

Town Talk

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WINTER 2022

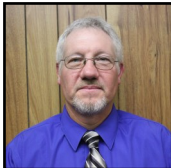
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City Commission



Jody Cole,
Mayor



Greg Gwin,
Commissioner



Jason Sheahan,
Commissioner

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Garnett, Kansas

From The Commission...

As 2021 draws to an end, I feel honored to have this opportunity to thank the many City of Garnett employees for all their hard work and dedicated service to our citizens. I also hold on to wonderful memories of serving with Commissioner Cody Gettler, whose life and legacy are the embodiment of the quote, "while I am here, I will do good." For those who knew Cody, I am sure they would agree, he did good and the impact of his work and commitment to our city will continue to be felt for a long time.

Cody never knew a stranger. He was funny, quick witted, humble, and always willing to give back to the community. Cody had the unique ability to truly understand the needs of the people of Garnett. He took time to listen and take everyone's comments to heart, because it was deeply important to him to serve his community well.

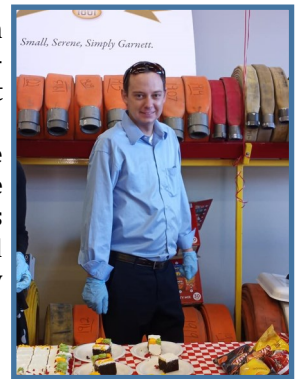
Cody could always be counted on to roll up his sleeves, and do what was required to find a win-win solution when there were concerns. Although cooperation and relationship building were his strong suits, he was never afraid to take a stand and make his opinion known when it came to the issues he felt strongly about. Although his city work stopped much too soon, I am grateful for Cody's service to our community and the citizens of Garnett.

I am excited to start 2022 with our new City Manager, Travis Wilson. Travis is a longtime resident of Garnett who is vested in our community. We are fortunate that he has chosen Garnett as a place to call home and raise his son, Camryn. As the interim City Manager, Travis has demonstrated honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, high ethi-

cal standards in decision making and full transparency in every aspect of his job requirements. I am thankful for the opportunity you have given me to serve as your Mayor and I extend best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Respectfully,

Jody Cole, Mayor



Travis Wilson Named New City Manager

City staff and employees congratulate Mr. Wilson on his appointment as City Manager.

When creating this announcement, we asked Travis to provide a "bio" of sorts for us to share, letting the citizens of Garnett know who he is. While we may format the information given for other publications and official business, here is what was provided to us in his own words, with his permission, to give you insight on the person who is Travis Wilson, the new manager of our city.

"Born and raised here in Garnett, have never moved away. Always lived here, even while attending college. I graduated from Anderson County Junior Senior High School, Class of 2001, and graduated from Ottawa University in 2005

with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I started my career here in Garnett in 1998 at the age of 15, working for Jason Sjolund at the local Sonic Drive-In. I worked there through the remaining years of high school and all 4 years of college until 2006.



In 2006, I went to work for Walmart Distribution Center in Ottawa, Kansas. I remained there until 2009 when I took a position in the Security Department at the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington. In April of 2015, a position in the Financial Department at Wolf Creek came available and so I transferred into that position and remained until May of 2017. In May of 2017, the Westar and KCPL merger was under way and the Financial Department jobs were being displaced. So, I took an Accountant job in Emporia at the Flint Hills Community Health Center, where I remained until December of the same year. That December, I took a similar position with Kalmar in Ottawa. In 2018, Kalmar Financial Department was told our jobs were being outsourced.

August 13, 2018 was my official first day with the City of Garnett, as I was offered and accepted the position of Municipal Court Clerk as the long standing court clerk, Colette McDonnell was retiring. While holding that position, I was promoted to Interim City Clerk/Finance Director in December of 2018 and later promoted to the full-time City Clerk/Finance Director in March of 2019. I held both the Municipal Court Clerk and City Clerk positions until June of 2020 when the Human Resources Director position was added to the mix. Upon adding the HR Director position, I offloaded the Municipal Court position to our current Court Clerk Nancy Hermreck, who is also the Deputy City Clerk/City Treasurer and Payroll Clerk.

In June of 2021, I was promoted to Interim City Manager when former City Manager Chris Weiner resigned his position and continued holding the City Clerk and Human Resources Director positions. On December 14, 2021, the City Commission approved Resolution 2021-12 selecting and appointing me as the new full time City Manager.

