

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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### THOUGHTS:                   Happy New Year To Everyone!!!

I am writing this newsletter as the "After Christmas Winter Storm" is bearing down on us. The sleet is pelting the roof and windows of the Village Offices and a slushy ice is growing on the streets. The Village salt trucks are on patrol and putting salt down as needed.

The local television stations are trying to hype the severity of the storm.

I would like to try a Village Communication Line. There is one medium in place if you use Facebook and another one I would like to set up. On Facebook, you can link to the Village of Bremen facebook page. I put information on this page to go out to all who are FRIENDS with this Facebook page. I plan on using this medium for up to the minute information, warnings, and up coming events. The other medium is an EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM. I want to compile as many email addresses (both home and work) for as many residents as possible in the Village and Townships around Bremen. For those with electronic mediums, I will eventually send my monthly newsletter to you while those without a computer and internet will still receive the monthly newsletter by mail.

Please send your email address to [administrator@bremenvillage.com](mailto:administrator@bremenvillage.com)

Please send a brief message saying to include you in our Email Alert System. The hope is to use this for any immediate need to get information out as well as regular communication.

As I look at the New Year, 2013, I see many great opportunities and challenges facing the Village.

One of the great opportunities we have been blessed with is the new curbs, gutters, and handicap ramps along Fort St. We are now putting the bricks back as quickly and efficiently as possible. This will continue as soon as the weather breaks. With the delay in funding, we now anticipate the new handicap ramps on Marietta to be later this Spring after the funding is released in February or March. This Block Grant fully funds the work to be done. I continue to be excited by the Safe Routes To School opportunity. We have submitted a request for funding of almost \$500,000 for new sidewalks in and around Bremen Elementary School and adjoining streets. We will know more this summer when the funding is announced. On the streets, I am anticipating major paving on Angle St. and continued work on drainage along Ford St. by Stuart Burial Vaults.

**It is our continuing goal to accomplish crack filling on many more of our asphalt streets. This year will also start the change over of the type of lettering on street signs as required by state and federal mandates. I have received confirmation that Rt. 664 (Broad St.) will be completely paved from the Rt. 37 / Rt. 664 intersection south to the Bremen corporation line south of town. It was hoped this would go to the County Line south of town but appears to be scaled back to just include the Village. We are grateful for any and all help that comes from the County, State, and Federal governments.**

**Several of our challenges revolve around equipment needs and the replacement costs should that becomes necessary. Two big items include our street sweeper and leaf vacuum pick up machines. We are going to try and limp through at least one more year. Both machines experienced major breakdowns this year. At some point we need to weigh the repair costs with replacement costs. I know the Village relishes having the streets swept and the leaves picked up. The majority of funding for such equipment has to come from our street budget. Where sewer and water generates revenue, the street budget is dependent on income taxes and what becomes allocated from the general fund. With no way of generating revenue, the street budget is very limited. To give you an idea, a street sweeper that is used and five years old will have a price tag of around \$65,000 and a leaf vacuum, new, is \$35,000. Those are hard to absorb into a budget that has experienced several revenue cuts in recent years. With House Bill 601, we may experience another reduction.**

**Another big challenge is seeing what a huge job it is getting the bricks back when we put in new curbs and gutters. Thank you to all on Fort St. who are bearing with us and being patient. Hopefully, with a break in the weather, or our January thaw, we can get the rest of the way up the west side of Fort to at least complete enough for parking on the west side. It could take us into mid- Spring or maybe May before all the bricks are put back on both sides. This has been a learning experience for us to benefit from when we go to replace curbs and gutters on other brick streets. If it had been an asphalt street the time line would be so much shorter. For those of us who love our brick streets, the time it takes to replace the bricks is a necessary inconvenience.**

**Bremen has a Resolution 906 passed on July 12, 2004, which says :**

**“A RESOLUTION TO REVITALIZE THE BRICK STREETS OF THE VILLAGE OF BREMEN”.**

**Section 1: It is the desire of the Council for the Village of Bremen to begin a project to revitalize the brick streets in the Village of Bremen.**

