

# Town Talk

#simplybeautiful

WINTER 2021

www.simplygarnett.com



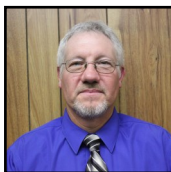
## City Commission



Jody Cole,  
Mayor



Cody Gettler,  
Commissioner



Greg Gwin,  
Commissioner

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# Garnett, Kansas

## From The Commission...

It is with greatest excitement that I celebrate the coming of a new year for Garnett! Despite the challenges 2020 presented, I am ever optimistic in the direction our community is headed, knowing that even through adversity we had the capacity to persevere and thrive.

As you may know, I am no longer serving on the city commission. My decision to not run for re-election is due to my desire to dedicate myself fully to my children. My husband and I truly believe establishing a firm foundation for their lives, rooted in the Word, is the greatest calling we have at this point. With this said, I want to heartily congratulate our new City Commissioner Cody Gettler for his willingness to serve.

I want to thank everyone for their support, insight and recommendations during my tenure. I am grateful for all the help I received from city staff. Their willingness to help fulfill requests in a timely manner and provide clarification on a vast variety of subjects, made it possible for me to effectively serve. I also want to thank my fellow city commissioners for their shared knowledge and respect. It certainly is not a position that is without its challenges and I commend both for working hard to represent the people of our community. Not every decision we had to make was one of immense consequence, and yet it was working towards being faithful in even the small things, that made the biggest difference. I also want to thank everyone who took the time to reach out to me with concerns. Citizen participation in local government is extremely important for the governing body to make informed decisions that are representative of the populace. I want to encourage each of you to choose to engage in our city commission meetings. It does

make a difference.

I will miss being able to help the community in this capacity; however, I am excited to focus my efforts on raising my children to have a heart for God and, consequently, service motivated by a genuine love for others. It is in this way I hope my family and I will find ways to be a blessing to the people in our community.

Respectfully,

Brigitte Brecheisen-Huss,  
Mayor



## A Message From Our New Commissioner

First of all, I want to thank you all for your vote of confidence in electing me to the City of Garnett Commission. I have prepared myself for this position by meeting with city employees, attending the commission meetings, and ensuring that I'm up to date on the projects that we have in progress and have planned for the future. I've reviewed the 2021 budget along with the city commission booklet that is provided by the Kansas League of Municipalities.

Along with all of you, I am ready to start off with a fresh new year after the quagmire we've had in 2020. I also want to thank Mrs. Brecheisen-Huss for her tenure serving our community as a Commissioner and Mayor.

I am excited for the future of our community, as

## ***From the New Commissioner, continued from Page 1...***

we have many projects in progress, as well as many more to consider in order to grow our community. I believe in the necessary dynamic of a city commission and I believe we will be providing that to the City of Garnett with who we have currently on the commission. I understand that I am the youngest member to be serving on the commission. I see an abundance of opportunity for Garnett and I will fight for the best for our small businesses, bringing more businesses in and for our city employees who care about our community and are hard workers that get the job done when, where and how.

Again, I appreciate the confidence that you have installed in me.

Happy New Year,

Cody Gettler,  
City Commissioner-Elect

## **From The City Manager...**

As we head into 2021, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year! Though this past year was a trying year, I hope it has been extremely successful for you and your family. It brings me great joy to watch as our community continues to come together to overcome the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us. I would like to take this opportunity to express my utmost thanks and appreciation to all of our healthcare workers and first responders throughout Anderson



County. Thank you for continuing to keep our community safe and healthy!

We have many projects in the works for this coming year. While the winter months will make progress move more slowly, progress will continue. We are almost complete with the design work for the new water treatment plant and we hope to go to bid this coming summer. The Maple Street Kansas Department of Transportation grant project, which will install underground drainage from 4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenues on Maple Street (Highway 59) is expected to begin in 2022. This project is being funded with grant monies and will reduce the flooding issues that we have in that area during heavy rains. The fueling apron and taxiway improvement project at the airport is almost complete. The runway reconstruction and expansion project is continuing to progress towards starting.

We are hoping to have the storm shelter, that was awarded through FEMA, thanks to Emergency Management Director Mersman, installed by Spring. Kansas Fiber Net and KwiKom Communications have begun running fiber internet cable throughout town. The hopes are to begin offering fiber internet to business and residences soon. We are in the process of looking into electrical utility system improvements and are looking into the possibility of a transfer station or other changes to improve the refuse utility.

We are excited to be offering our new online camping reservation system beginning on January 4th. You will need a free RecDesk account to get started. You can find step-by-step instructional videos and the link to register on our RecDesk website. I would like to extend a major thank you to Sami Jo Peine from our Parks and Recreation Department for helping make this possible.

Many of our staff have been participating in a variety of trainings and professional development opportunities and I would like to thank them for their continued efforts toward self-improvement. As you may have noticed, we have held several of our commission meetings online via Zoom. We have staff at City Hall who would be happy to assist residents who would like to participate in these meetings. If you are not familiar with Zoom, but would like to learn more, please contact us at 785-504-4074. You can also view the meetings on our YouTube page and website following the meetings.

I would like to thank Community Development Director Susan Wettstein, Chamber Director Kris Hix, Economic Development Director Julie Turnipseed and Health & Wellness Coordinator Sami Jo Peine for utilizing their creativity and inventiveness during the Covid-19 pandemic. These wonderful individuals were able to come up with fun alternatives to the many cancellations and postponements of local events. Even with all of the changes, we were still lucky enough to have the Garnett Farmers' Market Season, Chocolate Walk, Memorial Day Service, City Wide Garage Sale Days, Celebration of Service, Libertyfest, Halloween Hooplah, First Responders Lunch, Concerts on the Lawn, a business window decorating contest, Shop Hop, Holiday Open House, Small Business Saturday, Christmas lighting ceremony, Santa Cruise and Youth Sports Clinics.