Not related to the City of Garnett, I'm also the USD 365 Treasurer. I was selected for that role in December of 2020 with the retirement of long-standing former Treasurer Sue Hardman. This appointment was made official during the January 7th, 2021 School Board meeting and I still hold this role.

Some personal things about myself: My dad was a City employee for 23 years, all of which he spent at the Garnett Water/Power Plant. I really didn't work with him much, however it's pretty cool to say that you got to work with and for the same organization as your dad. He is the reason I'm early to everything. He was always thirty (30) minutes early and I am just as bad if not worse. Some of my hobbies include playing billiards, going to Royals games, and attending any, and all, of my son's activities.

Aspirations currently are to get this new water treatment plant built, to get city staff morale improved, and to fix some long-standing issues.

The main reason I wanted to be Garnett City Manager is I want to serve the community I grew up in. It's been good to me. The least I can do is give back and try to make a difference."

From The City Manager...

And just like that, the year is at its end and a new one begins. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of a City Commissioner and one of Garnett's own, Cody Gettler. I did not have the pleasure of being around Cody as much as some others, however the time I did made it easy to realize he had a huge heart and genuinely cared about our community. He wanted to see growth. He wanted the community to prosper in every way it could. My thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family and everyone that he was close to. Please keep them all in your thoughts as we move into 2022.

We continue to make progress on some long-standing projects. The design work for the new Water Treatment Plant is complete and the plan is to go to bid on that project this summer. We are still on track for the underground drainage project on Maple Street (Highway 59) with bidding expected in early Spring. The runway reconstruction and expansion project continues at the airport, as we are in the process of having an environmental study done. More to come on those projects as they continue to develop and move forward.

I am happy to report we have been able to complete a few projects while working through the ones listed above. The storm shelter project is now complete. I would like to thank Tom Adams for constructing the gravel pad, concrete ADA accessible ramps, and additional gravel work that was completed. The shelter and work he did looks great! I would also like to thank JD Mersman and Anderson County for their contributions to the project.

If you have not noticed, there were some much-needed road repairs done in a variety of areas in Garnett. First Avenue and Spruce Street has had a long-standing crater that was recently repaired, as well as some additional patching done west of this area. We were also able to repair the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Cedar Street, patching work in front of Feuerborn Family Funeral Home on Oak Street, and patching on Elm Street near Southside RV Parking & Storage. I am incredibly happy with how these areas turned out and would like to thank Killough Construction for a job well done.

The last project I would like to mention is the Santa Fe Depot along Prairie Spirit Rail Trail. Over the last few years, the depot has needed quite a bit of work done to it and we were able to get a lot of the issues addressed recently. Those issues included power washing, scraping off the old paint and repainting, repairing rotten windowsills, repairing broken windows, and reglazing the windows. I would like to thank Mike Wawrzewski and Tony Gettler for all their work on the Depot. Excellent job guys!

I would like to remind everyone the new year is approaching, which means it is time to register your dogs and cats. Pet registrations for 2022 is between January 1 and February 28, with owners needing to register all dogs and cats owned or kept. The fees for the registrations are as follows:

\$7.50 for each neutered or sexually altered dog or cat.

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

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

\$15.00 for each neutered or sexually altered dog or cat.

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

From the City Manager continued from page 2...

Our utility billing payment options will remain the same as in prior years. You can pay with a check or by cash, either in person at the counter or drive-up window, or 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.

Lastly, I would like to thank every volunteer for everything they have done this year. Volunteers are the unsung heroes of the community, dedicating their personal time to help improve our community. No matter how big or small your act of goodwill, we greatly appreciate everything you all do.

Sincerely,

Travis Wilson,
City Manager

Did You Know?

Please join us in welcoming the following new city employees: **Joshua Miller**, Patrol Officer; **Kaley Nilges**, Account Clerk, and **Shawn Spurling**, Electric Lineman. The Garnett Volunteer Fire Department would like to recognize all of their new recruits as official members as of 2021. They are:

Troy Armstrong--Firefighter/Paramedic
RC Bailey--Firefighter/AEMT
Korbin Edgecomb--Firefighter/Scuba Diver
Blake Freeman--Firefighter
Dylan Lee--Firefighter
Dakota Meiers--Firefighter
Justin Thompson--Firefighter
Vincent Trujillo--Firefighter
Zachary Wilper--Firefighter

Promotions: **Travis Wilson**, City Clerk/Interim City Manager has been appointed as City Manager.

Congratulations to **Roy Salazar**, Street Department Foreman, for reaching his 25th year of dedicated service to the City of Garnett. Also, during the November 2021 General Election, **Jody Cole** retained her position on the Garnett City Commission for another three-year term.

