

# *Growing Garnett*

## Community Heart & Soul<sup>®</sup>

— Guided by what matters most —



# Community Feedback

## May 5, 2022

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## Introduction

Data was gathered through feedback boards at community events, surveys filled out at local businesses and events, and questions and discussions on Facebook between March 2020 and May 2022.

Thank you to everyone who for sharing their thoughts, ideas, and what matters most!

Special thanks to Geoff Meiss for administering the survey at Anderson County Jr/Sr High school and to Krista Hedrick and Reva Pracht for administering the survey at Garnett Elementary School.

## Next Steps

A team of “listeners” will review the data collected and draft Heart & Soul statements for Garnett with input from our community. The community will also review and validate the drafted statements.

## What are Heart & Soul statements?

From Community Heart & Soul:

*“At their core, Heart & Soul Statements reflect the one thing all residents share in common – living in this town.*

*Much of the work in Community Heart & Soul is devoted to exploring what residents care most about in their community—the customs, characteristics, traditions, and emotional connections that contribute to each town’s unique character. We call the sum of these attributes a community’s heart and soul.*

*Heart & Soul Statements are the distillation into clear, concise language of what matters most to residents.*

*These statements help towns prioritize actions and guide future decisions, ensuring that the community’s heart and soul is strengthened, and that the community grows more resilient.*

*Developing and then using Heart & Soul Statements is a fundamental focus of Community Heart & Soul.”*

Examples of Heart & Soul statements from other communities are included at the end of this document. Garnett’s statements will be unique to our city and will show what matters most to the residents of Garnett.

## Garnett Data

### Unique / Special

#### Describe Garnett in six words... - Facebook

- Small town friendly people live here
- Reminiscent
- Friendly people live here and love the lakes
- It will always be my hometown
- Always mine to. Was the best place to grow up in
- Hometown many years ago
- Friendly, welcoming, inviting, comforting, interesting, enjoyable
- The best place to grow up
- Great place to grow up
- Cruising the streets on Saturday nights
- The best hometown...Best childhood memories

#### What makes Garnett unique from other cities? – Facebook

- I think it is the WAY folks help each other out
- The history in that town and it is really interesting. Things are really different. Wild little town years ago. Famous people were there over the years.

#### What special place or characteristic captures the spirit of Garnett? – Facebook

- Folks helping other folks when needed. And a friendly town. I so enjoy Cornstock. Will they have that this year?
- Honest hard-working people that care about their neighbors
- The races
- And the square fair
- Our lakes for one
- Friends of the Library Ice Cream Social with the Community Band playing at the Depot
- The square
- My bank GSSB love it
- Square Fair and how people will talk to the visitors like already friends
- Garnett housing managers and all the people here are so nice, happy, helpful, and welcoming to a new resident here in Garnett...thank you
- The little church on the corner of 2nd and pine

### What we love about Garnett

#### What I love about Garnett is... - Survey

- 1. The "spirit" of Garnett. 2. How we help those in need. 3. How our community all works together not just in times of need but for fun as well.
- A quiet town
- All of it
- All the different shops & restaurants. The people are always friendly.
- All the places to eat
- Atmosphere, it's where I grew up. Quaint square. Amish community.

- Beautiful parks, nice people
- Businesses take pride in their business, friendly people, people helping people
- Came to Garnett because of the airport
- Caring community
- Churches, schools
- Citywide garage sale days, Square Fair, historic square, farmers market
- Clean city, friendly, lots of shopping places outside big box stores
- Close community
- Community events
- Community heart & family activities
- Community involvement, events (lots of variety), newer buildings (Hospital, school, etc.)
- Community pride, Rural America, people helping people on a daily basis, and continuing to go above & beyond for our community
- Community services
- Community!!
- Community, Family, Small, Lakes, Cornstock, Fair, Prairie Spirit Trail, Parks
- Community, helpfulness to others
- Community.
- county seat, close to home. Has good restaurants
- Down home feel. Dutch Restaurant. Prairie Home Market.
- Dutch Country
- Dutch Country Café
- Dutch Country Café
- Dutch Country Café & Quilt Shop
- Dutch Country Café!
- Dutch Country Café, Hospital
- Easy access to all things, friendliness
- Eating establishments, grocery store!
- Everyone helps each other when there is a need
- Everyone knows everyone & it's a very friendly community
- Everyone pretty much knows everyone. Community comes together when someone is in need.
- Everyone's friendly, small town
- Everything
- Everything
- Everything
- Everything

- Everything
- Everything
- Everything!
- Everything. Good godly people. Christian churches.
- Family friendly town, everyone helps each other
- Family, friends, safe
- Fishing at the lakes
- Friendliness
- Friendliness, small town vibe
- Friendly
- Friendly - love to shop here
- Friendly customers, great small businesses
- Friendly people
- Friendly people, convenient to the city (KC), lots of activities planned for all ages & groups of people
- Friendly people, Dutch's Café, Donut shop
- Friendly people, help when you need it
- Friendly people, plenty of shopping, lots of activities
- Friendly people, quiet community
- Friendly town
- Friendly, safe town
- Good
- Good community, social
- Good people and friends and family. Glad we can buy groceries and hardware and auto parts.
- Good people. Small town easy to get around, Know everyone, Friendly people
- Great community
- Great community & good schools
- Great little town
- Great people with work ethic, small schools, businesses that support one another.
- Great town, everyone friendly
- Having a support system of friends and family available
- Historic downtown, friendly people everywhere, community-vibe, amazing stories from way back yesteryear to today. Even though it's a small town always something happening.
- Home atmosphere

- Hometown friendliness. Small family business that used to be here. The new function facilities that have been built, hospital, jail, county barn, etc. It's too bad the existing sale barn is going to be made into a glorified gas station.
- Hometown
- Hometown friendliness, everyone knows one another
- How caring the town is
- How close of a town we are. Everyone is here for each other.
- How everyone in the community works together to help each other
- How nice the town is
- How small it is
- How small it is
- How supportive of those in times of need our community is.
- How the people are so supportive. Nice place to raise kids.
- How the people help push small town efforts.
- I am selective with the people I like here, but I do like some people. I like that this is a small town, being able to raise my kids with very little worry. I like the schools.
- I feel safe & I love the lakes
- I grew up here and glad to be back
- I grew up in Anderson County. I began my family in Garnett. I raised 3 children here because it is a safe, nice, quiet little community. My kids have all grown and moved away and I stay because my parents still live withing 30 minutes of me and I need to be near them as they age and require my help. It continues to feel like a safe area and it's "Home."
- I know everybody & they know me
- I like how small Garnett is! Everyone is friendly.
- I like to stay in Garnett.
- I love Garnett because everyone knows you. They are always willing to help people out.
- I love how close the community is
- I love how small the community is
- I love how this town feels like home. The people are genuine & nice. I haven't had a bad experience yet.
- I love it all
- I love it here
- I love our town of Garnett. It's a friendly town & like the stores we have. People are friendly & try to work with you.
- I love small towns, friendly people and knowing most everyone
- I love that Garnett is such a fun & small town! It feels so welcoming I love that I know everyone here!
- I really like Garnett, lots of things
- It is a small town
- It is nice convenient town. Love the fire work show.
- It was good
- It's a family environment, people are always nice & helping
- It's a friendly place to live

- It's a nice small town, with a homie feeling
- It's a nice town
- It's a nice town and a good place to raise your family
- It's close to home
- It's close to home, convenience
- Its community
- It's convenient
- It's cool, why I moved here
- It's Home
- It's home
- It's my hometown
- It's my hometown. I grew up here. I went to college for a bit, but nothing compares to the people in this town and all the familiar faces.
- It's not Richmond :)
- It's quiet
- It's where I live
- Knowing lots of people, friendly, love the school I work in, my neighbors don't live on top of me
- Lake, Cedar Valley
- Love all the stuff they do in Garnett, ECKAN. Glad I live here everyone helps together.
- More peoples know each
- My Dad works in Garnett
- My family
- My family
- My family
- My family loves Garnett, 3 lakes, events, schools, short distance from home to work. Feel safe, friendly, not perfect but we care.
- My friends
- My location & home and about 25% of the people. I like my church. Outside of that, I think government in Garnett has created a hostile environment for our social/economic climate.
- Neighborliness
- Nice community
- Nice community
- Nice community, people are really nice and sociable
- Nice little town
- Nice place to raise a family. Low crime. Friendly people for the most part.
- No big problems, I feel secure, friendly people
- No stop lights
- Nothing
- One restaurant very good
- Only have to walk 2 miles to get to stores
- Our community! Always willing to help one another
- Our town square

- Outside the city, but a close drive. Being in the country. Friendly people.
- Parks and recreation unmatched for a community our size. Safe community to raise children.
- Peace
- Peaceful
- Peaceful. Friendly people.
- People
- People
- People
- People and the activities
- People are great, and crime rate is low
- People are very friendly, love the Doctor's Hospital
- People you've known all your live - have your back
- People, shopping, Dutch Café
- People. DCC
- Providing the lakes & other recreational areas to be outside
- Quiet small towns are scenic to live in
- Quiet town friendly people. Lakes.
- Quiet, friendly people, low traffic, business local
- Rec center and the rail trail
- Rec Center, Pool, Parks
- Restaurants, flea markets, Country Fabrics, boutiques
- Retail properties are inexpensive to buy/rent compared to other areas. Business owners are willing to work together to plan events and are supportive of each other by cross-promoting.
- Safe for when my kids growing up, most of my family is close
- Safe, small town
- Safe, small, hometown feel & location to other airport & cities when needed
- Safety, family environment
- Schools, small town friendliness, selection of shops, community support of business
- Small - not a large city
- Small & friendly people
- Small businesses
- Small community
- Small community
- Small community
- Small community so feels safer when hubby forgets to lock up
- Small community where everyone knows each other. Nice area to live & work without traffic & crime. Close enough to large cities if you need to travel to them for things.
- Small community, cleanliness, friendly neighbors, community activities, overall small town but close to various other cities & towns
- Small community, non-traffic issues, safe community, location
- Small community, quiet, lots of family things to do
- Small community, we pull together when needed

- Small community
- Small enough to know about everyone & business
- Small Hometown
- Small town
- Small town - friends, people help each other, easy to shop
- Small town - good community. People help each other.
- Small town - good people
- Small town & know a lot of people, they are very friendly
- Small town atmosphere
- Small town atmosphere
- Small town atmosphere
- Small town atmosphere, helping hands everywhere you turn
- Small town charm
- Small town community
- Small town community, low crime, 75% conservative, non-mask mandated, smaller schools, good fishing
- Small town community, neighbors helping neighbors
- Small town environment
- Small town feel
- Small Town Feel
- Small town feel
- Small town feel (people know each other), lakes, golf course, shooting range, disc golf course, spirit trail, events (Cornstock, concerts on the square)
- Small town feel, community love
- Small town feel, friendly people
- Small town feel, lots of family around, safe place to raise family
- Small town feel, the lakes
- Small town feel. People are nice.
- Small town feel. Smaller school system. Not too far from larger cities. Not too far from major hospitals. Not too far from entertainment venues. Good variety of shopping for a town our size.
- Small town feel. We love the concerts you have throughout the year.
- Small town for my grandkids to go to school
- Small town friendliness
- Small town friendliness
- Small town independent businesses
- Small town life
- Small town life (family)
- Small town living

- Small town living
- Small town living
- Small town living
- Small town living - close to family
- Small town living & sense of community
- Small town living w/a heart
- Small town living, friendly people, clean neighborhoods
- Small town living. Friendly.
- Small town living. I like knowing everyone and vice versa. It's a great place to raise a family.
- Small town living. Very few stop lights & traffic easy to get around. Located close to bigger towns.
- Small town relations.
- Small town with conveniences
- Small town, close location to Lawrence, OP, Olathe
- Small town, everyone helps each other
- Small town, everyone helps everyone - very friendly community
- Small town, excellent services (schools, hospital, etc.), events built for community.
- Small town, friendly
- Small town, friendly
- Small town, friendly people. My family was here.
- Small town, good people
- Small town, great library, friendly
- Small town, less fuss
- Small town, library
- Small town, love the new businesses coming in, people are friendly
- Small town, no traffic
- Small town, safe on the streets, quiet atmosphere. Life-long Anderson County resident. Neighbors are friendly.
- Small town. Friends. Small businesses. Lakes, recreation opportunities. Community support. Local officials looking out for town, country, businesses, citizens.
- Small town. People are friendly. People are always willing to help.
- Small, friendly people
- Small, quiet, friendly, historic
- Snow
- So proud of my hometown - friendly, beautiful lakes & parks, many, many volunteers & people work hard to make our community better. Small town with pretty much everything I need.
- Some of the people
- Such friendly community
- Supportive place to live
- That ever one is nice
- That everyone knows everyone
- That I have a better life

- The "Mayberry" mentality
- The "small town feel", support for individuals and community as a whole. Wonderful small businesses that are locally owned and operated. Recreation opportunities.
- The "small town" feel. Knowing your customers and being able to help them.
- The amazing sense of community
- The close family feel
- The community
- The community
- The community
- The community & people & businesses
- The community as a whole. Everyone is very nice.
- The community support
- The community!
- The community, small town, rec center
- The community. I feel at home when I visit here.
- The cooperativeness of some of the people
- The Dutch Country Café, The Prairie Home Market, Friendly People
- The elementary school, the library, Dutch, Toddy's, Tradewinds, parks
- The friendliness & willingness to go above and beyond to help our fellow man. Very clean and it is apparent the folks take great pride in the community they live in.
- The friendliness of its people. The shops and the medical needs & hospital
- The friendliness of the people and the area of closeness the business are obtainable to elders. Love the lakes & country
- The friendly community, organizations are great, many projects bringing people to town. New hospital, schools, etc.
- The great community and all the loving people.
- The hometown attitude
- The hometown feel
- the lakes
- The lakes, courthouse, and historic buildings, depot & trail
- The lakes. The stores we have. Friendly people.
- The library.
- the little town closeness everyone knows you and the kindness to you
- The location, the size - the lakes - the old Lutheran Church Library I considered a historical landmark & was a beautiful building. I am thankful the Court House, Kirk house, Methodist church and Presbyterian Church are still with us.
- The north & south lakes, & disc golf course. The prairie spirit trail. Evens like the square fair and Cornstock.
- The north lake, you can go fishing
- The people
- The people
- The people
- The people

- The people are our greatest asset and so often the people in our city government do not look for this resource when making decisions. Our business owners are awesome. They usually are not getting rich but are so dedicated. We also have great little parks, and our rec center has been a very nice addition.
- The people are so kind and are willing to help others in need
- The people are very friendly & businesses are very easy to work with.
- The people of the town
- The people!
- The people, small town atmosphere, Church, everything I need
- The people, the work ethic, the way everyone helps others
- The people. The neighborly environment. The beauty of the city, walking trail & lakes.
- The preserved square. Hometown / small biz. Small town culture - everybody knows everybody. Shopping opportunities.
- The quiet, less crime
- The sale at auction place
- The schools, the people for the most part
- The sense of community and events such as the car shows and Cornstock!
- The sense of community. The schools' dedication to the kids.
- The small community / schools
- The small size. Easy access to the city. The Chamber Players. The variety of restaurants. Outdoor recreation (rail trail, golf course, lakes)
- The small-town atmosphere! I love the square and the rail trail. I love the access to the rec center.
- The small-town atmosphere.
- The small-town atmosphere. The rural setting. Everyone knows everyone & everyone is friendly and helpful
- The small-town environment, everyone knows your name, etc., My family is here, St. Rose School
- The small town feel & caring for each other. All my friends & family live in the county. I work in this community as a nurse & enjoy caring for my neighbors & friends.
- The small town feel and how everyone knows each other
- The small town feel.
- The small town feel. The everybody knows everybody aspect of the community.
- The small-town mentality. How everyone helps everyone.
- The small town pace
- The small town setting
- The spirit & togetherness of the people
- The square
- The support when in need
- The tight community relationship
- The town square, a wonderful golf course. The high school/elementary.
- The town, the people, most anyway
- The utilities bill is all in one
- The various businesses and sense of community

- The way the community works together. Small town values.
- They are so friendly
- They still have a grocery store
- The friendliness of the people
- Very friendly community, love the hospital
- Very welcoming community! Lots of community events
- Warm & friendly people
- We enjoy the community
- We have a lot more nice amenities and activities for a town this size. Also, there are several people to work very hard to put on many events & improve the community.
- When the town comes together and helps those in need.
- You can count on most locals
- You can win money

#### What do you love about Garnett? – Anderson County Jr/Sr High School

- Garnett is a community that everyone knows.
- How close I am with everyone
- How close we all are.
- How quiet it is
- How the town helps out one another
- I have nothing that I love about Garnett
- I like that the area is very small, so necessities are close and convenient. I also like that the people are a little old-fashioned, but not too old-fashioned.
- I like the close relationships everyone has with each other
- I love all the local businesses and restaurants Garnett has to offer.
- I love how it's a smaller community than where I came from. I actually know all of my classmates' names and all that. I love how friendly the businesses are.
- I love that Garnett has multiple boutiques in town.
- I love the history of the town; I also love the old thrift stores too.
- Idk Food or something
- Its peaceful
- It's small.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- People and sports
- Small town
- Sonic
- The baseball program
- The community
- The community
- The community
- The farm community
- The lake

- The lakes
- The majority of the people and the Church campus
- The people
- The people
- The people make the town so welcoming to new people.
- The school
- The simplicity
- The small-town events that are unique to Garnett

**What do you love about our city? – Garnett Elementary School**

- I love Dollar General; it has things there that I want for one dollar
- 4-H - winning shows and prizes like a belt buckle
- 6th Avenue Boutique
- All Star Gymnastics
- All Star Gymnastics
- All Star Gymnastics because I get to learn how to do flips and stuff, Dutch Country Café because there is coffee
- Basketball at the Rec Center
- Casey's because my grandma used to work there, and the donuts are delicious
- Cedar Valley Reservoir
- Chick-fil-A truck
- Chinese
- Country Mart
- Cousin's house
- Dairy Queen
- Dairy Queen, Sonic, Swimming Pool, Casey's Skate Park
- Dance
- Dance
- Daylight Donuts



- Garnett Rec Football
- GES
- GES
- GES
- GES
- GES
- GES school
- GES school
- GES Summer School
- Going to the grocery store to get ice cream
- Going to the park, swimming, and get ice cream
- Gymnastics
- Gymnastics
- Gymnastics
- Gymnastics
- Gymnastics
- Gymnastics
- House
- I enjoy shopping in Dollar General. I'm glad it is there if we can't find an object at a store then you got the Dollar store
- I enjoy that there are so many activities for the kids to take part in from Garnett Rec to 4-H. It really depends on how involved families want to be. Our community supports youth in so many ways
- I like to go to the thrift store
- I like the North Lake
- I like a lot of things, but I will narrow it down to two things. The first I like because I like showing my cattle and rabbits, it is fun. The second thing I like is the Sale Barn. I like the smell and the cattle sales; my family raises cattle. I get so excited when cattle sell. When I was little Gen Roman would call out my name and tell me to stand before he died.
- I like all sports and our school as well as the band
- I like all the parks to play on with my family
- I like Bulldog Football, I like Garnett Rec
- I like Casey's
- I like Casey's pizza and drinks
- I like Country Mart because we get food there and food makes us healthy
- I like DQ and Sonic cuz they are delicious
- I like DQ because of their blizzards and their burgers are delish
- I like DQ because they have very good Reese's blizzards
- I like Dutch Country because most of their food is very good especially their cinnamon rolls
- I like fishing at the North Lake.
- I like football bull dogs. I like the sale barn
- I like friends
- I like Garnett

- I like Garnett football because I really like football
- I like Garnett Rec Basketball and the 4th of July firework show
- I like Garnett Rec Football
- I like GES School
- I like going to Pizza Hut
- I like gymnastics and the public library because there is a lot of books and I love books
- I like how Garnett has Donna's School of Dance in Garnett. I also like how the pool has a diving board and how the public library has puppets inside, and how the park has swings and slides
- I like how it has some disc golf courses, although I don't know where they are
- I like how this is a peaceful town, no harm
- I like how we don't have a crammed up trashy city. I also like how you mostly know everyone in the city because of how small it is.
- I like little water bridge because we can drive on the bridge when there is a little pit of water
- I like my house
- I like parks
- I like Pizza Hut because of their Pizza and the cinnamon sticks
- I like playing football and wrestling and school. I am good at football so that is why I like it a lot. Wrestling I am descent so I kind of like it.
- I like playing Garnett Rec football and its American football not English football
- I like playing rec football, I like the restaurants in Garnett, I like how people help each other when in need
- I like Sonic
- I like Sonic because I like their Oreo master has
- I like Sonic because the shakes, burgers, and fries are really good
- I like swimming
- I like that we have a pool here in town, it cools me down
- I like that we have a pool in town
- I like that we have a Sonic, Starbucks, Pool, and Chick-fil-A, Daylight Donuts
- I like the Casey's because they have great pizza and sell great drinks and great snacks. I like Garnett's Chinese food; I like Garnett Elementary School because those teachers are interesting.
- I like the Chick-fil-A here cause of its sauces and the food
- I like the Chick-fil-A truck
- I like the Chick-fil-A truck and the swimming pool
- I like the Dairy Queen a lot! The ice cream is just perfect! I also like Country Mart, everyone there is so kind and caring also a lot of food I like there too!
- I like the Dairy Queen in town. I like the Pizza Hut here too because the bread sticks are good
- I like the Dairy Queen, it is a big Dairy Queen
- I like the Dutch Café
- I like the Garnett Rec cheer because we always have games and cheer practices
- I like the Garnett Rec Football team

