



# INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

March - April 2014

## 2013 Spent Preparing for the Future



Early in 2013, Gardner welcomed new members to the Governing Body. Steve Shute was elected to represent the citizens of Gardner on the City Council. Chris Morrow left his seat as a City Councilmember after being elected as

Mayor, and Tory Roberts was appointed to fill that seat after serving on the Planning Commission. The Governing Body worked together to establish rules of procedure, which ensure collaboration and civility in all matters of civic engagement. Community partnerships with USD 231, Johnson County government and regional businesses were refreshed and renewed, and a vision of what Gardner will be in the future began to form through the collaborative efforts of elected officials, City staff and community members.

Much was accomplished in 2013, including adopting a new budgeting process, initiating an update of the Comprehensive Plan, and encouraging strategic planning and community outreach to develop an understanding of the needs of today's Gardner and the potential of tomorrow.

City Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee introduced a visioning process, which included constructive input from citizens and community partners, as well as professional contributions from City staff. As part of this visioning process, the City Council adopted four strategic goals: developing new economic opportunities, improving the quality of life in our community, ensuring maintenance and development of adequate infrastructure, and maintaining a high level of fiscal stewardship. The implementation of these goals can be seen in some of the major accomplishments of 2013.

## Promote Economic Development

An update of the Comprehensive Plan began in 2013 and will continue through much of 2014. Developed with citizen participation and input, when complete it will represent what Gardner citizens want for their community.



The community will assist staff in identifying a vision, goals and policies, which will become part of the City's "business plan." This plan will guide staff over the next 20 years on how to invest in and place infrastructure, how the community is developed, and how people will move through the City.

The City began the process of creating a structured economic development strategy to ensure the Governing Body and City staff are good stewards of citizens' tax dollars used for any investment made or incentives offered for development. Economic development activities, such as marketing, rebranding and building internal capacity will allow the City to lead economic development efforts with community partners and determine what types of development the City wants to attract and can sustain.

## Improve Quality of Life

The City identified safety, community/neighborhood quality, leisure and cultural services and volunteerism as key focus areas to support the quality of life available for residents. Evaluating and assessing the needs of these areas requires community engagement. As part of the City's commitment to engaging our citizens, several improvements to the electronic delivery of information were made.



Enhancements to the information available on the City's webpage and social media outlets made it easier to access information where and when you need it. The Gardner Police Department and Gardner Parks and Recreation Department joined the City of Gardner on Facebook in 2013. These departmental pages allow citizens and customers to receive timely updates and communication from City staff. Community feedback is also encouraged through these electronic resources, ensuring services and programming continue to serve the needs of Gardner.

In effort to better communicate with citizens, the City launched a new digital publication service. The City can now upload documents, which can be viewed digitally as a booklet on a desktop computer, tablet or smart phone. Digital publications now available include the 2014 Budget, City newsletters and the Parks and Recreation Activity Guide.

Gardner Parks and Recreation also released an improved online Calendar of Activities and Special Events. This calendar provides citizens with up-to-date information community events, programs, and facilities, while links allow easy access to registration forms, costs and additional information.



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A newsletter published for the residents of  
the City of Gardner  
City Hall • 120 E. Main St.  
Gardner, KS 66030 • 856-0939

# Mayor's Message to Gardner Residents



Greetings fellow citizens,

On the morning of February 2nd, the groundhog saw its shadow, forecasting six more weeks of winter. Bummer, right? Not really. While this winter has been bitterly cold, icy and piled with snow, blessedly, spring is around the corner. Before we bid winter a fond farewell though, I would like to highlight a few things that happened around the city during the winter months.

First, many thanks to the City's street crews for working around the clock to keep our streets clear and safe. Neither snow, nor sleet, nor cold, nor gloom of night keeps our street crews from the swift completion of their duties. Plowing snow can seem like thankless work; after all, you can't always please everyone. But every winter our crews bundle up and work day and night for Gardner residents and they do it well.