The City of Garnett is proud to announce **James Howard**, Water Plant Foreman, who was recently certified as a Class IV Water Operator, while **James DePriest**, Public Works Director, obtained his Class II Wastewater Certification.

The following employees received training through the Kansas Rural Water Association entitled, "Being Better Prepared for the Next Emergency": **Eric Trammell**, Wastewater Foreman, **Rusty Harvey**, Wastewater Maintenance Worker, **James DePriest**, Public Works Director, **James Howard**, Water Plant Foreman, and **Jeff Mucklow**, Water Plant Operator. **Alex Dennison**, Firefighter, received his Emergency Medical Technician certification, and several firefighters recently received training on grain engulfment rescue.

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals nominated by their peers for going above and beyond their job titles and recognized by the City Commission as Employees of the

Month:

September - **Diane Hastert**, Utility Account Clerk

October - **Eric Trammell**, Wastewater Foreman

November - **Angela Cowan**, Housing Authority

Administrative Assistant

The City welcomed the following businesses in Garnett in 2021:

* **J & E Detail**, 408 N. Maple Street (US 59)

* **Jammin' Nutrition**, 146 E. 5th Avenue

* **KwiKom**, 215 W. Park Road

* **Toddy's Back Porch**, 26192 NE Neosho Road

Reserve your campsite online: Spring time is approaching and that means another camping season will be upon us before you know it. The Garnett Recreation Department is offering campsite reservation online again this year. Instead of calling city hall to book your campsite, visit the Garnett Recreation website, garnettrecreation.recdesk.com, to book your campsite in advance. Once you have created your RecDesk account you can simply book your reservation like you are booking a vacation at your favorite destination spot! Garnett Recreation is excited to be able to offer this feature and help our community members and out-of-town visitors streamline this process. Once you have your printed receipt, you can keep that as your camping permit.

If you are booking an extended stay (5 nights consecutively), please call the Recreation Center. 785-448-3023, to help with booking your stay. Special groups who want to book certain dates can also call. Please have payment (credit card) ready upon booking.

Meet the Student Representative to the City Commission



Hayden Newton is the 2021-2022 Anderson County High School Student Representative to the Garnett City Commission. His parents are Alan and Jody Newton of Eugene, Oregon and Garnett respectively. He was raised in Manhattan, Kansas, attending the Amanda Arnold elementary school and later the

Bergmann Elementary School until the winter semester of his 4th grade year. In the winter of 2013, he moved back to his mother's hometown of Garnett. He then attended Garnett Elementary School for the remainder of his elementary education. Hayden attended Anderson County Junior High where he was involved in band and scholar's bowl.

Hayden is currently attending ACHS as a Senior. He is an active member of the band serving as a drum major. He is also a member in his local 4-H chapter and just finished his tenure as the Anderson County 4-H council president. Some other activities that he is involved in include FBLA, KAY, Drama Club and he is an active supporter of the school's coffee shop. He also currently runs his own business, The Popcorn Colonel. One of his favorite things about Garnett is how supportive the people are of the youth.

The ACHS student body, area youth, as well as adults are encouraged to visit with Hayden about his role in city government and share any ideas for the community with him. The City of Garnett thanks you, Hayden, for stepping up and representing!

From Public Works...

The following is an overview of what is happening within the City of Garnett's Public Works System as provided by James DePriest, Public Works Director. The operations water production and distribution, sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment, natural gas system maintenance and distribution, street improvements and maintenance, motor pool maintenance, and refuse collection all are within the parameters of public works.

A. Training

1. Gas and water distribution employees have enrolled in training through the Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU). This continuous training rotates on 3-year cycles and ensures the City of Garnett's operators' qualifications are constantly up-to-date and that your municipality is capable of providing a dependable and safe gas service to its citizens.

2. Water plant employees continue their apprenticeships through the Kansas Rural Water Association. This training has quickly proven fruitful as two operators have obtained Class II Water Operator certifications and another a Class IV Water Operator certification from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. More certification testing is planned in the near future. The City of Garnett will have expert operators to match their new water plant.

B. First Quarter 2022 Projects

1. Water Plant- As all designs are completed, we are waiting on state approval on odds and ends for the new water plant. Shovels will be in the ground barring any unforeseen circumstances during the first quarter of 2022.

a. To make way for the new plant, the bulk water station is being moved directly across the street from its current location. This project has already begun, and the new station should be in service very soon.

b. After final approval from the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the City will begin relocating the park at the South Lake. The new water plant's footprint will consume the current park. As not to eliminate any park space, the City will begin relocating the park to the south side of the lake.

