



City of Bremen
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Bremen, Georgia 30110
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November 15, 2018

Dear Community Partners,

The city's new mass notification system, Bremen Alerts, is now up and running. If you have a landline or if you enrolled your cell phone(s) you should have received a test call on Sunday afternoon, November 11th. If you did not receive a call on your enrolled cell phone, be sure that you identified the method(s) by which you want to be notified, i.e. email, text, phone call or all three. We will issue another test call on Sunday afternoon, December 9th at 3:00 p.m. If you do not receive a call, please call 678-821-1244 and leave a message with your name and phone number and an explanation of your situation. Someone will help you resolve any issues.

A new expansion to the Bremen Alerts system is an accompanying Smartphone app. You can download the app from both the Apple iTunes App Store and the Google Play Store. Access the app store appropriate to your phone, search for "**Regroup Alert Manager**," and download the free app. One of the exciting features is its ability to interact with a city-definable "Geofence." A Geofence is a virtual fence defined by GPS coordinates on a digital map. For example, if there should be a hazardous materials spill in the city, an assigned city administrator could draw a Geofence around the location of the spill. Then if a person with the Bremen Alerts app installed on his phone should approach the dangerous area, he would receive an alert notifying him of the emergency situation. I think you will want to get this app.

Sometimes we walk straight into unexpected providential blessings. That happened to us, and I want to tell you about it. For many years the Bremen Fire Department has been expressing the need for an aerial truck. While understanding the need, the City has never been in a financial position to purchase one. We have had to rely on help from surrounding fire departments when needs have arisen. Early in November the City of Alpharetta posted one of their aerial trucks for sale through a bid process. The City of Bremen won the bid at an unbelievably incredibly low price. It is a 2001 truck in excellent condition. I just heard you say what I said when former (now retired) Fire Chief Clark Farr first mentioned it to me: "Why in the world would Bremen need an aerial truck?!" Boy have I learned a lot!

Ownership of this aerial truck provides significant strategic and economic benefits to our community. Strategically this Truck 61, as they are calling it, will provide our trained personnel the capability of performing fire attack and search and rescue simultaneously thereby increasing life safety. The truck allows us to reach areas otherwise unreachable by us. Many of our local buildings are too tall and broad to reach from the ground. Consider our schools, churches, hospital, hotels, residential apartment buildings and manufacturing facilities that are over 30 feet tall and/or exceed 6000 square feet. The 109-foot aerial ladder gives us the ability to deliver water from an elevated stream as well as the tactical option of performing ventilation of structures to allow toxic smoke and gases to escape, thereby providing a more survivable environment to fire victims while search is in process. The aerial can also be used for access to victims down embankments and areas of low terrain following traffic accidents where reach is more important than height. This can save valuable minutes in the rescue and transport of accident victims, creating an even safer community. The proximity of the aerial will allow it to arrive to an incident within 4-5 minutes instead of the 10-20 minutes from area fire departments' assistance. Economically, the Insurance Services Office, or ISO, grades fire department capabilities in order to set the rates property owners are charged for fire insurance. Our reliance on apparatus use from other jurisdictions has granted us almost no credit toward our ISO rating which is currently 5. The ISO has continued to state that Bremen needed an aerial device to cover our jurisdiction. The acquisition of Truck 61 is a game changer for us. We are expecting it to meaningfully increase savings to homeowners in fire insurance rates as well as increase our capacity for protecting our community.

When I went to the BFD to see the truck, the guys teasingly asked me if I wanted to drive it through town. I responded with, "Sure," only to find out that my legs won't even reach high enough to step into it. I won't be doing that any time soon. Neither do I have any plans to view Bremen from the top of the 109-foot ladder. But I am so grateful for all of us that we have it, and I am grateful that we have such a fine crew to use it in service to our community. It should be in full operation before the end of this year.

As the holiday season is rapidly approaching many of us already have shopping on our minds. As you make your shopping plans, the Bremen Downtown Development Authority, the Bremen City Council and I are joining together to ask you to shop locally as much as you can. Supporting our local businesses is a must if we are going to continue to grow and thrive as a community. All of us are working hard to develop a network of various goods and services for our growing population. Some new businesses will be opening very soon, and others are on the way. Let's give them our support and help them succeed. Remember as well that any money spent in Haralson County benefits our sales tax revenues. Buying locally really matters!

We have so many things for which to be thankful. In a world plagued with hate, controversy and self-rule, let us know that humble prayers coupled with thanksgiving bring peaceful hearts. Know that I am deeply thankful for all of you. I am thankful to be an American. I am thankful for freedom. I am thankful to live in Bremen. God bless you.

Sharon Sewell