

TownTalk

Fall 2022



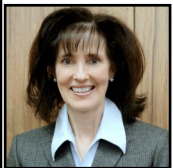
City Commission



Greg Gwin,
Mayor



Jason Sheahan,
Commissioner



Jody Cole,
Commissioner

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Garnett, Kansas

From The Commission...

First, I would like to say that over the last 15 plus years, it has been an honor and a privilege to represent the citizens of Garnett as one of your City Commissioners. One thing that was very satisfying for myself was to serve alongside my son, Nathan Gwin, who was the student representative to the commission during his senior year in high school. This program is something I support fully to get the young people of our community involved and to learn the processes of local government and how those will affect each one of us.

As is common for most newly elected officials, I was under the impression there were piles of money in the city budget and therefore more should have been done. As time went on, I found out very quickly that even though the city budget is very large, most of the money in the annual city budget is the purchasing of electric and gas in which we resell to the public. Also, as you can imagine, the costs for infrastructure improvements are astronomical which makes it very difficult to do and live within the money we have available. At the end of the day, we could always use a lot more money to do the things we would all like to see done, but to live within our budget and not burden our citizens has been my #1 goal as your Commissioner. Listed below is a chart during my time in office listing the mill levies for the city, county, and school district. I am very proud of this accomplishment of Garnett living within our means.

Levies for districts in Anderson County Years 2023 thru 2008

	2023 Proposed	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Anderson County	78.174	84.288	86.176	86.475	89.347	93.354	93.218	89.197	86.188	92.685	86.558	89.186	89.613	89.284	88.574	76.468
Garnett City	41.166	48.293	45.877	45.384	43.544	43.226	42.981	42.648	42.822	42.686	42.894	42.914	42.145	42.213	43.498	43.877
USD 365	50.679	53.099	52.715	53.277	53.261	53.879	53.525	52.329	52.568	56.556	53.720	54.421	51.669	51.377	49.796	48.145

As always, the City welcomes the public to get involved in the city meeting processes and asks for your concerns and opinions on the topics that are facing the commission. You are invited to come to the meetings and be a part of the process as it happens. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. on the west side of City Hall. In addition, we are always looking for people to get involved and serve on advisory boards and committees.

I want to proudly express to the citizens of Garnett, that I believe, Travis Wilson, our new city manager, is doing an incredible job. This is a new position for him and he welcomes your questions and comments. He is a busy man, but his door is always open. I have enjoyed working with him and moving forward, I believe, we are in good hands!

I had recently made the decision to not refile to retain my position this year, and therefore would like to thank all of those that have supported me in this role. It is my prayer that Garnett and all of its

From the Commission, continued...

citizens prosper, have a good quality of life, live simply, and enjoy the things that our town offers.

Respectfully,

Greg A. Gwin
Mayor

From the City Manager...

And just like that, summer is on its way out and fall is moving in. The temperature might not show it; however, the events and time of year are. School is back in session, fall sports are in full swing, and we begin to look ahead to the holiday season. As we make the seasonal transition, I hope everyone had a chance to get out this summer and enjoy some time outside. Whether that was taking in a baseball or softball game, going to the swimming pool, attend Libertyfest, a family vacation, or simply just sitting outside in your lawn chair, I truly hope everyone was able to have some fun this summer.

As we move forward this year, we continue to move on to next steps with our long-standing projects. In early August, we received word that the draft Environmental Assessment for the Airport has been accepted by the FAA. Our next step in this process is to advertise the Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing. Once that process concludes, the next step in the process will be land acquisition. More to come on that as those processes begin.

We continue to work with the Water Plant Engineer, PEC, on The Water Treatment Plant project. Currently, PEC and KDHE are reviewing language for the project before finalizing and accepting it. Once there is an agreement with the language, we can move forward with the bidding process and construction.

The Maple Street Drainage Project is nearing construction, with bidding set to take place in October 2022, and construction beginning Spring 2023.

I'd like to report we have made strides with the Cedar Valley Reservoir Spillway restoration project with McClure Engineering completing the Preliminary Engineering Report. Once this report has been approved, we can move forward with the design and permitting phases, with the anticipated construction beginning Spring 2023.

I would like to report we will be doing some street improvements this Fall, between September and October. During the July 27th City Commission meeting, the City Commission approved a bid from Killough Construction to do a significant mill and overlay project totaling \$266,091.16. The roads that were targeted in this bid include Elm Street, from 1st Avenue to 8th Avenue; 9th Avenue, from Elm Street to the dead end; Vine Street, from 8th Avenue to the dead end; and 3rd Avenue, from Hayes Street to Cleveland. These were some of the worst streets listed on the Transportation Plan that was put together by McClure Engineering. Be on the lookout for the work this fall.

The last projects I would like to mention are the new Short Stop and the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree. Demolition on the Anderson County Sale Barn is complete and the construction of the new Short Stop convenient store is underway. Across Park Road, the old Cheese Plant, also known as the Olsen Building, has been demolished making way for the new Family Dollar/

Dollar Tree store. This intersection is going to be quite busy during the construction of these two businesses, and most likely even more busy once construction is complete and the businesses are operational.

Continuing with giving some insight on City operations, this article I'd like to talk about our Electric Distribution Department, better known as our Electric Lineman or Electricians. Our line crew is made up of four (4) staff. Their main job is taking care of the distribution side of our Electric Infrastructure which includes our power lines, substations, utility poles, tie meter house, and all other electrical distribution components. These guys are the front-line workers and the first to get called when the power goes out. But that is not all that these guys do. Often, you will see these guys out trimming trees, hanging the city and patriotic banners, changing flags, setting up flags along 4th Avenue and Maple Street, hanging Christmas lights, and even assisting with water related projects. Recently, there have been a few people asking why three (3) individuals are driving around town together in one truck. The answer to that question is one word- Safety. The truck they are generally in is the City's bucket truck. The reason for all three (3) of them being together going to job is one guy will be in the bucket truck, one guy assisting the bucket worker with tools, parts, banners, etc., as well as observes the guy in the bucket in critical areas, and one guy on the ground as a safety spotter, watching traffic, pedestrians walking buy, and communicating with customers who may be affected by the work going on. I hope this helps shed some light as to why we have three (3) guys in this department working together on job sites.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all of those who have been supportive of me in my role. It's hard to believe that it has been a year since accepting the position. As I move into the final year of my contract, I will continue to push these long-standing projects closer to completion. We may not get them all done by the end of 2023, but I'm optimistic a few of them will see completion.

