

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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### THOUGHTS: I am not the only one confused...

I am sitting in my office with the blinds open to let the sun shine in and make me feel warm. As I was looking east out into the park a few minutes ago, there sat a groundhog! I swear the groundhog was scratching his/her head. Though the air temperature is cold, the sun feels sooooo good. There are robins singing in the park already. The little bit of snow from last night is melting. Supposed to have 1-3 inches tomorrow then next week it is supposed to be in the 40's and 50's.

The groundhog, also known by the names woodchuck, whistle-pig, and land-beaver is a rodent belonging to the group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. When their famous day comes this year, I think the groundhog can't win. The way the weather has been, there is no way any animal or human can guess winter or spring. Mr. Groundhog... we are just as confused!!!

In the event it does stay cold enough, we have a small ice skating rink constructed in the field just west of the Village Office. It is surrounded by an orange fence. Today the ice is becoming more solid and skating will happen over this last weekend of January. By the time you receive this newsletter, who knows what the conditions will be.

If you wish to skate... and do not have skates... call 740-475-7739. Debbie Wolfe has volunteered to meet prospective skaters at the Village Office where she will try to match you up with a pair of skates that belong to the Village. We have mostly kids' sizes and a few adult sizes. Should you have a pair of skates that you no longer use and wish to donate them to the Village, they would be welcomed.

A few words about your INCOME TAX RETURN... The Village uses RITA, the Regional Income Tax Agency. Because most returns are done electronically, they have discontinued the mailing of tax forms to each person. HOWEVER... you can pick up a set of tax forms from RITA at the Village Office. To ensure timely processing please visit RITA's website at [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com) and use the accurate, secure and FREE E-file service to file and pay your municipal income tax.

The benefits of electronic filing through the RITA E-file system include: 1. Simple step by step calculations of taxes or refunds; 2. Immediate confirmation of completed filing; 3. Credit card, Debit card, or ACH electronic payments accepted; 4. Ability to file early and delay payment up to April 15, 2013.

If you choose to file a paper return, make certain that you or your preparer are using the current 2012 tax form that can be obtained at the Village Office, public library, online at [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com) or by calling RITA at 1-800-860-7482 and selecting option 4.

**REMEMBER: FILING DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2013**

The Village is working hard at updating the “look” of our website. I am working out a more user friendly and professional approach. The website is not finished yet but a major part of it is. I invite you to go to [www.bremenvillage.com](http://www.bremenvillage.com). You will see a series of buttons to the left side of the Home Page. The Home Page is a note from our mayor. Under Village Administration you will find an amazing listing of general information and phone numbers. Under Utilities Information there is a complete breakdown of vital information concerning all our Utilities. These pages are worth looking at so you are familiar with their contents. All CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS will be found under Activities In The Village. Chamber information will still be under the Chamber button. The other buttons are still being worked on but we are making progress each week. Make this a regular website to visit and see what is new!!!

For those who use Facebook, the Village of Bremen has their own page where we update information each week or as it happens. Become a Friend of the Village.

Groups throughout the Village are encouraged to submit to the website. If you have a community activity you wish to have promoted or should you have a picture or story from the past you wish to share under Historic Relics, please send them to me by email and I will try to make use of them. If you have any questions, email or call me at the Village Office.

**PARKING DURING A SNOW EVENT...** If we have a snow event of 2 inches or more, EVERYONE must use off street parking until the snow is plowed and the streets are salted.

**WATER BILLS** have been calculated. If your water bill is higher than normal, remember, this and the next two bills reflect your water usage from over the Holidays.

**BLOOD DRIVE AT BREMEN ELEMENTARY...** The American Red Cross will be at the Bremen Elem. School on February 14<sup>th</sup> from 2pm until 7 pm in the gymnasium. If coming to school during school hours, please use the front doors; if after school hours, use the cafetorium doors. The Red Cross is offering a coupon for a free hot chocolate at Tim Hortons and you will be entered into a drawing to win free groceries for a year. CALL ROSE ANN ELLIOT AT SCHOOL 740-569-4135 TO REGISTER...

**THE BREMEN BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** is offering the Financial Peace University again this year beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This 9 week program teaches how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals. The program will be the first three Sundays of February, March, and April. You must register to attend with a cost of \$89.00. Contact Kathy Mowry at 740-503-8945 or go to [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and click on “find a class”.

Thank you to those already signing up for the Village EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM. Send a brief note by email to [administrator@bremenvillage.com](mailto:administrator@bremenvillage.com) saying that you wish to be included. The hope is to use this medium for any immediate need to get information out as well as regular communications. This is for any person in the Village or Township. Spread the word!!!

**POSTAGE INCREASE IS NOW IN EFFECT: LETTERS ARE 46 CENTS AND POST CARDS ARE 33 CENTS.**

**WHEN YOU RECYCLE** please tear down your boxes... they clog the bins and make it difficult to utilize the recycle bins efficiently. Thanks.

Please read and keep the other sheets printed with this newsletter. Many of them are from the website and useful information that you can post on your refrigerator!!! Wishing you warm and happy days!!! -Douglas Hockman, Your Village Administrator Working For You!!!