- I like the Garnett Rec Football team and kids club wrestling
- I like the Garnett swimming pool and the Garnett Rec Girls Volleyball team that I am on
- I like the lake for fishing in. I like the nice people that help others
- I like the lake; I like to fish on a boat
- I like the Mexican Restaurant and Dutch Country Café
- I like the North Lake
- I like the North Lake to go camping with family. We go fishing there
- I like the park here and the skate park and I like going fishing at the Reservoir.
- I like the parks that are here. Girl Scout place
- I like the part because the park has slides and monkey bars that I like to play on.
- I like the pool, I like Rec Cheer
- I like the pools and the parks so I can swim and play, and I love to swim so it is perfect
- I like the Prairie Market because there are puppets there
- I like the public pool because I can go off the diving board
- I like the Rec Center because it has a basketball court and weight rooms
- I like the restaurants, fast foods, school, and the trail
- I like the skate park
- I like the small shops in town like Monroe 816 and I am excited for the new smoothie shop in town!
- I like the Sonic because it has good food
- I like the swimming pool
- I like the swimming pool in Garnett. I like the friendly people at the Garnett Public Library, I like the Garnett Elementary School, I like the fireworks show on 4th of July
- I like the swimming pool, but I also like Sonic, Pizza Hut and I like the skate park and all the stores there are
- I like the tennis court is useful. The soccer field next to the north lake because that's where I have football practice
- I like the trail when it rains lightly.
- I like to go out and eat with some of my family on our birthdays at the Mexican restaurant. I also like to play with our pets
- I like to go to the Public Library I love to read and so I like to get books to read. I like the South and North Lake because I like to fish with my grandpa. I go night fishing too.
- I like to play at the reservoir, and we go to the trails and we got mud
- I like Valley R because they have the grain I need for my animals like my horses and cows. I like the vets because they take care of my pets if they go sick
- I like volleyball rec. I like the Sonic in this town. I like Garnett Rec Wrestling
- I like walking on the Prairie Spirit trail with my family
- I love 4-H. I love Donna's School of Dance, I love Orscheln. I love DQ
- I love all of the creeks because you can explore all of the land and find stuff in the water like craw dads, and you can go fishing
- I love being able to have a disc golf area
- I love being able to show my livestock by participating in 4-H. 4-H is fun and is a learning experience
- I love Bulldogs High School because my mom teaches there

- I love Donna Dance Because you can dance in front of a crowd, and I love Pizza Hut because they have the best wings
- I love DQ and I like playing basketball.
- I love eating at Mexican
- I love eating Mexican at the square
- I love going to the Public Library to check out books
- I love having Dairy Queen because of the ice cream and chicken strips and I also love having a public swimming pool. I love swimming and swimming with friends
- I love how we have a nice community dance studio with very nice dance instructors
- I love my house, baseball, and football
- I love Sonic in Garnett, I like Country Mart, I like my neighbors, I love my friends, I love my family, I love my pets
- I love Subway and it's so good and you get to make your own sandwich
- I love Subway because their food is awesome
- I love swimming at the swimming pool
- I love that Garnett is able to support our own firework display for the 4th of July. I always enjoy the Square Fair but would like to see more kid friendly activities. Having the plane rides is a lot of fun as well
- I love the golf course
- I love the public swimming pool because I learned to jump off the diving board
- I love the soccer rec here in Garnett. The library is my favorite place to go when I walk around town. Short Stop is my favorite place to go and get candy or drinks. Dairy Queen is my favorite fast-food place here.
- I love the sports that the Garnett Rec supplies. The Mexican restaurant is my favorite restaurant
- I love volleyball, Garnett Rec, Sonic, GES, DQ, Garnett Pool, Basketball, Soccer, Library
- I really like the Rec Center because I can work out with my brother
- I really like the Simple Simons
- I really like to go downtown to El Jimador and eat a beef burrito with cheese sauce instead of red sauce.
- Keep all the Rec Football and baseball going
- Library
- My dad's remodeling houses
- My house to play games. I love Starbucks coffee. I love Walmart to get a million toys. I love my grandma's house to see my baby brother
- Nice people
- Our train station, did you know that the North Lake was dug up by hand?
- Park

- Park
- Park
- Park and Swimming
- Park and Swimming Pool
- Park, DQ, Sonic, Pool
- Park, swimming pool, DQ
- Pizza Hut
- Pizza Hut, Subway
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playgrounds and ice cream
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool and Reservoir
- Pool, DQ
- Pool, park
- Post Office
- Power Plant
- Public Library
- Public Library
- Public Library
- Public Library
- Rail Trail, North Lake
- Rec Flag Football, park
- Rec Flag Football, pool, park
- Rec Football
- Rec Football
- Rec volleyball, fairgrounds, GES, Library, swimming pool
- Reservoir
- School
- School GES
- Short Stop

- Showing and selling livestock at the Anderson County Fair, 4-H
- Skate Park
- Softball
- Sonic
- Sonic and Short Stop because of their pizza and sonic because their plain hotdog and chicken strips
- Sonic and Swimming Pool
- Sonic, I like the hot fudge sundae. This is Sonic it's my favorite place in Garnett all the people there are nice
- Sonic, I like the ice cream, DQ like the chicken
- Sonic, Chinese restaurant, ice cream
- Sonic, Subway, Dollar General, DQ, Country Mart, Short Stop, Casey's
- Sonic's big ice cream cones. DQ because it has good breakfast meals and ice cream.
- South Lake
- Subway
- Subway because it has the best sandwiches and also Sonic it has delicious milkshakes
- Swimming
- Swimming & Rail Trail
- Swimming and fishing at North Lake
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool and getting ice cream
- Tacos and donut store and messy donuts
- That the people are nice to me with my money and dog and me
- The Chinese food, the VFW, the events, Sonic ice cream
- The farms and the Orscheln and the swimming pool
- The lake
- The library, Cedar Valley Reservoir, Chinese food especially the noodles, my old school, GES my new school, my aunt's house

- The park it is cool, I like it
- The pool because you can swim and the toys you can bring to the swimming pool
- The public park because it has monkey bars which it is by the rec center
- The Rec Cheer
- The rodeo grounds
- The soccer practices
- The Square
- Volleyball
- Watching Rec Cheer
- What Garnett has a school. What Garnett has a pool. What Garnett has a Subway
- What I like about Garnett is GES because we get to do fin stuff and we get to learn
- What I like about Garnett is their Sonic, and I like playing softball. I also like showing my rabbits in 4-H
- What I like about town is soccer and fishing
- What there is a very good DQ with also a Trade Winds with very good people. The people are very nice.
- Wolken Tire

If you want cool things to happen in your small town, you have to do cool things.

- When you move to a larger city people don't understand your automatic move to volunteer. I have to explain to them that in a small town we had to volunteer to make it happen. It's nice to feel needed actually.
- And city folk didn't understand why we attended every high school football and basketball game when our kids weren't on the team.

What I love about Garnett is... - Event Board

- 3 Lakes
- Anderson County Veterans Memorial
- Arthur Capper history
- Ball fields
- Camping Cedar Valley Reservoir
- Community
- Community spirit pride
- Crappie!
- Everything - real value!
- Family oriented
- Family-owned businesses making us great!
- It's home
- Monroe 816
- My parents live here
- Park
- Pool
- Subway
- The 1858 Garnett Hotel
- The people

- Waterski Lake Garnett

### Priorities / What is Important

#### What matters most to you? – Facebook

- God and my family
- My family!
- Love of God Family & Friends & All
- My family!
- God Family and Awesome Neighbors
- Watching my 15-year-old grow up in Garnett and graduate high school
- Family and my home
- Family.

#### What are some of the things about Garnett that you hope will never change? – Facebook

- Love the small-town feel.
- The Amish restaurant, Country Mart, Sale Barn, Mexican restaurant, antique places on occasion
- Most definitely wouldn't ever want to lose the quaintness of our beautiful town
- The generosity of people
- The friendliness!
- The way people help each other out
- I agree with all of the above. I don't live there now but did for 10 years. I miss Garnett.
- People who make things happen! We have so much for our small population.
- Working together as a community to help other folks out
- Hometown feeling
- The People!
- Whenever there is a need. Our community steps up!
- I would not ever want to live in a town neighbors right next-door dos and don'ts but I really like Garnett
- People are FRIENDLY
- I like the laid back, help anyone out attitude.
- The friendly people
- Stay a small town!
- I love how quiet it is.
- Has already almost for the last two years it did not for the good
- The wonderful friends & other people
- People warm hearted
- The Friendliest people
- that, we all stay PURE & GENUINE AS WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN!!!
- Small town lifestyle
- The people you know that would give you the shirt off their back
- All the generous people
- The relaxed, friendly small-town culture.

What changes have we made as a community for COVID-19 that you hope we will keep in the future? – Facebook

- The blessing box and just helping each other more than we have before
- More community presence... a one-for-all and all-for-one attitude
- Continue staying at least 6 feet apart
- More compassion
- The blessing box
- Wash your hands and have plenty of toilet paper, to get rid of crappie politicians!
- Growing Garnett I want to be clear. I don't know local politicians enough to say about anything, but the top end of our leaders are trying to destroy America that makes me mad!
- I kinda like the 6' rule in the stores!
- I think it brought us all closer together as a community. The teddy bears were the first thing and we all displayed teddy bears. Without a second thought for the kids to see.
- Cleanliness
- Remembering to support local businesses and appreciate essential workers.
- Showing care and respect for our fellow citizens. At least Garnett shows we aren't supporting the "just me" attitude that is obvious in some other communities
- all the bike riding!
- Support local business!
- All the generosity in time of need and yes supporting small business

What should Garnett's leaders focus on? – Facebook

- Not building a new power plant. Fix the wall a lot cheaper. Go talk to small towns that did it. Erie KS did it. Big rip off by KCPL people are not happy at all.
- Getting jobs for people
- How many jobs? Depending on what kind of power plant it is it won't bring many jobs.
- What's the power plant have to do with getting jobs in Garnett? I was talking about getting some other business in Garnett
- Variety store like Alco
- Still would like to see better curbs on 4th
- Keeping the crud out of town like other cities are letting in
- Manufacturing facilities and/or industries that pay living wages with benefits
- Welcome wagon/committee for newcomers. When you put something in the paper add an address. Second tree in Smith's yard isn't very descriptive
- Alco type store, larger Dollar Store, new Casey's, more industry, more senior housing, restaurants open Sunday for breakfast/lunch
- More senior housing, update the square, maybe do a "movie in the park" during summer and early fall (for families), We have the North Lake let's add something like the waterskiing place up by Paola, more for our young folks
- Bringing industry to Garnett
- Roads need fixed, pool needs upgraded. Maintenance on the baseball fields around north lake so they can be used.
- Getting more activities for the youth.

- Lower taxes and being more welcoming to newcomers and ones who have returned back home.
- Bring good jobs to town, which I know you have to have a company willing to come but that was my first thought... By bringing good jobs to town, you would have one of two things happen. Either A people would move to town or B people from near town would come and spend money in town. This would also give people in town a chance to get a good job but stay local. The other thing which is not necessarily on the city leaders but whenever a business closes down, we need to get something else in the buildings. If you go down the highway there are at least two buildings for sale and one which is not being used.
- Maybe tear down all the unoccupied houses in town. It would be prettier to look at a green lot then an old house.
- A sidewalk from the High School. The kids have to walk on the road to and from school in good and bad weather. Sometimes they are horse playing and not watching traffic. There also younger children walk from the High school off the buses.

If you were a Garnett City Commissioner what would your top three priorities be? – Facebook

- 1. Business growth 2. Community engagement 3. Downtown growth
- 1. Housing 2. Small Businesses 3. Community redevelopment engagement
- 1. Sidewalks coming out of the High School for the Children, so They don't have to walk in the street. 2. Marking and signs for cross walks on HWY 59 coming thru town 3. Improve rain drainage systems

What does Garnett need to spend more money on and what should our city spend less money on? – Facebook

- Not a building a new power plant. Fix the wall a lot cheaper. Go talk to smaller towns that did it. Erie KS did it. Big rip off by KCPL people are not happy at all.
- It's a water plant they are trying to replace, and we don't buy power from KCP&L
- Fix the wall lot less than 21 million dollars
- There is more to it than just a wall
- Well let's just put it up for vote. Have a good day.
- Fine by me. Was trying to further people's knowledge on the topic. Sorry if I came across wrong.
- Growing Garnett thank you! I enjoy reading the discussion that take place on this page. Not a bad one yet.
- New swimming pool, all the roads, something for ALL kids to do.
- Very few go out there now. Have pools at home. At one time that pool would be full of people!
- We don't use the pool because there is not enough shade. They are open a few hours at a time and charge admission every time.
- By charge every time, what I mean is if you pay in the morning and they close for lunch you have to pay a second time to get back in for the afternoon with
- If they do build a new pool, how about putting it adjacent to the rec center and have it indoors, so that it could be used year 'round?
- Even better yet, enclose the existing one and build a walkway from the rec center

- How about paving some the alleyway behind some the business downtown?
- I really can't think of anything to spend less on as we really need to spend more on things to make this town grow. The more it grows the more money the city will have.
- Roads, YMCA type pool
- Growing Garnett this would be awesome
- New swimming pool with slides and stuff, new playground equipment like the stuff at Forest Park in Ottawa!
- Indoor pool that could be used year-round would be great
- Fix the curbs and the potholes in the streets and the streets themselves
- Look at the highway signs for "tourist activities". Dairy Queen and 2 motels ... Seriously? Think things like museum or art gallery might be more of an enticement?
- New pool with slides and splash park for the kids. CURBS throughout town it looks awful when you drive through town and there isn't even curbs.
- Repave Elm Street like I was promised last year!!
- More electric sites and better bathrooms at the reservoir
- and better maintenance had to go get my own trash cans this weekend while camping
- Growing Garnett we have to mow a lot when we go so our site is cleaned up
- We did so! We usually have to go dump the trash cans as soon as we get there.
- You realize to put in modern restrooms you have to put in a septic system? Then when the lake floods EVERY YEAR, said septic gets washed into the supply that is used in town by everyone?
- Hey at the very least come out and have them cleaned last time we were there it was so bad
- Yes, they should be cleaned and sanitized every week. Not sure who is in charge of that, I would say the parks department
- Sewer hookups would be nice at the campsites
- A better grocery store!
- A Dollar Tree
- More money on street repairs
- I wouldn't even know how to start! Unfortunately, I have about 200 things that could be done to lower taxes and cut expenses but the second you throw them out you're labeled an extremist, so not much of a point!
- Cutting trees out of power lines like the one in my backyard I asked them to get rid of 10 years ago before we get another bad windstorm or ice storm
- More money on the swimming pool!
- Spend more on infrastructure and less on tourism
- More dire on our ball fields that, so the water will drain off
- Yes!!
- Notify me of the next tax sale...
- absolutely
- The city should invest their dollars in areas that would encourage more people to move into the area, encourage additional retail/restaurants to open in Garnett, and encourage industry with better paying jobs (manufacturing, etc.). This means changing codes especially building/signage codes on Hwy 59 going through town. It's the first and last impression prospective investors and/or potential residents see. Have blocks of land

suitable for industry available to present to prospective clients and actively recruit to build and/or move to Garnett. I know Garnett is just far enough out of Olathe/Gardner area which makes it challenging but make it palatable with tax incentives and a skilled work force in the area. Farm equipment manufacturing I am sure has been a target. The new school, hospital, fire and police departments were very attractive to me when I decided to move here two years ago. Invest in curbs, repairing parking lots, updating lighting through town, review codes for how businesses keep their appearance, review codes for homes (how much trash or broken cars, etc. allowed in front yard). Invest in another ball field with other activities for kids, teens, and adults. The rec center is nice, but it's reserved quite a bit for team practices and groups, which is frustrating for someone like me that purchased an annual membership. I understand why it is but maybe utilize another gym in the area more? Not sure if there is a good answer to that one. Look to leverage high speed internet companies in Garnett to expand their reach outside the city limits. Once you are a mile outside of town the service is terrible. Spend wisely to ultimately increase corporate and residential tax revenues which in turn can be used to invest and make Garnett a more enjoyable place to live for everyone.

- They could use the Ray Meyer gym for practice instead of the rec
- I think they do but from what I gather it's still not enough space for the amount of teams.
- They should spend some money on helping ALL the stray animals we have here (that no one seems to dare for). A lot of people don't go to the pool anymore as they have their own in the backyard so that might be a waste. We need something for adult's that don't drink to do.
- Sidewalks around the square and streets
- A catch and release program. That would control the cat population and keep the rodent population down. This is a program in most cities and now coming to towns.
- Actually, fixing the spot on first street that just keeps getting covered with gravel. Every time it rains it just washes away.
- Sewer systems, curbs through town, new batting cages for the lake fields. And redo the softball fields around the lake so people can use them. A lake restaurant so our town always has visitors coming around the lake. New road around the lake so races can still make a comeback.
- Tradewinds on the lake, love it, lol.
- Electrical grid. No more brown outs.
- Definitely fixing the roads would be awesome I drive defensively but not due to other drivers; I don't want to rack my car in some of the monstrous potholes.
- Hire code enforcement officer to clean up the junk properties. Enforce the no grass clipping in the street ordinance.
- A nice Shower Bath house at our lakes
- Less contracting work from the outside. If our employees can't do it, then we need to hire employees who know how to do the job. The north lake bridge needs work. The roads are horrible all-around town. The road around the square should be stripped down and redone...that's how all the roads should be done. Less money for vehicles.
- More money on things to keep children busy and outta trouble activities recreation volunteer work at maybe a garden that could be done somewhere in the city a flower

and or vegetable and fruit. Kids volunteer to do the work and make the town look nice or grow food to donate. Help less fortunate families.

