

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

OCTOBER 2020

Hello, Everyone,

It is October; how the heck did that happen? It seems like it was just August 10th. Oh, I remember, crap happened, and I missed a month or so. I hope things are getting back to as normal as they can be in your life. The only good thing about this being October is that "the year of no fun" is about over and hope for a better 2021 is around the corner. I am still trying to wrap my head around the depth of the devastation. There are so many layers of damage, things keep showing up that you did not see before. Adding to the stress, with the incredible size of the disaster, the insurance companies are having trouble dealing with a backlog of thousands of claims. My heart goes out to the people that lost their homes. I know it will take a lot of time and hard work before you can get back to where you were. Thank God we were all safe and, with His help, we will get through this. Focus on the important things: FAMILY, FRIENDS, and the great community of helpful, caring neighbors. Oh, I almost forgot, we are still in a pandemic. Oh, and the election. Ok, I am a bit sarcastic, but I am going to deal with one disaster at a time.

The city is trying to keep people aware of government programs available for assistance. Check out the web page and Facebook for more info. Thank you for helping collect info on volunteer hours. This will help the city get reimbursed for some of the expenses associated with the storm. Please, if you have not already done so, send your emergency contact info through the website so we can contact you in an emergency.

It makes me so sad to see the damage to the trees. It will take years to get the parks and other parts of town back to the shaded and colorful way it was. There is always one truth, it will not get better if we do not get started. Make plans for the future. Plant some trees in your yard. Maybe you will not get the benefit, but your grandkids might. Think about it, someone you probably did not know planted those damaged trees a long, long time ago and now it is our turn to do the same for the kids not yet born. The city is starting to work on recovery plans, and we can use your help. There will be more on this as we go forward, but we all need to think about how we can help make Shellsburg better than before the storm of 2020.

Stay safe, be kind, and be proud of who of you are.

Thank you for your time.

Lonnie