

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: I am back! The doctors have released me to return under “light duty” until my strength is fully back. The number of get-well cards I received was amazing! Thank you each and every one. There were many evenings where I placed the whole pile on my lap and read back through them. I received hundreds of well wishes on Facebook as well. I felt a lot of love and care from your expressions.

During my time off, I had a lot of time to think. I spent considerable time thinking about Bremen and the future we are moving toward. When I spoke last Saturday for the dedication of the “Historic Marker”, I raised the issue of Community Spirit. Before 1900, Bremen was largely a small agricultural community with bare supplies and necessities. I remember an old bell that sat on the hillside near my Grandfather’s house. These bells were used to communicate with the neighbors. Anytime the bell would ring and be heard by the neighbor, the neighbor would drop what they were doing and head toward the ringing bell. A ringing bell signified that something had happened. In those days, regardless of any differences, Community Spirit meant immediate response and the offer of help or the joy of celebration. There was such a feeling of needing each other.

In the early 1900’s, with the Oil Boom, there came a new dimension to Community Spirit. With the influx of new people, a downtown that sprang up, industries that rooted themselves, and a social aspect uptown that had never been there before on the weekends, Community Spirit carried a fun time dimension as well as the feeling of needing each other.

Certainly during the Depression the Village saw Community Spirit emerge again as everyone worked to help each other through those tough times. World War II had everyone pitching in to help. There were ration cards and women working in the factories, the automobile was making its mark on how the community functioned.

As Bremen grew and new industries came to town in the mid 1900’s, Community Spirit centered around the Village churches and certainly the schools. There was a lot of pride surrounding Bremen. In the early 1960’s, our school consolidation happened which pulled our families into an interaction with the larger rural area as well as other Villages such as Rushville and Pleasantville. Community Spirit took on a more broad meaning.

Today, Community Spirit happens in a lot of different ways. While Community Spirit used to be about events and projects in Bremen, now it has become more private. I see an increasing difficulty to get a lot of people involved in the larger community simply because

of the demands of their jobs, and family activities. We have many family members that work as far as an hour or farther away from Bremen. When they come home, they are tired or have a school activity (parents and grandparents).

In spite of it all, I want to believe that Community Spirit is alive and well though it functions on different levels. I want to believe that we know our neighbors and stand ready to help in a time of need. I want to believe that we all have the best interests of Bremen at heart. I want to believe that we want to have fun as a Community and Village.

On October 20th, the Pumpkin Walk Committee is wanting to have a day long event, as it is the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the Pumpkin Walk. They are wanting to have Vendors in the Village Park, Blow-Ups for kids to play on, Music throughout the day, a 5K Run, food available through the Firefighter's Auxillary and Pumpkin Walk Committee, and the Pumpkin Walk itself as dusk settles on the Park.

For this special event, Vince Trocchia, our hometown Superstar, will be the Headliner for our music. Vince is a singer/songwriter in Nashville and will share his journey of success in the field of music. Vince is giving us this gift because of his love for Bremen.

Another "First" is the Bremen Pumpkin Run. This will be a 5K Run/Walk through the tree-lined brick Streets of the Village at 5:30. There will also be a Kids Fun Run at 6:15 in Howell Park. See registration form in this newsletter.

To make this day happen, the Pumpkin Walk Committee needs many, many volunteers. Would you offer your time to make this a great celebration? Contact Kelley Tripp at 740-569-4807 or Jennifer Storey at 740-438-4423 or Douglas Hockman at 740-974-4127. They need help with the blow-ups, setting up vendors, trash detail, parking, etc. They are planning a funtime event where our Community Spirit can shine.

Please Note: The Bremen Branch of the Library will now be open on Monday and Wednesday from 10- 8 and SATURDAY from 10-5. The Saturday hours are NEW! This begins on September 7th. This is a permanent change.

Our Village Services Workers are making tremendous progress up Purvis Ave. Please note that it is necessary to leave sand in the street on the newly relaid bricks. Within a few rain events, this sand will settle into the bricks. Thank you for your patience.

We will be starting on our Fort St. Project soon. We will let residents on Fort St. know the plans as the bids come in and contractor established.

Labor Day weekend will be the final weekend for the pool to be open. Also mosquito spraying will continue at least through September and maybe October.

If I can answer any questions you might have, please know I am available. Wishing you warm and sunny days!!!