## Changes We'd Like to See in Garnett

### Changes I would like to see in Garnett are... - Survey

- A cheaper place to buy groceries
- A good restaurant open Sundays, more recreation possibilities for old people
- A house for animals
- A large employer to diversify the tax base. Consolidation of outlying schools in Garnett.
- A little more industry. More choices of restaurants.
- A movie theater or a place for the youth to play
- A new Dollar General
- A place for kids to go and hang out
- A variety of restaurants
- A Walmart
- Actually, promote businesses that bring in out-of-town business for other businesses in Garnett. "Promoting" means more than collecting dues and asking for a discount for an event. Church leaders showing more Christ-like and less judgmental attitudes. Encouraging businesses instead of negative gossiping.
- Affordable grocery store, more job opportunities, pool upgrade
- Airport improvement
- An Aldi's or other grocery option
- Another grocery store. Wider parking spaces. No plants that obstruct your view at crossings & entering the highway. No parking in the streets unless only on one side. No cars parked across sidewalks. One dog per household and owners that would pay attention to them so they wouldn't bark all the time like on "dog St." where I live. Sidewalks downtown fixed so you don't stub your toe and fall down. More homeowners required to fix theirs. Less people for glorified jobs being paid money that could be used to fix the streets and necessary repairs for the city.
- As stated, more input for our government from the people. More cooperation between city and county government to keep taxes and other costs of living in Garnett reasonable. Better maintenance of streets.
- Better care of stray animals, maybe a facility to care for them
- Better economic opportunity
- Better infrastructure (sidewalks, streets, etc.), updated swimming pool and lakes/fishing tournaments, coed sports, etc.
- Better places to shop, need Alco-type stores, more industry, more mom & pop restaurants
- Better public pool
- Better roads!
- Better roads, food joints
- Better shopping for groceries & stores
- Better streets
- Better streets, more business choices
- Better streets, more stuff for kids to do

- Better streets, most things I like
- Better the lakes for fishing
- Better water quality
- Bigger trash cans
- Bike rentals, kayak rentals at lakes
- Bowling alley, skating rink, movie theater
- Business growth, manufacturing
- Can't think of a thing. We absolutely love it here.
- Can't think of any
- Can't think of anything that affects me
- Change ordinance to allow truck drivers to park in front of personal home when home if they live on a truck route. That's why we look for homes on a truck route. To feel more at home.
- Change within the mindset of those in charge
- Cheaper housing
- Chick-fil-A
- City & County Commissions should be 5 people
- Cleanup certain areas
- Community things for the children to do
- Complete projects! Water treatment plant, project runway, Maple Street project. Sales tax increase to improve infrastructure (water lines, gas lines, streets, curbs, infrastructure). Downtown revitalization. Businesses and apartments moving into empty buildings. More food trucks. Aquatic center. Pool improvements. Local brewery. More events held downtown.
- Continue to promote growth downtown
- Country Mart carry family size food pack. Clean street faster. Cheaper rent.
- Don't really know. I guess a Walmart but that would hurt our small businesses we have.
- Downtown revitalization, more restaurants to choose from, more downtown activities, more downtown shops
- Economic Development needs to be abolished. Community Development and Tourism needs to be abolished. United Nations 2021 and 2030 protocols need to never be accepted or implemented by City Commissioners or city managers. Chamber of Commerce must leave City Hall and go back to its own building. Everything Chris Weiner wanted to do because he was a con, Agenda 2021/2030 stooge. Funds no longer appropriated by Economic Development and Community Development and Tourism should be disseminated to departments more in need of money to better function and ultimately start making money for the City instead of wasting it on repairs for failing equipment, like the Refuse Department. Everything Chris Weiner wanted to do must be ignored...
- Economic development. More downtown business that brings more life both day & night. More fun things to do, art, music, etc.
- Educating people on local amenities. More people need to shop/eat local. I feel not everyone realizes what's available. Updating facilities at the local lakes/parks.
- End of the phone forum
- Everyone gets along

- Family restaurants
- Fix Maple Street
- Fix streets
- Fix the streets
- Get a bookstore, movie theater, things for teenagers to do
- Good!
- Government in Garnett has little understanding why government exists.
- Grass to curb filled in with concrete walkway
- Grocery store downtown, clothing stores downtown, some type of dime store.
- Groups seem to want to do good but aren't aware of what others are doing. If they were...more (bigger impact could be made). Housing.
- GROWTH - More businesses brought in and allowed to prosper, which would give more people the opportunity to work and shop here at home as they would not have to drive so far just to earn a living.
- Growth, small but steady
- Gym
- Hand out harsher jail sentences
- Help the tourism bring in more people to promote all events. They're doing a great job.
- Holiday cheer, parks, recreation activity
- I hope to see the downtown square come alive with activities. More growth, more living - how about apartments?
- I want the citizens to be positive. Keep the downtown buildings intact.
- I wish there was a way to restore/improve the old track/football stadium and use it for something. I wish there could be some more updating to the North lake - boat ramp. Where are we with issues with the dam at North Lake?
- I would create more public events for the small children and teenagers to have fun & keep them out of trouble. I would try to do more events for grownups to mingle so they would quit being so cliquish...because if you don't fit into that clique, you're out!!!
- I would like all these small committees to come together, drop the attitudes & hurt feelings & work together for the betterment of the community
- I would like not much to change! Just keep loving this town
- I would like to see more antique shops
- I would like to see the return of the free city-wide cleanup.
- Ice cream trucks, theater, bowling alley, arcade, Chick-fil-A, mountains and an ocean, hot springs
- Improvements to infrastructure, getting water treatment plant funded & improvements to roads. Revitalize the downtown, businesses moving into empty buildings.
- Improvements to infrastructure. Safe park/play area for kids where there is no need to cross busy trafficways. Organizations/groups collaborating on projects
- Improvements with our roads, water treatment plant, and swimming pool.
- Increased support for local businesses
- Indoor pool, street repair
- Indoor swimming pool
- Infrastructure improvements, greater emphasis on improving for the future

- Infrastructure upgrades, power grid
- Involving children/kids more in volunteering for our community
- Larger newer Dollar Store, updated Casey's. North Lake pride - take care of ball fields - upkeep of fields. Empty lots on square - bocce courts, putt putt, pickleball.
- Less empty buildings, better care of the town and resources.
- Less exclusive behavior, more openness/acceptance of all, people being more proactive, being a community that young adults want to be a part of
- Less tractors on the roads
- Less traffic on Park Road
- Less trashy around streets/parks
- Like Aldi's to come to town
- Lower drug rate
- Lower prices for food
- Lower rent
- Lower taxes
- Lower taxes, cheaper utilities
- Main Street road fixed.
- Maybe a few more businesses
- Maybe a new grocery store and dollar store
- Maybe another convenience store opportunity. Grocery store: more veggies, fruits, more checkers on at peak times. Better stock at hardware stores i.e., electrical, building materials, etc. Locals not helping local businesses more, shopping gift certificates.
- Maybe more activities to involve kids
- Maybe more places to eat
- McDonalds
- More activities
- More activities besides sports
- More activities for children
- more activities for families
- More activities for families and children
- More activities for Kids
- More activities for kids. Places for kids to go and do.
- More activities for our growing teens
- More activities for teenagers i.e., bowling, movies, roller skating
- More activities for the youth & residents
- More activities for younger generation
- More activities for youth
- More affordable housing, daycare center, support for houseless individuals
- More assisted living
- More autism signs in park to help community
- More bars
- More big businesses to bring more jobs
- More business
- More business

- More business
- More business
- More business downtown
- More business especially restaurants. More industry for local jobs.
- More business opportunities, shopping, restaurants
- More business, better streets, animal control
- More businesses
- More businesses able to open and be successful. Speed limits enforced. More affordable and respectable living options.
- More businesses downtown, better infrastructure development
- More businesses downtown, more restaurant places, different fast-food options
- More businesses open on Mondays
- More businesses would be open on Monday's. The hardware stores stay open a bit later for people who work 6 days a week.
- More businesses, better roads
- More businesses. More weekend activities to keep us in town. Family activity options. Garnett recognized/known for X.
- More childcare options, more shopping, more pride in keeping properties neat & clean, trash, trees trimmed, weeds, alleys, etc.
- More commercial development downtown on the square
- More cow bells
- More daycare/childcare
- More dinner sit down options. Lower property taxes. Allowing food trucks with lower fee. Pool upgrades.
- More downtown, better senior housing
- More eating establishments
- More eating options, community activities
- More economic growth
- More economic options like Alco and a good restaurant open at night - non-alcohol or family friendly. Seems if you're not part of the "right" crowd you can't develop things in town.
- More events would be nice like a May Day festival
- More family activities. More teen activities.
- More family events
- More fast-food eating options: Arby's Pizza Ranch, Wendy's, etc.
- More focus on growing small businesses and lowering taxes
- More food choices.
- More food choices. Beaches/swimming options @ the lakes & reservoir.

- More food choices. Beaches/swimming options @ the lakes & reservoir.
- More food choices. Beaches/swimming options @ the lakes & reservoir.
- More food options, more activities for kids
- More food options, more entertainment, cleaner look (underground power) (planters, revitalized downtown)
- More food services & grocery stores, continued community involvement
- More for young people, movie theater, Arcade, Skate Park, etc.
- More friendly people, more stuff to do in Garnett
- More friendly, sit-down restaurant options
- More fun for kids
- More grocery choices
- More housing for the elderly, more industries, better streets & sidewalks
- More industries. Bring more people to town.
- More industry
- More industry & jobs. With that would come more sales tax, better or more improvements to streets. More jobs would keep people in town which would increase local shopping.
- More industry, better streets, upkeep on properties & businesses
- More Industry, less taxes
- More involvement from people living in Garnett at events
- More job opportunities, like industrial park to make more people and money flow into towns
- More jobs
- More jobs of \$40,000+. More businesses on the square.
- More local businesses
- More Mom & Pop restaurants
- More new factories. Other new factories. We now need another sale barn area established in the Garnett area.
- More opportunities that draw younger families to move here. More things/activities for kids. An organization like Thrive in Allen County / Bolder Humboldt.
- More opportunity. Be able to bring in more revenue on a local level.
- More options for recreation although not sure what that looks like -- bowling? Movies? Escape room? Might be hard to support - more restaurants like a steakhouse
- More parks, home rehab
- More people picking up jobs and not everything closing.
- More people, more business, & daycare
- More places for children to play. Bigger, better parks.
- More places to eat & shop
- More places to eat at
- More places to eat out
- More places to eat, a new dollar store & Casey's
- More places to eat.
- More playgrounds
- More preschools & daycares

- More quality job opportunities, on par with city pay
- More reason to keep young couples in the area. There are no descent jobs in this town that don't require a commute. There are few things for kids to do to stay out of trouble. I would appreciate better maintenance of our streets and city drainage/sewer system. There are also some homes in town that look bad, i.e., lawns not mowed, trash piling up, porches packed full of garbage, that should be addressed.
- More restaurants
- More restaurants
- More restaurants or shopping centers
- More restaurants, have more businesses to keep the young here
- More restaurants, more shopping
- More restaurants, newer playground equipment at city parks, swimming area at lake
- More restaurants. I miss Alco. Get a bigger Dollar Store & Casey's
- More restaurants. Things to keep busy.
- More retail
- More retail businesses
- More rules about trespassing on other people property. Allowing dogs to roam on someone else's property. (pooping)
- More safe places for kids & teens to hang out
- More shopping
- More shopping choices
- More shopping, more places to have gatherings, more equipment at the parks, an after-school program.
- More shops
- More sidewalks
- More stores
- More stores (clothing) available
- More stores, industry
- More support for local events
- More things besides sports for the kids to do. Update swimming pool & hours.
- More things downtown, more shopping stores
- More things for kids
- More things for kids and teens
- More things for kids and teens to do.
- More things for kids to do and for families.
- More things for kids to do and more decorations at local businesses like has
- More things for kids to do!! I think it is a real issue and could prevent some of our babies from going down the wrong road.
- More things for teens to do
- More things for young people to do. New businesses.
- More things for younger people
- More things for youth. More small-town shops.
- More things to do
- More things to do for kids

- More things to do for young people.
- More things to do, upgrades on parks
- More to give to the kids and business open pass 5 o'clock
- More varied places to eat
- Movie theater, more restaurants
- N/A
- N/A
- Need more mechanics in town
- Needs youth activities
- New business to come in Garnett
- New businesses/jobs, nice streets, neighborhood parks, brewery, concert venue-indoor, indoor pool
- New open business
- New swimming pool
- Nice auction house
- Nice people
- No
- No
- No boom boxes in autos
- No changes
- None
- None
- Not a thing
- Not sure
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing I can think of
- Nothing really, just keep it growing
- Nothing unless u think there's a problem, why are u asking this to me
- Nothing!
- Nothing! It's such a friendly town
- Open more on weekends or evenings
- Other than fix the potholes faster
- Paved roads in rural areas. Input into small businesses.
- People getting involved to change the local government. We need to get more freedom for local businesses. We need more businesses like music venues, bowling alleys, movie theaters, self-defense dojos, etc.
- People with popular last names could be nicer and more respectful to others that don't have it as good.
- People working together to revitalize downtown. Individuals, groups, city and county. More daycare. More rental housing.
- Pick up recycling

- Places for teenagers to be entertained, lower property tax
- Pretty happy right now
- Recycling pickup offered
- Remove "Phone Forum" from the newspaper
- Restoration of current unused buildings.
- Safer streets & less strays
- Sale Barn come back
- See more places to eat
- Shopping (like small Walmart)
- Sidewalks & curbs for wheelchairs
- Sidewalks on both sides of Maple Street & Park Road so can walk especially in summer. No sidewalk to Garnett Elementary.
- Skate Park
- Some properties cleaned up. For people to have more pride about the way the town and homes look.
- Something for kids, roller skating, bowling
- Something for our youth. More campground spots - we have a beautiful lake that has so much potential.
- Something for young kids & high school kids to do
- Speeding on 59 north of park
- Splash pad
- Stay friendly
- Stay open longer on Saturday
- Streets (better)
- Support for mom & pop businesses, clean residential & business areas
- Taxes are too high for small businesses. Would like to start a business, not sure if I can do to taxes & zoning requirements.
- Taxes lowered. I feel like they don't want new businesses to come to the county.
- Teen center, more dine-in restaurants, infrastructure "streets"
- The gas station not getting put in
- The police to not run endless speed traps "radar", without seeing them pull over a semi once
- The roads fixed.
- There are never enough jobs that pay a living wage & have benefits. I know we've tried for decades to get more manufacturing jobs, but something bad always happens to the ones we do get.
- Things to do
- Train horns after 1:00 AM
- Transparency, too much change in people, more business
- Treating the roads sooner than later
- Unique businesses. Some growth, but not big enough to lose our community vibe. Better streets. Better sidewalks. More senior housing. More duplexes. Dilapidated houses repaired to make them livable.

- Unity between all the resources & organizations in the area so we can all be better to help people.
- Unknown
- Upgrade pool/rec center, do something about dilapidated buildings
- Walmart
- Warmer way to do Harvesters
- When there's a time, city would do more for local businesses than letting outsider come in and do the business here.
- Wholesome entertainment for young people (as well as all ages). More/better businesses (job opportunities) to buy local and support local. Another grocery store (competition).
- Wish our community was as school supportive as it was when I was in school
- Work done at skate park for kids, more activities to keep children busy maybe an arcade or skate rink maybe a bowling alley
- Would like to see an animal rescue or shelter

What changes would you like to see that would make Garnett a better place to live? – Anderson County Jr/Sr High School

- A better haircut place
- A better pool
- A bigger, better Casey's
- An arcade, more food options a different grocery store that's not as expensive.
- Better community
- Better roads
- Better roads
- Chick-fil-A
- Clean up some of the things that are broken or are breaking
- Give it a Walmart
- I feel like racism is still fairly prominent in the ACHS school. Slurs are constantly said. Garnett consists of mainly a white population, so there's a lack consideration for people of color. Teachers let too many things slide by. On top of that there is an awful vaping issue for middle schoolers at the school as well.
- I have no clue
- I would like for Garnett to fix some of the roads in town.
- I would like to see more changes throughout the town, maybe more restaurant choices.
- I would like to see more recreational options and better the recreational options that we do have.
- I would like to see more things as a family so more people are out and doing things
- I would like to see the campgrounds improve. Many people love to camp but choose to not camp in Garnett because it isn't as good as some other campgrounds in other cities or towns. Other towns have better camping stations/set ups, more activities to do, a little convenient store in the campground that has ice, bait, snacks, camping supplies, renting canoes, renting life jackets, and much more. Other campground also have shower houses, concrete to park your camper on and put your lawn chairs on, hiking/bike trails and more. Other than campgrounds, I would also like to see hotel

improvements. I feel like these two big changes could attract more tourists as well as improving the town.

- I would love to see more stores opened instead of closed
- I would really like to see some entertainment (roller rink, high-school/young-adult hangout, etc.) I would especially like to see something that can be done during the cold weather because once summer ends, this place gets too quiet.
- I'm not sure
- Less trash pollution
- Make it a cleaner place
- Make it more like a city, have better stores, more food choices, everyday events families can do.
- More activities and restaurants
- More community activities
- More entertainment, better roads in town
- More food options
- More places to eat or more sidewalks.
- More sidewalks or more banners hung up about our town.
- More things to do
- More things to do
- Not be so red neck and trashy
- The pool
- The recreational side
- Trap and neuter program!

What changes do you want to see in Garnett that would make it a better place to live?

– Facebook

- More fast-food options and start an industrial park to bring more business and jobs to the area.
- Nothing on Catalpa St anymore? I haven't been home in years
- What do people in Garnett do when there's nothing to do? I know we used to fish a lot... I'd like to see my hometown BOOM to a burb or a metropolis, personally. I've been gone so long, but I think kids should have something more to do on the south side, old HUMCO area or on farther South to the lake. I heard the skating rink is a church??
- Garnett needs industry and better shopping.
- Housing! Our town will not grow if we don't have housing for them to move into! So frustrating.
- Industry/jobs
- Garnett needs jobs and housing and then the chain stores might consider coming
- Better food places
- One just one group working together to better Garnett. #Chamber. Doesn't it make more sense to work together for the betterment of Garnett. There I go again .... thinking out loud.
- Would LOVE to see a new up to date, clean Dollar Store. Sure, issue Alco?
- An ALDI

### How would you grow Garnett's business climate? – Facebook

- Add more variety
- Don't push business away. This town tends to be against bringing in big corporations. Yes, I know shop your hometown first. Some will argue it will lose its "small town charm". When you have one grocery store that sells expired items and prices are usually stupid high because not all of us are able to get out of town to shop it is ridiculous. Not to mention most of us have to drive 30 minutes to an hour to get to work and any shops on the square close at 2 in the afternoon we don't get a lot of variety and have to spend our money elsewhere anyways. At least if we had bigger stores people could shop their hometown first.
- Yes! Exactly! I do the majority of shopping out of town because it's cheaper. Garnett is losing thousands of dollars just from me alone!! We need industry for more jobs and more stores to shop from.
- Bring more business 2 town. Encourage business 2 want to move here.
- Getting mega corporations into Garnett is not the answer. Without going on a long explanation, local government needs to stop expanding and thriving on the backs of our local businesses. The taxation of our property (except for land) needs to be phased out completely. The state was never supposed to tax the property you build or buy; only the area of land you purchase. Residential property is taxed at 11.5% of mil, Commercial-use buildings at 25%. Major reforms are needed. There are people who want to do things in Garnett but can't afford the risk of being taxed out of existence by higher utility and property tax rates just for operating a business. When Garnett and the county stops stealing from business owners because they own and renovate a downtown commercial property, you'll get better businesses in our city. It's a simple formula. I know this from firsthand, personal experience since 2009.

