

INSIDE GARDNER

FALL 2023

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

The holidays are just two months away. For some, it's a time for joyful festivities and carefree indulgence. But for others, it can be a time of hardship, loneliness and financial stress. The city wants to provide some resources that may help ease the burden. Below are seven types of services provided in Gardner and/or surrounding areas to help residents get through the season's challenges.

FOOD

Food pantries throughout the city offer groceries and certain household supplies for those in need. Residents can receive this local assistance from the Hope Market, Harvesters mobile food truck, and the Johnson County Aging and Human Services Department, which provides home-delivered meals to homebound residents, age 60 or older, and their spouses.

CLOTHING

One of Gardner's most affordable clothing stores is the Joy Closet. The thrift store operates with donations from the community and is entirely run by volunteers. In addition to clothing, the store offers toys, baby items, towels, bedding, dishes, books, jewelry, pet supplies and more.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance to avoid utility disconnection is available for households in need who live in the Gardner Edgerton school district through the Multi-Service Center. From January through March of each year, individuals may also apply for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) for help with utilities.

INTERNET SERVICE

The Affordable Connectivity Program gives eligible households a discount on broadband service and connected devices. Those who apply at getinternet.gov have a chance to receive a discount of up to \$30/month or \$75/month for qualifying tribal lands, as well as a potential \$100 discount on devices.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Johnson County Mental Health Center offers various mental health and substance abuse services to help individuals take practical, concrete steps toward recovery. Residents can also call the 988 Lifeline, a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Johnson County Aging and Human Services offers Catch-a-Ride, a volunteer transportation service that serves Johnson County residents who are 60+ years old, disabled, or in a life transition where transportation is unavailable. Riders can request up to three rides per week.

SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE

Snow removal assistance provided by local churches is available to assist elderly and/or disabled residents in clearing sidewalks following a snow event. The city requires property owners to remove snow from adjacent sidewalks and ramps within 48 hours of the last snowfall. See the city's website for participating churches.

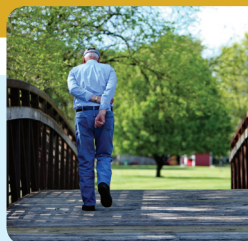


Additional details and contact information for each of these resources can be found on the city's community assistance page of its website at www.gardnerkansas.gov/discover/community-assistance.

NEW BUSINESS NEWS

NEW SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS COMING

The City Council recently approved a residential development agreement that will bring more senior housing options to Gardner—north of Grand Street and south of BNSF Railway, west of Moonlight Road. Residential construction will occur in two sections. The eastern half, proposed to be named Villas on Grand, will include approximately 89 villa units, 110 townhomes, 132 independent living apartments, and 90 assisted living apartments. The western half, proposed to be named Grand Mission Estates, will include approximately 76 single-family lots. Construction will begin in 2024.





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twinters@gardnerkansas.gov



A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

Wow, it felt like summer flew by! With so many activities, it was a great time to be in Gardner! We kicked off summer with a fantastic Independence Day celebration with Jameson Rodgers and a spectacular fireworks show. We welcomed the Johnson County Fair in August, culminating with the return of the Fair Parade! I enjoyed walking the route and seeing so many smiling faces! Next came the return of the Gardner Grind – a family-friendly mud run. If you have seen the pictures, you know how much fun it was! Finally, we were treated to the Garmin KC Air Show. The scorching temperatures did not stop many of you from gathering with friends and family to watch an awe-inspiring show from driveways and backyards. And now, we move into fall activities, which include our always-popular Boo Bash! See details about this event in the Parks and Recreation section of the newsletter.

On the business growth side, we approved new development on the vacant land near Grand Street. The western portion provides multiple options for our senior community, including 55 and over villas, independent living, and assisted living apartments. The eastern part consists of estate-style homes. We also welcomed the Jireh barber shop on Main Street, and Ash and Anvil expanded their services to include an outdoor bar called The Bellows.

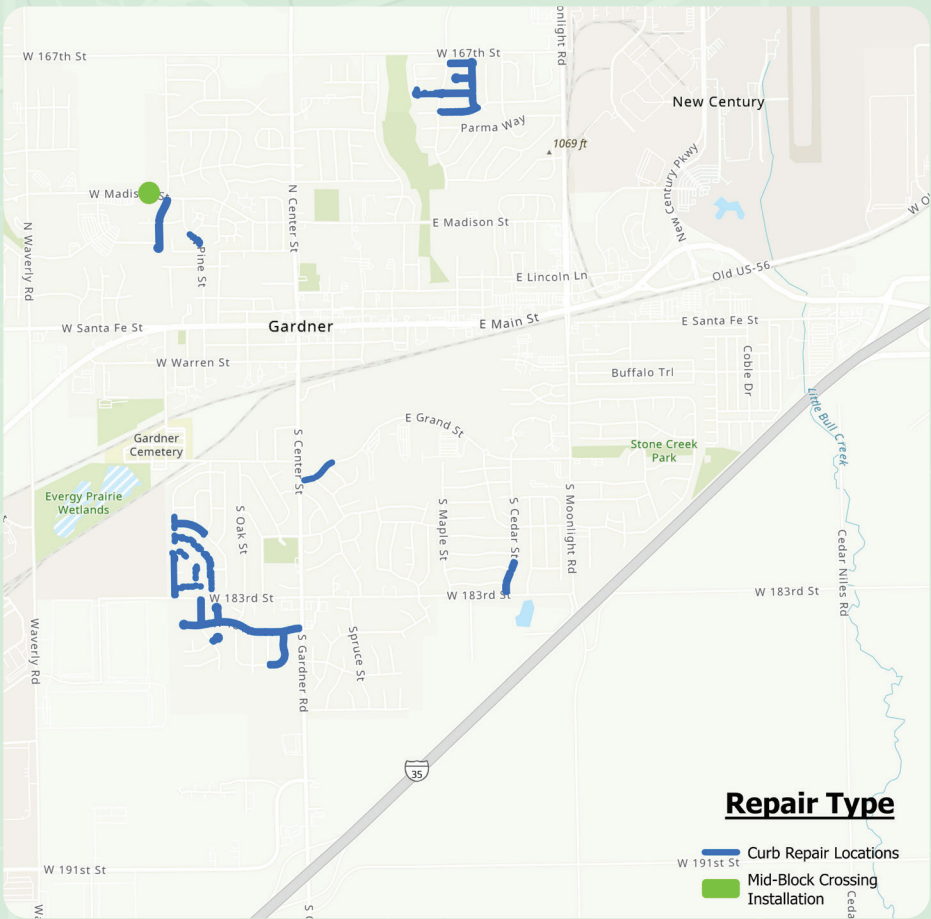
Finally, Main Street is open! And with the newly completed resurfacing of Main Street from Sycamore Street to Center Street, we now have a beautiful roadway through the heart of our city stretching from I-35 to Center Street, complementing our Hometown Heroes banners adorning our downtown. Speaking of our veterans banners, I want to thank Councilmember Kacy Deaton for bringing this recognition project forward and the council for approving it. We hope more people will take advantage of this opportunity next year to honor our veterans. They deserve it!

