



The Village

Brick & Mortar

the newsletter of the
Bremen Downtown Revitalization Program

Vol. 2, June 2007

Meow meow, woof woof: Vet practice comes to Bremen

Dr. Susan Scholl's new veterinary office at 114 W. Main Street is somewhat of a surprise to her, although a happy one. A veterinarian of 10 years who has worked in well-known practices, Dr. Scholl had planned with her husband, Jeff Scholl, to purchase a mobile veterinary unit and run a "portable" practice serving this general area.

Then Bremen Downtown Revitalization Program Manager Melody Borchers, who had previously taken her own pets to Dr. Scholl, contacted the doctor about perhaps establishing her first self-owned practice in downtown Bremen.

"Melody showed me this property in one section of the Schellhamer building that had previously been occupied by a Fairfield Medical Center doctor's practice," Dr. Scholl says. "It was already set up in a way that is advantageous to a veterinary practice, and I hadn't expected to find that."

Dr. Scholl and her husband did minor renovations to the offices and saved much

of what they had planned to spend on a mobile unit. "That's the debt I owe to Melody for showing me this location," says Dr. Scholl.

Scholl Veterinary Service, geared mostly to small animals, opened April 17, just days before Checkerboard Bakery opened the doors of its newly constructed building in downtown Bremen. On the day of this interview, after treating Lucky, a small dog who had been brought in with a limp, she took a break to chat about her new practice and downtown Bremen in general. "I'm really pleased to see the bakery come in. It's nice to have other businesses moving in nearby," she said. Scholl also said she believes that Bremen's downtown may be turning around.

Melody Borchers is hard at work on that. "The retail and service market analysis we commissioned last years had pinpointed a veterinary practice as a feasible business for this area," Melody Borchers says. "The former medical practice office created a perfect place for it. We are thrilled to have Dr. Scholl here."

A graduate of Ohio State University's veterinary college, Dr. Scholl lives just outside Bremen on the Scholl family farm that husband Jeff grew up on. The Scholls have two daughters, Tammy, 26, and Hannah, 7.



The veterinary practice of Susan Scholl has opened in downtown Bremen. Dr. Scholl and her family are long-standing Bremen area residents.

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From the Program Manager

Much is happening recently that points to the value of the Bremen Downtown Revitalization Program and the support you have given it. In this issue you'll learn about three new businesses that recently opened in the village's historic downtown district. You'll also get news of a Best Marketing Program Award the Bremen Downtown Revitalization Program received from a respected statewide preservation organization, Heritage Ohio, last month in Cincinnati. An outstanding, volunteer-run beautification program for Bremen's downtown district kicked off May 5 with a planting day involving members of the newly re-formed Bremen Garden Club, the Bremen Downtown Volunteer Corps and others.

We have made great progress! Thanks to all of you who have supported the Downtown Revitalization Program.

Melody Borchers

Bremen Revitalization and Business News

Three new businesses have chosen historic downtown Bremen as their home in the last month, thanks in part to efforts by the Bremen Downtown Revitalization Program.

The much-awaited **Checkerboard Bakery**, owned by local baker Marilyn Stephenson in partnership with Bremen-area resident Jean Schmelzer, held its grand opening May 12 with a turnout of 400.

The 2,000-square-foot facility, located a half block north of Marietta Street, features a retail shop area as well as a large kitchen where full-time employees prepare sweets for the retail storefront and for the wholesale markets. Stephenson and Schmelzer worked within the village's Design Review Guidelines to construct a new building with a traditional look that makes it seem right at home among its

neighboring historic buildings and large trees.

Susan Scholl, DVM, of Bremen, a veterinarian who has practiced in Lancaster, has opened her own small animal practice, **Scholl Veterinary Service**, on Main Street. Dr. Scholl is seeing patients Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. She has evening hours one night a week, as well. See page one for more details about Dr. Scholl's new Bremen practice.

