



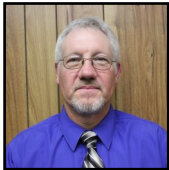
Summer 2022

TownTalk

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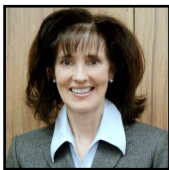
City Commission



Greg A. Gwin,
Mayor



Jason Sheahan,
Commissioner



Jody Cole,
Commissioner

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Garnett, Kansas

From The Commission...

Budget Season!

A cow and a buffalo react differently when a storm is approaching. When a storm comes, a cow runs away, but the storm still catches. The cow spends more time in pain, anxiety, and turmoil by running from and being inside the storm. A buffalo turns and runs into the storm. By running into the storm, the buffalo spends less time inside and reaches a peaceful place sooner than the cow. I firmly believe you can not choose what storm hits, but you can choose how to respond to it.

As budget season approaches for the City, I believe we need to run into the storm and have the difficult conversations

I believe that we need to:

1. Communicate all the budget info so the public knows the whole picture. So the community can see staff and projects are underfunded.
2. Lay out a long-term plan in each department with spending priorities, so the community knows when things will occur and where the items are on the list.
3. Prioritize needs vs. wants

Regarding the City, my definition of needs is services or resources everyone utilizes. Wants are optional services or activities.

The other part of what makes these conversations difficult in a small community is:

- The people who made previous decisions may still live in the community or have family members in the community.
- People are hesitant to hold someone accountable because they are related to or have a common connection.
- People do not want to upset the apple cart because they are concerned with the conse-

quences.

Here is my thought process as we begin the budget season:

Budget Guideline #1 Needs and Fees-

Each utility should have a written, measurable, long-term plan that is reviewed annually. The utility should charge fees to fund the budget fully. This includes total compensation for administrative and field personnel, infrastructure, vehicle, facilities, capital improvements, and reserve funds.

1. Power
2. Water
3. Gas
4. Sewer
5. Sanitation /Trash

Budget Guideline #2 Needs and Taxes-

Property, sales, excise, and franchise taxes and grants should fund infrastructure and services impacting the entire community. Each of those areas should have a written, measurable long-term plan that is updated annually.

1. Police
2. Fire
3. Stormwater
4. Streets
5. Community Development

Budget guideline #3 Wants and Fees/Grants (this one is definitely a work in progress)-

Services and activities that are utilized by choice ideally should be funded by direct user fees, rental, sponsorships, donations, fundraising, and grants. The activity's budget should be covered with ideally no or very little taxes or utility fund

From the Commission continued...

transfers. This includes salaries, benefits, maintenance, facilities, equipment, vehicles, training, and supplies to support the activity. If an area has to receive funding from taxes or transfers, then that area should be evaluated and all options discussed.

Being my first budget season, without a doubt, I will learn things that could change these guidelines or my thought process. Please continue to reach out and share your thoughts, concerns, or ideas. I learn something new in almost every conversation.

Respectfully,

Jason Sheahan
Commissioner

From the City Manager...

♪ SCHOOL'S OUT, FOR, **SUMMER!** ♪

First off, I would like to congratulate the graduating Class of 2022. I wish you all nothing but the best in your future adventures.

Summer is an exciting time. Baseball and softball practices and games are under way. The swimming pool is open, and vacation Bible schools are in motion. Summer also means car shows, go karts, and fireworks. Throughout this summer, I encourage everyone to get out, enjoy the weather, take in as many of these events as you can. Venture out and support the local youth at a baseball or softball game; wander around the car shows; get a round of frisbee golf in. Enjoy as much as you can when you can.

We continue making strides with our long-standing projects. It may seem slow, however, slow and steady wins the race. The Maple Street project is now set to be put to bid in October with anticipated construction early spring of 2023. Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) and our engineer Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) are in the finalizing stages for our new Water Treatment Plant so once those discussions are completed, that project will also be put out for bid. PEC has told us they anticipate bidding on this project to begin late summer, early fall of the current year. The Cedar Valley Reservoir Spillway project is also moving forward as McClure Engineering has completed a LIDAR survey and soil coring to develop a preliminary engineering report to restore the spillway and surrounding area back to the pre-disaster condition it was in before the flooding in 2018 and 2019. McClure Engineering is also collaborating with us on a transportation plan for street repairs and is in the process of compiling data for the City and will have a report back to us in June so we can get a better grasp on road repairs for the future. Lastly, our Airport project continues with the environmental assessment part of the process. Once that is completed, we will be able to move on to the next phases which include discussion about land acquisition.

In the Spring *Town Talk* newsletter, I mentioned I would give a brief insight to city operations, as there are several perceptions around about how things work and operate within the City. Last article, I touched on our Power Plant and how our electricity is

purchased. Many people thought our Power Plant produces the power to the town. In this article, I would like to talk about the utility billing process. This process begins with our Utility Meter Reader. There are a total of twenty (20) utility books that our Utility Meter Reader is required to log meter readings in every month. In those twenty (20) utility books, there are a total of five thousand, seven hundred sixty-eight (5,768) meters combined between electric, gas, and water that get read monthly. The meter reader goes house to house, reading every meter on that property. Once he completes reading all meters in one book, he moves onto the next book. After the meters are read and the book is returned, one (1) of the three (3) Utility Billing Clerks input the readings into our billing software, as well as look for abnormal or high readings that could signify an issue is present. The billing clerk also compares the current readings against the prior year reading to look for non-typical usage. Once the first billing clerk is finished with entering and checking that book, that book is then checked by a second billing clerk for any oversights the first one may have missed, as well as giving the book a double check to verify the readings. That process is done for all twenty (20) books. If there are any abnormal readings in the books, the billing clerk request the meter reader re-read a meter to verify the reading is accurate and not a misread. Once all books have been read, entered into the billing software, double checked, and all abnormal readings have been reread, the utility bills are calculated and checked again for warnings and errors that were missed. If there are zero (0) errors or warnings, the bills are printed, folded, stuffed in envelopes, counted, and taken to the post office along with money to pay for the postage. Once they are dropped off and paid for at the post office, the Utility Billing Staff do not see those bills until they either return to sender or are sent back from the customers with an attached payment. There have been several instances where the bills were dropped off at the post office, the post office trucks them to the sorting station, and the bills not making it back down from the sorting station for delivery. The postal service process is out of the City's control. However if you do not receive your bill, we will gladly reprint one for you to stop by and pick up. We also can email you a copy if you prefer that method of delivery.

