

January 3, 2014

Let 2014 begin! As a community, we have an amazing year ahead of us and I am excited to get the new year off to a great start. In 2014, we will participate in events that will change our organization and our community for the better.

- **Water & Wastewater:** Our Utilities Department has already started working on the five-year Capital Improvements Plan which includes over \$160 million in funding for infrastructure and program enhancements to our water and wastewater systems. Much-needed infrastructure that improves the reliability and quality of our water systems are underway. Our Utility Department has a lot on its plate and I am excited to see these projects come to completion.
- **Solid Waste:** 2014 will be a significant transformation year for our Solid Waste Division. In October this year, our staff will be integral to rolling-out a new city-provided, curbside recycling system. We're offering this service to our residents as an extension of our current quality services and I am sure that curbside will be well-received and that our dedicated staff in Solid Waste will work hard to make sure our residents are prepared for the change and ready for our new menu of services.
- **Rock Chalk Park:** The city's newest recreation facility will open in west Lawrence but this will also be our largest venue to offer indoor-and-outdoor space for sports tournaments. Our recreation center part of a major athletics complex and is housed adjacent to the University of Kansas' new, state-of-the-art athletic complexes for soccer, track and softball. We've already booked the first 15 weekends in 2015 for tournaments! We're working to make Rock Chalk Park a premier regional facility where teams want to come and experience the great facilities, sights, restaurants and entertainment that Lawrence has to offer. Rock Chalk Park is set to open in summer 2014.
- **Economic Development:** We've worked for years to enhance our opportunities for growing our tax base and expanding primary jobs in the local workforce. The Public Works Department is working to complete infrastructure at Lawrence VenturePark which will allow for companies to locate in Lawrence and have the space needed to grow their companies. The Bioscience and Technology Business Center at KU continues to grow and Phase II is expected to open in 2014 on the KU Campus. Each of these economic development initiatives is laying the groundwork for bringing new jobs to Lawrence.
- **Lawrence Public Library:** The new parking garage is open and widely used in downtown Lawrence. Now, we await the opening of the expanded library with additional services to serve the thousands of patrons that visit each week. Voters approved the library expansion in 2010 – a commitment to our residents that great communities have great libraries. The library is set to open in summer of 2014.
- **Numerous Other Improvements & Initiatives** - Including equipment, staffing, and facility enhancements in our Fire-Medical Department, Police Department and Emergency Services Dispatch, as a city we are continuing to work on infrastructure maintenance, updating our Comprehensive Plan, and much more on various work plans and initiatives. The problem with a list is that a number of valuable items will be left off!

As you can see, 2014 is setting up to be a great year for Lawrence. I look forward to the many great opportunities, challenges and successes we'll have together as an organization this year. Cheers to 2014!

Sincerely,

David L. Corliss
City Manager