

INSIDE GARDNER

WINTER 2023-2024

DOWNTOWN GARDNER LISTED

IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Downtown Gardner Historic District has been officially recorded in the prestigious National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the federal government's official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation due to their cultural and architectural significance and rich history that contributes to the broader tapestry of America's heritage. Listing of this district also assures protective review of federal projects that may adversely affect the character of the district.

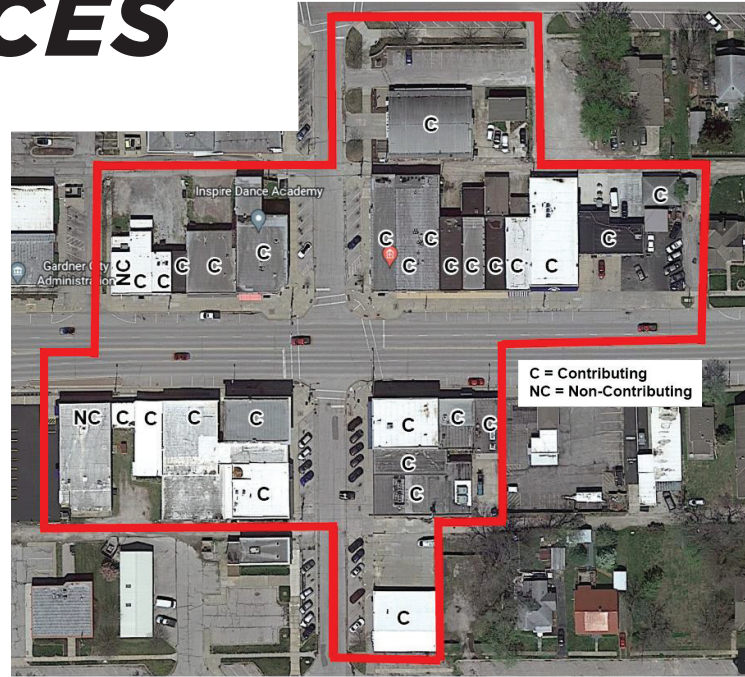
"Gardner's downtown boasts an array of architectural gems, each telling a unique story of Gardner's past. I'm thrilled it's been recognized for its cultural relevance," said Mayor Todd Winters.

Inclusion in this register not only honors the historical value of the district, but also opens avenues for federal preservation grants and tax incentives, encouraging the continued preservation efforts by the local community.

The historic district is comprised of both "contributing" and "non-contributing" properties. Contributing resources, which include properties located within the district boundaries that add to the historic significance of a district, may qualify for rehabilitation incentives. Non-contributing properties are those within the boundaries of the district that are either non-historic or have been altered and no longer reflect their historic appearance. Non-contributing properties may become contributing and eligible for preservation incentives if built within the historic significance period. Non-contributing properties can be re-evaluated, and should contact the State Historic Preservation Office for more information.

"Downtown property owners now have a unique opportunity to collaborate in preserving and maintaining the architectural integrity of the Downtown Gardner Historic District," said Winters. "This designation not only brings pride to the community, but also serves as a catalyst for increased tourism and economic development and ensures the Downtown's continued preservation for generations to come."

To learn more about the National Register of Historic Places, visit their website at www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister.



NEW BUSINESS NEWS

GROWTH IN GARDNER

As a general rule, new commercial development tends to follow new residential rooftops. Over the past several years, Gardner has issued approximately 120 building permits per year for new residential structures. In 2023 (through October), the City has issued 146 new residential structure building permits representing over \$39 million in new private investment. As a whole, from January 2020 to October 2023, 1,045 new residential units have been permitted in Gardner. Our residential growth and reinvestment have been stable and diversifying over the past few years. This residential growth and the expansion of surrounding employment centers will help fuel greater commercial development interest in Gardner in coming years.



(913) 271-3587
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov



A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! I hope many of you attended our Christmas in the Park Celebration. It is truly one of my favorite events to do as mayor! I love this time of year and look forward to many of our community gatherings in Cornerstone Park to enhance the holiday season!

This is also a season of giving and a time to recognize that many in our community may need a helping hand. As a reminder, the Hope Market, Joy Closet, and the Gardner Multi-Service Center are excellent local organizations that would appreciate any donation of time, food, and/or money. If you need assistance, please visit the "Community Assistance" page on the city website for many great resources.