City Clerk Travis Wilson and his staff have gone above and beyond during the pandemic to continue to provide excellent service at City Hall! I would like to thank Diane Hastert, Jenny Schooler, Monica Hill, Desiree Donovan, Nancy Hermreck and Betty Jasper for staying upbeat and making the best of the Covid-19 situation. Electric Production Foreman Bob Mills and Power Plant Operator Joe Owens created safety barriers for the counters at City Hall. This has allowed us to keep our doors open to the public throughout most of the year.

While I am thanking staff, I would also like to thank all of our employees who help with a variety of community service projects. Did you know that City Staff delivers Meals on Wheels once each week, and hands out food at the Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution each month? The individuals who assisted with Harvesters recently are: Travis Wilson, Pat Schettler, Julie Turnipseed, Phil Bures, Susan Wettstein, Kris Hix, Garrett Gross, Rusty Harvey, Bob Mills, Patric Vandenberg, Jake Wettstein, Jody Cole, John Rogers, Eric Trammell, Franklin Urquhart, Will Hulcy and Roy Salazar.

We also have staff who consistently ensure that our military service men and women are recognized. Troy Hart and John Helms are committed to seeing that our American flags are flown on Highway 59 and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue for each recognized military holiday, and Susan Wettstein created the Garnett Remembers Military Banner Project.

Our outstanding employees are only part of the reason why Garnett is such an amazing community. The volunteers who participate on our advisory boards dedicate their personal time for the betterment of Garnett. Advisory members include: Beth Mersman, Mike Norman, Burt Peterson, Skip Landis, Les Thomas, Paula Scott, Doug Rockers, Casey Smith, Eileen Burns, Jody Cole, Eric Glaze, Reuben Feuerborn, Les McGhee, Nick Durand, Cody Gettler, Dave Brummel, Janon Gordon, Roy Salazar, Brandon Palmer, Ben Tush, Rochelle Kohlmeier, Matt Stevenson, Gordon Blackie, Roger Brummel, Bill Reeder, Charles Allen, Tarry Miller, Tom Horstick, Susan Caron, Travis Wilson, Laurel Ladewig, Krystal Baugher, Paula Wallace, Nicole Stevenson, Tom Emerson Jr., Joyce Martin, Tami Hiestand, Marcia Mader, Denise Scheibmeir, Candy Hewes, Wanda Taylor, Janelle Klehammer, Betts Abraham, Earl Rocker, Steve Spring, Susan Stanton, Ron Zimmerman, Linda Huttenmueller, Sandra Moffett, Jennifer Sibley, Jordan Hall, Mike Hermann, Sharon Yost, Gary Teel, Helen Norman, Erin Stevenson, Jonathan Hall, Julie



*From the City Manager continued from page 2...*

Smith, Art Black, Sarah Hulcy, Mike Burns, Connie Scott, Vikki Mills, Brenda Osler, and Julie Turnipseed. Thank all of you for being a part of and making Garnett the most wonderful place to call home.

Thank you all again for the opportunity to serve Garnett as your City Manager.

Sincerely,  
Christopher T. Weiner,  
City Manager

## Changes You Need to Know About Parks and Recreation

The world of Parks and Recreation is ever changing and moving and for us, we are taking it literally. The We are moving the Parks and Recreation Director's office to the Recreation Center. This will make things easier for everyone to find us and help us to serve you better. This move will allow us to keep the Recreation Center open to the public more hours during the day. So, in the summertime those under the age of 18 and those without a membership can come in earlier and enjoy the many things we have to offer. The Recreation Center will also be getting a new phone system, making it easier to connect with who you need to talk to. Please bear with us as we try to complete all these new improvements.

The City would like to thank and recognize Charley Caron for his almost decade of service in bringing the Garnett Recreation Center from its infancy to where we are today. While Charley will no longer be greeting you at the door, his mark will forever be left as our local community recreation center continues to grow. While replacing Charley's passion for the Recreation Center is incredibly hard, we believe our Health and Wellness Program Director Sami Jo Peine will shine, taking on additional responsibilities managing the recreation center as she succeeds Charley. Many of you may already know Sami Jo from her work at the front desk, some of the programs that she has run, or through her personal training. Now we are pleased to be able to expand her role and responsibilities where she will be able to focus on offering more fitness and wellbeing classes and to just improve your overall recreational experience. Some of the anticipated programs will include nutrition and fitness classes to help teach you ways that you can become a healthier you. She will also continue offering the personal training for those that desire more one on one attention. This will also allow us to keep our doors open for you if you haven't joined as a member yet. Our anticipated new hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Parks and Recreation Department is always exploring opportunities to create more opportunities for our members and our community.

We are looking at the way we are structuring Recreation Center fees and making plans to restructure. One way may be to include any of the classes that we offer in the membership. No longer will you have to pay a membership fee and a class fee separately. This will also help streamline our classes and make it much easier for our instructors as well. This is part of trying to listen to members and making the Recreation Center the best that it can be.

With Covid-19 and the many restrictions put in place to keep people safe, numerous places have had to make changes to the way they operate and the Parks Department is no different than anyone else. With the upcoming basketball season, we will not see the games the same way they have been played in the past. There will be a limit as to the number of spectators that will be

allowed to watch a game. We are limiting the attendance to two people per player and coach as to keep numbers down and still be able to social distance. Along with this all those attending must wear a mask. Understanding this will leave a lot of people on the outside looking in, we are in the process of setting up live streaming of the games from our courts. We are working with the league and they are also putting things in place to live stream as well. So, through this technology, hopefully, you will be able to watch all the games home and away through some sort of streaming application. This is something that is brand new to us and we are excited to give it a try.

Speaking of advancement in technology, beginning January 4, 2021, with the help of our RecDesk software, all camping reservations will be online.

