

Good morning and welcome to the 2017 State of the City Address. I would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for organizing this annual event. The State of the City Address is an opportunity to give ourselves credit for what we do really well and to share our accomplishments and goals in the city we work, live and play in. Clawson is no ordinary city. We really are extraordinary. We are a community of neighbors and businesses who love to work, play and learn right where we live. Thank you to our great city employees, school staff and volunteers who work together to make Clawson a great place to raise a family. Thank you to my fellow council members. Our council is the city's legislative and policy making body. Council is responsible for adopting the annual City budget, contracts, laws, ordinances and resolutions and approving purchases.

It is my pleasure to present the State of the City Address and a privilege to serve as your Mayor for the last ten years. I have the honor of being the longest serving Mayor in the history of the City of Clawson. Since my first election to council in 2003, I have focused on a philosophy of a kind and gentle city, a city that is family friendly with fun events, a safe city with great services and good roads. In the last year alone, numerous reports have named Clawson as a great place to live. Clawson is ranked third as one of the States Healthiest Housing Markets and ranked tenth in the United States (Smart Asset). The study measures market health by the average number of years residents spend in their homes, the home values, ease of sales and costs associated with home ownership. We were named the fifth safest mid-size city in Michigan (ValuePenguin) and named number sixteen for the Safest Cities in Michigan (SafeWise). Clawson was ranked as number twenty in the 2017 Best Places to Raise a Family in Michigan (from wallethub). Many of our local restaurants and businesses were named Best of the Best by The Daily Tribune and Detroit Metro. The World's top barley wine is crafted right here in Clawson. Black Lotus Brewing Company took the gold medal in the 2016 World Beer Cup for their Ninja Pirate Barley Wine. A gold medal in a global contest was won right here in Clawson. Black Lotus is

organizing Craft.com for Father's Day weekend this year. It's a family event similar to comi-con with inflatables, vendors, comics, food, super hero and star war characters. Did you know that the Great Lakes 501st Garrison membership is located in Clawson? The Garrison is a network of Star War fans serving the community and various charities.

Here are a few other firsts for Clawson. Our Parks and Recreation department, under the leadership of Kathy Leenhouts, organized an Arbor Day Art Contest to describe or draw the value of trees (we are a Tree City USA) and a monetary prize went to three winning art pieces for Lucy Thomson in second grade, Tyler Hill in third grade and Emily Willard in fifth grade. Kathy Leenhouts is also our senior director and with her help we received recognition from the State as a Community for a Lifetime City with a philosophy, assessment and improvement planning process to acknowledge that you can "age in place" in Clawson. We were able to hire three part-time park attendants to assist in maintaining safe and pleasant parks. A grant has been applied for to add playground equipment and replace a tennis court at Grant Park. Fire safety equipment was added at Hunter Community Center.

Another first in the last year was the Crop Walk, a fundraiser to combat hunger, organized by our area churches and community groups. Money raised was donated to the Clawson Food Pantry and Troy People Concerned.

And another first-Run Drugs out of Town, a 5 K race, brought to you by our FAN (families against narcotics) and Clawson Community Coalition groups. These groups provide education and prevention services about substance use. Our District Court judges, Judge Hartik and Judge McGinnis, along with the Coalition, presented workshops entitled "Prescription Drugs to Heroin". The first workshop was geared towards parents and the second workshop addressed our high school students. The Coalition will reinstate the Prayer Breakfast, an annual meeting held in October this year.

I'd like to tell you about more firsts in Clawson:

The Optimist Club spearheaded a fundraiser to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's mission to cure blood cancers in children. The fundraiser was called Pennies for Patients and raised over \$2,800.00. We were the only school district in the State with 100% participation of schools in Clawson.

Our very own Jennifer Perkins, also active as a 4th of July committee member, was the Free Press marathon runner of the week.

Our community came together in support of Maddy Brewster, Carrie Chambers and Doug McNight through prayers and meals. Because that's who we are. We take care of each other. An Oakland University student, Cynthia Lampos, elected to complete a class project in Clawson and collected 450 books for Schalm Elementary.

Our Junior Miss Clawson Pageant winner in 2016, Rena Grossman, was also Miss Teen Oakland County.

Our police and fire department came together as a team and played against the Clawson baseball coaches in a baseball game.

Our city intern, Christina Root, has been an invaluable resource in this last year. She began her term with collating names on bricks in the downtown area. We did not have a list of where bricks were located for people who purchased a fundraising brick. With updates in the four corners of Main and 14 Mile, bricks were moved. This was a task that needed to be done for many years. Christina assists with the day to day activities in the life of a city, researching grants, organized a Community Resource night with an upcoming resource booklet to be printed. She has developed partnerships with businesses, including Bowl One Lanes who will offer free bowling to our community groups on March 27th. Christina has accomplished so much more and we will miss her when she is gone!

