



City of Gardner
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Gardner, Kansas 66030

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Mark your calendars



City Council Meetings:

- Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

*View more meeting dates at www.gardnerkansas.gov.

DON'T FORGET...

Christmas in the Park

The 25th Annual "Christmas in the Park" event kicks off with the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Monday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m., at Cornerstone Park. Seasonal music will be performed by area school children. The event will include a message from Mayor Chris Morrow as well as a visit from Santa himself. A lucky individual will be selected to flip the switch that turns on thousands of beautiful lights throughout Cornerstone Park. To cap the festivities, SANTA'S WORKSHOP will open to all boys and girls who wish to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves in action.



Santa's Workshop

Santa's Workshop will open immediately following the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and will re-open for the following dates: Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The entire family is invited to attend. Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov for more details.

Sign up for New Notification System

Haven't signed up for the city's new alert system TextCaster? Do so now to receive winter road condition updates from the city at www.gardnerkansas.gov/get-connected.

Upcoming Gardner Parks and Recreation Activities and Events:

Youth Programs:	Date:	Registration Deadline:	Age/Grade:	Costs:
Music Lessons	Nov 7 - Dec 19	Prior to class start	6-17	\$19
Christmas in the Park	Nov 30	NA	Any	Free
Santa's Workshop	Nov 30, Dec 6, 13	NA	Any	Free
Teen & Adult Tae Kwon Do	Nov 30 - Dec 26	Nov 23	13 and Up	\$45
Karate for Kids	Nov 30 - Dec 26	Nov 23	6-12	\$40
Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do	Dec 1 - Dec 26	Nov 23	3-6	\$40
Breaking Barriers Martial Arts	Dec 5 - Dec 26	Nov 23	Children & Adults	\$45
Holiday Home Decorating Contest	Dec 9 & 10	Dec 8	Any	\$5
Breakfast at the North Pole	Dec 12	NA	Any	\$5 at City Hall \$6 at Door
Jingle Bell Shop	Dec 13	Dec 9	3-12	\$3 items & up
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	Dec 14	Dec 11	2-10	\$3
Little Ballers Basketball	Jan - Feb	Nov 20	Pre K-1 st	\$50
Adult / Family Programs:				
Snow Sculpture Contest	Nov- March 31	NA	Any	Free
Men's Basketball	Jan 13	Jan 4	18 and Up	\$350
Co-ed Volleyball	Jan 17	Jan 4	18 and Up	\$150

November/
December
2015

CITY OF
GARDNER
BI-MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

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Gardner

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**Message from
Mayor Morrow**

Season's greetings!

As I write this message for the final "Inside Gardner" newsletter of 2015, we are all wishing for a World Series Championship from our beloved Kansas City Royals as an early Christmas present. Go Royals!

With fall in full swing, I want to take a moment to thank the 150+ volunteers who came out on Oct. 24 in support of Make a Difference Day 2015. These volunteers did their part to help beautify Gardner's parks, byways, and the Gardner Historical Museum. We had volunteers from local service organizations, church groups, scouting troops, 4H and many more, displaying the volunteer spirit for which Gardner is well known. Gardner, to me, is synonymous for giving.

Gardner embraces the holiday season as a time of joy, goodwill and giving. On Monday, Nov. 30, we will kick off the holiday season with our annual "Christmas in the Park" celebration. Bring the family, and join your friends and neighbors at Cornerstone Park. Students from every

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Winter weather preparedness—*are you ready?*

'Tis the season to start planning for family gatherings and holiday office parties, for more food than an entire army could possibly eat in one sitting, and for decorations that capture the spirit of the season.

But in addition to planning for food, festivities and fun, preparation for the potential weather dangers that often accompany the winter months is crucial.

Severe weather such as blizzards, snow and ice storms, and freezing temperatures can strike at any time, but with a bit of preparation, you can increase your safety through these types of weather events whether you're at home or on the road.

