

MONTMAURIN VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Dear Residents of Montmaurin,

We have been aware since 19 October of the new departmental outline plan for inter communal cooperation in the Haute-Garonne, (introduced by the NOTRe law) decided upon by M. Pascal MAILHOS, prefect of the region and of the Haute-Garonne, **for remodelling the inter village landscape.**

The plan is for the Communauté de Communes de Boulogne-sur-Gesse to be merged with those of St Gaudens, Nébouzan-Rivière-Verdun, Portes de Comminges and the Aurignac area, even if on a local level - at least for our canton - 20 out of 24 communes refuse to be merged. The prime reasoning of the majority of the elected councillors in the canton is of course the desire to preserve a link and closeness to the inhabitants in order to be able to do the best for their area.

What will become of our little villages, caught up in the mass of this gigantic community which the Communauté de Communes de St Gaudens will be? : 105 communes, 44,000 inhabitants!

Town councillors and community representatives have until 31 December to discuss this plan: so far the CC of Boulogne has planned to put forward an amendment to this merger taking into account the low density of population (possible dispensation for 5,000 inhabitants) so that the Communauté de communes can stay as it is.

People talk to us about territorial reform, joint use of skills, of a geographic and sociological coherence, of identical economic problems, of governance with a "right-thinking" head and a taxation giving relief to some and overwhelming others...

Today, who can say what will be best for small villages and their inhabitants. We choose to protect our little territory in order to manage the commune in the best way possible without increasing taxation on inhabitants during what is a difficult time for many of us.

Yours,

Silvia Belair
Mayor

VILLAGE NEWS

Individual sewage disposal systems (part 2) :

On October 8 we wrote to M Jean-Yves DUCLOS, chairman of SEBCS on the following points concerning the inspection of individual sewage disposal systems and give you below replies received by telephone on 16 October from Madame la Directrice Générale of the SEBCS :

Concerning the immediate issuing of a paper copy of the signed document : **"it is planned to give a duplicate copy of the signed document when an inspection takes place in Montmaurin"**. Apparently, until now the signed document was the inspection itself, justification for the Syndicat that an inspection had taken place and could therefore be invoiced. - of no value to the user if there is no immediate written report on the condition of the sewage disposal system ;

Concerning reduction of lump sum payments of inspections - currently unchanged between the first inspection after installation and further inspection of its working order - requesting a reduction from the second inspection onwards of the same system : **"the tariffs applied were decided by the SEBCS and voted upon every ten years: the tariff will remain unchanged"** ;

Concerning giving free inspections to "vulnerable" people (elderly on low incomes or those in receipt of RSA - revenu de solidarité active) **"those concerned may ask for the payment to be made in instalments"** ;

Our request that the programme might be put off while awaiting written replies to our various points discussed above : negative response. **"The SEBCS maintains its original position - a programme of inspections has been set up and the inspections will take place therefore between October and November 2015"**.

Some residents will not have received the previous report of the first inspection in 2006 : must they approach SEBCS for a copy...?

Other residents have had a recent inspection (the last 3 or 4 years) yet would they still be faced with a new inspection when the chairman of SEBCS told us that inspections would happen every ten years ... Understand that if you can...!!!

Silvia Belair's position :

"I am not contesting the Water law (impact of sewage disposal on the environment). Man and his activities pollute, that's a fact. What I object to are the ways of implementing the inspections so far as individuals are concerned (lump sum payments decided unilaterally by SEBCS, repeated inspections of cases where installation is impossible, the absence of advice up till now) I hope to achieve a change in these methods while maintaining my stand with M JY DUCLOS.

I will not fail to let you know about these exchanges, about the analysis of residents' grievances and inspections as soon as they are brought about."

Concerning the fact that letters received by some inhabitants were considered as notifications : **"it is for these people to make an appointment and to accept the initial inspection. If no reply is received from them they will be sent a notification"**. The intermediaries recognise veiled intimidation here!!!

Concerning setting up personal advice for the improvement of existing sewage disposal systems : **"the inspector can give initial advice. It is for the user to ask for it"...** The mind boggles... !!!

Concerning publishing information about the conditions under which grants may be obtained for bringing systems up to date : no reply so far.

Concerning the spreading of information in English about individual sewage disposal systems, legislation, standards required, advice... for foreign nationals... It seems that this is more complicated for SEBCS than for Montmaurin (which regularly puts out English versions of its newsletters).

New tax for residents: GEMAPI tax

Within the framework of management of the Save river basin the 3 associations have regrouped, giving the Syndicat Save-Gesse, in order to fulfil all the legal obligations. Responsibility transferred to them today by the member communes will be the responsibility of the Communauté de Communes from January 1 2018 with the support of all the communes. These communautés de communes will be responsible not only for the maintenance and development of water courses but the prevention of risk and pollution. It is this regrouping of 133 communes from 15 communautés de communes in 3 departments with 71,630 residents upon which the canton of Boulogne-sur-Gesse will depend.

Today the current total contribution made in 2015 by the commune to the Syndicat Save-Gesse is about 2,400€.

Whoever says transfer of responsibility - is also saying transfer of collection of the tax attached to it!!!

