

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Garnett Commission Grants Awards to Five New 2022 Events

GARNETT, KS: At the Tuesday, November 23rd Garnett City Commission meeting, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Tourism Advisory Committee by awarding not just one winner but declared all five entries submitted in the New 2022 Special Event Contest as winners. Each winning organization will receive a minimum \$1,000 in Transient Guest Tax Funds grant towards approved expenses relating to their contest entry event. The winners are:

- “At the Walker,” hosted by The Walker Art Committee
- “Laugh, Laugh, Love: A Night of comedy and Charity Handyman Date Auction,” hosted by Garnett Business and Professional Women
- “Garnett’s Home and Garden Expo,” hosted by Growing Garnett Community Heart & Soul
- “Faith & Blue,” hosted by Hope Anthem Garnett
- “Antique Engine and Tractor Show,” hosted by the Anderson County Flywheelers

About the entries –

At the Walker will be held on November 12, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Rustic Rock event venue. The event consists of a silent art auction, live art auction, wine tasting from local vineyards and a variety of desserts made by local caterers and bakers. There will be live music performed by local musicians. Tickets will be sold with the proceeds to benefit the Walker Art Collection and ACJSHS Arts Program. Marketing efforts include the areas of Lawrence, Emporia, Kansas City and Southeast Kansas, including Pittsburg.

Laugh, Laugh, Love: A night of Comedy and Charity Handyman Date Auction will tentatively take place the first or second Saturday in March, 2022. The night of comedy includes entertainment by Anderson County’s own Lindy Katzer and a headlining comedian (to be announced) who has been voted Funniest Female Comic in Kansas City. Both comedians have a good following. Snacks, a drink ticket, entertainment and auction paddle are all included in your ticket. The event would take place at The Chamber Players Community Theatre. The handyman auction includes a variety of date/handyman options, including a flying lesson by a local pilot, a personal chef cooking up dinner for 6 people, a plumber for 2 hours, and a truckload of gravel spread wherever rock is needed; just to name a few. Proceeds of this event would benefit the Garnett BPW Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to local high school students and allow the organization to perhaps increase the scholarship award. Marketing includes Facebook, print and radio within a 100-mile radius of Garnett.

Garnett’s Home and Garden Expo will be held on April 2, 2022 at the Anderson County Fairgrounds, hosted by Growing Garnett Heart & Soul. Organizers are considering both a one day, and perhaps two-day event. The expo highlights everything about home improvements and gardening. There will be featured speakers on home remodeling projects and creating gardens

and water features, and tips on what improvements bring more value to your home. Vendors and food vendors will be sought from both inside and outside of the local area. Vendors will be invited that cover every aspect, from building a home from the ground up, furnishings, remodeling, and landscaping. Volunteers will be members of Growing Garnett, students needing community service hours from the high school and local church youth groups. Marketing includes posters, print and radio within an approximate 100-mile radius.

Proceeds of the Garnett's Home and Garden Expo would help purchase sound equipment for their events and possibly a movie, and swim parties at the city pool for junior-senior high school age children.

Faith & Blue is an event that has taken place in other communities throughout the United States. Hope Anthem Garnett seeks to partner with the churches and faith-based organizations in Anderson County to host the Faith & Blue event on October 2, 2022, beginning at 4 p.m. on the town square and Anderson County Courthouse lawn. There will be free food, fun activities patrol cars, fire, and EMS vehicles on display. There will also be some nice giveaways for those attending to win. This will be an enthusiastic atmosphere that brings local law enforcement and the community together to build stronger relationships. There will be opportunity for a law enforcement panel to answer pre-determined questions relevant to the community. Donations will be accepted prior to the event for expenses of this event but should there be extra money left over it will be donated to local law enforcement. Faith & Blue utilizes the support of churches and faith-based organizations to bring the community together on common ground with law enforcement to build relationships. But also importantly, this event is to honor all law enforcement and let them know how much they are appreciated. This event is to help make our community safer and build good relations. Marketing of the event is mainly through social media, flyers distributed to go home with students and displayed in businesses throughout the county.

The Antique Engine and Tractor Show is the event idea of a group of men who want to host this type of event locally, date to be summer or early fall, 2022 in the fairgrounds area of the North Lake Park. The show features working stationery engines and all types of farm equipment on display. There is an education element, ag heritage and history element, and it is intriguing for people to watch the engines at work. Vendors have already expressed interest in participating. The Anderson County Flywheelers are relatively a new organization and are asking Garnett Tourism for guidance on marketing and advertising to draw people from throughout the region.

The contest winners will now secure their dates and permissions for locations to host their events and submit their Transient Guest Tax funding proposals for approval by the City Commission before the end of this year.

Funds awarded through this contest promotion: Transient Guest Tax (TGT) is derived from the guest tax imposed on guest staying in local hotels, motels and other lodging facilities, currently at the rate of 6%. The City of Garnett has grant programs to encourage the use of TGT funds to promote tourism and bring visitors to Garnett and Anderson County.

“As a part of the Garnett Tourism Strategic Plan’s five-year goal is to increase the number of special events by one additional event annually. By the Commission’s approval of the launch of five uniquely new events in 2022, we have amazing opportunities on the horizon to help bolster the local economy, mentorship, and provide more activities for our citizens to enjoy right here in Garnett,” said Susan Wettstein, Director of Community Development and Tourism. All organizations entering expressed their desire to grow their ideas and make these events reoccur on an annual basis.

For more information about this contest, upcoming special events and more, please visit www.simplygarnett.com.

Pictured in Celebration of New 2022 Special Event Contest Winners are, L-R:
Front row: Jenelle Klehammer, representing the Walker Art Committee; Krystal Baugher, Garnett BPW; Sherry Benjamin, Growing Garnett Community Heart & Soul; Jeff Jones, Hope Anthem Garnett; Scott Garrett, Anderson County Flywheelers.
Back Row: Tom Emerson, Jr. – Chairman, Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee; Travis Wilson, Interim City Manager; Greg Gwin, City Commissioner; Jody Cole, Mayor; Kris Hix, Community Development and Tourism Administrative Assistant/Executive Director of Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce, Liam Sellers, attendee (confetti popping expert!), and Helen Norman, Tourism Committee member.