Crafty Grannies Too, operated by Laurie Knowlton, is the offshoot of Laurie's shop Crafty Grannies in Somerset, Ohio. Crafty Grannies Too will carry hand-crafted gifts on consignment as well as antiques, cards, party balloons, and other items. The store



Photo by Patrick Boch

Good weather and a happy crowd graced the opening of Checkerboard Bakery.

opens officially on June 30.

Country Mercantile Store, owned by Sharon Powell, has been renamed **Falcon's Nest** and is moving one block south to Main Street.

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Bremen Revitalization Program Wins Award

Heritage Ohio last week awarded the Bremen Downtown Revitalization Committee with its Best Marketing Program Award for Bremen's new logo and branding campaign.

Revitalization Program Manager Melody Borchers accepted the award May 17 at Heritage Ohio's annual Preservation and Revitalization Awards ceremony held at the Millennium Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. The award program was part of Heritage Ohio's statewide conference.

"The award recognition, the presence of new businesses in downtown Bremen and several other recent steps forward show that Bremen has begun to earn an identity as a village where things are happening," Borchers said. "That helps create the momentum we will need to continue revitalizing downtown Bremen and giving new life to the village."

Borchers also noted articles in the 2007 *Images*, a Fairfield County lifestyle magazine and newcomers guide, and the May 21

Lancaster Eagle-Gazette that have helped bring attention to Bremen.

The Downtown Revitalization logo, designed by Laura Steinmaus, a Columbus graphic designer who has Bremen ties, incorporates local architecture and Amish influence in a scene of downtown Bremen that is framed by the village name, slogan and year of founding. Two adaptations of the logo will be used to market Bremen's brick-making and oil boom histories. The work was done on a very small budget.

Bremen village residents and revitalization supporters were asked to vote online at www.bremenvillage.com for their favorite of four logo options designed by Steinmaus. After the voting, the program's promotions committee met with Steinmaus to incorporate popular elements of all four logos and adapt them to various uses.

Award-giver Heritage Ohio brings together Ohio downtown revitalization communities to share knowledge and offer conferences on preservation and revitalization.

Foundations: Historic Downtown Bremen

Downtown Bremen's historic district, much of which was built during the oil boom of the early 20th century, is a relatively small. But preserving it doesn't necessarily make for a small undertaking. Preservation and revitalization take time and money.

To help the village leverage its investment, Downtown Revitalization Program Manager Melody Borchers has continually sought funding from grant-making organizations. Recently, grant requests have been submitted to Fairfield County, the Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Funds received would fund streetscape and infrastructure improvements on Main Street such as sidewalk repairs and additional streetlights. They also would pay for pedestrian crosswalks to ease safety concerns at the Broad and Marietta "village gateway?"



Top: Downtown Bremen. Revitalization efforts began in 2004.

Near right: Main Street, south side.

Far right: Dowling Park

Photos by Patrick Boch



Volunteer to Make Bremen Beautiful

The beautification program that was begun May 12 by the Bremen Garden Club, the Downtown Volunteer Corps and others can benefit from your help this summer.

Consider signing up for a week-long period to maintain downtown pots and hanging baskets as well as the garden plot at the Broad and Marietta streets intersection.

To volunteer for any of the week-long periods listed in the next column, please contact Troy Tripp, Downtown Volunteer

Corps, at 569-4807. The Bremen Garden Club will maintain the old fountain garden at Dowling Park and the flower bed near the U.S. Post Office through September. With your help in the remaining areas, the results should be stunning!

Available Gardening Dates

June 18-24	Aug. 17-Sept. 2
June 25-July 1	Sept. 10-16
July 16-22	Sept. 17-23
July 23-29	Sept. 24-30

Thanks to Our Beautification Sponsors

The following businesses and individuals have each donated money toward Italian-style urns that now grace downtown sidewalks. Make sure you get to see these attractive enhancements this summer!

