



State of the City

Andover, Kansas
Brought to you by Mayor Ben Lawrence



2016 Accomplishments
&
2017 Upcoming Projects

Looking back at all that was accomplished last year, it should be noted that 2016 was an exciting and productive year for the City. Each department had several notable accomplishments that can be found below.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- **Burial of Power Lines along Andover Road between Highway 400 to 13th Street.**

Although it took a great deal of patience on behalf of our citizens as they drove through cones on Andover Road during much of 2016, we do feel this improvement is monumental! The project was recommended in the city's Comprehensive Development Plan. Besides being a visual improvement, this upgrade will also make it less likely that ice and wind storms will take out power for Andover residents this winter and in the years to come.

- **Improvements and Widening of 159th Street between 13th and 21st Streets**
Again, despite some headaches as traffic was re-routed and reduced to one-lane at times, this infrastructure improvement is huge for those who regularly travel 159th Street in our city. As traffic continues to pick up on Andover Road, the importance of 159th to back up this main road becomes more evident.

- **Central Park Playground Parking Lot**

The Park Planning Committee Identified in 2014 a desire to pave the playground parking lot at Central Park. The gravel lot had accommodated a lot of activity over the years between business fairs at GAD and concession areas for the summer concerts. The more the space was used, the clearer that paving the lot would be a huge improvement, especially to stroller-pushing parents or those in wheelchairs. The lot was paved this fall, just in time for the Greater Andover Days festival.

POLICE:

- **Completion of Basement Remodel**

The Police Department was able to remodel space in their basement this year that used to house city hall staff prior to the new city hall building in 2011. The new space will be used by detectives as interview space and offices. The remodel also provides an improved training area.

- **CALEA Recertification**

On April 2, representatives of the Andover Police Department appeared before CALEA's full board of commissioners. At the conclusion of the hearing, the board unanimously approved the Andover Police Department's request for re-accreditation and awarded CALEA's "Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation." The Andover Police Department received its initial accreditation by CALEA in 2013, having demonstrated compliance with a comprehensive set of over 360 police standards which are based on best practices that reflect the current thinking and experience of national law enforcement practitioners and researchers. This credential for our law enforcement professionals is even more valuable to the city council in light of recent Police/citizen interactions and disputes across our nation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- **ISO Rating**

In 2016 the Fire Department completed the process for an ISO rating. We are pleased to inform you that the rating was upgraded to the excellent score of three! This means real savings to property owners who should see reductions in their insurance costs.

- **New Ladder Truck**

Pierce Manufacturing Company finished the City's new ladder truck in May and it has been part of the Andover Fire Department's Fleet since June. This vital piece of equipment will serve the residents of Andover for decades to come and will help the fire department serve taller buildings and two-story homes that are set back some distance from the road.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

- **Completion of Sales Tax Projects**

A 0.75 % sales tax was approved by voters in April of 2015. The tax will not last more than 5 years and the proceeds go towards construction of the new street shop, new restrooms in Central Park, and purchasing of the new ladder truck. I am happy to report to you today that all three projects were completed in 2016.

- **Street Maintenance Shop**

The new 12,505 square foot Street shop which includes four work bays and an indoor wash bay, office space, gender-specific locker rooms, a break/meeting room and ample storage area, opened in November. The architects on the project were GLMV and the contractor was Bauer & Son Construction.

- **Central Park Restroom**

The restrooms in Central Park were completed in July! This is yet another GREAT amenity for Central Park which can be used on a daily basis by citizens visiting the playground and park as well as visitors to our community during our various annual events.

DEVELOPMENT:

- **Cornerstone 6th Addition**

A new subdivision was completed this year (Cornerstone 6th Addition). several new businesses were also built or remodeled existing space. This includes a New Medical Office Complex-Andover Family Medicine (utilized city-issued IRB Financing), Los Cocos Mexican Restaurant, Express Wellness and Dunkin Donuts.

- **Neighborhood Revitalization Plan:**

The NRP or Neighborhood Revitalization Program was started again on January 1 in the city of Andover. This revised version only applies to certain areas of town (primarily Andover Road and 21st Street corridors as well as Winchester and Prairie Creek Subdivisions). This year 26 New Residential and Remodel Projects were part of the program as well as 4 New Commercial and Remodel Projects.

EVENTS:

- **Concert in the Park**

June 18th, 2016 - We hosted 7,500 people. Performers included Rick Springfield, Night Ranger, and the Romantics.

