

**Mayor's New Year Greetings Speech
Saint Privat en Périgord**

01/28/2023 at 6.30 p.m. – Salle des fêtes of Festalemps

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

It is with great pleasure that the municipal council and I are happy to welcome you for this new edition of the ceremony of wishes for our commune.

It is true that we were looking forward to this moment, this time of sharing which is dear to us. The pandemic that we have been through for the past three years has widened the vast gap that has gradually distanced us from these times of exchange. Nevertheless, we were able to adapt and resist since we are here tonight and I am very happy about that.

I am going to take advantage of this moment to take stock of the past years, but before that I would like to pay particular attention to all the people who accompany me in the execution of this mandate, these men and women who on a daily basis give of their time so that the municipality of Saint Privat en Périgord lives up to the demands of its citizens.

Indeed, without this team, I could not alone fulfill the mission you entrusted to me in March 2020. Thank you to them and a big thank to you for the trust you have shown in me through this new mandate.

It is now time to come back to the projects that we wanted to carry out for the well-being of the population.

Roads

One of the priorities that we have given ourselves is the maintenance of our road networks and the access necessary for our users to move around on a daily basis. Thereby, each year, we register the maintenance of our roads and pathways. Many of you would like the whole network to be maintained. Me first, however, as you know, our budgets are not extensible and we have to be very vigilant, especially lately, I will not dwell on it, but I will come back to it a little later.

But improving our roads also means promoting speed. Several of you have complained of excessive speed and therefore after careful consideration, after consultation with the services of the department and the gendarmerie, stop signs will grow here and there on our roads... unfortunately this is the best solution we have been able to find.

Education

is a priority for us, so that our children are the future citizens of tomorrow, and that they are ready to face life as it is today. Nelson MANDELA said: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world". It is in this way that we wanted to do everything possible to keep a school on our territory and thereby welcome the pupils of the municipality in the best conditions. You have seen the arrival of a new building as an extension to accommodate all of our pupils who, in the last years, have constantly increasing numbers and so much better for the future of our municipality because it is true that the current trend at the national level is rather towards closure. So we can be pleased.

I would also like to thank the Community of Communes which has the educational competence and has made it possible to finance this extension work.

A big thank you, really.

The bakery

The economic development of our territory is also a necessity to maintain a living environment offering all of our citizens services that make their daily lives easier. Thereby, we are committed to the rehabilitation of a municipal building into a bakery which will allow the current baker, Mr. ALEXANDRE, of Saint Antoine-Cumond to take advantage of a new and equipped structure to produce our daily bread.

After all this time the project was launched you will say to me: "at last" It is not easy nowadays to be able to achieve what you want with the snap of a finger: "We are not miracle workers", just conscientious elected officials who wish to bring their village to rank and to the value it deserves with the economic vagaries that we are all experiencing.

For example, we had to modify the planned meter, the supply to the oven, in order to avoid a phenomenal increase in the cost of energy which today is causing the closure of dozens of bakeries. Again we had to adapt!

We are lucky to have several companies in our town, old ones, very recent ones and I am delighted about that. Of course, I invite you to visit as often as possible.

Thank to us, to you, they will be able to survive;
I am also considering a scooter seminar for our municipal councilors at the home of our youngest entrepreneur who has returned to the region.
Mr. FAURE, I'm counting on you for the photos!!

Heritage and the church

As you have seen this summer, road signs have grown, they have taken the Périgord sun and the hail as well. This is new signage to locate our listed buildings (the three churches) and thereby attract visitors. This heritage is maintained by the municipality and we must guarantee this memory which reminds us that humans are able to build solid foundations. I remind you that these churches date from the 11th and 12th centuries and they are still there: "how lucky".

This is why we have decided to undertake restoration work in the Saint Martin de Festalemps church, work which is in progress.

Other signage has appeared at the entrance to our village, it is the label flowered towns and villages that we obtained last year thanks to all the actors who contributed to the development of this project (elected members, agents and partners). The embellishment of the town is still relevant and we hope in the near future, to obtain our second flower.

Accommodation

Still in this dynamic of development, the municipality is committed to the construction of housing. Work is underway to rehabilitate a building into two housing units in the village center of Saint Privat des Prés. A thought is also underway on the maintenance of our communal housing.

