

INSIDE GARDNER

City holds town hall meeting to discuss proposed justice center

The city held a town hall meeting last month to provide information to the public about the proposed Justice Center. The Justice Center would replace the current Gardner Police Department facility and also house Municipal Court operations currently held in City Hall.

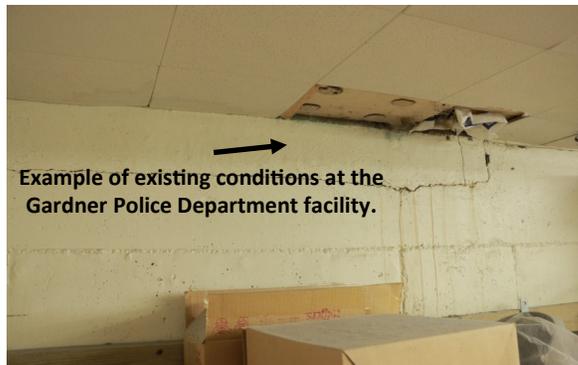
In 2013, a facilities tour was conducted and identified the current police building as inadequate due to the poor facility conditions and anticipated future needs.

The 50-year-old station contains rotting walls, decaying pipe structures, and cracks throughout. There are also ripped ceilings, poor ventilation and air quality, and an outdated and inefficient electrical system. Insufficient space and accessibility also serve as major challenges for both officers and citizens.

Municipal Court is overcrowded due to the approximately 300-plus individuals attending court each session. This congestion interferes with day-to-day operations in City Hall and creates an unsafe, stressful environment for staff and visitors who may be there with their families to pay a bill, sign up for a parks and recreation program or purchase a permit.

This congestion carries over to the City Hall parking lot and also leads to off-site parking, impacting area businesses.

On Aug. 1, voters will be asked to approve \$13.725 million in General Obligation Bonds to fund the proposed Justice Center. This principal amount plus the estimated interest cost of



Example of existing conditions at the Gardner Police Department facility.

\$5.34 million breaks down to approximately \$950,000 in annual debt payment for 20 years.

The debt will be paid by property owners' increased tax revenues resulting from recent growth in property values. For example, the average Gardner home value is \$195,000, and the additional taxes generated by the growth equates to approximately \$3.74 monthly or \$44.85 annually.

The city plans to use its share of the countywide sales tax that was approved last fall for the Johnson County Courthouse, which covers approximately 50 percent of the debt payment for the first 10 years.

For more information about the proposed Justice Center, additional examples of impact on taxes, or for the ballot language, visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/justicecenter. Explanatory videos from the town hall meeting are also available at that site.

Gardner Police Department supports One Mind Campaign

The Gardner Police Department (GPD) will participate in the International Association of Chiefs of Polices One Mind Campaign. The campaign seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons with mental illness. In support of the campaign, GPD is committed to the following four strategies:

1. Establishing a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with one or more community mental health organizations.
2. Developing and implementing a model policy addressing police response to persons affected by mental illness.
3. Training and certifying 100 percent of the agency's sworn officers in Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety.
4. Providing Crisis Intervention Team training to a minimum of 20 percent of the agency's sworn officers.

GPD is one of the first agencies in Kansas to participate in this initiative. For questions, contact GPD Chief James Pruetting at jpruetting@gardnerkansas.gov.



Crosswalk safety is everyone's responsibility

The school season is nearly one month away, which means more pedestrians, especially students, will be using crosswalks. Because of this increased presence in the crosswalks, the city wants to remind the public about important safety tips that will help keep motorists, pedestrians and cyclists safe.

MOTORISTS

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.
- Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks. Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with crosswalks.
- Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders who approach the crosswalk much more quickly than pedestrians.
- Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross.
- Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.

PEDESTRIANS

- Always cross at marked crosswalks. You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.
- Obey any pedestrian signals and look left-right-left to make sure the road is clear in both directions before crossing.



