2013

Much Accomplished
Much to do
Arrive at podium – Thank you Brien for your introduction. (give welcome & recognize The First Lady, (Mayor, greet your family) & Mayors)

I would also like to recognize Blue Springs Prosecutor Bob Welch who is retiring this year with over 40 years of service. I would also like to recognize Blue Springs City Attorney Bob McDonald and Blue Springs School District Superintendent Paul Kinder both will be retiring this year after serving our community for over 25 years.

Welcome Blue Springs Business Leaders and Community Partners - and I would like to thank the Chamber for allowing me to use this venue for my STOC address.

Today I have the privilege of presenting to you my sixth State of the City address. While in 2013 we accomplished much, yet there is still so much to do.

As many of you know, I have a strong love of music. The song you just heard, Katy Perry’s ROAR, sets the theme for my presentation today. This song talks about strength, resilience and success, and thanks to the hard work we have done in 2013, you are going to hear us ROAR in 2014!

Today I will take you on a moving tour of what we have accomplished in 2013 and preview a few things to look forward to in 2014.
Twenty-Thirteen

Much Accomplished

Blue Springs City Council

1. Dale Carter
   District 1

2. Kent Edmondson
   District 2

3. Susan Colegrove
   District 3

4. Jeff Quibell
   District 2

5. Chris Litteray
   District 2

6. Ron Feeler
   District 3
Helping me MOVE this great City along is your Blue Springs City Council:

From the 1st District:

Jeff Quibell and Dale Carter

From the 2nd District:

Chris Lievsay and Kent Edmondson

And from our 3rd District:

Ron Fowler and Susan Culpepper

I’d also like to recognize our City Administrator – Eric Johnson and several of his staff members that are here. Please Stand.

A special thanks to Kim Nakahodo, Todd Pelham and David Watson for their work on my State of the City Address.

Thank you.
2013 Property Tax Rates for Selected Missouri Cities
City Portion Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grain Valley</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee's Summit</td>
<td>0.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
<td>0.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Springs</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
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Property taxes are second lowest in the immediate metropolitan area.

City Property Tax on a $150,000 home

$17.79 a month

Funds: Police services, Public Works services, Community Development and many other city services.

2013 Local Sales Tax Rates
City Portion Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Valley</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee's Summit</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Springs</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Does Not Include TDO and CD Sales Taxes)
We in Blue Springs pride ourselves on providing quality services with a reasonable tax burden on our citizens.

The City of Blue Springs property taxes are the second lowest in the immediate metropolitan area.

You may be interested to learn that on average, the City’s portion of your property tax is around $18 a month for all of the city services residents enjoy. We continually strive to provide value for each tax dollar that you have entrusted us with.

The City of Blue Springs, also, has one of lowest taxing rates of cities in our surrounding area.

Sales tax revenue is critical to the overall fiscal health of the city and is over 20% of the City’s overall revenue budget.

Each sales tax dollar goes to support the infrastructure you use, the people that make you safe, and maintains the quality of life that we enjoy.
In fiscal year 2013-14, the City again took a conservative financial position. Staff monitored and advised on changes in revenues and expenses that affect our operating budget.

And like most of you and your businesses, we too have had to adjust spending, implement cost savings strategies, and look for alternative funding sources.

In August 2013, voters approved an EMS levy allowing for the transfer of the City’s EMS license to CJCFPD. The $700,000 annual city-subsidy will be phased out over the next three years. In the 2013-14 FY Budget, the subsidy was reduced with the remainder reallocated by the City Council to address landscaping needs and staff services.

We continue to listen to your input; and will invest in YOUR priorities for maintenance of our Infrastructure, Public Safety, and Quality of Life Services.
Infrastructure
One of the keys to maintaining a vibrant business climate is investing and reinvesting in a solid transportation infrastructure.

In 2008 our voters, sent a clear statement in their desire to improve and expand our transportation network.

Our City Administrator, Eric Johnson will now give us an update on our voter-approved Bond projects.

Thank you Eric for those updates. If you have not traveled along the Woods Chapel Road corridor yet, I personally invite you to! I hope you are as excited as I am about how these transportation investments will positively impact our community for decades to come.
In the Spring of 2013, the City completed a long-identified Community Development Block Grant project with the construction of a sidewalk along Vesper Street between Highway 7 and 10th Street.

This new sidewalk provides a safe walking path in one of the oldest parts of Blue Springs; servicing the downtown business corridor and established neighborhoods.
On April 2, 2013, voters in Blue Springs approved a ballot initiative that allowed us to enter into a contract to purchase water directly from Tri-County Water Authority.

