EXCITED

#BlueSpringsSOTC
@BlueSpringsGov
Thank you for that warm welcome Eric and thanks to the Blue Springs Rotary Club for sponsoring this event. I would also like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for hosting my NINTH consecutive State of the City Address.

Thank you to our first responders - military veterans, law enforcement, fire and EMS. Please stand and be recognized!

(Mayor, greet your family) & Mayors))))))

Welcome Blue Springs Business Leaders and Community Partners. As you just saw in my opening video, our community had a very busy 2016!

Did you catch the music that was playing? I’m so EXCITED.... for Blue Springs! You know why? Because I believe, we are on the...... WHAT?

<<<Points to Crowd>>>>

MOVE!

Speaking of being on the move, you can follow along on our social media sites.
I will take you on a animated tour of what Blue Springs has accomplished in 2016 and a few things that need our attention in 2017.

But first, I’ll introduce a few other residents EXCITED about Blue Springs. YOUR City Council:

From the 1st District:

Dale Carter and Jeff Quibell

From the 2nd District:

Kent Edmondson and Chris Lievsay

And from our 3rd District:

Susan Culpepper and Ron Fowler

For those who may not know, it is with a heavy heart that I share that former Councilman Grant Bowerman passed away yesterday. Those who knew Grant could tell you of his love for this community and his dedication to improving Blue Springs.
Resident Oversight

19 Boards & Commissions

130 Community Members Serve on Blue Springs Boards & Commissions
A key component of any successful community is resident input.

Our boards and commissions provide valuable guidance and oversight to virtually all aspects of our community.

If you serve on one of our boards & commissions, please stand and be recognized.

As you can see, it takes a lot of people to help keep a City on The Move and on the Right Track. I call on the people in this room to join the excitement and use your talents on one of our boards & commissions.

If you are interested in serving, please let me know.
We are fortunate to have dedicated City employees that help move the City forward everyday. I would like to have our City Administrator, Eric Johnson, share with you some of our 2016 accomplishments.

>>>Video Will Play<<<

Thank you Eric... and Haley...... for sharing those highlights. Haley is here today..... everyone give her a round of applause!
PUBLIC SAFETY
Public Safety services are important for the health and well being of any successful community.

I would like to take a moment and congratulate and thank two key members of our Public Safety team here in Blue Springs.

He couldn’t be here today, but I would like to congratulate Chief Steve Westerman on his recent retirement announcement. Chief Westerman has served our community for over 40 years.

Congratulations our own Chief Wayne McCoy on his recent retirement announcement! Chief McCoy has served the Blue Springs Community for 15 years and has done an outstanding job leading our department.

Chief McCoy, please stand and be recognized!


Thanks to the support of the Blue Springs community, our officers and staff now have a facility that allows them to provide better customer service to residents and community members.
In 2016, we focused on new ways to communicate with our residents. This includes incorporating new technology like the regional Text to 911 service and online Community Crime Mapping.

Although new technology helps us connect, nothing can replace one-on-one opportunities to discuss issues and learn more about each other.

During the ‘My Community’ Tours, children had the opportunity to meet officers, tour the public safety building and learn about our City Council.

Who knows? This program may have inspired the future Mayor of Blue Springs!
The department hosted multiple community outreach events such as ‘Coffee with a Cop’ a casual meet and greet where officers and community members could chat about Blue Springs.

National Night Out Against Crime is a free community event that educates residents about police operations and crime prevention.

These events, among others, allow officers and residents opportunities to build stronger relationships with one another.
Volunteers are the most important resource community organizations have.

I can think of no better example than the Blue Springs Volunteers in Police Service, better known as VIPS.

This amazing group of volunteers organizes the annual Shop with a Blue Springs Cop program. This program pairs disadvantaged kids in our community with officers for a special shopping event.

This year’s event would not be possible without the generous donation from Sandy’s Restaurant. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and donors that make this event possible.

>>>>>>applause<<<<<<<<<
The backbone of a City is its infrastructure. This is how we travel to and from work.... how goods are moved in and out of our community....how local hospitals get water and how families walk through their neighborhood.

