late spring or early summer. Five new businesses in the childcare sector are exciting news. This can potentially put several people back to work. With 569 children 0-6 years old in Anderson County, we have 334 of those children potentially needing care. We currently have 12 family or group childcare homes and 0 childcare centers. We are fortunate to have Head Start and the pre-school at the Garnett Elementary School. There is some light as we work toward solving this problem, but we have only just begun. There is great potential for more growth in the Childcare business.

Anderson County has the lowest unemployment rates in Southeast Kansas consistently in the last two years. It is currently at 2.7%. Over 3 million women have dropped out of the workforce in 2021 due to lack of caregiving as well as other factors however this being the primary one. 33% of the U.S. workforce is made up of people 55 and older that is currently down 6% and it is uncertain if they will return to work. As we move past the pandemic the possibility of this sector coming back into the workforce is a possibility as they rethink their exodus. These are in part reasons Anderson County employers cannot find employees to fill positions. Early retirement, health concern as well as layoffs are all contributing factors to the workforce crisis.

Programs in Kansas like Eagle University offers a five-day fun and intensive learning opportunity for high school and college age students to give them a jump-start on their careers. They learn formulas for better grades, a better advantage for scholarships, how to be a powerful communicator, making first impression in an interview, how to answer the tough interview question as well as helping them with mentors. This course will help

prepare students as they launch their careers. For more information contact taylor@eageluniversity.org or call 469-844-SOAR.

Other resources that can help with overcoming employment barriers are Kansas Department of Commerce Apprenticeships, Skills USA, Jobs for American Graduates, and Workforce AID. If you would like to know more about these programs please contact ACDA, julie@garnettks.net or 785-504-4265.

Housing is a tough nut to crack as they say. Affordable housing is difficult to construct with the cost of lumber and supplies. We are very fortunate to have builders who are investing in our community and rehabilitating old, abandoned, and dilapidated homes into new affordable housing. We truly appreciate those companies and applaud them.

As we all work together as a community and county to continue to recruit and retain childcare businesses, create an environment for more affordable housing and keep our workforce here we hope to see an ecosystem that will invite new businesses and retain our existing ones.

The Downtown Revitalization Program is moving forward. The advisory board has been meeting and will be holding a public meeting for anyone interested in volunteering to serve on one of the four standing committees. They are Promotion, Design, Economic Vitality and Organization. If you are interested in seeing our downtown square being revitalized, please attend the meeting scheduled for Monday, April 11th at 6 p.m. in the Archer Room at the Garnett Public Library. Everyone is welcome.

ACDA will once again be offering the Jon Schallert Destination Creation Course. The course will begin on Wednesday, May 4th from 6 to 8 p.m. and continue each Wednesday for eight weeks. The cost to take the course is \$199. The topics that will be presented are:

- ◆ Becoming a Destination Business
- ◆ Your Unique Positioning
- ◆ Your Leadership Responsibility
- ◆ Targeting Your most Profitable Customers
- ◆ Capturing consumer and Media Attention
- ◆ Creating a Customer-Focused Company
- ◆ Marketing Your Destination Business
- ◆ Collective Marketing

Erin Miller, Owner of Garnett Flowers and Gifts attended the Destination Creation Course in 2020. She said, "I was glad to get a plan for different types of marketing for my business as well as brainstorming and sharing of ideas from other businesses that attended the course."

Please contact Julie Turnipseed if you have any questions or would like to sign up for the course, julie@garnettks.net or 785-504-4265.