- Look before walking past stopped vehicles. Do not cross just because a driver waves you on. Be sure all lanes are clear first.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles.

BICYCLISTS

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.
- Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.
- Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads and sidewalks. Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.

A message from **MAYOR CHRIS MORROW**

Greetings fellow citizens,

My priorities as Mayor of Gardner are based on your priorities, and what you value most about our community. What I've heard and seen on survey results, is that Gardner values public safety and the work of our Gardner Police Department. Because of the value we place on this priority, Gardner is considered as one of the safest and most peaceful cities in Kansas every year.

This leads me to the "Proposed Justice Center," which will be on the ballot on Aug. 1, during the primary election. The new Justice Center would contain our Gardner Police, Municipal Court and other flexible space for community use and future growth. The need for this Justice Center has already been studied and considered by your elected representatives. In fact, the city has already purchased property where the Justice Center will someday exist.

In the meantime, the building that houses our current police station is old and undersized. It was originally built in 1965 as a service center for

Contel, which at the time was a large landline telephone service provider. The building was sold (donated) to the City of Gardner in 1990 for \$1.

Municipal Court is currently held in City Hall Council Chambers. The space is too crowded for efficient operations. It also causes disruption for other business that is conducted in city hall for utilities, parks and recreation, and business and economic development. Downtown parking on court days is becoming nearly impossible for those attending court, wishing to do business at city hall, or visit one of our downtown businesses. There are also not enough spaces at the police station for fleet vehicles and other parking.

In 1990, the population of Gardner was 3,200 residents, and today it's increased by 700 percent with a population nearing 22,000 citizens.

Gardner is a community of choice and great character, and by investing in the very thing we value most, safety, we can ensure it will remain that way. Please get informed on the issues surrounding this ballot measure and vote in the Aug. 1, 2017 election.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Morrow".



Home fire prevention tips

In 2015, there were 1,345,500 fires reported in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association. These fires caused 3,280 civilian deaths, 15,700 civilian injuries, and \$14.3 billion in property damage. To help prevent these harmful fires, it is important for everyone to know the following fire prevention tips:



- Keep flammable items away from heat sources, such as stoves and space heaters. Pot holders and towels can often be thrown inadvertently on stoves, and clothing and fabrics can also easily catch on fire.
- While grilling, frying or broiling foods on the stove, remain in the kitchen or near the grill to ensure that nothing catches on fire.
- Do not leave the oven on when away from the home.
- Turn off space heaters at night and when no one is in the room.

- Educate children about fire safety and remind them about the risk of playing with matches and lighters. Parents should take measures to keep such items out of reach from small children.

- Keep pets away from heat sources. Animals that climb or jump on counter tops can knock over a candle or items around the stove.

Sometimes, fires occur despite fire prevention measures. Working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide

detectors can provide warning systems in the event of a fire or gas leak. Setting up an escape plan can help ensure everyone makes it out of the home safely should a fire erupt.

If you do not have a working smoke detector or need one, contact the Fire Department at 913.764.7635.

Fire prevention tips provided by Fire District #1

To flush or not to flush...sharp items

The city is seeing an increased number of sharp items emerging from its wastewater collection facility. These items, such as medical needles and lancets, not only wreak havoc on city machines and equipment, but are extremely harmful for city employees who work directly with wastewater collection.

Should one need to dispose of a needle or any other sharp item, the proper steps must be taken. Needles should be recapped and placed inside a "sharp container," which are specifically designed for depositing needles and syringes. If a sharp container is not available,

individuals can use a heavy-duty household container (e.g. laundry detergent/bleach container or metal container with a screw-on lid). The container lid should then be taped shut, labeled "SHARPS" and placed in the trash can—never in a recycle bin.

For more on what not to flush, visit gardnerkansas.gov/wastewatercollection.



DID YOU KNOW?

