



**GARNETT
CITY
COMMISSION**

Town Talk



T O W N T A L K

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9



**Chris C. Maynard,
Mayor**



**Greg A. Gwin,
Commissioner**



**Michael L. Norman,
Commissioner**

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CITY HALL

131 W. 5TH AVE
GARNETT, KS
66032

From the Commission...

As has been published in the past, the city has been pursuing stimulus money for various projects. We are excited to have been approved for a new 12" water line from the reservoir directly into the water treatment plant. Unfortunately, what we hoped would be a 100% grant ended up being a partial grant/loan offer. All things considered, a 20% write off and low interest loan isn't a bad deal for a much needed improvement to our infrastructure.

An item that should be completed by the end of summer is the installation of a new AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) at the Garnett Industrial Airport. This will offer a much improved system to our airport and will make it more accessible to out of area traffic. Ninety-five percent of this enhancement is paid by the FAA and the other 5% paid by the city.

The repairs to the Cedar Valley Reservoir spillway following the '07 flood have been completed. This brings to end a massive repair project. We express our appreciation to Matador Construction for the good job they have done. These repairs have been paid for mostly with FEMA disaster relief monies.

We have a new business to welcome to our community. Yutzy Construction is located at 526 South Oak. We also have a couple of local businesses that have changed ownership: Lily Fouse, owner of Chinese Restaurant and Michael Blaufuss, owner of Miller Hardware. Stop by, shop, and enjoy these and the many other businesses Garnett has to offer.

This summer is packed full of activities offered by the city, our civic organizations and local church groups. One special event coming to Garnett is the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial traveling exhibit called, "The Moving Wall". It will be available for viewing at the Garnett VFW Post September 3-7, 2009. The wall is a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall located in Washington, D.C.

To get the city activities calendar you can find it online at www.garnettks.net, www.experiencegarnettks.net, or contact city hall and they can provide you info on the many activities that are upcoming this summer.

Hope to see you all at the Libertyfest Fireworks display at the North Park on July 4th.



Have a great summer!

Greg A. Gwin
Mayor Pro Tem

From the City Manager...

It seems that each new day brings changes and challenges for all of us. Recently, Lee Miller announced his retirement as Volunteer Fire Chief effective September 1, 2009. Lee has devoted 20 years of his life to the fire service in Anderson County and has seen many changes take place in that period of time. Lee is one of those individuals who gives so much of his time to this community. It would take this entire newsletter to list all of the many volunteer activities that Lee has organized. Thankfully for all of us, he will continue to be an active volunteer.

From the Commission Continued...

With Lee's retirement, I have chosen to make changes in the Police and Fire Department. I have appointed Pat Tate as Public Safety Director and his duties will be to oversee the administrative responsibilities of the police and fire departments. For the first year, he will concentrate mainly on the fire department activities and work with the new volunteer fire chief to lead a very proud and dedicated group of men who give so much of their time to protect the safety of our citizens. I will be announcing the name of the new volunteer fire chief within the next few weeks.

Police Captain John Leinweber has been promoted to the position of Police Chief and will lead a group of seven officers. John is also making changes within the department with the appointment of Tony Bell as Police Sergeant. The Police Captain position will not be filled as we will utilize existing personnel to cover the rotating shifts.

Another personnel change is the retirement of Garland Haynes as Airport Manager. The Airport Advisory Board and I are presently discussing changes in job responsibilities for this position.

The transfer of the police dispatchers from the police station at city hall to the new county law enforcement center is now complete. The dispatchers became employees of the county as of June 1 and are now housed in their new facility. I want to thank all of the present and past dispatchers for their many years of service to the city. You are a great group of individuals and we will miss seeing all of you on a daily basis.

All of the city crews keep very busy this time of the year. The swimming pool is open and summer ball programs are in full swing. The library staff continues to offer a wide variety of reading programs for all ages.

Budget preparation for 2010 is here. If there are any projects that you would like for the city commission to consider, please let me know. Budgets for next year will be tight again and our ultimate goal is to try and keep the mill levy at its current level. This is a difficult challenge but the city is fortunate that only 6% of our operation is dependent on taxes. Utility operations account for the largest portion of our budget.

Summer time is here. Get out and enjoy all the many activities and facilities the city has to offer. Play baseball and tennis, swim, boat, fish, camp, picnic, go to the library or get involved in your church or the many local organizations that provide so much for our community.

Sincerely,

Joyce E. Martin
City Manager

DID YOU KNOW...