I am proud to announce that the Woods Chapel Road reconstruction project has been named a 2017 Capstone Real Estate Award Winner for the Infrastructure Category from the Kansas City Business Journal. This project has further enhanced the western gateway into our city and has sparked private investment along the corridor.

The City continues to place emphasis on maintaining the assets you use and rely upon daily. This requires a comprehensive and systematic approach which sometimes comes with making difficult decisions among competing priorities.
10.5 Miles of Street Overlaid in 2016

4.3% of the City's Street Network Overlaid in 2016

SIDEWALK REPAIR/ADA COMPLIANCE AUDIT

- 139.44 MILES OF REPAIR INDICATED IN THE AUDIT
- 2.68 MILES OF REPAIR COMPLETED IN 2016

>>INFRASTRUCTURE<<
In 2016, we continued our mill and overlay program, overlaying 10.5 miles, or about 4.3% of the city’s street network.

We will continue to place street maintenance as a priority because we recognize it is less expensive to maintain than replace a street. We also realize the important role streets play in our City’s economic development and overall community image.

2016 is the second full year that we’ve implemented our sidewalk repair program to target sidewalk maintenance needs. This program began after an inventory performed several years ago on the City’s sidewalk network.

In 2016, this program has addressed almost 2% of the identified sidewalk repair needs.
places

The area in the centre house needs to be redeveloped. The development will include
a range of housing types and amenity blocks. The area is bordered by
the new street to the south and the existing road to the north.

LEGEND
- detached housing
- small-scale multi-unit
- multi-family housing
- neighborhood retail
- service/entertainment
- office
- light industrial
- general commercial
- industrial
- civic
- open space - conservation
- open space - recreational
- open space - formal
- future connection
- existing connection
- planned connection
We recognize the importance of preparing for the growth of Blue Springs and we’re doing it by putting our Comprehensive Plan into action and focusing on enhancing neighborhoods.

In 2016, staff held neighborhood meetings with residents in the area East of Highway 7 and North of Interstate 70.

Feedback gathered was used to draft their Specific Plan which was later presented to residents before formal adoption into the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

These meetings allow residents considerable input on the future of their neighborhood and gives the City a roadmap for growth.
What is a Community For All Ages?

The basic idea behind communities for all ages is to create and foster an active, caring and welcoming community that promotes respect, diversity and inclusion of all ages and cultures.

Improving the quality of life for ALL residents.
Last year, I shared that our City set a goal to become an official Community for All Ages. I am happy to share we met this goal last summer and received a Bronze level recognition as a part of this program.

This means our community seeks to become more welcoming to residents of all ages and, in the process, a more vibrant, healthy and prosperous Blue Springs.
September 2016 marked the one year anniversary of the Blue Springs Fieldhouse and we celebrated with a free, community-wide health & wellness fair.

The City’s investment in our resident’s recreational and wellness needs began in 2014 with a generous donation by Linda Landhal Edison and the commitment of our Council to create a space for people to come together.

Even the Blue Springs High School Basketball Teams enjoy the Fieldhouse!

Oh wait..... That’s Eric Johnson and I representing Team Blue Springs at the Hot Shot Challenge last summer!
45
Fitness Classes Offered

3,964
Current Members

260,626
Visits to the Fieldhouse
Designed with people in mind, the Fieldhouse continues to offer new programs and events that provide recreational opportunities for the entire family.

Since opening, the Fieldhouse has had more than a quarter of a million visits!

This has truly been an EXCITING year for the Fieldhouse and we hope to keep providing excellent recreational opportunities for Eastern Jackson County.
With the help of our community members, the first ever Blue Springs Parks Master Plan was completed last November and has been formally adopted by the Council.

The plan will serve as our long-term guide for the future of our parks system. Strategies found within the plan were developed as a result of a year-long input process with residents and other stakeholders.

From here, City officials, Parks Commissioners and staff will work to implement the Master Plan.

By carrying out these strategies, we will ensure that when people visit our City-- our public spaces reflect the thriving, vibrant community we are!
By working together, Blue Springs is transitioning into a place where residents can live, work and play.

