

2015 Year in Review



Phillip R. Patterson

City Administrator
Siloam Springs, AR

2015 GROWTH & IMPROVEMENT

- Improved Weather Emergency Response
- Automated Trash Collection
- New City Administrator & Human Resources Manager
- Relocation of Central Communications Dispatch Center
- New City Website

As we look back at 2015, we should acknowledge all that the City of Siloam Springs has accomplished this year and reflect on the changes that have affected City residents, businesses, visitors and employees. As the new administrator I have enjoyed my first year in this wonderful town and I am thankful for the chance to get to know so many kind and generous people. My heart has always belonged in Arkansas and I'm glad this opportunity brought me back to my home state. I thoroughly enjoyed witnessing and participating in my first Dogwood Festival, Christmas Parade and Panthers' football season.

Siloam Springs is a very unique city and I am fortunate to be part of its leadership, and we are all fortunate to be able to call this wonderful place home. Siloam Springs is growing, specifically in the diversity of businesses in the Highway 412 commercial corridor. The City will continue to grow and develop and I am committed to ensuring that such growth is in accordance with the City's comprehensive plan and vision for the future. It has been my pleasure to partner with businesses and organizations to achieve several goals and we will continue to do so. As staff, we have worked toward a balanced budget for 2016 and reduced our non-essential spending with internal controls. The Board of Directors remains committed to fairly and indisputably representing their residents on well-supported and controversial issues alike. We should all be proud of the City and how it has progressed in recent years.

Siloam Springs continues to make improvements, but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention some challenges that came up in 2015. A number of residents were unsatisfied with the City's response during a potential storm in May of 2015. Since that time we have reviewed and improved our protocol and notification methods related to potential weather emergencies. Another challenge was the shift from twice-a-week manual trash collection to once-a-week automated collection. While this has been a difficult transition for some residents, I am confident this program is in the best interest of the City and our residents. Additional challenges for the City in 2015 included: a new city administrator; a new human resources manager; the launching of a new city website; and the relocation of the central communications dispatch center.



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Regardless of these challenges, the City was able to accomplish a number of projects in 2015, including the completion of the Sager Creek Soccer Complex, the installation of way-finding signage, and the construction of the new library. See below for additional 2015 accomplishments.

Looking forward, I believe that 2016 holds many exciting opportunities for Siloam Springs. From an administrative standpoint, the City's department structure is being organized so that similar divisions are within the same department. In addition to this reorganization, the City plans to remodel the old Police Station in order to incorporate a "one-stop permit shop" that will include the divisions of planning and zoning, engineering, building permits and inspections, and code enforcement. From a community development standpoint, we'll be opening the new library, renovating the old library to house the parks and recreation division, completing Phase 2 improvements to City Lake Park, and completing the south side park. On the utilities side, we'll be relocating various lines to accommodate the new Cheri Whitlock overpass, replacing water mains in certain areas of the City, working on Phase 2 improvements to Sanitary Sewer Basin 5, installing a water reuse system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant so we can be more efficient in our use of potable water, and installing sidewalks and overlaying existing streets.

I am excited to be the City Administrator for Siloam Springs and truly believe that if we all work together, we can continue to be the best, small, first class city in the state of Arkansas.



Phillip R. Patterson
City Administrator, Siloam Springs, AR



2015 AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Arkansas Business Magazine's **Cities of Distinction** award for **Tourism Development**



Arkansas Business Magazine's **Cities of Distinction** award for **Workforce Development**



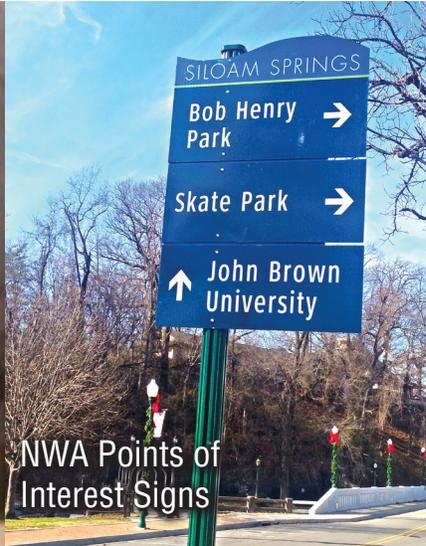
Police Officer Chris Salley was named the **Arkansas School Resource Officer of the Year**



Tom Meyers, Wastewater Plant Superintendent, was named **Wastewater Operator of the Year** by the Northwest District of the Arkansas Water Works & Environmental Association



Voted one of the **Top Ten Most Beautiful Towns in Arkansas**



2015 ADDITIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completing the majority of the scheduled improvements of Phase 1 to Sanitary Sewer Basin 5
- Opening of the Sager Creek Soccer Complex
- Purchasing of major equipment for milling and overlaying streets
- Groundbreaking and building the new library
- Airport taxiway rehabilitation
- Installing a sidewalk along a portion of Highway 16
- Implementation of new financial software
- Installation of wayfinding signage
- Completing Phase 1 of the City Lake improvements
- Installation of a bulk water station
- Increased Police Department public relations including National Night Out, Project Stronghold, and Badges and Bagels