Thank you for that warm welcome 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 TENTH consecutive State of the City Address.

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

Welcome Blue Springs Business Leaders and Community Partners. As you just saw in my opening video, our community had a very busy 2017!

Here in Blue Springs, we are BUILDING on our Success. You know why? Because I believe, we are a City on the...... WHAT?

MOVE!

Speaking of being on the move, you can follow along on our social media sites.
2017 BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

1. Dale Carter
   District 1

2. Kent Edmondion
   District 2

3. Susan Culpepper
   District 3

4. Jerry Keeler
   District 1

5. Chris Lievsey
   District 2

6. Ron Fowler
   District 3
I will take you on a animated tour of what Blue Springs has accomplished in 2017 and an important issue that needs our attention soon.

But first, I’ll introduce a few other people helping us BUILD Blue Springs. YOUR City Council:

From the District 1:

Dale Carter and Jerry Kaylor

From the District 2:

Kent Edmondson and Chris Lievsay

And from our District 3:

Susan Culpepper and Ron Fowler

>>>Insert Mayor’s Comments<<<

A special thanks to Kim Nakahodo, David Watson and the City staff that helped me develop this year’s State of the City Address.
We are fortunate to have dedicated City employees that help move the City forward everyday. I would like to share with you some of our 2017 successes.

>>>Video Will Play<<<
Public Safety services are important for the health and well being of any successful community.

In 2017, we celebrated the retirement of Chief Wayne McCoy.

Chief McCoy served the Blue Springs Community for 15 years and did an outstanding job leading our department.

One of Chief McCoy’s the most impressive accomplishments was the establishment of the dedicated Public Safety Sales Tax. This funding allowed us to replace our legacy radio system, add officers to our department and renovate the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building.

Thanks to his leadership and the support of the Blue Springs community, our department is in a better position to serve our residents and business owners for years to come.
On October 1, 2017 Bob Muenz was sworn in as the new Chief of Police for Blue Springs Police Department.

We are fortunate to have someone with Chief Muenz’s leadership ability, education and experience.

I am proud to say that Blue Springs has an excellent police department that has been nationally accredited since 2012, and I’m confident that Chief Muenz will continue to provide outstanding service to our community.
In June, we welcomed two new additions to the Blue Springs Police Department — motorcycles.

This was one of the last recommendations by the Public Safety Task Force I appointed shortly after being elected Mayor in 2008.

The task force was comprised of former Blue Springs City Councilman and Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Board Emil Spears, former Jackson County Circuit Court Judge and present Blue Springs Prosecuting Attorney Vernon Scoville and the first Blue Springs African American Police Officer Greg Washington.

These new motorcycles allow us to respond quicker to the scene of a traffic accident as we can move around cars unable to move out of the way due to the accident. Quick response times are crucial in serious crashes when every second counts.
• Start the Conversation
• Talking to someone you care about who is struggling even if you’re uncomfortable, feel awkward, or aren’t sure of the right thing to say.
• It’s even OK to admit that you don’t know what to say, but that you want to begin the conversation.

** National Suicide Prevention Lifeline **
The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.
1-800-273-8255

** Blue Springs Police Department Crisis Intervention Team **
If you’re ever in an emergency situation where you think there is an immediate mental health crisis or a potential suicide attempt, please dial 911 and request a CIT officer.
In November, the Blue Springs Police Department and the Blue Springs Public Safety Citizens’ Advisory Board hosted a Facebook Live public forum to discuss a series of issues related to public safety --- including mental health resources and suicide awareness in Blue Springs.

The forum included presentations from community partners including Comprehensive Mental Health, the Blue Springs Police Department, the Blue Springs School District and Speak Up.

Unfortunately, mental health issues and suicide, including youth suicides are on the rise --- not only nationally, but here in the Kansas City region.

Despite growing awareness, the topic of mental illness and suicide remain taboo. The one thing we can do is start to TALK about the issue.

If you know of anyone that may be struggling with mental health or suicidal thoughts, please talk to them about the resources available to help them here in Blue Springs.

Everyone is important, precious and wanted. We don’t tell each other that enough. Through little actions, you can help BE THE CHANGE in our community.
SPIRIT
Site
Problem
Identification and
Resolution of
Issues
Together

5 Issues
- Image Management
- Youth
- Diversity
- Homelessness
- Mental Health

3 Solutions
- Communicate with our population in multiple ways to better represent our diverse population
- Develop ordinances limiting payday/tobaccoist business permits
- Consider establishing a life skills/mental health/non-profit center

PUBLIC SAFETY

2017 BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS
In 2017, we had an unacceptable, racially-charged incident here in Blue Springs. Many residents reached out to our Human Relations Commission with concern and a desire to improve relations in our community.

