



TOWN OF SUNSET COMMUNITY LETTER

January 10, 2022

Greetings from the Mayor:

My hope is that the blessings of the Advent of Christmas and the coming of the New Year found everyone in good health. I pray the New Year brings peace and prosperity to all.

WATER SYSTEM PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The disruption to our water system has had an effect on all of us. On December 24th, equipment owned by Entergy failed resulting in the loss of power to the equipment at our well site. The inability to pump water to the tower caused low water levels in the water tank and low waterline pressures throughout the system. On December 25th the system was restarted. The flow through the waterlines stirred up the minerals that are always present at some level in the bottom of the waterlines. This resulted in the discoloration of the water. These minerals, iron and manganese, are natural elements in the aquifer from which our water is supplied. Our system, like those of our neighboring communities, is somewhat fragile in that any excessive turbulence will cause some level of discoloration to the water. We safely treat the water at the wellsite to remove the minerals that eventually drop out of the water stream settling in the bottom of the water lines and are expelled from the system through our ongoing flushing program. With the help of one of our consultants, CENLA Environmental, we have developed a flushing system to systematically flush the minerals from the lines. Most recently we have installed automatic flushing valves that are set to operate during low water use periods.

From the onset of this problem, the utility crew has been out working doing additional flushing to clear the lines. We will continue flushing until this problem is cleared. However, this process is being hindered by the practice of 'dripping' household faucets to prevent lines from freezing. 'Dripping' did not cause the problem, but because the system had not settled down from previous events, it definitely has added to it by delaying the water pressure to rebuild.

There are two ways to prevent these issues. One is through flushing. As stated earlier, we have a flushing program in place and will be improving it by adding additional automatic flushing valves to the system. The second is by mechanical means. We will be installing a treating plant to remove the minerals before they even enter the system. Land has been purchased and financing is pending the delivery of design and construction plans. We also will be drilling a new well. This project should begin as early as April of this year. Construction of the Treating Plant will begin shortly thereafter. The cost of the Treating Plant Project minus the price of the property is, Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand

Dollars (\$2,800,000). The cost to drill a new well is Eight Hundred Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$813,000.00).

CALLING SYSTEM

We have a calling system in place that will notify those in the system of emergency situations, including water quality issues. To sign up for inclusion on the system, call Town Hall with a phone number capable of receiving text messages and you will be added. All telephone numbers will remain private, and will not be listed on any of the calls. If an emergency occurs, information will be sent simultaneously to all who are on the list. We will be collecting telephone numbers for inclusion on the system until the end of the month. After which we will send out a trial notification with further instructions.

If, at this time, you are having a problem, please call right away! We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these events. We are on the same team and are doing everything we can to prevent these problems. Yes, it is extremely frustrating, but please know we are working as hard as possible to keep the system up and running with good clear water.

BASKETBALL COURTS

We hope you have noticed the renovation and upgrades to the Basketball Courts have begun. There are currently two new professional grade basketball goals with plans for two additional goals. Upgrades to the courts themselves and the addition of a paddle ball court are also being considered. These renovations and upgrades have been made possible by the generosity of Dr. Gerrard Williams, Mr. Derrick Charles, Mr. Christopher Granger, Mr. Benjamin Trent, and Mark Savoy of Grooms Engineering.

We are looking into the development of a Walking Track around the old football field, which is behind the Community Center. We are working to form a committee to spear head these projects and to help develop recreation programs for our youth, elderly and those in between. Volunteers are welcome.

In closing, please know that the future remains bright for our community. Let us work together to make it happen.

Mayor James