ON THE ROAD PREPAREDNESS TIPS

- 1. Check the Forecast:** Motorists should always find out about current and future weather conditions before leaving home.
- 2. Wait for the Roads to be Cleared:** If at all possible, try to avoid traveling on ice and snow-covered roads. If you must travel, remove any snow from your vehicle windows and wipers, lights, brake lights and signals.
- 3. Winterize your Vehicle.** Keep your gas tank at least half full and check your tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts and hoses.

4. Be Equipped: Prepare a safety kit of emergency supplies to stay in your car. The kit should include adequate clothing and blankets, basic essentials, ice scrapers, flashlights, extra batteries, matches, first-aid kit, and enough non-perishable food items for the entire family. Also, keep sand for traction and jumper cables stationed in your vehicle.

5. Drive Slowly: If you need to reach your destination at a certain time, plan for extra travel

time. Speeding or even driving at the posted speed can increase your risk of an accident. Remember to avoid sudden moves and press on your brakes gently. (Learn how to properly use anti-lock braking systems, if applicable.)

AT HOME PREPAREDNESS TIPS

- 1. Think Ahead:** Be prepared for electricity outages. Wet snow, sleet and freezing rain can sometimes lead to ice and snow buildup on trees and power lines. This buildup either by itself or combined with strong winds can snap tree limbs, causing them to fall and bring down power lines disrupting electrical service. Use flashlights during power outages instead of candles to prevent the risk of fire, and have plenty of extra batteries on-hand.
- 2. Winterize your Home:** Ensure proper home insulation by placing weather stripping around doors and windows. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold weather to prevent freezing. Open cabinets to allow warm air to reach the pipes. (Remove any stored chemicals in the opened cabinets if you have small children.)
- 3. Stock the Shelves:** Always keep enough food and water supplies that will last for at least three days.
- 4. Remember Pets:** Bring pets inside and store adequate food and water for them as well.
- 5. Be Safe:** Never bring portable generators, camp stoves, kerosene heaters and grills into your home; they should only be used outside. Keep them at least 20 feet away from your home's windows, doors and vents to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.
- 6. Maintain Communication:** Keep your cell phone fully charged when a storm is approaching and also anytime you're planning to leave the house.

Message from Mayor Morrow (continued)

school in our school district will entertain those in attendance with caroling, sung with great energy and joy. Attendees will also help countdown to the moment we flip the switch to light up Cornerstone Park for the 25th consecutive year. To top off the evening, the kids will receive a visit from a very special guest.



This year, again, you will have an opportunity to help others have a Merry Christmas. Programs such as the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, the Christmas for Children program, Toys for Tots, as well as many other programs are available for those who wish to contribute during this time of year.

It's a great time to live in Gardner, surrounded by such a generous community. I feel blessed that my family and I live here. All year long this community has shown a high level of compassion and devotion to the welfare of others. For that, I say "thank you."

Happy holidays to all and a Happy New Year in 2016.

Best regards, and may you all have a blessed holiday season.

Did You Know?

There is a new app you can download called "KS Vehicles Connect." This new app allows customers to 1) Get in line remotely for the six largest driver licensing offices; 2) Check the status of their driver's license; 3) Access their vehicle registration information and renew their tags online; and 4) Find the driver licensing or tag office closest to them with directions available.

So, visit your app store and download KS Vehicle Connect to handle many of your driver-related needs at your convenience.



City looks to advisory committee to help prioritize street projects funded by sales tax revenue

"Keep the good roads good," is the statement Public Works Director Brian Faust provided when asked how the sales-tax funded projects would be prioritized.

Faust, who serves as the city staff representative for the citizen-based Streets, Sidewalks and Stormwater Advisory Committee, says there is a tremendous amount of work to be done on the city's infrastructure, but it wouldn't be fiscally responsible to allow the roads that are currently in good condition to fall apart in order to work on roads that already have a "poor" rating or worse. Faust said the city can work to prevent premature failure of the pavements in good condition and thus save more money in the future for other infrastructure projects.

The Advisory Committee is discussing the use of the initial revenue generated from the sales tax to do any necessary maintenance needed to the roads that are currently in good shape and then move toward the roads that need a complete overhaul. They will provide the City Council with a list of projects to review in the first quarter of 2016.

