



CITY OF BREMEN
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Dear Community Partners,

As seamlessly and swiftly as one day becomes another 2019 began, and we are headed toward 2020. I am consistently amazed at the brevity of life. Even long hard seasons seem shorter when they are in hindsight. I am more and more conscious that every second counts, and moments must not be wasted.

J.R.R. Tolkien is one of the more popular fiction writers of all time. This Englishman is best known as the author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Tucked into his high fantasies of dwarves, elves, wizards and dragons are many notable quotes. One of the most noteworthy ones is “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.”

Life is composed of a series of decisions. We make good choices and bad choices. In every circumstance in life there is an opportunity to make a right choice. Moment by moment there is a singular opportunity that will never come by again in quite the same way. One small decision today could have a major impact on tomorrow. Little things can make a big difference. Let us be careful to think, to project what a decision will mean for the future, to be concerned about how a decision will affect others and to count ultimate costs. Let us choose life and blessings rather than death and curses. We spend far too much time straining at gnats while swallowing camels. Let's make good choices regarding the time that is given to us. Then 2019 will be a great year and will pave the way for an even better 2020.

One of my January tasks is to give our community a report on the state of our city. Simply speaking, we are a blessed people. All of our bills are paid up to date; we are operating within our budget; our needs are being met. In addition to successfully maintaining day-to-day operations and repairs, several major projects were completed in 2018 that immediately come to my mind. Our main water tank was completely refurbished giving us safe and excellent water storage capacity. We were able to purchase a long needed ladder truck at a bargain price for our fire department. We were able to complete the long-needed project of resurfacing the city limits portions of Georgia Avenue S. This project included the much-needed improvement to the shoulders and rights of way along that busy thoroughfare. We were able to complete significant improvements to the appearance of our downtown area. Several new businesses have located downtown as well as in the I-20 area. We have almost completed our Bremen Veterans Park. Recently the water tank in the park has been painted, and the American Flag will adorn that tank very soon. We hope to celebrate the completion of the park in early spring.

We are beginning 2019 with ongoing projects as well as projects to come. The Bremen Parks and Recreation Department has just received a grant that will allow us to re-fence almost all of the Bremen Rec fields. Also, please be aware that the department is currently taking registrations for spring sports through Friday, February 1st. These sports include baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer and track. One can register by calling their office at 770-537-4222 or online at www.bremenrec.org.

Repairs at the Warren Sewell Library are in process. On or about December 31st a water line coupling in the wall of the employee kitchen/break room area ruptured causing significant flooding and structural damage to the facility. We have jumped through the hoops of insurance adjusters and now bids are being submitted to begin the repair process. We give great applause to our library staff for their diligence and hard work as they plan to get library services back to our community as soon as possible.

In the coming months we will be upgrading water meters all over town. We replaced the meters in past years, however the electronic mechanisms in them have become obsolete. The upgrades are necessary to maintain efficiency in water meter measuring, recording and transferring the information.

I cannot commend highly enough the quality of our personnel that serve our city. What a team! From water and sewer to maintenance to police, fire, recreation, library, code enforcement, city hall staff and administrative staff, our folks are second to none. Not only are they good at what they do, they work well together, and they have the common goal of providing excellent service to you, our community partners. Additionally, they do their work while being aware of the value of your dollars. Please join me in affirming and thanking them.

If there is a better community in the world, I don't know about it. Our goal is to continue to build and sustain a vibrant community that is committed to character, integrity, truth, honesty, respect, faithfulness, helpfulness, health and future stability. The sustainability of local initiatives always rests on personal responsibility. I am grateful to be able to do life with people who care and people who are committed to excellence. May God continue to bless our community and each one of you. Call us if you need us. Know that you are loved.

Sharon Sewell