2015
Ain't No Stopping Us Now!

Slido.com
Event Code 6566
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 EIGHTH consecutive State of the City Address.

(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 2015!

Did you catch the music that was playing? Ain’t No Stopping us Now...... we are on the...... WHAT?

<<<<Points to Crowd>>>>

MOVE!

Speaking of being on the MOVE, I thought we would try something new this year. I am going to ask you a few questions throughout my presentation to see how well YOU know Blue Springs.

Today cell phones do not need to be underground, or should I say under-table. Pull out your phones, open your browser and type in slido.com. Enter event code 6566. Make sure you keep that handy for later.

Who knows? You may even win something!

You can also follow along with the presentation on our social media sites using the hashtag #bluesprings -S-O-T-C
I will take you on a animated tour of what Blue Springs has accomplished in 2015 and preview things to look forward to in 2016.

Helping me MOVE this great City forward is your Blue Springs 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

>>>Insert Mayor’s Comments<<<

A special thanks to Kim Nakahodo, David Watson, Asia Jones and the City staff that helped me develop this year’s State of the City Address.
Vision Statement

Blue Springs is a thriving, prosperous community on the move with vibrant, connected places filled with innovative involved people of all ages.
Vision.

Last year, the City Council, city leadership and I met for a Strategic Planning Session to develop a vision and identify long-term goals and strategies that can be implemented over the next several years.

A vision statement captures what people most value about their community, and the shared image of what they want their community to become. It inspires us to work together to achieve the vision.

Using our newly created vision statement, the City’s Comprehensive Plan and previous input from resident visioning sessions, we developed 7 goals and strategies our City will focus on over the next 5 to 10 years.
A key component of any successful community is resident input.

We have 15 Boards and Commissions that provide valuable guidance and oversight to virtually all aspects of our community. These boards and commissions are made up of business and community leaders that are committed to improving our community.

Since you are already checking your phones, let’s put them to good use. Pull out your phones and make your way to the slido.com link I mentioned before.

(((((Insert specific poll verbiage))))

How many community members serve on Blue Springs Boards & Commissions? Go on, type in how many people you think serve in this capacity.

((Poll populates.))

Ok. I think that is enough time, let’s look at the results. (((((On the fly verbiage)))))
The answer is 104! 104 people in our community donate their time and knowledge to help guide the future of our great city.

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 and in this community to use their talents and experiences on one of our boards & commissions. You can help us turn our shared vision into reality.

If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

Having a vision and goals are good starting points, but you also need the right people in place to implement the plan.

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 2015 employee accomplishments.

>>>Video Will Play<<<

Thank you Eric for those kinds words. It is my pleasure to serve and help lead this great community.
It is the fundamental duty of the current generation to take care of what we have been given, and pass it on to the next generation in better condition than it was given to us.

Therefore, one of the most important roles we play as City Leaders is to ensure that our infrastructure, the very backbone of our City, is adequately maintained. Although, easier said than done.

The challenge is balancing all of the needs of the community while managing our aging infrastructure; infrastructure that gradually worsens over the years. This includes our street and sidewalk network and water, stormwater, and sewer systems.

We work diligently to maintain this balance and I will now give you an update on several of our infrastructure projects in 2015.
Woods Chapel Road Phase II reconstruction project included:

- realigning and widening the roadway
- adding a roundabout at the Walnut Street intersection
- and creating bicycling and pedestrian pathways from the railroad tracks to Walnut Street.
I am excited to report that on December 11, we cut the ribbon on this phase of Woods Chapel Road Reconstruction project.

You may be interested to learn that over 33,000 vehicles travel this corridor every day! This project has further enhanced the western gateway into our city.

We are working hard to secure funding to complete the final phase of the reconstruction of this corridor.
In November, The City of Blue Springs and the Missouri Department of Transportation dedicated and renamed the diverging diamond bridge, at the intersection of Woods Chapel Road and I-70, in honor of the late Dr. Oliver De Grate III, former Public Works Director.

During his 19 years with the City, Dr. De Grate provided oversight for many of the City’s major infrastructure projects, most notably the Woods Chapel Road Corridor Improvements.

