

# Town Talk

SPRING 2021

#simplyrelaxing



City Commission



Jody Cole,  
Mayor



Cody Gettler,  
Commissioner



Greg Gwin,  
Commissioner

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# Garnett, Kansas

## From The Commission...

If you are anything like me, spring could not come soon enough this year! With spring, we say good-bye to the harsh cold of winter and its long, dreary gray skies, and welcome the season of rebirth, a season that encourages us to open our windows, step outside, and once again delight in the sound of birds chirping, the sight of flowers blooming, and the feeling of warm sun on our face. More so than in years past, those simple delights seem extraordinarily important - even precious - in this season where renewal ushers in more than sunshine and blue skies; it brings the spirit of hope and opportunity.

I am excited for the next few months as we have a lot on our agenda. We plan to move forward with several large projects including the Airport Runway Project, Water Treatment Plant, and Maple Street KDOT Project.

The airport runway project is essential for us as we work to recruit and retain businesses in our community. Throughout Kansas, hundreds of businesses capitalize on increased efficiency and productivity from aviation. Aviation in Garnett supports agriculture, tourism, emergency medical services, and military uses as well as light industry. Improvements to the Garnett Industrial Airport will only increase the use of our facility and enhance the opportunities that will help make our community thrive.

According to the Kansas Aviation Economic Impact Study completed in 2017, the impact of Garnett Industrial Airport on our economy is just over \$900,000 annually. Lakin, Kansas is comparable in size to Garnett and has a runway that is similar to the new proposed Garnett runway. The economic impact to their community according to the same study is \$2,003,200. In comparison, Paola has a population of 5,760, with a runway similar in size to the proposed Garnett runway; the Paola runway has an economic impact of \$4,299,100 annually. As this report indicates, improvements such as the proposed runway expansion can be an economic boost to our community and county economies, and the general quality of life.

Cities	Annual Arrivals	Annual Visitors	Annual Visitor Expenditures	Average Visitor Spending Per Trip
Garnett	150	74	\$1,900	\$25
Lakin	250	124	\$3,100	\$25
Paola	1,738	860	\$21,500	\$25

Source: Kansas Aviation Economic Impact Study update.

*Continued on page 2.*

# From the City Commission...

*Continued from page 1.*

## Airport Runway Project Timeline:

- 2020 Concrete Fueling Apron Remodel. 100% FAA Funded (\$420K)
- 2020 Taxiway mill and remodel. 100% FAA Funded
- 2020 Runway Crack Seal. 90/10 KDOT Project (\$42K)
- 2021 Finalize Master Plan (spring)
- 2021 Acquire FAA approval to move forward with land acquisition
- 2022 Start road construction and tree removal and trimming
- 2023 Start Proposed New 18/36 Runway Project to 3400 feet long x 75 feet wide, 97% Federal and State Funded



## Water Treatment Plant Timeline continued...

- 2021 100% review with the City (June)
- 2021 100% comments from the City (July)
- 2021 Submit to KDHE
- 2021 We have a placeholder in 3 months for KDHE to review plans (October)
- 2021 Pull together bid documents and advertise for 30 days (November)
- 2022 Evaluation of bids and award of contract 60 days
- 2022 PEC issues Notice to Proceed
- 2023 Current estimate for construction which would last about 12-18 months

## Water Treatment Plant Timeline:

- The current schedule is as follows -
- 2021 90% submittal to the City (March)
- 2021 90% review with the City (April)
- 2021 90% comments from the City (May)
- 2021 100% submittal to the City (June)

The Maple Street KDOT US 59 project will create stormwater drainage from 4th to 1st Avenues on Maple Street and will hopefully alleviate the flooding issues that we have in that area during heavy rains. This project is being funded with 2/3 grant monies and is expected to begin in 2022.

## Maple Street Project Timeline:

- 2021 Finalize designs this summer or early fall
- 2021 Go to bid and award contract this winter
- 2022 Construction to begin next spring with completion late summer or early fall.



During April, May, and June we hope you will take time to get out and support the following events. You can visit the City of Garnett's website at [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com) or our Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter pages to stay up-to-date on all events.

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
3 - Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt and Festival	6 - Farmers' Market Season Opens	3 - The Chamber Players present, "Mondays Always Lead to Murder"
10 - Spring City Wide Garage Sale Day	8 - Garnett BPW presents the 48th Annual Square Fair	5 - Southland Cruisers presents, the 5th Annual Car, Bike, and Truck Show
April 29-May 2 - The Chamber Players present, "Leaving Iowa"	8 - Garnett Industrial Airport hosts Air Fair	18-19 - Garnett Lions Club presents the Kansas Dual Sport Safari
	14 - KC Karting hosts Sprint Track Races	
	27 - Celebration of Service, recognizing all veterans	
	28 - Avenue of Flags	
	31 - Memorial Day Service Municipal Cemetery	

Thanks to everyone for making Garnett a great place to live and call home.

Many Blessings,

Jody Cole,  
Mayor

## From the City Manager...

Spring is finally upon us! After what seemed like the hardest, and coldest two weeks of winter in at least my lifetime, I am so very happy to see the sunshine! Unfortunately, the warmer weather brings with it the risk of severe storms. I am happy to announce that we have a new storm shelter which is located on the corner of Oak Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This shelter will always be available to the public during severe weather. J.D. Mersman, Anderson County Emergency Management Director, deserves the praise for this project. J.D. was able to obtain a grant and get both the City and County on board to support this project. The City of Garnett would like to thank J.D. for his outstanding work on this, and many other projects that he has coordinated.



