

**TOWN OF ARNAUDVILLE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 21, 2018**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Patrol Officer Kirsten McBay began the POST academy at the St. Martin Parish Police Academy on Monday, August 6, 2018. According to reports she is doing well and is expected to graduate in early November of this year.

I petition the Council to accept the resignation of Patrol Sergeant Anna White effective August 9, 2018. Ms. White did not submit a letter of resignation, although it had been requested. I further petition the Council to accept the resignation of Patrol Officer Grant Durio effective August 30, 2018. Patrol Officer Durio has submitted a letter of resignation. I am currently in the process of interviewing candidates to replace those vacated positions.

As it stands now, the Arnaudville Police Department is a training facility for other Departments. I wish the Council to understand that, with few exceptions, the reason we are losing Patrol Officers is due to low hourly pay as well as lack of benefits, namely medical insurance. In other local Police Departments the starting pay for a Non-POST certified Patrol Officer is \$10.00 per hour compared to our starting pay of \$9.93 per hour. Starting pay for a POST certified Patrol Officer, once they graduate from the POST Academy, is \$12.00 per hour compared to our \$11.37 per hour. I know that we can't afford to pay our Patrol Officers the same rate as cities and larger towns in our region, nor can we offer opportunities for advancement or a transition to a specialized department (like Narcotics, Homicide or Robbery). The Henderson PD, Sunset PD and Leonville PD were all contacted and all of them stated that they not only offered retirement benefits but medical insurance as well. I am aware that the Town will pay half of any medical insurance an employee buys for themselves; however, our employees can't afford to pay half of those costs, therefore they opt to do without. We cannot expect to recruit and keep good people if we do not pay a comparable wage and offer benefits. Employee turnover results in added costs in overtime, training, and orientation. An instable workforce also results in inefficiencies, and more human error.

A Neighborhood Watch meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2018. We are currently scheduling speakers for the meeting. Snacks and drinks will be served.

Statistics for the month of July were: 32 citations issued, 23 FIC's written, 28 MIC's written, 9 arrests, and 136 calls for service. During the month, 38% of time worked by the Officers was spent patrolling our town.

The "Employee of the Month" for July is Dispatcher Cynthia Guilbeau. Ms. Guilbeau is very focused on doing her job well and keeps written notes of steps to take during different calls.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police