

The March 13, 2008 Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting was opened by President Connie Moyer. The minutes from the February meeting was presented for approval. Debbie Nance made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as presented Dee Mowry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The 3rd edition of the Chamber's Brick N Mortar was completed and Debbie Berry did a wonderful job. A special thanks was extended to the Village for their cooperation in the distribution of the newsletter.

Tracy advised the body of the need to apply for a VISA credit card. After discussion, David McCandlish made a motion to allow Tracy to apply for a VISA card through the Bremen Bank and Eric Mahler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In 2007 Chamber members put together a "Welcome Bag" for new residents of Bremen which were delivered by Bremen Area Ministerial Association. We are currently collecting items for fifteen bags.

Update on the Downtown Revitalization Program:

Farmer's Market - Jodi Motta & Connie are working together to continue on this project this year. Details have not been carved in stone but will be up & running.

Display Windows in the Downtown Area - Landowners gave permission so businesses or organizations are encouraged to decorate the vacant storefront windows. It makes the appearance of the downtown area to be alive and active. If you know of any interested parties please have them contact the Chamber, as these will be changed frequently to maintain interest.

Investigating a portable display board where we can have community announcements or events in one of the windows.

2008 Golf Outing - Date set for August 16th, shotgun start 8:15am Proceeds are going to Downtown Revitalization. Registration forms have been completed and we are working on posters to be placed at different locations. In a couple of weeks we will begin soliciting for hole sponsorship and skill prizes. Anyone wishing to volunteer during this event please contact the Chamber.

Olde Tyme Village Christmas - This was such a positive and well-received event for our community. Participating downtown businesses met and decided to continue with this event. December 20, 2008 9-1 is the 2008 schedule. Everyone who participated last year is participating along with some new businesses.

ODOT Grant - Went to council and requested a grant committee be formed who could work together and tie in other grants to this one in order to get more completed in the downtown area i.e. sidewalks & street lamps. They agreed so we are moving forward in this area.

Downtown Parking Problem - Now isn't this a change of problems. Customer parking is needed in the downtown area so a 3-hour parking limit is being considered.

Billboard 37E & 664 - A billboard sign was designed with a large arrow "Visit Downtown Bremen". Sidewalk brick design was used and different downtown businesses pooled together and purchased for an entire year. The Chamber facilitated this project, each business paid their portion, chamber signed the contract on behalf of all the businesses, and Tracy will issue one check to complete the entire year. Sign should be up by March 24th.

Future Events:

Community Good Friday Service - March 21st 7:00pm Bremen 1st Methodist Church

Blood Drive - March 25th 1:00-7:00 Bremen 1st Methodist Church

19th Annual Dinner Theater – April 4th & 5th at Bremen Area Historical Society. Captain Pluto & The Planeteers” Fun evening starting at 6:00pm. Not only are you entertained by local celebrities but you will be wooed by a Steak Dinner at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Always been a sold out event. Call Jean Doan for tickets @ 569-7313.

Avlon United Brethren Church Fish Fry – April 26th 4:30 – 7:00pm Cost \$7.00 adult, \$3.50 children under 10. Additional information – 569-4419

Introduced Joe Barber the new Bremen Village Administrator. Connie asked that everyone take him under their wing and mentor our new generation stepping into active leadership roles.

Also introduced was Travis Markwood from Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, Donna Taylor, AFLAC, and Missy Bennett, Fairfield County Job and Family Services.

The “Welcome to Bremen” sign has been approved by the Board and ordered from Gene’s Sign Company and should be installed by May 1st. The business panels are on a first come, first serve basis. There was an addition of four new panels. Please speak to Connie if you are interested.

Dee Mowry spoke on behalf of the First Bremen Bank as a Director for the bank and as a Chamber member. He announced that the bank will be going through a corporate reorganization with the bank’s sister bank, The Vinton County National Bank, sometime later this year. These efforts will be seamless to the customer, except that each bank’s customers will be able to bank in all our locations, which will include 14 offices in 7 different counties.

Jim Herd, Superintendent of Fairfield Union Schools, announced that there will be 3 construction update meetings scheduled as follows: April 8, 7:00 p.m. at the High School, April 10, 7:00 p.m. at Bremen Elementary, and April 18, 7:00 p.m. at Pleasantville Elementary. All are welcome to attend to get information regarding the progress on the construction of our new schools.

Bill Arnett, Fairfield County Economic Development Director was our guest speaker.