I would like to provide our readers with an update on the utility crisis that gripped all of us and the entire Midwest this past month. The City of Garnett purchases gas through our consultant, the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency (KMGA), during the summer at lower prices and store it until winter each year. We also buy gas both at the beginning of each month and on the daily market to make up the remaining expected gas usage, largely based on the weather forecast, to supplement our stored gas withdrawals. For over thirty years, the City and KMGA have consistently utilized this purchasing strategy to ensure the best prices for our residents. As you know, we experienced an extreme weather situation this year which led to an abundance of natural gas consumption across the Midwest. While up until this point, we had experienced a relatively mild winter, the almost two-week period (2/6 – 2/18) never reached above freezing and for ten days in a row it never got above 15 degrees. Along with colder temperatures all of our heating systems, mostly natural gas based, stayed on longer and ran more frequently to heat our homes and businesses. Our community's daily average natural gas usage in February was over 14% higher than the next closest month over the past five years. Our peak daily usage was also 12% higher than any other day over the past five years.

Due to the natural gas demand being so high, as well as interruptions in supply due to gas wells freezing in Texas, the market price of natural gas grew exponentially. As I explained previously, while we do have gas in storage to utilize as well as we locked in additional gas supply at a fixed price at the beginning of the month, we still had to purchase gas on the daily market to meet our demand. As our estimated price per unit of natural gas for the month of February was under \$3, it rose to \$329.60 per unit over the President's Day weekend and continued to rise to \$622.79 per unit that next Wednesday. Due to the amount of natural gas utilized and the prices we were forced to buy at, the City has incurred an anticipated cost for natural gas service for the month of February of over \$3.4 million. For comparison, a normal monthly bill during the winter is approximately \$60,000 - \$70,000. Our annual budget for the natural gas utility's operations is only \$990,000.

As the natural gas prices skyrocketed and the cold continued to persist across the Midwest, the natural gas market negatively impacted the market for electricity. As a majority of electricity in our region is produced from natural gas the costs to run those

electrical generators also skyrocketed. In conjunction, there was cloud cover with little to no wind across the Midwest, eliminating any significant electrical production from wind or solar farms. Even coal power plants were not very efficient in generating electricity as it was so cold that the coal froze, reducing the electricity generated from burning each piece of coal. Similarly to the market for natural gas, the price per Megawatt Hour (Mwh) of electricity grew from approximately \$30 to over \$4,500. Along with the demand for natural gas, demand for electricity grew as the cold deepened. As demand for electricity grew and supply of electricity became less due to complications from the weather, rolling blackouts were instituted across the Midwest to try and ensure no one had to go without power for too long. Thankfully, due to our community having a municipal power plant, we were able to produce our own electricity, keeping our electric customers from being subjected to the rolling blackouts, while also largely avoiding having to purchase electricity off of the market at those ridiculous prices. While we rarely operate our power plant, due to the cost being well above the market average of \$30, outages and high market prices such as these are exactly why we keep our plant staffed and operational.

While we monitor and estimate gas and electrical usage to the best of our ability from year-to-year, an event of this magnitude is unfortunately impossible to predict. I would like to ensure you that the Governing Body and myself have and are continuing to explore all avenues including legislative, regulatory, and financial to combat this situation. In my personal opinion, I believe this is pure price gouging on behalf of the producers and suppliers of natural gas as they took advantage of a crisis at the expense of the public who was willing to pay any price due to the life-or-death nature of the situation. There was no choice but to prioritize providing natural gas to our customers to keep them from freezing in their homes. While we continue to push our legislators and elected officials in Topeka and Washington D.C. to conduct an investigation and come to this same conclusion, we have applied for a loan while we await the results from this investigation. While you may have noticed a higher utility bill for the month of February, due to increased consumption, the City of Garnett has not increased utility rates thus far in 2021. Our hope is that the investigation into price gouging concludes in our favor and we will be reimbursed our payments to repay the loan and recover our losses. In the event we do not see such a successful resolution to these investigations, or if they drag on for a while, we will likely be forced to raise rates in order to make our debt payments on this loan.

On a much lighter note, I'd like to remind everyone of some of our fun locations and activities here in Garnett. Remember these for your next family outing!

**Town Hall Center** – Anyone can rent Town Hall Center by the hour for events such as birthday parties, baby/wedding showers, game nights, cooking/sales parties, reunions, etc. This venue can accommodate up to 49 people and is very inexpensive to rent. Contact City Hall for more information.

**The StoryWalk** – The Garnett Public Library has created the StoryWalk on the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail between Park Road and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The stories, located in kiosks, change throughout the year, usually every 6-8 weeks. This is a fun way to incorporate reading with exercising. Make sure you stop by the Library for a prize after you finish the StoryWalk!

*Continued on page 4.*

**The Walker Art Collection** – While you are at the Library, make sure you take a stroll over to the west side. The Walker Art Gallery is an art collection that you do not want to miss! The displays change throughout the year. Connecting the library to the gallery is an exhibit area that pays tribute to local artists.

**The Rec** – The Garnett Recreation Center is home to many workout classes. You can participate in everything from weight training to Yoga. Memberships are available and the Rec is open 24-hours a day for members.