The city announces the promotion of Police Chief **Pat Tate** to the new position of Public Safety Director; **John Leinweber**, former Police Captain, now serves as Chief of Police, and **Tony Bell** advances from Patrolman to Sergeant.

Fire Chief **Lee Miller** will be retiring after almost 20 years of dedicated service to the city. Lee has been a very active volunteer in the community. We thank him for his unwavering commitment and leadership to the Garnett Volunteer Fire Department.

The following police officers recently received training: Sergeant **Tony Bell** attended leadership training, Public Safety Director **Pat Tate**, Police Chief **John Leinweber**, Sergeant **Mike Carpenter** and Sergeant **Tony Bell**, and officers **Kurt King**, **Troy Brubaker** and **Robert McLeod** attended forensic investigation equipment training. Officer **Garen Honn** graduated from the police academy in June.

The city recognizes the following employees for reaching these notable years of service:

John Olson, Pollution Control Superintendent—35 years
Andrea Sobba, Librarian—25 years

The **Garnett Farmer's Market** gives the community a chance to purchase products and fresh produce provided by local farmers and gardeners. The market, located on the east side of the town square, is celebrating its second year

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\$500 REWARD

City of Garnett

**You can remain
anonymous and be
eligible for the
reward.**

Call:
Police Chief John Leinweber
(785) 448-6823
or
Terry Solander,
City Attorney
(785) 448-6131

Ask for details to submit your information anonymously when you call.
YOU DO NOT NEED TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF.

The City of Garnett will pay up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) responsible for vandalizing any city park property, including the Santa Fe Depot.



131 West Fifth Avenue
Garnett, Kansas 66032
(785) 448-5496

City of Garnett Announces Funding Opportunities

The City of Garnett has created the following programs to assist citizens within the city in a variety of ways. Funding is budgeted annually and is awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Application forms and additional information on one or more of these programs is available at Garnett City Hall.

Residential and Commercial Sidewalk Replacement

While funding is available, the city will reimburse residential property owners \$4 per foot (4 feet wide) and

commercial property owners \$12 per foot (12 feet wide) of the costs for sidewalk replacement under this program.

Structure Demolition Program

Residential and commercial property owners making application under this program will be awarded a maximum loan of \$1,000 to aid in the removal of unsightly, dilapidated, unsanitary and unsafe structures. The interest free loan must be paid back to the city in three (3) annual

payments.

Business Facility Improvement Loan Program

Business property owners may receive up to \$2,000 under this loan program, which is payable back to the City of Garnett in three (3) annual payments, interest free. Applicants under this program must make a minimum of 75% of the proposed improvements to the exterior of the business structure, with the remaining 25% to be used for interior repairs. Exterior improvements include

painting, doors, windows, sidewalks, awnings, parking facilities and signs. Interior repairs such as painting, electrical and plumbing services to bring them into compliance with applicable codes; air conditioning, heating, walls, floors, ceiling and lighting.

Dispatch office moves to new county law enforcement center, making significant changes to city services after normal business hours.

Changes Are Coming

The dispatch office, formerly located at city hall and under the supervision of the Garnett Police Department, is now located in the new Anderson County Law Enforcement Center and in the direct supervision of the Anderson County Sheriff's Department. The dispatchers serve a vital role in communicating between city and county law enforcement, 911 services, fire protection, ambulance service and emergency management. With this move there are

required changes in city procedures that may affect some Garnett utility customers and users of camping facilities within city parks.

Changes to Utility Services
As of June 19, 2009, there will no longer be "after hours" re-connection of utility services that have been disconnected for non-payment of past due utility bills. Re-connection of these services will only be available during normal city hall business hours, 8:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. No exceptions will be made for city holidays.

Changes to Camping Procedures

Effective June 19, 2009, campsites located in Garnett's North Lake Park, Veteran's Memorial (South) Park and Cedar Valley Reservoir can no longer be reserved in advance through the dispatch office. Camping is on a first come, first serve basis with self-pay

permit stations located in each city park. Large camping groups may contact city hall for special event consideration.

PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST, THEN PROPERTY

Natural Gas Safety

The purpose of our natural gas mains and service lines is to transport the gas to our businesses and individual homes. It is estimated that there are more than 800,000 miles of underground gas mains and service lines in the United States today. Fortunately, pipeline accidents are

extremely rare, but they can occur. Natural gas is very flammable, potentially hazardous and can be explosive under certain conditions.