### If the City of Garnett had a million dollars that could be spent on anything, what improvements would you like to see? – Facebook

- Upgrades on the pool. Some fun things to do, slide, or something.
- Our sidewalks are in desperate need of some love. All of the "handicap" corners are basically going to waste because the side with the access are the side with busted sidewalks. Strollers are impossible to maneuver so I can only imagine the issues that are had for those who are handicap. Our recreation center could use some upgrades. Something more of an aquatic center would be nice. We are the only town 60 miles all the way around that doesn't have at least a nice slide in the pool. Our families desperately need something local to do together that isn't going to break the bank. So as long as Garnett doesn't price the pool as high as the (grocery) prices then I'd say it would do exceptionally well. South lake park could use new play equipment to give parents another fun option. Heck...a million dollars...build a grocery store that people can actually afford to shop at. For the price of two meals with the exact same brands I spend 3x as much here in town. Decent grocery store sure would be fantastic. Find a way to either demo the fallen down decaying houses and buildings or update them.
- Pool upgrades
- Roads/streets/sidewalks
- Pool upgrade be great maybe new park equipment definitely something to do for families

- Streets and shade at the ball fields
- Also, idk if its city property but shade trees along the road by the school sure would be nifty! It gets pretty warm in the pickup line!
- Lakes restocked and turtles removed so you can catch something other than turtles
- I walk with a Walker, so I'm for sidewalks being fixed please
- Bring back spring and fall clean up!
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool
- More activities for kids and young adults and maybe a movie theater or drive in and a bowling alley.
- A drive in Theater sounds fantastic!!
- The electricity fixed so it doesn't go off all the time and decent streets and work to the parks like skateboards and stuff for kids to do
- Sidewalks. Ball fields around north lake...for "tourism" being such a big deal our North Lake area has such potential that just looks run down and like no one cares! The disc golf course is new and popular, but it doesn't even stay weed eaten! Some pride would go a long way and doesn't cost a dime!!
- Me and my hubby like to walk the track at the old football field while the kids play half the time the track part is overtaken by weeds and grass so it's not great to walk on be nice if they could keep it up such a nice place and so close to our house
- Sidewalks and skating rink add on to the skate park
- Restore the 1920's era underground businesses on the west side of the square as an historic site to be proud of
- I second this!! That would be amazing! It's so cool to go down there, literally feel like you're stepping back in time!
- I agree! Then kids could learn about our very own history as a field trip in maybe 5th grade. Something for the kids to look forward to in 5th grad SS.
- never even thought about that. That's a great idea. William Betts told me all the stories of back then and it sounded pretty amazing.
- My dad told me quite a few stories about that area back then, too. Could really be a cool addition to Garnett!
- Pool upgrades, sidewalks (more of them and repairs), drive in theatre, maybe public restrooms along the spirit trail?
- Indoor pool. Schools could use form swim team meets, great exercise, year-round access
- The swimming pool. Every surrounding towns have nice pools. The pool here looks like it's in the 1940s still
- Yes, I so agree!!! We need a complete new one!
- Electrical grid improvement. We all love that on, off, on, off in the summertime.
- Sidewalks and crosswalks. Pool upgrade electrical grid upgrade clean up blight/ yards that need help (sometimes it can be hard for people who can't do it)
- **STORM SHELTERS PLEASE**
- Fix the tombstones at the cemetery you have destroyed, knocked over, chipped and knocked crooked, and vases knocked off and broken! Walk through it and look at the mess

- I agree. They say high schoolers (summer help) mow the cemetery, but they have no supervision, mowing as they choose and destroying markers and decorations
- Fix the roads the right way!!
- No curbs anymore the asphalt is so thick
- Downtown upgrade. Spruce up the beautiful old buildings. Fill all the empty buildings with new businesses. Use the empty lots for something fun and inviting
- Curbs half this town has none and yards wash away because the city just throws asphalt on the roads rather than fixing them the right way by milling the existing asphalt down and applying new. Then start fixing roads the right way so that we have curbs. Swimming pool for the kids ours is the worst around or anything for local kids for that matter
- I can remember in the late 50's and early 60's when Garnett had one the square or just off it 4 drug stores, 2 men's clothing stores, 2 women's clothing stores, 2 feed stores, 5 and 10 Dime, 3 barber shops, 2 liquor stores, 3 cafes, 4 taverns, 3 car dealerships, shoe store, saddle shop and used furniture, variety store, 2 jewelry stores, J.C. Penny's 2 television shops, 3 grocery stores, 2 tire shops, 2 furniture stores, hotel, 2 dairies, pool hall, 2 tractor dealerships, movie theater. One man ran city hall, and we didn't have a city manager, tourism director or economics director. Houses were kept up without junk and trash in the yards! Good days!
- We also had 2 sewing factories, furniture factory, mill, place made toppers, welding shop
- You are so right I I gas stations, locker and ice plant. Auto alignment shop, busy on each night and more on Saturday. Those were good times. Any you have a great memory. Would love to visit with you. I live there from 1958 to 1978. Good, good times.
- Farm kids came in on Saturday night and we went to the theater of visited in the courtyard. Very limited parking around the square and you usually had to make several passes to get a spot. All the stores stayed open till about 9. Yes, good times.
- Resurface the lake road and the streets that have needed attention for some time. Please oh please
- Asphalt is about a foot thick over the dam and pushing the pillars over it's so thick
- You know pools only open for just a few months, but bad weather hits ALL the time, it might be better to keep those safe that have no place to go during a tornado. I know I don't have a safe place. Safety first then enjoyments.
- they have a storm shelter that was just built-in town for the community
- where?
- corner of East 9th and oak street. I will send the link I just saw it. I didn't know about it either, but we have a basement with an actual bomb shelter that was built in it
- And I remember we had 4 drug stores and they took turns being open on the weekends
- Yes, I worked in Bill Neal's Rexall. We rotated being open on Sunday and holidays.
- An indoor recreation center with swimming pool, tennis courts, and basketball courts and community meeting rooms. These rooms could also be used to offer education opportunities for anyone that needed it. Sure, would be nice to have a place to have a place to learn all the new technology that they keep shoving at us
- A sidewalk along N. Cleveland St. from the High School for the Children, so they do not have to walk in the street with cars coming out of the school parking lot full of teenagers in a hurry to go home.
- A nice daycare facility

- A destination place for tourists to come bucket list check off something like sky diving, zip line and maybe bring great revenue so we could have town improvements that are well needed. People pay good money to do those things.

If you could change one thing about Garnett, what would you want to change? –  
Facebook

- I would clean up and bring back to life the North Lake! Ball fields are dilapidated, sand volleyball overgrown and not taken care of, lots and lots of potential sitting out there rotting away!!! Not a great statement to the citizens of Garnett or out of towners!! "Tourism" is supposed to be such a big thing yet, what we have has been allowed to fall apart FOR YEARS!!!!
- I totally agree. I see so many things in town that need attention, but I'm just a small nobody. It seems like they always have to get it contracted out or try for a free loan. What's wrong with the city crew...it used to be the workers did the work...not anymore.
- The reservoir is the same way, it hasn't been kept like it used to for years
- It hasn't been kept like it used to for years
- I didn't realize that! How cool! And yeah, it's pretty run down and unkept, sad really
- It's a disgrace to everyone who helped build it
- I'd like to see more electric and water hook ups at the camping spots including the reservoir. The reservoir could use water!!
- Also, our pool is just not fun. And it also needs to be handicap accessible. Some slides or something. Our town charges the same amount if not more to just swim as other towns have huge pools with a lot to do at them.
- OMG yes! One of the reasons people started buying pools for home!
- I'd plant more flowers like curves going out 7th and 31 down at the roundabout let more things come into town like bowling alley roller rink more things for kids to do
- A park with decent playground equipment! Okay, two things: a pool that rivals Burlington's, for example. I know Burlington has that huge tax base from Wolf Creek nuclear energy - but still!! Is Garnett that much poorer? Do we not care about keeping kids entertained in our city?
- Bring back the skating rink
- So many childhood memories.
- More good paying jobs stop putting RV parks in just to make more money
- Garnett has so much potential but there is definitely room for improvement. I honestly couldn't choose just one particular thing. I think Garnett definitely needs a grocery store that is affordable to its entire community. Garnett has beautiful historical homes but some of those homes are just sitting empty and falling apart. I'm honestly surprised Garnett hasn't utilized the homes that can be salvaged in efforts to provide more housing. I have a large family and buying a home isn't an option currently but the options for a rental big enough to house my family is slim. All of the abandoned houses around town have also contributed to the overwhelming population of stray cats. Entertainment is also something our beautiful town could benefit from. We have great events year-round, but we don't have anything to entertain our youth year-round. Something our families can enjoy doing together rain or shine while not breaking the bank. Maybe an indoor aquatic center... We love our beautiful town and highly enjoy giving back to

community by shopping local and not outsourcing as much as possible. We hope we are here to watch it grow and prosper!

- More affordable rental housing
- With the 169 and 59 junction being just south of the city there is no reason for lack of businesses and jobs here. My understanding is in the past (over 20 years ago so no reflection on the people now) Garnett had the chance to get some of the larger businesses in the area. I do not know why none came here but I have heard Russell Stover, Wolf Creek, and Walmart DC all three looked here before settling elsewhere. Good paying jobs bringing people wanting to be close to their jobs, this in turn would raise property values and retail would come.
- PHASE 1: City and County Government Nullify Commercial and Agri-Use Property taxes to Residential levels. PHASE 2: Replace with a Flat Fair Tax by Public Vote in special election to offset shortfalls, but at scaled back proposed levels to ease the burden on taxpayers. A reduced tax burden on business owners and farmers will allow them a chance to thrive, expand, or provide better employment opportunities. Choice manufacturing companies would fall over each other to build their plant in Garnett due to the fair taxation and eventual abolition of real estate taxes. Farmers around the county could keep more of their money and stop taking federal subsidies and purchase their own crop insurance be free from regulations and conditions. They might even spend more in Garnett. PHASE 3: Abolish ALL taxation of our personal and real property because the "property will be taxed" in the original ratified constitution to land (not buildings) when the Kansas became a State and was settled. A vote to reduce, retain, or increase our flat fair tax to cover a base cost for schools and public works projects will be included on the ballot every other election cycle so this funding is "by consent" of the governed. This will ensure our money is spent wisely. But does Garnett have the will to initiate such a bold idea for the good of everyone? you asked.
- Nothing
- I've noticed to that some of the yards look terrible they sure could keep up the mowing take pride in your town and country we could use more choices like Aldi's KFC and Taco Bell Lowe's or Rosses or something like that would be great.
- 3rd Street also needs a great deal of repairing it's about the roughest road there is
- An indoor pool like Burlington. Seniors could do water aerobics and school kids could have a swim team.
- City, not county, police officers who don't pull rank on young folks. Trying to scare them into doing things by feeding them false information. And I'm not talking about sex...
- How about another carwash?
- I would invest in a restaurant that would do breakfasts or brunch on Sundays. Perhaps with an outside covered patio for evening drinks, dinner.
- Agree
- Sunday brunch would be awesome!! We go every Sunday after Church to Ottawa, Parker, Paola somewhere to sit with friends have coffee and brunch. We definitely would support a good place in Garnett. We do Daylight Donuts in Garnett some just not much room or variety.
- How about changing the permits that has stopped the food trucks that used to come so they can come back?

- YMCA with indoor pool for water aerobics, lap swimming, water walking, etc. Maybe another smaller water area for the children to play.
- A descent playground/park with modern play equipment

#### What is one thing you wish would change in Garnett? – Facebook

- Have more competitive pricing for the gym: other gyms, for example, lola, Humboldt, Ottawa, and Lawrence, all provide more for a lower fee. Acquire more engaging and interactive machines, such as a hip adductor/abduction machine as well as come technologically advanced machines. The volleyball court adjacent to North Lake need additional maintenance, as it is constantly overgrown with crabgrass and stick-tights, rendering it unplayable. Additionally, the park's outdoor basketball and tennis courts are in disrepair. Adding/creating appealing entertainment and activities for persons in their twenties to thirties. Dare I say it? A more superior grocery store! Something with a decent meat counter and bakery. Planning a supermarket trip becomes tedious. Having to go more than 20 miles to obtain adequate fruit and supplies. A spot for students to congregate, study, and grab a cup of coffee or tea that does not close at 2 p.m.
- Making the North Lake/Cedar Valley area even more fun by adding new elements like corn hole, ladder ball, huge Jenga. You can play disk golf at the North Lake, I've heard. Adding sand volleyball to Cedar Valley will make the campground more appealing to campers, as will upgrading the bathrooms and offering showers for them. Adding more durable fire pits. Create a Cedar Valley hiking trail. (Camping) Update the rec center (Working out) I've also asked around for input from some of my peers. The ones listed above are my top choices for spring and summer, respectively. When I hear back, I will provide a more in-depth list. Thanks for your question and interest!
- Making the North Lake/Cedar Valley area even more fun by adding new elements like corn hole, ladder ball, huge Jenga. You can play disk golf at the North Lake, I've heard. Adding sand volleyball, swim beach to Cedar Valley, and durable up to date fire pits. All these will make the campground more appealing to campers, as will upgrading the bathrooms and offering showers for them. Create a Cedar Valley hiking trail. Updating outdoor grill posts. Swimming beach at Cedar Valley. Kayak/paddle board rental services. Renting bicycles as an option. For city and off-road trails. Cooking/Art whether it is painting, pottery, etc... classes. Community garden with fruit and vegetables. Monthly or Weekly outdoor park/drive-in film screenings. Seasonal shopping at the Fresh Market (Veggies, meats, seafood, flowers, etc...) Some of the more popular bands perform at a dance hall like Piqua a few times a year. Cedar Valley cabin rentals with air conditioning. Drinks and coffee at a cocktail or coffee bar with friends. Inflatable water obstacle course for the beach. Men's clothing shopping options.
- Love these ideas!! I would definitely love these!!!
- Growing Garnett Community Heart & Soul I love Kyle's ideas. They would be such a great addition to our community. Especially the outdoor activities and the classes. I feel that will draw a lot of families and people from out of town in!
- The Jammin' Nutrition shop downtown closes at 5. It's a great place to have a nutritious drink
- That store is unquestionably fantastic for the customers it draws. However, based on my own experience, the bulk of their accessible selections are rather fruity, and I happen to be the type of person who does not particularly like that particular option.

Strong, unsweetened green tea and strong espresso coffee are two of my favorite beverages. While I believe in the need for nourishment for the body, I do not always want collagen or aloe vera in all my beverages. Thank you for your reply. I greatly appreciate it!

- Agreed
- You are always asking what we can do to bring more people and businesses to Garnett. Lower taxes and utilities. Both are getting so high the people that live here can't afford them and new business won't come in because they don't want to pay them.
- More people and more business bring in more taxes=a larger tax base and less taxes for them individuals.
- This is why we moved out of town
- Older people that are on a fixed income can't stand the high taxes and high utilities! People that have owned their homes for many years are being forced to sell because of the high taxes! Pleas can anyone do anything to bring them down????
- Things/places for the kids to do and hang out
- I love these conversations! Also, you ROCK for being aggressive and constructive in your comments and ideas, it takes a strong group of people just like you to lead the charge for a community. I wish I could get 15 of you in mine!
- thank you!!!
- Restaurants that actually make edible food not the slop served around here. Better choices for low-income housing as there is nowhere with any availability especially for the physically handicapped.
- I guess I don't have as sophisticated taste as yours. I enjoy food from Dutch Country, Tradewinds, El Jimador, and the Chinese Restaurant.
- I have got to get back and visit Garnett. Sounds like so many good food joints to try.
- When they are open, I have been to these places.
- Thank you!!!
- Recycling pickup, or having the recycling trailer longer/more days at Country Mart. The dump only takes a limited amount of options. It makes it hard to recycle. Newer equipment at the rec and classes that are included in the monthly payment.
- I wish they'd take 2-7 plastics again! I hat putting them in the trash, but I don't know where else to take them.
- I wonder why they don't
- Upgrade the swimming pool. Paint ball/nerf court. While the Jammin' place is nice. Same kids need someplace that stays open later with WIFI access to do homework after sports practices. Not all kinds in the country can get good access to WIFI. The library is nice but sometimes not big enough.
- I appreciate all the businesses in Garnett. It is sad that so many cannot find people to work. That being said, what can be done to get a new Dollar General and Casey's? They do what they can with what they have, but it is sad. If people would get back to work, would more places open back up for sit down dining such as a Pizza Hut and Chinese?
- I wish we could draw more small businesses into town. I would love to be able to do all my shopping local. It would be great to have another grocery store, and a bigger Dollar General. I wish the hospital would bring back the urgent care clinic. I hate going to the er just because we need seen soon, that just leads to thousands of dollars in medical

bills for something that could have been take care of in urgent care. Also, more for the under 18 crowd, we once had a skating rink/arcade and then it became another church. More play options at the playgrounds would be great many of the paly equipment was there when I was a kid, so an update wouldn't hurt. We are limited on daycare options, with little people shutting down the preschool it left quite a void. I know that the school district has theirs now which helps but I think more would be beneficial. All the gaps where buildings used to be on the square is sad, it would be nice to see those spaces used for something whether it be new buildings or some other use. I think a drive in would be great during the warm months.

- My understanding of the empty lots on the square is someone owns them and won't do anything with them. Same with two buildings on the square one I love are being not kept up with and used as storage. It's wrong and the city should not allow business district buildings to be used as storage!
- It really is sad. I love our square it's one of the things that makes a small town beautiful. I would love to see it like Ottawa or Lola where they really rallied around that part of their towns and have been able to keep them alive and flourishing. I'm glad to see that you are giving new life to your building, it really is a beautiful place!
- I agree and thank you!
- The damn power, I've lived in some rough places over my years and never lived in one with such a shitty power grid, how many times has it gone off and on just today? Pathetic
- Restaurants. Something to do with our kids. If we want people to move to a rural area and help Garnett and Anderson Co. grow, there has to be something to draw them here.
- Restaurants on Monday nights!

#### What would you like to see change in Garnett? – Facebook

- Economic Development dissolved in City Hall. Economies are developed by local businesses, organically.
- I would like to have one of our commercial buildings downtown donated by the people of this city to the Garnett Chamber of Commerce, so it is organically controlled by local businesses against the infringement of government, not to be in bed with local government. Economic Development is fought for through the private sector, not by influence and management form within government.
- City Hall should shut down the economic development department and earmark that funding for infrastructure and the water treatment plant.
- Permanently reduce the taxation of commercial building properties by 50% so local business owners have a chance to thrive and hire workers or maintain their buildings. The taxation of our real property is unconstitutional according to the Kansas ordinance in our State's Constitution. Only land is to be taxed.
- If it's NOT enumerated in your constitution, then government cannot do it. Statutes are designed to provide procedural methods of government in pursuance to their state's constitution but cannot alter or circumvent it in any way. This is the first page of the Kansas Constitution and the Ordinance states that Kansas will be allowed to tax LAND to fund only the essential needs of government. Notice this ordinance does not list the taxation of your personal or real estate property (property you build or purchase to

place on said land) and it should never do that because it is a violation of the rights of Kansans as listed in the KS Declaration of Rights (namely the right to your property). I'm going to keep bringing it up until it is recognized.

- I'd like to see a study on reviving the Lake Garnett Grand Prix
- I would love to see the downtown square come more alive. Buildings in many towns crumble, don't let this beautiful town fall apart.
- Love to see the town thrive like when I lived there. I left for a job in KC but love the little town. Try to get now there as often as I can, but only seems to be for funerals. (And that sucks.) Love this site. Thank you for your work.
- I am fairly new in Garnett. I am glad to read this information. I shop as local as I can and wish others do so. A community needs this. Wal-Mart is not the answer. When I hear, people say go to Wal-Mart, I say no thank you. In the meantime, I appreciate your answer.
- You are very kind and I hope we can work together through Community Heart & Soul to bring information and change to Garnett, and the surrounding area to a more balanced place where we can all thrive and organically grow our economy and social-economic betterment.
- Take a look at what happened with "A Bolder Humboldt" and how they accomplished their progress.
- Strong Towns also has some good ideas
- How about updating our public swimming pool? And running it like a business. When it opens it stays open till its closing time? This is the only pool that closes its doors for a supper break then opens back up for a couple of hours before closing for the day. Why can't there be a little focus on this subject.
- Privatizing is always best unless you have government and non-profits in competition with you. I agree with you, but we'll have to keep government out of the pockets of private business owners. The commercial use building property tax is a serious business and job-killer. If you build it and pay for it, you shouldn't have to pay rent on it forever. Business owners pay the government 25% of the mill for commercial-use buildings they own and operate in. You pay 11.5% on your home every year (which is also unconstitutional per of Kansas ordinance) but imagine paying twice that to your government every year on property that is worth a lot more. That money could go toward the employment of a high school student or young adult who badly needs a job after school or through the summer to build their own life and family. Need I say more. We need dramatic cuts in government and property tax correction before Garnett can truly be saved.
- Interesting. I worked as a lifeguard there for two years, and don't remember if we closed or not. Really can't remember. I know we closed early on Saturday so people would go to town to shop and go to the movies. (Check into that about closing the pool, that puzzles me.)
- I miss night swims. Most pools are closed at a specific hour today.

## Needs / Concerns

### What things are you concerned about in Garnett? – Facebook

- Garnett is in need of sidewalk repairs! We have plenty of handicap accessible corners for those who need them, but the problem is the quality of the sidewalk. It's dangerous

in more than one spot. There is missing pieces and high elevated cracks. It makes it difficult for those who need to use the sidewalk. Maple for instance is very dangerous. If someone wants to come from the south side of town to go to Patriots bank that individual has to cross the highway just to travel on broken sidewalks, then they have to cross the highway again to get to the bank. We need safer means for pedestrians to travel on foot, in a wheelchair, or stroller.

- Water quality, Power outages
- Can't really do anything about the power outages because we buy our power from KCP&L so if they are down so are we.
- Basketball nets at the park
- Repave Elm Street!!!
- Clean water. It smells like bleach!
- Garnett was doing a burn out with free chlorine. (It makes that strong chlorine/pool smell) The water plant has switched back to total chlorine. In the next few days, you will notice an improvement in smell.
- Nothing
- Our lack of growth
- The Water - it smells VERY strongly of chlorine.
- I don't think I'm on the same water, but I've been thinking this for about a week. Hubby didn't notice anything, but I keep thinking it smells a bit like a pool.
- I live in town. And they made a change to the water process - I know it's part of the cleaning process but it smells like a swimming pool
- I asked hubby and he says we are part of the water district
- I was told when after I moved into Garnett in May how it's the water that's killing most people along with chemicals seep through. I can believe it from my own water smell....
- I think it would be awesome to put in a splash pad for the children!
- Fixing the pavement near the curb in front of St Rose
- Children riding on the fenders of tractors without seat belts
- People's only don that since tractors was first made
- I have heard from business owners that their taxes are so high that they are about to close their doors. While I agree that taxes are necessary to fund projects I wonder if the rates should be looked at to help keep these businesses open.
- Be nice to have a farmer's market on Saturday morning
- Finding someone local who will actually take the time to set up appointments and show up for small home repairs and/or remodeling. That's been my biggest obstacle since moving back three years ago. A lot of houses for sale are in need of updates and repairs but finding someone local to do the work is a nightmare. Nobody wants to buy a house in a town where you can't get a hold of anyone to hire to help fix it up.
- Random power outages, a river flowing down Maple after/during a rain shower
- Power outages

#### What are the biggest needs of Garnett residents or businesses? – Facebook

- An ALDI grocery store
- YES!
- I personally wish there was a fast-food taco place.

