

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

I would like to introduce a column that we will be sending out with our billing to help provide an update of City services, current projects, and both challenges and accomplishments we have had within the last year.

First, let me wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! We also congratulate the Gallipolis In Lights committee and volunteers for making the City Park a winter wonderland. I know we will have a host of visitors to enjoy this special event throughout the holiday season. Come to Gallipolis!

Secondly, many thanks to our residents for supporting the Fire Department levy in the November election. We have an aging fleet of fire trucks and this additional levy will help us replace and modernize going forward. For a small community providing fire and police protection is of the utmost importance and priorities within our city budget.

My goal when I was named city manager was to see if we could collectively steer Gallipolis to a more positive position. We have been successful in obtaining grants for wastewater, waterline, and other infrastructure projects. We were successful in obtaining over 90% percent funding for a major street repair within the City. Although we have been approved for a 0% percent waterline replacement project, we remain hopeful that we will realize forgiveness of up to 50% of the approved loan amount. This will enable the City to replace up to 18 miles of antiquated water distribution system. We are focused on addressing the significant infrastructure challenges within our water distribution system. Two major assets we enjoy include the water plant as it is extremely well maintained and operated and the condition of the plant is excellent. The other major asset is the wastewater plant and it has been thoroughly revamped and utilizes ultraviolet treatment methods, a major advancement from primary and secondary treatment.

We continue to be conservative with our expenditures and seek grant assistance to assist, when possible, with purchases. We are beginning to realize trending in a more positive direction and will address specific areas in the months to come.

Dow W. Saunders