To go along with the utility bill discussion, our billing options have not changed; 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. 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, give us a call and we will get you added to the list.

I know a lot of the things in my past articles have been similar, however a lot of these items, mostly these ongoing projects, take quite a bit of time to get completed from start to finish. It may seem like nothing is going on, or there has not been a lot of movement on these projects but I assure they are still moving, even though a lot of those movements are behind the scenes. I appreciate all the patience everyone has shown while these projects develop, as well as all the hard work that has gone into making these projects happen. Even though we are still pushing through them, the reward when they are done will be well worth it. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, give us a call.

Sincerely,

Travis Wilson
City Manager

DID YOU KNOW?

The City welcomes new full-time employees: **Patricia "Trish" Brewer**, City Clerk; **Brendon Dennison**, Utility Meter Reader; **Colleen Kalleck**, Utility Billing Clerk; **Benjamin Kinder**, Public Works Laborer; **Kyle Kobold**, Apprentice Lineman, and **Earl Peine**, Refuse Department Worker.

We would like to take this time to also recognize the part-time employees that help through the summer:

Municipal Pool: **Deb McMahon**, Pool Manager; **Mackayla Martin**, **Tarrie Miller**, **Carol Prothe**, Assistant Pool Managers; **Eva Bures**, **Jack Dykes**, **Dakota Finney**, **Caitlyn Foltz**, **Brooke Galey**, **Fisher Galey**, **Brenna Kohlmeier**, **Kassie Mains**, **Eli Martin**, **Garrison Martin**, **Josie Miller**, **Taryn Morrow**, **Caden Register**, **Ella Reichard**, **Aubrey Thompson**, **Mallory Wheat**, Lifeguards; **Brynleigh Hiles**, **Sarah Jungo**, **Logan Kistner**, **Brylie Kohlmeier**, **Jordan Miller**, **Hallie Munsey**, **Hank Newton**, **Brooklynn Nichols**, Pool Concessions/Front Desk, and **Anne Marie Strobel**, Water Aerobics Instructor.

Summer Ball Programs, Umpires/Referees/Field Supervisors: **Obree Barnes**, **Emma Cubit**, **Macey Cubit**, **Madison Danner**, **Darren Eichman**, **Dakota Finney**, **Gary Haehn**, **Cody Haskins**, **Brooke Hughes**, **Logan Kistner**, **Damone Kueser**, **Garrison Martin**, **Easton Mead**, **Tarrie Miller**, **Ava Mills**, **Brynleigh Morrow**, **Brandon Palmer**, **Colton Palmer**, **Hunter Palmer**, **Caden Register**, **Casey Rhoades**, **Lane Richards**, **Aiden Roberts**, **Emma Self**, **Braxton Spencer**. Ball Complex Concessions: **Heather Palmer**, **Kaylyn Disbrow** and **Kylie Disbrow**. Summer Park/Cemetery Maintenance: **Susan Durand**, **Sharon Flinn**, **Easton Mead**, **Tyler Mucklow** and **Matthew Stevenson**. Library Summer Aide: **Bethany Powls**.

We extend "Happy Retirement" wishes to **John Helms**, Refuse Department Supervisor (see article - Page 4), and **Nancy Hermreck**, Municipal Court Clerk, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer (see article - Page 9).

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

5 years - **Curtis Hughes**, Volunteer Firefighter

10 years - **Dane Byerley**, Volunteer Firefighter

20 years - **Deb McMahon**, Municipal Pool Manager

The City recognizes the following employees as selected to be honored as Employees of the Month:

March - **Gary McAuley**, Street Department Maintenance Worker

April - **Tyler Reynolds**, Assistant Street Department Foreman

May - **Betty Jasper**, Custodian

Transfers and Promotions: **Shane Henkle** has recently changed positions from Utility Meter Reader to Water Plant Operator.

Trainings and Certifications:

Kris Hix, Administrative Assistant, and **Susan Wettstein**, Community Development and Tourism Director, attended the We-Kan Conference in Newton with special guest **Jessica Troyer**, owner of **Troyer's 1883**, for insight with other Kansas community advocates on marketing, best legal practices for starting and growing businesses in small, rural communities, historic building preservation and the mural movement in Kansas, among other topics. **Nancy Hermreck**, **Monica Hill**, Human Resources Director, and **Susan Wettstein** attended the Spring Administrative Assistants to Kansas Cities Conference (AAKC) in El Dorado. The training focused on Ethics in the Workplace, How to Be Heard, a tour of the City of El Dorado Water Reclamation and Wetlands facility, El Dorado art and history tour, and instruction on use of a defibrillator and the proper way to use a fire extinguisher.

Kris Hix, **Julie Turnipseed**, ACDA Director, and **Susan Wettstein** attended the To the Stars - Celebrating Kansas Busi-

ness Awards Banquet in Parsons. Both the City of Garnett and the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce nominated a total of ten (10) Anderson County businesses and organizations receiving state and local government recognition and awards (see article - Page10).

James Howard, Water Production Superintendent and **Jeff Mucklow**, Water Plant Operator, attended Confined Space training in Chanute.