- Yes
- I think I need a bigger box if you don't get the reference. I'm sorry??
- Daycare
- Affordable housing for all incomes
- Garnett is very cheap housing try living in Johnson County and Douglas
- more on the lines of apartments, not enough rentals. Always seeing people looking for rentals and nothing available.
- Just because housing is cheap compared to the "most expensive county" in Kansas, doesn't mean it's affordable for everyone
- Great Clips. I don't want to deter from the local salons, but they seem to always be booked anyways of close early...there are family's here who need a simple child's haircut and if anyone is like me with three kids in middle and high school) I am always running!!! With work, helping with my grandbaby, after school activities and sports practices, it's hard for me to make an appointment. We fly by the seat of our pants, it's really like "oh hey!!! We are all together and we have time for haircuts, let's do it!" But everyone in town is booked we drive to Ottawa or even Paola for a haircut!!! ALDI!!! Off to Ottawa Walmart or lola since the road is open. Entertainment! Yes, I can go to Ottawa to bowl. I can go to lola to see a movie, but then Garnett, my city isn't profiting!!! Garnett will then also be losing a gas purchase, because the gas stations don't participate in GetUpSide... I get 13 cents cash back on gas in Princeton... Which I would forgo and just get my gas here in Garnett if I wasn't leaving town for my entertainment. Also, along the entertainment lines it would be so nice if there was something for my teens to do!!! My humble opinions and thoughts. Oh yeah, a Taco Bell/KFC would be super!!! I know there was a Taco Bell before, how long ago was that??? Did they not make enough money??
- Jobs, daycare, housing
- You all know any grocery store in town is going to be a bit higher because they need to truck their supplies in. Trucks aren't cheap. Then there's labor, utilities, taxes, insurance...
- Then what difference does it make if a local family run the store of a corporation runs it? Shouldn't we support the folks of this town?
- Local folks first!! But these hometown prices suck... So, we drive an hour away to ALDIs. Facts!
- an hour each way?
- YES!! Still worth it gas included! You live here????
- And that's why small-town America is slowly dying
- Whatever... Lol Yea because We can't pay stupid prices even if it's HOMETOWN!! Where do you live?
- I proudly live in Garnett and support the stores of this town
- So, figuring gas, time to drive and the cost of groceries, do you really save any money?
- Lots of great shops on the square and don't forget us up north end of town...Dutch Café and Prairie Home Market! Trade Winds...Dairy Queen...Sonic!
- Every time
- Anyways... you do you
- Always have, always will.

- We go to Aldi's too. Either Lawrence or Olathe. What can't get there we get at Walmart.
- Being able to bobtail home would help the truckers of this community, A bobtail weighs about as much as a trash truck.
- Modern water park/pool A beach at one of our three lakes, full hook ups at park campgrounds. Property tax transparency.
- Have more competitive pricing for the gym, other gyms, for example, lola, Humboldt, Ottawa, and Lawrence all provide more for a lower fee. Acquire more engaging and interactive machines, such as a hip adductor/abduction machine as well as some technologically advanced machines. The volleyball court adjacent to North Lake need additional maintenance as it is constantly overgrown with crabgrass and stick tights, rendering it unplayable. Additionally, the park's outdoor basketball and tennis courts are in disrepair. Adding/creating appealing entertainment and activities for persons in their twenties to thirties. Winter activities. Dare I say it? A more superior grocery store! Something with a decent meat counter and bakery. Planning a supermarket trip becomes tedious. Having to go more than 20 miles to obtain adequate fruit and supplies. A spot for students to congregate, study, and grab a cup of coffee or tea that does not close at 2 p.m.
- We will soon (once we open) have coffee available until at least 9:00 p.m. later other days at Troyer's 1883 students will always be welcome to study, grab a coffee, and have a place to set!
- Housing! Rentals are scarce and very few homes for sale. People can't move here if they have nowhere to live.
- ALDI
- I totally agree. Think how many people this would bring to town.
- Lower the ridiculously expensive taxes and utilities for starters
- Lower sales tax on car registration
- Movie theater!!!
- Daycare, more housing, affordable grocery store, new pool, for the city to actually maintain what little we have already
- More entertainment for kids Skating rink / Bowling alley. Better swimming pool! New Dollar store, Walmart would be amazing!
- We had all that, but people went elsewhere, and they closed.
- A better-quality grocery store, public pool upgrade, a swimming beach (we're surrounded by lakes and can't swim in any of them).
- love the swimming beach idea!
- Apartment complex or duplexes for families, daycare more restaurants updated pool
- A different type of fast food. Like a Taco Johns or Goodcents... Lol I like the idea of a bowling alley also. I had one in my small town growing up and it was very nice!
- Rentals houses that are affordable yet nice, daycare, and a grocery store that has quality products but doesn't cost a fortune like right now.
- Please Aldi's come to Garnett and bring Taco Tico or Taco Bell with you!
- I love Taco Bell! We had one for a couple of months several years ago.
- Fix the sewer plant so the town doesn't stink
- Housing people can afford to rent, not just elderly

- Daycare
- Have to agree on affordable daycare. Struggling to find reliable babysitter for my 1-year-old.
- Restaurants that offer healthy food options when eating out., our dollar general needs the corporation to come overhaul/rebuild. A dog park/off leach area. Continue growing our farmers market with more local/organic foods. Agree with bowling, pool upgrade and ALDI!!!!
- The city turned down the dollar store being bigger sooo...
- I agree with many things already posted here but in addition there are things that can/should be done that isn't anything new... pride in what we do have our North Lake is SAD, run down and dilapidated ball fields / volleyball courts / tennis courts / basketball courts, etc. We got "new ball fields" YEARS ago and everything else as well as those "new" fields have just continually been neglected. Also, there are vacant spots downtown along the square that would be awesome to put in some things like bocce courts, pickle ball courts, etc. for all individuals to use and have fun activities to do. and free plus never know I'd venture to say could bring business to our downtown stores.
- Yes, to all that wish we had better basketball courts with sum goals that were lowered for our littles to shoot around
- Yes, we take Maddux to the old IPC goals because they are short!
- IPC??
- Irving Primary Center 212 S Pine St
- I always forget about that place it's ok for anyone to play on it
- I couldn't agree more. There are new things we all want but the ball fields definitely need attention. Plenty of things we already have that just need attention and updated. One new thing I would like to see is restrooms on the south side of south lake and update the ones on the north side of the south lake. And build them like the restrooms on the rail trail stops. They are really nice and are open year around. People go to the lakes year around and the restrooms are always closed.
- Great idea I hadn't thought about that, but we've been there and needed to use them too
- we are fairly new to Garnett so is fixing up the ball fields / courts be something that some of us could volunteer to clean up and work on or do they need a major overhaul that will cost a ton of money?
- Great question, I'd love it if these concerns were really looked at and we had some answers, I have my own opinions and observations over the years but won't get into that too much on here.
- More time and maintenance into the sports fields and equipment. I understand it takes money. But I'm sure if we gathered up donations lots of the people would help out especially for the kids that's who needs the fields to be better. Better the future for the young and the future will better us.

#### What would make staying in Garnett easier? – Facebook

- Having Walmart
- Enlarge grocery...get a \$General or \$Tree...indoor lap pool...update downtown... I more restaurant that serves a variety of foods and is open until 8pm 6-7 days a week
- We have a Dollar General

- It's small and lettered like a secondhand store. Company won't enlarge
- Need a new one
- I do miss the Alco store
- I agree on the indoor pool! Go kart rentals to use at the track. DoorDash delivery. Better TV service. Cheaper internet. A pharmacy that's open on Sundays. Block parties or ways to meet your neighbors without seeming like a crazy person ringing their doorbells or like a stalker waiting outside to meet them. Welcome group for new people to our town. I've been told the only people who live in Garnett are ones who grew up here or ones that are married to someone from here....
- There are a lot of us that have not grown up here. We purposely bought a house here instead of Ottawa where my husband worked. We liked the small town. We raised our kids here. Good place with good people.
- I agree. I am not from Garnett, and I've lived here about 30 yrs. Worked here too for many years while living in Richmond. Retired now. I love Garnett
- I could have moved anywhere but I chose Garnett because of Hospital and Medical Clinic. I grew up on a farm and have lived on a farm except for 12 years before moving to "town" 18 months ago. I love the friendly people and good neighbors.
- We moved here from Concordia Kansas 16 years ago. Did not grow up here. No intention on moving anywhere else. At the time the taxes were lower, and I loved the high school where my kids would go to school.
- Indoor pool. More jobs. Did the streets.
- Better job opportunities. Better medical care. An oral surgeon and a dentist that does dentures. A therapist that isn't from town making judgements. Grief counseling.
- Dr Hale does dentures, and they look beautiful!! He's the new dentist over by the hospital!
- Free utilities lol
- More opportunities for kids
- Lower Taxes
- It's been a few years since I lived in town, but when we did our utilities were way more than our mortgage payment. If they're still that high, then that could definitely be a point people move away on
- My utilities are a lot cheaper here than they were in the country
- We live in And. Co. But North of Greeley, so we're on Miami Co. billing for utilities. The price difference is crazy! However, our property taxes on our property in Miami Co is much higher than here. So, each place has its drawbacks.
- More renewable energy sources to help lower the long-term costs of utilities. More local events to bring in outside dollars. Bringing in manufacturing and warehouse jobs from companies with high employee satisfaction to ensure good jobs and happy employees which would help lead to happy citizens with money to spend locally. With jobs and people comes economic stimulus., higher home values and better opportunity to be a self-sufficient community.
- A store like we had with Alco
- Sorry folks Garnett isn't going to be any more than it is now. It's a satellite community. Ottawa KS Cit, etc. Taxes are outrageous, drive around look at the streets. Your work your whole life to better yourself and what, load me up with more taxes. If you're not

born here, you're not received well. The ambition here is to make minimum wage. Educated people move to higher paying jobs and better housing in other towns.

- I moved here about 2 years ago and almost everyone has been very friendly. I have remarked to friends that you feel that this community cares.
- I love Garnett but wish there were more stores like we had when we moved here. Also, the streets need a lot of work, resurfacing and curbs would make it more attractive. Couple more restaurants wouldn't hurt either.
- Living in a small town is always going to have its plus and minuses. We are never going to have the big city shopping and dining amenities. Everyone has to decide what is important to make their lives happy and they should live where those things are. The small-town life is much more important to me than some of those amenities. I try to focus on the things we DO have.
- Well said
- Well said! My thoughts exactly.
- Jobs
- More housing!
- Public beach and bath house at Cedar valley
- Jobs I'd say has to be at the top of the list for any plan of growth. Long term jobs, something realistic. Feeding the Nation seems pretty stable, maybe a medium scaled meat packing plant. Would definitely boost local cattle growers, corn growers, supply chain jobs, trucking, meat cutting, packaging? Good location for beef. I like the previously stated indoor pool idea. Free beer is probably not realistic. More music festivals on the square would allow folks to get out meet their neighbors. I could probably rattle off a list of improvements, but jobs has to be where everything hinges.
- A & W, good BBQ place a dollar store that's clean and spacy!
- Cheaper taxes du
- Commercial-use and Agri-use property taxes brought down to residential levels so businesses can thrive and create more diverse job opportunities for high school students through middle-aged adults. That means government at all levels, as well as government institutions must operate cheaper and more efficiently (less waste).
- Open the pool!
- Garnett has the extraordinary potential to become a great, thriving city but some things have to change in local and State government. It will need to do less, steal less from you, and become a much smaller, efficient governing body. Making Garnett better is not out of our reach, but WE have to make that happen, not government or an un-elected committee.
- You don't want elected officials or un-elected officials? What do you propose?
- Italian restaurant
- The people and the drugs OUT! I moved here 3 years ago and just since that little bit of time I've seen the filth and crime drastically change. And I love my small-town living, only way I've known back in Indiana. And the grocery store...who ever bought it since then needs boycotted or pushed out. The prices are not for small town people...and neither is making 3 trips in one day over molded food
- And please with the utilities...pay high prices for electric that shuts down too much. I've never paid these prices before, and I've never dealt with so many outages. And I have a

teenage son that doesn't like video games as much as most others...Garnett really needs to focus on their teens. Mine's a future marine...and most his age are either busy with farms or sadly doing things our future gens are doing. He would love to be working on a farm, but since we are new here, we don't know many people, he's tried to find some.

- Need Home base in Garnett or some other lumber company besides family center. I go to homebase in Ottawa for lumber way too high here and other things, something for kids to do, theater or skate park for kids, I moved here 3 years ago from Ottawa taxes are cheaper here and people are more friendly, need curbs and street fixed, make our town look better for people that lives here and people who travels through.
- I think finding outlets for families and teens. The teens have nothing to do in town. I think a teen arcade/pool hall would be super cool. Maybe a HS night and Middle schooler night and a family night.
- Put a crafting center and something for youths
- Better roads
- Golden Corral
- A restaurant open on Sunday and Monday evenings
- The appropriate amount of housing and an affordable grocery store
- More activities and more food lol
- Lower taxes
- Stop catering only to the elderly. Before I get jumped for that statement what I mean is make the new generation want to stay in Garnett. There is nothing here for our youth to enjoy and to help them stay out of trouble. Yes, there is a skate park, but it needs a lot of work to be finished. Tennis courts, basketball courts and disc golf. As for all the rec sports if you actually start having real seasons and they last longer than a month and a half more people might be willing to join. My kids spend more time at practices than actual games.
- A bigger place to shop. Dollar General is okay but need something like Walmart. I know that is asking a lot.
- I agree. Everyone says to shop local... but where? I know we need a lot of things done in town, but who's willing to step up... I am disabled... but would help out. I even offered to volunteer to help with Christmas and Harvesters but was told... no volunteers need.
- Having another store like Alco
- That sounds great. I love alco.
- More jobs and housing
- A big box store like target maybe
- If I could bobtail home to empty/load my big rig and do normal maintenance on it

What is the biggest community or economic development obstacle that Garnett is facing? – Facebook

- Lack of industry and manufacturing company's which create good paying jobs for young families. Garnett needs to implement a revitalization plan before it's too late.

- Hopefully the city and county commission are willing to bring these in. Yes, you have to give incentives to get the businesses in but if you can bring good paying jobs it's needed. I have said this since we moved back.
- Lack of supporting infrastructure has a big hand in this as well. The mentality of waiting until something fails to fix it, instead of maintaining or even improving as we go, has got us pretty far behind the eight ball
- Lack of anything to draw new business or industry to the town and the county...property taxes are way too high for no more than we have for industry/business...no one wants to pay that much
- Garnett is a retirement town! It's going to be dead soon!
- The downtown area and Maple Street area. Very little curb appeal.
- Keep the streets up and curbs are disappearing or non-existing
- I totally agree. I would think we could possibly look into some kind of grant to at least replace the ones on 59. I don't know how many times I've heard the snow blows hit them and knock out chunks of curb.
- So many layers of chip and seal on the roads that curbs are disappearing. A whole section of curbing is missing in front of my house. City told me they don't have the budget to fix.
- Mine too. I wonder why that wouldn't fall under the highway department and why should highway curbing be on the homeowner to replace
- We need a good chicken and/or BBQ place
- people complained about the last 2 that was here! So, they closed up and moved!
- They had a right to mostly do the health reasons more flies than food
- No jobs for the folks
- Property taxes and local government spending money on things outside its purpose. Its purpose is not economic development. Its purpose is to provide infrastructure, utilities, and a peace-keeping force. Local business owner can then drive and develop the economy.
- Spread of the virus
- The biggest obstacle is by far the oil pan killing gravel speed bump on 1st street
- Not listening to the governor
- There is literally nothing for the teens that live here
- New businesses and new or expanding Dollar General and Casey's, Pomona's new ones put ours to shame
- What is missing from Garnett is basic respect for people, positive attitudes, welcoming environment, and hope.
- Not being able to get a hold of anyone local to repair air conditioners or do small jobs, like putting up fences, building a wheelchair ramp, electrical wiring, or remodeling a bathroom etc. ... Very discouraging when local businesses won't answer nor return calls
- No real factory growth. No Store expansions or opposition.

### Cost of Living

- Just a thought... Since the city is raising the electric and soon gas rates... How do the people living on a fixed income suppose to make it. Groceries are high, gas is high. We

live here because it's a small community, and I would bet over half of the population is on a fixed income. Rant over...

- I totally agree with you. Me and my wife was talking about this last night. It's total B.S.
- Garnett is actually a more expensive community to live in considering the biggest cities that have a wider selection of not only housing but places to shop.
- But I liked living here for raising my children
- I was born and raised here. I like this community also but if things don't change people will go elsewhere.
- I understand. I don't have much keeping me here after my youngest graduates.

### Childcare

- Hey folks. Quick suggestion about childcare! So many Anderson County residents are looking for childcare and yet there is still nothing... it wouldn't happen overnight obviously but what if the residents raised the money and opened a daycare??? Of course someone would need to run it so who is interested but not quite financially able to open a daycare? I personally am not interested in using a home daycare but that doesn't mean someone else isn't. We have lots and lots of families desperately looking for fulltime day care so why not fill the need?? I'm willing to help with the project just not able to do it solo. I have 4 kids I'm needing fulltime daycare for, so I'm extremely invested in the "idea" but that's just it... it's an idea. This will definitely need thought put into it more but surely, I'm not the only person with this idea.
- A friend of mine and myself were looking into opening a daycare. The hard part is finding a building to open in.
- There's that building in Richmond right off the highway. I don't know how big it is though.
- The trick of it is finding a building that an outdoor play area could be fenced in. What about converting a home into a daycare center? Like the doctor and dentist office in town?
- That's a fantastic idea!
- It's \$200K and has mold. My boss looked at it.
- Oh man ok.
- I know. I've always wanted to make that a daycare!
- It would be a good location but the mold's not worth it all the kiddos would be sick.
- I wish my home was big enough. I have tons of experience and training.
- At Waverly, the Elementary school opened up a daycare because there was such a need for it here. Might look at that route?
- That is a brilliant idea!
- We are licensed for 2.5 yo-5yo. With the size of room we have, we can have 20-24 children depending on if we have any 2.5yo or not.
- That would be an awesome idea!
- This is a statewide and national problem. Grants have been made available to help start childcare programs and prepare children for school. Basehor-Linwood School District like Waverly also opened an early learning center.
- My boss is going to open one as soon as they find a building. We have Ottawa and Paola locations.

- In my hometown the high school students that are interested in early childhood education work at the school daycare and also earn college credits.
- I REALLY love that idea! Would that be possible to do through the high school? Like another work study?
- All it takes is the idea. If I lived there, I would help. One possible source of help for you would be recent retirees. Good luck to you!
- I worked at a daycare center for 5 years. I could help set it up, but I can't run it since I'm a teacher at the high school. It's expensive for sure, so any toy donation will help!
- Toy drives are something I'm good at. And I wholeheartedly believe our town could pull this off. With some monetary donations and some good hearted folks we could have a functioning and affordable daycare.
- I know some kids who graduated last year and would be great daycare teachers too.
- We are hiring in Paola!! Send them my way.
- Sometimes you can find openings, but they want a full-time commitment (5 days a week) but when a parent only works 3 or 4 days they don't need the full week so they can't take a spot. If that makes sense.
- In the city you pay for 5 days even if you only go 4 that keeps your spot.
- That's pretty standard for daycares in rural areas too, not just cities.
- I wondered if it wasn't. Thanks hon.
- While grants are available, Lil Sprouts Playcare LLC is attempting to do all we can to service the Garnett community with our proven ability to pass through the opening process & fully qualified high paid teachers to provide care for all ages of children especially those under 3. Even working with the community development board we have yet to find a building. If anyone knows of someone that has a commercial building they would lease out & allow for renovations to pass licensing we are still currently offering our business services to that community area as we know it's in desperate need!
- What about the old restaurant in Richmond off 59?
- We've talked that one over but we prefer to run larger buildings with 5-7 classrooms available and we want something a little more setup for daycare so there's not as much wait time to open.
- I get that! Just didn't know if it would work for a time being until you find something.
- We have the other 2 locations that keep us quite busy. We don't mind waiting 'til we find the exact right fit but it does sadden me that we can't seem to find any buildings in Garnett yet & we know families there truly are in need.
- I am going Friday to a meeting in regard to childcare. I'm trying to see what I can do. I too am a new grandma, but I left my job to be a full-time grandma. I'm in hopes I can help start something to help our fabulous community.

## Hopes and Wishes

### I wish Garnett... - Facebook

- A dog park? With a fenced areas for different sizes of dog, and weight limits on the area's etc. so all dogs stay safe...that would be great. Some people can go run their dogs in the country, but a lot also can't and need a safe enclosed space for their dogs to let off energy.

