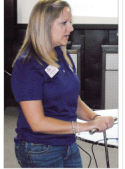


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**SO LONG GENE!**  
Community says goodbye at Gene Austin's retirement reception  
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Planting tips, when real spring arrives

Deepen your garden's enjoyment in the early spring by planting a variety of plants and flowers. The weather is just what you need to get your garden in the best of health. Here are some tips to help you get started.

### Garden City school district community approach differs from that of Liberal

By Tommie L. Smith  
Garden City school district officials say their approach to budgeting is different from that of Liberal, Kansas, as the district prepares for the upcoming school year. The district's approach is more focused on long-term planning and sustainability, while Liberal's approach is more short-term and reactive to budget cuts.

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