



**State of the St. Andrews Public Service District
December 31, 2016
District Manager Christie Holderness**

I would like to start by saying what an exciting, successful, and progressive FY 2015-2016 has been for St. Andrews Public Service District (SAPSD). This was our 67th year in existence and I am confident this has been one of our best years in regards to finances, quality of services, and efficient operations.

One word that rose repeatedly this year was TEAMWORK. Teamwork plays an essential part in EVERYTHING we do. It is easily witnessed both within and outside of the organization. As a small, unique special purpose district form of government, it is crucial we work together in all aspects in order to maintain the status and presence we have built within the community.

I am thankful every day to be a part of SAPSD and all of the wonderful and exciting things happening within our organization, in and around West Ashley, and between various local governments who have begun working together for the first time in decades.

As we close 2016, I have listed our accomplishments and successes over the past year, and our vision and direction for SAPSD as we enter 2017. In addition, there are several key items that have begun, and will continue in 2017, to shape the future of SAPSD:

- ★ FY 2015-2016 ended under budget in all Departments due to good fiscal discipline and accurate estimations within the budget. In addition, scheduled training activities, continuing education, and other projects were completed as anticipated and on time.
- ★ In keeping with previous years, SAPSD experienced minimal annexations.
- ★ SAPSD experienced growth in development in both the residential and commercial markets resulting in an increase in tax revenue. This evidence of growth substantiates the viability and sustainability of SAPSD and the need to improve facilities.
- ★ For the first time in many years, there are plans for new/updated facilities which offer exponentially increased efficiencies in operations plus annual cost savings.

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- ★ The Commission selected a local architectural firm to conduct a Spatial Needs Assessment to evaluate existing facilities, determine their functionality, and what improvements are needed, if any.
- ★ After a 3 year study and search to relocate/rebuild the Environmental Services (ES) facility, it was determined the current location best serves the District's needs. We anticipate 2017 to include plans for a brand new facility to professionally and efficiently service the entire fleet of fire and garbage trucks, QRV, staff vehicles, and small equipment.
- ★ Delivery of a new garbage truck is expected in early 2017. It is the first purchase to replace aging apparatuses in the current fleet, followed by additional garbage and fire trucks that will be designed and built to specification in 2018.
- ★ 2016 welcomed new employees to the organization including, but not limited to our new Chief Financial Officer, Desmond Harris, and our new Fire Chief, Charles Lamoreaux. All of our new employees have brought fresh ideas, new relationships, and have promoted and supported collaborative efforts among and between departments.
- ★ The employees ARE what make SAPSD the solid and resilient organization that it is. The men and women who are employed at SAPSD understand it is their job to serve passionately, professionally, safely, and with a clear understanding of their responsibility. Most importantly, they serve willingly and selflessly making them extremely unique.
- ★ In spite of substantial damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, SAPSD employees persevered and continued to provide uninterrupted, exceptional services to its constituents. St. Andrews Fire Department (SAFD) and ES worked together immediately following the storm to clear roadways and respond to emergency calls. Also, ES collected over 900 tons of vegetative debris in record time.
- ★ SAPSD introduced its first Quick Response Vehicle (QRV). The QRV better allocates resources while continuing to provide the best response to medical emergencies. It reduces operating costs and leaves the fire engines available to respond to fire-related calls.

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- ★ Our website was updated to serve as a resource for our residents to obtain pertinent information on daily operations, the services we provide, and our participation within the community.
- ★ Our social media presence was significantly increased both on SAPSD and SAFD Facebook pages. These outlets have been a tremendous source for growing our presence in the community and educating the residents.
- ★ On several occasions there have been meetings with Mayor John Tecklenburg to discuss the revitalization of West Ashley. Collectively, we are passionate about the much needed improvements in our area and anticipate a long and productive working relationship.
- ★ Lastly, Chairman John DeStefano was invited to sit on the West Ashley Revitalization Commission with City and County council members and other individuals who have vested interests in West Ashley. TOGETHER they will work to strengthen relationships to provide better services.

It is my honor to share, on behalf of SAPSD, that the organization is financially stable, operationally efficient, and is progressively moving forward as a special purpose district and with surrounding government entities. It is our pleasure to provide our constituents with environmental services, fire, rescue, first responder services, and street lighting.

Thank you to the residents of SAPSD for your loyalty and your appreciation shown to our employees for the services we provide. I hope 2017 is a safe, happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

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