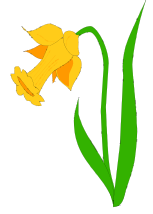


May
2011

OUR TOWN BESSEMER

Free!
Take One!



A Warm-Hearted Town Full of Caring People

Cold Spring But Warm Hearts

We may be experiencing a colder than usual spring, but things are really warming up in our town, Bessemer. There is a wonderful, warming spirit of caring and co-operation growing in our town and for our town. Let me tell you some of the good news.

As you come into the downtown district, you will notice some landscaping taking place at the BP station. Jim Durkee and Andy Tijan are removing some asphalt and creating a mirror image of the greenery just across the street at the DQ. It is going to look so nice, and add some “green” to that spot. Thanks, Jim and Andy.

As you travel down Sophie Street, you will see that our City Hall has new steps. And there will soon be a new 40 ft. flag pole with a new flag, and this will be surrounded by flowers. A new sign, plus a special informative sign giving the history of City Hall will also be put in place.

Oh, and about that community spirit. The businesses and families of Bessemer have donated a whopping \$9650 to purchase benches and flowerpots for the downtown area and in the new “Our Park on Main.” Now, you will be able to walk, shop, and sit a spell and rest a while.

Let me tell you about these wonderful, giving people.



Benches cost \$900 and the following groups, businesses, and families purchased one.

- * The Bessemer Pumpkin Fest Cookbook Committee
Thank you, ladies!

- * The Bessemer Education Committee
Thank you, teachers!
- * In loving memory of Neil and DeeGee Pawlicki from the Western U.P. Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and family and friends
- * A special anonymous gift
Thank you, Mr. or Mrs. Anonymous!
- * In loving memory of Kevin Tucker and Cindy Mitchem from Brandon and Susan Mitchem
Other Contributors for this bench are Abelman Clothing and Jeff and Susan Zakula.

And the DDA purchased five more benches!



Flowerpots cost \$650 and look at all the flowerpots that were given!

- * Beth and Bill Steiger from Steiger’s purchased two!

- * Blayne Kern of DQ fame purchased two!
- * Jim Durkee and Andy Tijan from the BP purchased two!
- * Gogebic County Federal Credit Union purchased one!
- * Spartan Project Committee purchased one in loving memory of DeeGee Pawlicki.
- * And these folks pooled their funds to purchase one: Bessemer Projects, Knights of Columbus, Stan & Sue Carr, and John and Donna Frello in loving memory of Esia Frello.

Plus, the DDA has also purchased 6 flowerpots!

And lastly, the Bessemer Pumpkin Fest Committee donated \$300 to be used as needed.

The Master Gardeners and the Bessemer schoolchildren will plant these containers with beautiful flowers for us to enjoy all summer long!



And, last but not least, the DDA has purchased 8 matching trash receptacles to keep our town tidy and clean. Thank you all!

In case you do not know who the members of the DDA are, they are: Blayne Kern, Jim Durkee, Denise Stephens, Linda Nelson, Kim Wright, Dan Whitburn, and John Frello.

Our Park on Main

Plans are just in the baby stages for this special spot, and we will keep you posted! Look for more details in the next newsletter.

Walking Trails

Some great progress is being made on the new walking trails, which will surround our beloved town. The committee hopes to have some of the trail ready for walking by Labor Day!

Community Spirit

More on that community spirit! You know, a small town only has the people in it, and, in these difficult economic times, a small town has less and less money with which to work. And small towns get old and see decay just like anything else. So, what can we do about it? Well, we can complain, but what good does that do? We can moan and be down in the dumps, but again, who does that help? Well, why don't we be thankful for what we do have in this town? We do have some really good people. We do. The people who serve on different committees including the DDA, the Town Council, the Parks and Rec Committee, the Spartan Committee, and I'm sure there are more committees of which I am unaware, but the thing to remember is that these people do this *without pay*. They give of their time, and sometimes it is a lot of time! When people give their time, they are giving their lives. I respect them for this. We all should. And do you remember the famous quote of J. F. Kennedy? "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." Well, how about each one of us taking this for our motto this year and in the coming years? "*Ask not what Bessemer can do for you, but ask what you can do for Bessemer.*"

What can you do? Well, maybe you can give some money. Maybe you can give some time. Maybe you can help with Fourth of July or Pumpkin Fest. Maybe you can volunteer to keep some planters watered, or help keep the flowering plants at City Hall weeded. Maybe you can clean up along a roadway near your home, or pick the weeds in the sidewalk cracks or along the street. Plant some flowers.

There is a wonderful old song that has a line which says, "Brighten the corner where you are." That is what we all should do: brighten the corner where we are! If all of our corners were brightened, we would have a bright little town, and it would be such a cheery place to live. Shall we do that? I hope so! Let's be cheery and smile and join hands and work together to brighten Our Town, the place we call home.