Sincerely,

Travis Wilson
City Manager

From the City Clerk...

Fall is in the air. It's time for friends, family, campfires, marshmallows and hot cocoa. Cooler weather is perfect for outdoor activities. Be sure and check out the City of Garnett website, www.simplygarnett.com, to find the community calendar and special events. Visit www.usd365.org as well for the school fall sports schedule.

We have two new team members in the utility department, Amanda Patterson and Jordan Gorton. We are excited to have them join the City of Garnett team as they are both anxious to be aboard.

As cooler weather approaches, adjust your home temperatures accordingly. As we move into the winter months make a checklist of "to-do's". These small changes can impact your utility usage and bills while preparing for any outages:

- * Check your home's heating and air conditioning system.
- * Paint, caulk and seal exterior wood.
- * Check your drainage, gutters, screens, windows and doors for drafts.
- * Clean your chimney and fireplaces. Get your firewood in order.



- * Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- * Trim Tree branches as needed to relieve the weight of ice.
- * Get batteries for flashlights and radios for any power outages.
- * Help your neighbors and elderly prepare as well.

Reminder of payment options: Payments can be taken inside or dropped in either of the two drop box locations (back window drive thru or outside the front office). The front office staff can take payments both in the lobby and over the phone. We encourage everyone to utilize our online bill pay option, or the automatic draft option through your bank if your bank is local.

Thank you, Garnett, for a wonderful place to work and live.

Happy Holidays to each and every home.

Trish Brewer
City Clerk

Did You Know?

Please join us in welcoming the following new city employees: **Joseph Froggatte**, Public Works Laborer; **Jordan Gorton**, Utility Billing Clerk; **Amanda Patterson**, Utility Billing Clerk, and **Shawn Tompkins**, Part-time Police Officer.

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

- 5 years - **Quenton Trammell**, Parks Maintenance Worker
- 15 years - **Raymond Arnett**, Gas & Water Department Maintenance Worker

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

June - **Brendon Dennison**, Utility Meter Reader

July - **Shane Henkle**, Utility Plant Operator

August - **Duane Hastert**, Assistant Superintendent, Electric Distribution, and **Andy Modlin**, Lead Lineman

Promotions and Transfers: **Kalye Nilges**, Utility Billing Clerk, has moved to the position of Municipal Court Clerk.

Training and Certifications: **Jeff Mucklow**, Water Plant Operator, recently received Class IV Water Operator Certification status.

Garnett Police Department News: Five members of the Garnett Police Department hosted and attended Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI) training. TVI is a police pursuit tactic by which a pursuing car can force a fleeing car to turn sideways abruptly, causing the driver to lose control, stall and come to a stop. Douglas County Sheriff Office TVI instructors came to Garnett. The Garnett Industrial Airport and North Lake Park were used to train on for TVI. After an 8-hour course, the department is now certified in TVI. The police department welcomes part-time officers, **Shane Tompkins**, who is a retired Johnson County Deputy with over 30 years of law enforcement experience.

Thank you, **Greg A. Gwin**, Mayor, for serving the citizens of Garnett as a representative on the City Commission for the past 15 years. Best wishes to **Gary McAuley** on his retirement after 9 years of dedicated service as a Public Works Department Street Laborer. Congratulations to **Susan Wettstein**, Community Development and Tourism Director, as she retires with more than 37 years.

VOTE! Let your vote count. On Tuesday, November 8, registered voters within Garnett will cast their vote for City Commissioner. There are three (3) candidates who are seeking the position vacated by Mayor **Greg A. Gwin**. They are **Troy Armstrong**, **Mark Locke** and **Justin Thompson**. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Every month, more and more City of Garnett utility customers are choosing to receive their bill by email. Here are options on how to receive and pay your bill:

- Garnett utility customers can sign up to receive their utility

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

bills by email. See "SIGN UP NOW!" fillable form (right).

- Customers can use the automated draft option through GSSB or Patriots Bank (local banks only). Payment through "auto-draft" is processed on the third of each month, unless the third falls on a holiday, then it is the business day prior.
- After receiving the utility bill by mail or email, customers can pay online via a link on the city website.

Visit our website today or contact the Utility Billing Department at 785.448.5496, Option 1.

Recently students from a local school toured the water plant.



James Howard, Water Plant Foreman and **Shane Henkle**, Water Plant Operator, shared an educational and entertaining tour on the aspects of water treatment, from source to faucet. Groups wanting to tour city facilities can inquire at City Hall.

The Water Department will be conducting a "free chlorine burn" as a part of the routine annual system maintenance. This disinfection process will begin October 3rd and continue for approximately three weeks. Detailed information is available on the city

website.

The City of Garnett has eight (8) advisory boards in which the terms of some of the members on every board are up for appointment in December of each year. These advisory boards include: Airport Advisory Board, Anderson County Development Agency, Housing Authority Board of Directors, Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission, Tourism Advisory Committee, and Walker Art Advisory Committee. Persons interested in volunteering to serve on a city advisory board are encouraged to fill out the required Statement of Interest form and submit it to Garnett City Hall no later than Friday, October 7, 2022. The form is available on the city website and at City Hall. Visit the "Advisory Boards" link at www.simplygarnett.com to learn more.