**Section 2: It is their wishes to begin maintenance and repairs to areas that have sunk or have been repaired and need additional attention. At this time, the curbs and gutters on these streets will be evaluated and repaired as money is available. This will be an ongoing project until the project has been completed.**

**This was passed with Yeas - 5, Nays - 0  
David Ray, Mayor and Kelley Tripp, Clerk/Treasurer.**

**So, you can see the Village has set a mandate to keep the brick streets. The costs are great. It makes no sense repairing the bricks unless the curbs and gutters are replaced at the same time. For those who live on the brick streets, you have the opportunity to be the picture postcard of the Village. For those who live on the asphalt streets it is my hope you see the historic value of our brick streets. I don't see any way of funding such an undertaking except that we continue to seek out grant money. With grant money, the projects will be whole streets as opposed to just doing a couple hundred feet a year that the Village will have to pay out of the street budget.**

**I hope to write a grant during 2013 to fund the replacement of curbs and gutters as well as the restoration of bricks on Strayer Ave. It is my hope this becomes funded in July of 2014. If this gets funded we will have our challenges with the Elementary School being on Strayer as well as the number of driveways that come off Strayer and on street parking.**

**Another funding source I am looking for is to provide funding for a new walking track in Howell Park.**

**2013 will be a catch up year, completing projects under way and replenishing the funds in our sewer and water accounts while making the best use of our other monies allocated from our general fund.**

**I had the privilege of seeing a large number of Holiday gatherings, many of them on Facebook and many in person. The joy and happiness was evident. I am also aware that several of our families had loved ones pass away. Our thoughts continue with them.**

**The Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church will be offering The Financial Peace University in February. Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 9 week life changing program that teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals. The course includes nine practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before and much more. It is for everyone... from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Classes will be held at the Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church on Sundays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm beginning Sunday, February 3, 2013 and continue the first three Sundays of February, March, and April of 2013. Childcare will be available if requested prior to class. Participants must purchase a family or individual FPU membership. The cost is \$89.00 for each membership. Register early to assure your space. For more information, contact Kathy Mowry at 740-503-8945 or go to [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and click on "find a class". You can hear Dave Ramsey 3:00-6:00 pm daily on WLOH 1320 am radio.**

**When you see flashing lights on our Village trucks and equipment, our workers are close by working. Please exercise caution in those areas and watch out for our workers.**

**The stop lights at the Rt. 37 / Rt. 664 intersection are now operational.**

**The Village Offices will be closed on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year Celebration. Please be safe if you are on the roads those nights. Our workers will be "on-call" if there is inclement weather.**

**On January 14, 2013, the Council will be electing the President pro-tempore and setting their new committees. Once it is determined when the committees will meet, I will publish those dates on our website. The Council will also be adopting their Rules For Council and adopting the Ohio Basic Code 2013 as our resource for governance.**

**I am no longer having monthly coffee since the Bulk Foods Store closed. However, you are always more than welcome to stop by the Village Office and chat with me. I continue to welcome the diversity of opinions concerning the Village. But not everyone's opinions are the selected remedy for situations in the Village. Input is always helpful. I hope in this coming year, you take advantage of coming to the Village Committee Meetings and share your thoughts.**

**Thank you to all who continue to use the RECYCLE DUMPSTERS at the Village Office Recycle Center. There are two blue dumpsters that are clearly marked for your recyclables.**

**Something that had not crossed my mind: Make sure your residence is clearly marked with the house numbers. Make sure your numbers are not hidden behind shrubbery and can be easily seen from the street. This saves valuable time in an emergency.**

**It is easy for a Village to pass Ordinances and then they seem to be forgotten. In the next number of months I will highlight some past Ordinances and what they say. Part of my job is to help enforce the laws the Council establishes for the Village. The Council is the legislative body (law making body) of the Village. The Mayor and I handle the day to day work of the Village which includes the enforcement of these Ordinances. So, in the upcoming editions of my newsletter, I will remind us of things that have been decided upon. I will go through the most current Ordinances and share their content. If you have a question as to whether Bremen has an Ordinance on a particular issue, please send me an email and I will see what information is available.**

**WISHING YOU AND YOURS  
A MOST PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
FROM ALL US WITH THE VILLAGE**