

Good evening. Thank you to everyone in the audience for taking time to be here tonight. Also, thank you to council, and staff that is usually here for the meetings. For the fourth time as mayor, I am privileged with giving the State of the City address to Davison residents. Let's hope this goes better than my fourth attempt at a paczki eating title.

Tonight's speech will give you a quick view of what our city has gone through the past year, and let you in on plans for the upcoming year. First and foremost, HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVISON!!! We have started to roll out what we hope will be a summer long celebration of the city's one hundred and twenty fifth birthday. Special events will be held at different venues and dates that will showcase our favorite city. A diverse committee from several local organizations has met and will soon unveil the plans. Stay tuned for details, as you won't want to miss any of the fun.

The city itself has undergone possibly one of the most challenging years that Mother Nature has dealt us. We have all sat here counting the days gone by that snow has dominated our landscape. It was only a few months ago that our area saw outages that left people without power for several days. Our Department of Public Works has worked through all these challenges to keep Davison moving. They have probably spent as many hours just moving snow to make room for more this year, than then spent plowing collectively last year. Many times city residents found they had plowed roads and could drive, only to be disappointed once they hit the township/county lines. They also continue to make the necessary repairs to an aging water system, replace faulty meters, and update our water plant to deliver a superior product to residents.

Our office at City Hall goes through its own set of changes. Most noticeably, some remodeling and a fresh paint job. But they have also seen a slight change in staff with the hiring of a city treasurer, the promotion of one employee, and the hiring of another. The office is the place where most residents will come in contact in regards to City business. The ladies here continue to be a great face for our town and also continue to be a huge support mechanism for the many different facets of municipal works. It is always one of the ladies at a council, committee, or board meeting that acts as a bridge between that group and city hall. Your hard work and dedication to Davison doesn't go unnoticed!

The City of Davison police department also had a busy year. We saw a long time dedicated employee ride off into the sunset of retirement. And, for the 125th year in a row, crime has been reduced. There have been several upgrades to the office and to cars that keep our department current with the best available tools to do the job. Also, the hiring of a few new officers to fill voids created by recent retirements, ensures residents that are committed to the same level of service they are accustomed too.

This council has taken what I think is significant strides in setting goals and plans to carry them out. With the recent addition of a few recycled council members, the board sits strong and will use its resources and passion to move forward. Downtown the perfect storm is brewing for development. The Downtown Development Authority and Council worked on a project to repave and beautify downtown last year. With the recent sales of the former hotel and oil and gas properties, there is huge window of opportunity for us to continue to develop and grow downtown. Other areas of the City will change as we try to make a comfortable living community with many necessary amenities.

With all the continuing positives in our town, I want to take moment to call on the residents to help keep it going ! We need more than just staff and council to make Davison our cozy town that it is. There are endless opportunities to join a committee, board, or volunteer group in our one square mile alone.

We all take the time to make sure we have a nice yard, comfortable with maybe some trees, a deck, patio furniture, a grill, maybe some play equipment for the kids. But what we really need, is to venture out and make the larger surroundings as nice as our immediate surroundings. The city will see the formation of a park committee that will give residents somewhere to have input on what happens in places of recreation. Those with kids may feel the need to give a few hours a month to have that voice. There are also many events that you could volunteer at to simply have a time investment into your city. Keeping a nice city with all the amenities and conveniences takes more than a select group of individuals, it takes everyone. With a place to live, we need to also create a place to grow, and that will take outreach on everyone's part. Give time to your city. Even a small amount will make a difference, and even a small amount will make you feel good.

Davison is ready to celebrate its 125th birthday. Find a reason to celebrate with us. Take a minute to look at Davison and really think about how you can make it a place for you, your kids, and generations after. Take a minute to think about why you stay here. Take another minute to think about the great memories you have already created here. Just think about Davison.... when you do, you'll realize that living in this town is really a blessing !

Thank you and HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVISON !!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' or 'P' with a flourish.