Update Contact Information: In the event of an emergency or storm it is important that the City's utility department have a valid, working cell phone or telephone number in which residents and business owners can be reached at any time. If you have not updated your contact information in a while we encourage you to contact City Hall soon at 785.448.5496, Option 1.

In the Holiday Spirit: The City of Garnett is once again inviting commercial businesses within the city to participate in its Holiday in Lights project. Businesses can purchase Christmas lights to be installed on their commercial buildings at a cost of \$2.50 per foot. The City's electric department installs the lights and annually replaces broken or burned out bulbs at no additional charge. Business owners interested in having lights installed on their building need to contact City Hall no later than November 1. The lights will be officially turned on for the holiday season during a special lighting ceremony held Saturday evening, November 26 in conjunction with the 51st Annual Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade. This year's parade theme is, "Rockin' Around the Garnett Square".

The Garnett Friends of the Library invite you to once again join them for the **Holiday Homes Tour** on December 4th.



FOR RENT: Apartments Available For Those Who Qualify

The Garnett Housing Authority has apartments available in both Parkside Place I & II. To qualify, individuals need to meet financial requirements as determined by HUD, as well as be at least 62 years of age. The apartments we have available are one-bedroom and have a maximum occupancy of 2 people. All household income and assets, as well as the household medical deductions are considered for HUD qualification.

Just a reminder we are a smoke free/tobacco free property. Please feel free to contact us at 785.448.6990 to schedule a visit, or stop in at 116 Park Plaza North in Garnett, between the hours of 8a.m.-12 p.m., and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Other news going on with the Garnett Housing Authority is that a portion of our driveway by the dumpster currently under repair. The amount of concrete work has been completed and needs a long time to cure, so the barricades are still up. Once the concrete is cured and the holes in the asphalt are patched the barricades will come down. Thank you all for your patience as we improve the driveway.

Our newest maintenance person, Dawna Worrell, has been here now for 6 months and continues to learn new things every day.

I attended the Kansas Housing Conference in Wichita from August 29 through September 1. There, I was able to network with other agencies around the state who work in the Housing field, as well as learn all the new rules and regulations and changes that are being implemented.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the Garnett Housing Authority.

Sincerely,

Karlyn Hulett
Executive Director, Garnett Housing Authority

Friendly Reminder From Code Enforcement, Animal Control



Just a friendly reminder, annual pet registrations are due on January 1, 2023. Please check your pet's vaccination records to ensure they are current before the deadline. Vaccinations expire throughout the year unlike the registration. If you have recently, in the last 6 months, received vaccinations for your animals please make sure your records have been updated at City Hall. The vet clinics do not automatically send them to us.

Trap, Spay, & Neuter Program - We are still working on the ordinances involved with the program to insure the proper policy and rules will be adequate for our community. We are hoping to kick this off very soon.

Please note, furniture and construction debris will not be picked up by the city trash crews. You have to dispose of it yourself at the landfill or call City Hall to schedule a "Special Pick Up" for those items for a fee. The City of Garnett, however, will be having a City Wide Clean-Up Week October 31 to November 4. See page 7 or visit our website for details on the items allowed for pickup during the special week. Please place items for pick up out no sooner then the week before.

Fall is upon us and so the falling leaves become an issue. Please do not cut and blow leaves into the streets or gutters. This causes numerous issues with our stormwater drainage system. Please mulch or bag your leaves to avoid citation.

Respectfully,

Darin Schmoe
Code Enforcement/Animal Control

From Anderson County Development Agency Director...



Economic Development (ACDA) offers a menu of programing to help the small businesses in Garnett and Anderson County as well as help with business creation. Here is how we can help you and your business grow and prosper. Most do not have a fee associated with the program. ACDA is funded from City of Garnett and Anderson County jointly. If you have a business and you would like to

participate in one or more of these resources, please give me a call at 785.504.4265 or email julie@garnettks.net.

Morning Mingle is a workgroup of current and prospective brick and mortar business owners and managers networking together. The focus is to create cross promotion of local businesses, share business tips and strategies, training and coordinate community events that contribute to the success of the local business community. Programs, events, and trainings that have been created under the umbrella of Morning Mingle are:

Trainings: Social Media & Retail Coach

Retail Promotions: International Women's Day Chocolate Tour, Hot Wheels & Hot Deals, Fall Shop Hop (benefitting W.I.N.G.S.). Holiday Open Houses.

Special Events: Concerts in the Park, 9/11 First Responders Lunch, Sweetest Couple Contest, and Christmas Window Decorating Contest.

Love What's Local Garnett is a program created by Morning Mingle. This campaign has created awareness to keep our dollars local. The campaign has created a brand, t-shirts, marketing material, ornaments, and stickers to promote the message.

Peer to Peer Business Visits is a new program created out of Morning Mingle. Business coaches visit local business and evaluate all aspects of the business to help improve them.

Destination Creation Course is a course designed by the Jon Schallert Group. The course is offered on an as-needed basis. ACDA has held three classes and trained approximately 15 business owners how to make their business a destination. This program has a fee attached.

The ACDA office offers new business start-up help. Entrepreneurs can get assistance with creating a business plan, introduced to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which is available in Garnett and Greeley. ACDA also has can offer assistance with applying for the E-Community Loan Program as well as the Prosperity Loan Program.