**Trout Fishing** – Crystal Lake (or the South Lake), located in Veterans Memorial Park, is stocked with fish for Rainbow Trout Season, held November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> each year. This is great for the avid fisher in your life!

**Season Passes** – The Rec Center is currently working on an online purchase option for season passes for the Garnett Municipal Swimming Pool. Stay tuned! A perfect hot weather activity, the pool opens on Memorial Day Weekend! Water aerobics classes are also available.

Visit the City of Garnett’s website at [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com), or our Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter pages to stay up-to-date on events and amenities.

Thank all of you for being a part of and making Garnett the most wonderful place to call home. Thank you all again for the opportunity to serve Garnett as your City Manager.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Weiner,  
City Manager

## From the City Clerk...

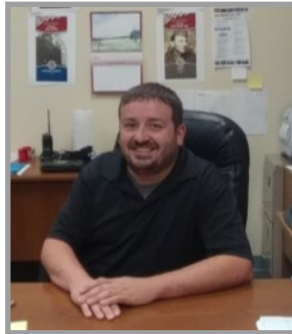
2021 is here! Hard to believe we are already a few months in. Time is flying!

We are still working toward offering email billing to our customers. Although there have been a few snags during this process, we are working with our software vendor to get this implemented. If you would like to receive your utility bills through email, give us a call at (785) 448-5496 so we can add you to the list. This process is taking longer than we anticipated. We would like to say thank you for your patience with us as we tread through this change.

As we continue through implementing email billing, our methods of payments are not changing as we will still take payment by cash, check, money order and credit card, either through our online bill pay or over the phone. 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.

We would also like to report that our camping reservations are online. This process is handled through our Recreation Department with the RecDesk program ([www.garnettrecreation.recdesk.com](http://www.garnettrecreation.recdesk.com)). To reserve a camping site, you must create a free online RecDesk profile. Feel free to reach out to the Garnett Rec Center staff if you have any questions pertaining to the RecDesk program and reserving the campsites.

Another thing we are in the process of updating is our hunting permits for use at Cedar Valley Reservoir. Previously, a couple of the hunting seasons were combined on one permit which



made them very confusing, as well as the season dates were not listed on the permits. Going forward, all animals will have their own permit that will include the dates of the seasons. Office Staff felt this would make the permits less confusing for both staff and those wishing to hunt at Cedar Valley Reservoir. We also made a change to the process the permits are given out. Previously, someone could come in the first of the year and sign for a permit that may not start for several months. Going forward, we will only issue permits two weeks prior to a season starting. We are only issuing six (6) permits per season. If there is a particular season you are wanting to hunt, be sure to swing by City Hall two weeks prior to the season starting and get a permit. They go fast!

Lastly, I would like to note that we will be changing our front lobby hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We have changed our balancing process which resulted in the thirty minutes at the beginning of the day no longer necessary for balancing. Although we have not had many, we have had a few customers coming at 8:00 a.m. only to have to either wait or leave and return at 8:30 a.m. Although it is only thirty minutes, we hope this will benefit them by being open a little earlier.

We are always looking for ways to better serve our community and we cannot thank you all enough for your patience with us as we make these changes.

Travis Wilson,  
City Clerk

## From the Zoning Desk...

On Tuesday February 16th, FEMA ran the second publication marking the official start of the 90-day Preliminary floodplain maps appeal period in the *Garnett Review*. This 90-day appeal period is an opportunity for landowners who are scheduled to be affected by these new preliminary maps to present scientific evidence to remove their inclusion in the new maps. Applications must be submitted before the end of this 90-day period. Following this 90-day appeal period, FEMA and the Kansas Department of Agriculture will have a “revision period” where any effective appeals will be factored into the maps, after this period has run its course the revised maps will then become firm. I have reached out to landowners who are scheduled to be affected by these new preliminary maps. If you are concerned for property you own or would just like more information on the floodplain maps, copies open to the public are located in City Hall.

As spring is right around the corner and we head towards warmer weather many permitting questions begin to arise. Permit applications, current city adopted building codes and some permit requirement information can be found on our website, [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com).

I am leaving the City as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. It has been a pleasure working in Garnett. As always, contact Garnett City Hall with any zoning or permitting questions, 785-448-5496. In the interim of finding a permanent replacement, Desiree Donovan, Administrative Assistant, will help with Zoning and Code Enforcement issues.

Sincerely,

Garrett Gross,  
Building Official/Zoning Administrator

# Spring Calendar of Activities and Events

Check out our Bulletin Board, Community and Special Events Calendars - [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com)