This contract will also allow us a seat on the Tri-County Water Authority Board with voting rights and to have input on future operating budgets and infrastructure improvements.

The City Council and I want to personally thank all the Blue Springs residents that supported this contract to help secure our water supply for the future.
Speaking of securing our water supply, in 2013, Public Works successfully completed an expansion project that increases connectivity between the City’s water system and Tri-County Water Authority’s water distribution system.

This new water transmission line located along NE Jefferson increases our water supply lines from Tri-County Water Authority and diversifies the City’s water supply options.

This project helps us control our costs and puts us in a better position as our community continues to grow.
Over 120 miles of overlay in the last 6 years
Street maintenance is an area where the City Council has invested significant resources.

The City’s Street Overlay Program continues to be very successful and ranks high on our citizen satisfaction scores.

I’m pleased to tell you that in the past six years, OVER 120 miles of streets have been resurfaced in conjunction with curb repair.
This program not only visually rejuvenates areas throughout Blue Springs, but protects your initial investment in our City’s infrastructure; creating safe, well maintained streets for residents and visitors to travel on.
In 2013, the city added a new aspect to the Street Overlay Program - the repair of sidewalks to eliminate trip hazards and the installation of ADA compliant ramps along the resurfaced routes.

Incorporating these repairs into the Street Overlay Program help us address safety issues in the most cost-effective way possible and allow us to create a more walkable community.

I would also like to mention that in the 2013-14 Budget, we made a one-time appropriation to address critical sidewalk repairs throughout Blue Springs. Staff is currently auditing and prioritizing these deficiencies and repairs will be conducted this summer.
As we move forward in these challenging economic times and work to find ways to do more with less, it is imperative that we continue to spur reinvestment and growth by supporting entrepreneurship and remembering to Buy Blue Springs.
In April of 2013, voters approved a Blue Springs School District bond issue that addressed the safety and security of schools in our community.

I would like to thank our staff who worked diligently to expedite the City’s permitting and inspection process; ensuring that the construction schedule stayed on track.

This project involved multiple locations and an accelerated building timetable, with one goal in mind - to protect our most valuable assets, the next generation of Blue Springs residents.
2013 has been a year of reinvestment, growth, innovation and continued partnerships.

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

**Video Will Play**

One of the things to look forward to in 2014 was announced last week! If you have not heard the news, I am pleased to announce that Xceligent, a leading provider of verified commercial real estate information across the United States, has relocated its corporate headquarters to Blue Springs.

The expansion includes a capital investment of over half a million dollars and is expected to create more than 200 new jobs in Blue Springs.
Representatives from Xceligent are here today, I would like to introduce Doug & Erin Curry, Glenn Soniker and Nate Lipowitz - please stand and be welcomed into the Blue Springs Business Community!

I would like to recognize the Blue Springs EDC who played a critical role in Xceligent’s decision to call Blue Springs home. Their hard work has added hundreds of quality jobs to our community and they will continue to work with Xceligent to support their future growth, potentially in the adjacent Missouri Innovation Park.

I would like to recognize a few more people and organizations who are here with us today that worked together to bring Xceligent to our community.

• Mike Downing from the Missouri Department of Economic Development  
• Karl Sigler  
• Heise-Meyer Real Estate  
• C BIZ and all others involved

Thank you.
A major priority for the City has been focusing on growing and supporting business here in Blue Springs.

A program I HOPE you are all aware of is the Buy Blue Springs program. The City and the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce continue to partner to raise awareness of why buying local is so important. By supporting and growing our local businesses, we are ensuring our fiscal future.

Blue Springs strives to grow local entrepreneurship by supporting a strong network of business startups, including small retailers.

In 2013, the Blue Springs EDC’s Grow Blue Springs program co-hosted a regional retail PitchON event that featured 17 local retailers making formal pitches to sponsors. I am proud to say that Blue Springs placed first and second during the competition! Congratulations to The Sweet Tooth, owners Trevor and Amy Goodwin, and Genevieve’s Home & Homemade, owner Pam Wheeler.
As the City continues to grow, it is important to plan for our future. This Comprehensive Plan can best be defined as the city's guide or roadmap for future growth and development.

The City’s Comprehensive Plan is updated every 5 years to ensure that we meet the needs of our community.

In 2013, the City held a series of public meetings in the north, central and southern sections of Blue Springs. These meetings focused on specific area plans within each section to identify context, opportunities and constraints of those individual areas.

