

INSIDE GARDNER

SUMMER 2022

CITY'S ANNUAL SUMMER CAMPAIGN GEARED TOWARD INCREASING SAFETY IN CROSSWALKS

The city kicked off another summer with its annual campaign, "Crosswalk safety is everyone's responsibility." This yearly promotion led by the Gardner Police Department (GPD) is an effort to create greater awareness about the importance of crosswalk safety and remind the public that everyone must take an active role in preventing accidents in crosswalks.

While Gardner has been fortunate to see very few incidents related to crosswalks over the years, GPD continues to spread this message as distracted driving remains an issue nationwide. According to data, approximately 3,000 deaths, 280,000 injuries and 900,000+ accidents caused by distracted driving occur each year. And while most are not linked to the improper use of crosswalks, distracted driving continues to be an area of concern and can play a role in crosswalk accidents. Distracted driving is the practice of driving a motor vehicle while engaged in another activity, typically one that involves using a mobile phone or other electronic devices. Other distractions include eating in the car, talking to passengers, and personal grooming.

"When we've stopped motorists for not yielding to a pedestrian in a crosswalk when there was plenty of time to do so, many of them admit to not seeing the pedestrian. We attribute this to being distracted," Chief Jay Belcher said. "Our goal with this campaign is to remind everyone - pedestrians, motorists and bicyclists - to be alert at all times, be aware of when you're approaching or crossing crosswalks, and know the rules." In some heavily used crosswalk locations, the city has added a pedestrian-activated Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to grab motorists' attention to pedestrians crossing the street. RRFBs provide a high-visibility warning by using LEDs in an irregular flashing pattern to alert drivers that the crosswalk is in use.

"The city plans to continue to strategically add flashings lights to its crosswalk system as funding allows, but regardless of the presence of flashing lights, we encourage drivers to be more attentive and always watch out for pedestrians," said Chief Belcher.

Throughout the course of the campaign, the city will provide various crosswalk safety information via its social media platforms and on its newly updated crosswalk safety webpage that includes a message from Chief Belcher, crosswalk safety dos and don'ts, a traffic signal guide, a quiz and more. The city's crosswalk safety webpage can be found at www.gardnerkansas.gov/crosswalksafety.

For questions regarding the city's crosswalk safety efforts, contact the Gardner Police Department at (913) 856-7312.



Chief Belcher's crosswalk safety video, safety tips, a traffic signal guide, a quiz and more can be found at www.gardnerkansas.gov/crosswalksafety.

NEW BUSINESS NEWS

PANDA EXPRESS COMING TO GARDNER

American Chinese chain Panda Express is headed to Gardner! The national franchise will be a part of the Gardner Retail Plaza area near Santa Fe Street and Cedar Niles Road. It will sit just west of Burger King in the north parking lot of Walmart. The fast-casual restaurant serves entrees such as Beijing beef, orange chicken and honey walnut shrimp. According to the company, the construction of its 1032-square-foot building will begin this summer.





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A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

Temperatures are finally starting to warm, and outside activities are increasing in Gardner!

We are excited to bring another awesome Independence Day Festival to our community. This year, our headliner will be Niko Moon-singer of the popular country hits “Good Time” and “Paradise to Me.” In addition, he will be joined by After Midtown, Big Time Grain Co., and Blane Howard, singer of the popular Kansas City Chiefs song “Run It Back!”

After the music, plan to settle in for a fantastic firework show. It will be a spectacular event so be sure to tell everyone you know!

Fireworks will again be allowed July 2-4 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. I am thrilled that we are one of the only cities in Johnson County to allow them for personal use. However, I ask that you please be

courteous and respectful to others by discharging them during the permitted times only and cleaning up when you are done. New this year, we offered a limited number of calming treats for licensed pets to be used during the three days of fireworks. They were provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Gardner Farmers Market is in full swing. Be sure to check it out for some delicious farm-to-table offerings and interesting and unique local products! It runs most Thursdays through September at the fairgrounds.

And, speaking of the fairgrounds, they will soon be packed with the Johnson County Fair that runs from July 31 through August 6. This annual event will bring thousands to our city and offer many great activities for all ages!

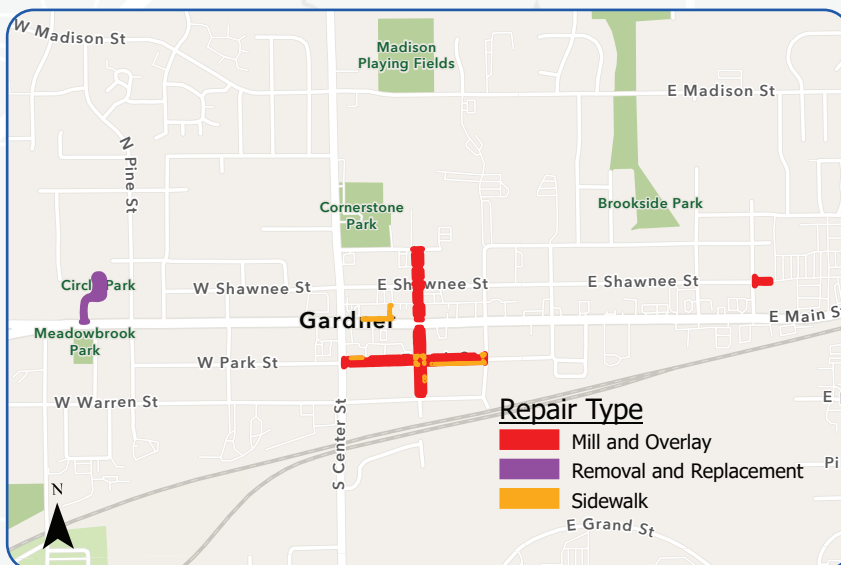
Warmer weather also means road construction. We expect significant progress on the biggest project in our city, Main Street, over the next few months. Thank you for your patience as KDOT completes this project – it will be worth it when finished.