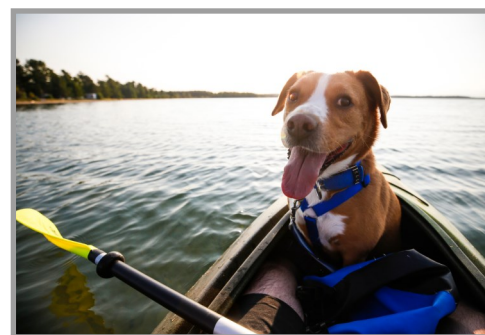
## APRIL

- 1** **TOPS Meeting**  
Every Thursday  
Garnett First United Methodist Church, 9-10 a.m.  
**PM Yoga**  
Every T-W-TH, Garnett Rec Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
510 S. Oak, 7-8 p.m.  
**USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**, Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 3** **Garnett Recreation Spring Soccer Begins**  
**Garnett Community Easter Eggstravaganza, Egg Hunt/Festival**, hosted by AC CARTS, Hope Anthem Church, stadium and Legion Field, North Lake Park, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 4** **Happy Easter!**
- 5** **Anderson County Commission Meeting**, Every Monday, Annex Building, 9 a.m.  
**Garnett Celebrate Recovery**  
Every Monday, Garnett Church of the Nazarene, 6-8 p.m.  
**Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 6** **Strong (her) Class Ends**  
Garnett Rec Center  
**Storytime for Preschoolers**  
Every Tuesday, Online, Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.  
**Rotary International Club Meeting**  
Every Tuesday  
Dutch Country Café, 12-1 p.m.  
**Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**  
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.  
**Community Foundation Meeting**  
Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.  
**American Legion Bingo**  
Every Tuesday,  
VFW Post 6397, 6-8 p.m.  
**Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**  
Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.

- 8** **Wake Up Cardio Ends**  
**Deadline for Early Bird Baseball Sign-ups (Pre-K through 15U)**  
[garnettrecreation.recdesk.com](http://garnettrecreation.recdesk.com)  
**Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting**  
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.
- 9** **Morning Mingle**  
City Hall, 8 a.m.  
**Airport Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 10** **Spring City Wide Garage Sale Day**
- 12** **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.  
**Garnet Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting**, City Hall, 7 p.m.  
**Garnett Housing Authority Board Meeting**, GHA Office, 7 p.m.
- 13** **Anderson County Recycling Trailer**  
Country Mart Parking Lot  
**City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall 6 p.m.
- 15** **Walker Art Committee Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 18** **VFW Breakfast**  
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Bridal Fair**, Rustic Rock Venue  
130 E. 5th Avenue, 1-4 p.m.
- 19-23** **Brush Only Clean-up Week**
- 19** **Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 20** **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.
- 22** **Emergency Food Distribution**  
**Harvesters**, Quonset-North Lake Park, 2 p.m.
- 23** **Anderson County Caregiver Support Group**, 105 Park Plaza North, 1 p.m.
- 27** **City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 28** **Book Discussion, "The Book of Lost Friends"**, Garnett Public Library (via Zoom), 7 p.m.
- April 29-May 2: "Leaving Iowa", Live Dinner Theatre**, presented by The Chamber Players Community Theatre
- 29** **Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet**  
Anderson County Fairgrounds, North Lake Park, 5:30 p.m.

## MAY

- 1** **Anderson County Historical Museum** - Opens for summer, Weekly: Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m.  
**Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 4** **Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**  
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Community Foundation Board Meeting**, Rec Center, 5:30 p.m.  
**Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**  
Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.
- 5** **Cinco De Mayo**  
**May 6-October 7: Farmers Market Season**  
Every Thursday, Main Street, 4:30-7 p.m.
- 6** **Anderson County Historical Society Meeting**, Museum, 6:30 p.m.  
**USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**, Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 8** **Garnett Recreation Spring Soccer Ends**  
**Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast**, Garnett Fire Station, 7 a.m.  
**Air Fair**, Garnett Industrial Airport, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**48th Annual Square Fair**, hosted by Garnett BPW, Town Square, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Quilt Show**, hosted by Pieces and Patches Quilt Guild, Senior Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 9** **Happy Mother's Day!**  
**Deadline for Garnett Recreation Coed Softball League Registration**, [garnettrecreation.recdesk.com](http://garnettrecreation.recdesk.com)
- 10** **Property Tax Due** (Second half), Anderson County Treasurer's Office  
**American Legion Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 5:30 p.m.  
**Library Board Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.
- 10** **American Legion Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.



# Connect with your community!



## MAY (continued)...

- 10 **Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting**  
City Hall, 7 p.m.
- Garnett Housing Authority Board Meeting**, GHA Office, 7 p.m.
- 11 **Anderson County Recycling Trailer**  
Country Mart Parking Lot
- City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 12 **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**, Rec Center, 6 p.m.
- VFW Post 6397 Meeting**  
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post Home, 6-8 p.m.
- 13 **Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting**  
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.
- 14-16 **Sprint Track Races**, hosted by Kansas City Karting Association, Sprint Track-North Lake Park
- 14 **Morning Mingle**  
City Hall, 8 a.m.
- Airport Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Industrial Airport, 4 p.m.
- 16 **VFW Breakfast**  
VFW Post 6397, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 17 **Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 18 **ACDA - Economic Development Meeting**, City Hall, 5 p.m.
- BPW Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 20 **Walker Art Committee Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 24 **Anderson County Caregiver Support Group**, 105 Park Plaza N., 1 p.m.
- 25 **City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 26 **Book Discussion (TBA)**, Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 27 **Emergency Food Distribution Harvesters**, Quonset Hut-North Lake Park, 2 p.m.
- Garnett Remembers "Celebration of Service"**, recognizing patriotic banner honorees and all veterans, Garnett Area Community Band and more, Town Square, 7 p.m.
- 28-31 **Avenue of Flags**  
Garnett Municipal Cemetery
- 29 **Garnett Municipal Pool Opens for Summer**, North Lake Park

- TBA **Swimming Lessons Registration begins**, Municipal Pool - garnettrecreation.recdesk.com
- 31 **City Hall closed, Memorial Day Holiday** observed. Note: Trash service will run one (1) day late this week.
- Memorial Day Service**  
Garnett Municipal Cemetery, conducted by American Legion Post 48 & VFW 6397, 10 a.m.