A draft of the City’s revised Comprehensive Plan is due to the City Council soon. Once completed, staff will begin updating the City’s Unified Development Code and Design and Construction Manual.
Through this process, we plan to enhance the clarity of our codes and simplify the development process to encourage MORE growth and development here in our community.

When I looked back at 2013, one thing stuck out at me. We did a lot of HOMEWORK as a City.

Now, there is nothing flashy about homework, but as you may remember from your days at school, homework is a necessary step for future success.
Significant progress has been made to accomplishing the three focus areas of the Public Safety Sales Tax Initiative.

The new radio system has been in operation since late 2012 with remarkable success. This new system is a huge step forward with officer safety being the goal.

All additional equipment purchases outlined in the initiative have been implemented including in-car camera upgrades and two new marked patrol vehicles.
Personnel
Recruiting efforts were completed in the first quarter of 2013.

All of the new personnel positions have been hired including the new deputy chief, radio specialist, evidence custodian and animal control officer.

These new positions will help us reduce our response times to emergency and non-emergency calls; provide more on-duty officers in neighborhoods and retail locations and provide more hours to animal control and evidence.
Facilities

View from 11th & Smith St.

Existing Site Image

Proposed Improvements
With the implementation of two phases of the initiative complete, the focus is now on the final phase — the expansion and renovation of the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building.

City staff has been working throughout most of 2013 on this project and construction will begin this April.

At the January 21, City Council meeting, we were given an update about the Public Safety Building Renovation project.

As you can imagine, this project has a lot of moving pieces and will involve vacating the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building during construction.

This allows us to reduce the overall cost of the project and speed up the construction process.
Public Lobby (Report Room / Court Clerk)

Municipal Court / Council Chambers

Timeline Highlights

- First Court sessions at the City-owned old Lumberyard - the week of March 31, 2014
- Removal of the downtown water tower - April 1, 2014
- Ground breaking - April 7, 2014
- First Council meeting at Vesper Hall - April 7, 2014
- New parking lots available to the public - August, 2014
- Barrett Park (Animal Control) complete - August 2014
- Completion of project - July 2015
A few quick project highlights include:

Municipal Court/Clerks and Police Records will be moving to the City-owned Lumberyard property located on Main Street between the railroad tracks and 14th Street.

Removal of the downtown water tower. The design team tried to incorporate the existing water tower into the building expansion project, but ultimately the space requirements and project goals made it clear that the tower had to be removed.

City Council and City Planning Commission meetings will be moved to Vesper Hall.

I will be updating you about the project along the way in my Mayor’s News Happenings eNewsletter and the Summer Blue Springs Magazine will have complete details about the project.
Speaking of public safety priorities, the Central Jackson County Emergency Management Agency worked diligently in 2013 to update our local emergency operations plan.

This plan details how we would all work together in the case of a major disaster in our area. The revised plan is notable because it was written for us by us and involved hours of commitment to develop.

I would like to thank the City staff, stakeholders and community partners that continue to invest time and resources into emergency management planning.
HOME RULE CHARTER

CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS
MISSOURI

Revised and Reprinted August 2001

9 community leaders from diverse backgrounds
In 2013, Blue Springs Charter Review Commission began to study, appraise and evaluate the City’s Home Rule Charter.

The Home Rule Charter contains the rules which describe how the City functions, organizes itself, and makes the decisions that affect resident’s daily lives.

The Commission is comprised of nine community leaders from diverse backgrounds and we look forward to seeing their recommendations in 2014.
Developers Survey

Staff worked with me to find a resolution 87.5%  
UP 69.7% compared to the 2002 survey

Inspectors were available when needed 94.4%  
UP 39.8% compared to the 2002 survey
During the summer of 2013, the City Council commissioned ETC Institute to administer a survey to customers who had used the City’s development services.

The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback to improve the overall quality of development services provided by the City and to compare these results to a similar survey conducted in 2002.

I am proud to report that the City saw double-digit improvements in almost every category surveyed.

Chris Tatham, Vice President of ETC Institute was quoted as saying that “Blue Springs is now perceived as one of the best government organizations around for development services.”
Project was handled in a timely manner

75%

UP 64.3% compared to the 2002 survey
These kind of amazing improvements don’t just happen.

I want to personally thank City staff for their hard work and determination to improve our development services. I’m proud to say we have created a culture of constantly examining our processes and improving our customer service.

Another ‘homework’ item I would like to highlight is the development of the How To Start A Business in Blue Springs booklet.