Paris Sills and **Scott Polster**, Patrol Officers, attended the Kansas Sheriff's Annual Spring Training Conference in Emporia in April. The following topics were covered during the conference. Mass Casualty Shooting, Post Critical Incident Care, Garden City Bomb Plot Case Review, Livestock Investigations, Rural Narcotic Investigations, KBI Intel and Case Review, Arson Basics, Legal and Responder Readiness. In May, **Kurt King**, Police Chief, **Todd Turner**, Lieutenant, Officers **Polster** and **Sills** attended an online training course covering Interview and Interrogation Laws.

As part of our continued commitment to saving lives and property, the Garnett Fire Department has smoke alarms free of charge to any Anderson County resident. This purchase was made possible through a grant from FM Global. **JD Mersman**, Anderson County Emergency Management, was the driving force behind securing the funds to make this possible. Thanks to **Miller Hardware** for their help in getting the smoke alarms for the fire department. Any Anderson County resident can call the Garnett Fire Station and leave a voicemail and Fire Chief **Wes Skillman** will make arrangements for smoke alarm pickup at the station. Phone: 785.448.3042. Limit is two (2) per household.

Passing the Test



Getting it done with a grin, Municipal Water Plant employees L-R: Zach Smothers, Shane Henkle, Micheal Bachman, Jeff Mucklow (back), and James Howard.

Employees of the Garnett Municipal Water Plant have been hitting the books and preparing for water license testing through the Kansas Rural Water Association. James Howard, Water Production Superintendent will soon be graduating from the KRWA Apprentice Program and holds a Class IV Kansas Water Certification. Jeff Mucklow, Water Plant Operator, will be taking his Class IV Kansas Water License certification test soon. Once these gentlemen have graduated from the KRWA Apprentice Program, they will be accredited to mentor other water plant personnel. Micheal Bachman, Shane Henkle, and Zach Smothers all have plans to continue their education and certifications. As the City of Garnett prepares for a new municipal water plant facility, water plant production staff are striving to be at their highest potential to serve Garnett's water customers.

John Helms Retires



Just shy of 42 years, John Helms is retiring from the City of Garnett.

Right out of high school, John got a part-time job with the City of Garnett, working for the Parks Department during the summer. The year was 1979. He entered college and then took a job opportunity at Regal Aluminum. On October 28, 1980, he was hired for full-time employment with the City of Garnett in the Refuse (Trash) Department. In 1989, John was promoted to Refuse Department Superintendent.

For over 41 years, John Helms has slung bags of trash, heaved barrels and bins, and drove trash trucks thousands of miles inside the city limits of Garnett, plus travel time to the Anderson County Landfill. And then there was City Wide Clean-up Week. "I won't miss clean-up!", John says with a grin.

John plans to work on a jeep or two (or three) that he wants to restore. John plans to continue his volunteer participation in the American Legion Riders Chapter 156 (Paola), and the Commemorative Air Force. He has been very helpful at the Garnett Municipal Airport over the years.

A public retirement reception was held on June 30th to gratulate and honor John for his dedicated service. Best wishes John!

From the Desk of Code Enforcement and Animal Control...

Just a few reminders:

- Do not blow grass clippings into the roadway. It causes a hazard and clogs up our wastewater systems.
- Keep grass and weeds trimmed and mowed to 8" or less. This helps everything look nice and keeps the insect (ticks & mosquito) populations down.
- Items that cannot be picked up by our Refuse Department are the responsibility of the property owner to be disposed of. Please refrain from leaving items in alleyways and at the curb.
- Cat and Dog vaccines expire throughout the year and notices are sent out by City Hall. Please check your pet's vaccination records to see if they have expired, or are about to expire, to keep them up to date.
- NEW PETS - Summertime is here! If you have gotten a new pet or have just moved to the community, please contact City Hall to get your pets registered.
- The TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) Program for cats is still being considered and worked on at this time. Ordinances are being drafted by our city attorney and we hope to get the program underway by the end of summer. Those that wish to volunteer or have questions, please contact me at City Hall.

Darin Schmoe
Code Enforcement/Animal Control

From the City Clerk...



I would like to begin with a "BIG" thank you to everyone for the kindness my husband and I have received the last few months. We are truly enjoying living in Garnett.

The city office is back to full staff. I would like to welcome Colleen Kalleck on board as Utility Clerk. Come by and meet her.

I would like to remind everyone there are several options in paying your utility bill. Methods of payment are cash, check, money order and credit card, either online bill pay or over the phone. If you would like to set up auto pay from your local bank, the front office will be happy to set that up for you.

Hunting permits for Cedar Valley Reservoir have been updated and much easier to understand. A reminder on how permits are issued. We will only issue permits two weeks prior to a season starting. We are only issuing six (6) permits per season. If there is a particular season you are wanting to hunt, be sure to stop by City Hall two weeks prior to the season starting and get a permit.

Unfortunately, there have been several instances where folks have left the Town Hall Center unclean. This creates more employee time spent to clean and repair any needs. To cover the cost of that lost productivity and maintenance, beginning January 1, 2023, an increase in the Town Hall Center rental fee will go into effect. There will be a \$50 deposit, refundable upon the center being fully cleaned and undamaged with the hourly rate increased to \$10 an hour for rental. We welcome all those who can use the Town Hall Center for family gatherings, business meetings and more. We want groups and citizens to feel good about bringing people to Garnett, knowing they will have a nice facility to use.

It does not feel like we had a spring this year. Summer is definitely upon us. It has been very hot outside, so remember your furry friends. They need plenty of fresh water and shade if they are going to be outside for any length of time. If you see a furry friend in need and are not comfortable helping them, please contact City Hall and ask for our Animal Control Department. Darin will be very willing to talk with you.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all again for your support and warm welcome. I promise to work as hard as I can in keeping the front office at City Hall approachable for any need you as a citizen might have, building good working relations between departments, keeping structure to policy yet giving full attention to your concerns.