2. The City of Garnett's Street Department has constructed brine mixing, storage, and recycling units this fall. They plan to spray brine on busy intersections and main streets during weather events this winter rather than spreading salt rock. The brine is less expensive and should do less damage to the streets and the vehicles on them.

3. The wastewater plant is going to begin an "overhaul" during the first quarter of 2022. The pumps, motors, mixers, gearboxes, and drives at the plant have expected lifespans of 15-20 years. As those lifespans have expired, the City will begin replacing those major components to ensure continuous service and the ability to meet EPA and KDHE regulations in the future.

4. Business and property owners along the Maple Street (US Highway 59) corridor will begin hearing from city officials and representatives from their engineering firm before long. In conjunction with the Kansas Department of Transportation, the City of Garnett will begin a storm water drainage and resurfacing project along Maple Street. The underground infrastructure to move stormwater will be removed and replaced. Many business entrances and street traffic will be affected by this work. All entities involved hope to work together to make this as painless as possible and have a better Garnett when work is completed.

Five New 2022 Events!



Garnett Tourism created a new event contest for the purpose of reaching one of its strategic plan goals to increase the number of special events by one new event annually. The 2022 Big Event Contest allowed for an application process, a "Dolphin Tank" presentation, similar to the TV show "Shark Tank", to determine a finalist to submit to the Garnett City Commission for approval. The winner to receive a minimum Transient Guest Tax Fund Grant of \$1000 for approved use toward the success of the event.

Five (5) applications were received. All five applicants participated in the "Dolphin Tank" presentation. The Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee cast a unanimous vote to recommend to the Commission to select all five entries as winners. In November, the City Commission reviewed the applications and unanimously voted the following events and event organizers the grand prize award winners:

Mar. 5 - "Laugh, Laugh, Love: A Night of Comedy and Charity Handyman Date Auction," hosted by Garnett Business and Professional Women at The Chamber Players Community Theatre

Apr. 2-3 - "Garnett's Home and Garden Expo," hosted by Growing Garnett Community Heart & Soul at fairgrounds, North Lake Park

Oct. 2 - "Faith & Blue," hosted by Hope Anthem Garnett on the Town Square and Anderson County Courthouse Lawn

Oct. 15 - "Antique Engine and Tractor Show," hosted by the Anderson County Flywheelers, fairgrounds, North Lake Park

Nov. 12 - "An Evening with the Walker," hosted by The Walker Art Committee at Rustic Rock

Congratulations to all the winners! View the 2022 Special Events Calendar now available for download, complete with links to additional event information, on the simplygarnett.com website.

It's That Simple

Everything you need in one website.

www.SimplyGarnett.com

Municipal Government | Recreation
Community & Tourism | Economic Development



Check out our "Community Calendar" - www.simplygarnett.com

JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year!**
Jan. 3-Feb. 28 License your pets at City Hall
- 3 AM Yoga**
Garnett Recreation Center,
8:45-10:00 a.m., Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
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 p.m.,
First & Third Monday
- 4 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.
P.M. Yoga
Recreation Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m.,
Every Tuesday & Thursday
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
Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting
Garnett Senior Center, 7 p.m.
- 5 Duplicate Bridge**
Garnett Hotel & RV Park, 1 p.m.,
Every Wednesday
- 6 TOPS Meeting**
First United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.,
Every Thursday
13-Point Pitch & Snacks
Garnett Senior Center, 6 p.m.,
Every Thursday
Historical Society Meeting
Anderson County Historical Museum,
6:30 p.m.

- 6 USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 10 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.
American Legion Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.
Garnett Housing Authority Advisory Board Meeting
GHA Office, Park Plaza North, 7 p.m.
- 11 Recycle Trailer**
Country Mart parking lot, all day
City Commission Meeting
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 12 Remember When Wednesday**
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Rec Center, 6 p.m.
VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
VFW Post 6397 Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6-8 p.m.
Friends of the PSRT Meeting
Town Hall Center, 7 p.m.
- 13 Morning Mingle**
City Hall, 8 a.m.
Delphian Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting
Masonic Lodge, Garnett, 7 p.m.
- 14 Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 15 Gospel Music on the Square**
Hosted by Growing Garnett,
Community Building, North Lake Park,
6-8 p.m.
- 16 VFW Breakfast**
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 18 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.
- 19 Garnett Public Library Adult Reading Program Kickoff**
Garnett Public Library, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

