

INSIDE GARDNER

SUMMER 2020

U.S. 56/ MAIN STREET ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN 2021


Significant road improvements are coming to U.S. 56/Main Street next year. These improvements come after the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) awarded the City of Gardner \$3,000,000 in funding for pavement restoration of the highway from Sycamore Street to Old 56 Highway. The project, which stretches nearly a mile long, includes pavement reconstruction, removal and replacement of curb and gutter, driveway and sidewalk enhancements, and other related infrastructure work.

As identified in the Capital Improvement Plan, the city will provide matching funds to cover the design, utility relocation, and construction. The city's portion will come from bonds paid through the Special Highway Fund.

"We have thousands of commuters on this roadway every day, so this is a much-needed improvement project," said Michael Kramer, public works director. "For many, this roadway provides the first impression of Gardner, so making it more aesthetically appealing is also important."

U.S. 56/Main Street is categorized as a "City Connecting Link," which is defined as any routing of the State Highway System located within the corporate limits of a city. The city applied for funds for this project through KDOT's City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP). The CCLIP is a program that provides money to municipalities to address deficiencies or improve a City Connecting Link on the State Highway System.

"Through the CCLIP program, we were able to move the U.S. 56/Main Street project up on KDOT's priority list of roadways in need of significant improvement," Kramer said. "This road is heavily traveled and in very poor condition. We knew we had to find a way to accelerate the project, and with this partnership with KDOT, we were able to accomplish this goal."

While the city is working with KDOT to improve U.S. 56/Main Street, KDOT will continue to provide maintenance to the roadway, including snow and ice removal, sweeping and pothole repairs. Questions concerning these topics should be directed to KDOT at KDOT#PublicInfo@ks.gov. For more information about the U.S. 56/Main Street project, contact the city's Public Works Department at (913) 856-0914. 



NEW BUSINESS NEWS

CULVER'S IS HEADED TO GARDNER!

Gardner will soon have another dining option with the addition of a new Culver's. The quick-service, family-style restaurant will sit north of I-35 along the west side of Gardner Road between Phillips 66 and QuikTrip. This popular chain specializes in burgers, frozen custard shakes/concretes and Wisconsin-style cheese curds. The scope of the restaurant includes a 4,330 square-foot building with dine-in seating for 95, a 30-seat patio, a drive-through, and takeout service. Construction is slated to begin this fall with plans to open by summer 2021.





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A message from

MAYOR STEVE SHUTE

During this anything-but-normal summer, some normality is beginning to return to our fair city. Schools are reopening district-wide on Sept. 9. We finalized the budget and Capital Improvement Plans for 2021 and 2022. And, we are seeing more construction going forward on our road network, as well as on the Plaza South property near 188th Street and Gardner Road, and at the Waverly Plaza development at Waverly Road and West Santa Fe Street.

During this time, I would like to remind all of you to take a couple of actions that will be greatly helpful to our community as a whole, and all of us personally:

1) Complete the 2020 Census if you have not already. Having an accurate and complete count is vitally important to our city, from federal/state funding and granting decisions to whether developers choose to come to Gardner with commercial and retail offerings.

2) Please check on your neighbors from time to time. Financial and psychological stress during this pandemic is a real thing. And part of the #GardnerStrong character of our community is our willingness to have each other's backs and help our fellow citizens in need. Check with City Hall if you want to be connected with resources that can help keep our community healthy.

Again, it is my honor to serve you as your Mayor,

GARDNER'S **HIDDEN GEMS**

SPINNING EARTH GALLERY & SACRED SPACES YOGA AND PILATES

When you step into the Dolphin Song building, you're instantly greeted with two expressive options of art, creativity, and serenity. That's because this building, which stands at the corner of 102 S. Elm St., serves as the home to businesses Spinning Earth Gallery and Sacred Spaces Yoga & Pilates, operated by husband and wife duo Danny and Diana Meisinger.

On the first floor, Spinning Earth showcases a beautiful display of Danny's creations. An accumulation of different styles, shapes, and forms of dynamic ceramic pieces adorns the store, attracting visitors who seek to simply explore and customers who wish to make their admirations permanent.

Sacred Spaces Yoga & Pilates occupies the second floor, and just as the name implies, it offers a space where individuals can connect spiritually, physically, and emotionally to one's self. Diana is the primary yoga instructor, encouraging clients of all ages and activity levels to strive for their best. In her classes, she promotes eating well, regular exercise, and positive mental health.

"Diana and I have been working together for nearly three decades, first running the artwork gallery and then adding Sacred Spaces about seven years ago," Danny said. "And while we offer two very unique services, at the core of both businesses, we desire to inspire and enrich others' lives through our work. We feel blessed to be able to provide these services to our hometown."

The two, who are longtime residents who graduated from Gardner High School and later raised a family together, have made their businesses and the Dolphin Song, a staple in the community.

"We've seen many changes and tremendous growth in Gardner over the years, especially Danny, who has lived here since 1979," Diana said. "In the midst of it all, Gardner has been able to maintain a sense of community and small-town charm by honoring old Gardner while bringing in the new. We feel fortunate that Spinning Earth and Sacred Spaces has a place in both worlds."