In January, we partnered with the United States Department of Justice to host a SPIRIT. This event is designed to empower community leaders to identify issues within our community, create solutions and implement those solutions.

Over 70 community leaders came together to discuss issues and solutions in our community. The five issues identified were 1.) Image Management, 2.) Youth, 3.) Diversity, 4.) Homelessness and 5.) Mental Health.

Event volunteers then worked together to develop an action plan to be implemented by the Blue Springs community.

During the event, community members volunteered to be part of the newly formed SPIRIT Council. This group will work with the Human Relations Commission to carry out the action plan.

If you are part of either the HRC or the newly formed SPIRIT Council, please stand and be recognized!

Many of the issues identified in our SPIRIT are large, multifaceted challenges facing many communities today. These issues have developed over time and there are no simple solutions to complex social problems, and no single organization can create large-scale, lasting social change alone.

I am confident that by working together, we can continue to make Blue Springs a ‘City on the Move and on the Right Track.’
INFRASTRUCTURE

11.5
Miles Overlaid in 2017

2.02
Miles of Sidewalk Repaired in 2017

4,678
Potholes Repaired in 2017
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 residents and business owners recieve water services, and how families walk through their neighborhood.

In 2017, we installed several new sidewalks using Federal Community Development Block Grant funding.

These sidewalks are located near schools and in high-traffic areas thus creating new transportation options for residents and students.

The City continues to place emphasis on maintaining the assets we use and rely upon daily.

You may be interested to know that in 2017, we overlaid 11.5 miles of roads, repaired 2.02 miles of sidewalk and repaired 4,678 potholes in Blue Springs!
Street maintenance plays a crucial role in our City’s economic development and overall community image. When potential businesses visit our city, our roads serve as the welcome mat into our community.

With this in mind, in 2016, the City partnered with Stantec to scan and index every street in Blue Springs. By leveraging this new data, we now have a comprehensive pavement condition index for our street network.

This new tool allows us to create a strategic plan to integrate into the City’s existing pavement management program. By utilizing technology we are now able to outline the most effective and efficient strategies to maintain roads, curbs, sidewalks and ADA ramps in an effort to prolong the life cycle of these critical City assets.
As our City continues to develop and grow, infrastructure investments are key to building on our successes.

A major street project kicked off earlier this year to reconstruct NE Roanoke Drive from Adams Dairy Parkway east to NE Porter Road.

This project will feature expanding water main and stormwater capacity, widening the street and adding sidewalks and curbing.

Public meetings were held in January with area residents and we will have the conceptual design incorporating their ideas by this spring.

Construction on the project will begin early next year.
As our City continues to grow, it is important to plan for our future.

Blue Springs is not only planning but implementing growth through placemaking.

This concept allows the City to look beyond land use to create spaces where businesses can grow, residents can gather and places for people and families to live.

In 2017, staff held neighborhood meetings with residents in the area East of Highway 7 between Interstate 70 and Moreland School Road.

Feedback gathered was used to draft their Specific Plan which was later presented to residents before integration 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.
Minor Home Repair Program
89 Projects
$415,000 Investment

First Time Homebuyer Program
90 Projects
$265,000 Investment
In a growing community like Blue Springs, we must balance planning for our future with supporting our established neighborhoods.

We are proud to have several programs that help foster neighborhood conservation through minor home repairs and first time homebuyer assistance.

Using Community Development Block Grant funding, I am proud to say that we have invested over $680,000 into Blue Springs homes in the last 8 years.
Speaking of reinvesting in established areas of Blue Springs, we recently kicked off our City Hall Renovation Project.

City Hall was originally constructed in 1961 and remodeled in 1989. Over the years the products, services, processes, business needs along with the manner in which we engage our customer/residents have changed significantly.

This project will help us accomplish two goals --- bringing the facility into compliance with code requirements, including the Americans with Disability Act and providing a customer-focused design that better serves residents and employees by putting all services at City Hall under one roof.

Through this project, we hope to redefine our customer experience. Before beginning this project, residents could visit up to three separate buildings to pull one permit. Let me say that again --- three separate buildings to pull one permit --- weather conditions not withstanding!

In the new City Hall configuration, all City services will be located in one space so residents and businesses can quickly access permits and services.

