



**GARNETT  
CITY  
COMMISSION**

# Town Talk



T O W N T A L K

S U M M E R 2 0 1 0



**Michael L. Norman,  
Mayor**



**Greg A. Gwin,  
Commissioner**



**Chris C. Maynard,  
Commissioner**

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**CITY HALL**

**131 W. 5TH AVE  
GARNETT, KS  
66032**

## From the Commission...

Summertime has always been my favorite season and it arrived in Garnett in full force! It is great to see the town busy and everyone enjoying the beginning of what looks to be an exciting summer season in our beloved town! Work has begun on the new 12" waterline project from the Cedar Creek Reservoir directly into our water treatment plant near the South Lake. This is a great project. We were able to secure funding for it through a stimulus loan/grant combination. Initially we thought that we would only be able to acquire 20% of the project through a grant, but we ended up getting about 32% of it funded through the grant, which is great for the city as we do not have to repay that portion at all. Work has gone very well so far, but the weather is slowing the contractor down somewhat.

A lot of exciting things are happening at the Garnett Industrial Airport. Work has begun on the new tie-downs for the airport and we have accepted a bid for the runway to be resealed. The most exciting news is that the city has acquired a nearly \$100,000 grant to extend utility services to the airport and we will be turning part of the airport into an Industrial Park. Working in conjunction with the Anderson County Development Agency, we hope to be able to attract new industries to provide more local jobs for our citizens.

City staff has been busy writing grants lately and we were able to secure a \$36,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to build a new restroom facility in between the football stadium and community building at the North Lake Park. These modern facilities will replace our older ones underneath the football stadium and will be completely ADA compliant so that all of our citizens will have access to them. The city will

be removing the old restrooms out from under the stadium and using that space for storage. The new restrooms will hopefully be ready in time for the first ACJSHS football game this fall.

Downtown has been busy with lots of exciting things going on. More and more building owners have caught the renovation bug and are making beautiful improvements to their buildings. The square is looking very vibrant and alive with activity, which is wonderful! We are very lucky to have such a historic downtown and it's great to see everyone doing what they can to keep it thriving.

We had an employee appreciation picnic for our city employees and their families on June

5th. It was a great success and all who attended had fun. We hope to make this an annual event, as it is always good to be able to gather the employees and their families together and show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication. I firmly believe we have a tremendous group of employees and I feel that if you look around town, their hard work really shows. Morale and

efficiency are both at a very high level and I really want to thank all of our employees for their dedication and thank their families for the great support they give to our employees. You all do a fantastic job and it shows.

Budget time is rapidly approaching and my fellow commissioners and I have a difficult task ahead of us this summer as we put our 2011 budget together. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions as we begin to work on the budget, please share them with us, or stop in and share them with city hall staff. We are always eager to hear from the citizens and greatly appreciate your input. Please take some time and come sit in on a commission meeting to see what is going on and learn more about what your city is doing. Our meetings



# Around the Town...

## From the Commission Continued...

are on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Garnett City Hall starting at 6 pm. We would love to see you there!

Be sure to check out [www.experiencegarnettks.net](http://www.experiencegarnettks.net) or find us on *Facebook* at [www.facebook.com/GarnettKS](http://www.facebook.com/GarnettKS). Lots of updates and great news can be found on both sites. There is also an event calendar with all the activities happening in Garnett and Anderson County this summer. Almost every weekend has a great family activity to make your summer even more enjoyable.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer!

Best regards,

Chris Maynard  
Mayor Pro Tem

## From the City Manager...

As reported several months ago, the city has accepted ownership of the Kansas National Guard Armory Building. Recently, the City Commission agreed that this building should be used as a recreation center. This comes after many local residents have encouraged the city to use the building for this purpose. Plans are now being developed to determine the cost to install a "sport court", purchase bleachers, basketball goals, volleyball goals, wall pads and exercise equipment.

The Commission has authorized the City Attorney and I to develop a city foundation to accept tax free donations to help cover the costs of the interior improvements to the facility. Donations can also be made to other city programs. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has spent a great deal of time developing a plan for the best possible use of the space for different recreation programs. A membership fee will be charged to help cover the cost of operation. At the present time, I plan to use existing personnel to staff the building when necessary. Many of the city's programs have adult coaches at practices and games and several individuals have contacted me about volunteering their time to sponsor various activities. The city has spent very little money on the facility, as it was completely renovated and made handicapped accessible by the Kansas National Guard prior to their departure. During budget preparation for 2011, a fund will be created for this activity. Realistically, the first budget will probably be less than \$10,000, depending on the amount of donations that we receive. Listed on page 3 in this newsletter is an article entitled, "Building for the Future". I encourage you to be a



part of this very exciting project.

