

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR DOUGLAS HOCKMAN

**WHERE'S THE SNOW???** Ok, Ok, I know I'm going to jinx myself by saying that. In fact, last week on one of those 48 degree days I was walking to the bank when one of our village residents hollered at me from across the street. He always calls me Mr. Doug! He yelled and said, "What do you think of this weather today, Mr. Doug"? I replied, "It's pretty nice today". (It was 48 and the sun was actually peaking through the clouds) I continued, "What do you think?" He hollered "F" "F". Now, I had to do some quick thinking but hollered back across the street, What's "F" "F" ? (pretty bold huh!) He laughed and hollered.... "FEAR FEBRUARY". He's probably right but Jym Ganahl up there in Columbus says it should stay mild in the mid 20's up to mid 40's every day for some time into February. All I know is that we are saving thousands of dollars in road salt costs. Kelley Tripp, our Clerk/Treasurer is happy with that.

I am changing the "VISITS WITH THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR" at Bremen Bulk Foods and Mercantile to the **SECOND THURSDAY** of each month. It seemed that the first Thursday always fell on the first few days of the new month and you were just getting the newsletter in the mail that day or the next. So, let's try the **SECOND THURSDAY**. I do enjoy those conversations; seems to be a good opportunity to talk and listen to each other. So the next visit will be **FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>** from 9:00 am until 10:30 am. Remember, the coffee is **FREE** and sometimes, there is even something to go with our coffee!!!

Thank you for the positive phone calls and stopping by the Village Office to express your appreciation for the way the Village workers have dealt with the ice and snow that we have had. Your appreciation has been passed on to the workers. They **CARE** and work hard to keep the Village safe. Just because it is cold and wet with wintry days, our workers are out there getting done what the elements allow. Our workers are saving the Village 10's of thousands of dollars that most other Villages and towns are paying out to outside contractors. When you see Byron Bowersox, Ed Hammond, Shad Kistler, Gary Wolfe, Douglas Ditter, and Adam Deskins please tell them thank you. When you stop by the Village Office, take the time to say thank you to Fran Drake. Nobody understands ALL the different tasks she is responsible for. She is the glue that keeps so much together. Don't forget Kelley Tripp, our Clerk/Treasurer. With more and more regulations, forms, and new complexities to her job, she accepts the challenge and represents our Village in a complete and professional way... Thanks Kelley!

Our new mayor, Josh Groce, has jumped in with both feet and is becoming familiar with the tasks at hand. The new Council is organized and in place. One initial act of business was to consolidate several of our Standing Committees into other existing committees since they shared criteria that overlapped. I will give you that new structure of committees. Remember, the Council and Committees' sole task is to be **LEGISLATIVE** in writing and proposing new or revamping existing laws that the Village is governed by. The day to day tasks in the Village and enforcement of legislation is the task of the Village Administrator. If you see or have concerns about something; call me 569-4788.

## **THE BREMEN VILLAGE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Mayor, Josh Groce has the liberty to attend any meeting as he wishes.

**THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL PROCESS:** This committee's legislative purpose is to review, investigate, and recommend Council action in all fiscal matters relating to the Village of Bremen; including budgets, appropriations, taxes, assessments, employee wages, benefits and relations; expenditures, and general monetary policy, as well as issues pertaining to economic development and other special assignments. This committee also will oversee our Records Policy for retention and disposal of records.

2012: Toni Harper, Chair; Carl Graham, Seat 1; Debbie Wolfe, Seat 2

Kelley Tripp, Clerk/Treasurer; Douglas Hockman, Village Administrator

This committee meets monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm at Village Offices

**THE COMMITTEE ON VILLAGE SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE:** This committee's legislative purpose is to review, investigate, and recommend Council action in all matters involving the general safety of the Village and the planning and execution of the Village streets and utilities. This includes matters concerning public buildings, personal and home safety, and civil defense; traffic safety, parking issues, traffic flow; matters relating to streets, sidewalks and alleys; matters relating to the storm and sanitary sewers, public water system; garbage and recycling collection and issues; as well as the future development of the street, water, and waste water systems and needs. This committee works with the Village Block Watch on issues of crime prevention and initiatives, as well as the general safety well being of the Village and her residents.

2012: Tad Moyer, Chair; Debbie Wolfe, Seat 1; Valerie Rogers, Seat 2

Douglas Hockman, Village Administrator

This committee meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00pm at Village Offices

**THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS:** This committee's legislative purpose is to assist the Village Administrator with administrative issues concerning the Village to ensure compliance with State and Federal Law involving grants, policies, and other special assignments which fall under an administrative capacity.

