

# Town of Arnaudville

From the Mayor's Desk



Greetings from the Mayor:

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. With the start of the New Year, we are moving forward to finish projects and planning new projects to keep moving forward to better our community. I think we can all join together in hoping and praying for dry weather so we can get things done. Over the last year, our volunteer group has worked to beautify the front of the City Hall and the town gazebo for our citizens to enjoy. I want to thank them for their hard work and encourage others to join them in the future projects they are planning.

Here are some of things we have done, and some that are in the works:

## From the Front Office:

Last year, this administration adopted its first annual budget. We achieved a balanced budget, based on strong fiscal conservatism, while addressing the costly demands of an aging infrastructure with effective and innovative approaches. The town's auditing firm reported the town to be financially healthy and able to withstand a sustained number of "rainy days" should the situation ever arise.

Keeping operations in the front office up-to-date is vital because of the risk of viruses and cyber-attacks. We have converted our old, outdated, accounting system to a new accounting system. We have installed three new computers, and a new printer/copier/scanner in the front office. We have instituted a cloud-based backup to protect our data off-site to better protect us in the case of a catastrophic event. We have installed a new ramp in the police department at the back door to bring it into compliance with the ADA. I have been working with Arnaudville Fire Chief, Jake Marks, along with the support of both the Council and District V, on a tentative deal that will allow the fire department to build a new facility next to the existing building, and for the Town to take over the existing building for the utility department. This will allow both the fire department, and the town utility department, to better serve and meet the needs of our citizens.

## From the Utility Department:

1. We have completed the gas line upgrade and replacement on the west side of town.
2. We have completed the service and repair of all seven generators at City Hall, the water, sewer plants, and all sewer lift stations, making sure they are ready for the upcoming storm season and any power outages. This is vital to keeping services running for the citizens during severe weather or other catastrophic events.
3. We have completed major repairs to several sewer lift stations.
4. We have completed a temporary emergency water line repair under Myran's, and have awarded the contract for replacement of that main line that will be completed in the next few months.
5. The major East Street drainage project is in the works, and should be completed by the end of March.
6. The purchase of the property needed to dig new water wells is complete, and the planning and engineering to dig the new water well, is under way. We will also be fencing in the new property as required by DHH and the purchase agreement.
7. The complete repair and repainting of the water tower will be in the July budget, and the work will begin later this summer.
8. The sewer project on HWY 93 by NUNU's has been completed.

9. Bridge lights have been repaired.
10. We have completed the cleanup of the blighted property on Camp Street.
11. We installed speed bumps by the school drop off area to slow traffic down and provide better safety for the children.
12. We have blasted and painted the water pipes at the water well site as required by DHH.
13. We have purchased a new utility truck to replace the one that was no longer usable.
14. Some road patching has been done, and as soon as the weather improves, we will be doing more extensive patching. In the near future, we will be working with our engineer to formulate a plan for addressing all road repair and resurfacing needs.

From the Recreation Department:

1. We completed the extension of the tower rental contract in the park with a \$30,000 signing bonus, and an increase monthly rental from \$530 to \$800 for the next year. It will then be going up to \$1000 a month the next year, with a 3% yearly increase thereafter.
2. The replacement of the last half of the dugouts for the baseball fields will soon be completed.
3. Major drainage improvements have been completed 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.
4. We have installed security systems in the concession stands to try to address the break-ins that have plagued the buildings.
5. We have repaired the field lights and added lighting along the road and by the concession stands.
6. The recreation department, parents, and volunteers are now working hard, despite the wet weather, to get the park in shape for the new season.

In closing, I would like to thank the council, the employees, 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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