

February 2015

As February is in full swing the city officials of Vanduser are busy planning one of the biggest projects we've seen in quite some time. I've written previously about 2015 being a big year for Vanduser. This will be such an important year as various projects will be underway, improving our quality of life at every turn. This month we will be opening the packets from several Engineering Firms for the resurfacing of our streets. Summer will be here before you know it and a project of this size takes several months of planning and paperwork. If Mother Nature is kind to us this spring, crews will be able to quickly transition the street project into permanent improvements.

In January the council discussed an increase in water rates, but tabled the idea until February's meeting. It was in 2005 when the rates were last increased. A long discussion involving the increased costs of maintenance and materials lead to the water rate increase which was passed by a unanimous vote. A water rate schedule chart can be found either on our website or at City Hall.

With snow, ice and extremely low temps in the forecast I would like to challenge the citizens of Vanduser to take time to check on the elderly making sure they have essential items like food and medications. With freezing temperatures there comes a chance for pipes to freeze and bust. We will be on the look out for higher than normal water usage at the end of the month. Lastly please make sure your four legged friends are warm.

Liz reported that all finances are in the new accounting program. She has worked hard even went above and beyond my expectations and so I want to say THANK YOU for the work you do each and every day for our town.

Robert Verble reported that the water system is running smoothly at this time. With a few minor repairs in the months prior this is great news. Robert has worked very hard in maintaining our system and for that I also want to say THANK YOU and your work isn't going unnoticed.

And, sadly, we are reminded once again that death is no respecter of person nor age as we grieve for the family and friends of another outstanding citizen. As a community, we all share in the loss and reaffirm our commitment to support those in distress.

While the geographic center of Vanduser may be hard to pinpoint, many of us have our own experiences and favorite things that are at the heart of why we love this town. For some, the heart of what makes Vanduser special may be its small size. For others, the low crime rate. For me, a resident of Vanduser since 1985, it is the memories of the Vanduser Survivors Day where the community came together after the 1986 tornado and brung unto the town a celebration of life each May. As I come to a close of this Mayors Monthly Message I leave you with this. The Heart of Vanduser, you see, is really the community.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Hargrove- Mayor