The Anderson County Mayor's meet quarterly for an update on programs and opportunities for each community. The group discusses topics of interest to each community. The incorporated cities in Anderson County are Colony, Garnett, Greeley,



OCTOBER

- Paint the Town Pink - W.I.N.G.S.**
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Sept. 13-Oct. 20 Boot Camp**
5-6 a.m., Every Tuesday and Thursday,
The Rock, North Lake Park (stadium)
- 1 Yoga For Vets**
8 a.m., Untangling Knots
- Saturday Sweat with Sami**
9 a.m., Every Saturday, Fitness Court
- Laugh, Laugh, Love: A Night of Comedy and Charity Handyman Date Auction**
Hosted by Garnett BPW, 7-10 p.m.,
Chamber Players Community Theatre
- 2-8 National 4-H Week**
- 3 Movement Mondays (Free Class)**
8 a.m., First and Third Monday,
Fitness Court
- A.M. Yoga**
Every Monday-Wednesday-Friday
8:45 a.m.-10 a.m., Recreation Center
- Anderson County Commission Meeting**
9 a.m., Every Monday, Annex
- Celebrate Recovery**
6 p.m., Every Monday, Church of
the Nazarene
- Garnett Lions Club Meeting**
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 4 Storytime for Preschoolers**
10 a.m. Every Tuesday,
Garnett Public Library
- Rotary International Meeting**
12 p.m., Every Tuesday, Dutch
Country Cafe
- P.M. Yoga**
5:30 p.m., Every Tuesday & Thursday
- Community Foundation Meeting**
5:30 p.m., Recreation Center
- American Legion Bingo**
6 p.m., Every Tuesday,
VFW Post 6397
- Alcoholics Anonymous**
7 p.m., Every Tuesday and Thursday
501 S. Oak Street, Garnett
- Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**
7 p.m., Garnett Nutrition Site
- 5 Duplicate Bridge**
1 p.m., Every Wednesday, Garnett
Hotel & RV Park
- 6 TOPS Meeting**
3 p.m., Every Thursday, 258 W. Park
Road
- Garnett Farmers Market**
4:30-7 p.m., Main Street,
last market of the season
- Concert in the Park-Jamison Brummel**
Hosted by Love What's Local Garnett
6-8 p.m., Donna Harris Park

- 6 13-Point Pitch & Snacks**
6 p.m., Every Thursday,
Senior Center
- Anderson County Historical Society Meeting**
6:30 p.m., Museum
- USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**, 7 p.m., Board Office
- 7-8 Shop Hop for W.I.N.G.S.**
Hosted by Morning Mingle
- 8 Octoberfest (Kincaid)**
Hosted by Crickets Bar & Grill
- 8-9 Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival**
Friday:
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Road Tour
5-8 p.m., Registration/Check in
6 p.m., Kick off-Tailgate Dinner
(Drivers & Staff)
- Saturday:
8:30 a.m., Lake Garnett, track
activities
- 9 a.m., Autocross at Airport
12 p.m., Car Show and Charity
Rides, Town Square
- Sunday:
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Lake Garnett,
track activities
- 9-15 National Fire Prevention Week**
- 10 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**
5:30 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- Library Board Meeting**
6 p.m., Garnett Public Library
- Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting**
7 p.m., City Hall
- American Legion Meeting**
7 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- Garnett Housing Authority Meeting**
7 p.m., GHA Office
- 11 Recycle Trailer @ Country Mart Parking Lot**, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., courtesy
of Anderson County Solid Waste
- City Commission Meeting**
6 p.m., City Hall
- 12 "Remember When Wednesday"**
10 a.m., Garnett Public Library
- Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**
4:30 p.m., City Hall
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting**
6-8 p.m., Sgt. Jeffery S. Mersman
Memorial VFW Post 6397
- VFW Post 6397 Meeting**
6-8 p.m., Sgt. Jeffery S. Mersman
Memorial VFW Post 6397
- Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail Meeting**,
7 p.m., Santa Fe Depot
- 13 Morning Mingle**
8 a.m., City Hall
- Concert in the Park-Bush City Boppers**
Hosted by Love What's Local Garnett
6-8 p.m., Donna Harris Park

- 13 Delphian Masonic Lodge Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge
- 14 Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
4 p.m., Garnett Industrial Airport
- 15 Gospel Music on the Square**
6-8 p.m., Downtown Square
- Antique Engine & Tractor Show**
Hosted by the Anderson County
Flywheelers, North Lake Park
- 16 VFW Breakfast**
10 a.m.-1 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 17 Garnett Lions Club Meeting**
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 18 Anderson County Economic Development Meeting (ACDA)**
5 p.m., City Hall
- Garnett BPW Meeting**
5:30 p.m., Archer Room Library
- Garnett Planning Commission**
6 p.m., City Hall
- 20 Walker Art Committee Meeting**
4 p.m., Garnett Public Library
- 22 Zombie Walk/5K Run Festival**
Hosted by Masonfelt Comedy, 8 a.m.
Courthouse Lawn and North Lake Park
- The Great Pumpkin Bash**
Hosted by Mundell's Pumpkin Patch
1-8 p.m., 1662 S. Maple Street
- 23 Faith & Blue**
Hosted by Hope Anthem Church
4-6 p.m., Downtown Square
- 25 City Commission Meeting**
6 p.m., City Hall
- 26 Book Discussion "Smoke Gets in your Eyes"**, 7 p.m., Garnett Public Library
- 27 Emergency Food Distribution**
2 p.m., Quonset Hut, North Park
- 28 Zombie Strike Nerf War**
9 a.m.—Noon, Garnett Recreation
Center
- 29 Kansas Rails-To-Tracks Extravaganza (50/100m)**, Prairie Spirit Trail
- Fall Festival, Halloween Event**
Hosted by Hope Anthem Church
4-6 p.m., Rock Stadium, North Park
- 30 Basketball Signups End (Pre K-6th)**
garnettrecreation.recdesk.com
- 31 Halloween**
Light the Night Trunk or Treat
Hosted by First Christian Church
5-7 p.m., 200 S. Walnut

NOVEMBER

- 1 Holiday in Lights Deadline**
(see page 3 for details)
- Garnett Community Foundation Board Meeting**
5:30 p.m., Garnett Recreation Center
- Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**
7 p.m., Garnett Nutrition Site

It's Happening in Garnett!