With a few simple clicks on your computer, tablet or smartphone you will be able to reserve your campsite with ease 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This will allow you to reserve your campsite(s) for multiple days and stays throughout the entire year. For those diehard campers this will be something they will soon grow to love. We understand this is a big change and takes a little getting used to. If you have questions you can call us or stop by the Recreation Center and we can help walk you through the process. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible and to help eliminate any confusion when it comes to booking spots or to help eliminate the accidental double booking of a spot. Like I said, this is going to take some getting used to, but we are willing and ready to help.

Sincerely,

Phil Bures, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cemetery



### *It's that time again!*

Owners of dogs and cats within the City of Garnett are required to purchase pet licenses annually at City Hall.

Between January 1 and before March 1, the city will collect a registration fee of \$7.50 for spayed or neutered dogs and cats, and \$20 for any dog or cat that is not spayed or neutered.

As of March 1, 2021, the fees will double to \$15 and \$40 respectively. Replacement tag fee for lost tags are \$5.

**Please note:** Certificate of current rabies vaccination provided to you by your veterinarian, along with verification of spaying or neutering, is required at time of City pet license purchase.

Thereafter, by ordinance a notification will be sent to a pet owner 30 days in advance of the expiration of their pet's rabies vaccination. Owners will be required to provide the new rabies vaccination information to the city within 30 days of notification. Failure to comply will result in the pet license being revoked and a fine issued. So please, keep rabies information current, and don't forget to license your pet!

## From the City Clerk...

Where has this year gone? I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year as we push through to the end of what was and will go down as a very historic year.

We have some exciting news to share. We are going to be offering email billing! Over the course of the next few months, we will be adding the ability to send utility bills and late notices through email. As we transition to this, you will be seeing some changes to the utility bills themselves. Currently, your utility bill is printed on a yellow post card. Soon, you are going to receive a paper bill that will come in a City of Garnett envelope. The City of Garnett has utilized the utility card stock for many years; however, we have received a number of complaints about bills not making it to the customers. City Staff have had a number of discussions with the local post office regarding lost or destroyed utility bills and many times the reason for the loss is due to them getting stuck in magazines, newspapers, etc. That combined with the increasing costs of the utility stock, we have decided to switch our bills to a full-size piece of paper. Although the risk of bills getting stuck in other mail, ripped, destroyed, and lost are all still there, we hope the risk is reduced by this switch. As we all know, change is not easy, and I anticipate some bugs and issues so please be patient with us as we work through this process. We encourage all who would like to receive their bill via email, to give us a call at (785) 448-5496. Our methods of payments will not be changing, we still take payment by cash, check, money order, and credit card either through our online bill pay or over the phone. Auto draft is also an option if you bank with a local bank.



**THE CITY OF GARNETT KANSAS**  
Small, Serene, Simply Garnett.

For billing and service information: (785) 448-5496  
For emergencies or lights out: (785) 448-6823

Customer Name: JOHN DOE  
Account Number: 9303932168

**SAMPLE - NEW UTILITY BILL**  
Billing Date: 10/09/2020

**MESSAGE BOARD**  
Important Billing Information

- Bills are due upon receipt.
- After the 15th of each month, a late fee will be applied to all unpaid accounts. This late fee will be included on late notices sent.
- If disconnected, a \$50 reconnect fee will be required to have service reestablished.
- Automatic Bank Withdrawal (ACH), cash, check, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are accepted.
- There will be a \$30 charge for all Non-sufficient Funds returned.

\*Use this space for information regarding holiday closings, trash route changes, pet licensing reminders etc.\*

**Account Summary**  
For service from 09/29/2020 to 10/29/2020

Previously Balance	\$69.82
Current Charges	\$167.11
Amount due with Late Fee	\$175.47
Due Upon Receipt	\$89.09

Code	Previous	Current	Used	Amount
EL	6874	7494	620	74.07
WA	1232	1234	2	36.30
GS	310	311	1	10.00
SW SEWER			2	30.00
TS TRASH				19.00
WT WATER TAX			2	.06
TX SALES TAX				1.68

**Due Upon Receipt**

Code	Previous	Current	Used	Amount
EL	6874	7494	620	74.07
WA	1232	1234	2	36.30
GS	310	311	1	10.00
SW SEWER			2	30.00
TS TRASH				19.00
WT WATER TAX			2	.06
TX SALES TAX				1.68

Please return the bottom portion with your payment. Thank you.

Customer Name: JOHN DOE  
Account Number: 9303932168  
Billing Date: 10/15/2020

Due upon receipt: \$167.11  
Payments must be received by: November 15, 2020

City of Garnett  
311 W. 5th Avenue  
Garnett, Kansas 66532

We would also like to report that we will be going online with our camping reservations! As technology evolves, we need to keep pace with it so we will be moving toward the online regis-

*Continued on page 7.*

## Did You Know?

Please join us in welcoming the following new city employees: **Nick Goodwin**, Police Detective/Sergeant, **Chase Lee**, Sanitation, **Tegan Modica**, Librarian-Adult Services. **Pat Tate** rejoins the Garnett Volunteer Fire Department along with the addition of new firefighters, **Justin Thompson** and **Zachary Wilper**.

We would like to thank Commissioner **Brigitte Brecheisen-Huss** for her service to the community for the past three years. We also welcome **Cody Gettler** as our newest City Commissioner.

Congratulations to the following City of Garnett employees for reaching these respective milestone anniversaries: **Jody Cole**, Commissioner - 5 years, **Randy Weimer**, Maintenance Supervisor, Garnett Housing Authority - 10 years (Happy Retirement Randy!), **Neil Hermreck**, Parks and Cemetery Maintenance - 15 years.