- 20 Walker Art Committee Meeting**
Archer Room, Garnett Public Library,
4 p.m.
- 25 City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 26 Garnett Public Library Book Discussion**
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 27 Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution**
For Anderson County residents,
Quonset Hut, Fairgrounds, 2 p.m.
Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet
K of C Hall, 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1-26 Soccer Registration (Early Bird)**
Ages Pre-K to Under 14, Late fee applied Feb. 28-March 5.
- 1 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.
- 3 Historical Society Meeting**
Anderson County Historical Museum,
6:30 p.m.
USD 365 Board of Education Meeting
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 8 Recycle Trailer**
Country Mart parking lot, all day
City Commission Meeting
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 9 Remember When Wednesday**
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
VFW Post 6397 Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
VFW Auxiliary Meeting
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
Friends of the PSRT Meeting
Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.
- 10 Morning Mingle Meeting**
City Hall, 8 a.m.
Delphian Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting
Masonic Lodge, Garnett, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!**



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

FEBRUARY (continued)

- 14 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.
- Library 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.
- 15 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.
- 17 Walker Art Committee Meeting**
Archer Room, Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 19 Gospel Music on the Square**
Hosted by Growing Garnett, Community Building, North Lake Park, 6 p.m.
- 20 VFW Breakfast**
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Friends of the Library Puzzle Contest**
Garnett Public Library, 1 p.m.
- Bridal Show & Vendor's Showcase**
Hosted by Troyer's Prairie Gold, Inc., 1-4 p.m.
- 21 Presidents' Day**
City offices will be closed and trash services will run one day late.
- 22 City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 23 Book Discussion TBA**
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 24 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 Monday, February 28 or by mail or drop box.

- 1 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.
- 3 Historical Society Meeting**
Anderson County Historical Museum, 6:30 p.m.
- USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**
Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 5 International Women's Day Chocolate Walk**
Hosted by Morning Mingle
- Laugh, Laugh, Love: A Night of Comedy & Charity Handyman Date Auction**
Hosted by Garnett BPW, Thelma Moore Playhouse, 7 p.m.
- March 7-April 9 Summer Sports Registration (Early Bird)**
Ages Pre-K - 15U, Late fee applied April 10-16.
- 8 Recycle Trailer**
Country Mart parking lot, all day
- City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 9 Remember When Wednesday**
Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**
Rec Center, 6 p.m.
- VFW Post 6397 Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- Friends of the PSRT Meeting**
Santa Fe Depot, 7 p.m.
- 10 Morning Mingle**
City Hall, 8 a.m.
- 11 Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 14 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Meeting,**
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.
- Library Advisory Board Meeting**
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.

- 14 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.
- ACDA - Economic Development Meeting**
City Hall, 5 p.m.
- 15 Garnett BPW Meeting**
Town Hall Center, 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 16 Prairie Spirit Trail 26th Annual Birthday Bash**
Hosted by Friends of the PSRT, Anderson County High School
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! Walker Art Committee**
Archer Room, Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 19 Gospel Music on the Square**
Hosted by Growing Garnett, Community Building, North Lake Park, 6 p.m.
- 20 VFW Breakfast**
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- 22 City Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 23 Book Discussion TBA**
Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 24 Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution**
For Anderson County Residents
Quonset Hut, 2 p.m.
- March 25-27 & 31 "Doublewide, Texas" presented by The Chamber Players Community Theatre**
Live Dinner theater, Thelma Moore Playhouse, 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Prairie spirit 100 Ultra Race 100m/100k, 50m/50k race**
Hosted by Timer Guys, Prairie Spirit Trail State Park
- March Madness Demolition Derby**
Hosted by Anderson County Fair Association, Anderson County Rodeo Arena, North Lake Park, 5 p.m.

MARCH

- 1 Adult Reading Program Ends**
Garnett Public Library, Parties will be held at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

**All dates and times subject to change.*

A Message from Code Enforcement and Animal Control



Pet Registration Due - 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.

Cold Weather Care for Animals - Remember as you get colder so do your animals. Make sure your animals, if outside, have shelter from the cold and access to food and water when temperatures drop *below 40 degrees*. The shelter *must be constructed*, within the reach of the animal, to keep the animal dry, and be able to retain sufficient body heat.

