

INSIDE GARDNER

SUMMER 2024

POLICE CHIEF HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With just a little over a year under her belt as Gardner's chief of police, Pam Waldeck has led the implementation of several key strategies to enhance the Gardner Police Department's (GPD) performance and service to the city.

Among them, Chief Waldeck believes increased community involvement is one of the most significant efforts the department has made. "We want our residents to feel secure in the knowledge that they can rely on their police officers and that the GPD always has the best interests of its community members at heart," she stated. "With more interaction with the public, trust is established, crime rates decrease, and community members are confident they will receive the necessary assistance."

Last year, GPD participated in 41 community engagement activities, ranging from large events to small gatherings, such as the Citizens Police Academy, Teenage Driving Academy and Coffee with a Cop. "Our goal is to connect with everyone of all ages, interests and lifestyles," Chief Waldeck said. "We want all to know that we are here to serve them, that they can trust the department's character, and that they play a part in keeping the city safe."

Chief Waldeck emphasizes that one of the best ways for residents to reciprocate and play an active role in keeping the community safe is by creating a Neighborhood Watch Program. This highly successful program encourages volunteering residents to collaborate with law enforcement to prevent crime and improve disaster preparedness. Examples of this include keeping an eye out for neighbors on vacation, enhancing individual and neighborhood emergency preparedness levels, and learning how to report suspicious activity effectively. "This popular and proven program has been around for years," Chief Waldeck noted. "As Gardner continues to grow, it will

be even more important for community members to get involved to keep Gardner one of the safest cities in Kansas as it stands today."

Faith Jolly, the new Community Policing Officer for the GPD, serves as a partner and liaison between the community and the department. She

will help strengthen partnerships between law enforcement, residents and other stakeholders, enhancing safety through collaborative crime prevention efforts. Chief Waldeck encourages community members

interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program or involving the department in an event to contact Officer Jolly.

"The Gardner Police Department is not only enhancing its operational efficiency but also building a foundation of trust and cooperation with the community it serves. By prioritizing public engagement, we are ensuring that the GPD remains a reliable and integral part of our city, and Gardner remains a safe place to live, work and play," said Chief Pam Waldeck.

For more information about the department's community engagement efforts, including the Neighborhood Watch Program, send an email to communityofficer@gardnerkansas.gov or call (913) 856-7312.



NEW BUSINESS NEWS

DOLLAR TREE TO OCCUPY SPACE IN THE FORMER PRICE CHOPPER BUILDING

The old Price Chopper building at 830 E. Main St. will soon welcome a new tenant – Dollar Tree! Set to open in late July, this spacious 12,126-square-foot store will offer a wide range of products, including household essentials, party supplies, seasonal decorations and everyday basics. Stay tuned for the grand opening date announcement, and get ready to explore all those Dollar Tree deals!



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(913) 271-3587
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov



A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

School is out, the pool is open and the ball fields are full. Summer has arrived!

I am thrilled to be writing this message after recently learning that Gardner is the fastest-growing city in the Metro area for cities of 20,000-plus and ranks among the top 100 nationally! This is very exciting news, as it shows that Gardner is a wonderful place to live, work and play. It is a great reflection of the hard work that our staff and government provide daily, and even more importantly, it demonstrates our citizens' commitment and investment in our community. This new honor will only continue strengthening the strong commercial, retail and entertainment business interest in Gardner.

What I love about Gardner is that despite the rapid growth, we still have that "feel" of a small town. I see this exemplified in community events, such as the Grange sponsoring the weekly Thursday night Farmers Market in Cornerstone Park, which brings many local small businesses together in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. Our Parks and Recreation crew continues to offer events throughout the summer for citizens of all ages, including this year's Independence Day Festival. This event will feature headliner Morgan Evans and musical guests George Birge and Big Time Grain Co. Following the show, stay for the amazing fireworks display!

Once again this year, families and neighbors will gather to celebrate Independence Day and can discharge fireworks on July 2, 3 and 4. As always, please be courteous and respectful of others. Stick to the 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. time frame and clean up when done.

As previously mentioned, retail interest remains strong. Culver's opened on the south side, and downtown added another unique business with The Forge. This speakeasy bar is truly a destination location for not just Gardner but the entire Metro area! Many more businesses are soon to be announced, so stay tuned!

Have a great summer!

As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!



FIREWORKS DATES, RULES AND SAFETY TIPS

Independence Day is approaching, and many Gardner residents will choose to celebrate with legal fireworks within our city limits. The sale or distribution of fireworks is permitted between June 28 and July 4. As a reminder, they can only be discharged from July 2 through July 4, between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. To ensure the safe and responsible use of these fireworks, please remember the following details:

- You may not discharge fireworks on any public property within the city, including public streets and sidewalks. City code violations can result in a fine and the confiscation of the fireworks by any member of the police and fire departments.
- Fireworks should be used cautiously, only in the intended manner, and always under close adult supervision.
- Always keep water nearby to extinguish small residual flames that may create a fire hazard.
- Don't forget our citizens with PTSD, autism, and other sensory challenges. Be considerate of them as you plan when and where to discharge fireworks.
- Remember our furry family members, too. Pets can fear fireworks and try to run from them, escaping fences or pulling free from leashes. Keep them safe, secure and out of harm's way.
- Respect your neighbors and your city by cleaning up firework debris. You are responsible for ensuring that your mess does not spread to neighboring public or private property.
- Obey all city and state laws governing the discharge of fireworks. Gardner police officers will be prepared to issue citations to those who violate the fireworks ordinance.

