



**City of Raymore**  
100 Municipal Circle  
Raymore, Missouri 64083  
(816) 331-3324 Fax (816) 331-8724

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## **The State of the City**

Members of the Council, the state of the City of Raymore is strong with effective policies, well documented procedures, and a skilled City Staff. The City of Raymore continues to be an exemplary example of a safe, well-managed city, delivering services to a satisfied citizenry, with careful attention to fiscally conservative budgets, all while being poised for growth as the economy begins to improve.

Through the work of the Council, City Staff, boards, commissions, and other citizen volunteers, in the past year:

- We enjoyed one of the lowest crime rates in the area.
  - Raymore issued over 47% of all of the residential building permits in Cass County; nearly 10 times as many as our neighboring cities - combined.
  - The number of homes under construction in Raymore as of March is up 36% over 2013 and up 48% over March 2012.
  - The City reduced residential development fees by over \$800.
  - Using the City's water/sewer financial model, the City implemented a utility rate decrease of 38 cents per thousand gallons, saving over \$2 per month for the average customer.
  - The City rolled back the property tax levy resulting in an ad valorem property tax rate less than neighboring communities.
  - We continued the sidewalk installation program to provide for safe pedestrian traffic throughout the City including 9000 square feet of sidewalk on Hubach Hill and on Foxridge Drive supporting safe student traffic to Stonegate Elementary School.
  - We annexed Kurzweil Road into the City, completing an agreement made some 15 years ago.
  - The City installed LED street lights throughout much of the City as the Smart Lights for Smart Cities and Original Town Street Light programs were completed.
  - Our citizens enjoyed an increasingly successful Farmers Market.
  - City Staff continued to actively monitor and respond on Facebook pages for Parks and Rec, Raymore Animal Shelter, and the Raymore Police Department improving the City's outreach to our citizens.
  - The City improved the use of video for recording meetings by placing the video on YouTube and began more use of video including the production of regular video news updates.
  - We completed a roundabout at Lucy Webb and Dean Avenue to support increase traffic from North Cass Parkway and began development of a welcoming feature to the roundabout.
  - Cass County's peer-driven Youth Court, hosted by Raymore, continues to reduce incidents of juvenile delinquency, misconduct and misbehavior while also providing valuable experience to the youth serving in the roles of attorneys, judges, and the like.
  - Our Municipal Court implemented an "Attorney Docket" to improve the efficiency of our Municipal Court.
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***“The City of Raymore is dedicated to being a quality community in which to live, work and play.”***



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- Our Police Communications Center processed over 50,000 telephone calls over the year with nearly 10,000 9-1-1 calls.
- We welcomed new and expanded businesses to Raymore: Sam's Club, Golden Corral, Minsky's Pizza, First Impressions Salon and Spa, Salon Fringe, SMS AutoSports, Kaw Valley Green-houses, Galleria Nails, C&D Coins, Freedom Stop, Olinger Insurance Agency, Victory Lane Auto, Shelter Insurance, R-G Federal Credit Union, Greentec Auto, Shap'n Up Nutrition, Springing Up CDC/Cornerstone Academy, Young Professors Preschool, Kim's Korner Boutique, Oliver's Pizzeria, High Voltage Cheer, Spare Change Thrift Store, Garden Gate Lawn and Landscape, and Monumental Lawn and Outdoor.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission adopted an updated Growth Management Plan.
- The Council and City Staff held an effective strategic planning session, resulting in goals, objectives, and action steps for the City for the next several years.
- The Council reaffirmed its preference against involuntarily annexing property into the City and agreed to be receptive to property owners wanting to voluntarily annex into the City.
- The City's budget is financially sound and addresses the needs of the City in a fiscally conservative fashion.
- We allocated \$1 million for a future Civic Center.
- The City completed refunding of General Obligation Bond issues, achieving nearly \$2.3 million in savings over the next fifteen years.
- The City's bond rating was upgraded by Moody's from A1 to Aa2.
- Our trails, parks, and recreation programs continue to grow and improve.

Councilmembers, the state of the City of Raymore is strong with effective policies, well-documented procedures, and a skilled City Staff. In the coming year I challenge us to:

- Support City Staff as they complete activities toward achieving the goals and objectives we established for the City.
- Strive to attract commercial development to the North Cass Parkway Interchange. Commercial development in the North Cass Parkway area will bring jobs and amenities to Raymore.
- Complete the Civic Center Feasibility Study and work to implement the Civic Center quickly and at a cost that will not require an increase in taxes.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kerckhoff  
Mayor, City of Raymore  
May 12, 2014

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