## JUNE

- 1 **Filing Deadline for City Commission position is 12 p.m. (noon) with the Anderson County Clerks Office.**
- Tourism Advisory Board Meeting**  
City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
- Garnett Community Foundation Board Meeting**, Garnett Rec Center, 5:30 p.m.
- Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting**, Garnett Nutrition Site, 7 p.m.
- Library Board Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 6 p.m.
- June 3-6, & 11-13: **"Monday Always Leads to Murder"**, Live Dinner Theatre, presented by The Chamber Players Community Theatre
- 3 **USD 365 Board of Education Meeting**, Board Office, 7 p.m.
- 5 **5th Annual Car, Bike & Truck Show**, hosted by Southland Cruisers, Town Square, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 7 **"Tails and Tales", Summer Reading Program**, Garnett Public Library
- Water Aerobics Begins**  
Garnett Municipal Pool  
M-W-F, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- Garnett Lions Club Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 6 p.m.
- 8 **Anderson County Recycling Trailer**  
Country Mart Parking Lot
- City Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 9 **VFW Post 6397 Meeting**  
VFW Post Home, 6 p.m.
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting**  
VFW Post Home, 6 p.m.
- 10 **Masonic Lodge No. 44 Meeting**  
Masonic Lodge, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 **Morning Mingle**  
City Hall, 8 a.m.
- 11 **Airport Advisory Board Meeting**  
Garnett Municipal Airport, 4 p.m.

- 14 **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**  
City Hall, 7 p.m.
- American Legion Meeting**  
VFW Post 6397, 7 p.m.
- Garnett Housing Authority Board Meeting**, GHA Office, 7 p.m.
- 15 **ACDA - Economic Development Meeting**, City Hall, 5 p.m.
- BPW Meeting**, Archer Room, Garnett Public Library, 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 17 **Walker Art Committee Meeting**  
Garnett Public Library, 4 p.m.
- 18-19 **Kansas Dual Sport Safari Weekend**  
Motorcycle event hosted by Garnett Lions Club, fairgrounds.
- 20 **VFW Breakfast**  
VFW Post Home, 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 **Emergency Food Distribution - Harvesters**, Quonset Hut-North Lake Park, 2 p.m.
- 28 **Anderson County Caregiver Support Group**, 105 Park Plaza North, 1 p.m.

**\*Please Note:**  
All activities, events and dates are subject to change.



### NEW BUSINESS HOURS AT CITY HALL

Monday - Friday (excluding holidays)  
 Front Office: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Drive-Up Window: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 131 W. 5th Avenue 785.448.5496

## Public Works Update...

Public Works Departments all have new uniforms. Public Works encompasses the gas and water department, refuse department, sanitary sewer department, street department, and water plant. The power plant personnel were also included in the new apparel. The safety yellow will make these department employees more visible and identifiable as city staff to the public, as well as to give a professional appearance.

Public Works has three (3) operators enrolled in the Kansas Rural Water Association Apprenticeship Program where they receive 4,000 hours of on-the-job training, as well as 288 hours of classroom instruction provided by KRWA, free of charge to the City.



Pictured L-R in their KRWA Apprenticeship shirts: James Howard, Water Treatment Plant Operator; John Rogers, Gas and Water Maintenance Worker, and Jeff Mucklow, Power Plant Operator. Mentors under this program are Ray Arnett, Director, Gas and Water Department, and Bob Mills, Director, Electric Production.

## Looking Forward...

2021 has started out with a bang, thanks to the Anderson County Fair Association with the launch of the March Madness Demolition Derby. Everyone has been anxious to get outside and have some fun. We encourage you to look at the calendar on page 5-6 of this newsletter, and take in all the fun these activities and the three lakes and over 1,000 acres of parks Garnett has to offer. Square Fair, Air Fair, The Chamber Players Community Theatre, Southland Cruisers Auto Show, karting events and most all of the events you look forward to are now back in action.

Have you viewed the new *Simply...Garnett* banner project? The banners depict 47 images each with a story representing examples of what makes Garnett great. These banners will come down the end of April so that the *Garnett Remembers* patriotic banners can go up. Thanks to many generous sponsors, there are now 310 banner honorees. The patriotic banner project will be on exhibition from before Memorial Day Weekend to after Independence Day Weekend. Cruise Garnett to view these banners.

Did you know that kayaking and disc golf rank among the most popular outdoor sports in the world? We've got the perfect facilities as Jason and Paula Sjolund (front cover) attest! Now is the time to do what you enjoy. This year, make Garnett your destination for fun and relaxation.

## From the Office of Economic Development...

I would like to update you on industrial recruitment in Garnett/Anderson County. Some have mentioned, "We haven't seen any industrial development in the last two and a half years", and you are right if you are just looking for a smokestack to pop up on the horizon of Anderson County. All is not lost as this is how it works.

The Kansas Department of Commerce sends us a Request for Information (RFI) from time to time; not often but occasionally. When we receive those, we begin to see if Anderson County/ Garnett is a good fit. They may need a rail spur, ask for a building with 100,000 square feet, or other requirements. In all cases if we are even close to what they need, we submit our information in hopes we will be selected.