2012: Valerie Rogers, Chair; Carl Graham, Seat 1; Troy Tripp, Seat 2

Douglas Hockman, Village Administrator

This committee meets Quarterly in Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:00pm at the Village Offices

**THE COMMITTEE ON RECREATION & FACILITIES:** This committee's legislative purpose is to review, investigate, and recommend Council action in all matters of recreational facilities, beautification of public park lands, public park safety issues, swimming pool operations, and any other special assignments.

2012: Debbie Wolfe, Chair; Tad Moyer, Seat 1; Toni Harper, Seat 2

Douglas Hockman, Village Administrator

This committee meets 6 times a year in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., & Nov. on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Village Offices

**THE COMMITTEE ON ZONING ISSUES:** This committee's legislative purpose is to review, investigate, and recommend Council action to modifications of the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Maps; site development plans and Zoning amendments. In addition, this committee handles all issues of permits, recommendations from our Code Enforcer, and participates in Village planning activities. This committee handles items such as annexation and cooperative ventures with adjoining townships and land owners. 2012: Troy Tripp, Chair; Josh Groce, Mayor; Village Representatives: Don Elkins and Scott Moyer; Sean Fowler, Code Enforcer; Douglas Hockman, Village Administrator  
This committee meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30pm at Village Offices

**THE DESIGN AND REVIEW BOARD:** This committee's legislative purpose is to review, investigate and recommend Council action and enforce legislation already in place concerning all matters of preserving and enhancing Bremen's Historical Overlay District's physical attractiveness and historic quality while allowing for reasonable growth and development. This Board developed out of the Downtown Revitalization Committee and serves as the Overlay point of contact for businesses as well as enforcement for compliance. 2012: Troy Tripp, Chair; Dr. Jeff Wilson, property owner; Bremen Bank representative (not named at this time)  
This Board meets the same night as the Committee On Zoning Issues AS REQUIRED.

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Village residents are welcome to attend any of the meetings of the Standing Committees. If you wish to attend and share a concern for the need of a NEW LAW or the ENFORCING OF AN EXISTING LAW you are free to come and share that concern. The Committee will listen to you and then deliberate as to what to take back to Council. Unless coming from the Village Administrator or Clerk/Treasurer, all Ordinances and Resolutions come from the Standing Committees. When passed, the Ordinances and Resolutions become the law by which the Village is governed.

THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING is the gathering of the elected officials along with the Village Administrator, Sheriff Deputy, and village residents who have registered to speak on a specific topic. Again, village residents are welcome to attend but to observe only. One must register with the Village Office before 3:00pm on the Friday before the Council Meeting. Usually, those speaking, will be speaking in relation to an Ordinance or Resolution that a Standing Committee is presenting. If one is not speaking in relation to Council action; they could be referred to one of the Committees or to meet with the Village Administrator. The Village Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.

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SAVE THE DATE ----- Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Bremen Elementary at 6:00pm BSAFFE, the Bremen Student And Family Friendly Environment committee invites you to an informational meeting concerning the Safe Routes to School Program in Bremen. This meeting is to inform the public about the program and invite a conversation about the opportunities this grant program can bring to the community. Contact Rose Ann Elliot at Bremen Elem. 569-4135 if you have any questions. Hosted by Bremen Elem. & Village.

**SCAM ALERT... SCAM ALERT ...** The Attorney General sent me an email saying that in 2011 the people of OHIO were scammed out of over \$2,000,000 (TWO MILLION DOLLARS) just in one year. These scams involved “sweepstakes winnings” MY FRIENDS, if it sounds too good to be true.... Then it is!!! If you didn’t register for a sweepstakes how can you just randomly be a winner? If they want money up front to release the winnings THEN IT IS A SCAM!!! These are the ones who reported having there money taken from them... how many were too ashamed to admit to being taken.... Don’t fall for it. Check it out. Call the Sheriff Dept. and ask. Call the Attorney General’s Office. ASK

I have for you in this newsletter the dates for TRASH PICK UP AND RECYCLING. Post this paper on your refrigerator or put it somewhere so you can refer to it. If not, then mark your calendar. This should eliminate a lot of the calls that come into the Office. RECYCLING AND TRASH SHOULD BE SET OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE PICK UP. The Big “O” Refuse hauler we are contracted with is usually in town by 6:00 to begin pickup. Please don’t call the Village Office and say they got your neighbor’s trash but not yours.... If you didn’t set it out the night before. Remember, they pick up in FRONT of your house on the street of your address. This is what our contract says.

Along with this newsletter, you received your water bill. This reflects the water used during the previous three months which includes the holidays. It is not uncommon for your Feb., Mar., and April bills to be higher. It is due to HOLIDAY increased usage. We try to catch unusual fluctuations that might indicate a leak.

**THE VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 2012**

In addition to all Saturdays and Sundays – Jan. 2; Jan. 16; Feb. 20; April 6; May 28; July 4; Sept. 3; Nov.22, 23; Dec. 24, 25; Dec. 31. Please mark these on your calendar.