City crews have already had a very busy summer working on utility lines, overseeing installation of the new water line from the Cedar Creek pump station, repairing streets, installing curb cuts and ramps, drainage projects, helping with the new restrooms at the football field and completing the tie down project at the airport. Over the last several years, a considerable amount of work has been done to the utility infrastructure of Garnett. We have maintained a very aggressive program to replace water and gas lines each year. Utility Coordinator Butch Rocker has scheduled several water and gas line extensions and replacements for 2010. In the past five (5) years, the city has budgeted approximately \$300,000 for water, sewer and gas line improvements. This doesn't include the community development block grant loans that have been used to replace major portions of the sewer system in certain parts of town. Much needs to be done with our sewer system and I am developing a long range replacement plan for this utility. A total of \$450,000 has been budgeted for street improvements over the last five (5) years. While this seems excessive, it doesn't take very long to spend this money given the cost of petroleum products. We hope to do two (2) major streets this year, depending on the bids we receive.

I am presently working on a grant to help pay for sidewalk improvements. This grant is a 50/50 match. If we receive this grant, it will help residents replace their deteriorating sidewalks. This is another part of our overall plan to comply with ADA regulations.

There are so many great things happening and scheduled to happen in Garnett over the next few months.

Have you noticed all of the building façade improvements on the south side of our square? Thank you business owners for these improvements!

Congratulations to Terry and Teresa Ellsworth on the grand opening of the Shelly Tipton Bed & Breakfast, and to the Garnett Farmer's Market, which reportedly had over 400 visitors the first night, makes the square come alive on Thursday evenings.

The ball diamonds are full, the pool is open, and the beautiful parks welcome visitors to Garnett to camp, fish, boat, play golf, watch go-kart and boat races, as well as the INT competitions.

The Tourism Advisory Board and community volunteers continue to attract many out-of-town visitors by sponsoring fun events. The Tourism Board is proud to announce that three (3) bus tours will be coming to Garnett this summer. They are also very busy planning the Garnett 150 celebration that will start at mid-

(Continued on page 5.)

# Building for the Future

Be a part of the new Garnett Community Recreation Center development project (former Kansas National Guard Armory). Donations are now being accepted to renovate the building in time for the fall sports season. Your investment in this project will serve youth and adults of all ages, now and in the future. Won't you join us?

## Levels of Sponsorship:

### *Groundbreakers Club*

\$ 1-99

At this level, your contribution helps get the project started. Thanks!

### *Foundation Partners*

\$100-200

A great foundation is necessary for the success of any project. Your support is appreciated.

### *Builder Buddies*

\$201-499

\*(Bronze Level) - It takes a community, working together, to accomplish great things. This level shows your commitment for Garnett's future.

### *Wall of Memories*

\$500-999

\*(Silver Level) – A structure is not a building without walls. Your donation at this level can be in memory of someone or in honor of an individual or business.

### *Raise the Roof Contributors*

\$ 1,000+

\*(Gold Level) – This major sponsorship level shows there are no boundaries when it comes to your devotion to the health and wellbeing of Garnett's children and adults.

*\*Commitment at this level assures your name and honoree will be displayed on a plaque in the Garnett Community Recreation Center, recognizing your financial support of this project.*

I wish to make a donation to the Building for the Future, Garnett Community Recreation Center development project.

Level of Participation (please check):

- |  |             |  |             |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groundbreakers              | \$1-\$99    | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Partners | \$100-\$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Builder Buddies             | \$201-\$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wall of Memories    | \$500-\$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raise the Roof Contributors | \$1,000+    |  |             |

## CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If this donation is a gift "In Memory" or "In Honor Of" please specify and print name below:

- IN MEMORY       IN HONOR OF

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to CITY OF GARNETT and memo: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

Complete this form and return to: CITY OF GARNETT, 131 WEST 5<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, P.O. BOX H, GARNETT, KS 66032

If you have questions regarding this project, please call Garnett City Hall at (785) 448-5496. *Thank You!*

# It's Happening In Garnett!



- July
- 4 Libertyfest fireworks display sponsored by Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Band Concert, North Lake Park, 8 p.m.
  - 5 City Hall closed, Independence Day holiday observed
  - 7 Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
  - 7 Garnett 150 meeting, City Hall, 6 p.m.
  - 9 Teen Scene Water Games at Garnett Public Library, 1 p.m.
  - 10-11 Kansas INT League Water-ski/Wakeboard Competition, Lake Garnett
  - 12-16 "Camp Castaway" Summer Reading Program begins at Garnett Public Library (pre-registration required)
  - 12-30 Sign-up for Fall Soccer Program at City Hall
  - 13 Garnett Public Library presents musician/storyteller Alan Cunningham at fire station, 10 a.m.
  - 13 City Commission meeting\*
  - 17 MSTPA Tractor Pull, hosted by Anderson County Fair Association, pulling track, North Lake Park, 7 p.m.
  - 23 Teen Scene Late Night at Garnett Public Library for Summer Reading Program Participants, 7 p.m.

