

# GARDEN CITY

## Community Update

Spring 2026



### WHAT'S NEW



#### In Progress

ACHD's 43rd St. Enhanced Crossing Project, now through Summer, 2026



#### Parks

Replacement playground equipment at Pam Beaumont River Front Park



#### Calendar

Garden City Town Hall meeting  
April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 PM

### Mayor's Message



As we move into spring, Garden City continues to focus on improving infrastructure, supporting local partnerships, and maintaining spaces our community can enjoy.

It is an honor to serve as Mayor of Garden City. After succeeding Mayor Evans, my first few months in office have been both educational and exciting. Garden City may be small, but a tremendous amount is happening here, and I've spent much of my time meeting with regional partners such as ACHD, ITD, and VRT, as well as local businesses, community groups, and residents.

One of my priorities as mayor is making sure we stay connected as a community. Listening to residents and business owners helps us make better decisions and build a stronger city together.

In the coming months, you'll see several items moving forward that reflect the goals I shared during my campaign. These include launching a city newsletter, hosting regular community town halls, improving Greenbelt signage and promoting responsible use, and supporting events that highlight Garden City's unique culture and businesses.

I'm particularly excited about *Experience Garden City at the Boardwalk*, a new event scheduled for May 30th that celebrates our local craft beverage community. We're also working with FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to update floodplain maps—an effort that could reduce costs for both residents and businesses. The City is excited about America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, the new professional soccer team at Expo Idaho, and the joint Garden City Visitors Bureau and Garden City Chamber's shuttle service connecting local businesses to the games.

My vision is simple: to make Garden City the best place in the Treasure Valley to live, work, and recreate. We want our city to be welcoming, safe, and easy to work with—whether you are raising a family, starting a business, or visiting for the first time.

Garden City is fortunate to have incredible community resources, including our Police Department, the Surel Mitchell Live-Work-Crete District, and the Greenbelt. We love the fact that our Library's motto is "*Not a quiet library!*" These are just a few of the things that make our city unique and special.

I'm optimistic about Garden City's future. Together with our City Council, I invite your feedback, ideas, and participation. Please join our town hall on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at City Hall. I hope to see you there.

Thank you to the residents and businesses who make Garden City such a great place to call home.

Bill Jacobs

# Community Updates



## Free Compost

Compost is available to residents  
**April 11<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**207 E. 38th Street**  
Please bring your own hauling supplies.

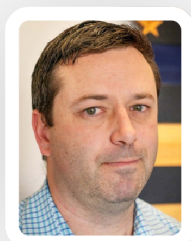


## River Clean-up Day

Idaho Rivers United is seeking volunteers for the End of Float Season Clean-Up of the Boise River  
Sept. 12, 2026  
[idahorivers.org/volunteer](http://idahorivers.org/volunteer)

# Employee Spotlight

## Detective Justin Mann

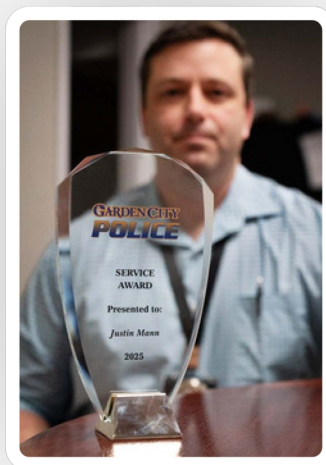


He's a hunter, a camper, a fisherman – a lover of the outdoors with his kids. He's also a Boise native. His favorite thing to grab for lunch in Garden City is the #15 at Cobby's (on focaccia).

Meet Detective Justin Mann from the Garden City Police Department. He's closing in on a decade with the GCPD, having started there in 2017. Before that, he served 7 years in the U.S. Army, with time in Bamberg, Germany, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, and did two tours in Operation Enduring Freedom. He spent a year working for the Canyon County Jail before making the switch to the Garden City Police force – a change he was glad for, as it got him out into the public instead of being cooped up.

During his 7 years as a patrol officer, Mann earned the rank of corporal and was voted Officer of the Year for 4 years straight beginning in 2021. In 2025, he became one of GCPD's five detectives and now works on a revolving caseload of investigations regarding crimes against people, property, and animals. People take daily priority, and the Service Award Mann earned at the beginning of this year proves his dedication to the residents of Garden City. "He repeatedly shows empathy with victims and works tirelessly on their behalf," reads his award certificate. Detective Sergeant Jaymie Dozier nominated Mann, and the Garden City Administration and Vision committee unanimously approved it. "This award is generally reserved for the employees who routinely go above and beyond. The ones who show commitment to our S.E.R.V.I.C.E. motto," Dozier said. The official 3-page nomination is chock-full of detailed reasons Mann deserved the Service Award. Here are just a handful:

- He often seeks out and takes advantage of every opportunity to gain more knowledge to increase his skills and grow. He is resourceful about learning and sharing best practices.
- He is open to learning from others, no matter what role they have, and regardless of their background, experience, or tenure. This has allowed him to significantly grow and make better decisions.
- In the rare instances that he makes a mistake, he is quick to own up to his actions, whether it's good or bad. He has a level of honesty that's frankly difficult to find. It's not the easiest thing to do, but he still chooses to do it.
- Corporal Mann understands there's always more to the story than one would think. He has learned to ask questions and gather the facts before jumping to conclusions and making judgments. The additional information sometimes has yielded a more complete picture than previously believed.



