Record-Setting Flood – The Mississippi topped its record 1993 crest on Jan. 2, 2016 at 48.86 ft. Some homes were affected but most of the riverside parts of the City were unaffected by the record-shattering flood.

Council Meetings in Wards – Council brought the public’s business to the neighborhood level with a meeting hosted in both Red Star and Shawnee.

Airshow: Canadian Invasion – Free, public event welcomed the Canadian Snowbirds back to Cape Girardeau for a very popular event.

Five Homicides: Community Fights Back – Both the City and its residents have made it clear that violence and loss of life will not be tolerated. Arrests were made and charges filed in all five homicides thanks to community information, cooperation and quality detective work.

Chronic Nuisance Ordinance – A cross-functional team spent months reviewing this tool to abate chronic nuisance properties and enhance the safety of the City’s neighborhoods.

Purpose Built Communities – This exciting new, hyper-targeted community effort to alleviate poverty, crime and other issues afflicting a south Cape neighborhood launched in 2016 and promises to be an impactful, long-term strategy to improve lives for residents.

Employee Excellence – Our people are often leaders in their respective fields. We celebrated several awards including Stan Polivick’s Collection System Award from MWEA and the SWANA Outstanding Design Award for the Transfer Station.

Drones – Our team reviewed drones to improve public safety, infrastructure services, efficiency and employee safety. The new tools should be in the air in early 2017.

The Independence/Gordonville Rd. Roundabout will open this week after a 60-day construction period. The new roundabout will be a safer and more efficient intersection for Cape drivers.

The Capaha Field Turf Renovation marks a new era of cooperation among the City and Southeast Missouri State University in the maintenance of Capaha Field. It is scheduled to be completed just in time for the new season and Coach Andy Sawyers debut! Shawnee Softball Fields were also renovated making room for more tournaments to sell-out hotel rooms like the 33 softball and 110 soccer teams that came to Shawnee in one recent November weekend.

Pepsi MidAmerica cut the ribbon on a new distribution facility, promising to bring 70+ new jobs to the community.

With the fifth installment of the Transportation Trust Fund Sales Tax, Cape Girardeau voters put neighborhood street repairs on the top of the priority list. The first year of the Neighborhood Street Repair (NSR) program kicked off in April 2016, starting on Patriot Drive. The projects are funded by repurposing Armstrong Drive funds from TTF3.

The Corps of Engineers, City, and Railroad coordinated an intense 60-hour, major floodwall project to move and replace 1,000 feet of railroad track, to remove and replace 600 feet of drain piping along the floodwall. An estimated 800 dump truck loads of material were excavated and removed in addition to new material to be placed and compacted for the new railway alignment.

A new Pedestrian Bridge connected the Red Star River Access to the Riverfront Park Trail. The project was part of phase four improvements to the park that also extended the trail 1,300 feet to the south and added new LED lights along the popular path.

Following a tragic motor vehicle accident along Interstate 55 in May, the community recognized the first responders and health professionals who performed measures that contributed to saving the life of an unborn infant.

City staff and partners cut the ribbon on a voter-approved and State mandated Wastewater Treatment Facility in May. With the 50 MGD peak capacity, the City won’t have to bypass the treatment center in significant rain events as had been the practice before. Also after years of planning, a new Transfer Station opened to collect solid waste and other materials to be moved out of the city to an approved landfill. The project was financed through a unique private-public partnership.
The Cape (Indoor) SportsPlex is a 120,000 sq. ft. premiere indoor municipal facility dedicated to increasing all-season, especially winter, visitor traffic and sporting events in the region.

A Midamerica Crossings Transportation Development District near the new 'Plex will fund street and stormwater mitigation development and extension of the outer road.

SiO3 Inc. will be adding facilities at the Greater Cape Girardeau Business Park where they will expand/continue their business manufacturing an all-encompassing variety of high-quality protein powders and dietary supplements.

The Marquette/Marriot development continues made possible in part by the Tax Increment Financing tool which reinvests increased tax revenue into the project.

The Drury Plaza Conference Center is expected to open in summer. Another public-private partnership project funded in part by hotel tax revenue generated from the development.

The long-awaited S. Sprigg Street Bridge should open before August. Sinkholes plagued the area compromising infrastructure.

Veterans Memorial Drive work continues on Cape’s I-55 outer road to eventually connect the business park to the Route K area.

The scenic Bloomfield Road will be expanded with an added trail to improve both safety and recreational/multi-modal access in the area. (Transportation Trust Fund IV)

Radio Interoperability has been a high priority for the City as we work to get all departments, particularly public safety, the connectivity they need to preserve life and property.

Purpose Built Communities work will continue with our new Atlanta partners tentatively scheduled for a return visit in January. The community and our partners are engaged and eager to help make a difference.

As critical infrastructure and safety facilities have been addressed in recent years, we will begin to look at the needs at both the Regional Airport and 80-year-old City Hall.

Our Capital Improvements Plan will include additional work on parks, recreation, and stormwater needs in the City as the PRS2 tax vote approaches in 2018. Flood mitigation efforts are continuously under review.

Thanks to sound project management and conservative projections, some PRS1 funding remained for parks and recreation maintenance and enhancement projects for 2017 including:

- Additional parking at the 4-H Building at Arena Park.
- Pirate Cove at Cape Splash will add a fun new attraction to the already popular waterpark while also increasing capacity.
- Pump and mechanical improvements to the Olympic sized Central Pool will improve the year-round public amenity used often by the River City Aquatics and Cape County Castaways swim teams.
- Osage Centre Upgrades will include resolving some of the stormwater and drainage issues in the field often used by various sports leagues, lighting at the facility and fitness center upgrades.
- Shawnee Fields Phase II will include lighting some soccer/football fields, drive/parking surface maintenance, and paving a gravel lot.

Art students and faculty at the Southeast Missouri State University River Campus will collaborate on a sculpture to be installed at the adjacent Fountain Street roundabout.

The last of a series of floodwall projects with the Corps of Engineers will commence. The floodwall is over 6,000 ft. long.

The City’s website will be upgraded to make it more accessible to users on a variety of tablets, computers, and smartphones.

Open data will also be a higher priority moving forward as we further integrate Geospatial Information Systems in to city business and infrastructure.

New Welcome Signs and additional wayfinding signage will be installed to help our City’s many visitors.

Cape said yes to a police station, jail and municipal court in addition to a replacement fire station and other improvements by approving the Public Safety Trust Fund in 2014. The new police, jail and court complex will open in 2018. The last of the city’s quaint, neighborhood fire stations will be replaced with a new Fire Station No. 4 opening in 2017. Fire Station 1 and 2 Renovations are ongoing including a new apparatus repair annex.