As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

2023 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The city recently kicked off its 8th annual Pavement Management Program to address needed road improvements. Contractors will remove and replace the curb & gutter in several locations throughout the city. Those locations include areas near 183rd Street and S. Gardner Road, W. Madison Street, Pine Street, W. 167th Street, and Parma Way. (See the map for more details.) Residents should remove parked cars from their streets when requested. Door notices will be provided to those impacted 24 hours before work begins. The city will provide updates concerning these projects as details become available.

* The Pavement Management Program is funded by the half-cent infrastructure special sales tax.



COOK WITH CAUTION



Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity, and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries? By following a few safety tips, you can prevent these fires.



- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop. (Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.)
- Stay in the kitchen while frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the stove first if you need to leave the kitchen. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from your stovetop.

If you have a small grease cooking fire and decide to fight the fire, do the following:

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire, get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home. Johnson County Fire District #1 can be reached at (913) 764-7635.

PLEASE DISPOSE OF LEAVES PROPERLY

With fall officially here, leaves will soon change colors and drop off their branches, littering the ground for property owners to clean up. That's why the city wants to remind residents about how to dispose of leaves properly. Fallen leaves contain a lot of phosphorus and nitrogen. When this washes into stormwater drains or the like, they add too many nutrients to the water, resulting in algal blooms that can be toxic. (The green scum formed by dense algal blooms is unsightly, smells terrible, and can make water harmful to humans and fish, causing illness and—in some cases—death.) For this reason, the city is asking residents not to dispose of leaves (or grass clippings) in the streets, ditches or drainage ways. Instead, residents can use one of the following options to dispose of waste:

- An option for off-site disposal is collecting leaves in bags and leaving them for the trash hauler to pick up. Property owners should find out their service's specific guidelines and dates for disposal. Otherwise, bags might not get picked up. Unlike trash, yard waste doesn't go to landfills but to a composting facility.
- Composting is an option that can be done on-site as well. Leaf and grass clippings act as an effective mulch around trees and in gardens, eventually decomposing and adding nutrients to the soil. This approach is not only earth-friendly; decomposed leaves can be used to fertilize spring gardens.

Residents should contact the Public Works Department at (913) 856-0914 with any questions regarding leaf disposal.

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

The City of Gardner takes pride in providing the public with the most up-to-date, accurate information. In addition to reading this newsletter, Inside Gardner, there are several ways to stay informed about the latest city happenings. This includes email blasts, text alerts, YouTube, and the most popular social media platforms. Please remember that not all formats deliver the same content, so sign up for the best options that meet your needs at www.gardnerkansas.gov/communications.



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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MARK WIEHN
Councilmember
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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

Oct. 16 Nov. 6 Nov. 20 Dec. 4 Dec. 18



View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV



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PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Youth Basketball	Jan 6-Mar 2	Nov 12	1st-6th grade	\$85/player
Winter Little Ballers	Jan 5-Feb 9	Dec 1	4 yrs-2nd grade	\$65/player

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Boo Bash	Oct 26	Oct 26	All ages	\$4
Christmas in the Park	Nov 27	N/A	All ages	Free
Santa's Workshop	Nov 27 & Dec 3	N/A	All ages	Free
Photos with Santa	Dec 2	Nov 30	All ages	\$10/family
Breakfast with Santa	Dec 9	N/A	All ages	\$7 (\$8 at door)
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	Dec 14	Dec 14	2-12 yrs old	\$3

Gardner Parks and Recreation is holding our 27th Annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park. Join us for an evening of ghastly games and rides, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes, a haunted walking trail along the playground, and much, 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 prize drawings throughout the night! Wristbands will be sold in advance at City Hall from October 2 to October 26! (Wristbands can be purchased at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Wednesday, October 25 at the discounted rate of \$4; Wristbands will be \$5 per child day of and at the event.)



Thursday, October 26 (rainout: Monday, October 30)

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (low-sensory 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

\$4 per wristband until Oct. 25 \$5 per wristband on Oct. 26 & at event

- All ages welcome; Must have a wristband for activities and access to all games and rides
- Parents are free and will not need a wristband
- Please note: some rides will have an age limit
- No refunds
- No pets allowed at event

Celebration Park 32501 W. 159th St. Gardner, KS 66030

