

INSIDE GARDNER

SUMMER 2019

2019 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Steve Shute presented his State of the City Address on May 15, 2019, at the new Gardner Hampton Inn and Conference Center. The theme of his speech was “Building Bridges,” highlighting the areas where the city has made tremendous progress. In his message, he emphasized four main points: Building Bridges of Cooperation, Building Bridges of Accessibility, Building Bridges of Understanding, and Building Bridges from the Past to the Future.


Mayor Shute discussed the proactive efforts to Build Bridges of Cooperation with city employees and partners. “Our employees are our greatest asset, and this administration has dedicated substantial energy to transforming the culture of our organization to enhance our employees’ work experience in an effort to retain the best and brightest individuals,” said Shute.

The mayor stated that he instituted the three T’s: trust, transparency and teamwork, to define the relationship goals of the organization. He also implemented the Relentlessly Positive and Professional Customer Service Award Program, recognizing staff for their above and beyond efforts. Shute described how this service-focused approach has also enhanced partnerships with other agencies. These improved collaborations helped the city secure \$105 million of private investments, opening the doors to 13 new businesses and creating 460 local jobs; obtaining funding for the I-35 and Gardner Road Interchange Project and Waverly Road Improvement Project; and constructing the 17-acre mixed-use development Waverly Plaza Project.

Mayor Shute said the city is also Building Bridges of Accessibility. Work to create a more accessible downtown continues as the city received additional grant money for the implementation phase of the Main Street Corridor Plan. According to Shute, this plan sets in motion the revitalization of Gardner’s downtown, improving walkability and connectivity, and includes making major ADA improvements.

Building Bridges of Understanding was Shute’s third point, which referred to building relationships, uniting the city, and helping one another. He acknowledged citizens for their vote to support the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for financing the new Gardner Justice Center. He also introduced the Gardner Samaritan Project and Fund, a volunteer-staffed and funded program that pairs residents in need with the necessary resources.

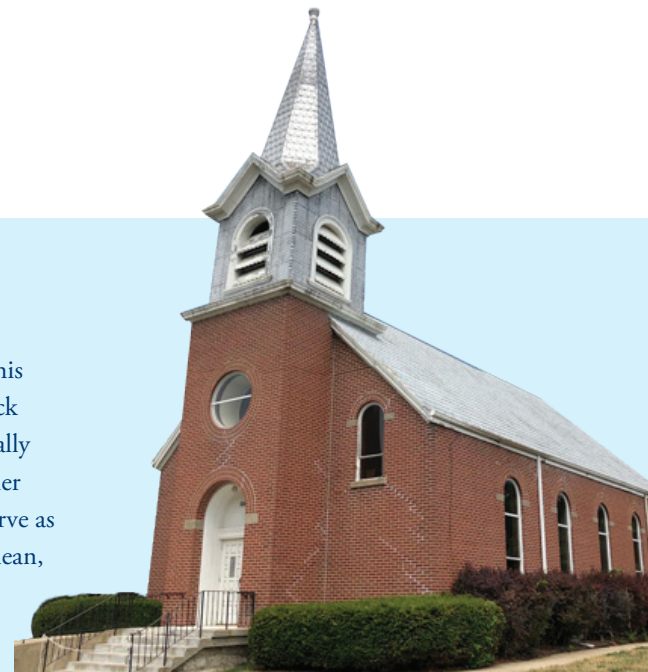
Lastly, Shute talked about Building Bridges from the Past to the Future referring to the pioneers who traveled unchartered territories and faced challenges to make Gardner an incorporated city. “We must have the same pioneer spirit. We must be willing to do things differently, be innovators, and create new best practices,” expressed Shute. “We must step out of the box and be open to new approaches to moving our city to the next level of cooperation, synergy and growth.”

Watch the mayor’s address in its entirety at www.gardnerkansas.gov/SOTC2019  to learn more about the positive activity occurring in Gardner.