Lately the RFI's have requested larger parcels of land ranging in all sizes from 40 - 200 acres. Land availability is our biggest hindrance currently. If you are reading this article and would be willing to sell your land of any size, please stop by or call 785-504-4265 and let me know. It is very difficult to find land for sale in Anderson County. If you are reading this and you have a lead on someone that might be interested in selling their land, please stop by or call me at the number above. Often the project is on the fast track and we do not have time to call around looking for land, so it is best to know in advance what is available. I have talked with many landowners throughout the county and only a few are willing to sell their land and I want to publicly thank them, because I know that can be a difficult decision. These landowners will be the leaders in bringing Economic Development here.

The process to bring in industrial development is more complex than just answering an RFI and finding land. We are doing so much more to position our County to be ready when the next opportunity comes our way. We are working with small businesses to help them be successful through our Morning Mingle networking group, which is open to all businesses that have a brick-and-mortar presence, and a campaign to help us keep our dollars here called- *Love What's Local*. We continue to help businesses apply for grants and loans due to the economic impact of COVID-19, and funds are still available for small businesses through these grant and loan programs for both city and county businesses.

We are partnering with KansasWorks to help our workforce further their careers. This will also position us to develop our workforce so that we will have access to a more attractive labor force when that next opportunity knocks. KansasWorks brought their Mobile Career Center to Garnett last February just before the pandemic and it will return when travel restrictions are lifted. This mobile unit is equipped with staff from NetWork Kansas to assist job seekers in resume building and job applications.

The Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA) Board has a vision for the future of our community and are working on the creation of a Main Street Program. We elected to become a Kansas Main Street Affiliate Community which gives us access to Main Street training on a quarterly basis. We have begun to build the framework for a successful downtown revitalization program.

Another tool we are working on to enhance our development



*Economic Development, continued on page 10.*

# 2021 Guide to Garnett Outdoor Recreation



## Watersports

As a participant in the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Communities Fisheries Assistance Program, the City of Garnett does not require city boating and fishing permits. However, state boater's registration and state fishing licenses are required. All existing ordinances regulating city parks are in effect. Copies of city park regulations are available at Garnett City Hall, 131 West 5th Avenue or online at [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com).

## Boating

Valid Kansas boater's registration is required to boat on Garnett city lakes.

**Lake Garnett** (a/k/a North Lake Park), 700 N. Lake Road.

Speed boating and water-skiing is permitted on Lake Garnett May 1 to November 15, on the following specified days: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, the first and third Saturdays of each month, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day, from 8:30 a.m. to sunset.

**Crystal Lake** (a/k/a South Lake), Veterans Memorial Park, 424 W. Veteran's Circle Drive (on US 59).

Canoes and fishing boats with electric powered motors are allowed on Crystal Lake. However, gas powered motors are prohibited.

**Cedar Valley Reservoir**, 20499 NW 1500 Road (located approximately 7 miles west of Garnett at Kentucky and 1500 Road).

Boating can be enjoyed year round on Cedar Valley Reservoir, weather permitting. This lake has 3 boat ramps and 3 floating docks.

## Fishing

Game fish stocked in Garnett's fishing areas include Walleye, Wiper, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Bluegill, Bullhead, White Bass, Green Sunfish, White Crappie, Black Crappie, Black Buffalo, Red-ear Sunfish, Large Mouth Bass and Rainbow Trout. Kansas fishing permits required.

### Lake Garnett and Crystal Lake Length Limits

Catfish, except Bullhead, must be	15 inches
Walleye or Wiper must be	18 inches
Crappie must be	10 inches
Black Bass must be less than	13 inches
or more than	18 inches

### Lake Garnett and Crystal Lake Creel Limits

Bluegill (Crystal Lake only)	10
Black Bass	5
Catfish, except Bullhead	2
Crappie	10
Walleye	2
Wiper	2

### Cedar Valley Reservoir Length Limits

Black Bass, Walleye or Wiper	18 inches
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### Cedar Valley Reservoir Creel Limits

Black Bass	5
Walleye	2
Wiper	2
Crappie	50
Catfish, except Bullhead	5



### Rainbow Trout Season

Rainbow Trout Season is held annually at Crystal Lake from approximately November 1 thru April 15. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism requires that Kansas anglers 16 through 74 years of age and non-Kansas residents 16 and older must possess a valid fishing license. All anglers over 16 must possess a state trout permit. Anglers 15 years and younger no longer must possess a trout permit to fish in designated trout waters.

However, there is a daily creel limit of two (2) trout unless they purchase a trout permit which allows a full daily trout creel limit. The daily creel limit is 5 trout.

## Camping

NEW in 2021, all camping is by reservations in advance, online, using the RecDesk portal, [garnettrecreation.recdesk.com](http://garnettrecreation.recdesk.com).

Camping facilities are available in designated areas at all three city owned lakes.

### Lake Garnett

Fourteen camping spots are located at the Clubhouse Bend Campground on the east side of Lake Garnett (adjacent golf course) with electric and water hookups. Twelve camping spots with electric only hookups are located at the Red Jacket Campground on the north side of the lake (near dam). A designated wilderness campsite (tent camping or no hookup) is also located within the Red Jacket Campground area.

### Crystal Lake

Five camping spots with electric and water can be found on the south side of Crystal Lake. Wilderness camping is permitted in a designated area near Prairie Spirit Trail.

### Cedar Valley Reservoir

Wilderness camping is very popular at this scenic lake. There are 12 camping spots close to the park entrance providing electrical hookups for camping. Nearby restroom facilities are also available from April 3 to October 1.

