

INSIDE GARDNER

FALL 2021

GARDNER CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FY 2022 BUDGET **(BUDGET INCLUDES MILL LEVY REDUCTION)**

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Gardner City Council adopted the FY 2022 Budget, totaling approximately \$101.79 million. The FY 2022 Budget includes planned operating expenditures, capital projects and cash reserves.

The 2022 budget was crafted with an estimated mill levy of 20.165 mills, a .50 reduction from the FY 2021 mill levy. The mill levy is the property tax rate that is applied to the assessed value of a property.

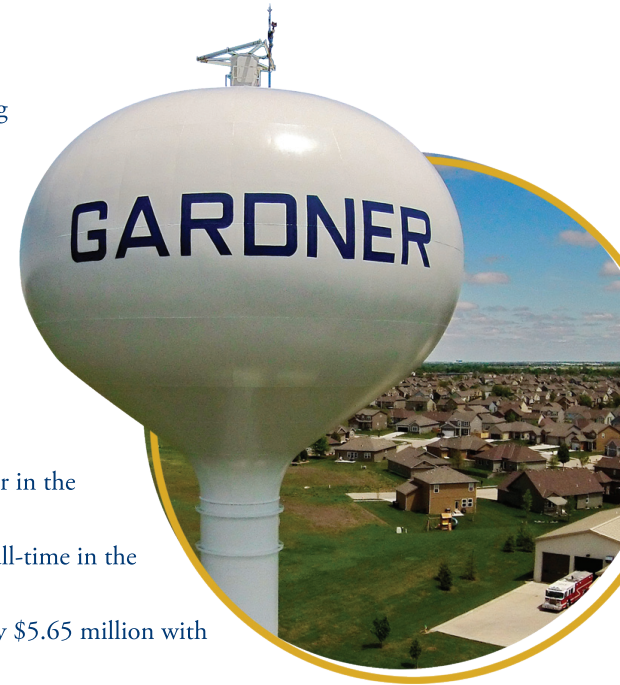
Major budgeted initiatives include infrastructure improvements to support new development, improvements to 167th St. from Center Street to Moonlight Road, Center Street sidewalk improvements (as identified in the Destination Downtown Plan) and the development of Quail Meadows Park.

The amount of city taxes based on an average \$235,600 residential property in 2022 will be approximately \$546 or approximately \$45.53 per month. That is an average monthly property tax increase of \$1.84. Last year's average residential property was estimated at \$220,600 with average city taxes of \$524 or \$43.69 per month.

The FY 2022 budget, with approximately \$66.92 million in planned expenditures, will fund essential public services for a community of 23,287 residents.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FY 2022 BUDGET INCLUDE:

- The creation of a Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF) with annual funding of approximately \$0.39 million
- A planned 3.7% water rate increase to help support debt service payments for the water treatment plant expansion
- Continued commitment to infrastructure maintenance programs:
 - \$0.8 million for the 2022 Pavement Management Program
 - \$0.35 million for water system repairs and replacements
 - \$0.3 million for inflow and infiltration improvements for the wastewater system
- A total of 159.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions with 6.5 new FTEs, including:
 - Two new Police Officers in the Police Department
 - A Senior Staff Engineer, Senior Maintenance Worker, and a Maintenance Worker in the Public Works Department
 - A new Staff Accountant and converting a part-time Municipal Court Clerk to full-time in the Finance Department
- A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2022 approved projects totaling approximately \$5.65 million with estimated allocations including:
 - \$1.44 million for wastewater projects
 - \$1.67 million for water projects
 - \$0.85 million for electric projects
 - \$1.34 million for transportation projects, including approximately \$0.67 million in grant funding
 - \$0.35 million for the development of Quail Meadows Park, including an estimated \$0.315 million in grant funding



The final setting of the FY 2022 mill levy will be established by the end of October with the latest property valuations by the Johnson County Department of Treasury, Taxation and Vehicles. The mill levy calculations are only for the City of Gardner and do not include other taxing entities, such as the State of Kansas, Johnson County, Johnson County Community College, Fire District #1, and Unified School District #231. The City of Gardner traditionally represents approximately 15% of annual property tax statements.

The city's fiscal year begins Jan. 1, 2022. More details about the FY 2022 Budget are available online at gardnerkansas.gov/finance.