The following employees received the honor of Employee of the Month for the last 6 months of 2020:

July - **Eric Trammell**, Wastewater Maintenance Foreman

August - **Kris Hix**, Administrative Assistant

September - **Pat Schettler**, Airport Manager

October - **James Howard**, Water Plant Operator

November - **Desiree Donovan**, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager

December - **Rusty Harvey**, Utility Plant Operator

We want to thank **Charley Caron** for serving as a member of the Garnett Recreation Center staff for the past 9+ years. Also, we say farewell to **Brian Dykes**, Water Plant Operator and **Tom Johnson**, Administrative Police Sergeant. Best wishes to all.

**\*Conferences and Training:** **Garrett Gross**, Building Official/Zoning Administrator, attended Floodplain Management training, NFPA fire Protection training and Effective Zoning seminar. **Rusty Harvey**, Wastewater Maintenance, attended asset management training and renewal of his Wastewater II Operator's License. **Rusty Harvey**, Wastewater Maintenance, **James Howard**, Water Plant Operator, **John Rogers** and **Zach Smothers**, Gas and Water Distribution Operators, attended training on pumps, flowmeters and efficiency. **John Rogers** has also taken on additional job duties as the backup meter reader. **Jenny Schooler**, Account Clerk, attended Incode Financial Training. **Julie Turnipseed**, Director of ACDA, attended the Kansas Economic Development Alliance annual conference, **Travis Wilson**, City Clerk, attended training on Human Resources, and training through the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association.

The following employees participated in leadership training provided through the Kansas Leadership Center Transformation Grant:

**Your Leadership Edge** - **Ray Arnett**, Gas and Water Distribution Foreman, **Karlyn Hulett**, Executive Director, Garnett Housing Authority, **Kurt King**, Police Chief, **Garrett Gross**, Building Official/Zoning Administrator, **Andrea Sobba**, Head Librarian, Garnett Public Library, and **Julie Turnipseed**, ACDA Economic Development Director.

**Your Leadership Edge, Lead for Change and Equip to Lead** - **Nancy Hermreck**, Assistant City Clerk, **Kris Hix**, Administrative Assistant/GACC Director, **Chris Weiner**, City Manager, **Susan Wettstein**, Director of Community Development and Tourism, and **Travis Wilson**, City Clerk.

The **Garnett Police Department** would like to remind the public that they no longer provide cat traps. However, the police department will pick up animals Monday through Friday, from 8

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Check out our "Community Calendar" - [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com)

## JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year!**  
**City Offices Closed**  
Friday trash route will be picked up on Thursday
- Jan. 1-Feb. 28 License your pets at City Hall**
- 4 Anderson County Commission Meeting**  
Annex Building, 9 a.m.,  
Every Monday  
**Celebrate Recovery**  
Church of the Nazarene, 5-8 p.m.,  
Every Monday  
**Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6-7 p.m.,  
First & Third Monday
- 5 P.M. Yoga**  
Recreation Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m.,  
Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
**Storytime for Preschoolers**  
Garnett Library, 10 a.m. (Facebook Live), Every Tuesday  
**Rotary International Meeting**  
Dutch Country Cafe, 12 p.m.,  
Every Tuesday  
**Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**  
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Community Foundation Meeting**, Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.  
**American Legion BINGO**  
VFW Post 6397, 6-8 p.m.,  
Every Tuesday  
**Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting**  
510 S. Oak Street, 7 p.m.  
Every Tuesday and Thursday
- 7 TOPS Meeting**  
First United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.,  
Every Thursday  
**USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**  
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 8 Morning Mingle Meeting**  
via Zoom, 8 a.m. (Contact ACDA)  
**Airport Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 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**, Chamber Office, 7 p.m.

- 11 American Legion Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.  
**Garnett Housing Authority Board of Directors Meeting**, GHA Office, 7 p.m.
- 12 Recycle Trailer**  
Country Mart parking lot, all day  
**City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 13 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**, Rec Center, 6 p.m.  
**VFW & VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m..
- 17 VFW Breakfast**  
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 18 Garnett Public Library Adult Reading Program Kickoff**  
via Zoom, 7 p.m.
- 19 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.
- 21 Walker Art Committee Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 26 City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 27 Garnett Public Library Book Discussion "The Rosie Result" by Graeme Simsion**, via Zoom, 7 p.m.
- 28 Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution**  
For Anderson County residents,  
Quonset Hut, Fairgrounds, 2 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett City Hall, 4:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Community Foundation Meeting**, Rec Center, 5:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**  
Garnett Senior Center, 7 p.m.  
**USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**  
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 8 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.  
**American Legion Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.  
**Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting**, Chamber Office, 7 p.m.  
**Garnett Housing Authority Board of Directors Meeting**, GHA Office, 7 p.m.  
**Library Board Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.

- 9 Recycle Trailer**  
Country Mart parking lot, all day  
**City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 10 VFW & VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 11 Morning Mingle Meeting**  
via Zoom, 8 a.m. (Contact ACDA)  
**Airport Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!**
- 15 President's Day - City Offices Closed**  
Trash service will run 1 day late  
**Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 16 ACDA - Economic Development Meeting**, City Hall, 5 p.m.  
**Garnett BPW Meeting**  
Town Hall Center 5:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 18 Walker Art Committee Meeting**  
Archer Room, Library, 4 p.m.
- 21 VFW Breakfast**  
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Troyer's Prairie Gold Bridal Show/Event Vendor Showcase**  
1561 S. Maple Street (US 59 South)
- 22 Anderson County Caregiver Support Group**, Park Plaza North, 1 p.m.
- 23 City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 25 Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution**  
For Anderson County residents  
Quonset Hut, Anderson County Fairgrounds, 2 p.m.
- 28 LAST DAY - Pet licensing deadline for reduced rate.** Purchase at City Hall by Friday, February 26 or by mail or drop box.

## MARCH

- 1 Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 2 Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett City Hall, 4:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Community Foundation Meeting**, Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**  
Garnett Senior Center, 7 p.m.  
**USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**  
Garnett Elementary, 7 p.m.



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay connected!