Next, thanks to the Gardner Police Department for stripping down and participating in the "Polar Plunge" on January 25th. This was the second year our officers participated in this event, and this year they raised nearly \$2,500 in donations in support of Kansas Special Olympics and our own Gardner Gold team. Well done GPD!

Thank you to everyone who participated in community events for the City's Comprehensive Plan, which will be unveiled later this year. In the last week of January alone, our award winning partners at Houseal Lavigne Associates and City staff moderated meetings with local citizens and business owners, local faith leaders, the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and local elected leaders. Most importantly, we had 50 people show up for an interactive community workshop; an effort and event that was roundly praised by those participating. Opportunities to participate will continue and you can also get involved from the comfort of your own home via the Comprehensive Plan website at [www.hlplanning.com/portals/gardner/](http://www.hlplanning.com/portals/gardner/). There you can find a citizen or business survey and a fun and interactive map feature to help you plan the City's future.

Finally, everyone please get ready. With spring right around the corner, relief is in sight. It will get warmer and greener, and opportunities to get out and enjoy your community will abound. You may want to stay busy working in your yard, but I also recommend participating in our Earth Day / Arbor Day Celebration (and Greenway clean-up) on April 26th. It is a fun event that my family and I show up for every year. Also, please make sure to look at the Parks and Recreation January – March 2014 Activity Guide to see what type of fun activities can be enjoyed by nearly any member of the family. To truly stay current, make sure to keep an eye on the new Parks and Recreation online calendar. Both can be found at: [gardnerkansas.gov/parks/](http://gardnerkansas.gov/parks/).

Best wishes to all for an early arriving, warm and productive spring season for all. With any luck, that groundhog's forecast got it wrong after all. Best regards,

## Calendar of Meetings

Mar	3	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Mar	4	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting - 6:30 PM
Mar	6	Electric Utility Board - Work Session 7:00 PM - Regular Meeting 7:15 PM
Mar	17	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Mar	25	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM
Apr	1	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting - 6:30 PM
Apr	3	Electric Utility Board - Work Session 7:00 PM - Regular Meeting 7:15 PM
Apr	7	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Apr	21	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Apr	22	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM

## Gardner City Council

**Chris Morrow, Mayor**  
913-269-8495 (Cell)  
[cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov)

**Kristy Harrison, Council President**  
913-884-2115 (Home)  
[kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov)

**Larry Fotovich, Council Vice President**  
913-856-4458 (Home)  
[lfotovich@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:lfotovich@gardnerkansas.gov)

**Heath Freeman, Council Member**  
913-908-2627 (Cell)  
[hfreeman@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:hfreeman@gardnerkansas.gov)

**Tory Roberts, Council Member**  
913-449-5522 (Cell)  
[troberts@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:troberts@gardnerkansas.gov)

**Steve Shute, Council Member**  
913-938-6887 (Cell)  
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Messages may also be left for any  
Council Member or the Mayor at  
913-856-0939

## City Management

**City Administrator**  
**Cheryl Harrison-Lee**  
[charrison-lee@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:charrison-lee@gardnerkansas.gov)  
913-856-0939

**Community Development Director**  
**Michael Hall**  
[mhall@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:mhall@gardnerkansas.gov)  
913-856-0913

**Finance Director**  
**Laura Gourley**  
[lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov)  
913-856-7535

**Parks & Recreation Director**  
**Jeff Stewart**  
[jstewart@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:jstewart@gardnerkansas.gov)  
913-856-0936

**Police Chief**  
**Gerry Cullumber**  
[gculumber@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:gculumber@gardnerkansas.gov)  
913-856-7312

**Public Works Director**  
**Brian Faust**  
[bfaust@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:bfaust@gardnerkansas.gov)  
913-856-0914

**Electric Utility Director**  
**William Krawczyk**  
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913-856-7256

# Items of Note, Project Updates & Community Information

## Parks and Recreation Receives BlueCHIP Award



The City of Gardner is proud to announce that the Parks and Recreation Department is the recipient of the 2014 Blue Cross Blue Shield BlueCHIP Award. The honor recognizes the department as an agency that encourages and supports healthy lifestyles through programs, initiatives, policies, recreation facilities and community wide events.