NOVEMBER (continued)

- 3** **Anderson County Historical Society**
6:30 p.m., Anderson County Museum
USD 365 Board of Education Meeting,
7 p.m., Board Office
- 5** **Surviving the Holidays**
Hosted by Garnett Church of the Nazarene
9 a.m.-12 p.m., 258 W. Park Road
- 6** **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
- 7** **Garnett Lions Club Meeting**
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 8** **Recycle Trailer @ Country Mart Parking Lot**
7 a.m.-7 p.m., courtesy of Anderson County Solid Waste
City Commission Meeting
6 p.m., City Hall
- 9** **"Remember When Wednesday"**
10 a.m., Garnett Public Library
Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
4:30 p.m., City Hall
VFW Auxiliary Meeting
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
VFW Post 6397 Meeting
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
6 p.m., Garnett Recreation Center
Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail Meeting
7 p.m., Santa Fe Depot
- 10** **Morning Mingle**
8 a.m., Garnett Public Library
Delphian Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting
7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge
- 11** **Veterans Day**
City Hall closed. **PLEASE note Friday's trash will be picked up on Thursday.*
- 11-12** **Holiday Open Houses**
Hosted by Morning Mingle
Airport Advisory Board Meeting
4 p.m., Garnett Industrial Airport
- 14** **American legion Auxiliary Meeting**
5:30 p.m., VFW Post 6397
Library Board Meeting
6 p.m., Garnett Public Library
Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
6 p.m., City Hall
American Legion Meeting
7 p.m., VFW Post 6397
Garnett Housing Authority Meeting
7 p.m., GHA Office
- 15** **Anderson County Economic Development Meeting (ACDA)**
5 p.m., City Hall

- 15** **Garnett BPW Meeting**
5:30 p.m., Town Hall Center
Garnett Planning Commission
6 p.m., City Hall
- 17** **Emergency Food Distribution**
2 p.m., Quonset Hut
Walker Art Committee Meeting
4 p.m., Archer Room, Garnett Public Library
- 19** **Gospel Music on the Square, 7 p.m.**
Community Building, North Lake Park
- 20** **VFW Breakfast**
9 a.m.-1p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 21** **Garnett Lions Club Meeting**
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 22** **City Commission Meeting**
6 p.m., City Hall
- 24** **Thanksgiving**
City Hall closed.
**PLEASE note special holiday trash schedules - see "Did You know"*
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
12 p.m., Garnett Senior Center
- 26** **Small Business Saturday**
Support local, shop Garnett!
Garnett Fire Department Chili & Soup Supper
4 p.m., Fire Station
51st Annual Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade
6:30 p.m., Town Square

DECEMBER

- 1** **Anderson County Historical Society Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Museum**
USD 365 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Board Office
- 4** **FOL Holiday Homes Tour**
Begins at 1 p.m., Hope Anthem Church
- 5** **Garnett Lions Club Meeting**
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 6** **Community Foundation Meeting**
5:30 p.m., Recreation Center
Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting
7 p.m., Garnett Nutrition Site
- 8** **Morning Mingle**
8 a.m., Garnett Public Library
Delphian Masonic Lodge Meeting
7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge
- 9** **Airport Advisory Board Meeting**
4:00 p.m., Garnett Industrial Airport
- 12** **American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**
5:30 p.m., VFW Post 6397
Library Board Meeting
6 p.m., Garnett Public Library
American Legion Meeting
7 p.m., VFW Post 6397
Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
7 p.m., City Hall

- 12** **Garnett Housing Authority Advisory Board Meeting**
7 p.m., GHA Office
- 13** **Recycle Trailer @ Country Mart Parking Lot, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., courtesy of Anderson County Solid Waste**
City Commission Meeting
6 p.m., City Hall
- 14** **Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**
4:30 p.m., City Hall
VFW Auxiliary Meeting
6-8 p.m., VFW Post 6397
VFW Post 6397 Meeting
6-8 p.m., VFW Post 6397
Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail Meeting
7 p.m., Santa Fe Depot
- 15** **Walker Art Committee Meeting**
4 p.m., Walker Art Gallery
- 18** **VFW Breakfast Buffet**
9 a.m.—1 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 19** **Garnett Lions Club Meeting**
6 p.m., VFW Post 6397
- 20** **No Storytime for Preschoolers**
Anderson County Economic Development Meeting (ACDA)
5 p.m., City Hall
Garnett BPW Meeting
5:30 p.m., Town Hall Center
Garnett Planning Commission
6 p.m., City Hall
- 22** **Emergency Food Distribution**
2 p.m., Quonset Hut, North Park
- 25** **Christmas Day holiday observed, City Hall closed. *Merry Christmas!***
**PLEASE note special holiday trash schedules - see "Did You Know"*
Community Christmas Dinner
12 p.m., Garnett Senior Center
- 27** **City Commission Meeting**
6 p.m., City Hall

JANUARY 2022

- 1** **New Year's Day holiday observed, *Happy New Year!* City Hall closed.**
**PLEASE note special holiday trash schedules - see "Did You Know"*

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

Two Clean-Up Weeks, Back-to-Back

Brush ONLY - October 24-28; Clean-Up Week - October 31-November 4

Brush Only Clean-Up Week - What You Need to Know...

The City of Garnett will hold a free of charge, brush only, pick-up service for all City of Garnett refuse customers the week of October 24-28, 2022. Brush to be accepted includes tree limbs, yard and garden debris only. No refuse, trash or household items will be allowed to be mixed in with brush. If such items are bagged or piled together with brush, then all contents provided for pick-up will not be removed.

The City will dispose of the brush at the city-owned burn site specifically for tree limbs, yard and garden debris.

Brush is to be piled near the alley or curbside near where weekly trash is picked up.

City crews will begin on Monday, October 24 on the north side of the city, working their way south until the entire town has been covered. They will not return to an area once they have been by. Please have your brush only items ready for pick up as early as possible, preferably by 6 a.m.

Clean-Up Week - What You Need to Know...