- A super store.
- A Taco Bell
- Agree to this!!
- Also, basketball area for the teenagers!! They play at the museum a lot still and they plan to get rid of the hoops there so somewhere for them all the bike riding age kiddos would be great.
- Also, to add to it, some generic how-to puppy and obedience training signs could be painted and hung along the fences! With some quarter operated treat dispensers - the city could earn a little money to cover the cost of repairing the park at least. People could also spend time teaching their dogs basic obedience too, we wouldn't have as many dumped strays in the country or as many dogs just get out and get lost.
- An ALDI would be wonderful
- An indoor pool so we could swim year round
- Auburns has a pretty good system going on their auto refill program and will provide text messages when those refills are ready. Not perfect, but works really well if you don't require the Dr's approval for the refill
- Get the downtown back to life. A lot of towns are bringing the downtown experience back.
- Had a bigger Dollar General and an Aldi. I believe that would pull in business from a 30-mile area all around, however they have a pretty high criteria to adhere to, Ottawa had one once.
- Had a Del Taco restaurant
- Had a movie theater
- Had a movie theater
- Had a nice, well maintained volleyball court. We'd use it a lot. The courts at the North Lake are in really bad shape. And have an Aldi.
- Had a Price Chopper
- Had a zero-entry pool for people like myself with mobility issues and was open to new companies coming to our town
- Had more employment opportunities for our youth and young families
- I believe that there may always be a pharmacist on call. You might ask.
- I moved away after high school and moved back here 3 years ago. It's definitely not the same town I grew up in. There's a small handful of people who have been nice, but most try to stay clear of us. My husband worked for the City of Olathe for 35 years and people liked him there and in his hometown of DeSoto. He was well respected. We both have a lot of ideas for this town to make it better, but not wanting to be ostracized any more than we have. In fact, our newest fire truck came from Olathe and my husband used to do PMs and repairs on it. My husband could be a very useful source of information for the City of Garnett itself, but so far, he hasn't felt comfortable with the people in this town. We know of others who stay in their homes only to get out for groceries and things. Plus, we could use more programs for the elderly like my parents to make them feel useful again.
- I wish Garnett had a better housing market for renters
- I wish Garnett would be wiped out by a tornado.

- I would like an indoor pool too and I'm a "younger" person (well, 35). Would love to be able to exercise there in the wintertime, especially if you offered classes similar as in the summer.
- If you could add my husband to this group, I'm sure that he would have a plethora of ideas, especially since he has worked for the City of Olathe for 35 years and knows quite a lot of how things ran there. Plus, he grew up in Dallas, DeSoto, Kansas City and lived in Wellsville.
- McDonalds
- More employment opportunities and more things for the children to do like skating rink a bowling alley and something like that. If there's more things for these children to do in this town, less chances of them finding things to do that will end up getting them in trouble like vandalizing stuff and stealing stuff
- More employment opportunities, an indoor pool for the rec center so people can swim year round, DoorDash delivery service or something similar, a nice quiet spot to let dogs run and play, more activities for the kids especially the teenagers that are giving them something to do other than party, quit raising property taxes on houses that are not even close to being worth what tax assessor claims, maybe having a welcome committee for newcomers. My husband and I bought a house here in Garnett 3 years ago. This is his first time living in Garnett and not a single soul other than my family and preacher neighbor has talked to him at all. It's hard to feel welcome and want to live in a community that doesn't welcome new members very well.
- More job/career opportunities
- More lake camping areas at all the lakes and more employment opportunities overall though a Great Place to live
- Open up to new companies that will cause a large influx of new residents. If would increase demand for housing and increase home process. The increased tax revenue could lead to a lively and modern downtown. Art showcases from local and non-local artists, music events in town square. A large-scale yearly music event similar to "Rocklahoma" or "Country Stampede" for alternative music might be a welcome introduction and drive seasonal local tourism
- Spruce up downtown area...make it a really interesting antique shopper's destination. Get an inside pool for all, especially older people
- We could also use a pharmacy that is open on Sundays and later than 2 on weekends where people don't have to go without their meds for a weekend if they run out on a weekend.
- Would grow. Being between two major highways we should have lots more opportunities for shopping and food.
- Would have a law against excessive vehicle noise, and a stronger electrical grid that would go off every time the wind blows. I also wish that they would enforce the zoning laws in the City of Garnett and not allow a big building and business to be put right in the middle of a residential area.
- Would open its shooting range
- Yes! Dollar General needs a much bigger building. Aldi...it's only a dream in a town of 3000 people

What do you wish we had in our city? – Garnett Elementary School

- 5 below and Walmart
- 5 Below, Steak and Shake, Domino's
- 54th Street
- A bigger Dollar store
- A bigger fair ground because the fairgrounds are so tiny and the rule where you are not allowed to pump your cow
- A Chick-fil-A (full restaurant), ice cream store aka Syllas & Maddy's
- A full-on Chick-fil-A
- A McDonald's on a gas station
- A McDonald's, Walmart, Arcade, Whataburger
- A My Little Pony virtual reality
- A new soccer field would be good
- A nice place to eat out on Sundays, a movie night downtown on the square
- A rodeo team, Wendy's Pizza Ranch, rescue horse center
- A skateboard park so people can do tricks. A really big one too for the bikes so we can do more, add more things to skate park
- A skating rink and a bigger pool or a Walmart
- A Starbucks
- A Taco Bell, a bigger Dollar General, a bigger and better pool
- A Walmart, an Aldi's, a college, a historic site
- A water slide at the public pool I would also like to have McDonalds
- An ice-skating rink, Applebee's
- An indoor pool, Chick-fil-A
- An indoor pool, Chick-fil-A, and Wendy's
- Arcade!
- Better parks and slides for our water park to make it better
- Bungy jumping
- Burger King
- Chick-fil-A
- Chick-fil-A
- Chick-fil-A
- Chick-fil-A
- Chocolate ice cream that has whipped cream on it
- Chuckie Cheese, Zoo, Applebee's, Walmart, Water Park, McDonald's, Target, Movie Theater, Candy Store, Skating Rink
- Dunkin Donut
- Hotel
- Huge Gym
- I really want an esports gaming team and an Apple store
- I think we should have better things at the pool like a slide
- I want a bigger Casey's because I love Pizza
- I want a McDonald's
- I wish I had a Beast Burger restaurant

- I wish our town had a motocross track
- I wish that the public pool had slides and the public library had pig puppets
- I wish the high school would have soccer rec as well. I wish the Chick-fil0a truck came to town more often.
- I wish there was a McDonald's and a Walmart as well, I like Sonic and Dairy Queen, but they need a McDonald's and I dislike driving to Ottawa just to go to Walmart!
- I wish to get a free scholarship from K-State. I wish the ditches were mowed. I wish the park had more equipment. I wish there was a McDonald's. I wish there were some free skateboards to use at the skate park.
- I wish we could swim in the lakes and in the reservoir. I also wish we had a Walmart because I hate driving.
- I wish we had an arcade
- I wish we had a Bass Pro
- I wish we had a bigger Dollar store.
- I wish we had a Chick-fil-A and slides at the pool
- I wish we had a karate place in Garnett
- I wish we had a Target, Walmart
- I wish we had a Walmart
- I wish we had a Walmart and/or a McDonalds
- I wish we had a Walmart, so I don't have to go that far when we go to Walmart
- I wish we had a water slide
- I wish we had a Whataburger restaurant
- I wish we had A&W
- I wish we had an indoor pool or paint ball arena
- I wish we had McDonald's and Walmart
- I wish we had more restaurants, more stores so we wouldn't have to travel up in the city
- I wish we had slides and more fun stuff to do at the swimming pool.
- I wish we had Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, and Target
- I wish we had Walmart in our city
- I wish we had water slides for the pool
- I would like if they added a Starbucks
- I would love for me and my family to go shopping in more different shops. I would love that!
- I would love McDonalds and a bigger Casey's
- John's Sporting Goods
- KFC
- KFC, Texas Roadhouse, Scheels
- Kid museum and trampoline park and IHOP
- Lego World
- Love
- Make our Casey's bigger add a McDonalds I like Chick-fil-A trailer, but I would like a restaurant, a Walmart I also wish there was a small sporting goods store and I wish there was a shoe store

- McDonald's
- McDonald's
- McDonald's
- McDonald's cause their chicken nuggets are good, and their fries are so good
- McDonalds, a big pool, Buy Low, Wild Wings, and Chick-fil-A
- McDonald's, high dive at the swimming pool
- McDonalds, Walmart
- McDonald's, Wendy's, Applebee's, Walmart, Bakery, Pet Shop, Water Park, Indoor Park
- Mini Golf
- More activities like bowling game, artist park, candy shop, a bookstore, a shop so poor people can come in and eat for free, movie theater, mall, Steak and Shake, Starbucks
- More diving boards and slides
- More flowers, Zoo, Laser Tag, Arcade, Walmart
- More parks, more items at our swimming pool and McDonald's
- More softball fields and volleyball courts and 5 below, candy store, and Starbucks
- Movie theater, Chick-fil-A, McDonald's, On the Border, better Dollar General
- Pokémon
- Red Robins
- Starbucks
- Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, Learning Express
- Taco Bell, Arby's, Walmart
- Taco Bell, Chick-fil-A
- Target
- Target, Home Depot, Burger King, Chick-fil-A, McDonald's, and Domino's
- Target, Science City, Mall, Bowling Alley
- Texas Steak Roadhouse and Target and a mall
- Theater and Petco
- Upgrade the pool, give it water slides
- Walmart
- Walmart
- Walmart
- Walmart and DQ
- Walmart, bull riding, grade school football, Five Guys, Army National Guard, radio station, Freddy's, Scheels, water slides, a new football stadium, Pizza Ranch
- Walmart, Watch Shop, Chick-fil-A
- Water Park
- Wendy's
- What Garnett has to have a bowling alley
- Zoo
- Zoo

- Zoo
- Zoo
- Zoo

#### What things do you hope for? – Facebook

- Not to be embarrassed on an international level
- A disco...
- For Jesus to come again
- More businesses
- See the veteran's memorial wall completed
- Jobs
- Garnett is dying
- I don't believe it is dying at all
- Lower property tax
- Local contractors to actually answer and return phone calls. Plus, being able to get someone to set up an actual appointment for small home repairs or remodeling.

#### What do you want Garnett to be like 5 years from now? – Facebook

- More restaurants and business and things to do
- Batting cages for the baseball and softball players like they have in Coffeyville's Pfister Park.
- We had batting cages nobody used them
- More businesses something for teens to do
- Restaurants open all day and, in the evening, too
- Continued Growth! Love of your NEIGHBOR!
- Jobs
- Maybe a new Casey's and Dollar General for starters! I moved here from Lane so am happy for all we do have though.
- More things for kids like bowling alley roller rink and more businesses
- We need a dept. store Have to drive 33 miles to get shoes. Don't be so quick to close the pool during scares. Turns out it's the absolute safest place to be in all of Garnett. Open the Pool!
- Updated grocery store, and that the people here continue to be the friendliest, happiest, caring people I've met so far...what a great town...
- Larger population by 2 people so pops and nan will be close to grandson
- Welcoming to new things and more things to do
- I'd be happy just being able to hire people to help me repair and fix up my home. There's a lot of beautiful old homes for sale that need TLC, but nobody welcomes newcomers.

#### What do you want your children or grandchildren to experience in Garnett when they grow up? – Facebook

- Happy & loving memories
- Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of happiness!

- Know Garnett is a great town to grow up in. And even here on my block we all watch out for each other and lend a hand when needed.
- YMCA activities, ice cream soda shop, big carnival, friends, better parks, great schools
- Community bonding and that feeling of safety knowing that someone is always close by if they are in need.
- The ability to make a real living without having to take 2 or 3 jobs just to make it. The idea that growing up here is great but staying to help keep making it an even greater place to live and WORK would be my ultimate goal for them.
- Acceptance of all human beings. Be able to witness this here in Garnett.
- The respect the community has for its Veterans with the personal banners to the American Flags flying at the Cemetery Awesome lil town
- True friendships
- Still happy to come back home
- The ability to support and raise a family
- How about bring back the fishing clinic the KDWP used to have at the south lake show kids there is more out there than internet and gaming.
- The closeness of community
- Love of families within the community pride of their home

#### What would the perfect city for you to live in be like? – Facebook

- Having power on in the house for one
- Just toured the city. Flag Day, this is what I found. American flag, Christian flag, Kansas state flag, Law Enforcement flags, Kansas City Chiefs, and last but not least Ace. Plus / 250 banners honoring our military past and present. And last but not least once again banners honoring all our High School seniors. Sorry if I missed any. I personally think these days a lot about the community. I am very proud.
- Wow
- Love God & be peaceful & helpful
- A community that works together and welcomes newcomers

#### I wish Garnett... - Event Board

- A better pool
- A better pool, yes!!!!
- A highway turnoff lane
- A movie theater
- A town cleanup
- Adequate housing
- Apple Store
- Ballet lessons
- Better guys
- Better playgrounds
- Better pool
- Better pool
- Better pool
- Better school

- Better swimming pool
- Bowling alley
- Cat park
- Chicken
- Chick-fil-A
- Chick-fil-A
- Community place where kids/teens can hang out
- Culvers
- Dog park
- Fishing
- Fix the roads
- Garden club
- God bless America
- Had a beach
- Had a beach!
- Had a Hot Topic store
- Had a Lazy River
- Had a Spencer's store
- Had an arcade/bowling alley
- Had better guys
- Had Disney World!
- Had more freedom
- infowars.com
- Jobs that are more than just "would you like fries with that"
- Legal swimming lake spot
- Legoland
- Legoland
- McDonald's
- Mini golf
- More businesses
- More electric spots at the reservoir
- More fun religious youth stuff
- More nice people
- More places to eat
- More rentals for young adults
- More schools
- More story walks
- More things to do
- No more advertising
- Potato man
- Proud of my small town
- Recycle bins in every building
- Speedway
- Splash pad



- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

What are some of the ways Garnett can involve and engage its residents more especially when decisions are made? – Facebook

- How about a contest that involves persons of all ages?

What groups of people in Garnett are usually missing when public meetings are held, or decisions are made that affect our community? – Facebook

- Working parents who are also chasing kids during their events in the evenings and weekends.
- Working into the evening or just getting off work and desiring to have a meal with their family.

Where do you go to meet people in Garnett?

- Thinking of starting a singles/divorced/widowed group. Just to meet and go to events and activities with a group, because it is difficult to meet others in a “small” town. Would there be any interest??
- I would love to have a group where we could meet people. Right now, the church is the only place you can go and we need something else for us non-religious folks... However, I am not single or widowed or divorced. I think we need something a little bit less inclusive.
- Since you have children there’s a lot of groups associated with the school, those of us without kids in school have a even harder time meeting people! But I agree something social is good for whomever!
- I currently just visit my mom in Garnett, but I would think it would be Dutch Country Café.
- Any restaurant in town. Morning Mingle, Love What’s Local events, Monroe 816 when the store is having events, library, Rec Center, Thursday nights in the park over the summer. Square Fair, Cornstock. So many events throughout the year that I know I’m missing some.

### Favorite Places/Activities/Events

What are the best places or activities for children or teens in Garnett? – Facebook

- Baseball games, swimming, youth groups including church groups, skating, etc.
- Library, parks, and bike trails
- Swimming pool
- At home.
- Recreation sports, Church youth groups, 4-H/FFA Other than that there's really not much to do around here
- When we moved here there was a bowling alley and a skating rink. We need more good paying jobs so we can support more activities
- There really isn't much for local teens to do if they don't fish, hike, or hunt.
- Nothing really...my kids do go to the skate park but that’s about it

- Right, I was just about to say the same thing, my sister's boys are old enough to kind of go do their own thing. And I was following this to see what all there really is to do for children in this town. I personally think they need more like a skating rink a bowling alley something to keep these kids out of trouble and having fun at the same time. I think we can make Garnett great we can it's just going to take a community to do it.
- Me too! 7-yr-old grandson visits every other weekend, and there's nothing to do.
- A skating rink would be a great idea or an arcade with a dance hall big screen tv on the wall for videos used to be a place called red balloon when I was younger in the city that did this was a very popular place on weekends for teens
- When Garnett had the skating rink. We'd drive from lola to skate.
- Unfortunately, Garnett doesn't offer much for our youth. It would be nice to see a bowling alley brought back or maybe a skating rink. Something that can accommodate bigger families or just teens. Garnett is in desperate need of something to occupy our youth.
- There's isn't anything, in my opinion. Even when the poll is open, there's nothing fun to do!
- Our pool is a joke! Many people have brought personal pools because of this!
- I took my granddaughters there last summer!! It wasn't fun at all!!!
- There's so much exploring to do at our parks! Lots of interesting things to find there. Walking/biking/exploring on the trail. Skate Park. Basketball and tennis courts. Baseball/softball. Fishing. Hunting. Trap shooting. Skiing, Boating. Rec center. Pool. Sewing. Golf. Disc Golf. Ride 4 wheelers. Ride horses... or bulls if you dare! Get involved with FFA or another group. Volunteer! We don't have a bowling alley, but we can make our own fun alleys! We don't have a skating rink, but there's lots of places to skate!
- Great ideas - but realistically, few of those opportunities are viable for every-other-weekend visit. In the summer we hang out more in his town (Burlington) because the pool is stupendous, and the parks are way better.
- How are the parks better? Just curious
- Newer, more equipment, more modern equipment
- I'm not dissing on Garnett; just wonder why we don't have those amenities here.
- I'm curious now lol...do you happen to have a photo of their equipment? It would be great to have the city look at it and at least get an estimate or something similar
- Rec sports teams
- not this summer
- I grew up in Lawrence. When I was a kid, I remember the rec center showing a movie on the side of the building on Friday nights. We took blankets and popcorn it was like the drive in without a car.
- I love this idea!!!
- That is an amazing idea
- Kids definitely need something like this
- Movie night would be great
- Maybe a small skate competition kids used to love that skate park. Maybe fix it up add to it.
- Smaller children need something interesting also other than a park.

- Bowling alley skate rink paintball field arcade
- In my old hometown we had an indoor soft cushion play area for the little kids
- Even if it was possible to combine these ideas...like a skating rink/bowling alley/arcade...that would offer stuff for all ages (even us adults) ... at different times of the day...

If someone was visiting you here for the first time, where would you take them and what would you show them in Garnett? – Facebook

- A performance at the Chamber Players theatre if they were performing. The Chamber Players truly makes Garnett unique.
- Around north lake then south lake
- I would take them to the lakes, the swimming pool and the go-kart tracks and county fair! #myfavememories #iwonacalculatoratthefair (men in camo suits) believe it was from the armory. I guessed how many jellybeans in the pickle jar, used multiplication and WON.
- Love the plays at the Chamber Player Theatre, we miss them so much
- My favorites when I come to town are Yoder's Country Store and the quilt shop. Also like the lakes & reservoir. The cemetery when it is decorated with flags is nice. The rail trail might be an attraction for those into exercising.
- North & South Lake
- Not the square due to the obvious struggle there. The north and south lakes are pretty much it. People want to see thriving businesses which is the "health" of any community. I would take them to the Dutch Country Café to have lunch with me just to give me an excuse to go there.
- South Lake, it is beautiful
- The parks and lakes
- The square and reservoir/lakes
- The square and the lakes
- The town square and some of the beautiful older homes around!
- When my brother and sister-in-law came to visit, we went to trade winds and drove them around the town. The lakes are beautiful.
- When my cousin came up from Texas (no warning) I was working, so I told her how to get to the square. Told there was a few places she might like; this was over 15 years ago! She loved our Square & Courthouse, so she went inside the Courthouse & was just walking up the steps! When reached the top an Attorney asked what she was doing?? She told him she was from Texas & loved our Courthouse, so he took as far as is possible! When she told me, I said I've never been up there!!!! Bit jealous.
- When my sister came to Garnett for the first time from California, we showed her the square first, lakes second, and then we country cruised so she could see the beautiful scenery just outside of town!

What are your favorite events or activities in Garnett? – Facebook

Arts and craft fair downtown. That's about it unless you consider the Tuesday sale barn activities.

- Tractor pull, car shows

- Square Fair
- Grand Prix
- Growing Garnett
- The bull riding event!!
- Square Fair, Cornstock
- Square Fair
- Bingo
- Chamber Players theatre!
- We usually don't know about activities until they're over. The native Garnett people think you should just know by osmosis
- I just appreciate the laid-back easy life this town offers. People are friendly and lend a hand when needed.
- The gas station
- Tractor pull and square fair
- Square fair, garage sales, grand prix, car shows
- Demo Derby
- The north park gun range!!
- Square Fair and the fair!
- Going fishing at the lakes, grand prix, and attending services at the little church on the corner of 2nd and pine.
- Square Fair and city-wide yard sales and family gatherings.
- Grand prix

#### Must Do Things / Must See Things / Must Try Foods – Facebook

- Have you ate at Tradewinds or Dutch Country Café?
- Not Tradewinds but yes to Dutch County Café...It was amazing...
- Tradewinds is WONDERFUL!!!
- We like to eat lol
- Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce has a lot of information about our community and shares may events on their website and Facebook page!
- Been to Prairie Home market?
- No not really been a whole lot of places in town other than Orscheln, Dollar general, Ace hardware, and the Grocery
- Welcome
- Thank you I'm honestly excited
- Garnett is a nice little town, have fun!
- Thanks for putting this question out there, for my Husband and I are newbies too. We just moved here at the beginning of June and are really loving as well. One place we have found that we really like, and I didn't see anyone mention yet is the Mexican Restaurant downtown. Also, there is a store downtown that I haven't been to yet, but I'm intrigued by called Monroe 816.
- Also, don't know if You've been yet, but we just made it to the Seventh Street Grocery today, very neat little Grocery store.
- I really enjoy the classes @ Monroe 816 Bring your choice of drink & have some fun!
- I'll have to check it out. Thanks!

