

The New Year

The days surrounding each new year are among the most special. We take time to give thanks for all the good in our lives, reflect on past events and optimistically plan the year ahead.

As individuals, we have been adapting to changes in our lives brought on by our nation's recession this past year. Governments have been working to continue service levels as revenues have plummeted. But you, the citizens of Glendale, have made that a little easier here at home than in other cities and I want to personally thank you.

By shopping at Glendale businesses and by attending our signature downtown festivals, you have helped our merchants while keeping tax dollars here at home. You have helped your city weather the economic downturn by being one of the 1400 volunteers providing service that would have cost Glendale \$2.5 million if performed by employees.

Your foresight in past years has been especially valuable in today's difficult times. In 1994, 2001, and 2007 elections you told us what is most important to you by voting to increase our city's sales tax rate in order to enhance our Police, Fire, and Transportation Departments' ability to serve you. In 1999 and 2007 bond elections you voted to authorize us to build facilities recommended by citizens who devoted months researching how Glendale should grow. In all those instances you took charge of guiding your city to serve you best.

A friend sent me this quote on Thanksgiving Day: "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it". Please accept my heartfelt thanks for caring so much about your hometown and showing it in so many ways.