Thank you for that warm welcome Brien and thanks to the Economic Development Corporation for sponsoring this event. I would also like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for hosting my SEVENTH consecutive State of the City Address.

Welcome Blue Springs Business Leaders and Community Partners.

As you just saw in my opening video, we have a lot of successes to highlight in our community for 2014.

Did you catch the music that was playing?

I believe this is a community problem and the only solution is a community-based approach. By continuing to build a strong relationship between residents and governance, we can move forward...on the right track.

Speaking of tracks..... I will take you on a animated tour of what Blue Springs has accomplished in 2014 and preview things to look forward to in 2015.
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 members of his staff. Please Stand.

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

Thank you.
City Property Tax on a $150,000 home

$17.79 a month

Police Services $______
Public Works $______
Community Development $______
Parks & Recreation $______
Governance $______
We pride ourselves in providing value for each tax dollar that you have entrusted with us.

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.

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 long-term fiscal health of the city and is over 20% of the City’s overall revenue budget.
We continue to listen to your input --- aligning our resources with community priorities, infrastructure needs and opportunities.

Each sales tax dollar goes to support the infrastructure you use, the people and equipment that make you safe, and maintains the quality of life that we enjoy.
In 2014, we saw many changes to our team. Please stand as I recognize you.

In January, Vernon Scoville joined us as City Prosecutor after the retirement of Bob Welch, who served Blue Springs for more than 40 years.

City Attorney Nancy Yendes joined our team following Bob McDonald’s retirement -- who served our community for more than 25 years.

We were pleased to have Adam Norris join our Executive Team as the new Deputy City Administrator.

Sheryl Morgan was promoted to City Clerk in December following the retirement of Kathy Richardson who served the City Council for more than 15 years.

After a rigorous recruitment process, the Police Department awarded 6 new promotions.

I would like to congratulate these officers on their new roles and encourage them on their journey to make the Blue Springs Police Department a premier organization in the metro area.
One of the keys to maintaining our City’s vibrant community is continuing to invest in our infrastructure. In 2014, we focused on supporting public safety, transportation and infrastructure as well as maintaining our community image.

One of our largest capital improvement projects includes the expansion and renovation of the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building. I would like to give you a brief update on this project.

>>>Video Will Play<<<

Thank you Tom for those updates. I invite all of you to join us at our grand opening this fall when we rededicate this state-of-the-art facility.
In the spring of 2014, construction began on Phase 2 of the Woods Chapel Road project.

The plan includes realigning and widening the roadway, improving the railroad crossing, adding a roundabout, and creating bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

On December 23, the new roundabout at Walnut Street and Woods Chapel Road was opened to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience as we work to make these improvements.
This summer, our crews took on two large water main replacement projects to replace aging infrastructure.

A new watermain was placed along Zaun Avenue and along SW 17th Street.

Investing in, and maintaining our water system helps us control our costs for the 20,000 water customers we serve and puts us in a better position as our community continues to grow.
In response to citizen priorities, we have worked to create comprehensive pedestrian paths in the core of our city. In 2014, using Community Development Block Grant funds, we installed a new downtown sidewalk on 10th Street.

This new sidewalk compliments the Vesper Street sidewalk installed in 2013 and provides an attractive pedestrian path along 10th Street.
Railroad Lake is a beautiful water feature in one of the most popular parks in Blue Springs.

Maintaining quality park amenities and beautiful public spaces requires constant investment.

Over the years, storm water collects and deposits sediment into the lake.

This spring, Railroad Lake was dredged --- removing over 6 feet of silt to preserve aquatic life and improve stormwater management.
Well maintained corridors play a large role in attracting businesses and welcoming visitors into Blue Springs.

In 2014, we formed a new Landscape Maintenance Crew to beautify our major corridors and enhance the attractiveness of our city.

Providing recreational opportunities for all our residents is important.

Crews installed a new “poured-in-place” surface for the playground in the beloved Blue Springs Park.

Because the surface is flat, this playground is now completely ADA accessible.
It’s amazing how the little things can impact the City’s overall image. Sometimes, a fresh coat of paint can make a big difference.

In 2014, city crews inspected and repainted all of the fire hydrants located throughout Blue Springs.

It may not sound like a big job.... until you learn that there are 2,450 fire hydrants in our community!
Infrastructure

Innovation

Guiding Principles

- We are a family-oriented community.
- We desire a high level of "livability" - a community that is user-friendly, and in which people live.
- We desire close to and recognize "Quality" in all aspects of living and working in the City.
- We value and appreciate the importance of innovation in problem solving and charting a future course for our community.
As business owners, you know that doing what has always been done is not enough.

To be successful, you must look for creative and innovative solutions to challenges.

One of the City’s guiding principles is that we value and appreciate the importance of innovation in problem solving and using creativity and innovation to better meet the needs of our citizens and businesses.
By embracing technology, we have become a smarter, more efficient organization.

Equipping patrol cars with mobile data terminals, allows our officers to receive and send vital information from the field.

