

# INSIDE GARDNER

SPRING 2019

## CITY TO ADJUST ELECTRIC, WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES

The Gardner City Council approved utility rate changes that will adjust customers' monthly charges for electric, water and wastewater. These changes are the result of a recent rate structure study that produced the following approved recommendations:



### ELECTRIC

All residential electric customers will see a 2 percent rate reduction on their monthly electric bill starting in January 2020. Businesses will also experience a rate adjustment based on historical usage and where they fall into the new rate structure of a "small," "medium" or "large" commercial class, which is determined by their energy demand level. Businesses are encouraged to contact the Utility Billing Division at (913) 856-7535 to find out their new rate, as it will vary from business to business.



### WATER

To prepare for Gardner's growing population and increased water demand, the city will raise water rates by 3.7 percent in 2020 and each year thereafter through 2030. This increase will fund several capital improvement projects, including expanding the city's water treatment capacity and implementing conservation systems. The city experienced a water warning in summer 2018, which required residents to adhere to a nearly eight-week mandatory water restriction schedule. The rate change will help the city take the proper steps to mitigate the chance for future water shortages.



### WASTEWATER

Residents can anticipate a 1 percent increase in sewer service, effective January 2025. Money generated from the increase will be used to repair and replace aging infrastructure and prepare for future development.

By being proactive and implementing these rate adjustments now to address future needs, the city can prevent large utility rate spikes. 🌐 Visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/utilityrates](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/utilityrates) for additional information regarding the rate changes, including tips on how to reduce your bill through energy and water conservation.

## NEW BUSINESS NEWS GARDNER BUSINESS CENTER

Construction of the Gardner Business Center at 912 E. Warren St. is underway. The Center will provide rentable office and flex space. The first phase of the project consists of constructing an 8,000 square-foot corporate office that will house the company Construction Management Services. A second building will be constructed during the second phase of the project in spring/summer 2019. This 15,000 square-foot facility will supply flexible office and workspace that will be available for rent in 1,500 and 2,000 square-foot increments. Future development of the remaining property will depend on market demand for space.



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A message from

# MAYOR STEVE SHUTE

Soon the talk of snow, school closings and potholes will be discussions of the past, and our attention can shift to focus on the bigger and brighter events headed Gardner's way. There are so many great projects that are in the works that I cannot discuss due to ongoing planning/negotiations, but I am absolutely excited to share this information with you in the near future.

I'm sure that many of you are familiar with the "10-Year Challenge" that has gone around the Internet lately. It usually consists of a hilarious meme about how things are so different from 10 years ago, usually in a bad direction. But here in Gardner, I can tell you beyond a shadow of a doubt, you will not be able to recognize parts of this town in five years. And, it will be for the better.

This year promises to be the largest commercial building season that Gardner has ever seen. Between a new Price Chopper development at Moonlight and Main, groundbreaking at a new Olathe Health campus on the south side of town, and the start of improvements to the Gardner Road interchange, as well as construction on West Santa Fe, to a new mixed-use development at Santa Fe and Waverly Road – we will be seeing a lot of activity and people coming to our community. I look forward to sharing more details about each of these projects during the upcoming State of the City Address, so I hope you can join us!

## GARDNER'S **HIDDEN GEMS** **GARDNER GRANGE**

If you're a newcomer to these parts, you may not be familiar with one of the city's oldest organizations, the Gardner Grange. This fraternal and community service association was founded on March 31, 1873, the first of its kind in Johnson County.

Grange, a French word for barn or farmhouse, started at the national level in 1867 where farmers could come together and voice their agricultural concerns and express their social and economic needs. Ultimately, it became a place where families could come to fellowship with one another.

"Most farmers lived in very rural, isolated areas in the late 1800s and needed a place to gather and get acquainted with their neighbors," said Grange Secretary Lois Barber who is a 46-year-member and a fourth-generation Grange member. "Today, we are more of a service-focused organization that supports the community."

The Grange, one of only a few left in Kansas, has a long run in serving the Gardner community through its many civic projects. For example, the Grange started the Gardner Rural Fire Department in the 1950s and purchased its first fire truck. They also raised funds to construct their own building on the fairgrounds in 1973 as a place to host community events. They annually award a \$1,000 scholarship to a Gardner Edgerton High School student who has an interest in agriculture. In addition, they run the Gardner Farmers Market, which has garnered the organization the Kansas State Grange Community Service Award for the past two years. The Grange also supports many other local community groups and programs.

