

Town of Woodworth: The Mayor's Minute

Building Momentum: The Bright Future of Woodworth

BY MAYOR DAVID C. BUTLER II



Thank you to everyone who continues to invest in and believe in the Town of Woodworth. Your support, partnership, and shared vision are what make our progress possible. We are proud to share the positive momentum shaping our community and the exciting direction in which we are headed.

As the Town of Woodworth grows, our focus remains steady: protecting what makes our town special while embracing thoughtful progress. Growth is most meaningful when it improves quality of life, supports local families and businesses, and strengthens public safety. Careful planning ensures that development enhances the community rather than overwhelms it. Our town is currently involved in a number of projects designed to support these goals, from infrastructure improvements to new development initiatives, and we look forward to seeing each one come to full fruition. By prioritizing safety, maintaining strong infrastructure, and encouraging responsible expansion, small governments can build for tomorrow without losing sight of today — remaining proactive rather than reactive, anticipating future needs while preserving the character and close-knit spirit that define our community. Every investment we make is guided by long-term sustainability, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment

to serving the collective good, ensuring balanced growth that creates opportunity for the next generation while maintaining the high standards and strong sense of community our residents value today.

One of our most meaningful initiatives is the effort to bring a public library to Woodworth. We are actively working alongside the Rapides Parish Library Board of Control and the Rapides Parish Police Jury to make this vision a reality. A library represents far more than books on shelves — it is an investment in education, workforce development, youth engagement, and lifelong learning, reflecting our commitment to expanding opportunities and strengthening the foundation of our community.

We are also excited about the expansion and upgrade of Caroline Dormon Junior High, which is currently 65% complete and on track for full completion by August 2026. Once finished, the campus will serve up to 660 students in a world-class learning environment designed to support academic excellence and student growth. Early planning is already underway for a future high school addition, further reinforcing our dedication to educational advancement.

Residential growth continues at a strong and steady pace. Development at Evelyn Estates is creating new opportunities for families, with a total of 122 total lots contributing to long-term stability and tax base expansion. Growth at Corner Creek Estates on Indian Creek demonstrates strong demand for quality living environments, and the addition of new duplexes supports population growth while strengthening the local economy. Sage Lane Subdivision Phase III includes nine built-to-suit lots, while Silver Pine Subdivision offers eight custom home sites, reflecting confidence in Woodworth's

future and the increasing appeal of our community as a place to call home.

Commercial growth is equally encouraging. We are pleased to welcome Shelton Energy Solutions, which will be establishing its business in Woodworth, further strengthening our commercial base and bringing additional professional services to the area. A new Mexican restaurant will expand dining options while creating local jobs. A nail salon opening in the strip mall adds convenience and supports small business vitality. A full-service service station breaking ground will provide enhanced services for residents and visitors alike, generating additional employment opportunities. Plans for a state-of-the-art fitness center will further contribute to health, wellness, and overall quality of life within our community.

Infrastructure remains a top priority as we plan for the future. Our \$4.2 million Water Sector Consolidation Project is critical to ensuring reliable, efficient, and modern utility services for residents and businesses. In addition, a \$2.1 million Natural Gas System Upgrade will modernize our system, improve reliability, and position the town to meet increasing demand. These strategic improvements provide the essential foundation for responsible expansion and long-term sustainability.

Woodworth is experiencing steady, thoughtful growth across residential, commercial, and infrastructure sectors. Each of these projects represents partnership, progress, and a shared belief in our community's potential. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a stronger, more vibrant Woodworth — honoring our roots while confidently embracing the future. Be Blessed! Mayor David C. Butler, II