Last fall, the City launched our redesigned, mobile-friendly website. This new layout was designed with YOU in mind and features a task-oriented navigation system.

This new site features many improved resources.
With the revamped Request Tracker tool -- users can easily report service requests for issues such as potholes, property maintenance violations and other concerns ---- 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

Upgrades were also made to the City’s online Municipal Code index to make searches more user-friendly.

Over the years, media coverage in Blue Springs has been reduced and people are receiving and consuming information in many different ways.

I **HOPE** you are all signed up for my enewsletter! **News Happenings** is emailed every two weeks and features city news and community highlights.
Have you checked out the City’s YouTube channel yet? On our channel, you will find episodes of our new show, Along the Path with Parks & Recreation. You can also find videos about city services, programming, facts and events around town. All of these programs are also available on CTV-7.

We are constantly looking for better ways to meet the needs of our community members. There is a famous quote that “Success happens when preparation meets opportunity.”

We were presented with just that.... when Linda Edison approached us with a very generous donation. This ---- paired with the availability of the SportsCity complex ----- created a unique opportunity for the City to address recreational shortfalls identified in the 2013 citizen survey.

We are proud to introduce the new Blue Springs Fieldhouse.
Thank you for that update Dennis!

Innovation often means change. We are constantly examining our processes to ensure that we are being good stewards of local dollars.

In October, we announced that we would not pursue a renewal of the Missouri Department of Revenue License Bureau contract. This was a tough decision for the City Council.

Changes to the contract meant it no longer made financial or operational sense for the City to perform this State function.

I believe that local tax dollars should stay local and we didn’t want the possibility of subsidizing a state service with your local municipal revenues.

This function will remain in Blue Springs operated by a private vendor.
Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Infrastructure

- City initiative to review and assess pedestrian access routes within City right-of-way.
- Sidewalks
- Curb ramps
- Street weaving
- Best practice for assessment:
  - Condition review
  - ADA Compliance
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Remediation

- Standard Construction Repairs and Replacements
- Prioritization - Worst Areas First
  1. Grievances
  2. Accessibility Focus Zones
  3. City Services and Parks
  4. Schools
  5. Hospitals
  6. All others
Sometimes, the only way to address a big challenge is with a big approach. Prompted by your desire to improve mobility and accessibility for all --- in 2013 the City assumed sidewalk maintenance responsibility. This was no small task.

Over the summer, we completed an evaluation of the City’s 168 miles of sidewalks for general infrastructure condition and ADA conformity.

The audit revealed that 83 percent of the City’s sidewalks will need minor modifications.

The draft plan proposes that the City should take a best practices approach to prioritizing sidewalk improvements.

The public comment period is still open and I encourage you to review the plan and provide feedback.
places

most daily services can be found within two miles of home.

breathing new life into old corridors

Corridor reinvestment uses the following principles:

neighborhoods & gathering places

Elements of a great gathering place:

1. Transit-oriented development
2. Public spaces
3. Commercial and cultural facilities
4. Cultural amenities
5. Community parks
6. Schools
7. Community centers
8. Recycling centers
9. Employment centers
10. Health and wellness centers
11. Recreation centers

As the City continues to grow, it is important to plan for our future. The Comprehensive Plan can best be defined as our roadmap for future growth and development.

In 2014, we gathered resident input and researched your vision for growth in Blue Springs.

The plan was adopted in June and implementation is slated for early 2015 with the adoption of an updated Unified Development Code.

Through this plan, we are simplifying our development process to encourage MORE growth and quality development in our community.
I often say that great communities don’t just happen. They are the result of hard work, exceptional people and dedicated partners.

When I looked back at 2014, I saw a lot of TEAMWORK.

One of my goals as Mayor has always been to increase resident involvement and diversity. We have a number of boards and commissions comprised of volunteers from within the community.

In March 2014, the City Council unanimously approved the establishment of a Human Relations Commission.
The aim of this commission is to foster the improvement of human relations to ensure that we are an inclusive community where all persons are accepted and valued.

The commission is currently looking for a logo that embodies diversity, inclusion and the Blue Springs community. I invite you to submit a design of your own!
Responsive governance relies on partnerships with the community we serve. We are always looking for passionate residents and business owners to serve on our boards and commissions.

I invite you to contact me if you would like to serve on one of our committees.
Proposed City Charter Amendments
City of Blue Springs Special Election
October 6, 2013

Blue Springs Charter Amendments

Blue Springs Question 1

Blue Springs Question 2

Blue Springs Question 3

www.bluespringsmo.com/charter/2014
The Home Rule Charter, our governing document, contains the rules which describe how the City functions and is organized.

In August 2014 the Blue Springs Charter Review Commission presented a list of recommend changes to the City’s Home Rule Charter. These questions were placed on the November ballot.

I would like to thank the voters for approving the majority of the City Charter Amendments. These changes redefine my role as mayor and I look forward to serving you in a new capacity.
Known primarily as a “bedroom community,” Blue Springs is slowly 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<<<

If you were featured in our video, please stand so we can recognize you!
I want everyone to know that the City of Blue Springs is open for business! The City, Chamber and EDC are working together to make the process of starting up a business as easy as possible.

