

## Mayor's Minute-August 25, 2025

School has started again! It is really a privilege to be part of a community that has such dedicated and talented teachers, staff, and administrators. We have a lot to be proud of here in Bunker Hill and our school system is right at the top of the list. Thank you to everyone who makes our school great.

You have read in recent newsletters of a newly formed community group called Strategic Doing. This group renamed itself to Imagine Bunker Hill. With help from SIU System Office of Community Engagement, the goal is to create and facilitate a culture where Bunker Hill can thrive. The first project that Imagine Bunker Hill is going to complete is a **Movie at the Resi** on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars for a fun filled family night under the stars. We will begin at 5:00pm so that you can bring your own family and friends picnic followed by a nostalgic Halloween Costume Parade at 6:00pm just like the Legion used to sponsor. There will be lots of categories to win a ribbon in! At 7:00pm we will show the movie, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Our own children from town chose the movie, isn't that fun? We will wrap everything up by 9:00pm so that our families aren't out too late. Please keep an eye out for more details. We will be posting flyers and updating you here and in the newspaper. Circle the date on you calendar and start planning your costumes-there will be some group categories, too. If you have any questions, please contact Cherie Mortland at 618-795-9128.

I have been sharing from time to time some of the tools that we have for economic development in Bunker Hill. The Council is actively working to develop the TIF program and Enterprise Zone, utilizing the money from CEJA funds, and developing an overall strategy to get Bunker Hill growing again. Numerous civic groups are actively creating community events for the town. But, what are your ideas? What businesses would you like to see come here? Are there training programs or support services that you would like to see developed? Do you have ideas to increase housing in Bunker Hill? What about ideas for community development? Do you have contacts with engineering or development companies that the town might be able to work with? Do you have property that you would consider partnering with the city to develop for economic or community growth? Please talk to the clerk at the office if you have insights you would like to share.

It will take all of us to help Bunker Hill thrive. We can participate in many ways: sharing your contacts, skills, and expertise; offering your stories and artifacts of Bunker Hill's history to share with the community through the Historical Society; supporting our businesses by shopping locally; attending community events and getting to know each other; reaching out to each other and creating a neighborhood that is kind and lends a helping hand; volunteering to serve in outreach opportunities like Boy/Girl Scouts and church programs, joining community groups like the Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels, AARP, the American Legion, and the Auxiliary; helping in community services like the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet; and keeping your property neat and attractive.

We have so much to be proud of and share. Just this past week, a new family moved into town and shared how much they are enjoying Bunker Hill and how they love "country" living. Let's keep the momentum going!

Until next time, John Chapman, Mayor