

INSIDE GARDNER

SPRING 2022

CITY SHARES WAYS TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

Gardner has approximately 1,700 storm drains throughout the city with an intended purpose to carry rain water quickly off the streets. Anything dumped or dropped on the ground or in the gutter other than rain can end up in the nearest body of water and is known as stormwater pollution. This pollution occurs when pesticides and garden chemicals, soap from car washing, pet waste, oil from cars, and other random items get washed off lawns and streets, down storm drains, and into the water supply. Unlike a sanitary sewer, which transports wastewater to a treatment facility for cleaning before releasing it to a waterbody, water that enters a storm drain does not receive treatment/cleaning before being discharged to the environment.

WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION?

There are many easy steps people can do each day to prevent stormwater pollution:

- Don't dump waste into storm drains.
- Keep yard clippings out of the street.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly by following the directions on the package or by calling Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste.
- Clean up oil spills and fix leaking automobiles.
- Use drip pans to catch engine oil and other pollutants while repairing cars.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Sweep driveways clean instead of hosing them down.
- Water your lawn by hand or adjust sprinklers to avoid over-watering. If any water flows off your lawn, you're using too much water.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash, or at least wash your car on an unpaved surface so the ground can absorb the excess water.
- Drain swimming pools and spas into a sanitary sewer outlet, never into a street. Check first with your local wastewater treatment plant before disposing of anything in the sewer.



Ethan Smith of Troop 315 completed his Eagle conservation project of marking storm drains throughout the town with "No Dumping" medallions. With a group of volunteers and supplies from the city, Ethan tagged 240 drains to bring awareness that only rain belongs in the drains and to discourage dumping. Groups or individuals interested in continuing this effort should contact the Public Works Department at 913.856.0914.

Johnson County monitors stormwater quality exiting Gardner's system. This monitoring would note if any pollutants were introduced into the city's stormwater system at levels significant enough to warrant source investigation.

NEW BUSINESS NEWS

NEW QUIKTRIP TRAVEL CENTER OPENS IN APRIL



Gardner will soon have a second QuikTrip in town located at the southwest corner of South Gardner Road and West 188th St. Unlike its Main Street predecessor, this store serves as a travel center, providing a wide range of products and services for a broader clientele. The approximately 8.8-acre project consists of the following:

- A 7,318 square-foot building
- A truck parking area located along the southwest corner
- Six semi-truck filling lanes containing 12 diesel pumps

The travel center is expected to serve the general drive-by public as well as the semi-truck traffic that services the intermodal facility.



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A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

As I reflect on my nearly four months in office, I am continuously reminded of what a great community we live in. Our generosity and willingness to help each other are second-to-none. I have already been privileged to cut the ribbon on the Joy Closet and the Hope Market - both volunteer-run organizations offering a helping hand to fellow citizens.

It is no wonder, then, that Gardner continues to be a place people want to call home! We have experienced over 18% growth since our last census. New housing is keeping pace with the recent opening of Tallgrass apartments, the new subdivision at Hilltop Ridge, and the Grata project on the east side of I-35, which will bring 356 homes and 424 apartment units and open the area to retail development.

National chains are taking notice of our growth and looking to invest in our community, just as with the recent openings of QuikTrip, Papa John's, Freddy's and soon, Panda Express. More will follow as we work hard behind the scenes to bring additional dining, shopping, and entertainment options.

Roadwork is ongoing, with improvements along Waverly Road starting up again, and finally, beginning work on Main Street! This is an extensive replacement of the existing road, so please be patient as work is expected to last into November.

With all the growth in and around the city, Downtown continues to be a top priority for me. Look for a new brewery and cigar bar to soon join our existing unique businesses as we continue to implement our downtown development plan.

I am excited about our future, and I am proud to be your Mayor!

US-56/MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The US-56/Main Street Reconstruction Project is well underway! The project stretches nearly a mile long along US-56 from Sycamore Street to Old 56 Hwy. It consists of full-depth pavement reconstruction, removal and replacement of curb and gutter, driveway and sidewalk enhancements, a new traffic signal at the intersection between QuikTrip and Walgreens, signal timing interconnection between the new signal and the existing signal at Moonlight, reduction/combining of access points, and a new left-turn lane for eastbound traffic at Cedar Street. Currently, contractors are removing pavement from the two closed eastbound lanes. The two westbound lanes remain open for both directions of traffic. Currently, no left turns are allowed at Moonlight Road for motorists traveling eastbound on US-56/Main Street. Motorists should consider using an alternate route for areas experiencing heavy traffic and long waits. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-November 2022.