The Garnett City Commission has designated October 31 through November 4 as Fall Clean-Up Week for residential areas only.

The City of Garnett has not had a Clean-Up Week since September of 2018. City-Wide Clean-Up Week allows city crews to pick up items left curbside, or alley, to dispose of at the county landfill at no charge to city refuse customers who participate by placing their unwanted items out for pick up. This annual clean-up program was established back in October of 1969. The annual, week-long event had become so popular with residents that a bi-annual program was offered both in the spring and fall to City of Garnett residential refuse customers until 2019.

In the past, the City of Garnett was not charged by Anderson County for disposal of Clean-Up Week items taken to the County Landfill. Likewise, Anderson County had allowed for a Free Dump Week to give all Anderson County residents the opportunity to discard unwanted items at the landfill at no charge. **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- At this time, there will not be a Free Dump Week for Garnett/Anderson County residents. Anyone taking items to the landfill for disposal will be charged a fee.
- The City of Garnett (municipality) will be charged by Anderson County for dumping fees for items picked up during Clean-Up Week, just like any other week. For this year (2022), this cost will not be passed on to our refuse customers.

During City-Wide Clean-Up Week, October 31 through November 4, city crews will start on the north side of town and proceed south until the entire town has been covered. City crews will not go back once they have been through. Please be ready!

The following items must be placed in separate piles:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| - Brush | - Leaves and lawn clippings | - Paper | - Metal (No car or vehicle parts) | - Appliances |
| - Furniture | - Lumber | - Rock/Concrete | - Shingles | - Sheet Rock |

*If items are not placed in separate piles they will not be picked up.

The following items will NOT be accepted or taken by the City of Garnett:

Any appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners containing freon; dilapidated buildings, batteries, electronics, computers, paint, or hazardous waste items.

The City of Garnett will be evaluating the program to determine if there will be a future City-Wide Clean-Up Week in 2023. Please watch the local newspaper and our social media for any updates that may occur.

From Economic Development, continued...

Lone Elm, Westphalia.

ACDA looks at all possible avenues to grow entrepreneurs in our county. We are an E-Community designated by NetWork Kansas. This designation enables us to participate in certified programs. One of those programs is the *Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge*. In 2021, Crest High School, under the direction of Beth Zimmerman, allowed us to bring this program to her business class. Thirteen students created businesses and prepared executive summaries, trade show displays and a 4-minute presentation. NetWork Kansas offered a grant to help with ex-

penses and provides prize awards for the top three businesses. Crest High School is once again participating for the 2022/2023 school year. The local winner will be given the opportunity to compete at the Kansas State Entrepreneur Competition.

If you have interest or desire information on any of what I have shared, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office located at City.

Sincerely,

Julie Turnipseed
ACDA Director

IMPORTANT!

All brush, tree limbs and garden waste will be picked up free of charge -

ONLY during
"BRUSH ONLY CLEAN-UP WEEK",
October 24-28.

DO NOT SET BRUSH OUT
October 31-November 4

If brush, tree limbs and garden waste are set out for removal during "Fall Clean-Up Week", it will NOT be picked up.

From the Director of Public Works...

There has been a lot progress in Garnett's Public Works departments this summer and more to continue this fall. Many tasks and accomplishments being taken on by public works staff have not been completed in some time and they are proving Garnett has the capability to take care of itself.

At the Garnett Water Treatment Plant Jeff Mucklow obtained his Class IV Water Treatment License, and Zach Smothers his Class II Water treatment License. Jeff is now the 3rd operator on staff with a Class IV license, which I'm told is a first for the City of Garnett. This is testament to the culture being created there.

The water plant also completed their lead and copper sampling and testing for 2022. These results will be included in the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report. Superintendent James Howard would like to thank all the citizens that participated and assisted with this sampling.

The City's contracted engineering firm, P.E.C. is hammering out the final verbiage with K.D.H.E. on the new water plant. As soon as that's complete, P.E.C. will start putting the project out to bid. There date when the water plant is beginning its annual chlorine burnout is October 3. Please see notifications in the newspaper and on Garnett's website and social media.

The Garnett Wastewater plant has continued replacement of major components reaching their 20-year life span. They also replaced sewer main along the 100 and 200 block of North Olive.

The Garnett Gas Department upgraded and replaced an old unprotected steel gas main to a P.E. gas main from the 600 to 900 block of West 4th. They have another major line replacement planned for North Oak Street early this Fall. The department also replaced an old cast water main on the 400 block of North Cedar. 300 feet of waterline and a high rise was installed at the south shop to improve salt brine mixing for the coming winter.

The Garnett Gas Department is continuing to improve its training. Along with quarterly breakout sessions, the entire department attended hands on O.Q. training at the KMU facility in McPherson on August 31st and September 1st.

The refuse department has been completing the new trash route for a few months now. There have been several "hick-ups" mainly due to repeated mechanical failures. I apologize for these inconveniences as they can be very frustrating. But help is on the way! Manager Wilson and the City Commission have approved the purchase of a new Freightliner trash truck with a Cobra compactor. Although supply lines are making everything more difficult, we're hoping to be rolling down your alley with the new truck by Halloween.

There is a lot going on in the Garnett Street Department as well. They have reworked the ground south of Crystal Lake in preparation of park construction. A small section of East Monroe had a complete rebuild in front of Parkside Place. Fifty feet of curb was replaced on Maple Street and one-thousand feet of curb on North Elm will be replaced by the time of this printing. Lazy guttering has been replaced on North Cedar. In the coming weeks the majority of Elm Street and West 3rd Street will be resurfaced with blacktop along with sections of 8th and 9th Streets.

As the number of staff, equipment, and dollars are limited, out-

side of the norm projects can be difficult to complete. These public works departments and staff members do a fantastic job of working together and are completing infrastructure projects that many towns of similar size can't. That I am proud of.

