

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

AUGUST 2020

Hello Everyone

Summer is here with lots of flowers and blooms of every kind. Take time to stop and smell them, they may not all be roses, but taking a few moments to appreciate the good things we have in life can make a big difference in our life!

Visions for Shellsburg: I have talked about the need for new homes in town and a good long-term financial plan. This time I want to talk about appearances. We have been working hard on the appearance of the whole community, and with your help I think we have made real progress. But let's get more specific. Think about it this way: When you are getting ready for the day, what is one of the first things you do? I will bet it is to look in the mirror. So, using that thought process let's look in Shellsburg's mirror. When you have lived here a long time, maybe your whole life, we tend to overlook or look past things we see every day, but if you were looking for a new hometown, what would it look like? Would it look like Shellsburg? I hope so! But, like looking in the mirror first thing in the morning, there might need to be a little adjusting before we go out and greet the world. As good as our town is, we can always make it better. We only get one chance to make a first impression. Shellsburg's first impression is obviously the roadways coming into town. They aren't bad, but they could be changed to make a statement. For instance, I love flowers! Especially groupings with a variety of colors or patches of one color with another color framing it with different variety that bloom as the seasons change. Did I mention I like flowers? I'm not saying to make the whole ditch a flower garden. (although that would be amazing) I think if we strategically place some plots as we come into town that would make a great first impression. Like anything worth doing it will take some hard work. I'm willing to help, will you? If you will, get in touch with me.

On a different note. We have been starting the process of street shoulder maintenance. What this means is we will be "messing up" the edge of the street in the right of way by scraping the edge of the street, regrading ditches if needed, cleaning and repairing culverts. I know this will make it hard to mow for a while but water is the enemy of the roadway. When water runs down the road and vehicles drive over it, it deteriorates the pavement. This decreases the life of the road and greatly increases the cost of maintaining quality streets. The seal-coated streets are not designed to have water constantly running down them. The ditches were put there for a reason. We will try to give you notice but sometimes schedules change and sometimes it just isn't possible. This will be an ongoing procedure and will take a long time. Please be patient.

Please get your dogs and cats licensed, we need to make sure all pets have their required shots and aren't a danger to the public and if they get away from home, we can be a resource to help identify them.

There will be a CAN DRIVE August 1<sup>st</sup> next to USA communications. Please donate. Proceeds go to the fire department building fund.

That's all for now and as always, thank you for your time.

Lonnie