- 24-31 Anderson County Fair, North Lake Park
- 24 Lawnmower Demolition Derby at Anderson County Fair, rodeo arena, North Lake Park, 5 p.m.
- 26 City Commission meeting\*
- 27 Anderson County Fair Parade, stadium, North Park, 7 p.m.
- 28 Anderson County Fair Tent Night, North Lake Park, 5-9 p.m.
- 29 Ladies Morning Out, hosted by Anderson County/K-State Research and Extension, Annex, 10 a.m.
- 31 Anderson County Fair Association presents Moe Bandy in concert, ACJSHS Auditorium, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

- August
- 4 Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
  - 4 Garnett 150 meeting, City Hall, 6 p.m.
  - 7-8 KART Road Races, sponsored by Garnett Kart Club, North Lake Park
  - 10 City Commission meeting\*
  - 14 Kansas INT League State Water-ski/Wakeboard Championships, Lake Garnett



- 14 Demolition Derby, sponsored by Anderson County Fair Association, rodeo arena, North Lake Park, 7 p.m.
- 24 City Commission meeting\*

- September
- 1 Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
  - 1 Garnett 150 meeting, City Hall, 6 p.m.
  - 3-17 Sign-up for Flag Football at City Hall
  - 3-17 Team sign-up for Fall Coed Volleyball League at City Hall
  - 6 City Hall closed, Labor Day holiday observed
  - 7 Fall Storytime Hour for pre-school age children held on Tuesdays begins at Garnett Public Library, 10 a.m.
  - 14 City Commission meeting\*



- 18 City-wide Garage Sale Day, sponsored by Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce
- 25 Anderson County Corn Festival-Cornstock 2010, North Lake Park
- 25 Cornstock Concert on the Hill featuring Joe Nichols, North Lake Park, 5 p.m.
- 28 City Commission meeting\*

*\*City Commission meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. at Garnett City Hall, 131 West Fifth Avenue. The public is always welcome.*

*For additional information on special events, visit:*

[www.experiencegarnettks.net](http://www.experiencegarnettks.net)

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](mailto:info@garnettks.net)

Municipal Government Website:  
[www.garnettks.net](http://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.

## From the City Manager *(Continued from page 2)...*

night on January 1, 2011, as Garnett spotlights its own version of the New Year's Eve "ball drop" on the downtown square. Please join us the first Wednesday night of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission meeting room to help plan this event.

Commissioner Maynard stated that preparation of the 2011 budget has begun. Over the last five years, actual budget expenditures have remained the same with at least half of the funds being spent to purchase power, natural gas and work on the city's infrastructure. The energy market continues to be very volatile and it is hard to predict what natural gas prices will be this winter. I

want to assure you that the commission and city staff will do everything we can to hold the line on expenditures. We are very fortunate to be able to apply for and receive grants that can help improve our facilities. This lessens the burden on our citizens.

I welcome you to come to city hall to review past and present budgets and offer any suggestions for the upcoming budget year.

Have a great summer.

Joyce E. Martin  
City Manager

## DID YOU KNOW...

Please welcome our newest city employees, **Jenny Ferguson**, Human Resources Administrator, and **Gabe Mader**, Power Plant Operator.

Jenny Ferguson fills a new position for the city, working at city hall in the mornings and at the Garnett Public Library in the afternoons. She recently attended a payroll law seminar and is currently reviewing the city's payroll practices, files and personnel policies. According to City Manager Joyce Martin, "Rules and procedures governing personnel for any business change on a daily basis. I want to make sure that the city is adhering to the law during payroll preparation, as well as monitoring our leave practices and benefit package." Jenny previously worked as an HR Administrator for Franklin County.

Congratulations to **Leonard Burnett**, Assistant Fire Chief, for serving the community as a volunteer firefighter for over 35 years.

Utility bills and court fines can now be paid online via the Internet. Visit [www.garnettks.net](http://www.garnettks.net) and click on the "Online Bill Pay" link. Please be sure to provide the correct account number or applicable ticket number when paying online.