(913) 732-3134
sshute@gardnerkansas.gov



A message from

MAYOR STEVE SHUTE

The sights and tastes of fall are in the air here in Gardner! And after a long hot summer, I, for one, am welcoming a change of seasons.

As many of you may know, the City of Gardner was founded at the junction of the Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails. What you may not know is that in September of 1821 – precisely 200 years ago – the first pioneer wagon trains traversed what would become the Santa Fe Trail, heading west from Gardner to Santa Fe and on to California. In that spirit, we are featuring the Gardner Historical Museum in this issue’s edition of Gardner’s Hidden Gems. I strongly encourage all of you to go to their museum property and check out all of the amazing historical facts about Gardner and why we are such a prominent part of Kansas City’s and America’s pioneering past. From the Trail to the railroads, airfields, and expressways that followed, Gardner

has always been central to our nation’s growth and expansion.

Speaking of expansion, we also received our new Census numbers, and Gardner’s official population stands at 23,287 residents. To put that in perspective, in the 2010 Census, we stood at 19,123 residents, and in 2000, we were 9,396 residents strong. That means that in the last 20 years, our population has more than doubled – and we are seeing year-over-year growth of anywhere from 1,200 to 1,500 residents. If current trends continue, we will be over the 25,000 resident mark that requires us to file for first-class city status in the next two years. We have already started the process of rewriting our charter ordinances to reflect this reality, which will bring with it ward-based elections for city council members and other changes. As I said, change is in the air – and it’s an exciting time to be in Gardner.

As always, it is my honor and pleasure to serve as your Mayor.

Stay #GardnerStrong!

GARDNER'S **HIDDEN GEMS** **GARDNER HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the historic Santa Fe Trail, which now serves as an international commercial highway and a State Historical Marker, the city is recognizing the Gardner Historical Museum, Inc. (GHM) as this issue’s Hidden Gem. Along with featuring a new exhibit to commemorate this bicentennial, the GHM takes visitors on a journey through all of Gardner’s rich history by way of pictures and stories.

The GHM was founded nearly 20 years ago to preserve Gardner’s history and increase awareness of the area’s historical significance and its people. GHM, located at 204 W. Main St., sits inside of the Herman B. Foster house. This 1893 Folk Victorian-style home was the residence of one of Gardner’s early storekeepers, a partner in the Bigelow-Foster Mercantile Company. Securing the Foster house was one of the first actions of the organization. Renovations were performed to transform the property into a museum site - each room is filled with exhibits that highlight Gardner’s early heritage.

“We are so grateful to our residents who have donated and loaned hundreds of artifacts to the museum inventory over the years,” said Shirley Brown-VanArsdale, GHM co-president. “Visitors learn what makes Gardner so unique and the role this city played in history. That’s why we’re so excited for everyone to view our latest exhibit celebrating the influence Gardner had on the westward expansion, leading to the path many traveled in an effort to better their lives.”

The exhibit will run for the remainder of the year. The museum is open on Sundays, 2-4 p.m., Saturday through Tuesday, 1-4 p.m. and on Fridays, 4-7 p.m. A donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids is the suggested admission fee. Follow the GHM on Facebook to stay informed about its most recent events and activities. For questions, contact the museum at (913) 856-4447.



BURNS AND SCALDS PREVENTION



Burns and scalds are damage to the skin caused by heat. These types of injuries often occur in the kitchen while cooking. Johnson County Fire District #1 offers the following tips to help make your home a safe environment free of these types of injuries:

- Place objects so that they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.
- Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
- Use dry oven mitts or potholders. Hot cookware can heat moisture in a potholder or hot pad, resulting in a scald burn.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Have a kid-free zone of at least three feet around the stove.

GENERAL FIRST AID FOR BURNS AND SCALDS

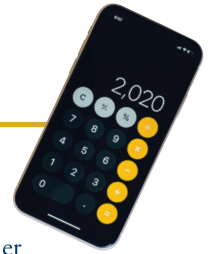
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for three to five minutes.
- Cover burn with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays or other home remedies.
- Remove all clothing, diapers, jewelry and metal from the burned area. These can hide underlying burns and retain heat, which can increase skin damage.



For questions, contact Johnson County Fire District #1 at (913) 764-7635.

