



The City of Basehor

A Message from Mayor David K. Breuer

January 16, 2013

To the Citizens of Basehor,

As we start the New Year I would like to take a moment to share with Basehor residents a little about where we are going and where we have been. We've built on the progress we've seen over the past year and are watching plans for the City of Basehor turn into reality. With an ever increasing population, continued business development and a number of opportunities in front of us, now is the time for Basehor to continue to excel.

Perhaps the most encouraging news in Basehor during the past year was the increase in housing construction. Building permits for more than forty housing units were submitted to the City. Basehor continues to be one of the fastest growing communities on either side of the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. In 2012, almost half of all new home construction in Leavenworth County took place in Basehor.

Last year the City also saw sales tax collections increase by 11.5%. This is exciting news and hopefully a lasting trend. This should be the case as the City is seeing new businesses enter the community very regularly.

Residents should also be aware that the City has continued to solidify its financial position. Cash reserve levels are improving due to conservative budgeting, careful spending and an improving economy. The City has been able to build reserves in all of its Funds which are supported by taxes. Cash reserves reduce reliance on property taxes in the event of revenue shortfalls. Fortunately the City Council has been able to lower the mill levy two years in a row.

In a continuous effort to save money and reduce costs the City has recently refinanced outstanding debt. Taking advantage of historically low interest rates the City refinanced several debt obligations and saved approximately \$1,000,000 in debt service payments. The City has twice in the past six months received a Standard & Poor's bond rating of AA- which is an indicator of very strong credit worthiness.

A true testament to the City's commitment to financial integrity is that in 2012, for the third year in a row the City received an unqualified audit. An unqualified financial audit is the best type of report a municipality is able to receive from an external auditor.

In an effort to more accurately gauge citizen priorities, the City Council and Planning Commission undertook a community survey which addressed a variety of services and community characteristics. The mail-in survey was completed by approximately 700 Basehor residents for a 30% response rate. The results will play a

critical role in the ongoing modification of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the development of the Governing Body's 2014, budget.

In 2012, the City was able to successfully chip seal three miles of road surface. This summer residents will also notice the continuation of the City's pavement management program. In 2013, this program will provide approximately seven miles of roadway paving throughout the City. These improvements are totally funded through the states gas and local sales taxes.

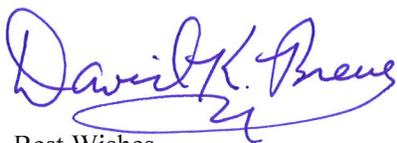
With an eye on progress the City will see other infrastructure improvements in 2013. The City has received Kansas Department of Transporting (KDOT) Corridor funding for three large projects along 24/40. There will be an extension of Wolf Creek Parkway as well as improvements to the intersections located at 155th and 158th and 24/40. These projects will offer a significant opportunity for our economic growth as well as improved vehicular safety. The significance of a City of our size receiving such large grants cannot be understated. KDOT funding also recently allowed for the installation of a traffic signals as the intersection of 158th and 24/40. This long awaited project significantly improves the safety of one of Basehor's busiest intersections.

The City's solid waste and single stream recycling program continues to be a success. Last year Basehor residents diverted 70 tons of solid waste from area landfills. Currently residents are recycling approximately 20% of their solid waste. The percentage for the metro area is 25%. As our program is still relatively new it is anticipated that our waste diversion numbers will only increase as waste disposal and recycling behaviors continue to evolve.

We've not forgotten some of our most important citizens – our youth. The City Council will continue to offer Basehor residents 50% rebates for all youth athletic programming at the Field of Dreams complex. Approximately 150 Basehor youth benefited from the rebate program in 2012. Since taking ownership of the complex participation has increased by 30%. In 2013, residents and users of the facility will continue to notice improvements and upgrades to the facility. Basehor City Park also continues to be incredibly popular with the young and old alike.

If you should have a question or suggestion, don't hesitate to contact us. Please give us a call, send us an email, stop by City Hall or visit the City's web site (www.cityofbasehor.org). The City's website continues to provide a wealth of information on all of the City's departments and activities. Check back often as the City's dedication to transparency is always bringing about new features and information.

This year is an opportunity for Basehor to move forward using the foundation of strong leadership, focused planning and a solid financial standing. I am proud to serve as your mayor and to work with my fellow City Council Members and City staff to enhance public safety, promote economic development, and provide quality community planning. Over the next year, I am confident that our due diligence and fiscal prudence will serve as the foundation for continued growth and prosperity.



Best Wishes,
David K. Breuer, Mayor
CITY OF BASEHOR