

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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### THOUGHTS:           **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!!**

I love the New Year celebrations... It is always a time of new beginnings, renewed hope, and accepting the challenges that lie ahead.

Much has been accomplished during 2013. The Fort St. project finished in the middle of October. What a great accomplishment for the Village. The storm sewer separation project is on schedule with what the EPA is mandating. We saw tremendous upgrades done in Howell Park. The new handicap ramps on Marietta St. are finished (with two extra ramps we were able to do at no additional costs!). Many deteriorated trees were removed. Water Main breaks were fixed, sewer clogs removed, and the normal street work maintained.

**BREMEN RECEIVED A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT... I just received word that the grant for NEW SOCCER FIELDS is going to be awarded to Bremen in the amount of \$16,000.00. This grant is through Nature Works. This money will help get the fields ready in the Spring and ready for use in the Fall of 2014. We are still going to need another \$13,000.00 that I hope to raise through private donations and sponsorship of each of the six soccer fields. If you or your company would like to talk with me about a sponsorship, please call me at the Village Office any day (569-4788 ext. 2). We can make this happen by working together!!!**

The swimming pool is receiving several new updates for the 2014 Season. The Village is installing a new diving board and is working toward replacing the bad concrete around the apron of the baby pool.

There are several areas of paving needing to be done in the Village that we have put in the budget for 2014 as well as continuing the crack fill in areas that we have yet to get to.

Route 664 through Bremen will be paved this Spring with ODOT monies and at no charge to the Village. We appreciate this work coming from our State of Ohio monies.

I am very hopeful for the Village of Bremen with the progress we are making. The Village of Bremen is making the best use of our tax monies by utilizing grants and doing so much of the work ourselves. A lot of what we do, construction wise, other municipalities contract out and spend multiple times the amount of money. I am grateful for our workers.

**Please be aware of our winter crews out working on the streets during snow events. If you see flashing lights, please stay behind them or use another street. They are working to make things safe when the weather is bad. They do a great job in bad weather!!!**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who helped provide food for the Bremen Food Pantry. Many families had a brighter Christmas because of the help that was available for their needs.**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU to St. Vincent DePaul of the Bremen Catholic Church who has helped so many of our residents in this past year. This is a charity worthy of our support.**

**The Village Offices will be closed December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year. If there is inclement weather, our street crews will be notified and activated immediately!!!**

**Thank you to all who use our recycle dumpsters. We fill all three dumpsters each week. I am still trying to work something different with the recycle center in Lancaster where the new arrangement would not cost the Village a monthly fee. It takes time...**

**Thank you to the third grade classes at Bremen Elementary for inviting me to come and talk about local government. These young people were very attentive and had some really good questions for me. When told about the grant money for new soccer fields, they jumped up and down and cheered wildly...**

**With the early snow and freezing weather, the Village was hampered in getting the final leaf pick up done. We will continue to do what we can as the weather allows. We may or may not get the last bit of leaves in the curb. All the big piles have been picked up.**

**Help your neighbors that need help during snow events and really cold weather. Your gesture will be appreciated.**

**Please SUPPORT THE AREA RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES during these winter months. Instead of going to Lancaster, please shop Bremen first!!! You are the difference as to whether they continue or not. Please think BREMEN FIRST!!!**

**WISHING YOU AND YOURS**

**A MOST PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL**

**NEW YEAR!!!**

**FROM ALL OF US WITH THE VILLAGE OF BREMEN**