- Definitely go into Monroe 816! Val is SO talented! And yes, we have a fantastic Mexican restaurant.
- Thanks! I definitely will! We have been to the Mexican Restaurant 3 times in the last month and a half, never been disappointed.
- what is Monroe 816?
- A little store on the square. Val refurbishes furniture. But she also has a lot of other neat things. Monroe 816 is on Facebook, check it out.
- Chinese restaurant to go, Dutch Country, and Tradewinds. Prairie Home Market and all the flea markets and boutiques.
- Following because we're new to the town also!
- Welcome
- Welcome
- Welcome we can always use some new faces
- Thanks guys!!!
- Get season's tickets to the local dinner theatre. Great entertainment. First play of the season is in August.
- 7th Street Grocery out west of town on the paved road. They have a deli and ice cream.
- Thursday night farmer's market downtown. Chamber Players dinner theater. Monroe 816, Josephine's. Flea markets. Fair is next week. Lakes and reservoir. Join a local committee. Welcome!
- we are excited to check out the fair...we are a 32yr and running 4-H family.
- What types of committees are there here? And where to get info?
- Cornstock, fair board, Rotary, Lions Club, theater board, chamber of commerce board, Business and Professional Women... help me out here lol...you're on more boards than I am on! Kris Hix at the chamber of commerce should have quite a bit of info
- thank you so much!
- Welcome to Garnett! Feel free to call or stop by the Chamber office!
- Walker Art Collection at the library, walk on the rail trail, bingo on Tuesdays at the VFW, Anderson County Museum on 6th Ave.
- For wilderness camping, Cedar Valley Reservoir west of town. Back in town, there is the Chamber Players dinner theatre -- The next show open August 20 and runs August 20-22 and August 26-68. A nice dinner, good show, and you don't have to drive an hour and a half back home!
- Thanks!
- Garnett has the best dinner theater. Garnett Chamber Players. They're on Facebook, I can't get it to link.
- That's strange-- I tried, too, but thought I was doing something wrong. Here is their web site, though.
- I got to it just fine
- Sale barn every Tuesday
- I'm curious about the sale barn because we raise goats. How does it work? Do they have things besides Cattle?
- Yes, they sometimes do. They had goats last week and that got away and we had them down at Bauman's furniture. Lol

- I'm glad someone finally caught them little things
- Ha, I wondered when I saw them running around
- Yes, they have goats, swine, sheep, cows, and sometimes horses
- I enjoy our library. They have fun and interesting programs.
- Welcome!!
- Welcome to town everyone! The Chamber Players love new audience members. We love to put new people on stage and have tones of people behind the scenes if you aren't "on stage" kind of people.
- I was just coming to see if I could tag the theatre.
- The Chamber Players Community Theatre
- It popped up when I searched for it. Hmmmmmmmm
- Welcome to town. We moved here 9 - 10 years ago, everyone seems friendly. I suggest the area lakes, but I love to fish.
- Welcome! Visit us on the Square. We have been serving Garnett for 20 years and feature a huge select of cooking gadgets, cards, baby gifts, Melissa and Doug as well as Kansas souvenirs.
- School will be starting soon so there is all kinds of football games to watch soon. Rec league, Jr. and Sr. high school football. Chinese Restaurant carry out is always great. Fun to cruise the north lake or adventure out around the reservoir. The Prairie Spirit Trail is fun to walk or bike on. Fun to look around the stores on the square. Also, with the fair going on there will be a small carnival coming to town next week.
- Wow, I didn't realize there were so many of us newbies here in Garnett! Thanks Everybody for all Your kindness and suggestions! We are loving our new home!
- Lots of great shops on the square and don't forget us up north end of town...Dutch Café and Prairie Home Market! Trade Winds...Dairy Queen...Sonic!
- Welcome to Garnett! We moved here almost 10 years ago and love it. Feel free to reach out if you need anything.
- Welcome to Garnett!!

#### What is your favorite outdoor activity in the summer? – Facebook

- Fishing the area lakes
- Camping. It would be great if our reservoir had some amenities! (Trees, restroom with showers, fire pits, picnic tables, etc.)
- Fishing & Tubing
- Would like to see a truck mud run come back to town instead of having to go out of town to see one! Updated and or new amenities at the lakes! Bigger demolition derby arena and safer seating all new boards!
- Drinking Beer!
- Working in my yard
- Going to all my Grandkids ball games!!
- Baseball softball soccer more fish fries at the fire department bowling alley roller skating
- Fishing and gardening!
- Working in my yard I get a lot of compliments, but I just love doing it. The inside might need more cleaning...but the outside looks great
- Watching my boys play baseball, BBQ and beer, gardening

### What places do you visit most in Garnett? – Facebook

- The Amish restaurant, Country Mart, Sale Barn, Mexican restaurant, antique places on occasion
- The places I use to live, I call that drive by memories
- C mart, subway
- My shop where I spend about 12 hours a day
- Dollar General-Country Mart-Sonic-DQ-Hardware stores
- Dutch country café
- Orscheln purest water found 000-003, Thrift shop, the fabric shop, country mart, dollar General
- The south and north lakes
- Yoder's country store Anderson County sale barn
- El Jimador, Short Stop, and when I actually get out to exercise, a lap around the North Lake
- Holy Angels Catholic Church, Country Mart, Sonic, Family Care Center, Pheasant Ridge, Anderson County Hospital, Chinese Restaurant, Monroe 816
- Country mart, both lakes, church
- The library
- I visit KDOT 5 days out of the week!!!! Lol because I work there...
- Country Mart, library, lumber yard and Millers
- The reservoir, north and south lakes, sonic, dairy queen, family care center, hospital, Auburn's, short stop, and my mom's house
- The lakes.
- My work, Country Mart, Dollar General, Short Stop, Tradewinds and home... There ya have it. LOL
- The liquor store. LOL
- The Trails, parks, lakes, recreation center, grocery store, dollar general, Garnett Home Center and home.
- Senior Center, north lake, \$General and DQ
- Rail Trail!!
- ARC
- Reservoir
- ARC, home place, sale barn
- Above and 4th Street Antiques
- The lakes, Love driving around them. Also, Dutch County Café Dollar General the Mexican restaurant

### What would you all be doing for fun this weekend if we didn't need to stay home? – Facebook

- Visiting my gramma & thrift shopping
- Bonfire and BBQ get together with friends! I mees them all so
- Going to Auctions
- Seeing my grandchildren
- Probably sitting on the couch, watching TV and drinking a beer. Oh, wait....
- Antique stores or hanging w the mother

- Watching my daughter play softball
- Performing In a play and playing solo/ensemble competition for the band.
- I was having a huge garage sale at the Quonset hut!
- Visiting my parents and watching the boys play soccer.
- A reception! So sad it had to be cancelled!
- Same thing I did today
- Going to church and maybe spending time with my little granddaughters!
- Probably dirt bike track
- Eating somewhere for my Birthday
- Probably being lazier
- Finishing up wedding plans that are now on hold until who knows when
- Spend time with all my kids and grandchildren
- Stay home--I like home
- Granddaughter birthday party
- In Garnett, putting up blinds, painting the back porch, cleaning up the yard, laying trim in the living room... the list goes on.

### Live in Garnett or Leave Garnett?

Do you see yourself living in Garnett in the future, after high school? Why or why not?  
– Anderson County Jr/Sr High School

What first brought you to Garnett? Why do you live here now? – Facebook

- I was born here and my family all lives here!!
- Our business & now its home to us & close to most of our children & grandchildren
- Born and raised in Garnett Kansas
- I married a guy from here and now it's home
- I was working in Garnett at the hospital and nursing homes but lived out of town
- I have lived here 25 years now. I love this town
- The lakes! Living here now!
- My wife 60 plus years ago!!
- My husband's grandparents moved here, bought some land. Then they sold some of it to my husband's parents who later moved here and then we followed. Our kids grew up here!
- P.S. One of my best friends from where I grew up in Great Bend, married a guy from here and she was living here when I moved here.
- I am one of the 4th generation of Feuerborns to have a Garnett address
- In 1980 my husband became a GP here, his parents lived in Iola. His father died the year prior, and he was an only child. So instead of taking a position back east, we ended up in Garnett. We reared our three kids here, one of the 3 came to us as a blessing via our hearts and was from Garnett. Moving to Garnett was a God sent blessing.
- We have been Blessed to have you all in our community. Your family has been a part of ours for a long time. Doc will always be my favorite/best family physician.
- We moved to Garnett from Pomona so I could teach and coach at the High School. My family all lived in Iowa, but we loved Garnett. When we started our family, we moved

back to Iowa to raise the children around family. Wish we had stayed in Garnett. The best people I ever met were in Garnett. I greatly regret moving away.

- Husband job brought us to Ottawa Lived in Princeton. Found a house to buy in Garnett. We liked the community and area. This has become our home 25 years later we are still here. Nice safe caring community.
- Our whole goal was to live on our 16 acres in Paola, but Garnett is where the Lord wanted us to be. Very proud Texans happy to be calling Kansas our home. I'm very blessed also to have a daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren living in Olathe
- My husband's nearby job and cheap living
- To be near my sister and I love living in Garnett
- Born and raised here 4th generation
- We moved here in '81. The oil business brought us here... Best move we have ever made. We love Garnett... This is home....
- I live here because want to I like Garnett Kansas
- A man is why I came to Garnett I stayed because Garnett is such a friendly town and people smile
- We moved our family to Garnett in 1982 I wanted my kids to know the Weems side. Didn't get to stay but have many pleasant memories. I've recently moved back to Kansas.
- The love of my life brought me to Garnett! My parents like Garnett so well that they moved here when they retired. Growing up in St. Louis I never thought I would live in a small town but wouldn't want to live anywhere else!
- My family moved here in 1961 and dad managed APCO gas station, the best move we ever made, the people in the community are the best lots of wonderful memories.
- The simplicity of life
- I married my husband and moved here in 2011. I grew up in Richmond, so it wasn't a big change only being 10 miles south.
- Is the reason, we were looking to move to Kansas, but she had some beautiful properties in Garnett to show us. We've now owned our house a year and love it here. The summers remind me of Australia.
- Born at Carter Hospital, In 1946, Garnett, KS
- In 1988 my family moved back to Garnett both my parents was born here and the family farm was in Anderson Co.
- I'm 5th generation with 3 generations behind me
- I bought my aunt's hair salon in 1961 and I'm still here
- I worked in Garnett at hospital and nursing homes about 40 years so the past 25 I have lived here but retired now. And enjoying it I previously lived in Richmond Ks in the 70s 80s and the first part of 90s
- My Grandparents lived here, and my dad was in bad shape physically. So, we moved here in May of 1969. I have lived in Vegas and Branson, but this is my home. I will not ever sell because one or more of my grandchildren will need a home.
- Bought a house here and love it
- Was born here
- I lived with my mom and sister and brother in Garnett grade school Holy Angels 8 the grade then moved to Cheyenne Wyoming until I was 15 then to California

- Lone Sweers! Ran into her in a restaurant in Olathe while I was on a dinner date with my wife! We waited over an hour and lone was alone. After getting to know her, when our table came up, we invited her to eat with us. After dinner and much conversation, she came back to Garnett and reported to the pastor that she had found the next youth pastor for FCC! I was hired a few months later! Crazy how God can work!
- Born and raised here
- I married my husband when I was 17 from Cheyenne Wyoming, he was born here I've been here all my kids went and graduated school here wouldn't want to live nowhere else love Garnett
- I was born in the hospital here 51 years ago. I moved away twice and came back both times. My family lives here as well as a lot of my friends. I still like the little town. Made a lot of new friends in my 12 years on the Police Dept.
- My brother-in-law was police officer there too
- Yes. I worked with him for several yrs. Great guy.
- My stepdad... only live here now cause I'm trapped here
- This was my wife's hometown. We moved here in 2004 and live on the family homestead. We both grew up in small-town America and just knew we wanted a similar upbringing for our children. Garnett is truly a treasure!
- I lived in Centerville. My husband came to Garnett to work on the waterline. He liked the area so much we stayed here
- I was born here. Moved back to be closer to my elderly parents.
- Moved here 16 years ago from CO. A friend of ours highly recommended Garnett! Really like it here!!
- Was born and raised here. I've never had a reason to leave.
- 13 years ago - I was looking for a teaching position in the eastern half of Kansas. ACHS had two openings. I have not regretted moving with my family here in 2007.
- My mom and sister.
- Moved here 20 years ago from Johnson County. Love it here.
- Teaching job
- Fell in love with Kathy that's why you have your husband
- My husband was born and raised in Garnett, and we moved here to be close to his parents. We live on W 6th Ave right by RLC. We absolutely love our neighborhood and couldn't ask for better neighbors!
- My husband and I were both born and raised here and have lived here our whole lives! We both own businesses in town and absolutely love it! There's no place like home! We love our little hometown and will never leave!
- Raised in Welda all my life. Went to Garnett schools all but one year.
- Dad was born in Westphalia, played for Ray Meyer, graduated from GHS, and my grandmother taught at GES for years...and other things...
- Born and raised here
- Moved here from PA back in 1977. Family ties keep us here. Love our small-town community.
- My husband is from Garnett and his family is still here
- Born & raised in Garnett. Live in LaHarpe now, come back and visit every once in a while.

- I used to live in Perry. It is in Jefferson County about halfway between Topeka & Lawrence. I work in Lawrence. In 2015 my daughter died, and her son lives in Burlington. He hated the long drive to Perry - then I fell in love with the beauty of this area, so I moved. Much closer to him for every-other-weekend visits, yet also doable for daily commute to work.
- Born in Garnett, grew up in the 2nd largest town in Anderson County
- Hit hard times in 2008. Sister and brother-in-law farmed just north of town and had a house for sale. We moved from Minnesota to Garnett. Nice small town friendly people and good fishing.
- Garnett had a house I could afford little did I know trains all hours of day blowing whistles rattling house in Olathe they have rules against that wife has health condition needs here sleep so ridiculous they are allowed to do that
- Moved from Arkansas to start a business and Garnett was quiet and beautiful and affordable, so here we are, and we love it.
- My wife has health problems trains constantly rattle the windows blowing their whistle city doesn't care
- I am sorry that your wife is dealing with some health issues. I pray that you're able to find a solution to your challenges.
- Thank you
- Some cities are starting to mount train horns on the pole where the crossing guard is. It's a smaller horn designed to be heard in the vicinity of the crossing, the only place where it actually needs to be heard, instead of five miles before the train even gets to town. Maybe Garnett could use some of the "Free" COVID money that is burning a hole in their pockets for that.
- Why would you buy near a train track?
- Didn't think too much about it was a few blocks away and house was all I could afford loudest whistle I have heard, and I lived in Olathe before, and they now have rules there but Garnett thinks they have no choice but to let them blow whistle wouldn't think every train in Kansas would come thru lol
- I've heard the city will have to agree to take responsibility if there is an accident at a crossing if they will not let the trains blow their whistle. Don't know if that is entirely correct or not.
- it's not so bad during day and constantly follow whistle big loud blasts
- You might try going to a city commission meeting and visiting with your commissioners.
- Growing Garnett Community Heart & Soul sweet!!!
- Being close to family (grand boys) & we aren't planning on moving again
- My husband and I were born here. Most of our family lives here.
- My wife taught school from 1977 - 1979 which is why we moved here in 1977. I worked in Garnett from 1972 to 1988.
- Born and raised in Garnett. Parents lived there for almost 70 years. They have passed now, but I still come back to see friends and just be in Garnett. I love that town!
- Mom came to teach and coach
- We moved here in the middle of my freshman year. My dad managed Pence IGA. It has been my home since.

- We moved here about three months ago and love Garnett. Our girls were born in the country and then we moved to Lees Summit for a couple of years and finally decided that we hated city life. We hated the rat race that many people in the city live and wanted a quiet and slower paced lifestyle. We researched many places in various states and ultimately decided that we love how quiet Garnett is, the hometown values, and how friendly most people are. Garnett is just what we had been looking for. We are thankful for the folks that are trying to make it even better for the entire community and we are more than willing to help in whatever capacity we are able to help with.
- Dad bought a farm north of Bush City and also worked at the furniture factory. Mom worked at the hospital and at a nursing home. Graduated from Garnett High School then went to college. Dad and Mom are gone, and she sold the farm after dad moved to a nursing home.

#### I would leave Garnett if... - Facebook

- Hell freezes
- I already left Garnett once. Came back to be closer to my parents
- I can't think of a single "if"
- I moved out of state twice and came back
- I would love to move back to Maine
- If I could leave Scipio first!
- If I had work literally anywhere else.
- If my kids left
- If they drained both lakes and did away with the parks.
- If they got rid of Sonic... lol
- It's not if it's going to happen and I'm going down South
- Only in death if I can help it
- Will your Garnett City Manager run me off after a month 40 years with a city why?

#### If you've lived in Garnett and have moved away, would you move back someday? Why or why not? – Facebook

- No. Reason are economics and level of medical care available. No family left. A majority of my family including a brother and a sister also live close to where I live. Two more sisters are an hour's drive away.
- Nope never

#### If you don't live in Garnett... Why don't you live in Garnett? – Facebook

- Can't do snow, ice, and cold anymore.
- I was born there but it's too far from civilization
- And that's exactly why we left Lees Summit and moved to Garnett. We love it here!!
- Wouldn't that depend on what you consider civilization??
- Nothing in Garnett entertainment wise. Gotta go to Ottawa. For example, bowling alley, movies, etc.
- It wasn't always the way it is now. 50 years ago, we had all of that plus much more.
- Born and raised in Garnett! No jobs really so would have to travel to find work!
- You know we used to have a roller-skating rink movie theater. Parts of the square caught fire the youth lost interest in skating Walmart came to Ottawa and people left to

work there Lawrence Burlington power plant etc. ... I have been gone for many years always heard people talk about this issue. Having a new school and a new hospital this town should be thriving. The Amish Restaurant seems to be doing really well!

- Nice editorial
- Thank you! I am sure I left more out but there are a lot of small rural towns struggling. I see a lot of them remodeling old buildings making them into venues wine/beer tasting places antique malls. A lot of people are driving to these to get out of the bigger cities.
- I agree
- Left for the military circa 1969. Then law school--then built a law practice in Wichita. Really no opportunities in Garnett. By that time Garnett seemed to be a mere shadow of its former self. No bowling. No movie theatre. A quarter of the square burned down. Other businesses had closed. Many of my friends had already left for greener pastures. Those who stayed around are some of my best friends. After all these years I am seriously considering coming back home. It would be nice to find a way to contribute to a town that tolerated and supported me in my youth. For better or worse I am a product of my hometown. Since I will be spending an eternity there, I thought I would get a head start.
- I'm just putting out there that maybe there is no affordable housing, and rentals are far and few between. Also lack of dining options.
- My boss has all her relatives in Illinois. All of my children live closer to Illinois than Kansas. If things were different, I would push for going back to Garnett to live.
- we just moved to Garnett and I'm pushing for my mom and aunt to come here now. I love this town!!
- Limited job options, and no desire to commute anymore. But it still has my heard.
- Ledom, it has my heart too and I am proud to say it's my home town.
- me to!
- Would like to but I needed to earn a living. Also, where I live, I am close to the medical care facilities and do not have to travel many miles to get the care I need.
- Good thought! Going to copy!
- I moved here 10 years ago. Very nice small town and Friendly people. I own and drive a big rig for a living and am glad to come home to Garnett and spend my down time fishing and talking to the people at the local stores. Absolutely love small town living.
- Not even small town living for this country girl. Still attend church there, have family her and many friends but give me that great country living any day. Glad Garnett is still here though.
- Country all the way for me.
- I wouldn't be in town either if I didn't have to be. Couldn't afford a country home!!
- I can't imagine living in town. It's so peaceful and private here. Just me in my own little world doing what makes me happy. I know some day all the outside upkeep will be overwhelming but until then I am staying put.
- That's a good plan
- Garnett will always be my HOME, no matter where I live. Too many memories and good friends glad it is still thriving.