The Meisingers encourage people to stop in for a visit to gain a visual experience of what Spinning Earth and Sacred Spaces provides. The gallery is open from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Follow the yoga studio on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sacredspacesyogaandpilatesstudio or call (913) 215-3724 for class times.



VEHICLE FIRE SAFETY - MUST DO'S



No one ever expects their car to catch on fire, but it happens more often than one thinks. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it's estimated that 171,500 highway fires occur across the United States every year. This includes fires in passenger vehicles, freight road transport vehicles, and agricultural or construction vehicles.

Should one's vehicle catch on fire, it is important to act quickly using the following steps:

- Pull over as quickly as you can when it is safe.
- Once you have stopped, turn off the engine.
- Get everyone out of the vehicle. Never return to a burning vehicle. Do not try to fight the fire yourself.
- If you think there is a fire under the hood or trunk, do not open it. This could cause the fire to grow.
- Move everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- Call 911.

To prevent a vehicle fire, take the following measures:

- Have your car regularly serviced by a trained mechanic.
- Keep gas cans or propane tanks away from passengers. Tightly seal and place them on a flat surface to make sure they stay upright.
- Keep windows open to stop fumes from building up if you must put gas cans or propane tanks inside your vehicle.
- Drive safely to avoid an accident.

Information provided by Johnson County Fire District #1 at (913) 764-7635. 

SMART METER INSTALLATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

Over the next several months, the city will provide smart meters to all its utility customers. This advanced metering infrastructure records electricity and water consumption and communicates this usage data directly to the city for monitoring and billing. The meters also lead to cost savings through consumption management by customers. NexGen will serve as the installer. Installers, who are identifiable by a NexGen vehicle and a City of Gardner/NexGen partnership badge, will attempt to alert customers by knocking on their doors or ringing their doorbells before replacing their meters. Customers should expect a brief service disruption during the time of installation. Contact the Utility Billing Division at (913) 856-7535 or sign up for email blasts at www.gardnerkansas.gov/communications for more information about the city's smart meter installation project.



CENSUS TAKERS START HOME VISITS



Enumerators have hit the streets and are headed to the homes of every Gardner resident who has yet to respond to the 2020 Census on their own. Currently, Gardner has a 74.8 percent self-response rate compared to Johnson County's overall response rate of 76.9 percent. The enumerators will help increase those numbers by assisting with data collection, which will determine funding for services and infrastructure in the community and political representation.

In the wake of the pandemic, all census takers have been given protective equipment for their personal use and have been trained on social distancing protocols as they manually gather census data. Households that have not received a personal visit still have an opportunity to complete the census online, by phone or mail. Those responding to it can do so in English or 12 other languages. Access the online questionnaire at www.2020census.gov or call (844) 330.2020.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

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



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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

Sept. 8 Sept. 21 Oct. 5 Oct. 19 Nov. 2



View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV

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www.GardnerKansas.gov



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Due to COVID-19, events and activities are subject to change. Stay up-to-date on all Parks and Recreation happenings at www.gardnerparks.com.

MOVIE IN THE PARK: TROLLS WORLD TOUR



The city will hold its next Movie in the Park on Friday, Aug. 28, at 9 p.m. featuring the film Trolls World Tour. Moviegoers will watch Poppy and Branch discover that there are six different troll tribes scattered over six different lands. Each tribe is also devoted to six different kinds of music -- funk, country, techno, classical, pop and rock. When rockers Queen Barb and King Thrash set out to destroy the other music, Poppy and Branch embark on a daring mission to unite the trolls and save the diverse melodies from becoming extinct.

The event is free and open to all ages. Individuals only need to bring a blanket or chair and head to Cornerstone Park, 215 N. Center St. Snacks optional!

SMOKE ON THE TRAILS COMPETITION



Calling all BBQ enthusiasts! The city is holding its annual Smoke on the Trails Barbeque Competition on Sept. 11 and 12. This Kansas City Barbecue Society sanctioned event is a qualifier for the American Royal World Series of Barbeque competition and the Jack Daniels World Championship for 2021. Have you registered to participate yet? BBQ teams will check-in and set up their camps on Friday. Formal BBQ judging will begin on Saturday with teams participating in the chicken, ribs, pork and brisket categories. Top 10 winners of each group will be awarded.

Teams interested in participating must register by Aug. 30. For questions and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/3gLuSjt>. 

ANNUAL KIDS FISHING DERBY



The city will hold its annual Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 12 p.m. to 2p.m., at Gardner Lake Public Boat Dock, 30100 W. 151st St. Kids 12 and under are welcome to participate. For just a registration fee of \$5.00 per child, youngsters can experience the outdoors, win prizes, and enjoy a hotdog lunch while spending time with family and friends. Worms and fishing poles will be provided; however, kids are encouraged to bring their own. This event is co-sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Cops N' Bobbers. All children must be registered by 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2BHETQ4>. 