We are honored to present this public recognition in gratitude of Dr. De Grate’s dedication to improving our city’s infrastructure.
We implemented the current street maintenance program in 2008 to address the City’s 242 plus miles of streets. While progress has been good, existing resources are not adequate to address the full need of our community.

Each year that necessary maintenance is delayed increases repair costs. And at some point, maintenance is no longer an option; leaving the City with the most expensive route, replacement. I don’t want us to be in that position.

We have begun to look at a variety of options to address maintenance and hope to have further discussions in the near future about ways to meet our maintenance needs. This may require difficult choices and tradeoffs but this is just too important a priority and certainly is not in keeping with a City “On the Move”.

As City leaders, we need to begin developing strategies to address our maintenance needs so when we do pass the torch to the next generation, we do so with the confidence that we fulfilled our duty and they are not inheriting a problem.
Sidewalk Repair & ADA Transition

168 Miles
of sidewalk in Blue Springs

3,190
Curb Ramps

1,276
Street Crosswalks
2015 marked the start of a new program to address the growing sidewalk maintenance needs in our community.

By using already available resources, the City designated a crew to increase the speed of maintenance for our sidewalk system, improving our customer service.

As you can see, we have a considerable amount of concrete infrastructure in the City, all of which must be maintained or replaced at some point in time.
Poll

How many miles of sidewalks NEED REPAIR in Blue Springs?

139

Miles need Repair in Blue Springs
(Out of 168 miles)

>>Infrastructure
Again, I am going to ask you to take out those phones and make your way to the slido.com link I mentioned before.

(((Insert specific poll verbiage))))

How many miles of sidewalks need repair in Blue Springs according to a recent audit? Go on, type in how many miles need repair.

((Poll populates.))

Ok. I think that is enough time, let’s look at the results. (((On the fly verbiage))))

139 Miles need repair! Wow, huh? If you do the math in the poll question, nearly 83% of our sidewalks are in need of some level of repair.

This is no small task.

One of the most important economic development strategies a municipality can have is to provide a well maintained and reliable transportation and infrastructure network.

As we look forward, it will be critical for city leaders to bring focus and attention to this area by working together to develop long-term, sustainable solutions.
2015 Highlights with the Blue Springs Police Department

2016 Kansas City Business Journal Capstone Award Winner Green Design Category

Public Safety
Public Safety services are important for the health and wellbeing of any successful community.

And now, I will ask Tom Echert, Chairman of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Board, and Kynette Campbell, Chairman of the Human Relations Commission to give you an update on the Blue Springs Police Department.

>>>Video Will Play<<<

Thank you for those updates Tom & Kynette!

I’m happy to share that our Public Safety Building has been named a 2016 Capstone Award Winner for Green Design from the Kansas City Business Journal.

Earlier, I mentioned the importance of having a vision and being able to implement it. One aspect of this implementation is planning.
What is Placemaking?

Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential to create public spaces that promote community, health, happiness, and well-being.

Creating places for you to live, work and play.
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.
This growth and future development is centered largely around our City’s newly adopted Comprehensive Plan which acts as our roadmap for long-term growth.

We are currently working on creating Specific Plans that customize the Comprehensive Plan’s framework to match the unique vision of the people that live in those areas.

Three Specific Plans have been completed and staff is talking to residents to develop future plans.
The City of Blue Springs will soon begin implementing updates to our comprehensive plan, development code, right-of-way permitting, and design and construction manual.
In 2015, we held our eighth Developer’s Workshop where we discussed new guidelines and standards outlined in our recently updated development documents.

These new development guidelines allow the City to be more flexible during the development process while requiring enhanced design and construction standards to better address our City’s long-term infrastructure maintenance needs.
Another large aspect of Placemaking is creating spaces for people to come together. I can’t think of a better example than our own Blue Springs Fieldhouse.

Here is a video to tell us more about what this facility has to offer.

>>>Video Will Play<<<

Wow. It is awesome to see just how much the Fieldhouse has to offer not only to Blue Springs, but all of Eastern Jackson County. And it’s not just me saying this.

I am pleased to tell you that the Blue Springs Fieldhouse has been recognized with a 2016 Capstone Award in the Community Impact category from the Kansas City Business Journal.