Construction will begin in April and we hope to cut the ribbon next spring/summer.
With considerable input from community members, the first ever Blue Springs Parks Master Plan was formally adopted by the Council in 2016.

This plan serves as our short- and long-term guide for the future of our parks and recreation program. Over the last year, we have used this plan as our roadmap as we look to develop new programs for our community.

We are carrying out the strategies in the Master Plan to ensure that when people visit our City-- our public spaces reflect the thriving, vibrant community we are!

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

The Fieldhouse has had more than a half a million visits in just two years! This excellent addition to our community has truly become a place that offers fitness and recreation for all!
Vote For Your Favorite Design at www.bluespringsgov.com/youchoose
One year ago, I stood before you to talk about an important issue in our community --- deferred maintenance in our parks.

Using the Parks Master Plan and a recommendation from the Parks Commission, we came before you -- the voters -- on April 4, 2017 with a 5-Year Dedicated Parks Maintenance Sales Tax Initiative.

I am proud to say this initiative passed with a 70% approval rating! We would like to sincerely thank our residents for the vote of confidence on the 5-Year Dedicated Parks Maintenance Sales Tax. This sales tax will fund approximately 40 percent – 15 million dollars – of the parks deferred maintenance needs over the 5-year sunset period.

The new tax rate was implemented on October 1, 2017 and the City received the first revenue from the tax in December 2017. The Park Commission, made up of Blue Springs residents, is charged with oversight of the tax.

Work on projects identified in the initiative has already begun! These are projects that will be completed during this fiscal year.

Earlier this year, we asked YOU to help us choose the final design of the new playgrounds at Rotary Park and Ward Park.
This is just another way we are engaging our community to BUILD ON OUR SUCCESSES!

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!

In addition to the many distinguished guests with us today, I wanted to personally introduce our friends from Faurecia (For--see--ah) to the Blue Springs business community.

Faurecia Interiors, a global manufacturer of automotive interior systems with North American headquarters based in Auburn Hills, Michigan, has announced their plans to open a new production facility in Blue Springs, Missouri.
This new facility will manufacture and assemble door panels, center consoles and instrument panels using the latest technology in the manufacturing industry.

I am excited to report that this project will create more than 300 new jobs right here in Blue Springs!

Faurecia (For--see--ah) will make an estimated $60 million investment to begin operations in their new two hundred and fifty thousand square foot plant.

Joining us from Faurecia today;

Donnie Hampton, CFO/President who rearranged his travel schedule abroad just to be with us today!

Tony Sapienza (Sappy – enza) Communications Director

Nick Howard, Projects Director

Kevin Nguyen (Nag -oi – yen) and David Ralston – Launch team members
On behalf of everyone – welcome to the Blue Springs Community. “A community on the Move and on the Right Track!”

As Mark mentioned, successes like these don’t come overnight and they certainly do not come without a lot of help from a deep bench.

Special thanks and recognition to our partners at the Missouri Partnership, Mr. Clint O’Neal. The Kansas City Area Development Council -- Tim Cowden, you have a great team. The efforts of KC SmartPort, their President Mr. Chris Gutierrez and a special thanks to Joe Fangman and his Economic Development Team at Kansas City Power & Light (KCP&L)

These are just a few of course of the broader list, the property owner, the leadership at the Department of Economic Development, our training and education partners at MCC, and also to our own businesses and everyone who took the time to help reinforce the business case for Blue Springs!

Thank you all!
GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT

2017 BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS
As you can see, Blue Springs has a dynamic and GROWING 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 business community and are one of the reasons we have so much SUCCESS to BUILD upon.
BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

FUTURE

2017 BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS
As you can see, 2017 has been an exciting year, but I would like to take a moment to talk about an issue impacting the City’s sales tax revenues and our local business community.

I would like to take a moment to talk about an issue on the upcoming April 3 ballot.

Here is a brief video about the initiative.

>>>Video Will Play<<<
This topic is near and dear to our local business community. I know this is an issue that both the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce AND the Missouri Chamber of Commerce has supported.

Voter approval of the use tax means that online purchases made from out-of-state businesses will reflect the same tax rate as the local sales tax.

All merchants, both brick and mortar businesses located in Blue Springs and out of state and online businesses will collect the same local sales tax rate.

By working together, like we always do, we can address this issue in our community and continue to be a City on The Move and On the Right Track!

I don’t know about you.... but I’m EXCITED about BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS! Are you with me?

>>>>>Que Music<<<<