#### I would leave Garnett if... - Event Board

- I was coming back home

- If my grandparents left
- If people stop working together to #makegarnettgreat
- Someone gave me a million dollars

## History/Memories of Garnett

### What part of Garnett's history is most interesting to you? – Facebook

- Sport history I hear that Garnett had a town team for baseball.
- Any articles on the Opera House?
- How about the theater. We all loved it. Known pretty much about it.
- Any articles about the history of Garnett and Anderson County maybe Selma or Bush City
- Excavating the airport apron, we found a 3-inch metal gas pipe about 6 inches deep heading west. It was broken in places and OLD! Someone looked at it and said that the city was fed by gas wells, east of town sometime in the 40s? Any knowledge of that?
- Dr. Julius Steven's practice and office building. The downtown business area.
- The tunnels underneath the store in the downtown area
- The Northlake how it was built the lake & dam ... everything about the project is very interesting
- The tunnels!
- The old west time
- Kirk house!
- Tunnels
- Tunnels
- I would have loved to have seen the tunnels. I heard they were quite extensive.
- All of Garnett is a history to me. See where my uncle's, aunt, grandfather and my mom lived. My mom worked at the café that was hooked to a hotel coming into town. And I still have wonderful family that still lives there. The whole town is special to me. I love going there to get away from the city! and Greeley
- I think it was called Bills pizza in town square. I ate at many times
- Definitely the Tunnels. And were there any Speakeasys?
- Before the 2-story building down by Sandra's Quick Stop & round a bout which is currently someone's home. If use to be a café/bar that Bill & Erie Ashlock ran. My parents said they use to have dances there's also. In the later years the main floor & basement was Molly's Antique store, with a livable apartment upstairs any info on this?
- Of course, I love the history of the Richard Brummel place north of town in the bottoms Idlewild
- I think it was run by Mrs. Manners, famous for her chocolate cake. I recently found the recipe in my great grandma Bell Hunts recipe box
- ED FINK
- Arthur Capper. Born and raised in Garnett. His entire life full of greatness, his legacy lives on in 4-H and in philanthropy that few realize. A true example that says to youth, you can come from a small town in Kansas and impact, shape the world
- The years that some of them old buildings were made in
- I was surprised to hear about the gov't Fish car, and the orphan train.

- Pretty cool to read about all the brothels and crazy assaults, knowing Garnett has always been a town of mischief in denial is interesting

What activities or events in Garnett do you have the best memories of? – Facebook

- The high school, the sales barn, the cheese plant and the furniture factory
- Parties at 4th Street or Welda quarry or.... Dances at THE PLACE or the armory or LaCygne or the Plamore or.....
- Softball and baseball games around the lake when the fields were still taken care of
- Football games at the rock stadium!
- Star Wars at the Peoples Theater. Fishing North & South lakes
- Outlaw tractor pulls
- The Fair, when it was actually a fair. The Christmas Parade
- All the stores downtown like the bakery, a movie theater, t shirt shop and more
- Baseball games, football games, swimming pool, carnival/fair, square-fair, rodeo, tractor pull, Northlake races, boat race, kids, fishing derby at the south lake, circus, fair parade, Halloween parade, Christmas parade, skating Rink, movie theater, music festival on the Square, street dances, evening shopping on the Square, ice cream social at the library, fish fry or hotdog feed at the fire department...
- reunion at the lake!
- Water wars downtown that was fun
- The downtown square in the 1950s on a Saturday night. The stores were open, every parking spot was taken, people were visiting and shopping, and I hot to go to the picture show!
- When we did not have tv Saturday night go downtown watch tv in the window of a tv shop on 5th across from now trade winds
- The Roller Rink, the Theater, cruising and the nature trail
- The Dairy Queen
- The Grand Prix races
- The Grand Prix good old days
- Ball games around the lake for sure! Skating rink.... cruising the main strip ... football games at the rock stadium.... Burgerteria!!!! The handlebar....
- Bills pub, movie theater
- My boys football games Christina Henderson at coffee loft watching my girls dance and cheer on the bull dogs
- Playing baseball in the summers, And soccer in the fall, the skating rink.
- The mud runs. So many good memories there.
- The outhouse race at one to the earlier corn stalks
- Grand Prix races, fair, fireworks, theater, Christmas parades, square fair, & farmers market.
- I always enjoy the square fair and the car show.
- NUNN THIS LITTLE TOWN REAL SUCKS THEY NEED MORE INTEREST
- Parades, fair, and soft ball games and the bowling alley. That was the place to be during the week. Always busy
- County fair and bowling alley

- I remember ice cream socials at the football field with mountains of homemade ice cream and cake. There would be hundreds in attendance.
- The swimming pool!!! Spend my summers there!
- Bowling alley, the swimming pool (lifeguard for 2 years) the ball fields and the north lake, well both lakes and the good old theater. Hell, there are too many things for best memories, drug stores, Burgerteria, dairy queen, rock quarries, parties on the creeks. Just fun times it was the best. We lived in the best of times.
- Oh, so true...all of Garnett holds so many great memories
- I agree!
- High school, cheese plane, sale barn, and the north and south lake.
- Swimming pool (worked there many years), baseball games, football games, sports car races, and just riding around the route we all did and of course 4th street!!
- Many miles of marching in the band!!! Loved every step
- Practice was hard on my hairdo. I remember wearing my rollers to practice before school then brushing it out as soon as I got back inside.
- All sports. The area county fairs. The local parades. 4H activities.
- I remember participating in the Miss Garnett Scholarship Pageant in 1970 and 1972. I still have the pageant books.
- The pageant helps young women build confidence in themselves as well as develop spiritually and intellectually.
- Races, but we've all ways had good fireworks too, boom town!
- Not sure what evening it was, but everyone seemed to be downtown, and the stores were open for shopping and eating. There were also three drugstores with soda fountains.
- I remember as a little girl Saturday evenings on the square with Mom, Dad and John. We always got a quarter to go buy candy in Coker's!!!
- That's probably what I am thinking of. I was little and went with my parents and Dan and Patti.
- Loved going to the skating rink. The drug stores. The movie theater. Helping my dad close his store Saturday nights after going to the movies!! Cheerleading! Pep Band!
- Oh, meeting after school at Franklins Drug Store also sock hops on the tennis courts
- Anyone remember the teen center?
- I do remember it too & the skating rink
- Yes. Tom & Gerri Raines ran it when I was in Jr. High.
- Cornstock but they said they not having it this year either.

#### What are some of Garnett's traditions?

- Been pondering since I first saw the question. I belong to the class of '74. Moved to Topeka but was home often. My greatest and cherished memory is the Christmas lights when they were hung back and forth across the streets around the square. It was magical. Christmas parades, fair before school started. Even jokesters placing an outhouse in the middle of the street. Course, that was the times.
- The outhouse prank was always the highlight of my year.
- I even know who did a few of those outhouses!

- I remember as a kid my folks would drive uptown on Wednesday night, I think all the stores were open and sidewalks full of people. We would watch the people and visit with several. And use to have sidewalk sales a lot.
- School kids Halloween parade around the square.
- Class of '53. We built bon fires on the street in front of city hall for homecoming.

#### The best memory I have of Garnett is... - Event Board

- Bowling alley
- Car shows
- Christmas Parade
- Christmas Parade
- Cornstock
- Cornstock
- Easter egg hunts
- EMS
- Family
- Getting married - finding love in Garnett
- Libertyfest
- Movie theater
- Play day
- Playing softball in the summer
- Purchasing the 1858 Garnett Hotel
- Residents
- Santa on the square
- Skating Park
- Square Fair

#### Tunnels (Filled in)

- That is disheartening. What a cool piece of history that was lost when they were filled in. I need to go visit the museum and learn more about this community.
- Last I knew, they were still open on the west side of the square.
- Can people visit them? I would love to see them!
- Oh my gosh. That seems super cool. I'd love to see it.
- I'm pretty positive you can still get to them. I know as of a couple of years ago there was an entrance still accessible in a local business on the square. I'll have to ask again.
- My dad told me they went from the bank up to the Kirk house. He said Mr. Kirk did not like to carry money on the street.
- Interesting. That's quite a ways. I wonder if they go to any of the other old Victorians between the bank and the Kirk house.
- Over by Galloways Clothing was a way to get down there but they closed it in. There are still some things down there from the stores and the barber things are still there.
- Where's that? Please.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and Oak. You can see the cement where it was filled in. Collins Barber Shop was down there.
- Isn't the Kirk house near the library

- It's straight west of the library. It's close to the square. I was thinking of the Harris house when I saw the original post.
- This could be why the building on 4<sup>th</sup> and Oak is settling so badly.
- If the money were available, why couldn't Garnett's tunnels be opened back up and restored? It could be an historic tourist attraction. Any grants available for something like this?
- What a great idea!
- My dad came to Garnett in the mid 1930's and the tunnels were still open, though the speakeasies and dance hall were not operating. He said the dance hall had a wooden parquet floor. He mentioned the tunnels going across the west side of the square and over to the hotel. There were purple glass squares inlaid in the sidewalk on the west side of the square to provide some light to the tunnel below. I do remember those still there in the 1960's.
- I remember the same think along Oak, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, closer to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. And the Methodist church had them... maybe still does... at the top of the front steps outside the entry to the sanctuary, to light up what used to be our Sunday School rooms below.
- Would be great if someone would check into this history. I think it is really interesting. People back then had reasons for these tunnels. I have heard other stories about things happening back then. Keep in touch.
- I think I have asked this before, but I was once told there was a tunnel on the north side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street from downtown to the Kirk house, is that true? Really interesting history. Love it.
- We own 417 S. Oak and there is a door in the basement that appears to lead out to the tunnels, but it is bricked off. I've always been curious if there is anything to see behind it but we haven't explored it.
- Omg... I'd be digging... It would be easy to brick again if nothing was there.
- I've been down there once and that was enough.
- Boy! Me too!
- I've had someone ask if they could explore it sometime, but life gets in the way. It would be an interesting project. Apparently, my grandmother's aunt had a bar on the south side of the square and I'm guessing that was 1920 – 1930 era. But I don't know any of that history. It would be amazing to dig into that history.
- Yes, so agree! Garnett life, as I was lucky enough to be born into, was Beaver Cleaver land. So precious, small towns. But Garnett is a special one. Agree, also, life gets in the way. But always hope. I would eagerly jump in with both feet to gather to record info. And could discover a money maker for Garnett. God only knows.
- This thread is so very cool! YES. I do not live in Garnett, but my heart is there. Only 1 ½ hours away. I would jump in wholeheartedly to such a project. I have been inquiring about our tunnels for years. I bet there is a little town there. Underground Railroad ties? Gun running. The mob. My dad recalled a car stopping at the Rocky Roost in Welda when he was a young man, with a big gun in the back seat. Looked like gangsters to his cohorts. Exciting! Let's do it.

## Heart & Soul Statements from Other Communities

Garnett's statements will be unique to our city.

These are examples of Heart & Soul statements from other communities.

### Mt. Blanchard, Ohio

#### 1. Business

Mt. Blanchard values a strong local economy by striving to support current business and welcoming new ones to our village. This includes embracing the local agricultural community. These entities provide convenience and also serve as gathering places.

#### 2. Parks & Pool

The Mt. Blanchard community cherishes the memories and activities surrounding the parks and the pool. Both are important because they provide opportunities to enjoy nature, to be active and to socialize.

#### 3. Small Town Living

Residents of Mt. Blanchard appreciate living in this quiet, close-knit, small community because of its friendly, helpful neighbors; nostalgic downtown; and the safety and security it provides. Civic, social, and faith-based groups offer volunteer and leadership opportunities in this historic village. These qualities provide the foundation for generations of families and individuals who call Mt. Blanchard home.

#### 4. Activities

Mt. Blanchard treasures its wide range of activities including community and family friendly events, athletic functions, clubs for youth and adults, and church gatherings. These activities provide opportunities for citizens to meet friends to socialize, to participate, to volunteer and to bring visitors to town.

#### 5. School

Mt. Blanchard values its schools for the services including academics, music, and athletic programs, which are supported by dedicated teachers, staff and the community. The small size, central location, and modern building create a safe learning environment to help to prepare our youth for successful futures.

### Meadville, Pennsylvania

#### 1. Inclusion

We value a local community that celebrates and accepts all of the differences among individuals that keep our town vibrant and culturally beautiful.

#### 2. Health & Safety

We will be a healthy community in which everyone has access to health care, fresh food, quality housing, and support services.

#### 3. Small Town

We appreciate our close-knit, friendly, small-town vibe and the unique and special places, businesses, and events that contribute to a sense of community identity, pride, and togetherness.

4. Local Economy

We value a community that supports and nurtures local businesses and our downtown, provides quality jobs, and involves people in the local economy in order to improve the quality of life for all residents.

5. Nature

We value a community with public access to natural resources and recreational amenities that add beauty and opportunities for physical activity and recognize our responsibility to conserve our environment.

6. Education

We value a quality local education system that challenges students in a safe learning environment so that all students are capable of building a better future.

7. Children & Youth

We value youth-centered programming and safe accessible spaces that support youth and prepare them for a fulfilling future.

8. Transportation

We value a convenient and flexible local transportation system that makes important places accessible for all residents.

Williamsport, Pennsylvania

1. Arts, Culture, Heritage

We celebrate the arts through cultural events and activities capturing the spirit of the community and providing opportunities for socializing, expressing creativity, and supporting local businesses that revitalize our city and enrich our lives. We treasure our rich history and culture reflected in the quality and diversity of our architecture, Little League Baseball, and our lumber heritage, that we preserve for the next generation instilling pride in our community.

2. Beautiful Natural Environment

We admire our scenic views and beautiful natural surroundings; this tranquil environment enhances our quality of life and provides plenty of outdoor activities that utilize our mountains, forests, rivers, trails, and parks.

3. Diverse Community

We value the diversity of Williamsport and its people by recognizing the variety of arts, entertainment, restaurants, employment, and worship opportunities maintained within the quaint small-town community that practices kindness, acceptance, respect, and inclusivity.

4. Educational; Assets, Activities, and Events

We value the diverse educational opportunities and programs provided by our schools, colleges, libraries, and organizational collaborations that offer mentors and activities for everyone, promoting a strong sense of community pride.

5. Health, Safety, Welfare

We appreciate our clean and friendly city's quality health care system, extensive social services, responsive government, and generous philanthropists providing a safe and peaceful environment for residents, especially those raising families.

## 6. Opportunities and Economic Growth

We value the positive change and entrepreneurial spirit that creates an abundance of privately-owned, small businesses revitalizing our downtown area and neighborhoods within Williamsport. We appreciate strong economic growth, diverse job opportunities, and low-cost of living that raises the quality of life for more people, which encourages young people to stay in the community.

## 7. Small-town Feel

We treasure the character and friendliness of our small-town that allows the compassionate members of this community to connect with one another. We appreciate the size of our town because of its accessibility to the local shops, restaurants, attractions, destinations, and nature around the city.

## 8. Urban Amenities and Recreation

We appreciate our vibrant center city, with easy access and public transportation to a wide variety of destinations, including restaurants, bars, specialty shops, theaters, sports, and recreation... creating a distinctive urban atmosphere where people live, work and play.

## Madison County, Iowa

### 1. Small-town Feel in our Communities

We value the small-town feel in all our communities – towns, townships, rural neighborhoods, and subdivisions – which together contribute to a sense of identity, pride, and togetherness that is Madison County.

### 2. Arts and Culture in our County

We treasure the arts and culture represented throughout the county as we gather in local venues that welcome participation in live entertainment, fine arts education, artisan craftwork and activities, and vibrant social networking that strengthen our sense of place.

### 3. Agriculture in our County

We value our agricultural heritage and recognize the diversity of today's agriculture, which preserve a rural lifestyle and contribute to the local and global food chain.

### 4. Community Recreation

We embrace the variety of both individual and group recreational opportunities provided through our parks and playgrounds, athletic fields, and outdoor spaces which encourage an active and healthy lifestyle.

### 5. Scenic Beauty of our County

We treasure our scenic countryside and its natural beauty – open spaces, farm land, rolling hills, timber land, vibrant skies, waterways and wetlands – which all contribute to our tranquil environment and peaceful interaction with nature.

### 6. Events and Attractions in our County

We endorse and support the unique community and county-based festivals and celebrations, both traditional and innovative, that connect people, instill community pride, and promote tourism and economic opportunities.

## 7. Historic Vibe in our County

We honor the stories of Madison County told through our museums, architecture, parks, covered bridges, and famous landmarks, where anyone can go any time and be excited about these places where history was made.

## Kershaw, South Carolina

### 1. Small Town Feel

Kershaw treasures a close-knit, diverse, caring, and safe community, in which we enjoy the simplicity and peacefulness of living in a small town.

### 2. Faith-Community Harmony

Our community values the faith heritage and community involvement where we serve and love our neighbors through various ministries and organizations in Kershaw.

### 3. Education

Our community values quality local schools and other educational outlets where academics, fine arts, and athletic traditions encourage achievement.

### 4. Environment

We treasure our local parks and green spaces that connect us to Kershaw's natural beauty and resources while fostering health and well-being.

### 5. Local Business

We value our downtown and local small businesses who support the community and provide convenient access to necessities and services.

### 6. Development

Our community values investments by individuals, non-profits, businesses, and foundations that create opportunity for future economic development and promote access to affordable housing and quality of life for all people.

### 7. Culture

We value Kershaw's history and cultural diversity through festivals, events, programs and places that create community connections for all ages, as we acknowledge our past and celebrate our present, for future generations.

## Cameron County, Pennsylvania

### 1. Sense of Community

Cameron County values the Sense of Community created by our people and fostered by our scenic communities and the slower pace of life that makes us so unique.

- We value the people we call neighbors, finding them kind, friendly, hardworking individuals who make our communities feel secure and welcoming.
- We revere the community spirit felt between residents – where we know one another and come together with a willingness to help in times of need.
- We treasure the slow pace, quiet nature of neighborhoods and boroughs-where our tree-lined streets and valley-nested communities inspire a familiar feeling of home.

## 2. Nature

Cameron County values the nature that abounds within our borders, from the abiding beauty of our mountains, streams, and forests to our diverse wildlife. We appreciate the variety of recreational activities and scenic views it provides us.

## 3. Arts and Heritage

Cameron County cherishes sharing our rich history and coming together to celebrate our community and artisans throughout year-round community events throughout the county.

## 4. Local Economy

Cameron County values our local businesses, industries, and entrepreneurs recognizing that they are the backbone of our local economy and the heartbeat of our communities while acknowledging the potential our community offers for expanded amenities and industry.

## 5. Youth Well-being

Cameron County values the well-being of our young, adolescent, and teenaged residents. We believe in supporting their educational and athletic pursuits and are committed to offering them a variety of opportunities to participate and recreate within our county.

## 6. Safety

Cameron County Believes in sustaining a safe and secure, close-knit community to live, work and play.

## 7. Accessibility

Cameron County values walkable communities, safe travel between each of our municipalities, and the ability to easily navigate our vast dirt road and trail system.

## Thomaston-Upson, Georgia

### 1. Arts & Culture

We have an appreciation for and a commitment to the arts and our local culture for bringing us together to celebrate the visual arts, music, and traditions unique to our community.

### 2. Downtown Thomaston

Downtown Thomaston's Courthouse square captures and conveys the spirit of our community because it is home to many of our one of a kind locally-owned businesses, historic structures, and events that bring us together.

### 3. Flint River the Bluff

We believe the Flint River and Sprewell Bluff are two of the greatest assets our community has because they collectively provide us with magnificent scenic views and endless outdoor recreation opportunities.

### 4. Local Assets

We appreciate the diversity and caliber of our unique local assets that directly impacts our overall sense of place and wellbeing.

### 5. Local Economy

We appreciate the efforts of the Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street programs for creating an environment that promotes growth of our diverse base of

businesses and industries. Their investment in our community motivate us to live, work, and play locally.

**6. Natural Assets**

We appreciate that our community has an abundance of natural resources which creates beautiful scenic views, clean air, and offers residents and visitors a variety of outdoor opportunities to connect with nature and each other.

**7. Parks & Recreation**

We take pride in and feel a special connection to all of our local parks and recreational programs.

**8. Public School System**

We take pride in our local public school system because we understand and appreciate how it impacts the community by providing quality education and after-school programs. We cherish that we are recognized for and united by our school's successful sports programs.

**9. Small Town Feel**

We value the convenience, peacefulness, and safety of small-town life where relationships are built and maintained making this family-friendly community a great place to live.

**10. The People**

We value the people in our community who, through compassion, support and connectedness, lend to a sense of place, family, and belonging. We encourage our values being put into the action through both individual and organized efforts.