

Town of Arnaudville

from the desk of the Mayor

Greetings from the Mayor:



As we welcome a new year, we see this pandemic staying with us for a third year. It has caused great difficulties and challenges for our families, friends and fellow citizens. Navigating the new world we live in with supply chain issues, rising prices, and labor shortages, we work with our vendors, contractors and engineers to maintain our systems and implement new projects to keep our town moving forward. Even with the difficulties of getting parts, or availability of contractors to address projects, we are dedicated to maintaining our infrastructure and keeping our systems (water, sewer and gas) functioning properly. Here is a recap of the projects we have completed, and some that we are working on despite the issues we have faced over the past couple of years.

From the Front Office:

- Installed new computers, and a copier/scanner in the front office
- Replaced old/outdated accounting system with new accounting systems
- Instituted a cloud- based backup to protect our data offsite to better protect our data in case of a catastrophic event
- Completed the recodification of the town ordinances and they are now available on the town website
- Constructed a drive- thru window for the convenience and safety of our citizens
- Installed a new ramp in the police department at the back door to bring it into compliance with the ADA
- Completed renovations of the city hall bathrooms to bring us into compliance with ADA
- Completed the welcome to Arnaudville sign with collaboration with businesses, organizations and volunteers.
- We are working with the Arnaudville Fire Department on a new fire department building next to the existing building. The town will take over the existing building for the utility department allowing both departments to better serve and meet the needs of our citizens and community.
- Awarded American Rescue Plan Grant of \$386,865.58. We received the first half, and the second half is due in August of 2022.
- We have been placed in priority five for a capital outlay grant of \$300,000.00 for automated water meter upgrades. We are just waiting for final notice to proceed.
- Applied with the Water Sector Program for a grant (\$4,117,600.00) that would provide for a water treatment facility, as well as a second new water well. This would give us a modern water treatment facility with filters, water softeners, and ground storage with service pumps. We should be finding out if we are successful in receiving this in the next few months.
- Received three grants- LGAP (2020) \$16,108.00, CWEF (2020) \$16,142.00, and CWEF (2021) \$6500.00
The LGAP grant is for a lawn mower and large shredder, and the two CWEF grants are for water meters, and automatic flush- outs.

From the Utility Department:

- Completed the gas line upgrade and replacement on the west side of town
- Completed the service and repair of all seven generators at City Hall, the water/sewer plants, and all sewer lift stations (This is vital to keeping services running for the citizens during severe weather or other catastrophic events.)
- Completed major repairs to several sewer lift stations
- Completed the replacement of a main water line under Myran's
- Completed a major East Street drainage project at an expense of \$224,105.00.
- Completed the purchase of the property needed to dig new water wells, and completed the fencing of the new property as required by DHH and the purchase agreement

- Completed the repair and repainting of the water tower both inside and outside at an expense of \$227,500.00
- Completed the sewer project on HWY 93 by NUNU's
- Bridge lights have been repaired
- Completed the cleanup of the blighted property on Camp Street
- Completed the installation of speed bumps by the school drop off area to slow traffic down and provide better safety for the children
- Completed replacement of old outdated commercial gas meters, and started the replacement of old residential gas meters that are at end of life
- Completed major repairs at the sewer plant-burnt motors and slug pump (also waiting for a new bar chain to replace the broken one)
- Completed two road projects: The first was a patching project at an expense of \$17,000.00. The second was last year's project that addressed the reconstruction of East Railroad, portions of Camp Street and Mills/Quebedeaux Street. Patching around the town put us at an expense of \$369,457.00. A third project has been approved, and the contracts have been signed for patching on St. Landry, St. Joseph and Last Street, as well as resurfacing and patching on Clay Avenue, Overton Street and Sloan Street at an expense of \$111,000.00. This project is slated to start in either February or March of 2022.
- Completed the blasting and painted the water pipes at the water well site as required by DHH
- Replaced two utility trucks that were no longer usable
- Completed the new water well and it's now online and serving the town (\$401,359.00)
- We started cleaning ditches and culverts on the west side of town

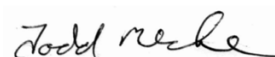
From the Recreation Department:

- Completed the extension of the tower rental contract in the park with a \$30,000 signing bonus, and an increased monthly rental from \$530 to \$800/month for the first year. It will then be going up to \$1000/month the next year, with a 3% yearly increase thereafter.
- Completed the replacement of the dugouts for the baseball fields
- Completed major drainage improvements in the park, which not only helps the park, but keeps water from going back into town and helps alleviate the flooding on West Railroad
- Installed security systems in the concession stands to try to address the break-ins that have plagued the buildings
- Repaired the field lights and added lighting along the road and by the concession stands
- Completed concreting of the covered seating areas in the park
- Completed the setup of playground equipment

We are blessed to have our businesses, organizations, and volunteer citizens donating their time and money to working with our city council members in decorating our town over the holidays. We can always count on them to help beautify and promote our town. I would like to thank everyone for supporting our local businesses, and ask you to continue to do so. As evidenced by our last two audits, our sales tax revenue is up. Healthy businesses are good for all of our community. Audits also show our town has healthy reserves and is financially sound.

In closing, I would like to thank the council, the employees, businesses, organizations and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to improving our community. By continuing to work together, we will achieve a brighter future for our community.

Sincerely,



Todd Meche, Mayor
Town of Arnaudville
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