

March 19, 2019

Dear Community Partners,

The recent threat of possible tornadic activity in our area prompted questions and conversations regarding our new Bremen Alerts Mass Communications system. It became confusing when the Haralson County 911 system siren sounded for an extended period of time yet the Bremen Alerts System made no calls. Why? The Bremen Alerts weather component is presently set to send alerts to enrolled phone numbers when there is an active tornado warning in Haralson and/or Carroll counties. A tornado warning means that a tornado is occurring. The Haralson County 911 siren weather alert is activated at the Buchanan 911 center when a tornado watch is accompanied by an active thunderstorm warning anywhere in Haralson County. A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to occur, but an active tornado has not been spotted. In our recent storms no tornado warnings were issued by the National Weather Service (NOAA) for Haralson or Carroll Counties, therefore the Bremen Alerts System made no calls. Although our Bremen Alert System is active at all times, our goal is to only send nighttime alerts when your safety is at risk. (The freeze warning was an oooops! So sorry, but my lettuce plants and a dog were happy with it!) For more information on the system and the fine-tuning process please check out our City of Bremen Facebook page or www.bremenga.gov. There you will find a blog post. Your suggestions are always welcome. If you have not yet enrolled your cell phone in the Bremen Alerts System you really need to do that as soon as possible. You can enroll online at www.bremenga.gov or you can email bremenit@bremenga.gov. You can choose whether you want to receive emergency alerts only or whether you would also like to enroll for community activities information. We are constantly working on tweaking the system to get it just right. It's kind of like breaking in a new pair of shoes, but much more complicated. We will do our best to make it just right.

Beginning April 4th the Bremen Downtown Development Authority is bringing a Bremen Community Market to our downtown! On the first and third Thursdays of April, May and June the market will feature locally grown produce, food products, crafts, activities for children, various forms of entertainment, merchants and much more! The event will be at Bremen Depot Park from 3PM – 6PM on those specified afternoons. Vendor spaces are still available. If you are interested in reserving a vendor space or if you have questions, please email bremencommmarket@gmail.com, or you can pick up an application form at City Hall for a vendor space. There will be something different at each Community Market event, so you want to be sure to mark your calendars for all six afternoons. We look forward to more great downtown things.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) assigns ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings indicate how well equipped fire departments are to protect your homes and community. The ratings are scores from 1 – 10 with 1 being the best possible rating while a 10 means the fire department does not meet the ISO's minimum requirements. The ISO provides the scores to homeowners insurance companies, and the insurance companies use the score to help set home insurance rates. I am delighted to inform you that as of March 1, 2019, the Bremen ISO rating dropped from 5 to 4. A "little bird" has advised me that insurance companies may not quickly volunteer to give you the advantage of a lower ISO rating on your fire insurance without a little nudge from you. Well nudge away, and be sure your insurance company is held accountable for your new Bremen ISO rating.

In the near future Lance Southern Construction will begin installing new water meters throughout our water service system. The company trucks will have identification markings, and the company employees will have on bright green shirts with identification. These employees have passed background checks and are deemed credible to exchange your water meter. They will look at your meter to see if you are using water at that time. If not, they can change it out in approximately seven minutes. Please know that these folks will be coming on your property to perform a city service. If you have concerns or questions, please call us.

Recently Bremen was given a national spotlight as the Discovery Channel TV Show, *Garage Rehab*, featured their renovation of Bremen's unique local garage, American Warrior Garage. Richard Rawlings showed up to rehab this non-profit garage that trains military veterans for careers in auto repair. Their services include maintenance, heating and air conditioning, fuel injection, brakes, shocks, transmissions, electrical, suspension, steering, computer diagnostic and more. They offer a discount on many auto repair and maintenance services to veterans and seniors. This is a great opportunity for our wounded warriors to reintegrate into civilian life and continue to be productive members of society. They help injured service members through job training and they raise funding for scholarships through auto restoration. Also, if you have a vehicle you no longer use and would like to support their cause, you can help by donating it to them. Their service is "By Vets, for Vets," and their goal is to enable injured warriors by showing them they can work past injuries. We Bremen folks are grateful for our veterans and our military personnel. This garage is located behind the Bremen Goody's Department Store.. It is "open to the public" and is a great local place to get your oil changed, etc. Pay them a visit.

The recent hints of spring are refreshing. Let's join the season and begin again. I am grateful to know that we all can start over. May God's blessings rest upon you.

Sharon Sewell