This step-by-step booklet is intended to serve as a guide to assist you in opening a business here in Blue Springs.

This publication was developed in partnership by the City, the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Blue Springs EDC, and the Jackson County EDC and should be available in late spring.
Over the past year, the City has continued to talk about our current Parks maintenance needs and the desire to add quality of life amenities to our growing community. With the input of staff and many citizen volunteers we were able to document the need for additional resources for our Parks and the desire to build a Community Center for all ages.

This past November we put forth a plan to help address these maintenance needs and build a Community Center. While I was disappointed, but not discouraged that this initiative did not pass. I want to personally thank our great Staff, the Parks Commission and all of the citizen volunteers that worked so hard on this quality of life issue.

To remain competitive with our surrounding communities and market ourselves to a new generation, I believe that we must continue to discuss how to meet these needs and develop creative solutions in the future. I plan to work with our City Council and the Parks Commission on how best to meet our current and future needs.
The Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Department has been working to develop new programming to fill the needs of our community.

Two new programs were introduced in 2013, the Blue Springs Summer Day Camp and the Little All Stars program.

Both of these programs have seen early success and I look forward to watching them growing them in 2014.
Homework

Infrastructure

Reinvestment and Growth

Homework

Twenty-Thirteen

Much Accomplished

Much to do
Today, we have talked about our accomplishments in 2013, but I would like to talk about what we will be doing in the future.

Our vision for Blue Springs is a city that embraces our commitment to family, quality, and innovation.

The Blue Springs leadership team is committed to these values, and we are positioning Blue Springs for exciting things in our near and long term future.
I would like to share a few of these projects with you this afternoon.

With help with the Blue Springs EDC, we will continue to pursue an economic development strategy that is unique to our community and provides opportunities for quality jobs.

One of our key long-term strategies to making this happen is the development of the Missouri Innovation Park. As you may have recently heard, MU recently announced that they will no longer have a physical presence in the Missouri Innovation Park. While disappointed, I am not discouraged!

We certainly understand the dynamics and forces at play in today’s changing marketplace.
We have had a good collaboration since 2008 yet understand things can change very quickly in the world of economic development and higher education.

We are dedicated to the success of the Innovation Park. We are engaging new partners and strengthening our strategy as we move forward executing our vision for the park.

I would like to announce that KCP&L will be celebrating a homecoming of sorts here in Blue Springs.

KCP&L will be reopening the Blue Springs Service Center on Highway 40 this spring and will house 30-35 employees out of the newly-renovated facility.

I would like to welcome you BACK to Blue Springs!
More Resident Involvement

Human Relations Commission
One of my goals as Mayor has always been to increase resident involvement. We have a number of boards and commissions comprised of volunteers from within the community who serve without compensation.

In 2014, we will again be reaching out to our residents for guidance and oversight.

The City is currently in the process of developing the Blue Springs Human Relations Commission to enhance our ability to educate and respond to concerns that may be expressed related to gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or disability.
Another future project I am excited to tell you about is the redesign of the City’s website!

The City’s current Website design was developed in 2007 and has not had any major upgrades since that time.

The proposed redesign would be focused on an “I Want To…..” Task Oriented structure so visitors can find the information they need regardless of the department that offers that service.

The City’s Website has over 1,500 pages and receives over 28,000 unique visits a month with more and more users visiting on mobile devices.

The redesign will incorporate an app that integrates with the City’s Website and allows users to sign up for City news, access City calendars and utilize a NEW Citizen Request Tracker at any time on a device they already use for their day-to-day transactions.

Look for the City’s newly redesigned website to launch late this summer.
The Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Department will be introducing two new programs this year.

This summer, they invite you to the first annual Ultimate Mud Battles competition! This event invites your team to get dirty, have fun and battle for glory.

In the fall, they will be hosting their first annual team race competition through Blue Springs. Search for clues, compete in challenges and may the best team win!

I have often said that great things happen when communities come together and there is no better example than the rejuvenation efforts in our downtown.

I hope to see you at their first annual Piccadilly Gala Fundraiser on March 6. Ticket are still available and proceeds from this event will help the Downtown Alive! group further their goal of revitalizing Downtown Blue Springs.
So today, I again thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Mayor. It truly is a privilege.

I hope that you enjoyed seeing what we have accomplished in 2013 as a community and our incredible future opportunities. We need all of you to make this great City even better.

So as you can see.....We are STILL A City….. On the Move!

As Pharrel says in his song, **HAPPY**, I am happy to be On the Move!

**Are you HAPPY to be “On the Move” with me?**