

2016 Garden City

Happy New Year! Newsletter

January 2016

Utz named Garden City Police Chief

Michael Utz has been named Chief of Police for the Garden City Police Department. Utz has worked for the GCPD since September 1984, most recently serving as captain of the investigations division.



Police Chief Michael Utz

Utz fills the post vacated by the retirement of Chief James Hawkins earlier this year. The City conducted a nationwide search to fill the position.

"Our nationwide search

yielded several top-quality candidates for the position of Chief of Police," said City Manager Matt Allen. "Chief Utz has had a distinguished law enforcement career at GCPD, but where he stood out in this very competitive process was the way he has continued to evolve as a leader in our department, and I'm excited for him to have the opportunity to show that throughout the community."

Allen added, "Mike knows and values the talent that surrounds him on the command staff level and throughout the department."

Utz started his law enforcement career with the U.S. Air Force in 1980. After an honorable discharge in 1984, he joined the GCPD as a patrol officer. Utz moved through the ranks before being named captain in 1995.

"It's been very humbling as well as an honor and privilege to be selected as the Chief of Police for the professional organization that I will be serving," Utz said. "This is a vital position for our community. We have a great po-

lice department and a great community that we partner with."

The mission of the Garden City Police Department is "to build a partnership with the community to improve quality of life, provide a safe community through efficient and effective police service, while always respecting the rights and dignity of those we serve." Utz said that mission will not change.

"I have been in Garden City since 1984," Utz said. "I believe in this community. I am invested and have passion for this community, and I'm excited to begin this new journey."



Coming Soon!

A class will be forming soon for 2016 Citizens Academy. This weekly course gives residents a behind-the-scenes look at local government services and includes tours of several City facilities including Garden City Regional Airport and Lee Richardson Zoo. To learn more visit www.garden-city.org or contact Communications Specialist Ashley Freburg at 620-276-1166 or ashley.freburg@garden-city.org.



Garden City Commissioners

Mayor Janet Doll: 620-275-9304

Roy Cessna: 620-272-9352

Melvin Dale: 620-275-4377

Dan Fankhauser: 620-276-8297

Chris Law: 620-275-2464

2016 Financial Profile available now

The City has published its 2016 Financial Profile, a 36-page document designed to assist Garden City residents in understanding the 2016 budget.

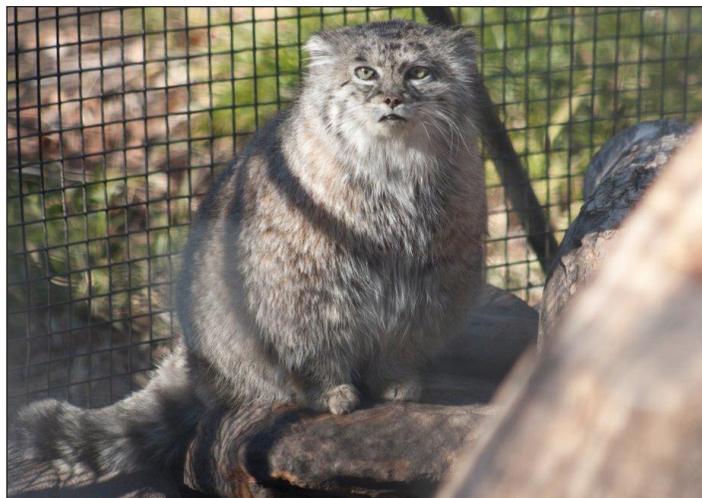
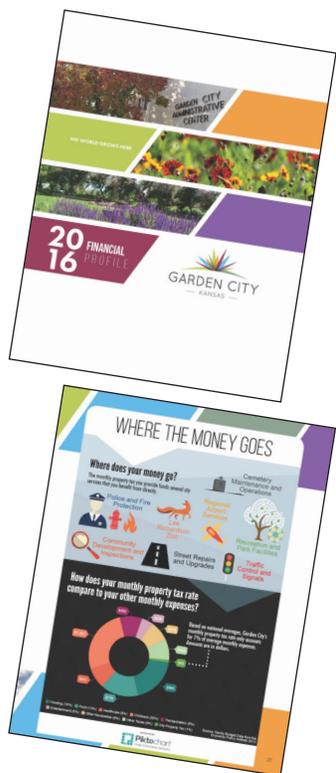
"We designed the 2016 Financial Profile with the reader in mind," said Communications Specialist Ashley Freburg. "Because the brain processes visual information more easily than text, it made sense to use infographics, charts and photos to turn budget numbers into something more easily understood."

Several years ago the City began publishing an annual budget summary to further transparency efforts and provide information on the budget, Freburg said. That has turned into the financial profile that now includes information necessary for readers to become more familiar with local government, the services it provides, and ways to get involved.

Material in the financial profile includes the City Commission goals, the fi-

ancial cycle, information on government programs and services, a look back at 2014, and a look ahead at 2016.

A digital version of the document can be found online at www.garden-city.org. Printed copies are available at the City Administrative Center, 301 N. 8th Street.



Dude, one of two Pallas cats that arrived at Lee Richardson Zoo in December, explores his new surroundings in Wild Asia.

Pallas cats make debut at Lee Richardson Zoo

Two Pallas cats now occupy the first exhibit inside the moon gate at Lee Richardson Zoo's Wild Asia. Buddy and Dude moved into their new home in December. The two are 12-year-old brothers from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo.

Pallas cats are native to the steppes of Asia and share the same habitat as snow leopards. They are considered Near Threatened due to habitat degradation and hunting. Pallas cats are adapted to extreme seasonal

variations in temperatures (from -40 to 86 degrees F). They have long dense fur; and adults range from 4-14 pounds.

Though stocky with short legs, Pallas cats are effective hunters who use three different techniques to acquire their prey: stalking, flushing, and ambush.

Due to the Pallas cat's elusive nature there is still much to learn about them. Buddy and Dude are ready to help visitors to Lee Richardson Zoo do just that.

Mark Your Calendar

The annual Citywide Spring Cleanup will take place the first two weeks of April. Be sure to visit www.garden-city.org to learn when crews will be in your neighborhood.

Be Social

Stay connected by following the City of Garden City on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter and YouTube.

Questions? Comments? Let us know how we're doing. Contact Communications Specialist Ashley Freburg at 620-276-1166 or by email at ashley.freburg@gardencityks.us. Visit us online at www.garden-city.org. You can also follow us on any of our social media channels listed above.