Lastly, infrastructure projects often put a wrinkle in the daily routine of citizens. Whether a road is closed on your way to work, the water is off when you need to start a load of laundry, or the gas is off when it's time to cook lunch, it can be very frustrating. We will always attempt to give as much notice as possible. Thank-you Garnett citizens for your patience.

Sincerely,

James DePriest
Director of Public Works

City receives Kansas Waste Tire Grant

The City of Garnett was awarded a matching grant through the Kansas Waste Tire Management Grant Program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to purchase two picnic tables and one wheelchair accessible picnic table, plus four benches made from recycle tire material. The purchased tables and benches will be utilized at the fairgrounds in the North Lake Park. The grant's match is a combination of funding from Garnett Community Development with partnering inkind installation by the Anderson County Fair Association.

As of the printing of this newsletter, the concrete bases have been poured with installation of the tables and benches to be completed soon. These amenities will be available for use for the Anderson County Fair and other activities.

Holiday Season Trash Schedules

Veterans Day week November 7th through 11th

Monday, November 7th - Monday pickup (Normal Service)
Tuesday, November 8th - Tuesday pickup (Normal Service)
Wednesday, November 9th - Wednesday pickup (Normal Service)
Thursday, November 10th - Thursday and Friday pickup
Friday, November 11th - No Service (Closed for Holiday)

Thanksgiving week November 21st through 25th

Monday, November 21st - Monday pickup (Normal Service)
Tuesday, November 22nd - Tuesday and Wednesday pickup
Wednesday, November 23rd - Thursday and Friday pickup
Thursday, November 24th - No Service (Closed for Holiday)
Friday, November 25th - No Service (Closed for Holiday)

Christmas week December 26th through 30th

Monday, December 26th - No Service (Closed for Holiday)
Tuesday, December 27th - Monday pickup
Wednesday, December 28th - Tuesday pickup
Thursday, December 29th - Wednesday pickup
Friday, December 30th - Thursday and Friday pickup

New Year's week January 2nd through 6th, 2023

Monday, January 2nd - No Service (Closed for Holiday)
Tuesday, January 3rd - Monday pickup
Wednesday, January 4th - Tuesday pickup
Thursday, January 5th - Wednesday pickup
Friday, January 6th - Thursday and Friday pickup

Susan Wettstein Retires After 37 Years of Public Service

When I think of all the press releases, articles, and statements I push out to the public on the City's behalf, none is more difficult than announcing when a city employee retires. I always admire their service and sacrifice that perhaps only their co-workers know. So now here I am, writing my own farewell and printing my last official city newsletter, as a public servant for the City of Garnett. I am retiring after more than 37 years of service.

I began this adventure in municipal government in 1985 at the age of almost 23. Let's take a trip back to what 1985 was like for the City of Garnett. We held an "Open House", officially opening Cedar Valley Reservoir shortly after I started work at City Hall. I was hired as a Utility Billing Account Clerk. There were two of us. City Hall was half the size it is now, and computers were fairly a new thing. The City had their first computer system for about a year before I came on board. You know, the big monitors and gigantic mainframe cabinets. It took 5 large discs and 45 minutes to back up the system at the end of each day. Before I go too far, I should remind the Gen Xers and Millennials out there that the Internet was not yet invented. The police department and dispatch office was also located at City Hall. I'll never forget Police Chief Lawrence Kellerman always had the coffee made before you arrived for work. On snowy days he would shovel a path to your car and would ask for your keys and have it warm and the snow cleaned off for you when you left work.

In September of 1994, I transitioned into the position of Administrative Assistant to the City Manager for Richard G. Doran. Never did I know how much I would learn about municipal government and the workings of a utility company. In this role I kept utility generation and distribution records, helped nominate natural gas, gathered information for annexations, helped write grants, such as the AWOS, runway lighting and rotating beacon at the airport and later helped submit for the grant for the water line that now goes directly into the water plant. I helped walk Garnett neighborhoods with other front office staff, collecting LMI information for CDBG sewer line replacement grants. Before transitioning to Admin, I was asked to help with some public relations endeavors, including the early beginnings of the *Town Talk* city newsletter. I learned a lot from dictating letters for the City Manager and helping citizens with inquiries and issues. Mr. Doran was always working on a project. From industrial and business park development, the construction of the fire station, to the sales tax issue that brought us the ball complex, renovation to the library and addition to the Walker Art Gallery. There was the razing of the old hotel and the creation of the Donna Harris Memorial Park, along with Prairie Spirit Rail Trail development and the ISTE grant that funded the renovation of the Santa Fe Depot. I was honored to be asked to serve on the Design Committee for both the downtown park and depot alongside the late Dr. C.B. Harris. I also served in multiple capacities as administrative assistant to both Economic Development and the Garnett Housing Authority.

Mr. Doran retired and later in 2014 my title changed to Community Development and Tourism, while still being an administrative assistant to the City Manager. I have a college and business background in tourism and hospitality. So anytime I am given the opportunity to bring events and visitors to the community it brings such joy. There were times when I was given

opportunities to do tourism projects. I also was accepted the option to attend grant writing school through the Lake Region RC&D.

Under City Manager Joyce Martin, I successfully wrote an AFG federal grant to replace all of the bunker gear for the Garnett Volunteer Fire Department. Mrs. Martin is and always has been very community minded and what a wonderful mentor of how to get things done. Her work ethic unmatched and her ability to multitask gave you no excuse but to rise to the occasion and do your best.

I had pitched a partnership idea to help the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce, the key business organization for the community, while helping the City with an affordable cost-sharing of a city/chamber employee. At the time of this partnership Economic Development (ACDA) was also housed at City Hall as a part-time position. Having the City Hall as a "one-stop shop" made sense to me for businesses seeking resources to expand their business to Garnett. When the part-time Economic Development Director retired,

I asked for this to be a full-time position. Whenever I have been asked to survey our citizens about what was most important to them, "new businesses" and "good paying jobs" was at the top of the list. In my mind we were part-timing what citizens value most. Both the Chamber moving to City Hall and a full-time Economic Development Director are located at City Hall. It was always my sincere desire to do what we can to help Garnett thrive and prosper.

