

G INSIDE GARDNER

City places focus on serving Gardner military members



Serving local military members and their families has become an increasingly important priority for the City of Gardner.

A recent study, conducted by the USC School of Social Work center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families, showed 61 percent post-9/11 veterans reported having difficulty adjusting to civilian life, 74 percent did not have a job when they left the military and 44 percent screened positive for post-traumatic stress disorder. Because of these challenges, Gardner has partnered with the national Joining Community Forces initiative, which focuses on community-level efforts to support military members and strengthen the local military community.

In response, the city has developed a local Joining Community Forces page on its website to provide resource information to veterans, service members and their families. The page, www.gardnerkansas.gov/militaryresourceinformation, offers direct links for assistance in the areas of health, employment, housing and more.

"There are several resources available to assist members of the military, but unfortunately, a lot of those resources go untapped due to a lack of awareness," said Mayor Chris Morrow. "We felt it was our duty to spread the word about these services to the men and women who have done so much for our country, as well as their families who make sacrifices daily."

The city is also looking to recognize and celebrate members of the military through various local activities and events.

"In order for us to personally acknowledge our Gardner service people, we have to know who they are," Morrow said. "We encourage each of them to visit our new military web page and sign up for our email and text service so they can receive related information and announcements."

Hard copies of military resource information are available at Gardner City Hall. For more information about Joining Community Forces, visit www.jointservicesupport.org/communityforces.



New Orscheln store opens in Gardner

Gardner residents have another place to shop with the opening of the new Orscheln Farm & Home retail store, located at 18710 S. Gardner Road.

Orscheln is a retail chain offering automobile goods, apparel, farm supplies, hunting equipment, lawn and garden supplies, tools and pet/livestock items.

In addition to providing numerous products, the new store is also offering employment opportunities with part-time positions currently available. The city encourages residents to visit Orscheln and help support this local business as Gardner continues to pursue economic development and growth.

The store's hours are from Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.





RideKC

The program, which was initiated by Johnson County and administered by the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), uses the 10/10 Taxi service to provide transportation to anyone 65 and older as well as anyone with a disability.

Those eligible can go anywhere they want in the region up to 10 miles for \$5 each way. Riders will have to pay the regular cost of the fare after the first 10 miles. The service is available any day at any time, including weekends and holidays. Ten one-way trips are allowed each month.

Those interested can apply at www.ridekc.org/mobility-services/ridekc-taxi or by calling 816.221.0660. The pilot program was funded by Johnson County and federal grants. After one year, KCATA will review the pilot program to determine its feasibility and will continue it upon a successful evaluation.

New RideKC Taxi program services seniors and riders with disabilities

Seniors and individuals with a disability in Johnson County will have more freedom to get around these days with a new pilot taxi voucher program called RideKC Taxi.

For more information about the RideKC initiative, visit www.ridekc.org.

A message from

MAYOR CHRIS MORROW

Greetings fellow citizens,

August marked the end of our city budget cycle. Adopting the budget is the biggest policy decision city council makes on behalf of the citizens of Gardner. I'm proud to report that in 2017 Gardner's governing body has held property taxes in check again, just as we have each of the past six budgets. In fact, due to our consolidation with Fire District #1 and the termination of our contract with them, the total city mill rate will shrink from 29.455 to 20.544. In turn, Fire District #1 will be showing up on our residents property tax bills in 2017, but that increase will be largely offset by the reduction initiated by the city. Also, again,

Gardner's utility rate payers will see no increases for water, wastewater or electric utility rates.

Construction is taking shape at Gardner-Edgerton High School's Advanced Technical Center. This project, along with other GEHS expansion projects, are brought to our community by the patrons of the school district who voted for the 2016 School Bond, elected Board of Education officials, and dedicated Unified School District staff. Many thanks to all involved for serving our students and helping keep all our schools great!

In conjunction with classes resuming,

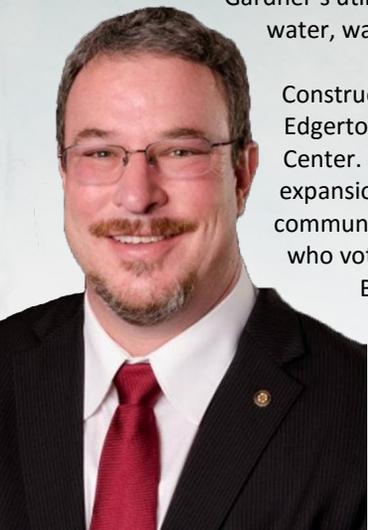
the city just completed its second annual crosswalk safety campaign to bring attention to the importance of cyclist, pedestrian and motorist safety. Please be careful of students, and all other pedestrians, as you make your way around town.

You've probably noticed some improvements being made to Gardner streets. More than half a dozen projects are going on around town, most notably on Madison Street and also on Center Street, south of the railroad tracks. Many of these projects are being paid with proceeds from the half-cent sales tax extension passed by Gardner voters in September 2015, while the Center Street improvement is paid in part by the Johnson County CARS program. People driving in Gardner will continue to see improvements to our streets.