Detective Mann doesn't just execute on all of that within his title; he takes it above and beyond his job description. He spearheaded the Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course, serves as liaison for the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) with the Idaho Special Olympics, and is the president of the Garden City Police Officers Association.

Clearly, Detective Mann is exemplary of the adage, "Whatever you are, be a good one," and we're lucky to have him on the Garden City Police force.



## April 20th, 6-7:30 PM



Join us for our first town hall meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at Garden City City Hall. This is an informal event for community engagement and does not constitute a formal meeting of the City Council. Learn about volunteer opportunities, share your ideas, and discuss issues that matter to you!



## Soccer Season Started

Athletic Club Boise's home opener was on April 4<sup>th</sup>! Take advantage of the free shuttle service from the Garden City wine district/Boardwalk to Expo Idaho. Double-check [visitgardencity.com/soccer-information](http://visitgardencity.com/soccer-information) for updates to the shuttle map and parking. If you choose not to use the shuttle service, please watch your speeds and do not park illegally.

# April Events



Planning & Zoning 6:30 PM



Town Hall at City Hall 6 PM



Arbor Day tree planting  
Library parking lot 1 PM



Denim Day



**Wendy Carver-Herbert**

Garden City's newest Council member, Wendy Carver-Herbert, comes from a long career in public relations and marketing. For many years, she worked for a telephone company (the landline kind - remember those?), a financial services company, and more recently, her own PR consulting business. She knew that when it came time to retire, she didn't want to be done working altogether. That's why she welcomed the opportunity to work in a non-partisan staff position as a committee secretary in the Idaho legislature. She served for six sessions and learned a great deal about how the legislature operates. Not only did it solidify her appreciation of local government, but it gave her valuable experience for her current role on City Council - the seed for which was planted when a new development was proposed right by her house.




"I really got engaged because of being a neighborhood advocate," Wendy says. Twenty feet from her back property line, a four-story complex was seeking city approval. Concerned with its proximity and height—and the resulting privacy impacts on adjacent single-family homes—she began digging into development code and participating in city meetings. Ultimately, the developer brought forward a proposal that was far more complementary in its design and fit for the surrounding neighborhood. What began as advocacy for her neighbors evolved into a broader understanding of how cities grow and change. Wendy recognizes that Garden City is becoming more urban, with increasing density and evolving design, and she brings a balanced approach to respecting both property rights and the interests of surrounding residents in her role on City Council.

Wendy attended many Council meetings as a citizen of Garden City, but she's now finding her rhythm on the other side of the dais. Before they get together every other Monday, Council members receive packets with the upcoming meeting's agenda and any supporting material that goes along with the topics at hand. Even though these can run hundreds of pages long, she peruses all of them in order to be educated and informed in her decision-making.

In addition to her work as a Council member, Wendy organizes and facilitates workshops as the Garden City Ready for Kindergarten Coordinator and is part of the Garden City Early Learning Collaborative. She has a keen interest in early childhood education, and through these organizations, she strives to educate parents on how pivotal they are in their children's future success.

Outside of her official roles, she enjoys taking walks and life with her husband and Dalmatian, Princeton. Wendy's been a dog enthusiast for years, participating in and now volunteering at dog shows when the opportunity arises. She also enjoys the vibrant East End of Garden City and is excited to support its continued evolution.

She's happy to meet with the people of Garden City, so if you see her out and about - say hello or email her at [wcarverherbert@gardencityidaho.org](mailto:wcarverherbert@gardencityidaho.org)!

-  Chinden Gardeners plant sale
-  Spring Cleanup Week
-  Experience Garden City at The Boardwalk



**Plant Sale May 16, 9-1 PM**

The Chinden Gardeners' plant sale will be in the Library courtyard!  
[chindengardeners.org](http://chindengardeners.org)



**Cleanup week May 18-22**

Remove bulk items and non-Freon® appliances for FREE! Collection occurs on your scheduled service day. Questions? Call 208-345-1265 to schedule a truck for large items.



