

# INSIDE GARDNER

FALL 2022

## CITY TO HONOR ITS VETERANS WITH NEW BANNER PROGRAM

Banners honoring Gardner's military veterans will adorn Main Street for the first time in November 2023. This comes after the City Council approved the display of commemorative banners on 20 downtown poles as part of its newly adopted Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

The 30 x 60-inch banners, which will be displayed the entire month of November in recognition of Veterans Day, will honor local veterans and active duty service members. Banners include each honoree's name, photo, branch, length of service and the military conflict in which they served (if applicable).

The information displayed also includes the city's logo and a message of thanks.

"We feel privileged as a city to be able to pay tribute to our veterans and active duty personnel who have dedicated their lives to the service of our country," said Mayor Todd Winters. "And I would like to personally thank Councilmember Kacy Deaton for bringing this program to the Governing Body's attention. It was supported unanimously."

The city will start registration for the banners during its November 7, 2022, Veterans Appreciation Reception. The city will offer those interested in purchasing a banner time to complete the application process at the event. According to staff, the banners will run each participating member anywhere from \$150 to \$200, which covers the banner and associated costs. Banners will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested must meet the following criteria:

- A veteran or active duty military member (alive or deceased) in any service branch
- Able to provide verification of the honoree's military status
- A Gardner resident, business owner, Gardner Edgerton USD #231 school district resident or alumni or an immediate family member of the aforementioned groups. (Immediate family is defined as parent, sibling, spouse, child, grandchild, son-in-law or daughter-in-law)

The city will look at expanding the program beyond the 20 poles along Main Street should interest require it. More details about the program will become available in the near future. For questions, contact Deputy City Administrator Amy Nasta at [anasta@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:anasta@gardnerkansas.gov) or (913) 856-7535.



## NEW BUSINESS NEWS

### FRONTIER COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION CONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION

Frontier Community Credit Union will complete construction by the start of the New Year. This 1,951-square-foot bank will sit on the southeast corner of Gardner Road and 187th Terrace in the Plaza South area. Frontier Community Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative dedicated to serving Kansas counties. According to its website, its mission is as follows:

- To provide financial products and services in a professional, friendly, and convenient atmosphere through innovation, technology and cost-effective products.
- To encourage and educate our members in methods to manage and control their financial well-being.
- To apply safe and sound financial management policies to ensure the credit union's continued growth by maintaining adequate operating controls, capital reserves, and liquidity at all times.





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A message from

# MAYOR TODD WINTERS

Fall is a great time of year, and I don't know about you, but I am ready for some cooler weather, non-stop football and seasonal hot beverages from one of our local coffee shops!

It is hard to believe, but school has already been back in session for over a month! I want to remind everyone to please be extra cautious around school zones, pedestrian crossings and stopped busses.

Fresh off an amazing summer of events such as our Independence Day Festival and Smoke on the Trails BBQ competition, our Parks and Recreation Department continues to stay busy. Grand Slam Craft Beer, Wine and Spirits Fest and Boo Bash are coming! And before you know it, Christmas in the Park will be here soon. Staff has also begun the process of updating some of our local parks to make them more accessible to all residents.

We have several new commercial projects underway. Progress continues on the Panda Express in the Walmart parking lot. Along South Center, in the Plaza South development, we currently have a new carwash, bank, and climate-controlled storage under construction. Gardner Liquor is building a new store just up the road on Center Street, and Ash and Anvil cigar lounge just opened downtown. The local owners have done a fantastic job transforming one of our historic downtown buildings! More commercial development is inching closer for us to announce, so stay tuned!

We continue to expand our offering of housing options. Two new developments will bring two to three-bedroom duplexes and upscale apartments to the land at the corner of White Drive and 167th Street near the Justice Center. Developers have also broken ground at our newest subdivision, Hilltop Ridge, at 167th Street and Kill Creek Road.

Lastly, the question I get asked a lot: "When will Main Street be finished?" The most recent update we received is both lanes up to Moonlight Road are anticipated to be finished by early spring. Unfortunately, there was a long delay due to unforeseen utility issues, and work could not continue until the area was redesigned. I know it has been frustrating, but I can assure you that we are in constant contact with KDOT to help them with their project in any way we can. KDOT expects the entire project to be done by summer 2023. It's not what we as a city had anticipated, but we are hoping this timeline remains. We will continue to keep you posted as progress is made and schedules are provided. Thank you for your continued patience.

As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

## **GARDNER CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FY 2023 BUDGET (INCLUDES MILL LEVY REDUCTION)**

On Tuesday, September 6, the Gardner City Council adopted the FY 2023 Budget, totaling approximately \$119.6 million. The FY 2023 Budget includes planned operating expenditures, capital projects and cash reserves.

The 2023 budget was developed with an estimated mill levy of 18.854 mills, a 1 mill reduction from the FY 2022 mill levy. The mill levy is the property tax rate that is applied to the assessed value of a property.

