

There are so many real issues we face as a city and significant problems we must solve. But not today! Today, this week, this month, this season is all about the fun. It's summer in Vanduser and the weather is glorious. Take off your shoes and relax. See how far you can walk. Grab your beach chair and a book and go to the lake. Ride a jet ski or a mountain bike. Hike a forested trail. Watch nature unfold in all its glory. This is the time of year to celebrate the beauty and bounty that we all are lucky enough to enjoy. This is summer in Missouri.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration was a hit. With so many people cheering and wishing each other a Happy 4th of July, it brought smiles to everyone's faces. These are the kinds of events that create the strong bonds of a community. Even more amazing was the crowd that watched the firework display from behind the fence. I could hear the awes and cheering from the cheap seats after each heart pounding explosion. I couldn't have asked for a better turnout. It was a celebration of our community and our lives. It was what life is meant to be—fun, family and freedom. But let's not stop there. For the moment, let's suspend the problems that divide us and the issues that ignite us. They will all be there next month. But maybe with a little fun and a measure of play, they won't seem nearly as contentious. August is fast approaching which means we are closer to that poplar question "When are the streets going to be paved" Well we are in hopes of September. The plans are done we are just waiting on CDBG to approve those plans. Renovations of the Scott County Rural Fire Department are still underway. You may have noticed the big signs atop of the station. The number 3 represents the station number for those asking. July has been an uneventful month for the city. Nothing to important to have to elaborate in this edition of the Mayors Monthly Message, but I'm fairly certain August will have lots of details. In short, have fun and enjoy the summer in Vanduser.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Hargrove-Mayor