

INSIDE GARDNER

WINTER 2022/2023

CITY'S MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. EXHIBIT RETURNS IN 2023

After a two-year respite due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the city is bringing back its popular exhibit honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This two-day event will be held on Friday, Jan. 13 and Monday, Jan. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 E. Main St.

The educational exhibit will feature components highlighting King's life as it relates to the Civil Rights Movement, his distinct focus on service, and his death. This visual presentation also includes displays spotlighting several other key African-American trailblazers. The exhibit encompasses a children's workstation where young learners can read age-appropriate materials and complete worksheets to advance their knowledge about King and understand why he is celebrated each year. There is also an interactive quiz to test kids' understanding of what they've learned.

"We're so excited to bring back our Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit in 2023 to commemorate the impact Dr. King made in this world," said Mayor Todd Winters. "This event gives the public a small glimpse of Dr. King's role as a prominent leader of social change, his message of love and non-violence, and his commitment to community service. It's an honor for our city to hold this form of celebration in remembrance of him."

All members of the public are invited to attend, including schools, social organizations and civic groups. Visitors will receive a Martin Luther King Jr. keepsake and enjoy a light refreshment.

"We encourage everyone to visit the exhibit even if they have attended before," said Daneeka Marshall-Oquendo, communications manager and exhibit coordinator. "Each year, we introduce a new feature to bring a fresh experience to repeat visitors and make it more spectacular for first-timers."

Questions about the exhibit can be sent to the exhibit coordinator at dmarshall-oquendo@gardnerkansas.gov.



NEW BUSINESS NEWS

AUTOSOAK CAR WASH HAS OPENED

AutoSoak Car Wash has officially opened here in Gardner! The 4,290-square-foot building sits on a 1.33-acre lot located at 18711 Gardner Road. This is lot 4 of the Plaza South Development. The architecture of the building is unique, providing a consistent contemporary design with other structures within this commercial development. According to the company website, its fully automated car wash consists of modern equipment and technology that ensures a virtually spotless, dry, shiny car. Free vacuums are also available with every wash.





(913) 271-3587
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov



A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

It is hard to believe, but as of this writing, I will have been mayor for nearly a year! It has been an amazing and fast first year. I guess the saying is true: "time flies when you are having fun!" And speaking of time flying, Christmas is right around the corner! This is probably my favorite holiday. Hopefully, you were able to join me at our annual Christmas in the Park gathering as we turned on the holiday lights at Cornerstone Park and listened to the wonderful school choirs.

The Christmas season is also a great time to lend a helping hand to those in need. I am excited that we now have a new page on the city website that is packed with resources and volunteer opportunities. On one page, you can find assistance for food, clothing, transportation, utilities, mental health, and more. We will continue to add to this list as we discover more great resources. Visit our website at www.gardnerkansas.gov/assistance and click on the "Discover" tab, then

"Community Resources."

I also want to mention that several new businesses have opened, including Stepping Stone Animal Hospital and Fat Bee Café serving boba teas and other drinks and desserts. And work continues on US-56/Main Street. We finally have new lanes open! We will not have to drive over potholes during this winter season.

As I finish this message just before Thanksgiving, it reminds me of how thankful I am you elected me to lead this awesome community. I have developed a strong working relationship with our leaders at the county, state and federal levels, and I want you to know that Gardner is and will continue to be represented well.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

For many, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, but for some, it's a time when money is tight. Below are two local resources available to residents to help get them through the holidays or any time of the year:



233 E. Main St., Gardner, KS **Open: Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesdays, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** <https://thehopemarket.org>

The Hope Market's mission is to eliminate hunger and food insecurity in our community by distributing nutritious food and personal hygiene items. They empower neighbors to share resources, providing opportunities for an improved quality of life. The Hope Market accepts donations from private donors & local businesses and uses them to fight hunger.

Location 1 | **Divine Mercy Parish, 555 W. Main St., Gardner, KS**
Open: 4th Wednesday of every month; distribution starts at 1 p.m.

Location 2 | **Trade Net, 1200 Energy Center Dr., Gardner, KS**
Open: 3rd Saturday of every month; distribution starts at 12 p.m.

www.divinemerckys.org/mobile-food-pantry/

Harvesters mobilize the power of a community to create equitable access to nutritious food and address the root causes and impact of hunger.

For more community resources, visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/assistance.





PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 3 8 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 Cornerstone Park, 215 N. Center St. Photos are \$10 per family

Santa Claus is coming to town! More specifically, he's coming to Cornerstone Park to take a photo with you and your children. In an effort to keep wait times down, families will be required to register for a time. A professional photographer will take the photos, so come dressed in your favorite holiday outfit or pajamas. Families will take home a City of Gardner commemorative ornament and a candy cane.



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 4 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Cornerstone Park, 215 N. Center St. FREE

Bring the whole family to this place full of holiday joy! Children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and share their Christmas wishes. They will receive a commemorative ornament and a candy cane.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 10 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Green Building, 136 E. Washington St. \$5 in advance/\$6 at the door

Spend a morning with your family at the North Pole! Parents and children will enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage links and juice from Chris Cakes. Kids can make a craft and take home a professional picture with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Pictures will be available for purchase from Adams Pro Photo for \$5. Payment can be made via cash, card or Venmo. Don't miss out on this memorable event!



HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year. Remember the following heating tips to help prevent winter fires and stay safe during the season:



- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources, including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected yearly by a professional.

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

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
 sshute@gardnerkansas.gov



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



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



MARK WIEHN
 Councilmember
 (316) 258-9634
 mwiehn@gardnerkansas.gov

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

Dec. 5 Dec. 19 Jan. 3 Jan. 17 Feb. 6



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



City of Gardner
 120 E. Main Street
 Gardner, Kansas 66030

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Gardner, KS

POSTAL PATRON
 GARDNER, KS 66030



www.GardnerKansas.gov



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PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Winter Little Ballers Basketball
 Youth Basketball

DATE

Starting Jan. 6
 Starting Jan. 7

REG. DEADLINE

Dec. 9
 Nov. 13

AGE

K&U-2nd grade
 1st - 6th grade

COSTS

\$65/player
 \$85/player

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

Photos with Santa
 Santa's Workshop
 Breakfast with Santa
 Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt
 Galentine's Day Charcuterie
 Daddy-Daughter Dance

DATE

Dec. 3
 Dec. 4
 Dec. 10
 Dec. 15
 Feb. 10
 TBA

REG. DEADLINE

Dec. 1
 N/A
 N/A
 Dec. 13
 Feb. 3

AGE

All Ages
 All Ages
 All Ages
 2-12 years old
 18+ years old

COSTS

\$10/family
 Free
 \$5 in advance
 \$3/participant
 \$65

**Flashlight Candy
 Cane Hunt**

Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
 Cornerstone Park, 215 N. Center St.
 \$3 per participant
 Ages 2-12

It is rumored that Santa likes to hide hundreds of candy canes around Cornerstone Park! Grab your flashlight and join us as we search for hidden candy canes! This event is a favorite and limited to the first 100 participants, so be sure to register today!

Please note, walk-up registrations will not be accepted for this event.
 *Santa will not be in attendance at this event.