Animal Pick-Up - The Animal Control Officer will continue to field calls on stray animals and trapped animals, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days the city offices are open. The Garnett Police Department will no longer pick up stray dogs/cats during non-business hours, weekends, or holidays. If an animal is trapped during those hours it will be the responsibility of the citizen to care for the animal until approved hours. The Garnett Police Department will respond to animal calls at any time if the animal is vicious, causing property damage, injured, or animals that are caught by a citizen with City of Garnett pet tags attached where the owner can be identified.

If you have questions regarding animal control, you may contact Darin Schmoie, Code Enforcement/Animal Control at City Hall, 785.448.5496, Option 1.

Changes are on the Way...



Big changes are on the way for the US-59 corridor in Garnett.

The City of Garnett and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) have been working on a City Connecting Link Improvement Project (CCLIP) for US Highway 59 (aka, Maple Street). This project is going to include the following improvements:

- Pavement Restoration
- Pavement Patching with areas of Full-Depth Replacement
- Storm Water Drainage
- Curb and Gutter
- Sidewalk Ramps
- Pavement Markings

The scope of this project will be from Fourth Avenue west to KS Highway 31/Park Road intersection on US 59. Costs for this project are not yet finalized. However, the current estimate for this project is \$1,859,867 with the agreement that KDOT will pay for seventy-five percent (75%) up to \$1,000,000. The City's share will be twenty-five percent (25%) or any costs over \$1 million.

US Highway 59 will be milled and resurfaced. During the same time the City will be making improvements to the storm drain system on the highway, near First Avenue and Redbud Street. Some new curb and gutter will go in as well. The increased capacity should help alleviate the stormwater drainage issues that have plagued this area for years.

Traffic flow in the area will likely be disrupted during construction. Until plans for the project are formalized and in place, we're not exactly sure when and where traffic will be affected, but we'll get that information out to everyone as soon as we do.

Respectfully,

Eric Mills,
Planning and Zoning Official



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!**



Garnett City Hall

131 West Fifth Avenue
P.O. Box H
Garnett, Kansas 66032
Telephone: (785) 448-5496
Email: info@garnettks.net

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Drive-Up Window: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

From ACDA...

Economic Development has been working side by side with other community organizations to lay the groundwork to make this community the very best it can be. The harder we work together to create an exceptional quality of life the more opportunities we have to bring people and businesses to Anderson County.



ACDA has had a strong focus on Childcare in Anderson County in the last several months. Childcare has become one of the most important topics among Economic Developers across the state. Families are in a crisis when it comes to childcare needs.

Currently there are no openings for children in Anderson County by a licensed childcare provider.

ACDA is addressing this crisis in a two-fold manner. We are working with our childcare providers, who are the professionals in this field, getting their help and guidance. This has proven to be very beneficial in helping us learn more about the options we have. At the last Anderson County Childcare Providers meeting we invited anyone who is considering opening a childcare business. We had three entrepreneurs attend expressing interest in opening a business. It was great to have the providers there to answer their questions. Representatives from Southeast Kansas Childcare Aware and K-State were also in attendance to give guidance.

We are also working with other childcare professionals and have created the Anderson County Childcare Taskforce. These professionals represent Childcare Aware, K-State, Southeast Kansas Health Department, Parents as Teachers, Head Start and Childcare Providers. This taskforce has been instrumental in moving us forward to the research of bringing a childcare facility to Anderson County. I hope to have more information soon on our progress.

The ACDA Advisory Board in 2020 elected to initiate a Downtown Revitalization Program. We have been working on this throughout 2021 and in the fall three public input meetings were held to see what interest there might be in starting a Downtown Revitalization Program in Garnett. Thirty (30) people participated, where we received valuable information and a strong response in starting a program here. In January, the committees will begin meeting as well as an advisory board will be formed made up of interested citizens that attended the meetings.

If you were unable to attend one of the three public input meetings and would like to be involved, please contact me at julie@garnettks.net or by calling 785-448-5496, Ext. 5. This program is based on the model from Main Street America® and is a volunteer-based program. The more volunteers involved, the more occurrence of success in a community.

Sincerely,

Julie Turnipseed, Director
Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA)

From the Fire Chief...

I am currently working on a grant to get a newer used fire engine to better serve the residents and businesses of Garnett.

As we enter a new year, many things come to mind that I would like to bring to your attention on an annual basis:



⇒ Are your home address numbers visible from the street and easy to see at night? Can emergency vehicles find your home easily? Now is a great time to look, and if necessary, take the steps to improve visibility.

⇒ Are your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors working? Heating the home is the second leading cause of house fires. As the temperature goes down the risk goes up.

