## Best Community Leader: Mayor Randy Brundige

Mayor Brundige's vision for Martin has been connectivity: connected to people, connected to infrastructure, connected globally, connected to industry, connected to safety.

Like many rural towns across America, Martin is in the midst of a fast-moving transition. Manufacturing jobs have slowly left the city, and a changing demographic is looking for different kinds of opportunities.

Recognizing these challenging trends, Mayor Randy Brundige has led the city on a quest to connect Martin globally across an advanced fiber network. In the coming months, the city will be wired with 150 miles of fiber optics, delivering broadband Internet service at speeds that rival

those available in most large cities. In fact, Martin residents and businesses will have access to a gig connection. This one gigabit-per-second internet speed is equal to 1,000 megabits per second, meaning those accustomed to a typical 10meg connection will have access to speeds that are 100 times faster. Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Brundige and two years of planning, Martin will be "THE" leading Smart City in Northwest Tennessee.

Mayor Randy Brundige sought to reverse the "brain drain" in Martin. Instead of being an area for those who might enjoy a small-town quality of life but cannot justify it due to the lack of infrastructure support, he is leading Martin to become

a place of opportunity that people cannot wait to call home. Internet connectivity is a central part of that plan.

Additional accomplished goals to that plan have been projects such as: marked improvements as to the aesthetics of our Historic Downtown from the sidewalks and preservation projects to the lampposts and splash pad, completion of Brian Brown Phase II (grand opening in the spring), completion of a safe room, new Senior Adult Center, retail development projects, pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, strong UTM relations, and tourism growth. These projects have been important improvements while also maintain the integrity of our Martin's safety and charm.

In 2018, there continue to be more project completions: construct a new police department, open a new fire station location, plan for a new library, begin construction on Phase V of additional sidewalk improvements, Brian Brown Memorial Greenway Phase II, celebrate another successful Tennessee Soybean festival, open new retail, the completion of new sidewalks along Main Street to McCombs, prepare a grant for a Farmers Market pavilion, implement a CDBG Sewer Improvement grant, complete the MultiModal Grant project through TDOT, and continue to maintain University relations with a strong Town and Gown program, and begin a strategic plan for a new industrial development project.

It is an honor to be the recipient of the Readers' Choice award for Best Community Leader presented by the Weakley County Press.

Being a good leader means surrounding yourself with good people. My successes depend largely on the people I work with on a daily basis. I would like to thank the City Board, City Recorder, Department Heads, Committees, and our City Staffers for the hard work that they do every single day. Municipal staff work alongside me daily to ensure quality services for our citizenry.

Serving as Mayor for the City of Martin is a very rewarding job for me. I am very proud of what the Board of Aldermen and I have been able to accomplish working together these past 14 years, without raising taxes.

While serving as Mayor certainly has its challenges, I continue to have an



open-door policy and ensure that city government is transparent. Keeping our representation close to our constituents is of utmost importance to me as we continue to grow and advance the City of Martin.

I am certainly humbled, yet proud, of the progress that has been made under my terms as Mayor, and I still look forward to work every day.

Martin Mayor, Randy Brundige