Patricia "Trish" Brewer
City Clerk

BUSINESS HOURS AT CITY HALL

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

Enjoy these Local Activities and Events!

Visit the "Bulletin Board" at www.simplygarnett.com

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| <p>9 City Commission Meeting
Garnett City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>10 Remember When Wednesday
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.</p> <p>VFW Auxiliary Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.</p> <p>VFW Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail Meeting, Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.</p> <p>11 Morning Mingle
Garnett Public Library, 8 a.m.</p> <p>Delphian Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Delphian Masonic Lodge Meeting
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>12 Airport Advisory Board Meeting
Garnett Municipal Airport, 4 p.m.</p> <p>16 ACDA - Economic Development Meeting, City Hall, 5 p.m.</p> <p>Business and Professional Women Meeting
Town Hall Center, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Garnett Planning Commission
City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>18 Walker Art Committee Meeting
Garnett Public Library. 4 p.m.</p> <p>August 19-21 & 25-28: Live Dinner Theatre, "The Smell of the Kill"
Hosted by the Chamber Players Community Theatre, Thelma Moore Playhouse</p> <p>20 Gospel Music on the Square
Courthouse Lawn, 6 p.m.</p> <p>21 VFW Breakfast
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.</p> <p>23 City Commission Meeting
Garnett City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>24 Book Discussion
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.</p> <p>25 Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution, Quonset Hut, 2 p.m.</p> <p>27 Fun in the Sun Car Show, Colony</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>1 Concerts in the Park
Music by Hunter Crane
Hosted by Morning Mingle
Donna Harris Park, 6 p.m.</p> <p>1 Anderson Historical Society Meeting
Museum, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>USD 365 Board of Education Meeting, District Office, 7 p.m.</p> | <p>2 Water Aerobics Class ends
Garnett Municipal Pool</p> <p>3 Colony Day Celebration
Colony, KS</p> <p>5 Labor Day - City Hall closed.
Trash service will run one day late this week.</p> <p>6 Storytime for Toddlers
<u>Every Tuesday</u>, Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
Garnett City Hall, 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Garnett Community Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting
Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.</p> <p>8 Morning Mingle
Garnett Public Library, 8 a.m.</p> <p>Concerts in the Park
Music by Matt Foltz and Angela Katzer
Hosted by Morning Mingle
Donna Harris Park, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Delphian Masonic Lodge Meeting
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>9 First Responders 9/11 Lunch
Hosted by Morning Mingle</p> <p>Airport Advisory Board Meeting
Garnett Municipal Airport, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Anderson County Historical Society Meeting, Museum, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>9-10: 19th Annual Greeley Smokeoff/ Larry Schaffer Memorial Softball Tournament
Greeley City Park, Greeley Ball Fields</p> <p>10 Garnett City Wide Garage Sale Day
Maps courtesy, Garnett Publishing</p> <p>12 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Library Board Meeting
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting, City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>American Legion Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Housing Authority Board of Directors Meeting, GHA Office, 7 p.m.</p> <p>13 Recycle Trailer
Country Mart parking lot.</p> | <p>13 City Commission Meeting
Garnett City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>14 Remember When Wednesday
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, Rec Center, 6 p.m.</p> <p>VFW Auxiliary Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6-8 p.m.</p> <p>14 VFW Post 6397 Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6-8 p.m.</p> <p>Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail Meeting, Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.</p> <p>15 Walker Art Committee Meeting
Garnett Public Library. 4 p.m.</p> <p>Concerts in the Park
Music by Eric Brummel
Hosted by Morning Mingle
Donna Harris Park, 6 p.m.</p> <p>17 Gospel Music on the Square
Courthouse Lawn, 6 p.m.</p> <p>18 VFW Breakfast
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.</p> <p>20 ACDA - Economic Development Meeting, City Hall, 5 p.m.</p> <p>Business and Professional Women Meeting,
Archer Room, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Garnett Planning Commission
City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>22 Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution, Quonset Hut, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Concerts in the Park
Music by Trevor Holman
Hosted by Morning Mingle
Donna Harris Park, 6 p.m.</p> <p>22-24: 110th Annual Kincaid Free Fair
Kincaid</p> <p>24 Cornstock Concert on the Hill Music Festival
Hosted by Anderson County Corn Festival, Sammy Kershaw, Collin Raye, Aaron Tippin, Tyler Farr, Reckless Kelly, and Blane Howard, North Lake Park</p> <p>27 City Commission Meeting
Garnett City Hall, 6 p.m.</p> <p>28 Book Discussion
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.</p> <p>29 Concerts in the Park
Music by Holy Cow
Hosted by Morning Mingle
Donna Harris Park, 6 p.m.</p> |
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Good Things Happening in Economic Development



Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA), the Economic Development Department for the City of Garnett and Anderson County, works on many projects throughout the year, and some come to fruition, and many don't ever materialize. We don't know which ones will and which ones won't, but nevertheless we work hard on each one. We are more than excited to announce a project we have been working on for the past two plus years.

We will have a new Dollar Tree/Family Dollar Store at the Northeast corner of Park Road and Maple Street! This is such exciting news for our community. ACDA has worked diligently with the developers Guffey Properties, who are happy to see it become a reality. If things go as planned according to Guffey Properties, we hope to see the retail store open in early 2023. The old "Cheese Plant" facility that currently sits on the corner will be razed in early July 2022.



Another new business opening soon is Troyer's 1883. The building at the northwest corner of 4th Avenue and Oak Street has been through a major transformation by the new owner Jessica Troyer. The restaurant and bar will feature American and Italian cuisine, as well as street tacos and smoked meats. There will be a Café/Coffee Shop/ Bakery on the first floor with "grab and go" breakfast items and a lunch menu. An assortment of Danish pastries, breads, cookies, pastries, and delicious desserts all made in house will be available. The second floor will also be open for lunch and dinner. The restaurant opening day is still not confirmed, but sometime in July 2022.