The city is using MicroPAVER to manage the condition of its roads. MicroPAVER is a maintenance and repair management tool that is currently being used by more than 400 cities, counties, airports and private consulting firms. According to the American Public Works Association, the Federal Aviation Administration, US Army, US Air Force, US Navy, and Air National Guard have also adopted it as its pavement management system of choice.

"Using this technology software reduces the 'guessing factor' when determining the condition of our roads," Faust said. "We want to

use the sales tax money as efficiently as possible so we need to be precise when determining what roads need the most attention first and the type of attention."

In December, the advisory committee will have an opportunity to review the draft project list and provide their recommendations. The project list will be provided as a one-year plan, three-year plan and a ten-year plan.

The advisory committee is also discussing sidewalk needs during their monthly meetings.

Currently, the group is working on establishing criteria for sidewalk prioritization, which includes creating a rating system to determine which sidewalks to address first (or whether to install a sidewalk where one doesn't currently exists). The rating system criteria may include whether or not the sidewalk is a direct route to a school; if it has an accident history; and if it has a large volume of pedestrians who use the sidewalk.

The Streets, Sidewalks and Stormwater Advisory Committee meets the Tuesday following the first council meeting of every month at the Gardner Senior Citizen Building at 7 p.m.

In addition to Faust, committee members include Council Member Lee Moore and residents Adam Boydston, Bruce Hughes, Michael Thomas, Floyd Pretz, Sr. and Andy Stevens.

Contact Brian Faust at bfaust@gardnerkansas.gov or at 913.856.0914 for questions.

City's snow/ice removal process—help us, help you

Slick and snow-packed roads can often be a burden for motorists when staying home is not an option. The City of Gardner works diligently to alleviate some of that burden by commissioning crews of skilled operators working around the clock to keep city roads as clear as possible in order to keep motorists safe.



Understanding the city's snow and ice removal process will help motorists better plan their travel routes and increase their safety. Below is an overview of the city's snow/ice removal process:

- Crews plow when snowfall has reached two inches or above, anything less, crews will pre-treat the roads with salt or a de-icer.
- Crews aim to plow curb to curb, so motorists should remove cars parked in the streets if a snow event is predicted. Also, because plows do plow curb to curb, children should avoid making snow forts near the roads. Visibility is difficult for operators, so children should play away from the curbs.

- Streets are cleared by ranking:
 - ◆ **Priority 1:** Thoroughfare and arterial roads are completed first. These are the main roads that have the highest travel capacity.
 - ◆ **Priority 2:** Collector and main-line residential roads are completed next. These types of roads have moderate capacity.
 - ◆ **Priority 3:** Local residential streets will be cleared once the snow event ends and the clearing of Priority 1 and 2 have been completed.
 - ◆ **Priority 4:** Cul-de-sacs are plowed after snowfall ends and Priority 2 and 3 streets are cleared.

job for snowplow operators, but with motorists' patience and understanding of Gardner's snow and ice removal process, city crews can provide this service to motorists in the most efficient manner.

For more information about the city's snow removal process, contact the Public Works Department at 913.856.0922 or visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/snow_ice_removal/.



Snow removal can be a high-pressured and very intense

Gardner police officers receive valor awards

On Nov. 21, 2015, officers throughout the metropolitan area will be honored at the 44th Annual Awards for Valor luncheon, including four of Gardner's police officers.

Sergeant Kurt Hollingshead, a 23-year vet and officer Todd Pembleton, who joined the Gardner police force earlier this year will receive the Bronze Award for Valor. They are being recognized for their exceptional act of duty when responding to an armed disturbance call on June 22, 2015.

Eighteen-year vet Lieut. Lee Krout and 16-year vet Officer Joseph O' Lucci will each receive the Lifesaving Award. This award recognizes a person for saving a human life when the victim was in great risk of death and the life-saving measures were considered extraordinary.

Both officers were nominated for actions taken during their response to an emergency medical call on Jan. 6, 2015.

The Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association sponsors this annual event to recognize acts of heroism.



Sgt. Kurt Hollingshead, Officer Todd Pembleton, Lieut. Lee Krout, Officer Joseph O'Lucci

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