But don’t take my word for it --- I would like to show you a video highlighting examples of reinvestment and growth here in Blue Springs.

>>>Video Will Play<<<

Wow! Now THAT is EXCITING!!!
As the Blue Springs business community expands, the Blue Springs Business Resource Network continues to create programming and resources to facilitate economic growth and meet the needs of current and future business owners.

If you are a part of this Network, please stand and be recognized.

>>>>>>>>applause<<<<<<<<<<<<
67
Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses
Assisted During how To Open & Grow
Your Business in Blue Springs Expos

HOW TO OPEN AND GROW A BUSINESS IN BLUE SPRINGS
EXPO
Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to Noon
Mid-Continent Public Library
Blue Springs North Branch

Small Business Boot Camp
May 19, 2017
They provide face-to-face support for new and established business owners through the ‘How to Open and Grow Your Business’ expos. The network invites you to the upcoming March Expo.

I am proud to announce that we were chosen to host the spring SquareOne Small Business Boot Camp in May. This free event is a great way for business owners to learn new marketing skills and connect with local resources to help their business grow.

As you can see, Blue Springs has a dynamic business community.

I would like to thank our established businesses for continuing to call Blue Springs home and helping to drive our local economy.

You are the backbone of our successes and are one of the reasons we have so much to be EXCITED about today.
New Approach to Economic Development

New Approach to Economic Growth & Development

Economic Development Corporation

Economic Development Council

Mark Stombaugh
Economic Development Manager

>>>GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT<<<
We recognize that the needs of businesses change rapidly and that the systems and processes designed to serve them must be fluid and responsive.

With a focus on economic growth and prosperity, in 2016, the Economic Development Corporation was reorganized structurally under the City’s umbrella as the Economic Development Council.

If you are part of the Economic Development Council, please stand and be recognized.

Through the work of this council, (point to crowd) we are focusing on connecting businesses with decision makers and establishing clear policy direction.

This will be an all-inclusive approach to economic growth acting as a ‘one-stop shop’ for businesses looking to grow or locate in Blue Springs.

I would like to introduce our new Economic Development Manager, Mark Stombaugh. If you have not met Mark yet, please introduce yourself to him after the luncheon.

During the EDC transition, one program was in process and postponed for a future date.
It is my honor to present the 2016 EMPOWER Awards program as part of my State of the City Address.

This award ceremony was designed to celebrate the business, entrepreneurial and civic spirit of Blue Springs by recognizing local companies and individuals.

I present the Entrepreneur/Start Up Business category nominees.

Blue Springs Travel

Owner Casey Green opened their doors in historic Downtown Blue Springs in 2012.

By focusing on customer service, 80% of their new business comes from client referrals.

Since opening, sales have steadily increased creating the need to hire 4 additional employees.
Middle Ground Coffee Company

With her first business – Salon Addicted – successfully underway since 2009, Shauna Pearson opened a second business – Middle Ground Coffee, Co. in 2016.

Shauna’s priority is creating supportive environments for her employees and a high level of customer service to her clients.

She demonstrated her commitment to downtown by locating both businesses in the historic district with a capital investment of almost $150,000.
Sinclair’s Restaurant

Blue Springs native Shane Miller opened Sinclair’s in 2014 with 20 employees.

Customers are treated to a great service and a unique menu with daily specials from Chef Anna.

Sinclair’s believes in giving back to the community by supporting local charities including the school district, church organizations and sports teams.
Congratulations to all of the nominees.

The EMPOWER Awards task force had a tough time with this category. The nominations were so compelling that the committee split the category into two winners: Entrepreneur and Start Up.

The Entrepreneur Winner is........ Middle Ground Coffee — Owner Shauna Pearson!

The Start Up Winner is....... Blue Springs Travel — Owner Casey Green!

Congratulations!
Small Business

Genesis Environmental Solutions

Genesis Environmental Solutions
I present the Small Business category nominees.

Genesis Environmental Solutions

Shaun Thomas founded Genesis in 2004 with only two employees, a borrowed office space, and no contracts.

Today, Genesis owns their own building, employs 20 people full time and touts revenues over $8 million dollars.