"If there is one thing I want people to know about the Grange is that we're a family organization, dedicated to service," said Barber. "Everyone is welcome – adults and kids alike."

Contact Lois Barber at [gardnergrange@gmail.com](mailto:gardnergrange@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining the Grange or want more information.

# HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

There is something about colder months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

## Safety Tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet (one meter) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one meter) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Safety Tips provided by Johnson County Fire District #1

# BACKFLOW TEST REPORTS DUE BY



It's never too early to talk backflow testing since the city requires annual certified testing of all backflow prevention devices by July 1 of each year. Backflow takes place when water in a distribution system flows in the opposite direction from what is normal. The city requires backflow prevention devices to protect the public water supply from cross-contamination by sprinkler systems, boilers, carbonators, etc. Failure to conduct these tests can pose a serious health risk to customers who use the water system. Customers must use certified testers, such as a certified landscaper or plumber, to complete the test. Visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/backflowreport](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/backflowreport) to obtain a backflow test report form or contact the Utility Department at (913) 856-0980 for more information.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE TO RENT

If you would like the opportunity to plant your own fresh flowers or vegetables, but lack the ability to do so at your current dwelling, look no further. The Gardner Community Garden is just the place for you. The garden offers individual plots that can be rented by families or civic organizations for a reasonable price. There are also volunteer opportunities at the garden for those who simply enjoy spending time outdoors. The Community Garden is located at 555 W. Main St. (directly behind Divine Mercy Sacred Heart Catholic Church). For more information, email the coordinator at [GardnerCommunityGarden@gmail.com](mailto:GardnerCommunityGarden@gmail.com) or like their page on social media.

## GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

Messages for the Governing Body can be left at (913) 856-0939 or with the following info.



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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

March 18 April 1 April 15 May 6 May 20  
View more City Council meeting dates at [GARDNERKANSAS.GOV](http://GARDNERKANSAS.GOV)

## POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030



[www.GardnerKansas.gov](http://www.GardnerKansas.gov)



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# PARKS AND REC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at [GARDNERPARKS.COM](http://GARDNERPARKS.COM). 

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Tiny Tigers TaeKwonDo	Apr/May/June	Mar. 28; Apr. 25; May 23	3-12	\$45
Karate for Kids	Apr/May/June	Mar. 28; Apr. 25; May 23	3-12	\$45
Micro Soccer	April 6-May 11	March 15	2, 3, 4	\$65
Soccer Player Development Camp	April 4-May 9	March 22	5-12	\$70
Swim Lesson Sign-Ups	April 6	Until full	18 mos. & up	\$50
Private Swim Lesson Sign-Ups	April 6	Until full	5 & up	\$90

### ADULT / FAMILY PROGRAMS

ADULT / FAMILY PROGRAMS	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Women's Kickboxing	Apr/May/June	Mar. 28; Apr. 25; May 23	14-Adult	\$45
Adult Spring & Summer Softball	Early April/July	March 9; May 31	18 & up	\$500/per team
Earth Day Celebration	April 20	April 15	All ages	Free
Pool Pass Early Bird Deadline	Now thru May 1	May 1	Ages 3-61	\$65-\$140 (Before discount)

## POOL PASS RENEWAL ONLINE

Pool passes are now on sale at City Hall! New this year, renewals can be done online for those who had a pass in 2018. All membership passes will include a key tag instead of a photo ID. These key tags are "forever" passes, meaning they will not be re-issued each year. Please keep your key tag from season to season to avoid having to pay a replacement fee (\$1). All new pool members are required to take a photo. Photos will be taken at City Hall or at the pool admissions counter. A free "key ring" app can be downloaded at [keyringapp.com](http://keyringapp.com), which is encouraged to be used so that your pool pass can be scanned from your phone. Purchase your passes by May 1 and receive \$20 off a Family Pass, \$10 off an Adult Pass and \$5 off a Youth or Nanny Pass.



## SWIM LESSON REG. OPENING DAY

Gardner Parks and Recreation will hold its annual Swimming Lesson Registration Opening Day on Saturday, April 6, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Gardner City Hall and online. Registration will be accepted on this day and will continue online and in person throughout the spring and summer. Pool passes to the Gardner Aquatic Center will also be available for purchase at City Hall during this time.