View the fireworks ordinance for additional information at www.gardnerkansas.gov/documents/fireworks-ordinance-summary.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AROUND SWIMMING POOLS, HOT TUBS & SPAS



For many of us, water activities equal fun. But it's important to be aware of electrical hazards while enjoying the water. Know how to be safe around swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Outdoor receptacles must have covers that keep them dry even when appliances are plugged into them.
- Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are special devices designed to protect against electric shock and electrocution. They are required for most pool, spa or hot tub equipment. They may be in the form of an outlet or a circuit breaker. Test the GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Electrical appliances, equipment and cords should be kept at least 6 feet from the water. When possible, use battery-operated appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios and stereos.
- Avoid handling electrical devices when you are wet.
- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If unsure, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.
- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and—where necessary—replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa, or hot tub electrically safe.
- Have a qualified electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

KNOW THE RISKS: Electrocution is death by an electrical shock. Be aware when skin is wet or when surrounding surfaces, such as the grass or pool deck, are wet. Wet skin or wet surfaces can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

There are several signs of electrical shock. Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation. They may experience muscle cramps. They may not be able to move. They may feel as if something is holding them in place. If you think someone in the water is being shocked, turn off all power, but do not attempt to go in the water. Use a fiberglass or other kind of rescue hook that doesn't conduct electricity to help the swimmer. Have someone call 9-1-1.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock. Get out of the water.

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The City of Gardner's 2024 Consumer Confidence Report on water quality is now available at gardnerkansas.gov/waterqualityreport2024. The city offers this annual report to assure citizens 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.



GARDNER GRIND featuring NEW Mini Grind

The Gardner Grind is back for 2024! On Saturday, August 10, Gardner Parks and Recreation will host an adventure run at Celebration Park. On the trail around the west side of the park, there will be obstacles, water challenges, and of course—MUD! Expect to get dirty and have a great time. The run is one mile long, and there will be 14-15 challenges along the way. In addition to the race, there will be music and snacks available. The ages for the Gardner Grind are 7 to 107 years old! The first heat will start at 9:00 a.m., and another two to three heats will go off per hour. Sign up by July 21 to guarantee yourself a t-shirt! Walk-ups are welcome but won't guarantee a shirt.



We are hosting a Mini Grind! Ages 5-7 will get their chance to conquer a handful of the obstacles and will receive a special mini-grind medal at the end of their run!

Celebration Park
32501 W. 159th St.

Mini Grind
\$10 Ages 5-7
8 am. – 9 am.

Gardner Grind
\$25 Ages 7+
1st heat: 9 am. 2nd heat: 10 am.
3rd heat: 11 am.

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

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

STEVE MCNEER
Councilmember
(913) 638-4614
smcneer@gardnerkansas.gov

STEVE SHUTE
Councilmember
(913) 732-3134
sshute@gardnerkansas.gov

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

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

July 1 July 15 Aug. 5 Aug. 19 Sept. 3



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

YOUTH PROGRAMS	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Night Wave Pool Party	June 27	N/A	6th-8th gr	\$6
Junior Lifeguard Program	July 1-3, 5	June 30	Ages 11-15	\$65
Kansas Rush Soccer Camp	July 8-12	July 5	Ages 6-9	\$40/player
Pitch, Hit and Run	July 20	N/A	Ages 7-14	Free
Challenger Soccer 3v3 Tournament	July 27	July 18	1st-8th grade	\$40
Kids Fishing Derby	Aug 24	Aug 22	12 and under	\$3
Youth Volleyball	Sept 12	Aug 4	3rd-4th grade	\$75/player
Fall Recreational Soccer	Sept 14-Oct 26	Aug 11	4 yrs-8th grade	\$80
TinyTykes Soccer	Sept 14-Oct 19	Sept 13	Ages 2-5	\$85



ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Independence Day Festival	July 4	N/A	All ages	Free
July 4th Celebration at GAC	July 4	N/A	All ages	Price of admission (\$8)
WITS Workout - Happy Birthday USA	July 8	July 5	55 and older	\$5
Flick 'N Float	July 11	N/A	All ages	\$5
Duck Races (Benefiting Gardner Gold)	July 12	N/A	All ages	Price of admission (\$8)
Mother-Son NERF Event	July 20	July 12	Ages 5-13	\$40/couple
GAC Membership Appreciation Night	July 25	N/A	All ages	Free to members
Movie in the Park	July 26	N/A	All ages	Free
Gardner Grind	Aug 10	July 21 (t-shirt guarantee)	7 and older	\$25
Mini Grind	Aug 10	July 21 (t-shirt guarantee)	Ages 5-7	\$10
WITS Workout - School Days	Aug 12	Aug 9	55 and older	\$5
Tailgate Tastings: Beer, Wine & Spirits Fest	Sept 7	Aug 29	21+ ONLY	\$30
WITS Workout Session	Sept 9	Sept 6	55 and older	\$5
Women's Volleyball	Sept 10	Sept 3	18 and older	\$225/team
Co-ed Volleyball	Sept 11	Sept 3	18 and older	\$225/team
Cornhole	Sept 11	Sept 3	18 and older	\$50/duo
Co-ed Kickball (5v5v5)	Sept 12	Sept 3	18 and older	\$125/team