PROJECT PHASING:

- Phase 1:** Sycamore to Moonlight, Eastbound Lanes
- Phase 2:** Sycamore to Moonlight, Westbound Lanes
- Phase 3:** Moonlight to Old 56, Center Lanes
- Phase 4:** Moonlight to Old 56, Outside Lanes



HEAR THE BEEP WHERE YOU SLEEP



Did you know half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most are sleeping? That's why every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm. In fact, the Johnson County Fire District #1 recommends a fire alarm in every bedroom, outside of each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. For the best protection, residents should consider installing interconnected smoke alarms in their homes, which alerts all alarms to sound when one is activated.

Smoke Detector Instructions:

- Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all 10-year-old smoke alarms or if they do not sound when tested.
- Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, residents must get outside, stay outside and meet at their outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone.
- Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

JUSTICE CENTER SERVES AS TORNADO SHELTER FOR TORNADO WARNINGS

Spring is here, and with the warmer temperatures comes an increased chance for tornadoes. During this unpredictable weather season, the city wants to remind residents that the Gardner Justice Center serves as a Tornado Shelter for those without a safe place to go when tornadic weather strikes. The shelter is open for tornado warnings only. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If a tornado warning occurs outside of business hours, the Gardner Justice Center will become available when an officer reports back to the building. Pets are welcome to accompany their owners; however, individuals and their fur companions will be separated from those without pets due to others who may be allergic or afraid of animals. For questions regarding the Justice Center serving as a tornado shelter, contact the Gardner Police Department at 913.856.7312.



POLICE DEPARTMENT STARTS A PET PANTRY

Earlier this year, the Gardner Police Department (GPD) started a pet pantry program to assist Gardner residents in need of food assistance for their pets. This service is offered once a month to qualified applicants. Qualifications for participation include current rabies vaccination, current City of Gardner pet license and completed GPD Pet Pantry application. Residents can pick up an application at the Gardner Justice Center, 16540 Moonlight Road, during business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions or assistance with applying, contact Animal Control Officer Alexis Miller at 913.884.8529. (Food and equipment donations provided by local businesses.)



CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE SET FOR MAY 7

Gardner Chamber-hosted Citywide Garage Sale is scheduled for the weekend of May 7. The event consists of hundreds of sales taking place simultaneously around G-town of kids items, antiques, furniture, home, décor and just good old-fashioned junk. Don't miss this shop-'til-you-drop affair. And, if you have items to sell, register at <https://business.gardnerchamber.com/events>.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

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



MARK BALDWIN
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ERIK VAN POTTER
Councilmember

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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

April 18 May 2 May 16 June 6 June 20

 View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV



City of Gardner
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Gardner, Kansas 66030

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PARKS AND REC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM. 

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Swim Lesson Sign-Ups	April 2	until full	18 mos. & up	\$55
Private Swim Lesson Sign-Ups	April 2	until full	5 & up	\$95
Baseball, Softball, T-Ball	May 23 - July 22	April 10	5-15 yrs	Varies
Livin' the Dream Basketball Clinic	June 13-17	May 30	K-8th gr	Varies

ADULT / FAMILY PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Earth Day Celebration	April 23	April 22	All ages	Free
Pool Pass Early Bird Deadline	Open	May 2	Ages 3-61	Varies
First Day GAC Open	May 28			
Movie in the Park	June 17	Open Event	All ages	Free
Summer Splash	June 25	NA	All ages	Admission price
Independence Day Festival	July 4	Open Event	All ages	Free
Movie in the Park	July 8	Open Event	All ages	Free

POOL PASS RENEWALS ONLINE

Memberships for the 2022 pool season are now on sale! All memberships must be purchased at City Hall. All new pool members must take a photo, and existing members can use their previous photos. A barcode will be printed on your receipt to be used at the admissions entrance. Individuals who do not have an account with GPRD registration software, CivicRec, should create one before visiting City Hall to help expedite the process. Visit www.gardnerparks.com and follow the prompts to create an account. Individuals should call 913.856.0936 for assistance if they have forgotten their password (do not create a new account). See pool pass prices below:

- Family: \$160/\$140 if purchased by May 2
- Adult: \$85/\$75 if purchased by May 2
- Youth and Nanny: \$70/\$65 if purchased by May 2

For more information, please visit gardneraquatics.com.

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION OPENING DAY

The city will hold its annual Swimming Lesson Registration Opening Day on Saturday, April 2, 8-10 a.m. at City Hall, 120 E. Main St., and online at gardneraquatics.com. Registration will continue online and in-person (M-F) until classes are full. Prior to registration, an online account with CivicRec, located on the Parks and Recreation webpage, is required.