NEW BUSINESS NEWS

WARREN PLACE

In late 2020, Gardner will have a new wedding and event venue called Warren Place. This project consists of renovating and revitalizing three buildings located along the 100 block of Warren Street. Measuring at 1.65 acres, the property features a historic chapel originally built in 1912; “The Cottage,” a hospitality center available for overnight stays and smaller gatherings; and the largest and newest of the three buildings, “The Warren,” that will serve as the main event space consisting of high ceilings, many windows for natural light, and clean, classic finishes.





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A message from

MAYOR STEVE SHUTE

Although the “official” start of summer is only now upon us, exciting activity has been heating up in our community for a while now!

Our award-winning Gardner Aquatic Center opened on Memorial Day weekend and is now packed with kids on summer break. The Hampton Inn and Gardner Conference Center opened in May to rave reviews and is already seeing capacity occupancy at their facility. Everywhere you look, there are cranes, bulldozers, earth movers, and hubs of construction activity.

Work on the Gardner Samaritan Project—the initiative that I announced at my State of the City address— continues, with an anticipated launch date for the fall. We are looking for volunteers and civic and faith-based organizations who wish to partner on this initiative. If you or your organization wish to be a part of this program, email us at info@gardnersamaritanproject.org.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to serve on our citizens advisory committees, boards and commissions. When you participate in this capacity, you help city leaders and lend your voice to the future direction of your community. The value of these roles cannot be underestimated, and I encourage any of you who are interested to apply by visiting www.gardnerkansas.gov, clicking on the “How Do I” tab, and selecting “Apply for Boards and Commissions.”

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me via email at sshute@gardnerkansas.gov. I want to hear from you!

GARDNER'S **HIDDEN GEMS** **GARDNER FARMERS MARKET**

In its third year, the Gardner Farmers Market has become a community staple, providing farm-to-table food to hundreds of people every week. Open on Thursdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, vendors offer customers a variety of products, including fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts, fresh flowers, sweet honey and jams, and specialty items.

The Farmers Market was initiated by the Gardner Grange, a fraternal and community service organization, to provide access to healthy affordable food through a direct farm-to-consumer venue that could serve diverse populations. They were motivated by the belief that local farms are essential to the local economy, and they were committed to making economic and educational connections between Gardner area residents and its farmers. This commitment garnered the organization the Kansas State Grange Community Service Award two years in a row.

“Farmers markets are a critical component of rebuilding local food economies and providing residents with healthier food options,” Gardner Grange President Alice Ficken said. “They also build a sense of community and bring together residents of all ages, backgrounds and interests.”

Located at 136 E. Washington St., the Farmers Market is provided weekly in partnership with the City of Gardner and Gardner-Edgerton Chamber of Commerce from May 30 to Sept. 12, with the exception of Independence Day and Aug. 1 for the Johnson County Fair. The Gardner Farmers Market Board said it is grateful for the support of the Johnson County Fair Association and the First Presbyterian Church of Gardner for the use of the space and parking lot.

“We are excited to be in our third year of serving the Gardner community, and we hope the market continues to grow and becomes an important social event that encourages a healthy lifestyle and inspires a new generation of farmers,” Doug Finnicum, Gardner Granger and Market Board President said. “Anyone that’s never been to the market should definitely try it out. They won’t be disappointed.”



TICKETS NOW ON SALE



Tickets are now on sale for our award-winning, third annual Grand Slam Craft Beer, Wine & Spirits Fest! Local breweries, wineries and distilleries will be on hand in the outfields of Celebration Park, 32501 W. 159th St., to share their creations of libations to those 21 years of age or older. We'll also have non-alcoholic beverages on site for attendees to enjoy. The event takes place on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. Visit gardnergrandslam.com to purchase a ticket and for parking/shuttle information.



