

October 20, 2018

Dear Community Partners,

Bremen had a wonderful 135th birthday celebration! Thanks to all of you who worked, planned, helped and participated. It was a fun month of memories and activities. The 150th will be here before we know it!

Our new Bremen Mass Communications system is scheduled to be up and running on November 12th. My mind is boggled by all that it will be able to do, but we will start with the basics, become accustomed to it for awhile and then explore and expand. In the meantime let me tell you about our basic beginning.

The new system is officially referred to as City of Bremen Alerts. The initial format has two basic categories: emergency alerts and community activities. The emergency alert category is tied to NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration), allowing us to broadcast their weather alerts through our system. Emergency alerts may also include danger to avoid, instructions in the event of disaster, water main breaks, boil water advisories, road closures and the like. The system is capable of being area specific so that if only certain neighborhoods or areas of the city are affected, they will be the only ones notified. The community activities category will be available to provide pertinent information about community events, cancellations, etc. Know that only certain assigned city personnel are identified as administrators and will be able to send messages through the system.

How does one with Internet access by way of a cell phone, computer or other device enroll? There is currently a link on the main page of the city's website. Go to www.bremenga.gov. There you will find a link entitled "Click Here to Enroll in the City's Mass Communication System." Click the link, and there will be basic instructions about how to enroll. You will be able to choose how you will receive the messages, i.e., by call, text, email or all three. If at any time you want to opt out of the text notifications, respond to any received message with the word STOP. You may also text RESUME at any time to re-enroll.

If you have a published landline and your zip code is 30110 you are already enrolled to receive emergency notifications on the landline. Landlines will receive emergency notifications only. If a landline user is interested in receiving any other types of alerts besides those associated with emergencies, the user will need to access the system's enrollment page as described in the previous paragraph.

In the event of an emergency you will receive a phone call on your landline with the City of Bremen appearing on your caller ID along with the phone number 678-821-1244. The audio message on a landline or cell phone may be relayed by way of human voice with a recorded message or by way of a robo type call that is utilizing a computer type voice to relay a message that was initially typed by city personnel.

If a Bremen citizen doesn't have access to the Internet and wants to make changes related to his or her notification system user account, call 678-821-1244. Leave a message that gives your name, your phone number and your request. Someone will call you and help you.

Soon we will be testing the system. We are ready to identify and fix any bugs and kinks. Please work with us. Your ideas and requests are always welcome. This system is a huge advantage to our community. If necessary we will schedule some learning sessions so that we all can be comfortable with its use.

There is additional thing for you to know and consider. Some of our senior adult community partners have children and/or primary caregivers who live away from Bremen. Anyone with a cell phone can subscribe free of charge to the system. A caregiver or loved one who lives away can receive a cell phone message and follow up by contacting the person or persons who live here in Bremen to insure their notification and safety.

Technology is waaaay above my understanding. I am surely grateful for our city personnel and community partners for designing and implementing this system for us. Thank you. We look forward to its full use in the months to come.