THE HOPPENING

An Annual Easter Publication - "The Village Years" By Todd Osterei, E.B.



Hello Kessie's!

I made my rounds Friday night, because as you know, I have to place supplies along my route. I also do this, so I will know how long it will take me on Saturday. ALL certified Easter Bunnies are required to do a dry run the night before. I'll tell you how it's done; (I always share way too much that goes on behind the scenes.) I hop my route and touch each door. I do this for six hours, then I radio Boris back at command central. He can see how far I've gone, and how much I have left. Once he knows my coordinates, and I upload my information, he enters a formula to compress time the next night. Every six hours I do this, until I am done. It's the only way for me, or any Easter Bunny, to cover our territory in one night. He knows I like to stop and watch some of my favorite kids, so I think he adds a few hours - off the books of course. This works for most of our workforce. There are those that will move slower, take more breaks and not show up at checkpoints, but those are weeded out quickly. The same thing happens across the board. There are Tooth Fairies that don't pick up all teeth left under pillows each night. They get a lot of complaints from parents, because this causes the children to not believe. Well, I said all that because when I was passing through Friday night I saw lots of cars in your driveway. It reminded me of when all the children used to live here, and was I ever surprised when I poked my ears inside to see them all. "Just like ole times" I said to myself, except Josiah has somebody in his bed now, and sleeping isn't all that goes on it appears. Drake processed the paperwork late last fall for the new arrival in July. He was such a blessing here in the Village. Oops, I didn't spoil the surprise did I? Did you know it was a boy? I am so happy I got to see everybody, and I hope you enjoy your baskets.

With that thought, there were a few more Kessie's that packed their luggage and tagged it for the U.S., but of course that's no secret here. One thing that bothers some of the children, as they get younger, is when they begin to lose their hair, especially the girls. The cousin heading to Florida always had beautiful long hair, and she cried a little as it fell out, but Titus loved on her every day and made her forget about the reverse-aging process. We don't cry when they leave, because it's our job to see that they are ready, and preparing them to fulfill their destiny is what makes us happy. It just seems to take so long to say goodbye, because when you add up all the

Kessie's and the, *hyphenated* – *Kessie's*, you have quite a tribe, and they all want their turn at hugging and kissing cousins goodbye. Since most of the Kessie's enjoy management privilege, they have pass cards assigned to them. More than a few times each week they get chased out of the nursery, after hours. The trail of M&M's and candy wrappers, are generally what gives them away. Charity has scolded me for years about being too liberal with my candy supplies, "*it ruins their baby teeth!*" she says. Liam started it all, when he jumped in the chocolate vat and developed an addiction. After that, I never could say "no" to him. That's another reason I stash my supplies the night before, because all the Tooth Fairies watch us leave on Easter Eve, and I don't want to listen to what they have to say. Shhhh!

Donald Trump contacted our union and wanted to "make a donation" if some of our deliveries could contain his bumper sticker in the states of Wyoming and Wisconsin, since they caucus soon. Candy Cane Blvd and Tooth Fairy Hills (why do they have to live so close to us?) really needs infrastructure upgrades, but we must remain non-partisan, so we had to decline.

I always like to share at least one special memory I have of your family, so here it goes. I was walking out of "Hares 2 You" making my stroll through the village early this year and the first thing I saw was an empty street with a broom leaning up against City Hall. Rakes, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers - they were all just laying there. I walked over to the factory and heard complete silence. The line was down and the breakers turned off. A single drop of chocolate was on the conveyor where the last "kiss" had missed it wrapper. My first thought was, rapture?, but then I heard some noise coming from the breakroom. I couldn't open the door, because so many were in there, so I watched through the window. There was a circle gathered around Tatum, Aiden, Gunner, Lofton, Trek, Boone and so many others. Madison and Mason were leading the prayer for their cousin Canaan. Soon Horace came up behind me and put his hand on my shoulder. I pointed in the window and he said, "I know." We don't tell the children what goes on with their family after they leave for Earth, but the twins knew and organized a prayer group that day. It was amazing to watch! Thought you might like this fact.

I love you all, and never forget that Easter is a special time to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Your friend,

Todd