Blue Cross Blue Shield presented the award to the department at the Kansas Recreation and Park Association Conference in January. In addition to the prestigious recognition, Gardner Parks and Recreation Department will receive a \$2,500 gift to support its youth scholarship fund and new programming for the senior population.

## 2014 Swimming Lesson Registrations

Opening day for swimming lesson registration is Saturday, April 5th at 8:00 a.m.

**Session 1** June 2 - June 12      **Session 3** July 7 - July 17  
**Session 2** June 16 - June 26      **Session 4** July 21 - July 31

### How to Register

1. **Online** at [www.gardnerkansas.gov](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov)  
 Avoid long lines at City Hall and register online beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5th. For a smoother transaction, setup your online account early at [www.gardnerkansas.gov/swim\\_lessons](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/swim_lessons).

2. **Walk-In** at City Hall, 120 E. Main St.  
 Registration will be taken from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware that lines may be long! After April 6<sup>th</sup>, registration will be taken at the same location, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please note that:

- Registration is done on a first come-first served basis.
- Parents are allowed to register their children only. Waivers must be signed by legal guardian.
- One class per child. Additional classes may be available at the conclusion of the first session.

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## Infrastructure and Asset Management

Asset management represents an investment in City resources to ensure delivery of services, including an investment in the City's human assets – the employees. In 2013, 16 employees were recognized for providing 205 combined years of service to the City of Gardner. The employees of the City of Gardner are the foundation for all services provided to our community, and a plan to support and sustain them is as important as the maintenance of City equipment.

The City committed to the first year of a three-year plan to revise the technology infrastructure, including deploying a business continuity/disaster recovery plan, establishing network standard equipment and improving network performance, speed, security and supportability. City equipment, buildings and facilities will be evaluated to ensure existing infrastructure is maintained and investments in future assets are carefully planned to facilitate the delivery of City services, as well as support economic development.

## Fiscal Stewardship

The City Council embraced a new budgeting process for the 2014 Budget. Priority-based budgeting is a long, multi-year planning process that includes evaluating results and adjusting the process as needed. Priority-based budgeting allows the Governing Body and City staff to be excellent stewards of taxpayers' dollars by making strategic decisions with limited resources, and to monitor and correct the plan as necessary throughout the year to ensure the success and sustainability of City services.



## Conclusion

The City of Gardner has a bright future filled with much opportunity. The foresight, planning and preparation of 2013 provide a strong foundation for the City's unique strategic position. Gardner is ready to greet these opportunities and embrace what the future has to offer. But this is not just a one-year process. Watch as the City of Gardner continues the important work of 2013 into 2014 and beyond.

## Upcoming Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Recreation Baseball/Softball/T-Ball	Late April-End June	February 28	5 to 15 years	\$50-\$80
Youth Tennis Lessons	April 6	April 4	5 to 12 years	\$35
Spring Break Theatre Camp	March 17-21	March 10	5 to 13 years	\$70
Kids' Garage Sale	March 22	March 17	6 to 16 years	\$7
Player Development Soccer Program	March 27-May 1	March 21	5 to 12 years	\$65
Easter Eggstravaganza	April 12	April 7	4 to 12 years	\$15
Park Champion Program	April 1	N/A	12 and under	Free
Swimming Lessons	April 5 - 8:00 AM	Until Full	18 mo. and older	\$50
Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do	March 17-April 12	February 17	3 to 6 years	\$40
Karate for Kids	March 17-April 12	February 17	6 to 12 years	\$40

Adult / Family Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Women's Volleyball	April 8	March 28	18 and older	\$150
Scrapbooking	March 22 / April 5	Thursday before crop	12 and older	\$5
A Little Princess - Play	April 18-19	N/A	All ages	\$7-\$9
Adult Softball	Early April	March 14	18 and older	\$450/team
Couples Doubles Tennis	April 6	April 4	18 and older	\$60/couple
Earth Day	April 26	April 21	All ages	Free

Additional program information can be found by visiting [www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs\\_activities/](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs_activities/).



