

January 2016 - Mayor's Point of View

FIRST OFF

I want to take a moment to thank our past Mayor, Roger Broerman. Roger has been our Mayor for 12 years and did a great job during that time. He is very active in our community, and when he sets a goal, you can be assured that he will follow it through until the end. His dedication to our parks and tree commission duties has been outstanding. Roger is willing to remain on the tree commission to help with the replacement of all the trees that we lost to their age and the ash borer. Roger is going to be truly missed in the council chambers, and his wisdom and leadership will be hard to replace. Please take a moment and thank him for his 16 Years of being there for Fort Recovery when you see him, he deserves it.

SECONDLY

Rod Thobe, WOW. Imagine giving 35 plus years of your valuable evenings to your village. That is what this man has done. Rod has been on Village Council since the early 80's and has been council president for over 25 years. That is incredible if you really stop to think about it. Rod stepped down at the end of 2015, and it is my pleasure to wish him the best in his retirement. Once again, the village has lost a legend that will be very hard to replace. Again, if you bump into Rod somewhere, thank him for over three decades of dedicated service to Fort Recovery.

UNEXPECTED VISIT

This summer, I was building a new facility for the Home Idea Center in our industrial park when Roger Broerman stopped in for a visit. I thought he wanted to make sure I had my information turned in to the election board for council. I was right. That was his first question, but I wasn't expecting him to ask if I would be interested in running for Mayor instead of council. Roger had his folder turned into the election board for the Mayor position also. After he filed all the paper work, he received a notice from his health insurance company explaining a policy change. Roger told me his insurance was basically raising his premiums to what he was going to earn as Mayor. We all know how health insurance has been a worry and expensive liability for some time. Roger, I think against his will, decided to remove his name from the ballot. A decision that I'm sure was hard, but financially only made sense for him. I told Roger I would give it serious consideration and get back to him.

DECISION MADE

After discussing this with my wife and family, they gave me their approval to go for it (after we had to convince my 8 year old daughter we will be living in our same house and not the White House). I met with Roger and council and said I would run for mayor. I explained to them upfront that 1) I was trying my best to raise a family, 2) Run a construction business, and 3) I was hoping to develop more lots in town for new houses. This way they knew upfront that these came first, and that I would give the Village as much time as I could after those duties were fulfilled. If they were ok with that, I would enter the election for Mayor and they agreed.

FIRST TUESDAY

November came, and the Tuesday after the First Monday was Election Day, and I became the Mayor elect of Fort Recovery. THANK YOU to everyone that voted for me. I will do the best I can. I have to admit my nerves were somewhat jittery, but I've always told my wife and friends that someday I would run for Mayor. When the first council meeting came after the election, I asked for the job description. Roger chuckled and said, "That's easy; just get ready to get your butt chewed when people get angry about something" Nice, anything else? "Yeah, you get to ride in the Jubilee parade".... That's cool, except no one in my family will ride with me except my youngest girl, and even she wants to wait till I go by to jump in so she can get as much candy as possible. Later on, I start thinking about all the phone calls and my bottom end getting chewed. I think I can handle that as long as I get the same amount of compliments to even the scoreboard. I want to keep score somehow so I'm going to write a short note whenever the village newsletter is sent. It will explain the good, the bad, and the ugly. In my opinion, unless the council enters executive session everything else is open to the public. My letter will include the phone calls, and open conversations I receive. Also, a short explanation of the conversation along with the person's name that calls me, and the name of the person or reason you are complaining or complimenting. If you can't give me your name over the phone, then I'm going to disregard it for more important issues. I invite anyone to come to village council meetings and express their opinions as the council listens to all.

COUNCIL CHANGES

2016 starts out with a new Mayor and a newly elected council member, as Scott Pearson rejoins the council. We have Rod Thobe retiring, leaving us with one empty seat. Fortunately, we had 4 gentlemen interested to fill the seat. Marv Collins, Erik Fiely, Gregg Schmitz and Jerry Byrum all showed interest. The council now has the hard job of picking one of these four. Not an easy task, but any of the four will do a great job. Once all the seats are full, these 6 men make decisions that make the Fort roll. Probably, three quarter of the voting is for normal day to day operations. The other quarter is for decisions that usually get the public's attention. Some people agree, some people disagree. These decisions are not coin flips as I was told one time, but decisions that are made and voted on for the best of Fort Recovery. These council members vote on what is best for our village. That is the reason they are elected in the first place.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

This year our village will celebrate its 225th birthday. Yes, there is an official name for this birthday, but I can never say it right or remember it the next time, so I'm going to stick with 225. We will have many celebrations and activities this year to celebrate. I remember the Bicentennial. That was a fun year of parties, parades, and growing beards, and I'm sure this year will be equally enjoyable. I started to remember who and what was here twenty-five years ago. Most of the things and people are the same, but there has been more change than we think. I'm sure I will forget many things and I apologize in advance for that. I found some papers from 1990, and I will share what business and companies where there then, what it is now, and what grew until today.

| <u>THEN</u> | <u>NOW</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Anthony's Sohio | Shell Party Mart |
| Barger's Flowers | Purple Post |
| Beach's Village Square | Grand Lake Eye Care/Sunshine Boutique |
| Citizens Commercial Bank | First Financial |
| Franke Insurance | Muhlenkamp & Associates |
| Ft. Recovery Hardware | Natures Corner |
| Hein Insurance | Amy Wendel Family Health |
| Hemmelgarn Shoe Store | Kelly's Shoes |
| Hoying Dry Cleaners | Bihns Dry Cleaning |
| Linda & Company | Hastings used Car Lot |
| Meinerdings Reasturant | Trusty Woods |
| RJ Jewlers | MSB Drive up Window |
| Robbins Fashion Boutique | Wendel Financial Network |
| Ron Garret Chevrolet | Fort Fitness |
| Stahly's | Kaup Pharmacy |
| Vonderhaars Grocery | Fort Recovery Insurance |
| Wangler Hardware | May's Plumbing |
| Westgerdes Furniture/Cabinets | Thien Apartments/Auto Detailing |
| Hawaiian Buckeye | Thienman's Bar & Grill |
| Citizens Commercial | Ole Fort Coins |

There have been some local businesses that have expanded into the Industrial Park, like The Home Idea Center, Kaup Pharmacy Dependable Home Medical, Wangler Hardware, Cheeseman Trucking, Heitkamp Construction, Ft Recovery Industries, K&L Tractor Sales and B&D Contracting.

More new businesses have started since, also, A1 Ag Service, The Crafty Corner, The Cutting Edge, Altered Style, Fashionette Beauty Salon, Fort Store and Lock, Homan Auto Repair, JR Manufacturing Inc., Jennifer's Cleaning Service, Mike Kahlig & Son, Lifestyles Tanning & Salon, The Magic Touch, Pak a Sak, R.M. Morvillius House Bed & Breakfast, Quality Greetings, Inc, The Tin Cupboard, and U-May-Lock to name the businesses I can think of, I apologize for any I forgot.

Thanks to all the local businesses that keep many local people employed and their services that make Fort Recovery an outstanding place to live and raise our families. There is also a large amount of businesses just outside the village corporation that are a very big percent of our small village's success.

FURTHERMORE

In the end, by the time you read this we will be a month or so into 2016, I will have a few meetings under my belt and my time as Mayor will be underway. I'm sure I will make statements and do things inadvertently incorrect, but I will do my best to learn from these mistakes and keep this Village headed in the direction the past Mayors have steered us.

THANK YOU,

Dave Kaup,
Fort Recovery Village Mayor