**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 - 5 PM**

**Experience Garden City at The Boardwalk** is a new family-friendly celebration of everything that makes Garden City special — local flavor, riverfront energy, live music, and a little summer fun. Organized by local businesses, this event highlights the heart of Garden City. Set along the beautiful Greenbelt at The Boardwalk Apartments on May 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 PM, this Yacht Rock-themed event brings together Garden City craft beverage businesses, local vendors, and a lively atmosphere for all to enjoy. Expect great drinks, great music, and a laid-back nautical vibe that captures the spirit of our river city while showcasing the businesses and community that make Garden City one of a kind.



**Aw, rats!**

**Rats:** Senate Bill 1271 would have declared a public health and safety nuisance and required the Department of Agriculture to monitor and address the growing rat population in the Treasure Valley. The bill passed the House but was voted down in the Senate. A new version of the bill, Senate Bill 1445, passed the Senate but died when it failed to get a House committee hearing.



## June Events



National Pet Preparedness Month



Garden City Library Bash for Books



*Chinden Gardeners meeting*



Juneteenth holiday



### Bash for Books 2026

This cherished community tradition brings together library supporters to help fuel the programs that make our library a vibrant hub for all ages. Come hungry and ready to bid!

The evening includes dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction featuring items and experiences donated by generous community members and businesses.

This family-friendly event raises 100% of the funds for the *Bells for Books Bookmobile* and other library programs. Let's come together to celebrate, support, and invest in the programs that keep our library thriving.

**Saturday, June 13, 2026, 4-7 PM**

Reserve your tickets by visiting

[gardencitypubliclibraryfoundation.wildapricot.org](http://gardencitypubliclibraryfoundation.wildapricot.org).



### Your Input Needed

Please take a few minutes to complete the [Garden City Transportation Survey](#), helping us develop a new Transportation Master Plan. The survey closes at 8:00 AM on April 20, 2026.



### National Pet Preparedness month

June is National Pet Preparedness Month! Make sure your dog has its license! Licensing helps responsible dog owners care for their dogs. If your dogs are lost, we can help reunite you and your dogs faster!

[gardencityidaho.org/animal-control](http://gardencityidaho.org/animal-control)



### Free Orange Plastic Recycling bags

Stop by City Hall's Utility Billing window for a FREE set of Hefty® ReNew™ plastic recycling bags!



### Greenbelt Etiquette

In the summer of 2019, Joe and Jane\* were out biking on the Greenbelt, enjoying the good weather and all the amenities that Garden City has to offer. When they mounted their bikes to head back home, Greenbelt traffic had picked up.

As they headed home on their bikes, a small off-leash dog entered their path, and in their attempt to avoid it, the front wheel of Joe's bike hit the gravel on the side of the pavement, and he went over his handlebars. His head and right shoulder collided with a tree stump, and he immediately lost consciousness. Fortunately, an off-duty nurse witnessed the wreck and rushed over to help. The nurse held his head and neck, still waiting for the ambulance to make its way to them. Joe had a severe concussion, a fractured vertebra in his neck and lower back, and a broken shoulder.

Even though Joe has made a full recovery, he does have some lasting effects, and they rarely use the Greenbelt anymore.

In the years since this incident, the Treasure Valley's population has significantly increased, and so has the Greenbelt traffic. Now more than ever, we need awareness of simple etiquette and consideration for others. You will soon notice new signs posted throughout the Garden City portions of the Greenbelt reminding folks that its use is for everyone, so please be mindful of others while you're out there. Here are some helpful tips:

- Be aware. Keep your eyes up as much as possible. If you're listening to something via headphones or earbuds, consider leaving one ear uncovered or unplugged, so that you can enjoy your podcast and hear an upcoming passerby. And, if you're listening to something without headphones or earbuds, please be mindful of the volume.
- Leash your dog—it's the law. Keep them on a short, controlled leash (10 ft. max) and out of others' way. Stay aware of your surroundings and reel them in when needed. Bring poop bags and don't leave filled bags on the greenbelt.
- "On your left!" – the standard, succinct communication for any non-motorized, two-way path, which translates to, "Hello! I'm coming up behind you and will be passing on the left."
- Keep moving. When you stop for a friendly chat or to tie your shoe, step off the path.
- Non-motorized devices used for transportation, such as bicycles, one-wheels, e-bikes, and e-scooters, are permitted on the Greenbelt. Users must operate at a reasonable and prudent speed and in a safe manner.
- However, motor vehicles, including high-speed e-motorcycles, are not allowed on the Greenbelt.
- To address speed and safety concerns, the Mayor and City Council have established designated 'slow zones' for Lime e-bikes and e-scooters, which are the only shared micromobility devices authorized to operate in Garden City.

Take responsibility if the fault is yours; assume best intentions if it's theirs. Give a little grace, especially when congestion is high, and everyone is likely to be rattled. If we can all remember to bring our manners and consideration for others with us when we get on the Greenbelt, it'll continue to be the excellent recreational and commuting route that we've known it to be.

*\*Note: names in this story have been changed to protect privacy.*