

As 2018 quickly comes to an end, I would like to highlight some of the City's progress and accomplishments:

- We completed phase two of the Illinois Streetscape Improvements Project from Cherry to Monroe streets
- We Implemented our new branding initiative which included a much improved, user-friendly website
- We celebrated the opening of the new Hilton Home2Suites in downtown Carbondale
- We submitted an updated grant proposal to pursue funding for a new Regional Multimodal Center to replace the Amtrak Station
- We held regular meetings with other key community stakeholders for our DC Legislative Advocacy Initiative
- We enhanced community policing and neighborhood-based patrols
- We continued the development of the new Washington Street entertainment venue
- We installed additional security cameras downtown
- We continued to strengthen our relationships with SIU

During the holiday season, many of us will be so caught up in all of the hustle and bustle that we forget to make some quiet time for ourselves and our families. This is a time of renewal. A time to reflect on the events of the past year; to make amends, if needed; to consider positive change and to set goals for the new year. Carbondale is an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and the richness it brings to our lives. We should respect each other and live each day by the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Be safe. Be thankful. Be kind to others. May peace be with you.