Parkwood Day School Garnett is slated to open sometime this fall. No specific opening date has been confirmed by owner Paula George. The Day School will be opening in the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Second Avenue and Oak Street. If you have a child that you would like to be placed on the waiting list, you can contact Parkwood Day School at www.parkwooddayschool.org. There is currently no information on this website pertaining to Garnett; however, you can leave a message and they will respond. You also may call me, Julie, at ACDA 785-504-4265 with any questions. More information will be coming soon.

We continue to recruit new in-home childcare providers. Three new in-home providers will be potentially opening this fall in Garnett. If you are searching for a provider Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas is a great resource. Their website is www.east.ks.childcareaware.org and their phone number is 785-357-5171 or toll free at 877-678-2548.

We have also been working on a Downtown Revitalization Program. Please read the adjacent news release and if you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Turnipseed
Director of ACDA



For Immediate Release:

Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA) began the Downtown Revitalization process by holding three community meetings in the fall of 2021 to see what interest there might be in creating a Downtown Revitalization Program. The meetings were well attended, and the interest was positive to start a program. In December of 2021 a Main Street 101 training was held and approximately a dozen citizens participated. An advisory board was then created from the citizens that attended the meeting and expressed interest in serving. The Advisory Board started meeting monthly to begin the process of creating a mission and vision statement, a logo, as well as create the boundaries of the district.

The Garnett Downtown Square Revitalization Program was born. The mission of the program is to: *"Promote, enhance and preserve the heart of our community by cultivating a diverse mix of businesses, culture and family-friendly events, unique housing options, and inclusive public spaces. The vision statement for the program is: "To promote a vibrant downtown that sustains historic and economic value to the surrounding community."*

The district boundaries are 3rd to 6th Avenues and Walnut to Main Street.

In April of 2022 an organizational meeting was held to begin creating the four standing committees: Promotion, Design, Economic Vitality and Organization. Ten citizens attended and they began the process of choosing a committee based on their interest and creating a plan of work for each committee. The revitalization volunteers are meeting monthly on the third Monday of each month in the Archer Room, Garnet Public Library, at 5:30 p.m.

The Promotion Committee is currently working on a new event in the downtown for the community, as well as analyzing the events that currently take place. The Design Committee is researching uniform plantings in the new planters in the downtown area as well as looking into a Façade Grant and a History Walk. The Economic Vitality Committee is gathering data on buildings in the downtown.

Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you have not attended any of the previous meetings. A downtown revitalization program is a volunteer-based program. If you are interested in our downtown being revitalized, please come visit our meetings and help us with our mission.

For more information contact:



Julie Turnipseed, Director
julie@garnettks.net
785-504-4265

An Invitation to Participate in the Process By Growing Garnett



Community Heart & Soul is a four-phase, resident-driven process to help strengthen small cities and towns by focusing on what matters most, engaging all parts of the community, and supplying municipal officials a clear understanding of what is important to their constituency. The process was developed and field-tested over a decade in partnership with over 90 cities and towns across the United States. Garnett is the first and only *Community Heart & Soul* city in Kansas.

Growing Garnett Community Heart & Soul started in the spring of

2020. It is not a city-appointed board and is not funded by the City of Garnett. All materials, training, and guidance are provided at no charge by the Orton Foundation and remaining expenses are funded by private donations.

Between March 2020 and May 2022, Growing Garnett volunteers asked the Garnett community 57 questions and collected 2,345 responses. Data was gathered from feedback collected at community events, questions and discussions on Facebook, and surveys filled out at local businesses, advisory boards, and organizations' meetings and events. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts, ideas, and what matters most to them!

Special thanks to Geoff Meiss for administering the survey at the Anderson County Jr-Sr. High School, and to Krista Hedrick and Reva Pracht, for administering the survey at Garnett Elementary School.

For four weeks during May-June, Wes Keller, Franklin Urquhart, Sheryl Urquhart, Susan Wettstein, and Paula Scott reviewed the data and drafted the following Heart & Soul statements for Garnett:



Small Town

We value the quiet, safety, simplicity, and peacefulness of small town living that Garnett offers, where we can easily travel around town and can live and raise our children with little worry.

Locally Owned and Operated Small Businesses

We appreciate the variety and convenience of our restaurants and small businesses that allow us to shop locally for what we need, and we take pride in the ways that our businesses support one another and the community.

Nostalgic History

We revere our city's historic homes, buildings, and downtown that welcomes newcomers and makes everyone feel at home.

Parks and Recreation

We enjoy the abundance of nature provided by our parks, lakes, and trails as well as the many sports and recreational activities that contribute to our overall health and well-being.

Sense of Community

We cherish our city's amiable sense of community and dedication to faith, which builds character and encourages bonds of friendship and family.

Heart & Soul statements are to describe in clear, concise language on what matters most to residents and reflect what they love about their city. These statements will ultimately be provided to the City for inclusion into comprehensive, visioning, placemaking, and other plans used to help prioritize our city's actions and guide policies, and aid in future decision-making. It is important that Garnett, our community together, gets this right. Therefore, you are invited and encouraged to participate!

Please scan the QR code or visit the URL below and take this short survey. For each of the considered draft statements above, your opinion on how important each statement is to you, how well the statement describes Garnett, and what changes should be made to improve each statement.

- ◆ What is important to you as you live, work and play in Garnett that should be included in the Heart & Soul statements?
- ◆ Is there any other Heart & Soul statements that should be added?

Here is your opportunity to have your say. The survey can be found at URL: shorturl.at/grEWY

Once Garnett's statements are completed and approved by the community, the process will move on to Phase 3, where residents will develop action plans to guide future city planning based on our Heart & Soul statements.

If you would like to help volunteer or comment on Garnett's draft statements, please email us at growinggarnett@gmail.com, or leave a message at 785.433.5599.



News from the Airport...