⇒ Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

Please heed these tips:

- ◆ Never warm up a vehicle in the garage even with the door open. Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- ◆ When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.
- ◆ Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ◆ Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- ◆ Remember to "close before you doze". Did you know that closing your doors in your home is also important for your safety? Closed doors can reduce fire growth, limit damage to your home, keep temperatures down, and can even save your life if you become trapped. A fire needs oxygen to burn. A closed door keeps more oxygen in the room and away from the fire. When you exit a fire, make sure to close your door behind you to slow down its growth. Learn more at closeyourdoor.org.

Lastly, thank you to those who support the Garnett Volunteer Fire Department by attending the annual chili and soup supper. We sincerely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Wes Skillman,
Fire Chief



Is your address visible from the street for emergency personnel?

Chamber of Commerce Invites You to Attend the Annual Banquet

The Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce (GACC) would like to invite everyone in the community to join them on January 27, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Garnett Knights of Columbus Hall for the GACC Annual Awards Banquet. Activities will include a catered meal, auction, keynote speaker, and the presentation of four prestigious awards.



This year's guest speaker will be SSG (Retired) Ezekiel "Zeke" Crozier. Zeke is a medically retired Army Staff Sergeant who served nine years with the Chinook Helicopter Unit operating out of the New Century Air Center in Gardner. Zeke was deployed for humanitarian missions to Pakistan and African, and two combat deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On June 25, 2011, as a Crew Chief in Afghanistan, Zeke's Chinook Helicopter crashed while on a mission. No one died, though Zeke and

another soldier were severely injured. Zeke experienced a traumatic brain injury. In a coma for two weeks, he was expected to suffer from severe disabilities for the rest of his life. However, a miracle happened. Zeke woke up. Because the left side of his body, including his face was paralyzed, he had to learn everything over again. With support from his wife Lacy, he progressed from a wheelchair to relearning how to walk and talk. He gained a second chance at life. In 2013, Zeke was awarded the Purple Heart, and medically retired from the Army. Struggling to find a new purpose, Zeke found a therapeutic outlet in creating unique pieces of art using bottle caps. This hobby became a thriving business. Art Gave Zeke a new lease on life, and he wanted other veterans and people of diverse backgrounds to experience the joy of making things with their hands. But more importantly, he wanted to connect the community through art. Thus Handy-Cappin' began. Handy-Cappin' is dedicated to helping individuals who suffer from mental health issues, disabilities, and PTSD. Handy-Cappin's mission is to make a difference as a fundraising partner with other organizations to benefit people with disabilities, veterans, and their families. Their vision is to make possible one-of-a-kind and meaningful experiences to honor those who survive, thrive, and overcome adversity-to honor those who have served in the military, and those who have fallen, to support and encourage all people with diverse abilities. The GACC looks forward to Zeke joining this event with his inspiring message.

The Chamber of Commerce will also be presenting the following awards:

- Business of the Year- Presented to a Chamber member business who has demonstrated outstanding ethics, community support, leadership, friendly service, and has been an overall benefit to the community.
- Organization of the Year- Presented to a non-profit organization who is active and beneficial to the Garnett Community.
- Volunteer of the Year- The George Clasen Memorial Service Award is presented to an individual, or individuals, from the Garnett area who have shown exemplary service to the community through GACC and/or other local organizations.
- Chamber Champion-Created in 2020 to recognize the business who persevered through the pandemic, got creative,

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

thought outside of the box, and pushed through the obstacles of COVID-19 to end the year successfully.

Tickets for the banquet may be purchased at the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Office. Price is \$20 for chamber members, and \$25 for non-members. Contact Executive Director, Kris Hix at 785-448-6767 for more information or visit www.garnettchamber.org.

City Commission Selects Jason Sheahan as New Commissioner

At the December 28, 2021, City Commission meeting, Mayor Cole and Commissioner Gwin announced their selection of Jason Sheahan to fill the vacant commission seat left by the late Cody Gettler.

In his request to be considered as a commission candidate, Mr. Sheahan states, "I am blessed and grateful to be born and raised in a country where I have the opportunity to participate in our government. One of my primary objectives every day is to positively impact people, whether they are a family member, friend, co-worker, or stranger. By serving people at home, work, and the community, I can make that positive impact. I believe that the role of the local government is to serve the needs of the citizens, so by serving on the City Commission, I can help make a difference in the day-to-day lives of our community. My personal and professional experiences have allowed me the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life, ages, income ranges, and professions. My life experiences have prepared me to ask questions, listen to advice, and work with others. I look forward to the opportunity to answer further questions on how I can work together with the current Commissioners and City Staff to better serve the community."

