

**Alexandria Newsletter**

April 1, 2021

**Memorial Day Service**

With this being the last year for the primary school in Alexandria, I am very excited to share that we are working on having the memorial service in the cemetery this year. It is always a moving service, with the veterans providing a flag ceremony and the school children placing flags on the graves of the veterans no longer with us.

Thinking about this being the last year for the school I came to realize that I had the honor of being the first one to turn on the school zone lights when we installed them during my 2004 term as mayor. It’s kind of sad to know that I will be the last one to turn them off during my current term.

**Save our School**

Just a short note to let you know that we are still working to preserve the new portion of the school and gymnasium for community events and activities as well as the playground and field for Fundays. Superintendent Scott Schmidt, committee chairman Jeff Mitchell and I met recently with Adam Shilling, the new director of the YMCA, and he is very interested in forming a partnership to keep and maintain the school building here in the Village. I am beginning to believe that we might be able to save the school building for the community!

**Support your Local Business**

One last note on the departure of the Alexandria Primary School - there have always been concerns about the impact of losing the school could have on local businesses. I know Ragamuffins owner Don Hooper is concerned and making plans to maintain a connection and service to his school customers even after they move to the new location behind the high school. What we can all do to ensure the success of our local businesses is to support them. Granville has been able to keep their local grocery and other businesses simply by supporting them. To keep the businesses we have and bring and keep more business to our village, we will need to do the same.

**Your Tax Dollars at Work**

I know when we implemented the income tax, we wanted to flip the switch and fix everything - maintenance, streets, police services and so much more! Unfortunately, it’s a slow phase-in to having money to work with and we have more than a year to go before we are at full tax collection. However, we are starting to receive some of the tax revenue and are carefully prioritizing where it needs to go - the top of the list had to be our water tower. Some of you might recall the huge wall of ice hanging from it in past winters, or the river running into town from it. I am sure everyone realizes this isn’t

exactly how the tower is supposed to function. It was built in 1996, after a water main break put the village without water for several days, to serve as a backup water supply. With the addition of the Alex Ridge subdivision we learned that the extra one hundred

thousand gallons of water sitting high above the village maintains better water pressure for all of us. Lastly with modern fire equipment’s high-speed, high-pressure pumps, the tower became imperative to our fire protection. The point to all of this is that the tower needs to be maintained - it should be drained and inspected every 5 years and completely refurbished every 15 years. I haven’t seen any evidence of any maintenance and I am certain we never could have afforded any. I am very proud to share that we just completed refurbishing the inside of the water tower. That’s completely stripping the inside and then recoating it with a glass resin. Thanks to our income tax we were able to afford the $20,000 restoration. It will need to be drained, inspected and the outside refurbished in 2026 and we expect to have the resources to do that and continue to take care of it and all of infrastructure thanks to all of us.

**Water Project**

By the time you receive this newsletter all the meter pits will have been installed. We are currently finishing up the software side of the project and will soon bring the new system online. Leaving just the landscaping and *PAVING* (thank goodness for paving)! Overall, the project went very well. We had a few issues but working together I think we resolved most very well. I came to truly realize how fortunate we were to have TLV do the project. One of the biggest reasons was their Hydrovac truck. Anyone else would have done all the digging with a track hoe and instead of neat little round holes they would have had to dig huge holes in our yards.

Thanks to everyone for their patience.

 *S*incerely, Mayor Jim Jasper

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