### Reservations and Fees:

Campsites located at all three lakes may be reserved online or by contacting Garnett Recreation Center. **You must have a RecDesk account to reserve campsites.** Please visit [garnettrecreation.recdesk.com](http://garnettrecreation.recdesk.com). Large camping groups are encouraged to make advanced reservations with Garnett Rec Center, 785.448.3023, or by email: [reccenter@garnettks.net](mailto:reccenter@garnettks.net). During community events camping availability may be limited.

Check-out time is 1:00 p.m. on the day of departure.

### Camping Permits:

Wilderness overnight camping per unit, per night:

Garnett resident	\$5
Anderson County resident	\$7
All others	\$9

Electric hookup, overnight camping per unit, per night:

Garnett resident	\$10
Anderson County resident	\$12
All others	\$14

Electric and water hookup, overnight camping per unit, per night:

Garnett resident	\$12
Anderson County resident	\$14
All others	\$16



## ATV Regulations

City permits are required for anyone operating a motorized, non-highway vehicle at Cedar Valley Reservoir. Anyone possessing an age restricted permit (under 16 years of age) can operate an ATV only when accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older) who possesses a valid city ATV permit and who is riding in the general proximity of the age restricted permittee. ATV permits can be purchased at Garnett City Hall, 131 W. 5th Avenue. Call 785-448-5496 for further information.

**Quiet Time:** Please note that "quiet time" is to be observed within any city park, from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. (CST).





# An Important Message From the Gas Department...

## For safety's sake, read this!

Things you should know:

- How, when and where to report a possible gas leak, gas odor, or carbon monoxide problem;
- Call Kansas One Call before you dig;
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as "The Silent Killer";
- Gas appliance connectors;
- Be aware of bare steel gas service lines;
- Excess Flow Valve (EFV) requirements.

It is that time to inform our customers on the hazards of natural gas, and what precautions to take to keep us all safe. Natural gas is very flammable, potentially hazardous, and can be explosive under certain conditions. You can recognize a gas leak by using your senses. Seeing bubbles appear in a wet or flooded area, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise healthy environment, or a sometimes quiet to rather loud hissing sound can be signs of a gas leak. However, in most cases a leak can be recognized by a weak to strong smell of odorant. Our gas system is always odorized so that people can easily detect a leak by its smell.

### **How to report a possible gas leak**

If you smell gas inside or outside a home, business or other structure, please report it to the gas department by calling Garnett City Hall at 785.448.5496. Call the Law Enforcement Dispatch Center at 785.448.6823 after normal business hours. If you have a gas emergency and the odor of natural gas is very strong and seems to be everywhere, DO NOT operate any light switches or try to air out the building, or even use your phone. EXIT IMMEDIATELY to a safe area away from the potential gas leak, such as going to a neighbor's house, and then call 9-1-1. Wait at your safe place for emergency personnel to arrive.

Our natural gas system transports gas to businesses and homes within the City of Garnett. Overall, this system is very reliable and in good condition. We have procedures, such as gas leak surveys, to determine where problem areas may exist and adapt as necessary. Accidents on gas systems are extremely rare but they can occur.

The gas department regularly trains with local emergency personnel, including fire, police and dispatchers. When a gas leak or related incident is reported, the proper department can be dispatched to provide public safety assistance and to respond to the gas emergency.

### **Dig Safe - Call BEFORE you dig!**

Always call Kansas One Call before you dig to have utilities marked. Do this not only for your safety, but because it is the law. Kansas One Call will notify utility companies to mark the area with paint and flags, if their utilities exist. If there are no utilities in the project area usually "OK" is painted on the ground along with a flag, or the utility company will contact you by phone. Contact Kansas One Call by dialing 8-1-1 (not 9-1-1) or by calling 1-800-DIG-SAFE. If you see what appears to be unauthorized excavation or destructive activities around our gas system, please give us a call at city hall at 784.448.5496 so we can investigate.

### **The Silent Killer!**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a very toxic and sometimes deadly gas that is colorless and odorless. This gas is a product of incomplete combustion. Whenever you use your furnace, wood stove, hot water tank, stove, automobile or even your charcoal grill, CO is the gas that is produced and vented out of your home

through a chimney, flue or vent pipe. All gas burning equipment needs to be inspected and maintained regularly to keep it in good running condition. Chimneys and vent pipes need to be vented and kept in good working order as well. Carbon monoxide poisoning gives you flu like symptoms. So if you are seemingly not feeling very well, especially when at home, it could be a carbon monoxide problem. Call us. We can help by checking if carbon monoxide is a problem in your gas burning appliances. Every home should have a carbon monoxide detector and a smoke detector to help ensure your safety.

### **Gas Appliance Connectors**

Gas connectors are corrugated metal tubes used to connect gas appliances in your home to gas supply pipes. Some of these old brass colored connectors can have a flaw in how the tubing was made and over time can separate causing a potentially serious gas leak. These uncoated brass connectors have not been made for almost 30 years now, but many are still in use. Although not all brass connectors have a flaw, it is very difficult to tell which ones do. Therefore, any uncoated brass colored connector should be replaced with either a plastic coated brass or stainless steel connector. Connectors can wear out from too much moving and bending and should always be inspected closely whenever an appliance is replaced or moved from its location.

Any additional gas safety related information is always free and available at Garnett City Hall.

### **Bare Steel Gas Lines**

Do I need to have my bare steel gas line replaced?