Thereby, during the year, you were able to observe an energy diagnosis campaign allowing you to classify housing and to consider future work to meet energy sobriety requirements: "new buzzword, I'll talk to you about it a little later".

Budget

Today, the sound and reasoned management of our budget, as well as the support of the State, the region, the department and the community of municipalities in our projects have made it possible to progress on their achievements. I reiterate my thanks to everyone for supporting these projects.

Addressing

I take advantage of this moment, also to give you an update on the progress of the addressing work carried out by the municipal team. It is with pleasure that I announce that despite the delay following recent events, this work is finished. Soon, you will see other street signs growing with street names. The plaques with the numbers of the different accommodation units in the municipality will be put up.

When we hear this, we can think that everything is brilliant in Saint Privat en Périgord, however we had to face difficult times.

STORM

Many of us were affected by the hailstorm and to this day we are still suffering the consequences. It will also be necessary to be patient to bounce back: "easy to say you will tell me, but what else to do faced with climatic phenomena of this breadth and which are becoming more and more habitual". As I told you before: "We are not miracle workers, just men and women like you who wish to live decently. This is why, despite everything, we are striving to stay on course with the municipal team.

This course is not easy to maintain, many pitfalls have been sown through this path, it is sometimes necessary to make choices to ensure well-being and promote living together. The world is changing, mentalities too and we must adapt to these constant changes. However, today we still have to wonder about the future we want to leave to our children.

Energy

Lately, we notice the surge in daily prices, inflation or not, we still have to suffer the consequences...

I spoke to you earlier about buzzwords, "energy sobriety" all this to tell us that we must consume less.

Our ancestors had understood everything and had the tools and the means to do it, I would even say that they were the precursors of energy sobriety since they were already adopting the right gestures. I am not nostalgic for this time, but I think we need to remember in order to move forward and adopt the right gestures that will allow us to live better. Oscar Wilde said: "I don't want to earn my living, I want to live" and it is in these terms that I would add: "I want to live, yes, but with dignity". This is what the community is working on...

Today the municipality is committed to this thought with many concrete actions, public buildings are fixed at a temperature of 19°C in winter, sports and leisure activities are grouped together in a single room in winter to avoid heating several rooms when only one is enough. A reorganisation of public lighting is underway to try to consume less while guaranteeing the safety of our users. Currently, the municipal team is conducting a study on other savings it could achieve.

I still believe that we will be able, despite everything, to continue our project and we must, keep the course which is ours to ensure that the commune of Saint Privat en Périgord breathes the good life and the tranquility sought by our citizens. .

Associations

Before releasing you, I also want to take advantage of this speaking time to thank all the sports and leisure associations, festival committees, municipal libraries, various workshops and so on...) more than 20 present in the municipality who work daily to animate it. Without

them and without the investment of their volunteers, our life in Saint Privat en Périgord would be monotonous. This is why I thank them and encourage them to continue with as much investment if not more. I am very proud of the amount collected for the Telethon thanks to the union of all.

I will come back to you on 02/17 to work together on the Tour de France which will pass on 07/08, you certainly know that. His last visit dates back to 1967.

I particularly THANK the agents of the municipality who work every day for the population of Saint Privat in Périgord.

We have a great team.

I would also like to thank all the partners,

I pay tribute to the work of the firefighters who have worked so hard, the local elected officials, the assistance of the department, the local mission, who very often work in the shadows, all those who contribute to the proper functioning of our beautiful municipality.

And I have a very special thought this evening for Louis Michel Testaud, who was largely responsible for the merger of these 3 municipalities, the bakery, and many other subjects; he would be pleased, no satisfied, to see the progress that this merger has allowed, with these less and less perceptible divisions....

I remember his words in stormy moments "forget it, it's not worth it, move on..."

Holy sir...

Thank you Louis Michel

In summary, because I will finally finish

stick to our beliefs and keep pushing forward no matter what the difficulties!!

Where there is a will, there is a way!!!

I hand over to our President of CC, to our departmental councillors

And then I INVITE YOU to a drink and a snack that the Municipal Council and I have prepared for you.

Thank you for this past year, I wish you all a happy new year 2023, may it bring you health, joy, happiness and prosperity.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!