CITY UPDATES UTILITY CUSTOMERS ABOUT OVERDUE ACCOUNT BALANCES

In March of 2020, the city suspended utility penalties and disconnection of utilities for non-payment in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order prohibiting Kansas companies from shutting off utilities during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This Executive Order expired May 28, 2021. Starting in October, City of Gardner utility customers with an overdue balance will be subject to late fees and delinquent charges per Ordinance 2531, Section 16. The city requests customers contact its Utility Billing Office at (913) 856-7535 or utilities@gardnerkansas.gov to make payment or payment arrangements. Residents can also stop by City Hall, 120 E Main St., Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss their accounts. Those in need of assistance with paying their utility bill should consider the following resources:



- Multi-Service Center: (913) 715-8980
- Catholic Charities: (913) 782-4077
- Salvation Army: (913) 782-3640
- LIEAP: (800) 432-0043

HARVESTERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS



With the holidays around the corner – a time when there's a higher demand for food assistance – Harvesters Mobile Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help distribute food during this time and throughout the year. Every fourth Wednesday of each month, Harvesters hands out food at the Sacred Hearts Catholic Church, 555 W. Main St. The distribution of food is open to anyone in need. This distribution is primarily for the Gardner and Edgerton communities; however, residency in the two communities is not required. Organizations are welcome to volunteer as a team as well as individuals. In addition to distributing food, volunteers are needed to help with setup, cleanup, traffic control, and other jobs. Those interested in volunteer opportunities or who need more information should e-mail communications@divinemercyks.org or call (913) 856-7781.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

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



TODD WINTERS
Council President
(913) 271-3587
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov



MARK BALDWIN
Council VP
(913) 538-1878
mbaldwin@gardnerkansas.gov



KACY DEATON
Councilmember
(913) 302-2463
kdeaton@gardnerkansas.gov



RANDY GREGORCYK
Councilmember
(316) 644-0292
rgregorcyk@gardnerkansas.gov



TORY ROBERTS
Councilmember
(913) 449-5522
troberts@gardnerkansas.gov

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

Oct. 18 Nov. 1 Nov. 15 Dec. 6 Dec. 20



View more City Council meeting dates at **GARDNERKANSAS.GOV**

POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030



www.GardnerKansas.gov



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[GardnerKansas](https://twitter.com/GardnerKansas)



[CityofGardnerKSGovernment](https://www.instagram.com/CityofGardnerKSGovernment)

PARKS AND REC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM.



Be sure to follow Gardner Parks and Recreation on social media.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Little Ballers Basketball

DATE

Friday evenings starting Jan. 7

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

December 5

AGE

K&U - 2nd Grade

COSTS

\$55

ADULT / FAMILY PROGRAMS

KC Mavericks Tickets

DATE

Nov. 6 & Jan. 8

REG. DEADLINE

N/A

AGE

All ages

COSTS

Varies

Christmas in the Park

November 29

N/A

All ages

Free

Breakfast with Santa

December 11

TBD

All ages

TBD

Santa's Workshop

December 11 & 12

N/A

All ages

Free

Holiday Home Lights Tour

December 13 - 15

TBD

All ages

TBD

Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt

December 16

TBD

Ages 2 - 10

TBD

**Information is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

BOO BASH SET FOR OCTOBER 28

The City of Gardner wishes to remind everyone to mark their calendars for the 25th annual Halloween Boo Bash. This year's spooky delight will be a Walk-Thru Boo and take place on Thursday, Oct. 28, at Celebration Park, 32501 W. 159th St. There will be spooks, music and lots and lots of candy throughout this ghoulish evening. All ages are welcome, and a wristband is required to attend. Wristbands will cost \$2 for children 12 and under and \$1 for ages 13 and up. They will go on sale starting Monday, Oct. 11. Be sure to watch for more details by following the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. We hope to see you there!



KC MAVERICKS TICKETS

Gardner Parks and Recreation is selling tickets to two Kansas City Mavericks hockey games. This is a fundraiser in support of the department. Tickets are currently available for the following games:

- Allen Americans - November 6, 2021 at 7:05 p.m.
- Wichita Thunder - January 8, 2021 at 7:05 p.m.

To purchase tickets, follow the link <https://fevo.me/gardner> and choose the game(s) you would like to attend. Center Ice seating locations are \$30 per ticket and Terrace seating locations are \$20.