- | | |
|---|--|
| Friendly Bremen Bank
Diamond Power
Sharon Powell
Dave Ray
John Mericle Family
Dr. Jeff Wilson
The Bremen Downtown Volunteer Corps | Melody Borchers
The Mahler Family
Rose Insurance Agency
Westanco Services
Dee and Kathy Mowry
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Bremen Logo Items Still Great Gift Idea

Items bearing the attractive new Bremen Downtown Revitalization logos are still available in various price ranges.

Whether you're looking for a small gift like coasters or a mug, something mid-sized like an apron or tee shirt, or a more generous gift like a fleece-lined vest or attractive tote bag, visit



www.bremenvillage.com, where you can download an order form. All sales proceeds benefit Bremen Downtown Revitalization.

Community Calendar

FARMERS' MARKET

Fridays, June 8-August 17
5:30-7 p.m.



Friendly Bremen Bank sponsors this Friday night gathering

that offers fresh seasonal fruits, vegetables, and herbs as well as homemade baked goods, jams, honey, salsas, cheeses, flowers and plants, soap and lotion, and much more. Call Jodi Motta for vendor information: 569-4121. Make this your regularly Friday evening destination!

CHARIOTS OF FIRE CRUISE-IN

Saturday, June 23
Sponsored by Living Word Ministries Mission Board
Living Word Ministries Church
Time: Registration 2:30-5:30 p.m.
Cost: \$7 Pre-Registration
\$10 Registration at door

Enjoy food, swap meet, door prizes, flea market, soft drinks, kids games, dog show with prizes, cruisin' music. Contact: Chuck or Fran Drake, 569-7225.

RED, WHITE & BLUEGRASS



Sunday, July 1
5-8 p.m.
Howell Park
Sponsors: Bremen Chamber of Commerce and Bremen Downtown Revitalization
Music beginning at 5 p.m. and featuring Prospect Hill, gospel bluegrass; Tal1 Grass, traditional bluegrass; and SlawDog Band, Christian classic rock. Bring your lawn chairs. Also don't miss the pie-throwing

contest and chili sauce cookoff. Admission free. Donations accepted. Concessions available. Call 569-9150.

3RD ANNUAL BREMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT BREMEN DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Saturday, August 18
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost: \$50 per player (\$125 to sponsor a hole)
Pumpkin Vine Golf Course
1348 Pumpkin Vine Rd.
Contact: Bremen Downtown Revitalization Office, 569-9150, to register your team or sign on as a sponsor.

OIL DERRICK DAYS ~ A FESTIVAL FEATURING FOOD, FUN, MUSIC AND MORE

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 28-30
Downtown Bremen
Contact: Brady Kohen, 569-9232; Co-chair: Jerry Culbertson, 569-2079
This event will celebrate Bremen's history as an oil town. Continuous entertainment includes parades, amusement rides, great food, stage shows and crowning of royalty.

Join Us: Our Team Is Growing!

Many new members have joined the Bremen Downtown Revitalization Program in order to help us achieve our goals of fostering downtown revitalization through business development, historic preservation, collaboration, promotion and local leadership. Memberships are still available to individuals at \$10, small businesses at \$20, and corporate friends at \$500.

- Space available opportunity at the Chamber Annual Meeting and Trade Show
- Free listing in brochures, directories, or maps about the downtown
- Excellent networking ability as you get involved with various working committees
- Ability to combine efforts with other

- small businesses in cooperative advertising
- The satisfaction of knowing you are helping to preserve a vibrant downtown district

Bremen Downtown Revitalization is a subsidiary of the Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thank You, Revitalization Corporate Sponsors!

Here's how you'll benefit as a member of Bremen Downtown Revitalization.

- Free ad two times per year in The Village Brick & Mortar newsletter
- Free subscription to The Village Brick & Mortar newsletter
- Free listing on our web site "members' page" with optional link to your personal or business web site