## MARCH (cont.)

- 6 **International Women's Day Chocolate Walk**, Hosted by Morning Mingle
- 8 **American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**, VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.
- Library Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.
- American Legion Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.
- Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting**, Chamber Office, 7 p.m.
- Garnett Housing Authority Board of Directors Meeting**  
GHA Office-Park Plaza North, 7 p.m.
- 9 **Recycle Trailer**  
Country Mart parking lot, all day
- City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 10 **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**, Rec Center, 6 p.m.
- VFW & VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 12 **Morning Mingle**  
via Zoom, 8 a.m. (Contact ACDA)
- Airport Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 14 **Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 15 **Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 16 **ACDA - Economic Development Meeting**, City Hall, 5 p.m.
- Garnett BPW Meeting**  
Town Hall Center, Library, 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**
- TBA **Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail 25th Annual Birthday Bash**
- 18 **Walker Art Committee**  
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.

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- March 18-21 & 26-28: "Leaving Iowa"**  
**Live Dinner Theatre**  
Presented by The Chamber Players  
Community Theatre, Thelma Moore  
Community Playhouse
- 21 **VFW Breakfast**  
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 22 **Anderson County Caregiver Support Group**, Park Plaza North, 1 p.m.

- 23 **City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 25 **Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution**  
For Anderson County Residents  
Quonset Hut, 2 p.m.
- 27-28 **Prairie Spirit Ultra Races (50/100 mile)**, Prairie Spirit Trail, Ottawa-Iola

\*All dates and times subject to change.



# 2021

## SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
<p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>6 - Morning Mingle hosts International Women's Day Chocolate Walk</p> <p>TBA - 25th Annual Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail Celebration</p> <p>18-21 &amp; 26-28: The Chamber Players present, "Leaving Iowa", live dinner theatre</p> <p>27-28 Prairie Spirit Trail Ultra Races (50/100m)</p>	<p>3 - Easter Eggstravaganza, Egg Hunt/Festival hosted by AC CARTS, Hope Anthem Church</p> <p>10 - Spring City Wide Garage Sale Day</p> <p>10 - Garnett BPW Women's Fair</p> <p>TBA - 5K Color Splat! hosted by Garnett Community Foundation</p> <p>TBA - Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet</p> <p>TBA - Garnett Rotary Club hosts Denim and Diamonds Gala</p>	<p>May 6-October 7: Garnett Farmers' Market Season (Thursdays)</p> <p>8 - Garnett BPW presents the 48th Annual Square Fair crafts festival</p> <p>8 - Garnett Industrial Airport hosts Air Fair</p> <p>14-16 KC Karting hosts Sprint Track Races</p> <p>27 - Celebration of Service, recognizing patriotic banner honorees and all veterans</p> <p>28-31 Avenue of Flags</p> <p>31 - Memorial Day Service</p>

More events to be added!

TBA - To be announced.  
*All events and dates subject to change.*

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>3-6 &amp; 11-13: The Chamber Players present, "Mondays Always Leads to Murder", live dinner theatre.</p> <p>5 - 5th Annual Southland Cruisers Car, Bike &amp; Truck Show</p> <p>18-19 Garnett Lions Club Kansas Dual Sport Safari</p>	<p>3 - Libertyfest</p> <p>Community Fireworks Display</p> <p>10-11 Garnett Enduro Club Kart Road Races</p> <p>23-24 - Morning Mingle hosts Love What's Local Garnett Summer Sidewalk Sales</p> <p>TBA - Anderson County MSTPA Truck and Tractor Pull</p> <p>TBA - Anderson County Fair Week</p>	<p>TBA - Anderson County Fair Demolition Derby</p> <p>TBA - The Chamber Players present live dinner theatre</p> <p>22 - 15th Annual Scipio Supper Club Charity Bike Fun Run</p> <p>28 - Colony Fun in the Sun Car Show</p> <p>28-29 - Garnett Enduro Club Kart Road Races</p>	<p>Sept. 2-Oct 7: Morning Mingle presents Concerts in the Park</p> <p>4 - Colony Day Celebration</p> <p>10-11 - 18th Annual Greeley Smokeoff</p> <p>11 - Fall City Wide Garage Sale Day</p> <p>TBA - 112th Annual Kincaid Free Fair</p> <p>25 - Cornstock, 16th Annual Anderson County Corn Festival Concert on the Hill</p>

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>1-2 - Morning Mingle hosts Love What's Local Garnett Shop Hop</p> <p>8-10 - Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival</p> <p>9 - Garnett's 160th Celebration</p> <p>17 - KC Karting Association hosts Sprint Track Races</p> <p>TBA - Kansas Rails-To-Tracks Extravaganza (50/100m)</p>	<p>13 - St. Rose Craft Show &amp; Bierock Sale</p> <p>12-13 - Morning Mingle, Love What's Local Garnett Holiday Open House</p> <p>27 - GACC endorses Small Business Saturday</p> <p>27 - 50th Annual Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce (GACC) Christmas Parade and Lighting Ceremony</p>	<p>TBA - The Chamber Players live dinner theatre</p> <p>4 - 15th Annual Colony Christmas Parade</p> <p>5 - Friends of the Library Holiday Homes Tour</p> <p>5 - BPW Holiday Boutique</p> <p>11 - Westphalia Christmas Celebration</p>



Be in the know! It's simple!  
[www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com)

## Websites and Social Channels

Official City Website -  
[www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com)

Social Media:  
Facebook: @garnettks  
Twitter: @getgarnett  
Instagram: @garnettkansas  
YouTube: /garnettkansas



### From the City Clerk, continued from page 4...

tration process which will be done inside our Rec Desk program. We are finalizing and testing everything to work out any bugs that may exist. Be on the lookout for online registrations in 2021!

As we move on from a challenging year, I hope everyone has found something this past year to be thankful for. Thanks again for being patient with us all. We wish you all nothing but the best in the new year to come.

