

INSIDE GARDNER

WINTER 2020/2021

POLICE CHIEF JAY BELCHER: MY BATTLE WITH COVID-19

Oct. 10 started as a typical Saturday morning for Gardner Police Chief Jay Belcher - breakfast with the family, morning chores, and preparation to leave for his youngest son's sporting event. Little did Jay know that this day is when he would begin his personal battle with COVID-19.

"I was watching my son's game that afternoon, and I suddenly started to feel ill, but I just thought it was my heart giving me trouble as I've had cardiac issues in the past," Jay shared. "I kept an even greater distance from people to be on the safe side, but I really wasn't worried that I was dealing with the virus."

Jay admits that his skepticism about the virus was the reason for his lack of concern that it was the culprit behind his declining health. "There have been so many mixed messages surrounding the pandemic, and sometimes it's hard to decipher between what's fact or fiction," Jay said. "Plus, everyone that I knew that contracted it only experienced minor symptoms."

Jay's views immediately changed that day. By evening, he experienced full-blown symptoms, including body aches, chills, nausea, severe chest burning, a cough, and a high fever of 102.4. But, one particular symptom signaled to Jay that he wasn't dealing with your average flu. "My wife served pizza that night for dinner, and I couldn't smell or taste it. That's when I knew I had likely contracted the virus," Jay said.

On Oct. 12, Jay's suspicions were confirmed when he received the results that he had tested positive for COVID-19. Jay immediately contacted his doctor who wanted to admit him to the hospital. Jay declined and wanted to try to ride it out in his home. "Over time, my symptoms intensified to the point that I thought I was going to have to go to the hospital regardless. I prepared my wife that I'm likely going to be fighting for my life once I go."

Jay's doctor set up daily virtual meetings to monitor his heart and symptoms as he took the prescribed medications. Jay also had to purchase special medical equipment to monitor his breathing and heart. After a hard-fought battle, sometime between Oct. 19 and Oct. 21, Jay started to see improvement in his health. "It was a grueling 10 to 12 days, worse than anything I've ever experienced with the flu, but thankfully, I got through it," Jay expressed. "So far, there doesn't seem to be any serious after effects, but I have yet to gain back my ability to taste and smell."

Jay felt compelled to share his story to help others understand that this virus can severely impact people. "I just don't want anyone else to go through what I went through. I'm 48 years old, and even though I had some prior health challenges, I still didn't think it would be a big deal if I did get COVID," he admitted. "I want people to do whatever they can to take care of themselves because you don't know if you're going to be that one individual who ends up fighting for your life should you contract it."

Jay has been a member of the Gardner Police Department since 1998 and has served as Chief of Police since July 2019.



NEW BUSINESS NEWS

LITTLE BUILDING BLOCKS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Little Building Blocks (LBB), a locally owned childcare center, is expanding into a new 11,500 square-foot building located on south Gardner Road off 188th St. The new facility will offer early education and care for infants through school-age children and have a nature-based focus to provide enriching outdoor play and learning experiences. LBB is also celebrating its 15th year of service in Gardner and is excited to grow within the community.





(913) 732-3134
sshute@gardnerkansas.gov



A message from

MAYOR STEVE SHUTE

Well, Gardner, we finally made it to the last month of #2020. A once-in-a-century pandemic, untimely deaths, social unrest, murder hornets, an unprecedented election season, and much more have frayed our nerves, divided us, and created an atmosphere of hopelessness and despair for far too many.

The good news is this: 2020, and its challenges, will soon pass away. Hope and positivity are there if you look for it. Thankfully, a vaccine is coming in short order. Businesses will return, as will sporting events, family gatherings, and REAL vacations. (Yay!)

That's what makes this time of year magical. We look to the future with a sense of anticipation, newfound hope, and endless possibilities.

In the meantime, stay safe, look out for one another, and have a wonderful Holiday Season and a blessed and prosperous New Year!

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

GARDNER'S **HIDDEN GEMS**

INFINUM HEALTH DIRECT PRIMARY CARE

Today, many people live without health insurance due to the loss of a job or the inability to afford it. Places like Infinum Health Direct Primary Care literally serve as a lifesaver providing another option for these individuals. Infinum Health is a direct primary care practice, where patients pay a monthly membership fee for unlimited visits to the doctor all year.

“There are massive deficits in the availability of affordable health care for patients with or without money,” said Dr. James Smith, who opened his practice in Gardner in March of 2020.

According to Dr. Smith, Infinum Health offers all of the same services individuals might receive at a conventional family practice, but is cost transparent. Members receive same or next-day visits, direct access to the physician 24 hours per day (via phone, text or email), direct pricing on labs and imaging, and an in-house pharmacy for many of the most common prescriptions at a cost that is often less than franchise pharmacies.

“What this translates to is low-cost access to healthcare, whether you have insurance or not,” said Dr. Smith. “While we do not bill insurance, our patients find the cost of being a member is greatly offset by their savings from medications, lab work, imaging and co-pays. There are never any surprise bills here. If a patient needs labs or imaging studies, they know how much it will cost before leaving the office. Plus, members have a one-stop-shop for all their medical needs.”

Infinum Health takes pride in its healthcare model that strongly encourages a close patient-physician relationship made up of a team of equals with one goal in mind: to help the patient achieve optimum health. According to Dr. Smith, this is one reason why Gardner was chosen as the location to open his practice.

“We chose Gardner for our family medicine clinic because we are from small, close-knit communities and wanted to practice in a community that reminded us of where we came from,” Dr. Smith said. “The relationships that small communities have with their physicians are often closer, improving the overall quality of care. We’re not held by time constraints of 15-minute visits. We commit time to our patients and address their needs and give them the time they deserve. We are proud to know all of our patients and family members by name.”