This transfer of responsibility will be accompanied by a fixing of a price scale on the tax on built-on and non- built-on land in the form of the GEMAPI tax, like on the tax d'habitation, the rate of which has yet to be fixed (given that a maximum of 40€ per resident may be demanded)). Source : DGFIP (General Directorate of Public Finance).

You then have to add this new GEMAPI tax to the village contribution !

This column already appears on our notification of tax foncier and tax d'habitation and the land tax paid by businesses. It is for the communes or EPCI (communautés de communes) to take responsibility for the management of areas of water and prevention of flooding (GEMAPI) and they, after discussion, can set up and collect the GEMAPI tax.

(*) TF (Taxe foncière) ; TH (Taxe habitation) ; CFE (Contribution Foncière des Entreprises).

Regional elections of 3 and 13 December 2015

22 regions will be altered and regrouped into 13 metropolitan regions: the object of this territorial reform is to make the state more effective by reinforcing strategic planning at the level of big regions.

To vote in the regional elections in December you must be of French nationality, aged already 18 years, have civil and political rights and be registered on the electoral list. The regional vote is not open to those of other European nationality.

Voting method: regional assemblies will be fully renewed normally every 6 years (reduced by 9 months this time because the next elections will be in March 2021).

In the first round: the list which gets an absolute majority of votes cast (receiving therefore a quarter of the seats in power): the other seats will be divided according to the greatest average between all the lists (with a minimum of 5% of votes cast).

In the second round (if no list got an absolute majority) for lists that got at least 10% of the votes cast in the first round, lists can be modified or merged.

The law of 6 June 2000 implies that the lists must be made up according to a **principle of strict parity**.

The main areas of regional intervention are economic development, lycées, professional training and higher education, improvements to the region and transport (responsibilities reinforced by the law promulgated in August 2015).

Farmyard programme

Montmaurin council intends to subscribe to a "Farmyard" programme with the departmental council of Haute-Garonne: the department is subsidising repairs to farmyards or access roads to them at the rate of 50% of the total without tax for work carried out in 2016, with a limit of subsidised work at 1,524€ without tax. The rate of subsidy and the calendar for handing in the claim is subject to confirmation by the Conseil Departemental.

Those interested, registered at the MSA (Mutualité Sociale Agricole) or retired from MSA, are asked to register at the Mairie in Montmaurin.

The senior citizens tea organised by the Montmaurin centre for social action (CCAS)

The next **tea** will take place in the village hall on **Monday 30 November** starting at 3.00 pm.
Contact and information from Françoise – 06 80 45 67 20

NEWS IN BRIEF

INVENTORY OF THE PARISH CHURCH

People holding religious documents and/or objects or who have information about such things are asked to see Mme the Mayor during times that the office is open to assist with the inventory of the parish church.

SIGNS AND INDICATION SIGNS

New legislation concerning signs and indications in villages. The council will approach tourist businesses in our commune in order to arrange adequate signage (dimensions, method of fixation etc...) for them to be in harmony with their surroundings.

SKIP FOR BULKY MATERIAL : 13 - 16 NOVEMBER 2015

A skip has been rented from the CC du Boulonnais in which Montmaurin residents will be

able to deposit bulky rubbish. This skip will be placed at the recycling site on the Ball Trap road. Please only use the skip for bulky things and put them in the skip itself (normal household rubbish and garden rubbish are not allowed).

PUBLIC LIGHTING OR OTHER THINGS OUT OF ORDER

As soon as you notice something not working :

- lights on a public road
- trees or branches becoming dangerous to users of public roads
- leaks, deterioration of public roads or buildings belonging to the village...

It is important to contact the secretary at the Mairie so that we can arrange for the appropriate services to deal with things.

Thank you in advance.

IT and Internet: local service (breakdown, repair, advice and initiation).

We are pleased to tell you of the arrival a few months ago of M Andre Devrieze, an IT expert, in the Chemin du Tuco in Montmaurin. He deals with IT hardware as well as software and management of the Internet, able to make home visits by appointment.

We therefore have the good fortune in the village to benefit from this specialised local service, even more valuable since the tax declarations and other administrative processes are, or are becoming, obligatory by Internet as from 2016.

Contact : M. André DEVRIEZE – 06 49 43 13 36 / 09 61 30 83 72

At the Mairie: besides that, a dedicated computer will be operational from the start of 2016 in the hall of the Mairie during usual opening times for the use of Montmaurin residents who might need to use a computer or have some help with electronic formalities.

THE MAIRIE IS OPEN AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES :

Tuesdays 14-17h. Wednesdays and Fridays 14-17.30h
Mme the Mayor and her deputies may also be seen by appointment:
Tel. 05 61 88 10 84 - email : mairie.montmaurin@orange.fr

In emergencies :

Silvia BELAIR – Tél. 05 61 88 21 63 – Bertrand MIRO – Tél. port. 06 75 10 76 20

Photography by Jacques Sabloux
(page 1 : Montarian landscape as seen frontera Larroque/Sarremezan).
Both French and English versions are distributed and available at the Mairie.