Sincerely,

Travis Wilson,  
City Clerk

### Did You Know, continued from page 4...

a.m. to 5 p.m. if captured in traps purchased and set by a property owner or resident. Dogs running at large, unless aggressive or causing damage to property, will only be picked up Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The **Garnett Public Library** invites all preschoolers (and young at heart) to watch Storytime live on Facebook (@GarnettPublicLibrary) on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. See more information on library activities in the calendar insert.

**Update Contact Information:** In the event of an emergency or storm it is important that the City's utility department have a valid, working cell phone or telephone number in which residents and business owners can be reached at any time. If you have not updated your contact information in a while we encourage you to contact City Hall soon at 785-448-5496.

**Get Involved! Join an Advisory Board.** The City of Garnett has several advisory boards. Currently there are two (2) vacancies that need to be filled. One position is on the Garnett Community Foundation and the other is on the Parks and Recreation Board. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit City Hall or [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com) to complete an advisory board application "Statement of Interest" form. The City Commission appoints or reappoints all city advisory board positions.

The City of Garnett invites you to join us in celebrating the following businesses for choosing to create new opportunities for Garnett area shoppers, service seekers and job hunters in 2020:

- **Chiefs Liquidation LLC**, 618 E. 6th Avenue
  - **Pheasant Ridge Family Medicine**, 312 S. Maple Street
  - **Prairie Home Market**, 580-602 N. Maple Street
  - **Purple Sunflower Boutique**, 305 S. Main Street
  - **Southside RV Park & Storage**, 1312 S. Maple Street
  - **The CC's Boutiques**, 405 S. Maple Street
- Businesses with new ownership in 2020:
- **Daylight Donuts**, 305 N. Maple Street
  - **Garnett Family Dentistry LLC**, 240 W. 4th Avenue

\*Please note: Some conferences, trainings and activities attended were virtual.



### PLEASE HELP!

Be a good neighbor and always bag your trash. Trash should be in a bag (by city ordinance) in order to be picked up by the Refuse Department. Ideally, bags placed in a plastic or light weight trash can is best. **Thank you!**

## From the Airport Manager...

It has been a busy Fall at the airport! The fueling apron project got underway and after several setbacks, it is almost complete. The contractors got all the site work, concrete placed, and asphalt laid down and they will be finishing the final dirt work and cleanup soon. It looks very nice and is a great improvement as the previous apron asphalt had mostly turned to black gravel. They also milled and replaced the asphalt on the taxiway and replaced or sealed the cracked areas on the actual runway. All these projects were either completely paid for by the FAA or at most a 10 percent city share on the small repairs.

We also received a new airport car that replaced our 1982 Taurus! AuBurn Pharmacy kindly donated us a 2011 Chevy HHR to be used as an airport courtesy car. This will give Garnett a much better first impression to transient pilots as they go into town to do business or grab a meal. Thank you, Mike Burns, CEO/President, AuBurn Pharmacy! The airport really appreciates it.

Another piece of good news is we have two new planes based at the airport. One is a 2020 Carbon Cub NX Cub and the other is a 1947 Piper PA-12. Both planes are based on the original Piper Cub, but the Carbon Cub is fully built out of carbon fiber, weighs 1,300 lbs., has over 200 hp and the newest electronics. The PA-12 is made from pipe, wood and fabric, weighs 1,900 lbs., has less than 100 hp and no electronics. Both fun to fly!

You are always welcome to visit the airport. Follow us on Facebook (Garnett-Industrial-Airport).

Sincerely,

Pat Schettler,  
Airport Manager



Airport Taxiway - Before



Airport Taxiway - After



AuBurn Pharmacy donates courtesy car

## Garnett Remembers Patriotic Banner Project

As of the printing of this newsletter, it appears we have surpassed our goal of 300 banner honorees. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all banner sponsors, for if not for them this project would not be possible. The last day to sponsor a banner was December 31, 2020.

Garnett Remembers is a patriotic pole banner project that began in 2016 to recognize and honor those who have, or are currently serving in the US Military.

Details on the May 27, 2021 *Celebration of Service* will be announced in the next quarterly issue of *Town Talk*. The banners will be on display annually just in time for Memorial Day weekend, through July to include the Independence Day holiday.



## From Economic Development...

I would like to share the following information. Our goal is to help give everyone a better chance of a promising career.

When job seekers are in the process of seeking out employment or that ideal career, there are many tools that can help. Whether you are a student in high school or wherever you find yourself currently in life, ACT WorkKeys and National Career Readiness Program can help you along your career path.

ACT WorkKeys assessments are the cornerstone of the ACT workforce solutions. The assessments help you measure the workplace skills that can affect your job performance and help you in your search for the best job for you.

- They measure a range of hard and soft skills relevant to any occupation at any level and across industries.
- Successful completion of WorkKeys assessments can lead to earning a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)-a credential that verifies foundational workplace skills.

To earn the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), you must successfully complete the WorkKeys assessments in Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents.

The Applied Math assessment measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving techniques for situation that occur in today's workplace.

Workplace Graphics come in a variety of formats, but all communicate a level of information. From charts, diagrams to floor plans identifying what information is being presented and understanding how to use it are critical to success. This assessment measures the skill needed to locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics.

The Workplace Documents assessment measures the skill people use when they read and use written text such as memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations on the job.

The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) is recognized by 17 employers in Anderson County. The NCRC is widely recognized nationally as well.

The WorkKeys assessment is available at any time and is most often at no cost to the job seeker. The Paola KansasWorks Career Center is available by appointment to take the assessments. You can call Adrienne Slaughter to set up an appointment. She can be reached by calling 913-937-9462, extension 104, or email her at [aslaughter@sekworks.org](mailto:aslaughter@sekworks.org).

Anderson County Senior High and Crest High Schools both offer the WorkKeys assessment for Sophomores (10<sup>th</sup> grade students) each year. Students should contact the school counselors to sign up for the assessment. Janay Blome at Anderson County Senior High, 785-448-3115, and Bailey Lee at Crest High School, 620-852-3521.