If your water bill is delinquent, the best thing you can do is call the Village Office and talk to me about “why” it is delinquent. There are good reasons such as layoff, medical, or you just forgot. There are also NOT good reasons (excuses) such as.... Oh...no one says the NOT good reasons. If you are one who is NOT late every month and you have a special circumstance or hardship and need help figuring out how to pay your bill, then call me and we can work something out. I really don’t want to shut your water off.

**LANDLORDS...** we must know when a tenant moves out and the next moves in. You are responsible for the water bill. If you pay it, that’s ok but if your tenant is to pay the bill they must fill out an application to have the water turned on and pay the \$100.00 deposit

**THE ICE SKATING RINK** is up and full of water.... Water... yep water... When it gets cold enough to freeze then you are invited to the park just west of the Village Offices to skate. The Village has a large tub of skates for the Village residents to use if you don’t have any of your own. The glowing amber lights from Westerman Inc. gives a wonderful ambiance for skating. Oh, there was two nights back in December when it did freeze and we had some young skaters on the ice. WHEN it gets cold enough to freeze over, call the Village Office to get updates as to the readiness of the ice to skate on. Do not cross the fence or break the yellow caution tape. The ice is not ready unless the tape is removed at the entrance to the skating area.

## 2012 DATES FOR RECYCLING AND TRASH PICK UP

**RECYCLING      1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH  
SET OUT ON SUNDAY NIGHT UNLESS DELAYED**

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>19<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup></b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SEPT.</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> TUE</b>	<b>17<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>NOVEM.</b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>19<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>17<sup>TH</sup></b>			

**TRASH PICK UP      EVERY THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
SET OUT ON WEDNESDAY UNLESS DELAYED**

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup></b>	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>22<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>29<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>MAY</b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>24<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> FRI</b>	<b>7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>14<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>28<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup> FRI</b>	<b>12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>30<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>7<sup>TH</sup> FRI</b>	<b>13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>27<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>25<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup> FRI</b>	<b>29<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>28<sup>TH</sup> FRI</b>	
<b>JANUARY 2013</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> FRI</b>				

**PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY OR POST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR FOR QUICK REFERENCE.**

I know that in spite of all the planning and your faithfulness in getting your recycling and trash out; things happen and there may be a miss once in a while. If so, just call the Village Office and we will take care of you!!

**SWIMMING POOL NEWS:** For those wanting to book your POOL PARTY, you may do so after March 12<sup>th</sup>. Call the Village Office. At this time, no decision has been made as to any price increases for Party Rentals, Pool Passes, or Swimming Lessons. Those prices will be discussed in The Committee On Recreation & Facilities' upcoming meeting in February.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the Beth Reedy Family for their donation of a pair of size 8 Ladies ice skates. They will be added to the tub of other ice skates. Do you have any ice skates (as long as they are usable) that you would like to donate to the Ice Rink.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Roscoe and Ina Harmon for their donation of mint condition booklets of the Bremen OKTOBERFEST dating from 1990 through 2002. Also included is the booklet for Oil Derrick Days in 2003. These will be passed on to the Historical Society for preservation. If you have historical items and wish for them to be preserved, please contact the Village Office or the Bremen Area Historical Society.

### **WHAT IS R.I.T.A. ???**

**R.I.T.A. is the Regional Income Tax Agency. Beginning December 1, 2011, Bremen became a member. We join 207 other Ohio municipalities.**

**R.I.T.A. serves as the INCOME TAX collection agency. Each member municipality appoints its own delegate to the Regional Council of Governments (RCOG). Each delegate has one vote on every item that comes before the RCOG, including electing the Officers of the Council of Governments and the R.I.T.A. BOARD OF TRUSTEES. Regardless of the population or tax collections of member municipalities, each member of the RCOG has an equal say in the operations of the Regional Income Tax Agency. Kelley Tripp represents the Village of Bremen.**

**"The mission of the Regional Income Tax Agency is to provide member communities with high quality, cost effective municipal services. We strive to service member municipalities with integrity and their taxpayers in a professional, courteous, and responsive manner"**

**R.I.T.A. has recently mailed out tax forms to Village residents and business communities. The Village Offices and local Library have also received a shipment of forms. You may use their E-service applications at [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com) where you can register, make a payment, or file and pay your taxes.**

**Taxpayers may also download a tax form at their website or YOU MAY CALL their Customer Service Dept. at 1-800-860-7482. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact the Member Services Dept. at 1-866-252-0913 or by E-Mail at [memberservices@ritaohio.com](mailto:memberservices@ritaohio.com). Please take this information with you if someone other than yourself does your taxes. They will be familiar with R.I.T.A. and will know what to do. The Village Office will not be as able to answer your questions as R.I.T.A. will.**