Infinum Health is at 969 E. Lincoln Lane. To learn more about their services, visit infinumhealth.com, or call (913) 884-1924.



Holiday Happenings!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS BREAKFAST



Santa and Mrs. Claus want to attend our breakfast this year, but they need to make sure they stay healthy and safe so Santa can come visit your home on Christmas Eve. So, they asked us to put together a breakfast for you to enjoy with your family at home. Breakfast will include a bag of Chris Cakes® pancake mix, a letter you can send to Santa, a City of Gardner ornament, candy canes, and other goodies.

Cost: \$10.00 **Available:** Now through Dec. 20 (while supplies last)
Time: 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday **Location:** Gardner City Hall Parks and Recreation counter

HOLIDAY HOME LIGHTS TOUR



We want to see your beautiful holiday displays! Register now at City Hall. Categories to be awarded: Most Twinkling Lights, Most Creative Display, Best Use of Space, Most Festive Neighborhood, Best Business/Storefront, and Mayor's Choice. Winners will receive a yard sign to proudly display, a small prize, and a City of Gardner Ornament. Registration is **free** and open **until Friday, Dec. 11**.

Rules: Lights must be turned on during the following times of judging:
Monday, Dec. 14 (7pm-10pm) Tuesday, Dec. 15 (7pm-10pm) Wednesday, Dec. 16 (7pm-10pm)

Winners will be announced on Friday, Dec. 18

HARVESTERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY: SPECIAL HOLIDAY DATE



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at 555 W Main Street, has partnered with Harvesters to distribute food from their Mobile Food Pantry on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Because of the upcoming holiday, the next distribution has been moved up to the third Wednesday, Dec. 16, starting at 1 p.m. While distribution is primarily for the Gardner-Edgerton community, residency is not required.

Individuals interested in volunteering at the Mobile Food Pantry to help with setup, cleanup, traffic control, and other duties should email secretary@divinemercyks.org or call (913) 856-7781.

WINTER HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY



Nearly half of holiday fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart by remembering the following tips: 1) Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires. 2) Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can easily catch on fire. 3) Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles. 4) If you use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily. Contact Johnson County Fire District 1 at (913) 764-7635 for more fire safety information.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

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



TODD WINTERS
Council President
(913) 271-3587
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov



RICH MELTON
Council VP
(913) 207-7152
rmelton@gardnerkansas.gov



RANDY GREGORCYK
Councilmember
(316) 644-0292
rgregorcyk@gardnerkansas.gov



MARK BALDWIN
Councilmember
(913) 538-1878
mbaldwin@gardnerkansas.gov



TORY ROBERTS
Councilmember
(913) 449-5522
troberts@gardnerkansas.gov

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

Dec. 7 Dec. 21 Jan. 4 Jan. 19 Feb. 1



View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV



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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gardner, KS

POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030



www.GardnerKansas.gov



CityofGardnerKSGovernment



GardnerKansas



CityofGardnerKSGovernment

PARKS AND REC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW GARDNER PARKS AND RECREATION



FAMILY PROGRAMS

Home for the Holidays Breakfast
Holiday Home Lights Tour

DATE

Present
Dec. 14 - Dec. 16

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Sales end Dec. 20
December 11

AGE

All
All

COST

\$10
Free

ADULT PROGRAMS

Scrapbooking
Grand Slam Punch Cards

DATE

Jan. 29
On Sale Now

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Thursday before
N/A

AGE

12 & up w/ parent
21 & over

COST

\$5
\$10

FACE GAITERS FOR SALE

Gray neck gaiters

MUST PURCHASE IN CITY HALL AT THE PARKS AND RECREATION WINDOW

Available Now

Until sold out

One size

\$5

GRAND SLAM DISCOUNT CARDS

Stop by City Hall to pick up your Grand Slam discount cards to receive a special offer at various Kansas breweries, wineries, distilleries, and hometown liquor stores. Offers are good for one-time use by the cardholder only, and there is no limit to the number of cards you can purchase at \$10 each. So “treat” a friend, “thank” a teacher or coworker, or “stuff a stocking” for your family members. Offers expire December 31, 2021, unless otherwise noted on the card. For a complete list of participating vendors, visit our event site at www.gardnerparks.com. As a bonus, hold on to your punch card to receive \$5 off a 2021 Grand Slam Craft Beer, Wine & Spirits Fest ticket.



GRAND SLAM
BEER, WINE & SPIRITS

www.gardnerks.com

Offers valid for one-time use only.

\$10

Valid Thru: 12-31-2021
Unless specified

 AUGUSTINO Happy hour pricing anytime Only for single visit Only for card holder	 Empire 15% off Entire Purchase	 Loak Buy a Pint, Get a Pint for \$1	 HANNAHILLS BREWING 20% off a Gardner Fill	 Pretzel One free pretzel w/ \$10 purchase	 Taste \$5 off a purchase of \$25 or More
 BUCKLEY 10% off 2 or more Bottles of Wine (EXP: 12/31/2021)	 WINE 2 Free Wine Tastings & 20% off Bottles of Wine	 WINE 10% off Wine Purchases (Bottles, Tastings, By the Glass)	 WINE \$2 off a box of Wine Coolers	 WINE 10% off Wine Purchase	 WINE Buy 1, Get 1 Tasting Flight
 BUCKLEY 15% off all merch & spirits	 BOOT HILL DISTILLERY Half off a flight				
 Moonlight Liquor 265 Moonlight Rd 10% off wine & spirits (excluding cabinet - EXP: 12/31/2021)	 Gardner Liquor Store 18865 S Gardner Rd 10% off wine & spirits (excludes beer)	 Star Liquor & Wine 17505 S Waverly Rd 10% off liquor or wine (750mL or larger)			