

2014

Category: Government/Emergency Services/Courts
Village of Anna Yearly Progress Report

Some years in our Village are very serene, peaceful, quiet, etc., and some years are "stormy", controversial, and full of problems. This past year falls in the latter category. Thank goodness most of that is now behind us.

Many positive things were ongoing in 2013. Our "mini-mall" is now 4/5 full with Bob Schulze Insurance, Xcel Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy, Baker Chiropractic, and Anna Family Eye Care with another professional service on the horizon.

At the other end of town, "Trackside Treats" is hoping to open sometime in April at the corner of First and Main Streets. There is a possibility of one or two other surprises of this nature coming to our Village in 2014.

Our Park schedule, under the leadership of Gary Strasser, has a full slate of special events from April through October this year. Some things to be on the lookout for are kites, jazz, circus, camping, walking for a cause, zoo, dancing, and scarecrows. There may be an addition of more exercise equipment installed this year also.

Our Fire Department, under the excellent leadership of Chief Tim Bender, made 85 fire calls in Anna, Franklin Township, and mutual aid in 2013. Tim Bender said that a special highlight of the year was a "School Safety Day" held at the Anna F.D. for K thru fifth grade kids from Anna Elementary numbering 650 students.

In 2014, the Village Council is asking our Police Department to actively concentrate on drug abuse education for children as well as adults. We are relying on Police Chief Scott Evans to head up this program in our schools, churches, civic organization, etc. Chief Evans has already been in personal contact with a representative of the "National Child Safety Council" whom we hope will work with us to deliver the message of non-tolerance of drug abuse in our community.

Anthony Pearson and Kami Bryant were recently sworn in as two new auxiliary police officers. Joshua Schmidt has been promoted to Sgt. by our chief. Our newly renovated Police Department is looking good.

Two new men have joined our Public Works Department. Mike Homan and Matt Romanowski joined Bruce Schroer, and superintendent, Tyler Shuster a few months ago. Their snow removal has been a blessing to the Village this winter.

Nancy Benroth, our administrator, has reported that the renovations to the Waste Water Treatment Plant are completed except for a few loose ends. New equipment purchased include a dump truck and a "Bad Boy" mower.

Our Village Pride Award winners for 2013 were Barb Duncum @ 113 W. South St. and Jeff and Deb Banks @ 301 E. North St.

I have learned and I am sure many others would concur that small town government, just like large city or federal government, is not for the faint of heart. Politics raises its ugly head at times, personal prejudices and issues are ever present, but we must ALL, always, have the welfare of the majority of those we serve first and foremost on our minds and in our decisions. This sacrifice of personal feelings and biases must, in every instance, take a "back-seat" to what is best for the general public.

Thank you Linda Pleiman and Jenny Maurer for all your help in 2013. Lets make 2014 the best year we have ever had.

Bob Anderson,
Mayor