Safety Town, sponsored by Clawson Youth Assistance, returned last year. Clawson Youth Assistance, whose mission is to strengthen families in the community, is sponsored by the city, school and county,

offers free counseling, camp assistance, family education and family recreation. Last year we took a train from Royal Oak to the Ann Arbor Hands museum. We went to Red Oaks water park. We scheduled tours to the Parade Company and Greenfield Village. This year we are traveling by bus on May 13th to take a tour through the Detroit Experience Factory. We sponsor the Trick or Treat Trail and the Easter Egg Hunt at Clawson City Park. Our Youth Recognition program is May 3rd where we have the honor to recognize students for their good deeds.

The Detroit Institute of Arts Inside Out program is bringing ten art reproductions to Clawson for three months with an installation date of April 12. The buildings chosen are our City Hall, Library, Hunter, Clawson City Park, Phil Cavill's Tire and Auto Center, Evolve, Barb's Pasties and Pizza, Palace Liquor and Deli, Val's Pet Supply and Carmen's Dairy Bar and Grill. We will have a guided bicycle tour of the art on April 23rd. The DIA Away program, a traveling museum, will be at Clawson Farmers Market on July 2nd. The Farmers Market begins May 21 through September 24, weekly, this year. We began in 2009 with one market, in 2010 with bi-monthly markets and have grown to weekly markets.

The Clawson Museum brought Downton Abbey, a popular PBS show, to life with a fashion show and tea. The museum is open on Wednesdays and Sundays. Curator Melodie Nichols invites you to become a guide at the museum.

Our Engineering Department, led by Harry Drinkwine, was approved for a \$653,000 grant to resurface 14 Mile from Washington to Bellevue with the project beginning in the spring. We are working with a pilot program in Oakland County to complete a crack and joint sealing project along N. Main from Lincoln to Maple. In the upcoming year we will reassess our local roads to document the current conditions of the roads. In the last year, street corners were upgraded with ADA ramps and the sidewalk program remains under much discussion. We have three years left in our sidewalk program with an initial plan to have all sidewalks

completed throughout the city in 15 years. We were a little grandiose in our expectations when we began this program.

Our Department of Public Works Director is Doug Ballard. Our DPW is responsible for daily maintenance in the city including our construction equipment (that's a backhoe or a road sweeper or pick up trucks or a lawn mower) to maintain our parks, signs, curbs, street lights, storm water management system and more. Who do you call when the tree in front of your property is starting to rot or when the catch basin is blocked and the street is flooding? The DPW is responsible for ongoing maintenance and sometimes cleaning of the city buildings, mowing and upkeep of the athletic fields, repair services to the cities trucks and equipment, leaf pick up and snow plow in the winter. Duties and responsibilities don't end there. The DPW is responsible for maintaining the Renshaw apartments, our 15 unit apartment setting for senior citizens. In this last year our mechanic Dan Yamarino passed his Water Operator's S-3 License, the gazebo by the library was renovated and a new metal roof installed on the gazebo and war memorial. Tree trimming was completed Main to Bywood and 14 Mile to Elmwood. We painted all interior crosswalks, purchased a Bobcat, a 75 foot aerial lift truck, 2017 GMC pick up truck and purchased and installed the City of Clawson sign on East 14 Mile and Huntley.

The highlight for the Treasurer's Department, led by Stacey Hodges, was transitioning software to a new program called BS & A. This program is interactive with Oakland County, allows for on line permitting and payment of utilities, recreation classes, parking tickets and taxes. We also now accept payments over the phone for parking tickets, summer and winter tax and water bills.

Two new prosecutors joined the Clawson team, Erich Goetz and Renis Nashaj. Their expertise will be helpful in reviewing older ordinances and developing new ordinances to meet our community needs.

The Fire Department with Rick Dylewski as Fire Chief, completed 74 fire runs in the last year with 5 house fires, 2 garage fires, 4 apartment

fires, 2 business fires and one vehicle fire. We experienced a 20% reduction in fire responses from the previous year. Our firefighters comprise the Goodfellows, a charity ensuring that no child goes without a Christmas, and can be found volunteering at numerous Clawson events.

The Chamber of Commerce, led by Mary Sames, networks with businesses, has been active in hosting red ribbon welcome ceremonies for new businesses, makes the new resident packets, organizes the upcoming Claws and Paws event, co-organizes the Farmers Market, provides scholarships and sponsors this event.