Major budgeted initiatives include utility infrastructure to support new development, I-35 and US-56 Interchange traffic improvements, and inclusive playground improvements.

The amount of city taxes levied on an average \$275,000 residential property in 2023 will be approximately \$596 or \$49.67 per month. That is an average monthly property tax increase of \$3.42. Last year's average residential property was estimated at \$243,175 with average city taxes of \$555 or \$46.25 per month.

The FY 2023 budget, with approximately \$80.3 million in planned expenditures, will fund essential public services for a community of approximately 24,000 residents. For questions regarding the budget, contact the Finance Department at (913) 856-7535.





# PREPARED, NOT SCARED: BE READY FOR DISASTERS



While September is National Preparedness Month, disasters can happen anytime and affect many. You should be prepared at all times. Preparedness starts by knowing your risk and what to do before, during and after a disaster. Specifically, you can prepare for the risk of a home fire by:

- Putting working smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside sleeping areas, and in the basement. For the best protection, have interconnected alarms. This means when one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Talking to your family about what each person will do if they hear the alarm or smell smoke.
  - o What exits will you use?
  - o Who will help anyone that might need extra help?
  - o Where will you meet when you get outside?

Remember, preparedness begins with you!

## JOHNSON COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION CELEBRATES ONAS ANNIVERSARY



The Johnson County Airport Commission invites the public to join them in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Olathe Naval Air Station (ONAS) and the 55th anniversary of the creation of the Johnson County Airport Commission. Attendees will enjoy flight simulators, a paper airplane contest, photo op boards, a Navy dog tag machine, kids' activities and more. The free public event will take place in the Commemorative Air Force Hangar, 6 Aero Plaza, at the New Century AirCenter on **Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** All ages are welcome.

## GRAND SLAM BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS FEST

Tickets are now on sale for the city's award-winning, annual Grand Slam Craft Beer, Wine and Spirits Fest! Local breweries, wineries and distilleries will be on hand in the fields of Celebration Park, 32501 W. 159th St., to share their creations of libations with those 21 years of age or older. This ticketed event is limited to the first 1,000 people. Participants will receive a commemorative sample glass and a program with descriptions of all beverages and vendors onsite. Catered appetizers will be provided, and DJ Phil will provide the music for the evening. The festivities take place on **Saturday, Oct. 8, from 7-10 p.m.** Doors open at 6 p.m. For more details or to purchase tickets, visit [gardnergrandslam.com](http://gardnergrandslam.com).



## GARDNER VETERANS APPRECIATION RECEPTION RETURNS

Calling all Gardner veterans! On **Monday, Nov. 7**, the City of Gardner will host its annual Veterans Appreciation Reception to honor and celebrate Gardner veterans for their dedication and service to our country. The program starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Gardner City Hall Council Chambers, 120 E. Main St. Mayor Winters will recognize each veteran and present them with a token of appreciation. Please RSVP yourself and your guests at (913) 856-0939 or [jtgerstrom-kelley@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:jtgerstrom-kelley@gardnerkansas.gov). Veterans should be prepared to provide their name, branch, years of service and the number of attendees.



### 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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**TORY ROBERTS**  
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Councilmember  
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**UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

**Oct. 3   Oct. 17   Nov. 7   Nov. 21   Dec. 5**



View more City Council meeting dates at [GARDNERKANSAS.GOV](http://GARDNERKANSAS.GOV)



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## PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at [GARDNERPARKS.COM](http://GARDNERPARKS.COM).

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Grand Slam	October 8	October 1	21+	\$40
Boo Bash	October 27	October 27	All ages	\$4
Spooky Charcuterie Workshop	October 29	October 21	18+	\$60
Youth Basketball	Practices start 11/28 Games start 1/7	November 11	1st-6th grade	\$85
Little Ballers Basketball	Games start 1/6	December 16	PreK-2nd grade	\$65
Christmas in the Park	November 28	NA	All ages	Free



Gardner Parks and Recreation is holding our 26th Annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park. Join us for an evening of ghoulish games and rides, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes, a haunted walking trail along the playground, and much more. This is sure to be one of the biggest and best parties of the year! Little ghosts and goblins can come dressed in their cutest, silliest and homemade costumes. There will be fun and entertainment for all, along with drawing for prizes throughout the night! **Wristbands will be sold in advance at City Hall from Oct. 3 to Oct. 27.** (Wristbands can be purchased at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Mon., Oct. 24, at the discounted rate of \$4. Wristbands will be \$5 per child at the event.)

**Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 (rainout: Friday, Oct. 28, 2022)**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (low sensory at 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)**  
**Celebration Park, 32501 W 159th St**  
**All ages welcome, must have wristband to participate.**  
**\$4 per wristband through Monday, Oct. 24, 2022**  
**\$5 per wristband after Oct. 24 and at the door**