The KansasWorks Mobile Career Center will be visiting Garnett again as soon as Covid19 travel restrictions are lifted. The WorkKeys assessment will be given at the mobile career center by appointment if a job seeker is unable to travel to Paola. Please call me directly for more information at 785-504-4265, or email me at [julie@garnettks.net](mailto:julie@garnettks.net). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Julie Turnipseed, Director  
Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA),  
Economic Development for Anderson County and Garnett

## Turn Your Business into a Destination

*A message from Jon Schallert, known as "The Authority on Creating Consumer Destinations" -*

If you are a business owner in Anderson County, here's a unique opportunity for you to grow your business, increase your number of customers and increase your marketing power without spending more money.

This is Jon Schallert and I teach business owners around the world how to make their businesses so unique that consumers will want to buy only from you.

Best of all for everyone located in Anderson County, you have a person in your city, Julie Turnipseed, the Economic Development Director of Garnett and Anderson County, who is trained to teach my course that could forever change your business for the better.

The name of my class is the Destination Creation Course, and you can take this class in eight short nights, right in Garnett. The 8-chapter class now also has a new section on business tactics during the Covid-19 crisis. Here is what you can look forward to:

Chapter 1: Becoming a Destination Business

Chapter 2: Your Unique Positioning

Chapter 3: Your Leadership Responsibility

Chapter 4: Targeting Your Most Profitable Customers

Chapter 5: Capturing Consumer and Media Attention

Chapter 6: Creating a Customer-Focused Company

Chapter 7: Marketing Your Destination Business

Chapter 8: Collective Marketing

New - Chapter 9: Covid-19 Business Survival Tips

In the first 8 Chapters, I have recorded 10 webinars on my Destination process. In all, my webinars run for 3½ hours, each one averaging 20 minutes in length. These are the core components of the class and business owners who listen to these 10 webinars can go back and make dramatic changes to their businesses.

Additionally, in each Chapter, I have selected interviews that we have done with world-class business experts and authors. These extra interviews have been selected to give supplemental information that dovetails with each Destination step. There are 9 of these interviews, and if a person listened to every one, you would learn from four (4) hours of supplemental content.

Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA) is planning to offer the Destination Creation Course in early 2021. If you are a business owner and are interested in taking the course, please contact Julie Turnipseed at 785-504-4265 or email her at [julie@garnettks.net](mailto:julie@garnettks.net).

For more information about what ACDA can do for you, please visit [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com).

## Simply...Fun in 2021!

Are you ready for a simply...amazing year? I think we all are. We deserve "amazing", don't we? Then, let's focus on the fun, shall we?

Community Development and Tourism have been working on a variety of projects, knowing hope is in our future and we'd better be ready. We've been doing a lot of Plan B's, and so have

**Continued on page 10.**



# Chamber of Commerce - "To Your Health in 2021!"

By Kris Hix, Executive Director - Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce hosted a Zoom meeting with a facilitator from the Kansas Leadership Center for the purpose of virtually gathering interested local business partners and citizens on the "Kansas Beats The Virus" initiative. The outcome of this productive meeting is the start of a **Healthy Minds, Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit Lifestyle Campaign** in which the GACC's submitted a grant proposal and was awarded \$3,000 to fund the project.

The State of Kansas has partnered with the Kansas Leadership Center for the purpose of helping communities control the spread of Covid-19, mobilize Kansans to generate local solutions and to develop community-specific experiments that can lead to behavior-changing action. To date, over 805 meetings, such as the one hosted by GACC, have been held across the state.

As executive director for the Chamber and as an administrative assistant for Community Development and Tourism, I feel our local collaboration to develop this campaign focused on "managing self" will not only help all of us through the Covid-19 pandemic, but we hope it creates a culture inspiring citizens living in Garnett and Anderson County to manage their overall health long after the virus is no longer forefront in our everyday lives.

Included in the grant funded campaign is a plan to work with businesses and persons in the fields of physical health, mental health and nutrition to create some media resources and social media video clips, print media including some yard signs showing encouragement to others. Knowing that Covid-19 has been difficult, not only physically to those who have contracted the virus, but everyone has dealt with the stress, isolation, limitations, the disappointment due to cancellations of activities and other issues. Mental wellness, keeping relationships; whether personal, spiritual or professional in good perspective, exercise and eating good food—all play a part in the Healthy Minds, Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit Lifestyle Campaign. Making sure everyone has access to hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes for carts and complimentary masks at entrances to our high traffic stores are also a part of this campaign and are steps to ensure a healthy environment that with support of our community can truly help "Kansas Beat the Virus". Watch for the roll out of this campaign, coming soon!

We have seen an all time record number of Chamber Bucks being purchased in 2020. Chamber Bucks are gift certificates that can be redeemed at many GACC member businesses. Chamber Bucks can be purchased anytime of the year; for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, or just to say "Thank you". Some businesses and entities have purchased Chamber Bucks for their entire workforce for Christmas gifts. We are very grateful to those who support local businesses by purchasing Chamber Bucks.

As we enter a new year, I would like to remind Chamber members to renew their memberships now for 2021. For businesses who are not members, please give me a call and I would be glad to visit with you about the benefits of membership. I encourage you to visit our website, see who our members are and click the "Join" tab to learn how your membership can grow your business and help the community all at the same time.



Please note, due to Covid-19, the Chamber of Commerce Board has voted to delay the annual GACC Banquet from its usual date in January to April, 2021. The banquet is a special time for chamber members to gather together, have some laughs, enjoy some entertainment and great food, and show support for each other as we recognize businesses and individuals for their accomplishments. More information on this special event will be released soon.

Here are ways you can connect with us:

Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce on Facebook:

@garnettchamber.

Visit our website: [www.garnettchamber.org](http://www.garnettchamber.org).

