



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK
Keith Widaman
Dardenne Prairie, MO

Dear Residents,

This summer has been one of celebration, reflection, and progress in Dardenne Prairie. Together, we launched new community traditions, strengthened City operations, welcomed new leadership, and received another outstanding independent audit that reflects our continued commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

As I reflect on the past several months, one theme stands out: **honoring our past while investing in our future**. Each accomplishment represents another step forward in strengthening the community we are proud to call home.

First Independence Day Parade & Community Celebration

In celebration of **America's 250th Birthday**, Dardenne Prairie hosted its **first-ever Independence Day Parade**, followed by a community concert and fireworks display. The celebration brought neighbors together to honor our country, celebrate our community, and establish what we hope will become a cherished annual tradition.

Inaugural Kids Fishing Day

This spring, Dardenne Prairie hosted its **first-ever Kids Fishing Day**, creating a new tradition centered on family, outdoor recreation, and community. Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, and Parks Department for making this inaugural event a tremendous success.

Strengthening City Government

New City Website

The City recently launched a redesigned website, making it easier for residents to access City information, stay informed about upcoming events, and find the services they need online. This project was led by our IT Manager, **Rose Maresca**, whose vision, expertise, and dedication were instrumental in bringing the new website to life, and we are fortunate to have her serving our community.

Welcoming New Leadership

We were pleased to welcome **Kyle Michel** as our new **City Administrator** and **Kyle Roettger** as our new **Public Works Supervisor**. Their leadership and experience will help us continue delivering high-quality services while planning for Dardenne Prairie's future.

Veterans Liaison

I was honored to appoint **Craig Stankovich** as Dardenne Prairie's first **Veterans Liaison**. A longtime Dardenne Prairie resident, Vietnam veteran, U.S. Army veteran, and founding member of the **Mid-America Veterans Museum**, Craig brings a lifetime of service and dedication to this important role.

Craig will help identify veterans within our community, coordinate recognition opportunities, strengthen connections with our local veteran population, and ensure their service is honored. If you are a Dardenne Prairie resident and a veteran, or would like to recommend a Dardenne Prairie resident who is a veteran for recognition through this new program, please contact Craig at VeteransLiaison@DardennePrairie.org.

City Historian

I was also honored to appoint **Chuck Boschert** as Dardenne Prairie's first **City Historian**. Chuck will help preserve our City's history by documenting the people, places, and events that have shaped our community, while leading the formation of the **Dardenne Prairie Chapter of the St. Charles County Historical Society** to ensure our community's story is preserved and shared for generations to come.

The chapter's first public meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 23, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall**. Anyone interested in helping preserve Dardenne Prairie's history is encouraged to attend and become involved.

University of Missouri Extension CLIP Partnership

This summer, the City partnered with the **University of Missouri Extension's Community Leadership Internship Program (CLIP)** and welcomed our first-ever CLIP intern. The intern has helped modernize City processes, improve records management, and support numerous City projects while gaining valuable hands-on experience in local government.

A special thank you to **Deana Dothage** and the University of Missouri Extension for their leadership in making this partnership a reality. We appreciate their commitment to developing future public service leaders while helping strengthen our community.

Responsible Financial Stewardship

The City recently received another excellent independent audit, reaffirming our commitment to responsible financial management. Highlights included:

- **\$2.9 million** increase in the City's overall net position.
- **\$11.5 million** in governmental fund balances.
- **\$5.1 million** General Fund balance.
- **\$760,000** in long-term debt reduction during 2025.

These results reflect our continued commitment to sound financial management and thoughtful planning while investing in the services our residents expect.



Looking Ahead

As we move into the fall, we remain committed to preserving the character of Dardenne Prairie while planning responsibly for the future. We will continue seeking opportunities to bring neighbors together, strengthen City services, and responsibly manage the resources entrusted to us.

I invite you and your family to join us for **Prairie Day on Saturday, September 26**, one of our community's signature events. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy live entertainment, family activities, local vendors, great food, and time with friends and neighbors as we celebrate everything that makes Dardenne Prairie such a special place to call home.

Thank you for your continued support, participation, and trust. It is an honor to serve as your Mayor and to work alongside so many dedicated residents who make Dardenne Prairie such a wonderful place to call home. **God bless Dardenne Prairie, and God bless America.**

- **Mayor Keith**