I love this time of year as there are many opportunities to get out and about and see your neighbors! If you see me at Celebration Park on one of the trails or at a city event, be sure to say hi!

Have a great summer!

2022 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This summer, the City of Gardner kicked off its annual Pavement Management Program to address needed road improvements in various parts of the city. Contractors will remove and replace asphalt on N. Circle Drive. Mill and overlay projects will take place along S. Elm Street, E. Park Street, N. Elm Road and N. Cedar Street. Several parts of these areas will also see sidewalk repairs where needed. See map for details regarding all project locations. Residents in these areas should remove parked cars from their streets. Door notices will be provided to those impacted 24 hours before work begins. The city will provide an update concerning future project locations as details become available.



PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM OUTSIDE FIRES



Home fire safety doesn't stop at the door as there are many fire risks outside. Most outside fires occur in the backyard due to grills and fire pits. Fireworks also serve as an outside fire hazard. The following tips can help residents keep their homes safe from potential fire risks.

GRILLS/FIRE PITS:

- Keep grills and pits three feet away from the home, including siding, decking, and other things that can catch fire.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from grills and pits when hot.
- Never leave grills and pits unattended.
- Keep grills clean so leftover grease and fat won't catch on fire.
- Use a metal screen over wood-burning fire pits to keep sparks from floating out.
- Turn off or put out fires before leaving the backyard.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach.



FIREWORKS:

- The best way to stay safe from fireworks is to not use them. Instead, attend a public fireworks display put on by professionals.
- Use legal fireworks only.
- Keep water close in case of an emergency and douse burned fireworks with water before throwing in the trash bin.
- Keep fireworks outside and away from wooden and other flammable materials.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

The City of Gardner's 2022 Consumer Confidence Report on water quality is now available at gardnerkansas.gov/waterqualityreport2022. The city offers this annual report for review to assure residents that the public water system provides safe, clean and dependable water according to state and federal regulations. The report covers the previous calendar year and includes water quality data, such as water sources and sample testing results. Results show that the city continues to meet standards for water quality in accordance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Citizens can request a hard copy of the report by contacting the Utility Department at (913) 856-0980.

UTILITY SHUT-OFF NOTICES PROVIDED VIA TEXT

In an effort to protect the privacy of the City of Gardner's utility customers and integrate modern technology into the communication process, the city will now provide shut-off notifications via text messaging. Effective July 1, paper door hangers will no longer be used to notify customers of their delinquent accounts and pending utility shut-offs. Customers will still receive one mailed delinquency notice. They should verify that the city has their current phone number on file to ensure they receive these text messages. Phone information can be updated using the form on the back of the remittance coupon attached to each customer's utility bill.

WEB PORTAL HELPS MANAGE UTILITY COSTS

The city is pleased to introduce a new web-based portal called intelaHome to help customers manage and monitor their energy usage more efficiently. Customers can create a personal energy profile to automatically optimize energy usage based on consumption patterns and utility rate schedules. Customers should watch for a brochure with their bill that provides them with step-by-step instructions on how to register.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

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



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



STEVE SHUTE
Council VP
(913) 732-3134
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KACY DEATON
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ERIK VAN POTTER
Councilmember
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epotter@gardnerkansas.gov

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

July 18 Aug. 1 Aug. 15 Sept. 5 Sept. 19



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 RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM.

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Independence Day Festival	July 4	N/A	All Ages	Free
Junior Lifeguard	July 6-9	July 1	11-15 yrs	\$55
Flick N' Float	July 7	NA	All Ages	\$3
Mother Daughter Glampout	July 15-16	July 8	5-12 yrs	\$20/couple
Mermaid Tumbling	July 18-21	July 11	4-6 yrs	\$50
Ninja Tumbling	July 18-21	July 11	4-6 yrs	\$50
Exceed Futbol Soccer Camps	July 25-29	July 18	4 - 14 yrs	\$65, \$125
Fishing Derby	August 27	August 25	12 and Under	\$3
Recreational Soccer	Sept 11 - Oct 22	August 5	K-8 grade	\$75
Micro Soccer	Sept 17 Oct 22	Sept 9	2-4 yrs	\$70

FLICK N' FLOAT - THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022

Join us for a relaxing movie night with your friends and family at the Gardner Aquatic Center. This is a great way to cool off on those warm summer nights! Kick back in one of our tubes and float around while watching the movie LUCA (rated PG). You must be on a tube if you are in the water during the movie.

Thursday, July 7, 2022
8:00pm – 11:00pm
\$3.00/person
All ages
Gardner Aquatic Center, 215 N. Center St.

Synopsis

Set in a beautiful seaside town on the Italian Riviera, Disney and Pixar's original feature film "Luca" is a coming-of-age story about one young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless scooter rides. Luca shares these adventures with his newfound best friend, Alberto, but a deeply-held secret threatens all the fun: there are sea monsters from another world just below the water's surface.

