

**TOWN OF ARNAUDVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015**

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

I would like to hire Ms. Dianna Richard as a part time Clerk/Dispatcher employee, to work on an as needed basis to fill in whenever a Clerk/Dispatcher is out due to illness or vacation. This will, of course, be based on the feedback I receive from our Town attorney, Mr. Richey Haik, and the approval of this Council. As I stated during the last town meeting if a Clerk/Dispatcher misses work due to illness or vacation, the other three (3) Dispatchers must cover the hours missed by working overtime. This means that we are not only paying for the time the employee misses, but also time and one half for the employees who must cover.

As of tonight, I have not received any word from the program installers of LEMIS, for our report writing, or LACRASH, for our auto accident reports. As I stated at the last Council Meeting I was informed that the installation would not take place until sometime during the first quarter of this year. I intend to call both parties by the end of the month to get an estimated time of delivery and installation. I still wish to convey to the Council that a training period for the Officers and Dispatchers will take some time to complete after the programs are up and running.

The St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Department of Fleet Maintenance has completed the decaling of both Ford Crown Victoria's. The new Ford Explorer is going through the final preparations of having the accessories and decaling done and should be available for road duty by the end of the month. The Dodge Charger should be available by that time as well. Once the decaling is completed we will have four (4) police equipped vehicles for duty service.

I know that everyone is aware that there was an armed robbery of our Dollar General Store. I did ask the St. Landry Sheriff's Office Robbery Division for assistance. Currently there are some leads that are being followed by the Robbery Detective's. So far, according to our investigation, it seems likely that the suspect was involved in other similar robberies in other jurisdictions around Acadiana. In an effort to assist in the capture of the suspect, I had St. Landry Parish Crime Stopper's air a segment on television. Since the St. Landry Sheriff's Office has the resources to gather and collate all the evidence gathered, I ask that anyone with further information regarding this crime please contact Detective Edward Smith at 594-8565.

I wish to interject here that this type of crime is on the upswing. According to Detective Smith, one particular store was robbed three (3) times during a two (2) month period. I have instructed our Patrolmen to be more proactive in their patrols; however, you must understand that we only have one (1) Patrolman on duty during the night and that he can't be everywhere all the time. It is felt that the suspect in this particular crime might have an accomplice that is a getaway driver and a lookout. My advice to all the businesses in our area is that should someone come into your place of business that is acting suspicious or you are unsure of, call our Police Department. We will respond and investigate. Many crimes are prevented merely by having an Officer walk in at the right time.

In light of this, our Department is planning on hosting another Neighborhood Watch meeting on February 12th. This program does indeed work. Recently a citizen came into my office asking why information that he had called in was not, according to his observation, handled properly. I was told that the Patrolman responding to the call did not leave his vehicle to investigate the complaint. When I discussed this with the Patrolman I learned that when he arrived on the scene he recognized the person as a Fed Ex employee and did not stop. Thanks to that concerned citizen coming to me, we instituted a program where Officers must stop and question why someone, unknown to the residents of a particular area, is there. Should the person be there for a valid reason, Fed Ex delivery for example, the Officer will note the circumstances on an MIC to be filed in our Office.

As you all know we had a gas problem a few weekends ago. I think that it is counterproductive to point fingers as to who or what was the blame for the disruption. I know that I froze during the two nights of outage at my residence. I did not call anyone to bug them as to when the gas would be turned back on. Once I was informed, at the early stages of the shutdown, it would probably not be cleared up until that Sunday, I left the guys who were working hard to get the system back online alone. I was informed that our Town has a phone number that can be called during an emergency but that some people did not know how to access the system to leave updated voice messages. Our Police Department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are part of the First Responders Emergency team for this area. Should the Town Council approve, we offer our service to update the voice message every three (3) or four (4) hours to keep the citizens in our community informed. If the Town had a website, we could update that as well. I was told by the Dispatchers that many angry people called the Police Department to complain. Our Department has no problem with trying to help; however, we ask that we be given the tools to do so.

Statistics from our Department for the month of December were: 27 Citations issued, 39 FIC's written, 96 MIC's written, 1 Arrest, and 199 calls for service. I would also like to point out that during the month, 38% 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 also assisted in the in-service training of the new Patrolman currently on duty and has offered 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 Dodge's Firehouse Café for this month's Employee of the Month, Patrolman S. Jason Howell.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police