Finally serving local veterans, military members and their families has become an increasingly important priority across America. In response, the City of Gardner has developed a local Military Resource Information page on the city website in partnership with the nationwide "Joining Community Forces" initiative. As a veteran myself, I am proud that Gardner has placed a premium on helping those who have served and currently serve our nation.

Enjoy a great autumn everyone!

Best regards,



Scott Garrie named new Parks and Recreation Director

Scott Garrie is the new Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Gardner.

Scott's background includes more than 16 years of business management and parks experience. Along with his day-to-day parks and recreation knowledge, his areas of expertise include budgeting and forecasting, operations management, customer relations, financial management, capital and project management, training and development, and strategic planning.

Prior to joining the City of Gardner, Scott served as the Parks and Recreation Director for Joplin, Missouri.

"I knew immediately Gardner was a good fit for me when I learned leadership placed a major focus on improving the quality of life for its citizens," Garrie said. "The city has already established an amazing parks and recreation program that has made a reputation for itself. I look forward to providing the leadership needed to take our program to even greater heights."

In his new role, Garrie will provide managerial leadership; oversee the budget; and direct the planning, development and operation of citywide parks, recreation, and leisure service programs and facilities. His work also includes administering park master



plans, projecting capital expenditures and serving as a resource to the City Administrator and the Governing Body.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

Scott brings along his wife, Kate, of 16 years and their three children to Gardner. He enjoys spending time with family and friends and attending his children's sporting events and activities. Scott's favorite things to do include having fun with his kids, grilling, fishing, golfing, playing tennis, watching reruns of sitcoms, classic '80s movies, and Tom and Jerry cartoons, working on home improvement projects, listening to '70s and '80s music and eating cereal. Scott also loves the fall and winter seasons. He supports the Royals and Chiefs, and he is an avid KU Jayhawks fan.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me," Garrie said. "Gardner is a thriving city that is growing beyond measure, and I look forward to being a contributing factor in its continued success."

Garrie holds a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation, a master's degree in business management and a master's degree in management and leadership. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive.

DID YOU KNOW?

You never have to miss an announcement, event or activity happening in Gardner ever again. All you have to do is connect with us through one of our many communication outlets. Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/communications and sign up to receive notifications via email and text as well as through social media.



CITY COUNCIL

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Messages may also be left for any Council Member or the Mayor at 913.856.0939

CITY MANAGEMENT

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POSTAL PATRON
GARDNER, KS 66030

Mark your calendars



City Council Meetings:

- Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.
- Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

*View more meeting dates at www.gardner-kansas.gov

Don't forget!

Boo Bash event slated for Oct. 25

Plan to attend Gardner's 20th annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park on Oct. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening will consist of ghastly games, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes, a hayrack ride along the park trails and more! Pumpkin decorating contest winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m., followed by a fire-eating performance. The evening will conclude with a grand prize drawing. Free pop and popcorn will be available while supplies last. Concessions will also be open for purchase of other goodies. Purchase \$3 wristbands for children 12 and under in advance at City Hall from Oct. 10 to Oct. 25. In case of inclement weather, the Boo Bash will be postponed to Thurs. Oct. 27. Call the weather hotline at noon on Oct. 25 for cancellation details: 913.543.5305.



To view the most current calendar of all upcoming Parks and Recreation events, scan the QR code with your phone using a QR scanner app!



UPCOMING GARDNER PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Youth Programs				
Martial Arts Classes	Sept. 10	Sept. 6	6 and Older	\$45-\$50
NFL Punt, Pass & Kick	Sept. 11	N/A	6-15	Free
Babysitting Clinic	Oct. 10	Oct. 3	11-16	\$55
Competitive Basketball	Nov. 6; Jan. 8	Oct. 14; Dec. 9	Grades 3-6	\$400/\$750
Youth Basketball	Early Dec.	Oct. 14	Grades 1-6	\$60
LTD Basketball Camps	Oct. 6; Dec. 30	Sept. 30; Dec. 22	K-12	\$65; \$25
Little Ballers Basketball	Jan-Feb	Nov. 18	Pre-K (4)-1st Grade	\$50
Adult/Family Programs				
Kids' Fishing Derby	Sept. 10	September 2	12 & Under	Free
Movies in the Park (You chose Jungle Book!)	Sept. 10	N/A	All	Free
Women's Volleyball	Sept. 13	Sept. 2	18 & Older	\$175
Walk & Read Weekend	Sept. 24, 25	N/A	All	Free
Square Dance Lessons	Oct. 11; Jan. 17	Oct. 7; Jan. 13	14 & Older	\$45; \$25
Investment Classes*	Oct. 20; Nov. 19; Dec. 14	One week prior to class	18 & Older	Free
Pumpkin Decorating Contest	Oct. 25	N/A	All	You supply pumpkin
Boo Bash	Oct. 25	N/A	12 & Under	\$3 wristbands
KC Chiefs Tickets	Nov. 6 & 20; Dec. 18	Two weeks before game	All	\$45 per ticket
Mother-Son Laser Tag	Nov. 12	Nov. 4	Boys 5-10	\$25 per couple

*For the Investment Classes, please RSVP one week prior at 913.856.6233 or at aaron.wyant@edwardjones.com