July is Parks and Recreation Month. The month is celebrated to recognize parks and recreation professionals who help raise awareness of the vital impact parks, recreation and conservation have on communities. This year's theme, set by the National Recreation and Park Association, is "Get Your Play On." This theme serves as a reminder of the importance of play and how much can be discovered at local parks and facilities.



CITY COUNCIL

Chris Morrow, Mayor
913.269.8495 (Cell)
cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov

Steve Shute, Council President
913.938.6887 (Cell)
sshute@gardnerkansas.gov

Dr. Todd Winters, Council Vice President
913.271.3587 (Cell)
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov

Kristy Harrison, Council Member
913.884.2115 (Home)
kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov

Rich Melton, Council Member
913.207.7152 (Cell)
rmelton@gardnerkansas.gov

Lee Moore, Council Member
913.938.6686 (Cell)
lmoore@gardnerkansas.gov

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

CITY MANAGEMENT

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, City Administrator
charrison-lee@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.0939

Larry Powell, Business and Economic Development Director
lpowell@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.0919

Laura Gourley, Finance Director
lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.7535

Scott Garrie, Parks and Recreation Director
sgarrie@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.0936

James Pruetting, Police Chief
jpruetting@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.7312

Michael Kramer, Public Works Director
mkramer@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.0914

Gonzalo Garcia, Utilities Director
ggarcia@gardnerkansas.gov
913.856.0980

POSTAL PATRON
GARDNER, KS 66030

Mark your calendars



City Council Meetings:

- July 17 at 7 p.m.
- August 7 at 7 p.m.
- August 21 at 7 p.m.
- Sept. 5 at 7 p.m.

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

Don't forget!

Gardner Grind Adventure Race- Saturday, August 12, 8:00 a.m.

Do you have what it takes to complete the Gardner Grind throughout Celebration Park (32501 W. 159th St.)? On the trail around the west side of the park there will be obstacles, water challenges and of course....mud!! The race is one mile long and there will be nearly 15 challenges along the way. In addition to the race, there will be music and snacks. Participants must be at least seven years old. The cost is \$30. Each participant will receive a t-shirt as well as other items. Individuals, families and groups of all kinds are encouraged to sign up and run together!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 10 online; August 11 in person at City Hall. (Register by July 21 to get your shirt by race day.)

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	July 30; Sept. 2	July 26; Aug 28	3-Adult	\$45-\$50
Youth Soccer	August 26	July 14	4 yrs. – 8th Grade	\$70
British Soccer Camp	July 31	July 21	2-14	Varies
Micro Soccer	August 26	August 19	2 - 4	\$60
Youth Volleyball	September 12	August 11	3rd-6th Grade	\$60
Soccer Player Development	August 31	August 18	5-12	\$70
Flag Football	September 25	August 18	1st-6th Grade	\$65
Middle School Volleyball	September 17	August 25	7th-8th Grade	\$65
Safesitter Babysitting Class	October 9	October 2	11-16	\$55
Adult/Family Programs				
GAC Member Appreciation Night	July 13	N/A	All ages	Free to members w/card
Flick N' Float (<i>Finding Dory</i>)	July 20	N/A	18 and older	\$4/\$3 for members
KC Chiefs Tickets	Aug. 11 & 31	Two weeks before game	All ages	\$30
Movies in the Park (<i>Monsters University</i>)	August 12	N/A	All ages	\$6 or membership
Music in the Park (<i>Perpetual Change</i>)	September 9	N/A	All ages	Free
Kids' Fishing Derby	September 9	September 1	12 & Under	\$5
Square Dance Lessons	September 12	September 8	14-Senior	\$25-\$45
Women's Indoor Volleyball	September 13	September 2	18 & Up	\$175
BBQ, Bingo & Boot Scootin'	September 15	September 8	All ages	\$15
Walk and Read Weekend	September 23-24	N/A	All	Free
Grand Slam Beer & Wine Fest	September 29	Tickets available!	21+	\$20-\$25
Smoke on the Trails BBQ Event	September 29 & 30	N/A	All ages	Free