Well, as I write this, I am looking out at the tall grass growing on the airport grounds with an intermittent pouring rain coming down. I am wondering when this article comes out, if it will still be wet or in a drought? I am already tired of mowing and I am just starting the season.



We had a fantastic 2nd Annual Egg Drop at the airport with wonderful weather and an even better crowd. I hope everyone enjoyed the day. We are already looking at ways to improve it next year.

Our 9th Annual Air Fair was a little muted after the Bobcat aircraft out of Wichita, the star of the show, ran off the edge of the runway and got stuck in Wichita. It was a disappointment to not see him show up for rides, but we had a good turnout of pilots from Lawrence, Baldwin, Topeka, Gardner, Iola and Lamar, Missouri show up. We also were able to give around 40 people rides in a Cessna 172 aircraft.

I have been hitting the aviation books and studying to pass the Basic Ground Instructor test and have decided to try harder and pass the Advanced Ground Instructor course so as to better instruct local students.

We also have fantastic news in that we have purchased a flying club airplane for Garnett. It is a 1974 Piper Cherokee. It will be the best, cheapest way to achieve flight in this area. We are busy setting up the club's corporate structure and doing all the work to do everything right. If you ever have had any interest in learning to fly or just learning about aviation, please come out and talk to me at the airport.

I have been working on trying to nab whatever grants are available to the airport. I applied for four grants through the KDOT Aviation Division last year and although we didn't get selected in the first round, I resubmitted them for the second round. These are 90 or 95 percent paid for by the state with the remainder paid for by the city and are mostly improvements to the grounds and also for pre-work for the upcoming runway project.

The Garnett Industrial Airport has been selected to receive an additional \$110,000 per year grant for the next 5 years! This is in addition to our \$150,000 per year that we have already received. This will go directly towards our runway project and will be somewhere between 95 and 100 percent paid for by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Environmental Study that we are in the midst of has been paid for in its entirety by the FAA with no local funds.

And lastly, I have started working on a grant provided for by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that is specifically targeted to small rural airports for terminal work. We are competing against all small airports in the country, but if I don't at least try, I can guarantee we will come up empty. This is a 95 percent grant paid by the FAA that is a long shot, but I feel worth trying for.

We also have a spot opening up on the Airport Advisory Board. If you would like to serve your community by helping steer the airport, we would love to have you. Stop by City Hall and fill out the Statement of Interest form.

Thank you,

Pat Schettler
Airport Manager

Nancy Hermreck Retires July 22

Nancy Hermreck began her career with the City of Garnett in November of 1994 as a Utility Billing/Account Clerk. To say Nancy has given over 27 years of dedicated service to the City of Garnett is underestimated. Throughout her tenure as a city employee, Nancy has always been there when needed. Always on time, staying as long as it takes. She is there to help others, no matter what the task. She's been the mainstay employee during computer conversions, complete budget form overalls, new software systems and position changes.



Nancy has held the positions of Billing Supervisor, Payroll Clerk, Interim City Clerk, Human Resources Director, City Treasurer, Deputy City Clerk and Municipal Court Clerk. At the time of her departure, all of the last three titles combined is her last held position. To her, it's not the title, it's how you treat people.

She has volunteered cooking the meals for city employee Christmas parties, hosting the outdoor movie night during Garnett's 150th, taking donations during Libertyfest, and many other city-related volunteer activities. Nancy has been very active with the youth at her church, and involved in the fundraising for the new Parish Hall for St. Boniface Church.

Her future endeavors include enjoying time with her family, children and grandchildren and helping others.

Nancy's last day and official retirement from the City of Garnett is July 22, 2022. We take this moment to thank Nancy Hermreck for her friendship, her mentorship and support, and wish her all the best retirement can be.

From the Zoning Office...

Construction season is in full swing, and I thought I'd take a few minutes to get out a few reminders.

Permits are required for any electrical, plumbing, sewer, septic, HVAC or structural work, outside the scope of routine maintenance or minor repair. Swimming pools and fences also require a permit.

Additionally, anything that requires a permit, also requires an inspection. Permit applications are available on the City's website, or in person at City Hall. Please submit your permit applications three working days in advance of the work being started.

There are also requirements for contractors in town. Any contractor that is doing any of the work from the first paragraph, needs to be licensed with the City. I'll need a copy of a contractor license from another jurisdiction, or proof of completion of a course of study related to the license being requested. They will also need to submit a Certificate of insurance showing at least \$300,000 in business general liability insurance. Roofing contractors also need to submit a copy of the registration certificate from the Kansas Attorney General.

If a person owns a property, and rents it to others, any repairs or upgrades must be done by a licensed contractor/tradesman. I keep a running list of approved contractors that is updated regularly, so if you're looking for someone, just let me know.

I know this seems like a lot of information in just a little space, so if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at City Hall, or email me at emills@garnettks.net.

Sincerely,

Eric Mills
Building Official/Zoning Administrator



City of Garnett Recognizes State Award Winners

At the May 10, 2022 Garnett City Commission meeting, ten businesses and non-profit organizations were recognized for the contributions they make to the well-being of our community, including jobs, added amenities, community involvement, sponsorship of various activities, economic impact and more. The Kansas Department of Commerce invited 178 nominees to attend regional award banquets to be recognized. All ten of the businesses and organizations nominated in Garnett and Anderson County were honored at the Southeast Kansas Regional to The Stars – Celebrating Kansas Business Awards Banquet in Parsons where Lieutenant Governor and Commerce Secretary David Toland presented the awards. The City of Garnett nominated six business and organizations for these honors. The Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce also nominated three businesses, and an employee of Goppert State Service Bank also nominated an award winner. Here are award recipients:



Anderson County Hospital – Hospital/Non-Profit Organization Merit Award

With nearly 210 employees, Anderson County Hospital is one of the largest hospitals in this area providing 24-hour Level IV (4) Trauma Center/Emergency Management Services, serving around 3,000 patients annually. Their outreach specialty clinics provide patient access to 18 area specialties, plus access to 65 specialty services through Saint Luke's. ACH has a 30-bed Residential Living Center. In the last 10 years, Anderson County Hospital has a capital investment of over \$31.4 million at the local facility in Garnett.