Garnett has 44 miles of natural gas mains and 20 miles of service lines that are made up of bare steel, protected steel, polyethylene plastic and some PVC, all of

which are monitored for problems and leaks.

The city invests significant time and money to maintain the quality and integrity of its gas system. Yearly we conduct a leak survey of all underground mains and service lines up to the structure's foundation wall. We odorize our gas system



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG -
Contact **KANSAS ONE CALL**
800-344-7233 or **8-1-1**.

(Continued on page 6.)



It's Happening In Garnett!



July

- 1 Registration deadline for Creative Kids Camp and Family Night activities at Garnett Public Library
- 1 Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 3 City Hall closed, Independence Day holiday observed
- 4 Libertyfest fireworks display sponsored by Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Band Concert, North Lake Park
- 6-17 Team sign-up for Coed Sand Volleyball Tournament at City Hall
- 7 Family Night at Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- 11-12 Kansas INT League Water-ski/Wakeboard Competition, Lake Garnett
- 13-17 Creative Kids Camp at Garnett Public Library
- 13-31 Sign-up for Fall Soccer Program at City Hall
- 14 Storyteller Steve Otto performs at Garnett Public Library, Archer Room, 10 a.m.
- 14 City Commission meeting
- 15 Author Linda Parker brings her dogs, Austin and Charlie, to the Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
- 18 Outlaw Tractor Pull, hosted by Anderson County Fair, Association, pulling track, North Lake Park, 6 p.m.
- 24 Teen Scene Late Night at Garnett Public Library, 7 p.m.
- July 26-August 1 Anderson County Fair, North Lake Park

- 27 City Commission meeting
- 28 Anderson County Fair Parade, stadium, North Park, 7 p.m.
- 29 16th Annual Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Merchants Tent Night at Anderson County Fair, North Lake Park, 5-9 p.m.



August

- 1 Kansas INT League State Water-ski/Wakeboard Championships, Lake Garnett
- 1 Anderson County Fair Association presents David Frizzell in concert, ACJSHS Auditorium, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 8-9 KART Road Races, sponsored by Garnett Kart Club, North Lake Park
- 11 City Commission meeting
- 15 Coed Sand Volleyball Tournament, sand courts, North Park
- 15 Demolition Derby, sponsored by Anderson County Fair Association, rodeo arena, North Lake Park, 7 p.m.
- 25 City Commission meeting

September

- 1-18 Sign-up for Flag Football at City Hall
- 1-18 Team sign-up for Fall Coed Volleyball League at City Hall
- 2 Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 3-7 The Moving Wall, Vietnam Veterans Memorial on display at Veteran's Memorial Park (South Lake)
- 7 City Hall closed, Labor Day holiday observed
- 8 Fall Storytime Hour for pre-school age children held on Tuesdays begins at Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
- 8 City Commission meeting
- 19 City-wide Garage Sale Day, sponsored by Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce
- 22 City Commission meeting
- 26 Anderson County Corn Festival-Cornstock 2009, North Lake Park
- 26 Cornstock Concert on the Hill featuring Diamond Rio, North Lake Park, 5 p.m.



This quarterly newsletter is provided by

City of Garnett

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

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

**City Commission meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at Garnett City Hall, 131 West Fifth Avenue. The public is always welcome.*

DID YOU KNOW...

(Continued from page 2.)

of operation and is open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. every Thursday through October 29. Special events and entertaining activities separate this shopping experience apart from farmer's markets in other communities. For example, a grilling demonstration will be held on July 9 using the market's summer fruits and vegetables. A youth market complete with a cucumber art contest will highlight the July 23 farmer's market. The 2nd annual Salsa Contest will be held on August 6. The September 3 market features a fall décor workshop by a local flower shop. The Garnett Farmer's Market will close its season at the end of October but not before having a Creative Apple Dish Contest on October 1, a Chili Cook-Off with pumpkin painting on October 15 and a Shopper's Appreciation with taffy pull on October 29. Great buys and a unique shopping atmosphere await visitors at this weekly event in Garnett.

The Moving Wall, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D.C., will be on display in Garnett from September 3 to September 7, 2009 at Veteran's Memorial Park (a/k/a South Lake Park). The wall is 253 feet in length and consists of 74 separate frames. As of January 1, 2009 there are 58,261 names listed on the memorial. A directory of the names will accompany the wall to help family and friends locate names. Name rubbings will be permitted.

