

**TOWN OF ARNAUDVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Since my last report, the hiring of Ms. Dianna Richard in a part time position has already resulted in a labor savings of approximately \$130. It is felt that the cost of labor savings for the remainder of the year should amount to a net savings of \$2,000 to \$4,000 depending on the length of time taken off by our full time Clerk/Dispatchers.

We are currently using two (2) portable stop signs to aid the Patrolmen conducting traffic congestion problems on the St. Martin Parish side of the Bayou Fuselier Bridge during a one hour period when school is in session. The reason for this addition was for Officer and Motorist safety. On more than one (1) occasion the Officer performing traffic control was nearly hit by a motorist. Further, a few times motorists were talking on their cell phones or not paying attention and missed the Officer's direction and almost had accidents. The accident was averted when the motorist were commanded (in a very loud voice) to stop. According to the morning traffic Patrolmen, except for a short learning curve period, the temporary stop signs have been a valuable assistant.

The Department of Health and Hospitals inspected our jail cells for compliance on Monday, January 12, 2015. According to our "Notice of Violation" a couple of minor infractions were noted. I have met with the Mayor to address these problems and they will be corrected before our next inspection.

Approximately three (3) weeks ago our Department was called to investigate people trespassing on abandoned private property located at 203 St. Landry St. A Patrolman did respond and, in fact, did find someone on the property. Since the complainant was not the property owner, but just a concerned citizen, the Patrolman's only recourse was to ask the person to leave the property and to not return. During his investigation, the Patrolman noted that the rear door to the main building and the storage shed in the back yard were ajar. The Patrolman made an attempt to secure the doors as well as he could before leaving the area. Since the Patrolman was alone, he did not make any attempt to enter the main building. Due to concerns for the safety of children in the area, I and three (3) other Patrolmen went to see if the building was secure. Finding all the entrances unsecure and open, we gained entry inside to inspect for safety and contraband. Once inside the building a flashlight was needed in order to see clearly while negotiating the area. The inside of this building is in deplorable condition. The ceiling near the center of the building has been breached by a tree limb. Some of the

walls by the broken ceiling are on the verge of collapse and mold is noticeable throughout the building. The flooring near the front portion of the building, where the walls have been compromised, have large holes where you are able to see the ground. Some of the flooring is tilted to the point that traversing them is a real hazard. I am concerned that children, as an adventure, may enter this building and suffer an injury. Therefore, because of the hazards that can be observed inside this abandoned building I ask that the Mayor and Council consider having this structure declared condemned and that the building be razed.

Unfortunately I cannot give you any good news concerning installation of the LEMIS or the LACRASH programs. I continue to call for updates; however, as of tonight, little information is being received. I still have hopes that installation of both programs will occur, or at least begin, during this first quarter of the year. I can relay that, when speaking with those responsible for the installation of the LACRASH program, they have recently made changes to the original program and they are now in the process of installing the new program by region throughout the State. I was informed that our region has not yet been scheduled to receive the new program but that the installers will consider putting the old system on-line at our Department in the interim.

All of our police equipped units have been properly painted and decaled. It is my honor to tell this governing body as well as the general public that we now have four (4) fully functioning police cruisers at our disposal. All four (4) vehicles have been assigned to each individual Patrolmen. It will be their responsibility make sure the unit to which they are assigned is kept clean and in proper working order, including oil and filter changes as needed. The two (2) Chevrolet Impala's, although not police cruisers, are being kept as pool cars and will be used on an as needed basis.

Our Department hosted another Neighborhood Watch meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We had two (2) speakers set to give presentations: Ms. Laura Balthazar the Executive Director of the St. Landry/Evangeline Sexual Assault Center and Mr. Chuck Cantrell, a retiree from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals who was the manager of investigations for their elderly abuse program. Unfortunately, only two (2) people showed up for the meeting so it had to be postponed until May. I feel that this program does indeed work. I felt discouraged at first; however, both Ms. Balthazar and Mr. Cantrell was very supportive and stated that they would try to be present at our next meeting. I have spoken to the Mayor about having our next meeting in the Council meeting room as opposed to the Community Center.

A few citizens have approached me with concerns about the speed limits within our Town. Because of this I have instructed one of our Patrolmen to canvass the Town to determine where there are posted speed limit signs and if the limit is appropriate for the area the sign covers. Upon completion of this survey I will make recommendations to this governing body on where signs are needed and the suggested speed limit that should be posted.

Statistics from our Department for the month of January were: 26 Citations issued, 25 FIC's written, 130 MIC's written, 4 arrests, and 211 calls for service, while 41% of time worked by the Officers was spent on routine patrol of our town.

It is now my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. This person has done an outstanding job during the past month as evidenced by the statistics he posted during that month. This employee has also offered, due to his experience, ideas and suggestions on helping to operate the Department better. It is my pleasure to give the award certificate as well as a gift certificate from Little Big Cup for this month's Employee of the Month, Patrolman James Bell.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police