Dutch Country Café – Retail Merit Award

This restaurant, bakery and coffee bar specializes in traditional Pennsylvania Dutch cooking using generations of family recipes. Dutch Country employs 43 people and is considered a destination business, bringing repeat visitors from both near and far away. During Covid-19, they got creative in providing a walk-up, pick-up window where customers could call or email their orders. Some in the community literally took carry-out dinners to the doorsteps of people who were in quarantine, giving them a good, homecooked meal complete with homemade dessert. They also tore down the old motel next door to expand their parking lot, improving the aesthetics of the US 59 corridor.

Wilson Chiropractic Clinic – Service Merit Award

This family-owned, second-generation clinic opened its doors in 1966. It moved to its current location in 1971 and an addition was built on in 1992. The Wilson family business has invested thousands of dollars in updating equipment, employs 4 people, and has been a great supporter of events and local charities. They are among the unsung heroes of the community, treating patients like family, advocates of a healthy lifestyle and they practice what they preach. If you drive Lake Garnett, it isn't uncommon to see Dr. Wilson running the lake road!

Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce – Non-Profit Merit Award

This organization's mission is to help local businesses succeed with sustaining 100 or more business members annually. During the Covid-19 shutdown, the Chamber Director, Kris Hix, facilitated the Community Give Back Program, a partnership with

ACDA and the City of Garnett to help local businesses thrive through the challenging time. The Chamber Director also got a grant through the Kansas Beats the Virus to promote a Healthy Bodies-Healthy Minds-Healthy Spirits initiative. The Chamber Director also is the Garnett Farmers' Market Manager, improvising during Covid with a drive-thru market. The Chamber helps, in numerous ways, many events and organizations, including Anderson County Economic Development's Morning Mingle, Love What's Local, Anderson County Fair, and Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival to name a few.

The Chamber Players Community Theatre – Non-Profit Merit Award

Established in 1991, the live dinner theatre produces 4 dinner productions, for 7 times per production, per year bringing in an annual audience in excess of 2,000 people. They also host an autumn elementary school tour and Youth Theatre Camp each summer. Housed in the historic 1869 former Presbyterian Church, the theatre is all volunteer and has raised over \$70,000 for local charities and organizations through their dessert fundraiser initiative.

Bauman's Cedar Valley Farms/ANCO Poultry Processing/Butcher Block/Mobile Meat Market – Southeast Kansas Regional Retail Award

In the past 10 years, the Bauman family has invested over \$750,000 in infrastructure and equipment to expand their services and operations. They now have an automated slaughter line that has doubled the number of employees and allows them to process larger quantities of grass-fed beef, pastured chicken, pork, lamb, turkey, duck and free-range eggs to more families. Covid-19 challenged them to create a Mobile Meat Market, selling product in Olathe, Overland Park and Lawrence farmers' markets, and the local Garnett Farmers' Market. They have a Meat Investment Card (MIC) that instantly pays back 6% at their Butcher Block retail location, Mobile Meat Market and Pre-Order shop online. Their mission statement: "Honoring God daily, keeping faith, cherishing family. We're living the dream – It's called Farming!" Congratulations to Bauman's for receiving the Regional Retail Award.

The Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce nominated the following award winners and provided their nomination information as follows:

Garnett Family Dental – Service Merit Award

Garnett Family Dental employs a team who are professionals, but also consider each other family. They strive for excellence in the personal care they give to each patient. They balance work and life daily and support their community by donating to 4-H and purchasing from the Premium Livestock Sale at fair time. They have provided continuing education for staff, as well as adding more general dentists for a total of 5, to expand their business. They are an asset to the business community.

East Kansas Agri-Energy- Manufacturing Merit Award

EKAE has expanded internally by increasing capacity from 35 million gallons per year to 50 million gallons per year. They added a hammer mill, CO2 scrubber, and extra grain storage. They have increased their employees from 32 to 53 since 2011. EKAE supports high school activities via sponsorship and donations, they are major sponsors of the Anderson County Fair,

Cornstock, LGGPR, and other local fairs as well as sponsoring golf tournaments, GACC Annual Banquet, Anderson County Fire Department, and Anderson County Hospital Foundation. EKAE employees are motivated innovators who search for new ideas daily, and work alongside the agricultural community to keep Garnett thriving!

TrustPoint Insurance & Real Estate – Service Merit Award
TrustPoint Insurance & Real Estate was established in 2009, and expanded to Emporia (2015), Burlington (2017), and Garnett in 2018. They are well trained in both insurance options and real estate. Their staff go above and beyond daily to meet customer's needs, provide education for staff, and support the communities they serve. They were featured in KIA & B magazine in 2020 for meeting challenges and achieving success. They support multi-

ple schools, 4-H, County Fairs, Cornstock, LWL Garnett, GACC, and so much more! They have set the standards high for customer service, personal touch, and community pride.

Also, GSSB employee Skyla Pankey nominated the **Goppert State Service Bank for the Business Innovation Award**. During Covid-19 pandemic/shutdown, GSSB was the one and only Anderson County banking institution administering the PPP Loan Forgiveness Program, handling many applications that helped Anderson County businesses survive. The City would also like to recognize and thank Skyla Pankey for nominating her employer. GSSB received the Innovation Merit Award.

For more information about these award winners, including more photos, and to learn more about this Kansas Department of Commerce recognition program, please visit our website, www.simplygarnett.com.