A local committee consisting of **Chris Maynard, Tracy Modlin, Vanessa Palmer, Shirley Roeckers** and **Joyce Martin** is organizing this project and is asking anyone who is interested in volunteering their time to help



construct and dismantle the wall, serve as local ambassadors or participate in the evening programs to contact Chris Maynard at (785) 448-3565. The Moving Wall will be open to the public 24 hours a day for the five days it is in Garnett.

An account has been set up through the Patriots Bank to help defray the costs of bringing this exhibit to Garnett. Donations may be dropped off at any Patriots Bank location with checks being made payable to "The Moving Wall Fund". For more information about The Moving Wall, visit www.TheMovingWall.org or www.experiencegarnettks.net.

Transient guest tax funds may be used for advertising a special event or attraction within Anderson County. These funds are derived through a tax placed on overnight stays at lodging establishments within Garnett. Applications are reviewed by the Garnett Tourism Committee with final approval by the city commission. Applications are available at city hall or online at www.experiencegarnettks.net. The tourism committee meets the first Wednesday of each month to consider transient guest tax funding requests and other business. The meetings are held at city hall and begin at 5:30 p.m.

Community websites:

www.garnettks.net
www.experiencegarnettks.net
www.andersoncountyks.net
www.andersoncountyks.org
www.garnettchamber.org

Chief's Corner

During the summer months, when the time is approaching for children to return to school, it is important that everyone driving on city streets be mindful of children. You never know when one may dart out into the street to retrieve a toy or

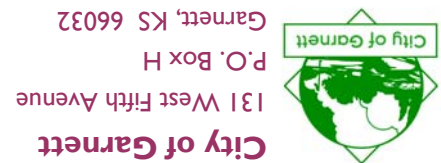
other item. It's not out of the ordinary to see a multitude of bicycles being ridden to and from area parks and business districts. A few extra moments of looking both ways and being watchful of your surroundings can save the life of a child and

a lifetime of heartache for you and a child's family. So please, let's all be careful and make this an enjoyable summer for everyone.

John Leinweber
 Chief of Police



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Garnett, Kansas 66032



PROTECT PEOPLE, THEN PROPERTY (continued from page 3.)

24/7, 365 days a year, so that a gas leak can be detected by smell and reported. The gas department monitors construction and excavation activities taking place around all natural gas facilities and we prioritize and identify the areas in our system that needs maintenance (also known as, "Integrity Management").

The city is responsible for the safety and security of our pipeline and pipeline facilities. To help maintain the integrity of our facilities and right-of-ways, it is important that you play a role in helping us protect against unauthorized excavations and destructive activities. Here is what you can do to help:

- Be familiar with our natural gas facilities in your area. Things such as meters, regulator facilities and pipeline marker signs. Know the telephone numbers to call and keep them handy:
Garnett City Hall - (785) 448-5496
Anderson County Emergency Communications (Dispatch) - (785) 448-6823
Emergency - DIAL 9-1-1

BEFORE you dig, call Kansas One Call: (800) DIG-SAFE or 1-800-344-7233 OR dial 8-1-1. 811 is a federally mandated number to get utilities located before you dig.

Again, we remind you to **CALL** before you **DIG**. It is toll-free and it is required by law. Anytime you plan projects that require digging call the Kansas One Call number or 8-1-1.

The gas department regularly communicates, plans and trains with our local emergency personnel, such as the fire

department, police and police dispatchers. Upon a report of a gas leak or related incident, the proper departments can be dispatched to provide public safety assistance and to respond to the gas emergency.

Can you recognize a natural gas leak?

Answer: Trust your senses. Seeing continuous bubbling in a wet or flooded area, dead vegetation or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy environment could signal a possible gas leak. A quiet to loud hissing sound could also indicate a possible natural gas leak. In most cases, here in Garnett gas leaks are recognized using the sense of smell. Our gas system is odorized all the time so that you can detect a possible gas leak by smell.

How to report a natural gas leak:

If you think you smell natural gas inside or outside a structure, report it to the gas department as soon as possible by calling Garnett City Hall (785) 448-5496. If after business hours please call the Anderson County Emergency Communications (Dispatch Center) at (785) 448-6823. If you have a gas emergency and the gas odor is very strong and it seems to be everywhere, **DO NOT OPERATE** any light switches or attempt to air out the building. Exit the property, go to a neighbor and then notify the gas department by calling 9-1-1. Wait there for emergency personnel to arrive.

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

Thank you,

Earl "Butch" Rocker
Gas Department Superintendent