CITY'S 2019 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City of Gardner's 2019 Consumer Confidence Report on water quality is now available at www.gardnerkansas.gov/waterqualityreport2019. 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. Citizens can request a hard copy of the report by contacting the Utility Department at 913.856.0980.

LOW-COST TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Are you 65 or older? Is your monthly household income within low-income guidelines? Do you have a documented disability (regardless of age)? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are eligible for low-cost transportation! RideKC Freedom is a shared ride program providing affordable curb-to-curb transportation for registered Johnson County residents. RideKC Freedom rides may be provided by RideKC Freedom vehicles or through a local taxi provider. If you meet low-income guidelines, fares are reduced. Call 816-842-9070 or contact freedom@kcata.org for questions. For more guideline info, visit www.ridekc.org/mobility-services/johnson-county-kan.

FIRE DIST. #1 LAUNCHES ADDITIONAL sUAS CAPABILITIES

For the past year, Fire District #1 of Johnson County has used Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), commonly called drones, to support its emergency operations by providing sky-view images and video. Today they have expanded their sUAS program to include a new aircraft with infrared capabilities, which provides the department with images using heat signatures. This new aircraft also allows fire personnel to have a greater field of view during fire incidents, helping to locate hot spots, find people and ultimately, save more lives. sUAS are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration and have been widely adopted by all public safety agencies across the nation. For more information about Fire District #1's sUAS program, contact Battalion Chief Trig Morley at 913.764.7635.



GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

Messages for the Governing Body can be left at (913) 856-0939 or with the following info.

 **LEE MOORE**
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 **MARK BALDWIN**
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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

July 15 Aug. 5 Aug. 19 Sept. 2 Sept. 16
View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV

POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030



www.GardnerKansas.gov



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PARKS AND REC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM. 


YOUTH PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	AGE	COST
International Soccer Camps	July 29	July 19	ages 3-16	varies
Player Development Camp	Sept. 6	Aug. 16	6 - 13 years	\$70
Micro/ Fall Recreational Soccer	Sept. 7	Aug. 23/July 26	varies	\$65/\$70
Youth/Middle School Volleyball	Sept. 10/Sept. 15	Aug. 9/Aug. 23	varies	\$60/\$70
Youth Flag Football	Sept. 14	Aug. 16	grades 1-6	\$65
Kids Fishing Derby	Sept. 21	Sept. 13	12 & younger	\$5

ADULT / FAMILY PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	AGE	COST
GAC Member Appreciation Night	July 11	N/A	All	Free to members
Chalking w/Dorine	July 15/Aug. 26	July 10/Aug. 21	6 & up/16 & up	\$10/\$20
Flick and Float	July 18	N/A	All	\$4/\$3 for members
Music & Movies in the Park	Aug. 16/Sept. 20	N/A	All	Free
Adult Fall Softball	Early Sept.	Aug. 30	18 & up	\$500 per team
Women's Fall Volleyball	Sept. 9	Aug. 30	18 & up	\$175 per team
Smoke on the Trails BBQ Event	Sept. 27 & 28	N/A	All	Free

GARDNER GRIND ADVENTURE RACE

On Saturday, Aug. 17, the city will host its annual Gardner Grind adventure race at Celebration Park, 32501 W. 159th St. The trail on the west side of the park will consist of obstacles, water challenges, and of course, mud! The competition is one-mile long and includes 15 challenges. The first heat will start at 8:00 a.m. with two to three heats following per hour. In addition to the race, there will be an hourly costume contest, music and snacks available to all. Each participant must be at least seven years old to participate. Register for \$20 per participant at www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardnergrind. 

REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 20 \$25/participant (check or cash only
\$30 day of race on race day)

REGISTRATION DEADLINES Online: Aug. 15 In person at City Hall: Aug. 16
Day of race: Aug. 17



*Register by July 20 to receive a t-shirt on race day. Registrations after July 20 are not guaranteed a t-shirt. They will be available on a first come, first served basis.