

July 17, 2023

Dear Community Partners,

Perhaps by now you have ventured into our new city website at bremenga.gov. Positioned at the top of the home page is our new city logo broadcasting **Welcome Home**. The logo represents our rich heritage, our progressive present and our promising future. Prominent Bremen buildings are silhouetted to represent our unique identity. Lines above and below the bold **BREMEN** represent the railroad tracks that are inherent in our identity. Certainly the logo boasts our beloved Bremen Blue. The city's founding date at the bottom reminds us of our rich history. Soon you will be able to purchase items which display the new logo. Watch our website to see when they will be available.

We have some exciting news coming down the pike. After a long wait the old downtown Hubbard property is about to become the home of **The Hub**, a wonderful city park. Carefully situated in **The Hub** will be additional downtown parking on the south end, a plaza and a pavilion located centrally and an amphitheater nestled into the northeastern corner. The additional parking is targeted for more immediate completion to help accommodate our growing downtown businesses while the remainder of the park is expected to be completed around September 2024. Right now we are jumping through permitting and bidding hoops, but dirt will be moving soon. We are excited. Get ready to say WOW!

A couple of months ago Paul and Amanda Mayes organized a very special baseball game. Called **MY TURN**, it was a game specifically for children with special needs and disabilities. The name **MY TURN** reminds us of all the kids who never get to play, and it's time they had a turn. Those of us who were there experienced the excitement in the air from players and parents alike. We cheered as youngsters in wheelchairs, on walkers and those needing assistance in knowing which way to go partnered with assigned buddies to get them around the bases. They all scored even though no score was kept. You see, winning was not their main objective. They got to play real baseball on a real baseball field with real helmets and gloves and t-shirts that announced **MY TURN!** Every player heard his or her name called over the speaker system by Official Sportscaster Tommy Eriquezzo. There were hugs and cheers and kisses, smiles as wide as the ocean's horizon and many cheeks wet with tears. That day, for a moment in time, a Haralson County ball field was one of the happiest places on earth. That day marked the start of something big.

Many of us are on board to build a **MY TURN** Adaptive Sports Field. Adaptive sports and fields are modified to allow people with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities to participate in sports. The field surface allows kids with mobility issues to easily navigate. Thanks to Haralson County Commission Chairman Ronnie Ridley, the Haralson County Recreation Department has designated space for the field at the Haralson County Recreational Facility. This is a countywide project with the City of Bremen Parks and Rec Department, The Haralson County Rec Department and the Tallapoosa Rec Department working in partnership to make the **MY TURN FIELD** a reality. Ideas are mounding with joyful excitement. With the countywide partnerships in place there will be seasonal opportunities for sports for various age groups and disability levels. Now that we have the land, it is time to begin raising the funds to pay for the construction of the field. Soon I will be able to tell you how to make contributions. If you have a loved one with some special need or disability, you know the need, the joy and the value in this project. It will be an incredible addition to our county offering opportunities to our special needs population that they have never before had. It is also an incredible opportunity for various entities of our county to partner together. Let's do this!

Recently all Haralson County property owners received notice from the Haralson County Tax Assessors office of what they determined to be the fair market value of the property for that calendar year. In 2023 many of the property values have received shocking increases over last year's assessments creating much angst and fear about the projected city, county and school taxes which will be due on or around December 1. The taxpayers' dread is even more pronounced when given the exorbitant cost increases in household living and business expenses. Many people are struggling for money to buy groceries, clothing, gas and electricity and medicines. Property owners and citizens need to be aware of the processes involved that determine one's final property tax bill. There are several steps between the appraisal of a property and the final taxes owed by the property owner. There are responses that property owners can make that could be helpful if taxing entities are responsive to the burdens of the taxpayers. It is our desire for you to understand the process and know your possible responses. In order to help you we are preparing an information sheet that will be complete by the time you receive this letter. It will be posted on the city website, and hard copies will be available to you at City Hall and the Warren Sewell Library. Citizens need to be informed and involved in the process.

We are in this together. Let's be sure to pray for one another. May God bless us with His grace and mercy.

Sharon Sewell