Mr. Sheahan is the Operations Manager for A-1 Sewer and Septic Services located in Kansas City, Kansas. Over his career there he and his team have grown the company from between \$4-\$5 million annually with 21 employees (2010-2018) to approximately \$8.3 million and 42 employees (2021). He has knowledge and experience in municipal and federal stormwater and sewer contracts, purchasing and negotiating for inventory and equipment, marketing and advertising, management of insurance and liability claims and hiring of employees.

In his spare time, Jason Sheahan has served as the Treasurer and Board of Directors for the Fairfax Industrial Association and chair of the FIA Cleanup Day, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner Committee, VP/Board of Director for Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City, Kansas Chamber Legislative Affairs Committee, City of Shawnee Planning Commission, Board of Director/Secretary of a HOA, and has coached youth soccer, T-ball, baseball, basketball, and wrestling.

Jason has a leadership philosophy that among his approaches to effective leadership include identifying the area when problems arise- do not change everything but adjust the problem area; knowing you cannot manage what you do not measure, and to spend 1 minute on the problem and 4 minutes on the solution.

The Garnett City Commission and staff welcome Jason Sheahan as a new member of the Garnett City Commission.





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

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EMERGENCY INFORMATION

*Who do you call if your utilities are off?
How can you get advanced severe weather warnings?
Where can you go to seek shelter from a storm?
How can you find resources if you are new to the area?*

These questions and many more can arise when you least expect it or assume the answers are easy to find, and then you can't seem to find them. The City of Garnett provides emergency information at your finger tips by simply going to the "Emergency Information" tab on our website, simplygarnett.com.

If you are experiencing an interruption in utility service provided by the City of Garnett at the following phone numbers during these hours:

- 785.448.5496 - City Hall, Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 785.448.5428 - Dispatch Center, Weekdays, 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- 785.448.5428 - Dispatch Center, Weekends and Holidays

CodeRed Emergency Notification

CodeRed delivers warnings/alerts to you by telephone. Sign-up online through the link on our website.

This system identifies persons who have signed up for this service who are in the path of a tornado, severe thunderstorm or flooding. Additionally, evacuation notices, missing persons and other emergency information can create an alert to your phone.

Storm Shelter Information

The Emergency Information link on our website provides a complete list of storm shelters throughout Anderson County. There are two (2) current active shelters in Garnett:

First United Methodist Church 205 S. Oak St.	Garnett Storm Shelter 9th Ave. & Oak St.
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In the event of a weather warning these shelters will be open and available to the public.

Text-to-911

Texting 911 can be done by typing "911" in the field for a phone number on your wireless phone.

Situations when Text-to-911 is appropriate:

- * Deaf, hard of hearing callers, or individuals with a speech disability;
- * A caller who is unable to speak due to a medical or other condition
- * Emergency situations that would put the caller in danger if making a voice call
- * Examples include abduction, domestic violence, or active

shooter situation.

In the event you cannot safely make a voice call to 911 in an emergency, you can text to 911. This is a project between Anderson County Emergency Communications and Kansas 911 Coordinating Council.

Remember, the best way to contact 911 is by making a voice call. **Please only use this service in an emergency when a voice call is not possible or safe.** Please note that Text-to-911 may not be available outside of Anderson County.

Emergency Resources for Those in Need

East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation, better known as **ECKAN**, has an office in Garnett located at 132 E. 5th Avenue, 785.448.3670. Their services range from food, clothing and financial resources to Head Start Pre-School services, home weatherization and more. A link to their online information is available on our website.

Harvesters Emergency Food Distribution

Distribution of food is held monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month at the fairgrounds located in Garnett's North Lake Park at 2 p.m. This offering of food is for Anderson County residents only who meet required low income guidelines.

NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION

We try to make it simple, when possible, for new residents coming to our community to find useful information. First, we invite you to stop by Garnett City Hall, 131 W. 5th Avenue to pick up your complimentary "welcome packet".

Second, visit our website, simplygarnett.com. There are three important pages to view on the website with links to resources and information to help make your new experience as a citizen of our city enjoyable. Please be sure to visit these links at www.simplygarnett.com:

- Community Resources
- Emergency Resources
- Utilities

But don't stop there! Please look at all aspects of our website and if you don't find what you are looking for, please contact the office of Community Development and Tourism at 785.448.5496, Option 7.

www.simplygarnett.com