The Fieldhouse has also been awarded the Tarkett Sports Indoor Recreation Project of the Year Award. This award is given to Tarkett’s best indoor project in North America for 2015, and is quite an honor for our Fieldhouse.
I am proud to say that in Blue Springs we have a vibrant business community.

Over the past few years, an inter-agency taskforce has been meeting to discuss ways to improve internal and external processes, enhancing growth and opportunity in Blue Springs.

This taskforce has since become known as the Blue Springs Business Resource Network.

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

>>>>>>>applause<<<<<<<

This network has hosted four business expos providing face-to-face support for new and established business owners.

2015 marked the first year Blue Springs participated in Global Entrepreneurship Week, a celebration of entrepreneurs across more than 140 countries.

It was a good opportunity for business owners and entrepreneurs to connect with like-minded individuals and build their network.
Last year, the Network developed several companion resources based on feedback gathered at their business expos.

The Home-Based Business guide addresses questions and concerns for Blue Springs Home-Based Businesses.

The Network, along with the Main Center Redevelopment Corporation, also designed a resource guide specific to businesses in our historic downtown.

Finally, the Network created a bimonthly newsletter highlighting all of the training opportunities available in Blue Springs.
Our efforts to work with our business community did not go unnoticed.

As our City Administrator shared earlier, the group won the Missouri Municipal League’s 2015 Innovation Award for this program.

This program was also recognized nationally by Transforming Local Government as a success case study.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Blue Springs School District and UMKC on their first entrepreneurship course for both high school students and community members.

Blue Springs is fortunate to have multiple organizations come together to support and grow our business community.
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<<<

Now that’s what I call being on the move..... and on the RIGHT track.
Today, we have talked about our accomplishments in 2015, but I would like to talk about what we will be doing in the future.

Our vision for Blue Springs is a thriving, prosperous community on the move with vibrant, connected places filled with innovative involved people of all ages.

We are committed to these values, and we are positioning this GREAT city for exciting things in our future.
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 on the corner of Highway 7 and 40 will soon undergo a radical transformation.

Phase One of the White Oak Marketplace features a new 85-thousand-square-foot Cosentino’s Price Chopper with an attached 6-thousand-square-foot attached retail space.

Phase 2 and 3 call for a multi-family senior residential facility and several retail or restaurant sites.

We look forward to the welcomed redevelopment of the White Oak Plaza Center.
Saint Luke’s Health System will construct a two-story, 36,000-square-foot specialty clinic on the east side of Blue Springs at Adams Dairy Parkway and RD Mize.

The clinic will have primary care providers and specialists along with imaging and lab areas.

The target date for completion for this clinic is mid-2017.
PARKS MASTER PLAN
YOU CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN BLUE SPRINGS!
The Blue Springs Parks and Recreation Department is currently developing their first Parks Master Plan.

Once complete, this document will help guide future policy decisions, projects and the future of our parks system and recreational programming.

We need YOUR help! I believe your input is critical in providing a foundation for economic development, building a healthy community and providing a place for ALL of us to live, work and play.
This year Blue Springs is aiming to become an official Community of All Ages.

This means our community seeks to become more welcoming to residents of all ages and, in the process, more vibrant, healthy and prosperous.

Through this program we hope to foster an active community that promotes respect, diversity and inclusion for everyone.

This regional program compliments our local efforts with the Human Relations Commission and developing the Parks Master Plan.
“Where there is no vision, there is no hope.”

George Washington Cable
I hope you enjoyed seeing what our community accomplished in 2015 and the incredible opportunities we have for the future.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: great communities don’t just happen. It takes a clear vision, dedicated partners and hard work.

Like George Washington Carver once said, “Where there is no vision, there is no hope.”

I announced this time last year during my State of the City Address that I would run for reelection for a third term as your Mayor. I filed for reelection on December 15, which by the way was my birthday, and I am very pleased that Councilmen Carter, Lievsay, Culpepper and I are all running unopposed.
As you can see: AIN’T NO STOPPIN’ US NOW...WE’RE ON THE MOVE AND ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

It is an honor to be mayor of this GREAT city.

Thank you for sharing part of your day with me.

Now I will close by sharing with you a little peek into the life of your mayor.

>>>Video Will Play<<<