We Are Here! - City of Garnett Tourism Establishes Tourist Oriented Directional Signage Program Grant

Most people do not recognize a Tourist Oriented Directional Sign (TODS) when they see them. The signs with logos representing your favor food, lodging, gas stop or vacation destination, just before an exit on an interstate or major highway is a TODS sign. On rural, two-lane highways, a TODS sign has the wording, "Tourist Activities" above the names (not logos) of the businesses or attractions.

When driving along US 169 on the east side of Garnett, travelers have no idea that the city of Garnett exists less than a mile west of them with many amenities. We want to provide an affordable way for our destination businesses and attractions to be advertised.

With the approval of the City Commission, we now have a grant program in place. This one time, fifty percent (50%) reimbursable matching grant program to encourage Garnett's gas/convenience stores, restaurants, lodging, campground/RV Parks and attractions to participate in the Kansas Tourist Oriented Directional Sign Program. Designated sign structures located, or soon to be located near the city limits of Garnett on north US 59, north US 169 and south US 169 highways. The current sign structures have only one (1) business appearing on them. That is the Garnett Dairy Queen.

For an approved business or attraction to have a TODS sign to be placed at one of the three sign structures can be as much as \$750 initially. Applicants making the request for this grant through Garnett Tourism can receive reimbursement of expenses up to \$375 per location, or up to \$1,125 should they choose placement at all three proposed sign structure locations for the first year to establish the signage under this program. This includes:

- ◆ \$240 toward the approximate \$480 annual sign fee;
- ◆ \$75 toward the approximate \$150 setup fee;
- ◆ \$60 toward the approximate \$120 directional sign fee.

Upon completion, there is an annual sign fee of \$480 per sign, thereafter, to the state that is the responsibility of the applicant to keep the signs in place. The Kansas Department of Transportation places the signs on their highways and maintains them.

For the complete grant application, which includes the Kansas Tourism Signage Application Kit, please visit www.simplygarnett.com/tourism-grant-programs.html.

Transient Guest Tax funds are utilized for this program as recommended by the Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee and approved by the Garnett City Commission. The goal is to have sign structures at all three locations filled, a total of ten (10) new signs advertising several businesses and attractions, sharing the opportunities and experiences available in Garnett, encouraging more travelers to stop in Garnett and not just drive by. Deadline to apply for this grant program is October 1, 2022.

If you have interest in applying for this grant please contact Community Development and Tourism, Garnett City Hall, 785.448.5496, or email tourism@garnettks.net.

Summer Events that Attract Visitors and Locals Alike

Looking for a reason to invite friends and family to Garnett? Maybe your class reunion is coming up and you're not sure what activities to plan around. Here are highlights of upcoming summer events you will want to make sure to add to your schedule:

July 2 – Libertyfest – Enjoy music, food trucks, tribute band concert, and community fireworks.

July 23 – A night of action! Kansas City Karting Association is going nighttime racing at the Lake Garnett Sprint Track, while the hot rod trucks and tractors will be competing at the MSTPA sanctioned event hosted by the Anderson County Fair. The tractor pull is the kick-off event to Fair Week. www.kckarting.com www.andersoncofair.com

September is concert month! Enjoy live music at the Donna Harris Memorial Park every Thursday evening in September, courtesy of Morning Mingle. The Cornstock Music Festival brings live country and red dirt music to Lake Garnett on September 24th with the Roots and Boots 90's Throwdown Tour with Sammy Kershaw, Collin Raye and Aaron Tippin, along with special guests Tyler Farr, Reckless Kelly and KC Chiefs fan favorite – Blane Howard. www.cornstock.net (accornfest.com)





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New Outdoor Fitness Court Provides Functional Fitness for All Ages



The new BCBSKS Fitness Court® is here, located at north of the Santa Fe Depot near 7th Avenue and Main Street. We are excited to have this new facility finished. The official grand opening of the fitness court was held on June 9, 2022, with attendees representing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Anderson County Hospital-Saint Luke's Health System, the National Fitness Campaign, Kansas Recreation and Parks Association, City Commission, City Manager, Garnett Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Garnett Recreation Staff, Garnett Police, Anderson County Fire and EMS and citizens from our community.



During the grand opening, City Manager Travis Wilson made the following remarks, "Often times, we forget about what truly is important to our community. We are worried about our water lines, sewer lines, this project, or that project, and forget about the most important infrastructure - our people. I'm a firm believer in leaving something better than you found it and by partnering with Blue Health Initiatives and NFC, this Fitness Court will allow us to do just that by giving Kansans another option to meet their health and fitness goals."

This open-air, outdoor wellness center is free for everyone to use. The 7 stations of the fitness court are centered around functional fitness. This type of fitness can be done by all ages and all levels of fitness



to help improve one's everyday life. Helping individuals with

balance and stability, others with cardiovascular training, and lastly you can even use it to develop strength.

We have located the fitness court along the Prairie Spirit Trail to make it accessible for anyone to get to. Get your warmup in on the trail and then head over to the fitness court to get a High Intensity Interval Training workout.

Are you looking for some guidance on how to use the facility but there isn't a class being held? Scan the QR code on the wall of the fitness court and find a workout program that fits your goals inside the Fitness Court App.

Our ambassadors are also a great asset as they will be holding classes and workshops that fit their schedules, along with helping anyone that reaches out for questions or guidance when it comes to using the facility.

Within the app, there are also challenges held so you can compete with others across the country to see where you stand among other fitness enthusiasts.

I plan on hosting a class very soon to kick everything off. Along with classes, I would love to host once or twice a month workout events to be able to promote movement and fitness among the community. If you are interested please follow our Facebook page, @garnettrec, for announcements.

See you on the court,

Sami Jo Peine
Health & Wellness Coordinator, Personal Trainer
Garnett Parks and Recreation

Download the Fitness Court® App
Free Workout Library Available Anytime, Anywhere!

- Guided training from world-class fitness professionals
- Access local outdoor fitness classes and challenges
- Find the nearest Fitness Court® anywhere in America

Scan QR Code Here for Workout Library Access!