City of Gardner  
120 E. Main Street  
Gardner, Kansas

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**Gardner Historical Museum—Upcoming Events**

**Hours:**

*Gardner Historical Museum - 204 W. Main St.*  
Saturday through Tuesday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Closed Friday evenings during the winter

*The Bray House - 207 W. Shawnee St.*  
Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Call 913-856-4447 to schedule a tour.  
Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)



**Upcoming Exhibits**

- April: “Railroads - featuring Gardner Depot”

Visit [www.gardnerhistoricalmuseum.com](http://www.gardnerhistoricalmuseum.com) for more information!

**New at the Gardner Library this Spring**

Head on over to the Gardner Library for family fun this Spring!



**Family Storytime**

Wednesdays, March 5th - April 23rd, 7:00 PM  
Kids can wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal to the Library for a fun session of stories, songs and fingerplays before bedtime. Geared toward preschoolers and parents, but fun for the whole family! No registration is necessary.

**Toddler Storytime**

Fridays, March 7th - April 25th, 1:15 PM  
For ages 18-36 months with a caring adult. Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes. No registration is necessary.

Visit the Gardner Library or [www.jocolibrary.org](http://www.jocolibrary.org) to learn more.

**Gardner Aquatic Center Pool Passes on Sale Now**



Season Passes and Punch Cards for the Gardner Aquatic Center are currently on sale for the 2013 Summer Season. Purchase your pass by **May 2nd** and receive \$20 off any family pass or \$10 off any individual pass.

Passes and Punch Cards can only be purchased at the Gardner Parks and Recreation Customer Service Counter located in City Hall. The counter is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Season Passes	Family	Individual
Resident	\$140.00	\$80.00
Non-Resident	\$180.00	\$115.00

**Police Department Takes “Polar Plunge”**

For the second year in a row, the Gardner Police Department teamed up with Kansas Special Olympics to participate in the 2014 Polar Plunge held on January 25th.

Thanks to the support of friends, family, residents and local business owners, officers were able to raise nearly \$2,500 in donations to support the Kansas Special Olympics and the local Gardner Gold team.



**City to Conduct Citizen Survey**

The 2014 Citizen Survey may be coming to your mailbox. The City of Gardner is once again partnering with the ETC Institute to conduct a random survey of citizen satisfaction. Only a limited number of households are selected at random to receive the survey, so it is very important that you participate if selected.



The last survey was completed in 2011 with feedback solicited from 2,000 households and 816 completing the survey via phone or mail. Results indicated that the City should continue emphasis on traffic flow, maintenance of streets, buildings and facilities, and provision of utility services. Information gathered from the survey serves as a valuable tool to determine how well the City is doing, and to identify potential improvements and future opportunities. The information is also utilized by the Governing Body and City staff during the priority-based budgeting process.

To view the 2011 and 2009 survey results, please visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/citizen\\_survey](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/citizen_survey).

**Annual Community-Wide Garage Sale**



The annual community-wide garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 3rd. There are several convenient places to register around town, including Gardner Pharmacy, The UPS Store and Blazer’s Restaurant.

The cost to register and have your sale included on the handout map is \$5. Garage sale location maps can be purchased for just \$1 at all of the above-listed businesses. All proceeds will go towards a local Gardner food drive to help those in need of assistance.

For questions regarding this year’s community-wide garage sale, please contact Dawn Mercier, owner of The UPS Store, at (913) 856-4501.