My position over the years has morphed into website creation and design, the face behind the social media for the City of Garnett and creating brochures and marketing projects. I have been the PIO (Public Information Officer) for the City of Garnett in times of emergency. Through Community Development and Tourism, we have hosted countless meetings and conferences, bus tours and group tours. Our department's most well-known project is probably the Garnett Remembers Patriotic Banner Project honoring 320 local veterans. I just received a call this week with another city wanting the playbook on how to develop a patriotic banner project in their community. This makes at least the sixth such request. So know that other communities are taking notice of what many banner sponsors helped to create. With the guidance of the Tourism Advisory Committee, I am proud to have administered the Transient Guest Tax Local Events Grant Program and developed the new Tourism Destination Oriented Sign Grant Program (TODS). When asking both the Tourism Committee and the City Commission to support an idea of hosting a New Special Event Contest for 2022, I had no idea five fantastic event concepts would come out of it as winners all in one year. Looking back, I have so enjoyed planning and organizing Garnett's Sesquicentennial (150th) Committee and year-long celebration in 2011, and coordinating the annual Libertyfest Community Fireworks since 2016, in which we were able to add entertainment and food trucks this past year.

Anderson County Review Publisher, Dane Hicks, asked me what my accomplishments were for a newspaper article. If you know me you would know my first response is to joke that not getting fired is probably at the top! But to be honest, I never accomplished anything on my own. I have been blessed to work with some very talented people who while I might be "the face" citizen talks to, the city workers both inside City Hall and out in



Susan Wettstein - 1994



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Susan Wettstein Retires continued...

the field provided their talent and expertise. It is really those people that deserve the credit. It is other city workers who put the infrastructure in for special events, make the banners and city flags fly, the ball drop on New Year's Eve, the speaker system play music, the trees on 4th Avenue flourish, design and build the sunflower bike racks and kiosks throughout the parks that look like works of art. Those employees deserve many thanks for putting up with the next "Susan email" or project.

To answer Mr. Hicks' question, I have been blessed through the years and here's a short list of accolades:

2010 – Social Media Award for City of Garnett Tourism, presented by Kansas Tourism and Travel Industry Association of Kansas

2012 – Municipal Administrative Professional of the Year Award (Nancy Crain Memorial), presented by the Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities

2014 – We Kan! Award, "Working for the Good of Garnett", presented by the Kansas Sampler Foundation

2015 – Kansas Destination Specialist Award, presented by Travel Industry Association of Kansas

As I walk out the door of City Hall for the last time, from a place that has been more my home for the many hours I have spent here than at my residence, I feel sad that I didn't do more for you, the citizens, while I was here. Garnett has so much potential. So much more. Best of wishes to the person that takes my place, or whatever new way they choose to proceed. I challenge all of us, whether city employees or citizens, to wake up every day with the goal of making Garnett the community others envy and desire to be. Don't let Garnett be just another place where people work or own businesses, but then go home to somewhere else. Do your part to make Garnett "that place" where people want to call their home. Where future generations want to be. Don't just talk about it. Be an active partner in the solutions that make you proud to call Garnett your community.

While I have been a city employee for most of my life, my title as a city employee does not define me. I will go home, rest for a bit, and enjoy time with those dear to me. I want to still be active in the community, when possible. My husband Don and I are blessed to have our children and grandchildren living right here where we want to be, in Garnett.

It has been an honor to serve you.

Thank You and God Bless,

Susan Wettstein, Director
Community Development and Tourism

News from the Airport Manager...

The heat of summer is finally over and now it is time to enjoy some nice flying (or anything!) weather. It is the season for events/festivals and the airport is no different. We had our first annual Fall Fly-in and Breakfast on September 24th. Everyone enjoyed a good breakfast by the Garnett Church of the Nazarene.

We have filled our two openings on our Airport Advisory Board with two wonderful additions! Allison Benton and Don Nungesser have both agreed to serve for two-year terms on the board and both are pilots. They, along with the other members of my board, are greatly valued for their help steering the decision making for the airport and local community.

We have started building up the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds with the additional \$110,000 per year that was in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) infrastructure grant that we received. This \$260,000 per year money will be spent working on updating the airport and the future runway project. Again, these projects are either 90 or 95 percent funded by the FAA. I just have to do the legwork and paperwork to get in line for the money from them. I am also still working on other grants from the KDOT Aviation Dept, KDOT and the FAA BIL local airport grant.

Garver just completed our Environmental Assessment and will be submitting it to the FAA soon. The inspection only found two minor issues with the possible presence of a plant and a bat living in the vicinity which were found to actually not be located in the area. Once this is approved by the FAA we will proceed on to the next step of our LONG process to get federal money to rebuild our deteriorating runway. I hear these stories of larger airports spending millions to do superfluous improvements when we just want to spend a small amount to actually fix ours to last for the next 40 years.

When I started this job, I had several initial goals such as updating our airport car and improving the image of the airport through projects such as replacing the fueling apron. Also, getting a flying club started and acquiring a local plane for new pilots to use. Another goal has been to find instructors and an active mechanic located on the airfield. I feel like I have achieved all of these goals with little to no local money invested. Now to continue to pursue the long term goal of an affordable runway.

The BlueDog Flying Club had its first meeting and has started flying. The flying club isn't associated with the City, but it will be a valuable addition to the airport. It will be an affordable way for the local public to be introduced to flying. We should have the initial group set up and flying by mid-October. If you are interested in aviation and would like to be a part of the flying club, even if you aren't ready to fly, come in and we can talk!

Pat Schettler
Garnett Airport Manager (K68)