

As mayor, it is my privilege and honor to have the opportunity to talk about our accomplishments and chart out the challenges – and opportunities – for the future and I look forward to serving Vanduser in 2016.

As I sit here and reflect on 2015, I am filled with pride at our accomplishments. I proclaimed 2015 as “The Year We Move Forward” and we kept to that ideal. We delivered a year of marked improvements, procedural advancements, and community discussion, introspection, and looking ahead. We made significant roadway improvements, recreational improvements, restructured employment in our departments and undertook a variety of plans to propel us forward in a smart and thoughtful way.

Among our more notable achievements, we made all around road improvements last year. After years of neglect, we have a lot of improvements to catch up on and we have an aggressive plan in place.

With public safety in mind, the Scott County Rural Fire Protection District installed a repeater system located in the City Maintenance Building along with an antenna on the water tower which led to improved communications for them during emergency operations. The Tornado siren was inoperable due to a bad motor which was caused by a lightning strike, but fear not a new motor has been installed along with new batteries. This early weather warning siren which is in full operation to me is a big deal for our town. If just one life is spared due to our early warning siren no amount of money is worth loosing someone dear.

In our parks, the City Council sees the need for the kids in our community to have somewhere to play and enjoy nice days. That is why we strive to keep up on maintenance and have new and exciting things added to our parks. Last year the big hit was the soccer goals. I myself have played a few rounds since installing the goals. Kevin heads up the parks department so watch for new projects coming in the near future regarding parks and recreation.

Among other things that happened in 2015 a slight increase in water rates were noticed. We voted as a council to increase the rates due to the higher cost to furnish water. Chemicals to treat the water, the electricity to run the plant etc were a major factor in this decision, but so far so good.

I am very optimistic as we head in to 2016, that we will continue to move projects forward and continue to build a future that will sustain our high quality of life. We encourage more resident involvement at our meetings as well as involvement in our upcoming plans and initiatives. To keep up with latest and to let us hear from you, please follow us on Facebook and continue to monitor our city website.

As January's message comes to a close I want to say the City Council and I are humbled and proud to represent our exceptional town and we look forward to a great 2016!

Sincerely,

Michael W. Hargrove- Mayor

