

# NEWSLETTER

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December 2023



The Mayor's Christmas Tree lit up in downtown Edgerton.

## Holidays in Edgerton

### Message From The Mayor

Let me start off by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I hope you and your family celebrate by sharing a meal and gathering together.

This time of year for me is both heart-warming and heart-breaking. There are families here in Edgerton that are struggling and can't make ends meet, sometimes choosing between paying the heating bill and putting food on the table. That's why we started the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. Each December, we seek out families that may fall through the cracks of other organizations. All our families are nominated by other outside organizations to make sure there is a meal and gifts under the tree. We've helped hundreds of children, adults, and seniors over the years and 2023 will be no exception.

I'm blown away by the number of donations and generous spirit of our community for the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. Our trivia night in November raised over \$700. It's a great event and a lot of fun, so I hope you'll consider joining us next year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Fund. If you'd like to donate, go to [edgertonks.org/holidays](https://edgertonks.org/holidays) or scan the QR code on the right.



If you have a chance, I hope you'll spread some good cheer to your neighbors and check on anyone that might be alone during the holidays. Those little gestures can make a world of difference to someone who is struggling.

From me and my family and everyone at the City of Edgerton, Happy Holidays!  
—Donald Roberts

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Who has the best and brightest decorated home in Edgerton?



Pet tags expire at the end of 2023! Make sure your pet stays current by picking up your 2024 tags before March 31. All animals over 6 months old are required to be registered.

Tags are \$5 for all neutered/spayed animals or \$25 for non-neutered/non-spayed pets. Those over the age of 60 can register pets for free if they are neutered/spayed. All animals must have a current rabies vaccination.

Pet registration helps make sure your furry family members don't unnecessarily spend time in the City's kennel if they ever escape. It also ensures the health of pets within City limits by making sure their rabies vaccinations are up-to-date.

The City will host a low-cost animal vaccination clinic in March. You can sign up for appointments starting in early February. Spots fill up quickly. Details will be posted at [edgertonks.org](http://edgertonks.org) and in the January newsletter.



The Post Office is once again helping Santa! Put those letters in the green mailbox inside the Post Office. Thanks to the magic of Christmas, no postage is needed. Every child that sends a letter to Santa will get a response. Letters must be received by December 22.

## Edgerton Utilities

### Keep FOG Out of Your Drains

With all the cooking around the holiday season, the Edgerton Utilities team would like to remind you to keep fats, oils and grease (FOG) out of your pipes. Don't pour cooking oil, leftover grease from meat or any dairy products down your drain. When poured down the drain (sink or floor drain), FOG can build up, blocking sanitary sewer lines. This accumulation not only reduces the capacity of the wastewater collection system, but can also lead to sewage backups into homes and businesses.

Here are a few tips:

 <p>Before washing dishes, use a napkin or paper towel to wipe off FOG from dishes</p>	 <p>Pour cooled fats, oils, and grease into a container and then put it into the trash.</p>
 <p>Use a sink strainer to catch any food waste</p>	 <p>Food scraps go into the trash, not down the sink</p>

Lastly, don't put rags, paper towels or baby wipes in your drains or toilet. They do not break down, creating major clogs that are expensive to fix.

## Edgerton Food Pantry



The Edgerton Community Food Pantry will be open from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 16. It's located at the corner of 4th and Hulett, across the street from the United Methodist Church. If you'd like to make a donation, you can drop non-perishable items off at City Hall during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monetary donations can be sent to PO Box 95, Edgerton, KS 66021. The food pantry is available to every family in the Gardner Edgerton USD 231 district.

## Edgerton Utilities

### New Utility Rates Take Effect Jan. 1

As the City works to remain self-sustaining with our water and sewer utilities, rate adjustments are necessary to account for inflation and maintenance costs. Customer charges are based on what it costs to operate and maintain the utility. The City regularly conducts rate studies to ensure the financial health of our utility systems. The most recent rate study in 2022 recommended small yearly increases to avoid large rate increases in the future.

#### Water Utility

The average household uses approximately 3,000 gallons of water per month. In 2023, the typical water bill totaled \$42.63. In 2024, the cost for the typical household will increase by \$2.13 to \$44.76.

#### Sewer Utility

The average household bill will increase \$2.74 to \$37.01 in 2024. Sewer rates are based on each customer's winter average. Calculated in the months of December, January, and February, the winter sewer average is based on the average water usage during those months, when outdoor usage is very limited.

#### Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste

The city subsidizes half of the cost of trash pick-up, so our customers only pay \$7.50 per month. There is **no increase in trash rates for 2024**. Additional trash carts can be added to individual accounts for \$5 per month or \$1 for additional recycling carts.

The **combined total increase is less than \$5 a month for the average household**, which is less than a ticket to a movie or a fast-food meal. The new rates become effective with the January 1, 2024 utility bill. The City's Utilities department is committed to ensuring every member of our community has safe, reliable service.



Go paperless! Never miss a paper statement again. Save money and time by setting up your account at [municipalonlinepayments.com/edgertonks](https://municipalonlinepayments.com/edgertonks). Need help? Current users can call City Hall at 913-893-6231 and request email only.

### TRASH COLLECTION

Trash collection will be delayed by one day the week of Christmas and the week of New Year's Day. Please put out your bins on THURSDAY. Up to 10 extra bags are allowed between 12/26-12/31.



Construction at The Greenspace is moving along with the foundations and underslab utility installed. Half of the concrete floor slabs have been poured and the first courses of the masonry block walls set.

In the next couple of weeks, we will see the concrete slabs completed and masonry walls continue to rise. The project schedule is on track with an estimated completion date of Summer 2025. We will be sharing project updates monthly.

## FD #1: Thanksgiving Safety



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. More than one-third of home

decoration fires are started by candles and more than two of every five decoration fires happen because the decor is placed too close to a heat source. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season. If you have any questions, contact Johnson County FD#1 at 913-764-7635.

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



The Holiday Home Decorating Contest is back! We're looking for the best and brightest decorations in town. Submit your house or your neighbors at [edgertonks.org/holidays](http://edgertonks.org/holidays).

**Nominations are due by 4:30 pm on Monday, December 11.** The community will vote for their favorites on the City's Facebook page. The top three homes will win a gift card, a yard sign recognizing their win and a special recognition from the City Council in January.

## Events Coming Up

These are **just a few** of the recreation programs and events in December. Check out the full schedule and register for Parks and Recreation events at [edgerton.recdesk.com](http://edgerton.recdesk.com) or by calling 913-893-6231 during normal business hours.

**Public Meetings** are held in-person in City Hall. Anyone wishing to speak must sign up upon arrival.

- December 1 - Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting  
*Edgerton Community Museum (next to City Hall)*
- December 9 - Christmas Music BINGO  
*Community Hall*
- December 12 - Tales for Tots - Penguins  
*Edgerton Library*
- December 12 - Planning Commission Meeting  
*Edgerton City Hall*
- December 14- City Council Meeting  
*Edgerton City Hall*
- December 15 - Kids Night Out  
*Community Hall*
- December 20 - Senior Lunch & BINGO  
*Community Hall*
- November 22 & 25 - Christmas Holiday  
*City Hall closed*