**The Answer: Yes.**

All bare steel gas lines are slowly corroding and will eventually leak and have to be replaced. We don't know when these lines may begin to leak which is why they need to be replaced before any leakage occurs. The Garnett Gas Department already has an ongoing program to replace all of the city's bare steel mains and service lines.

Back on August 28, 2007, the city commission passed an ordinance requiring the replacement of any existing customer owned gas service line at the time of the sale of the property or when any change in ownership occurs. It usually takes less than a day for one of our local, qualified plumbers to replace most bare steel service lines. Most of these plumbers will give you an estimate of how much it will cost.

### **Excess Flow Valve (EFV)**

As of 2017, federal regulations require every natural gas utility, including the City of Garnett, to notify customers about the potential benefits of an Excess Flow Valve (EFV), who is responsible for the initial installation costs and who is responsible for replacement and maintenance with an EFV. EFVs are mechanical shut-off devices that can be installed on the gas service line and is designed to shut off the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line breaks, say for instance, if a vehicle hits a meter or an excavation accident. We have detailed information online at [www.simplygarnett.com/efv.html](http://www.simplygarnett.com/efv.html). I will include an article about this in an upcoming newsletter. Watch for it.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your natural gas service.

Thank you,

Ray Arnett, Director  
Gas and Water Distribution



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

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

**Economic Development, continued from page 7.**

opportunities is a Land Bank. This would assist with transitioning dilapidated and abandoned properties into viable and attractive properties ripe for residential, commercial, or industrial development.

Thank you for doing your part in economic development by continuing to invest in keeping your home beautiful, doing business locally and volunteering your time to make Garnett and Anderson County the best it can possibly be.

Thank you,

Julie Turnipseed, Director  
Anderson County Development Agency (ACDA)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The City welcomes new employees: **Wesley Keller**, Refuse Collector; **Marcie Long**, Library Custodian; **Brandon Stofko** and **Paris Sills**, Patrol Officers; and **Heather Stevens** and **Justin Thompson**, Power Plant Operators.

**Milestone accomplishments:** The following employees are celebrating years of service anniversaries: **Jody Cole**, Mayor - 5 years; **Neil Hermreck**, Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Maintenance Worker - 15 years.

**Training and Certifications:** Sergeant **Nick Goodwin** recently attended Street Smart Cop and Proactive Patrol Techniques training. Patrol Officer **Michael Graves** was recertified in child passenger restrain installations. If anyone needs to have a child seat installed or checked, make an appointment with Officer Graves. He will be happy to assist.

Congratulations to **Eric Trammell**, Director, Wastewater Maintenance, selected to receive Employee of the Year (2020) by City Manager Weiner.

Once again the City is offering a cost sharing program for sidewalks within Garnett. The **sidewalk program** includes both residential and commercial properties. The sidewalk improvement is on a cost sharing basis with the City paying \$2.00 per square foot toward the cost of the sidewalk replacement. The application for this program must be approved prior to any construction. Funds are available on a first come, first serve basis until the annual sidewalk funds are depleted. Plan now to take advantage of this special program. Contact City Hall for details.

As City Manager Chris Weiner shared, there is a new storm shelter available to the public during severe weather, located at 9th Avenue and Oak Street. Occupancy is up to 45 persons. At

this time, this is the only storm shelter confirmed in Garnett. If a public entity would like to be included as a shelter during a severe weather threat, please contact J.D. Mersman, Anderson County Emergency Management.



Other storm shelter locations in Anderson County include: **Colony** - Shelter attached to fire station located on the northeast corner at S. Pine Street, between 5th and 6th Street.

**Harris** - Shelter is south of the fire station located at the corner of Second and Spruce Streets.

**Kincaid** - Two (2) shelters: Find one of them in the park, southwest of intersection of K-31 Highway and Preston Street, and the other located at the northwest corner of 1st Avenue and Osage Street.

**Greeley** - Shelter is located at the corner of Mary Street and W. Brown Avenue, west/northwest of the fire station.

**Welda** - The shelter can be found between Scott and Kauble Avenues, on the north side of 1000 Road.

**Westphalia** - Two (2) shelters: One is north of the fire station on Warne Street, between Lincoln and Garrison Avenues, and the other is on 4th Avenue, east of Liberty Street, across from a small school building.

Now that reserving your campsite is an online process, many of you are asking, **"Where's the best place to camp?"**. Maps are available on the simplygarnett.com website with a link to the RecDesk portal. Please read the camping information provided on page 8 or contact the Garnett Rec Center, 785-448-3023 for assistance.

**Brush Only Clean-Up Week** has been set for April 19-23 (spring) and October 25-29 (fall). The City will hold this free of charge brush pick-up service for all City of Garnett refuse customers. Brush is to be piled in the alley or curbside near the location where weekly trash is picked up. Accepted will be tree limbs, yard and garden debris. No refuse, trash or household items will be allowed to be mixed in with brush. The City is able to dispose of the brush at the city-owned burn site.

Information about the Brush Only Clean-Up Week and other programs the City has for special pick-up requests can be found on the City's website.

The **Garnett Senior Center** announces they will be opening their doors to their building as of May 1st, for lunch, building rental, and the activities held at the Senior Center, such as playing cards and pool, and just good ole watching TV and visiting. They are also conducting a book exchange. It's an honor system of "take one, leave one" in which anyone can participate.



Eric Trammell (left), receives Employee of the Year Award from City Manager Chris Weiner.