



# The Village Voice

Bremen Ohio's Monthly Newsletter

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## January 2017

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### Looking Back and Moving Forward

2016 is in the rearview mirror, and 2017 holds new opportunities.

A year ago at this time, we were experiencing an El Niño weather pattern which kept things warmer and rainier. So far this winter we've already had to use part of our road salt supply to contend with mid-December snow and ice weather events.

Infrastructure projects kept our crews quite busy throughout the 2016 construction season. Most notable, was completion of the years-long storm sewer separation project. This involved trenching across streets which necessitated follow-up paving. While the contractor was in town, we also had them fix pavement problems at additional locations.

There are many aspects of the village's aging infrastructure that need attention including streets, pavement markings, curbs, storm drain catch basins, worn out traffic signs, and old pipelines. Also, Village buildings and equipment and even the swimming pool complex have issues needing attention. Given that there are so many locations needing attention, and that there's only a limited amount of money available at any given time, the biggest challenge is prioritizing which ones should be handled first. The other major challenge is

finding the money to pay for the projects with high price tags.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has been more proactive this year about enforcing the village's property maintenance regulations. This has resulted in a safer, better looking community and helps to protect property values. The committee is also keeping an eye on the demolition of the Superior Fibers property and intends make sure the owner follows through on completely clearing the site. Presumably that site work will be completed during 2017.

The first regular council meeting of the new year will be on January 9, 7:00 p.m., at the municipal building, 9090 Marietta Road, SE.

If you would like to speak at a council meeting, please contact the office ahead of time so you can be added to the agenda.

### Handicapped Parking Renewals Due

If you have an on-street handicapped parking sign for your residence and wish to keep it, then this is the time of year to renew your request. The renewal deadline is January 20<sup>th</sup>. For details about how to apply, contact the village office at 740-569-4788.



### Village Office Hours

The Village offices will be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

## Utility Billing Office will be Moving



### Discolored Water

Over the past several months, there have been periodic reports of discolored water coming out of water taps at various residences and businesses in Bremen. It appears the problem is not occurring uniformly across the water distribution system nor with predictable regularity.

There are a number of potential causes for discolored water. In order for the Village to solve the problem, we must receive more accurate and timely reporting from the affected customers.

Therefore, if you experience discolored water, please do the following:

- ✓ Immediately call the village office at 740-569-4788 weekdays. If after hours or on weekends, please call the mayor at 740-569-4897 and report the address, date and time of the occurrence, a description of the water's appearance, etc.
- ✓ Collect a sample of the water in a clean jar and then seal the container. Be sure to write down the date and time of day and from which faucet the sample was collected. Our water department personnel can then come to pick up the sample for their documentation. While they are there, they may also want to look at your indoor pipelines.

With everyone's cooperation in this regard, we intend to determine the cause of the discolored water.

For the purposes of reducing costs and improving efficiency, the utility billing office will be moved from 136 Marietta Street to the Municipal Building at 9090 Marietta Road SE during early January 2017.

Disruptions in the normal office functions can be expected during this transition. Your patience will be appreciated.

Utility customers can make payments in four ways:

- Via US Mail, to P.O. Box 127, Bremen;
- At the Bremen Bank;
- The drop-box outside the front door of the municipal building (at 9090 Marietta Road);
- Hand-deliver to the office during normal office hours.

### Employment Opportunity

The Village is currently accepting applications for Street Department Laborer. This person will perform a wide variety of functions for maintaining the roads, lands, buildings and facilities of the community. This is a full-time, permanent position. For a detailed position description and application instructions, either contact the village office at 740-569-4788, or see the website at [www.BremenVillage.com/employment](http://www.BremenVillage.com/employment).

Applications must be received no later than 12:00 Noon on January 20, 2017.

## Park Corner

By Debbie Wolfe, Parks & Facilities Committee

This time of year things are quiet at Howell Park, but we still have the regular walkers. However, in November while LaVerne Lyons and I were working in the park near the oil derrick, a visitor came back to talk with us. Even though it was the first part of November, the visitors had chosen a nice day for a picnic at the Shelter House. To my pleasant surprise, the visitors turned out to be the relatives of Jack Howell, for whom Howell Park is named. Jack's son Rob from Nebraska, and daughter Windi from Gahanna were there, too.

They were absolutely delighted that the park had been lovingly developed and taken care of. They reminisced that when the land was donated by their father for the park, it was nothing but an area for seasonal flooding, crops, and Buchanan's junk yard. The land between the Liberty Bell and the park was owned by McCandlish Trucking which was used for storing semi-truck trailers and old oil field equipment.

Rob Howell was so impressed with the work that had been done at the park that he sent me a thank you note and a personal check to help cover all the time and money that I have spent on the park. Wendi will be coming back to Bremen over the Christmas break to visit the Bremco display at the Bremen Area Historical Society. For those of you who don't know, Bremco was an oil field equipment company that was started by Jack Howell. Bremco was bought out by Westerman's, which was later sold to Worthington Industries. It was wonderful to make the old and new connections with the visitors to the park!



The Howell clan during their November visit to Howell Park

## What should Fairfield County look like 15 years from now?

The Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission is kicking off a year-long process to update the county's Comprehensive Plan and is seeking input from residents and business owners to help prioritize goals, objectives, and policies for the plan.



Please complete the survey at:

<https://s.zoomerang.com/r/PlanFairfield>

## Orange Traffic Cones

You may have noticed the orange cones placed on Mulberry Street near West Main, and wondered why. As you may recall, this is where the brick street was torn up for the storm sewer installation. The final task is to restore the brick pavement. Our street department worked on that project until leaf collection season started which then occupied most of their time. Now we are waiting for the proper weather conditions to resume the brick laying. In the meantime, the orange cones are out there to remind drivers about the uneven pavement.

## Newsletter Versions

As a cost-saving measure, we started printing *The Village Voice* newsletter in black-and-white a few months ago. The color version, however, is available on the website at [BremenVillage.com](http://BremenVillage.com).

## Instructions for Disposal of Residential Trash



Trash to be removed is to be placed at the curbside no sooner than the evening before the scheduled collection day (which is Thursdays in Bremen).



Bed mattresses must be completely wrapped and sealed in plastic.



Upholstered furniture must be completely wrapped and sealed in plastic.



Carpeting/padding roles are to be individually tied and be no longer than 4 feet in length.



Plastic wrapping materials and packing tape can be purchased at hardware stores and some department stores.

Questions can be directed to Waste Management at 1-866-797-9018.