Office Location: 131 W. 5th Avenue

Office Phone: 785-448-6767

Email: [director@garnettchamber.org](mailto:director@garnettchamber.org)

Again, it is my sincere pleasure to represent the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce and assist the City of Garnett. Stop by and visit! Our office is on the west side of City Hall.

Sincerely,

Kris Hix, Executive Director,  
Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce  
Administrative Assistant, City of Garnett

## Garnett Project Updates for 2021

### Water Plant

Design work for the new water treatment plant is almost complete and the project is anticipated to go to bid this coming summer.

### Maple Street Drainage Project

The Maple Street KDOT project, which will create drainage from 4th Avenue north to 1st Avenue on Maple Street (Highway 59) is expected to begin in 2022. This project is being funded with grant monies and will hopefully alleviate the flooding issues that we have in that area during heavy rains.

### Airport Projects

The fueling apron and taxiway improvement project at the Airport is almost complete. The runway reconstruction and expansion project is continuing with the Master Plan update.

### Storm Shelter

The storm shelter, that was awarded through FEMA, thanks to Emergency Management Director Mersman, will hopefully be installed by this spring. It is currently being constructed southwest of the Santa Fe Depot near 7th Avenue and Main Street.

### Fiber Project

Kansas Fiber Net and KwiKom have begun running fiberoptic cable throughout town. These projects should be completed in 2021.

### North Substation

The City is in the process of looking into electrical utility system improvements. Bob Mills, Electric Production Foreman, is working with Kansas Municipal Electric Association to provide a presentation to the City Commission on the potential project.

### Transfer Station

The City is looking into the possibility of establishing its own transfer station to improve the refuse utility service to our customers. Andrew Burkhart, Director of Public Works, is working on a proposal for this project.



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

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

### Simply... Fun in 2021, continued from page 8...

many community event planners that bring special events to Garnett. Those determined individuals improvising to succeed in making what may look to the naysayer impossible-possible in a safe and manageable way. We commend them. To my knowledge, not one confirmed case of Covid-19 arose from an organized public event in our area. We are blessed to have some wide open spaces and some great facilities that accommodate racing action, car shows, the county fair, and traditional style family fun. But those things don't just happen. There is a lot of planning, hand sanitizer, social distancing and mask wearing encouraged. Racing helmets serving the purpose of face masks in certain instances. Everyone working together is key.

Where do we go from here? Like Kris announced in her article, there is a Healthy Minds, Healthy Lifestyle campaign coming. Community Development and Tourism will be rolling out a "Simply...Garnett" campaign as well. It's up to you to get on board and join the fun in 2021!

Our 2021 special events calendar is filling up. While we are ending the sponsorship of our patriotic banners, we will be organizing the Celebration of Service, Libertyfest fireworks celebration, and in October Garnett turns 160 years old. We can't pass that milestone anniversary by. Were you here for the "Garnett 150"? That's right baby. It's time to celebrate!

The town square speaker system is up and running. Initially, it was focused on the west side of the courthouse square. We are still fundraising for this to complete the project to Main Street so that visitors to the farmers' market can enjoy music, musicians can host concerts, and all around the square you can hear the announcements during this year's 50th Annual Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade! We are working with a camping group and other event prospects for the coming year already. Things are looking up.

As we leave 2020 behind us, we truly have some *simply amazing people* to recognize. What they do for the community; for the people of Garnett, is not for any recognition, but because they love this community. Thank you to Everett Cox, who brings his deejay talents and music equipment to so many activities. Thank you Jason and Paula Sjolund. Your holiday cheer brings so much joy to so many. To Rose and Darren Elliss representing CARTS, for their planning and hard work on the 2020 Halloween Hooplah event. To Dan and Loretta Coltrane, for their fortitude in organizing the monthly Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution. To all the volunteers that work tirelessly for the good of Garnett. I know I've missed mentioning many of you, but please know you are appreciated. Thank you!

Rarely can an event of any kind go on in Garnett without the help of the City's parks department, street department, electric department, the refuse department, fire and police departments and the City Hall staff. The city employees of these departments go much of the time with only a thank you from me. Please be sure to thank them yourself when you can. Not every city has the talent and the graciousness we have in these, our city workers.

### From the Desk of Building and Zoning...

FEMA and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, as part of a congressionally mandated modernization initiative, are updating floodplain mapping. The next step in this initiative is to post the preliminary maps in the federal registry. After this is completed a 90-day appeal period will begin. During this period properties affected by the Preliminary Floodplain Map will be offered a chance to present scientific data to appeal their inclusion in the new floodplain map. Letters have been sent out to inform all property owners that are scheduled to be affected by the Preliminary Floodplain Map and, as information becomes available to me, I will continue to keep said property owners and the public as informed as possible. If you are concerned property you own may be included in the new floodplain map or would like to know more about the appeal process, please feel free to contact me at City Hall.

If you are thinking about new construction, an addition, or a major rehabilitation, check out the City's "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan", which is designed to promote improvements to eligible properties within the City of Garnett. Property owners who make a minimum increase of \$5,000 in appraised value improvements to their residential or commercial properties will be eligible to receive rebates on their property taxes from the City of Garnett. More detailed information and permit applications are available at City Hall and online at [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com).

As always, I am more than happy to answer any zoning or permitting questions. I can be reached via phone, 785-448-5496, Option 8, or at my office located in City Hall.

I wish you all a happy and healthy winter!

Respectfully,

Garrett Gross,  
Building Official/Zoning Administrator

What will 2021 have in store for us? My guess it will be what we focus on most. So let's focus on fun in 2021. Because, you deserve it and after 2020, we know not to take the simple things for granted. That's what makes "Simply Garnett" so special.

Best wishes,

Susan Wettstein, Director  
Community Development and Tourism  
**Find us here -**  
Website: [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com)  
Email: [tourism@garnettks.net](mailto:tourism@garnettks.net)  
Phone: 785-448-5496, Option 7