The Building Department, led by Jim Albus, issued 638 building permits in the last year, which is an increase of 25% from the previous year. Building construction is estimated at \$156,788.71 with the following 21 new businesses opening in the last year – Sinclair Antiques, Shriners, Clawson Jewelry, Pure Balance Massage, Little Thai Express, Autozone, Albe's BMX Bike, Forever Flowers by Thaddius, Montage Grill, Western Global, Detroit Tuned, Motercity Barbell, 54 West, Hart & Harlow, The Self-Esteem Book Store, The Show, Lang Premier Properties, The Yarn Shop, MGK Realty, McQueen Financial and Motor City Float. Projects under construction are Mobile, Huffmaster and Marconi's Pizza, Atomic Chicken opened in 2016, closed for the winter, and will reopen with warmer weather. Earl Cleaners celebrated 40 years in business this year. Julian Brothers Bakery has been in business for, well for more years than I can remember. When you make Clawson your home, you become part of the history of our community. We began working on updating the city master plan with the anticipated finish date of June 2017. Susie Stec, our economic coordinator, is responsible for developing and implementing economic development programs for the City with the goal of business retention, expansion and attraction, job growth and tax base expansion. Susie created a business friendly pamphlet for new businesses.

Barb Chambers , our code enforcement officer, works part time and we could easily utilize her skills on a full time basis. Part of Clawson's character comes from the way we look and Barb manages to keep city staff, residents and businesses satisfied when doing a tough job of enforcing ordinances.

We held two joint meetings with the planning board, zoning board and council. It was helpful to collaborate to hear what works and what doesn't work and then brainstorm solutions. One of the outcomes of the joint meetings is a change in the temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) that council adopted.

The Police Department, under the direction of Harry Anderson, continues to provide outstanding safety services. We were able to purchase a Ford utility police vehicle with in car watchguard, tasers, and holsters. Our police officers received recognition in five different categories and sometimes, more than one officer received an award in the category. The categories are officer of the year, unit citations, department citations, department commendations and an award from another agency. Kathy Haney, an award recipient last year, retired from full time dispatch work to part time work. Police officers, Kelli Bause and Scott Sarvello, organize a bowlathon to raise money for scholarships, a backpack fundraiser for school supplies, participate in a basketball match with high school seniors, a baseball game with the fire department and baseball coaches and are visible in our community throughout our many events. We will be applying for a grant that will allow us to hire a police liaison officer position for four years.

Under the direction of our Jenni Gannod, our Library Director, the library began continues to excel providing services and satisfied customers. The library was host to a new program – the Jack Frost reading event to celebrate books with reading, raffles and more.

Our City Clerk, Machele Kukuk, has been recognized by her fellow peers for election work and record keeping. She volunteers in Clawson at the Clawson Food Pantry and keeps the city moving.

Our City Attorney is Jon Kingsepp. I think it might be a tie to see who has been here the longest – Jon or Machele. They both have a wealth of knowledge of the history of Clawson.

The DDA completed a master plan for the downtown area. Planters will be added this spring to the pedestrian islands. DDA members continued with annual events of Fire and Spice, Cinema in the Street and the Trick or Treasure Pub Crawl. The DDA board is comprised of business owners, residents and the Mayor. The Executive Director is responsible for daily operation of the board and to provide guidance on technical and development issues. The DDA implements public projects of streetscape improvements, signage and lighting, provides maintenance for the DDA area, organizes and implements activities which promote businesses. The DDA partners with the National Main Street Program who provides support to encourage economic development through historic preservation in our downtown area.

All of our departments report to our City Manager Mark Pollock. His right hand man, or gal, in this case, is Karen Erickson. The city manager oversees city staff and daily operations. Once laws or other decisions are made by council, the city manager is responsible for carrying out the council wishes. Mark began as our finance director and offered to continue as finance director and city manager resulting in a full time job and a part time job. All rolled into one. 60 hour weeks can be demanding.

Last year's State of the City address was on celebration and collaboration within Clawson. This year, I'm going to add the words Can Do It. Clawson can do it. So we celebrate and collaborate and we can do it. Our city continues to face challenges. The next few years we will need to tighten the financial belt, again, with increasing pension costs. You may agree with some of council goals and may question

other goals. Pro, con, for or against, your voice is important to us as we move forward. Council meets annually to develop goals. Last year's goals are the same as this year's goals – increase use of social media, begin a CERT (community emergency response team), add a full time police officer, add greenery to Rochester Road, support 14 Mile road improvements from Washington to Crooks. One of the goals for many years has been to increase the recycling programs for businesses and add recycle bins in the park. We now have recycle bins in the park. This year, around September, we will be able to provide residents with a 64 gallon recycle bin and one stream recycling. Last year's goal included developing a 3 year budget. With the new BS & A program, our city manager is developing a 5 year budget. Wish lists continue to include lighting for the volleyball area, canopy for the tot lot, available horseshoes, shuffleboard and bike racks in the park, promote arts with art in city buildings, host a townhall meetings for businesses. Council met last night to review goals. A new goal is to begin an infrastructure fund. We want to ensure that our streets, sewers and water services remain in good shape.

We celebrate, collaborate and we can do it in Clawson with your help.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel said Maya Angelou, "Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they're stones that don't matter. As long as you're breathing, it's never too late to do some good.