Genesis provides a broad range of environmental and industrial services nationwide. You may have seen their work at the new QuikTrip at Highway 40 and 7.

Genesis values giving back to the community and most recently supported the Jake Cavanaugh Foundation.
Pizza Shoppe Blue Springs

After several years of business success in their Highway 7 location, Pizza Shoppe owners Jennifer Hauschild and Jeff Sykes took a leap of faith and relocated to downtown Blue Springs - investing over $450,000 into the downtown corridor.

The move was a huge success as Pizza Shoppe saw a 50 percent increase in sales and nearly doubled their staff.

Pizza Shoppe supports multiple community partners including the school district and Downtown Alive - where Jen has served as president since 2015.
Small Business

Genesis Environmental Solutions

Small Business

Large Business
Congratulations to all of the nominees.

The Small Business Winner is........ Genesis Environmental Solutions.

Congratulations!

I present the Large Business category nominees.
Cosentino’s Price Chopper

Family owned since 1948, Cosentino’s opened their first store in Blue Springs in 1980, followed by the second in 1989.

The two stores employ over 320 associates.

Cosentino’s is currently redeveloping the White Oak Shopping Center to make way for a state-of-the art Price Chopper opening this summer.

Planning for the redevelopment of the north location is currently underway.

Cosentino’s is proud to be part of the community and is focused on contributing to the growth, prosperity and philanthropy of the city.
St. Mary's Medical Center

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St. Mary’s Medical Center

Founded in 1909, St. Mary’s opened its Blue Springs location in 1981.

As the second largest employer in Blue Springs, St. Mary’s employs more than 575 associates.

In 2015, St. Mary’s invested more than $3.6 million dollars in facility updates and medical equipment to enhance the care they provide the community.

I recently had the pleasure of presenting St. Mary’s with the 2016 Blue Springs Chamber Business of the Year Award.
Large Business

Cosentino's Price Chopper

Large Business

Civic Leader
Congratulations to all of the nominees.

The Large Business Winner is........ Cosentino’s Price Chopper.

Congratulations!

And now to the final category - the Civic Leader nominees.
Ted and Betty Meyer

Meyer Music was founded in 1966 as a second career for both Ted and Betty.

Over the years, Meyer Music has expanded into two additional metro locations.

Ted and Betty Meyer have been active in the Blue Springs community since moving here in 1961. They have supported multiple music programs in the metro area.

Recognized for their leadership and commitment to the community, Ted and Betty have received too many awards to list them all.

Although, I do want to mention that I recently had the pleasure of presenting Ted with the 2016 Blue Springs Chamber Outstanding Citizen Award.
Dr. Annette Seago

Dr. Seago’s guidance has allowed the Blue Springs School District to cultivate a dynamic working relationship with the City, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council.

She understands that entrepreneurship is indispensable to the economic growth of our City and the school district must provide quality curriculum that will expose students to more challenging educational activities.

The programs Dr. Seago has initiated have been instrumental in shaping our community’s next generation of civic and business leaders.
Congratulations to all of the nominees.

The Civic Leader Winner is......... Dr. Annette Seago!

Congratulations!

I would like to congratulate all of our nominees and the thank the EMPOWER Task Force. Your participation and contributions to our business community have helped move Blue Springs forward........ and have given us ALL something to be EXCITED about!
As you can see, there have been many successes in 2016, but I would like to take a moment to talk about something that needs attention in our community.

Think back to your best memories as a family. Either today or as a child. Where did those memories happen? What places came to mind?

I’m sure that one of the places you recalled was a park. Either at a playground or a ball field.

There are so very few places where people of different backgrounds can come together across social, economic and racial divides.

Parks give a sense of place and belonging. They help build strong communities, strong families and strong connections.

Given the crucial role these places play in strengthening communities, I would like to take a moment to talk about an issue on the upcoming April 4 ballot.

Here is a brief video about the initiative.

>>>Video Will Play<<<
I know this is a big issue, but by working together, like we always do, we can address this issue in our community and continue to be a City on The Move!

I don’t know about you.... but I’m EXCITED about Blue Springs.

Who’s EXCITED with me?

>>>Video Will Play<<<