



January 14, 2025

Mayor, Council Members and Van Alstyne Citizens
The City of Van Alstyne
152 North Main Drive
Van Alstyne, Texas 75495

Wishing the Mayor, City Council and Citizens of Van Alstyne a Happy New Year! Before addressing many of our goals for 2025, I thought it worth revisiting many of our past year accomplishments, none of which would be possible without the support of our Mayor and Council, the members of our boards and commissions and, the hard work of the Van Alstyne city staff. As a team, we have accomplished much.

Municipal Finance:

At year end, Van Alstyne will close out the year as it entered it, in a strong financial position. The city presently has a Moody's credit rating of Aa2. This credit rating has improved year over year for the past three years reflecting the growing confidence financial institutions have in Van Alstyne. City staff closely monitor operational costs, adjusting programs and expenditures to keep the city on target with budgetary goals. City Leadership works closely with the many department heads to manage their respective departments utilizing prudent financial stewardship while delivering high quality programming.

Public Works:

The Public Works Department updated the master plans for water and wastewater pipelines and facilities through a comprehensive analysis of projected growth over the next ten years. This effort reflects the City of Van Alstyne's commitment to delivering quality services to both current and future customers. As part of this process, Public Works conducted a detailed review of the water and wastewater master plans to assess the infrastructure needs required to support the city's service area for the coming decade. This analysis, completed in compliance with Texas State Regulations, resulted in an adjustment to the impact fees charged.

The Public Works Department continued its ongoing commitment to provide high-quality water and wastewater service to all customers. A few achievements were made during FY 2023 – 2024 toward that objective include:

Water Tower #2:

Construction of the new elevated storage tank (EST) got underway with an anticipated completion date of February 2025 at which time we will add an additional 750,000 gallons of above ground water storage.



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Increase in Pumping Capacity at Water Well Sites:

As part of the commitment to continue meeting the increasing demand for water, improvements were made at three of the city’s well and pump station sites, increasing the available water system capacity by approximately 30%. Additionally, improvements were made at well site #6 to augment the available water supply from the Grayson Collin Municipal Alliance (CGMA) connection. This action will maintain our ability to meet peak summer demands and provide redundancy for the water system in the event of an outage at an existing well.

Water Quality:

Facilities were installed to convert our water disinfection process from Chlorine to Chloramine. The conversion eliminated differing conditions in our water supply and provides a more consistent quality of water to our community.

Street & Utility Projects:

Public Works, working with city engineers, facilitated improvements to water and wastewater line replacements on Nunnalee Ave., North Preston Ave., and East Van Alstyne Pkwy. Projects included the replacement of aged water and wastewater lines and the paving of each roadway with concrete, curb and gutter.

Parks and Recreation:

This small but mighty team has made many enhancements to both facilities and programs that improve quality of life for our citizens. Some of the many improvements include:

- Online Reservation Systems (RecDesk)
- Repaving, striping and curbing of Forrest Moore Park parking lot
- Forrest Moore Park entry sign replacement
- Installation of the Musco Lighting System at Forrest Moore Park ballfields
- Resurfacing of sand volleyball courts at Forrest Moore Park
- Replacement of gazebo at McKinney Wilson Park
- Renovation of Columbia College Gymnasium to Van Alstyne Recreation Center
- Relocation of the Van Alstyne Historical Museum



Successfully coordinated and facilitated:

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Movie in the Park | Fall Der All |
| Splash Bash | Downtown Trick or Treat |
| Sounds of Summer Concert Series | Holiday Hangout (parade and tree lighting) |
| Fireworks Display | Downtown Shop and Sample (monthly) |
| Popsicles in the Park (4 events) | Downtown Margarita Crawl |
| National Night Out (with PD and FD) | Downtown Salsa Showdown |
| Wine Festival | Downtown Holiday Decorating Contest |



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Van Alstyne Public Library:

Continued enhancements to programming has enabled the Van Alstyne Public Library to stand out as a top performer:

- New patron counts were up 20% year over year
- Door counts, reflecting the number of visitors to the library, increased 41%
- Program attendance increased 39%
- Launched “Quilters Guild” new partnership
- Launched Gaming Center
- Launched Gardening Classes during March and April
- Formed new partnership with Van Alstyne business – Kimzar Collectables to enhance Summer Reading



Public Safety:

