

Ceremony of the new year wishes to the population Saturday January 27, 2024

Mr. Departmental Councilor,
Mr. President of the Community of Communes,
the municipal councillors,
the representatives of the gendarmerie,
the representatives of the fire brigade,
Ladies and gentlemen,
dear friends

Welcome to this traditional new year wishes ceremony which every year allows us to spend a convivial moment in joy and good mood.

First of all, I would like to think of all those who have left us this year and who we will miss. I would then have a special thought for our farmers who are fighting for themselves, for us, for a better, more reasonable and reasoned world.

Thank you Cyril for the report that we were able to see and which particularly touched us all. Thank you for the work that you also do for the village with your favorite teammate but who this evening is basking in the sun...I received a photo with her toes in the sand...apologizing for not being able to be present.

You have completed the addressing not without difficulty and more than 800 plates have been handed out, more than 330 posts planted by our technical team and 1300 certificates handed out by the secretariat.

Like every year, part of the road has been redone; around 150,000 euros are used annually in this position which is so thankless since it is always insufficient in your eyes, in ours too, and so dependent on the weather and its whims.
With the same amount, we unfortunately redo fewer and fewer kilometers....

The communal bakery opened its doors in April; the baker is delighted with this tool, the efficient equipment, the customers too and the village of St Antoine comes back to life with this local service.

Thank you to the Department for its aid of 48,000 euros, to the Region for 30,000 euros and to the State for 58,000 euros. Without their support, this 276,000 euros project would not have been possible.

14 out of 15 lots in the housing project have been sold and houses are starting to grow up.

Work on the St Martin church of Festalemps is progressing well; we are proud of this restoration planned for more than 20 years but not completed. The estimated amount of 316,000 euros should benefit from aid from the STATE of 59,000 euros, from the DRAC for €95,000, and from the Department for €59,000. The Heritage Foundation is also contributing €16,000 thanks to your support since the call for donations has raised more than €8,200, including €3,000 from Crédit Agricole. We are awaiting a response from DATAR which would complete this funding. Be all thanked; this shows the strong attachment we have for our heritage.

In St Privat, the renovation of the house on rue du Lavoisier into 2 apartments should be completed in the spring. The estimate of €294,000 benefits from State aid for €66,000, from the Department for €31,000 and from the Region for €30,000.

We had preempted this house because it was sold for a second home and systematically, when possible, we use this right of preemption to avoid shutters being closed 10 months a year. We also exercised this right of pre-emption for the doctor's surgery, which earned me the first page the Sud-ouest newspaper and completely misleading comments. I regret nothing !! even if it hurts at the time.

Excuse me for all these numbers given but I think it is useful, even more today, for you to know where part of your money goes.

Concerning access to care, a crucial problem in part of our territory, we have refurbished the old meeting room of St Antoine to accommodate a physiotherapist who has been working since November. We have also managed to retain our doctor Dominique Vergé whom I warmly thank for his presence, his availability and his dedication to our population.

The school:

We now have 44 pupils at St Privat's school; I would like to thank the CDC again for setting up the room which made it possible to accommodate the little ones. You should know that we were down to 18 pupils a few years ago; so I am very happy with this figure today.

2024 will see the return of our museum with an improvement and upgrading to standards that I will invite you to discover when the time comes.

The renovation of another house into accommodation will also be carried out, the architect M Georges has started the plans and insulation and heating work in the village halls is also planned. I remind you that we have 3 of them.

Grocery recovery is underway; Nanie is going to take a well-deserved retirement. We have a serious buyer but we have been facing succession problems for months and years. I'm not giving up even if I'm banned from visiting the notary.

Finally, I thank the municipal council who work daily for your well-being, I am surrounded by a wonderful team with whom we work in a relaxed atmosphere, the municipal employees for their seriousness and the work accomplished and the Associations which are numerous and allow us to meet throughout the year thanks to their varied and diverse events.

Without forgetting the library volunteers who organise a lot of activities with children, elders and this year with residents of the Meynardie.

To all and on behalf of the municipal council, we wish you an excellent year 2024.

Finally and to necessarily conclude with a quotation, no 2: it has to be that

"we only give people the hope we have"

And the 2nd "I will continue to believe, even if everyone loses hope,

I will continue to build, even if others destroy,

I will continue to speak about peace, even in the middle of a war."

If the first one is from the philosopher ALAIN, I'll let you guess who the other is from.

Finally, again: I cannot begin this year 2024 without thanking a person who for 20 years has been chairman and vice-chairman of a very present and essential association for our territory.

He has been a councillor alongside me since 1995, my first deputy from 2001 to 2008 Chairman of the ADMR of St Aulaye in July 2004; then of Verteillac

And Chairman of the departmental ADMR to this day.

Bravo JEAN PAUL to you and your teams for the work accomplished and in addition to the diploma..... the medal.