This year, the City of Gardner partnered with the Gardner Edgerton School District to recognize our veterans in observance of Veterans Day. I was honored to speak on behalf of the city to a large crowd of veterans, their guests, and high school students and staff. During my presentation, I remarked, "One of the best ways to honor our veterans is to exercise our freedom to vote." The message was timely with the general election only a few days earlier. Congratulations to Kacy Deaton, Mark Wiehn, and Steve McNeer as our newly (re)elected councilmembers! I look forward to working with them to continue the momentum we have achieved. I also want to thank Councilmember Tory Roberts for her many years of service and dedication to Gardner. It has been greatly appreciated!

Since my last message, we welcomed a new business, Orchid Brow Studio, to our downtown. Culver's has also begun work on their location along South Gardner Road. I hope to have many more business announcements in the near future!

With this year coming to a close, it is hard to believe I am nearly two years into my term. I can't tell you how proud I am to be your mayor. So many great things are on the horizon for Gardner, and I feel blessed to be a part of it all!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

2024 WATER & WASTEWATER RATE ADJUSTMENTS



WATER

During the December 16, 2019, Gardner City Council meeting, the council approved a water rate increase of 3.7% each year for ten years beginning in 2021. The 3.7% incremental increases help fund several capital improvement projects, including the expansion of the city's water treatment plant. The 2024 water rate increase will go into effect February 1, 2024.



WASTEWATER

During the September 5, 2023, Gardner City Council meeting, the council adopted the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. The budget included a 4.2% wastewater rate increase. Customers will likely see this increase reflected on their February 2024 bill. Money generated from the increase will be used to build financial capacity in the Wastewater Fund in anticipation of the expansion of the Kill Creek Resource Recovery Facility, which is needed for current and future growth.

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk of fires. Candles start more than one-third of home decoration fires, and more than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Holiday Decorating:

- Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from things that can burn.
- Use indoor and outdoor lights according to their proper use.
- Blow out lit candles and turn off light strings when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Replace strings of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords are not damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Holiday Entertaining:

- Test your smoke alarms. Tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding them.

Merry Christmas

PHOTOS WITH SANTA



9 a.m. - Noon & 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Cornerstone Park, 215 N. Center St.
Photos are \$10 per family

Santa Claus is coming to Cornerstone Park to take photos with you and your children. In an effort to keep wait times down, families will be required to register for a time. A photographer will be taking the photos, so come dressed in your favorite holiday outfit or pajamas!

SANTA'S WORKSHOP



2 p.m. - 3:30 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



8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Johnson County Fairgrounds
Green Building, 136 E. Washington St.
\$7 in advance/\$8 at the door

Parents and children will enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage links and juice from Chris Cakes. Kids can make a craft to take home and have a professional picture with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Pictures will be available for purchase from Adams Pro Photo for \$5. Cash, card or Venmo will be accepted.

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. 4 Dec. 18 Jan. 2 Jan. 16 Feb. 5



View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV



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

PRSRRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gardner, KS

POSTAL PATRON
GARDNER, KS 66030



www.GardnerKansas.gov



[CityofGardnerKSGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/CityofGardnerKSGovernment)



[GardnerKansas](https://twitter.com/GardnerKansas)



[CityofGardnerKSGovernment](https://www.instagram.com/CityofGardnerKSGovernment)

PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Winter Little Ballers	Jan 5 - Feb 9	Dec 1	K/under & 1st/2nd grades	\$65
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	Dec 14	Dec 14 @ 1 p.m.	2-12 years old	\$3
Safe Sitter Essentials Course	Dec 18	Dec 17	6th - 8th grades	\$55
Spring Recreational Soccer	Mar 23 - May 4	Feb 18	4 years - 8th grade	\$80/new players \$65/returning

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Santa's Workshop	Dec 3	N/A	All ages	Free
Breakfast with Santa	Dec 9	N/A	All ages	\$7/\$8 at door
Scrapbooking	Jan 26	N/A	Ages 12 & up	\$5
Daddy Daughter Dance	Mar 2	Feb 19	3-12 years old	\$45/couple

Grab your flashlight and join us as we search for hidden candy canes hidden by Santa! 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.

Thurs, Dec. 14 **5:30 p.m.** **Cornerstone Park**
\$3 per participant **Ages 2 -12** **215 N. Center St.**

Save the Date

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

March 2 Watch for more details!