- Added Ballistic Shields, Breaching Tools, and Tactical Medical – Police
- Upgraded In-Car Video Systems – Police
- Upgraded Body-Worn Cameras – Police
- Tait Radio Conversion – Police
- Upgraded Duty Weapons – Police
- New Ticket Writing Module – Police
- Added Two Patron Officers - Police
- Increased staffing to five per shift with the addition of personnel – Fire
- Initiated competitive pay plans to be competitive in the market – Police & Fire
- Received a new ambulance - Fire
- Ordered a new Fire Engine (*took possession in December 2024*) – Fire
- Conceptual Public Safety Complex complete, move to architectural design stage – Police & Fire



Grants / Non-Tax Generated Revenue Streams:

The City of Van Alstyne leadership has been successful in securing several alternative methods of funding to augment city resources:

1. Shared Use Path, Phase III \$1,763,728 funding 80% of the cost to provide a shared use path connecting Williams Way to the Central Social District Park downtown.
2. Shared Use Path, Phase IV \$2,656,705 funding 80% of the cost to provide a shared use path connecting Umphress/Hynds Park to Newport Drive, providing connectivity to Forrest Moore Park.
3. \$1,300,000 in developer negotiated funding utilized to purchase an ambulance and fire engine for Van Alstyne Fire Department.
4. \$1,224,432.24 in developer negotiated funding utilized to pay a 25% share of water tower #2 located on W Van Alstyne Pkwy.



2024 was an extraordinary year of accomplishment for Van Alstyne. I am very pleased with the efforts of our team and recognize each member for the accomplishments mentioned here and for the many others that are not listed.

We have no plans to let off the gas as we move into 2025!

Public Safety Facility: Following several years of planning, the much-anticipated Public Safety Facility (Police and Fire) is scheduled to break ground in late spring. The PSF will be a 42,000sf facility that will provide for our growing public safety needs many years into our future. Its design allows for future expansion while by design, the two separate services share a fitness facility, dispatch and public parking. While construction timelines have not been finalized, it is anticipated that 18 months will be required to complete this project. Many thanks to Chief Barnes and Chief Dockery for the countless hours of work they have contributed to the design stages of this project.

Umphress / Hynds Park: This beautiful 24-acre park features walking trails, playground, large pergola and a 3-acre fishing pond. At present, the plan is to open the walking trails, playground and pergola as soon as the park receives its final inspection in late January or early February. The city will not open the green space on the south end of the project until the grass has taken root and will stock the pond in the March/April timeframe. An official ribbon cutting ceremony is in the planning stages and will be scheduled in late spring.

Street Improvements: As part of the revitalization of our historic downtown, the city will be making improvements to Preston Ave between Cooper and Marshall; Marshall Dr between Preston and Main; Main Dr between Marshall and Jefferson. The construction contract has been awarded with mobilization expected in late January.

A third city owned parking lot will be constructed along the east side of Main Dr just south of Fulton. The new parking lot will add approximately 70 additional parking spaces to support the revitalization efforts in our historic district.

Improvements to Blassingame Ave, between Waco and Greywood, are currently in the engineering phase, with the goal of finalizing a complete set of engineered plans for bid solicitation by April or May. The project involves replacing the existing two-lane asphalt roadway with a four-lane concrete roadway, complete with curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Funding for the project has been identified, and if approved, construction is expected to begin in early summer 2025.



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- Replace utilities in E Jefferson Street (FM 121), ahead of TxDOT roadway replacement, from John Douglas Rd to Lincoln Park Rd.
- Add a wastewater main in S Waco Street, south of Hynds, to serve currently unserved residences.
- Add new generators to pumps at water well sites 2, 3, and 4.
- Install the Hurricane Creek wastewater transmission main to transport flows to the City of Anna's regional wastewater treatment plant.
- Install a new water main from Lincoln Park Road to the Van Alstyne wastewater treatment plant.
- Completion of water tower #2.
- Van Alstyne wastewater treatment plant upgrades:
 - New aerators in the aeration basin
 - Excess flow equalization basin
 - New UB disinfection system
 - New solids dewatering system
- Water and wastewater replacements:
 - Alley adjacent to Marshall Drive from Hopson Street to Jefferson Street
 - Alley west of Jefferson Street from Hopson Street to Van Alstyne Pkwy
 - Rigsby Street from Van Alstyne Pkwy to Hopson Street and Hopson Street to Douglas Lane.
 - E Fulton Street from S John Douglas Road to E Jefferson Street (FM 121)
 - Nash Avenue west of N Sherman Lane.

Respectfully,

Lane H. Jones– C.M.O.
City Manager