The Garnett Municipal Utility Department is seeking information on current utility *(Continued on page 6.)*

## Garnett Airport Awarded Industrial Development Grant

The City of Garnett was awarded a \$100,000 grant by USDA Rural Development to develop 40 acres of land at the Garnett Airport into an industrial park. "The old east/west grass runway is no longer used, so the land on the east side of the main runway was available for development and complied with the Airport

Master Plan", said Dennis Arnold, Director of Garnett/Anderson County Economic Development. "The grant was one of five awarded in the state of Kansas for economic development projects and was the largest grant awarded."

The funds will be used to extend needed infrastructure to the airport industrial

property, including sewer, water, gas and electricity.

The Golden Prairie Industrial Park, east of Garnett, has only one small lot available north of East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC. The airport property, already owned by the city, will allow the city of Garnett to offer a large site with utilities to prospective industries.

**"The grant was one of five awarded in the state of Kansas for economic development projects and was the largest grant awarded."**

## A Message from the Gas and Water Department...

I want to remind everyone once again about the bare steel gas line ordinance that has been in effect since August 28, 2007. The ordinance requires any property that has an existing bare steel gas service line to be replaced upon sale of the property. If you have sold or purchased property in Garnett since August 28, 2007, and have not replaced an existing bare steel gas line, it is still required to

be replaced. A letter notifying those in need of replacement will be sent in the next few weeks. If you have any questions please give city hall a call to set up a time when I can talk with you

We have finished flushing water mains for this year, and I might add, without many problems and good success. This annual procedure is very necessary to keep our mains, valves and fire hydrants in

good working order and help the quality of our potable water. I would like to thank our customers for their patience and understanding during this scheduled maintenance task.

Sincerely,

Earl "Butch" Rocker  
Gas and Water  
Superintendent



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

TO: CURRENT RESIDENT

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 7  
Garnett, Kansas 66032

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



## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF GARNETT

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Tourism is thriving in Garnett as the summer rolls into fall. New highway signage, bus tours and preparations for the Garnett 150 celebration in 2011 have kept the Garnett Tourism Committee on the run.

Thanks to creative resources of various city departments, the memorial site of Garnett's native son, Arthur Capper, is undergoing renovation. A kiosk, similar to the one installed at the Donna Harris Memorial Park, is being placed on the location at 5th Avenue and Cedar Street. The city has made application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for signage along US 59 and 169 highways signifying Garnett as the "Birthplace of Arthur Capper". Capper was the first Kansas born governor, a US Senator, publisher and philanthropist. A special unveiling ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13th, beginning at 6 p.m. at city hall. The public is cordially invited.

The Garnett 150 Steering Committee has been holding planning meetings the first Wednesday of each month at city hall starting at 6 p.m. Garnett will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its municipal incorporation with special events all year long in 2011. Notable projects being planned include the Garnett 150 Calendar Contest, held during this year's Anderson County Fair. Many civic organizations are stepping up to promote and celebrate Garnett's 150th anniversary and their activities will be listed on the Garnett 150 calendar to be available for sale in time for this year's holiday gift giving.

Businesses, churches and clubs are encouraged to participate in the Garnett Community Scrapbook. The book of memories will be locked in a time capsule, along with other items, for retrieval in 50 years. Deadline to participate in the scrapbook is November 30, 2010. A new city seal design will be announced soon through a

recent contest. A collage print of famous Garnett attractions will be made available to the public to commemorate Garnett's 150th. Plans are underway for a special New Year's Eve celebration kicking off the year long festivities. A weekend celebration will be held on October 7-9, 2011. Garnett's official "Incorporation Day" was October 7, 1861.

In the meantime, the Garnett Tourism Committee encourages residents to take the opportunity to become an explorer of Garnett and Anderson County. Don't just leave all the fun up to the tourists!

### Did You Know... (Continued from page 5)

customers. If you reside in Garnett and are using life sustaining equipment in your home, such as kidney dialysis, oxygen, or other apparatus, please notify city hall at (785) 448-5496 as soon as possible. This information is vitally important in the event of a power outage. Your assistance is appreciated.

**The Garnett Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary** announces a community assistance project. The goal of this project is to encourage every home in Garnett to have visible address numbers. Firefighters, police, ambulance and utility workers would greatly appreciate posted address numbers so they can find a home quickly when summoned to help in an emergency situation. The auxiliary would like to purchase and install numbers on homes that currently have no numbers. Funding is limited, however, so this will be done on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Beth Mersman, President, Garnett Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary at (785) 448-7500.