In the fall 2014, this team announced the ‘How to Open a Business in Blue Springs’ guide.

This resource focuses on six steps to help entrepreneurs and business owners start or relocate a business in Blue Springs.

This team has presented the guide to many professional organizations here in Blue Springs and to students at both Blue Springs High Schools.

I invite you to participate in the upcoming ‘How to Open and Grow a Business in Blue Springs’ expos.

Who knows? Perhaps we can spark an idea in the mind of the next Blue Springs entrepreneur!
Over the years, many residents have expressed a desire for a yard waste collection center.

In June 2014, thanks to a grant awarded to Jackson County, we celebrated the opening of the Eastern Jackson County Yard Waste Collection Center.

This regional facility allows residents to recycle grass clippings, leaves, brush and limbs for a nominal fee. The facility is open on Saturdays from June to October.

Funding and operations is managed in partnership with Jackson County, Blue Springs, Oak Grove and Grain Valley.
Let’s Move! Saturdays Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7,235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Images of various activities and participants in a gym environment.
We continue to partner with civic groups to improve the quality of life in Blue Springs. A great example is the Let’s Move! Saturdays program.

This program has been wildly successful! What you may not know is that it is operated primarily on a volunteer basis.

Businesses donate staff time and facilities, StandUp Blue Springs coordinates the events and the City promotes the programming.

Each event offers a free family-friendly activity at a different business throughout the city.

I would like to thank all of the businesses that partner with this program and if your business is interested in participating, I invite you to reach out to StandUp Blue Springs.
Teamwork

2014
We're On The Right Track

2014
We're On The Right Track

2014
We're On The Right Track

2014
We're On The Right Track
Today, we have talked about our accomplishments in 2014, 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 this GREAT city for exciting things in our future.
On The Horizon
I would like to share a few of these projects with you this afternoon.

Long identified by residents as a potential area for redevelopment, the White Oak Plaza located the corner of Highway 7 and 40 will soon undergo a radical transformation.

We continue to work with the development team to move this project forward.
Single Family Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Permits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are also excited to see the resurgence of new homes being built in Blue Springs.

As we become a more diverse community, our resident needs and wants are changing.

We will continue to work with our development partners to provide quality home options to current and future Blue Springs residents.
In order to meet the quality of life needs of our residents and employers, we must develop a comprehensive strategy for our parks system.

I am excited to announce that we will be working with the Parks Commission to develop our first-ever Parks Master Plan for Blue Springs.

We will once again look to our community for guidance and input on how to address current and future needs including trails, parks, facilities, recreational activities and other important functions.

Once complete, this plan will set forth a vision for the City’s park system including recommendations on how to accomplish our goals.

Although we are still in the initial conversations about developing this plan, I invite you to be part of the visioning process.

We will need your input to successfully develop a master plan that will meet the growing needs of our community.
Open Government
We are living in a time of unprecedented digital openness, convenience, and transparency in everyday life.

I am excited to announce we will be transitioning our online budget to a more user-friendly and interactive system.

This information has always been available online, but this new platform will allow us to visually share financial data with our residents and business owners. Users will be able to see where revenues come from and how these funds are distributed to provide services to our community.
I fully believe that a well informed public makes for safer neighborhoods, smarter businesses and a stronger, more engaged community.

For this reason, we are working to implement a new web-based crime mapping tool. This new resource will allow users to search crime information to their specifications. (If you want, mention that Independence is doing this.)

Through this new technology we hope the public will have a better idea of the crime in their immediate area so they can make well informed decisions.

Speaking of new technology, we will be rolling out a new app that integrates with the City’s website and allows users to sign up for City news and utilize the new Citizen Request Tracker at any time on a device they already use.
A new era of data-driven government and civic innovation is taking shape.

Data has long been recognized as a government asset, but it can now be shared and utilized both inside government and among citizens to find solutions to persistent civic challenges.

This year, we will aim to identify where we can improve programs and efficiencies by combining several data-sets to match City Services with Citizen Satisfaction Surveys results.
Business Development
Process Improvements
As I mentioned, one of our core values is innovation. ____________ example is how we are improving our development services by streamlining our processes and enhancing our customer service.

Effective in April, the Business License Division will become part of the Community Development Department.

This re-alignment will improve responsiveness and create efficiencies by cross-training employees - ultimately creating better service for our customers.
In order to make sure we are on the right path and staying a City on the Move.... the City Council and I will undergo a strategic visioning session to identify our short and long-term goals for our community.

So today, I again thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Mayor. It truly is a privilege.

There is still a lot of work to be done and for our community to reach its full potential — Blue Springs requires quality leadership.

>>>>> Insert your announcement<<<<<<
On The Horizon

We're On The Right Track
I hope that you enjoyed seeing what we have accomplished in 2014 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 A City..... On the Move AND On the Right Track!

Who is “On the Move” with me?

>>>Video Will Play<<<