- **Greater Andover Days (GAD)**

- **Police and Fire Festival**

- **Hometown Christmas in Central Park**

FINANCIALS:

The City finished 2016 in outstanding financial shape, including:

- Reserves of at least 25% in every property tax fund, including the general fund.
- 3 to 1 Asset to liability ratio demonstrating the City Council's commitment to maintaining streets, buildings, sewer and water lines, and various City equipment.
- AA rating from S & P, making the City of Andover one the highest rated municipalities in Kansas and amongst the very top for cities under 25,000 in population.
- Recognition for excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. We have received that recognition for as long as I have been on the Governing Body some 15 years now.

Upcoming in 2017

DEVELOPMENT:

- **Residential**

Green Valley Green 12th, which will be a subdivision of Duplexes, will begin construction. This development includes 12 Lots. Cornerstone 7th Addition will bring 30 residential Lots to town in our north end, as well as Prairie Creek Second which will bring Additional Duplexes to our city.

- **Commercial**

A New Engineering Office (ASM) will be built in the Business Park and a New Financial Institution is also coming to town. Andover Road will see the addition of Myers Automotive Repair (900 N block) as well as the new complete Autozone (south of Kellogg, across from the Marketplace). An interior design store is being built behind the Dollar General, also on Andover Road.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- **Andover Road Building improvement Grant Program**

In the 2017 budget, the Andover City Council included \$15,000 to be awarded to businesses on Andover Road. The goal of the Andover Road Business Improvement Grant Program is to support local businesses through funding for exterior building repairs or façade improvements, to replace legally non-conforming signs, to increase landscaping specifically in areas adjacent to sidewalks, to make ADA compliance improvements, or any improvements to the exterior of the business that makes the environment more pleasant for non-motorists. Grant applications will be accepted March 1-31; visit www.andoverks.com/ecodevo for more details or call 977-9412.

- **2018 National Fireworks Association Convention**

We are working with GoWichita to attract the 2018 National Fireworks Association Convention to Wichita with the vendors' fireworks display in Central Park during the second of week of September in 2018. This will include a large fireworks show on Friday or Saturday Night which will be open to the public to attend, for a cost. Thousands of vendors and fireworks distributors will make their way out to Andover to watch the fireworks displays throughout the week including several international visitors. There is considerable potential for a positive economic impact from co-hosting this event and we feel confident Central Park is the perfect location.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

- **Amphitheater**

Design work has already begun for the Central Park Amphitheater. A local architecture firm (LK Architecture) was selected by the city council at the beginning of the year. They will continue to meet with a design committee comprised of residents, members of the City Council and Convention and Visitors

Bureau, and staff throughout the project. Construction of the facility should begin right after the 5th Annual Summer Concert in the Park.

- **Remodel of ball diamonds**

Baseball and softball are by far the most popular sports the city's recreation program offers. With that in mind, included in this year's Capital Improvement Plan is money for improvements to the baseball diamonds at 13th Street Sports Park. These improvements will include new scoreboards.

- **Redbud Trail**

There are lots of exciting things going on in 2017 with regard to the Redbud Trail. The City of Andover has taken over management of the trail going east from Meadowlark to US Highway 400. Work is currently under way so that this rural section of the trail can be opened for bikers and runners this year. Within the city's limits, a trailhead park will be developed on Main Street adjacent to the trail later this year.

Other partners are doing exciting work on the Redbud Trail as well. The City of Wichita has announced they will be extending the trail from Woodlawn in Wichita all the way east to 159th, where the Andover portion of the trail begins. The connection makes the Trail a much more valuable asset for our community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- **New Fire Engine**

The Fire Department is currently working with Pierce Manufacturing on the design of a new Fire Engine which will be delivered to the City in March.

POLICE:

- **Body Cameras**

New Body Cameras for Police Department will be purchased and installed later this year.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

- **Unified Development Manual**

A major project is underway in the planning and Zoning Department: the revision of Zoning Ordinances, Site Planning, and Subdivision regulations into one Unified Development Manual. This single document should make navigating development requirements in Andover much easier for new businesses.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS:

- The impact of the State Legislature's decision to create a tax lid for local governments will be felt by the City this year. Elections will be held this year (and going forward) in August and November instead of February and April. Time will tell how much impact each of these decisions will have on your local government.

EVENTS:

- **Police and Fire Festival**
The Police and Fire Festival will take place Saturday, June 3 in Central Park. This event grows each year and puts our excellent public safety staff and equipment on display.
- **5th Annual Concert in Park**
This year's concert will be held on Saturday, June 17th. We will once again request the assistance of several community partners including Rotary who sells the beer to the many thirsty concert attendees and then generously uses their portion of the proceeds on a charitable group/project in Andover.
- **GAD**
This year the 50th Annual Greater Andover Days festival will be held September 28-October 1 in Central Park. This coincides with the fact that this is the City of Andover's 60th anniversary. It's going to be a banner year for Andover!
- **Hometown Christmas**
Scheduled for Thursday, December 14. This year we will hope for warmer weather than 2016's frigid event!