

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: Just when I thought we might have a “January Thaw”, the VORTEX hits us right in the chops... (twice)... I haven’t seen a winter like this for a long time. Where were you during the blizzard of ’78? I was in Euclid, a northeast suburb of Cleveland. I will never again in my lifetime see snow like that. I am hoping the VORTEX doesn’t have round three.

Thank you for taking care of your family and your neighbors during this time. Even making a pathway with your shovel is a kind and helpful act. Sharing a meal on these days when Meals On Wheels cannot operate is not only appreciative because of the food but also just having that human contact. Bremen residents are good people and we treat each other in kind ways.

Last month I reported that the Village was receiving a grant through Nature Works for \$16,000.00 for the new soccer fields. This is not only for the new soccer fields themselves but also a new parking area, and regulation goals for each of the fields.

This month, I am happy to report that I have received an initial letter from OPWC for our approval and the awarding of another grant . This is for new curbs and gutters on Strayer Ave. This will happen before we begin the big project with ODOT Safe Routes To School (\$340,000.00). Over the next three years, Angle Street and Strayer Ave. will have a whole new makeover. Our part (in-kind labor) of the OPWC grant is the same as it was on Fort St. We will lift out the bricks and reposition them once the new curbs and gutters are in place. This grant will come in at just under \$155,000.00.

I have shared with Council, my desire to meet with the residents on Angle St. and Strayer Ave. in particular as well as school officials and anyone else who wishes to attend. Hopefully, we can schedule a time later this Spring as we begin this \$500,000.00 makeover of our school corridor. I will let all homeowners in this corridor know by letter.

The Bremen Village Council has been in deliberation since last summer to address the need to raise the sewer rates in the Village. Last January, we raised the water rates due to a shortfall in revenue. As a result, the increase allowed us to cover our costs in the water department. This was even before Superior Fibers had announced they would close. We now anticipate a shortfall in sewer revenue because of the closing of Superior Fibers and growing costs for repairs and equipment needs. The increase is \$5.00 per month with \$4.00 going toward ongoing expenses and \$1.00 being put in a reserve fund for repairs and needed new equipment. This increase is needed to provide stability and to ensure the Village can meet its operating costs.

Since I have been your Administrator (soon to be three years) we have had three people working in the Water and Waste Water departments until last summer when we had a person quit. At that time, we talked about trying to run with two employees and have done so since. At some point we will need to add at least a half time person back on to just curb the overtime we are paying out. No decision has been made on that at this time. The Council and the Committee on Financial Process spent many hours working the numbers and trying to come up with the best solution. For now it is this increase. It has been over eight years since we had any increase and unfortunately we had to address the issue before the Village ran into financial difficulties in the sewer fund. Thank you for understanding and helping to keep our infrastructure strong.

THE VILLAGE ICE SKATING RINK is up and running. It is located on the tennis court in Howell Park. We keep the gates locked so you need to call Debbie Wolfe at 569-7821 to gain access. If you do not have ice skates but want to give it a try, we have a huge tub of ice skates that you can use. Most of the skates will fit children and smaller sized adults (we need adult skates). Again, Debbie Wolfe is the one to call and she can help fit you with skates while at the Park. We will keep the rink up until it is no longer safe and the ice begins to melt. We hope you take advantage of this winter sporting event. If you happen to have a pair of ice skates that you no longer use, please donate them to the cause. You can drop them off at the Village Office. Thanks for helping!!!

PLEASE USE CAUTION WHEN YOU SEE THE FLASHING LIGHTS OF THE VILLAGE VEHICLES. This means they are out on the streets working. Please stay back at a safe distance or turn and use another street. Please do not try and pass our moving snow plows, on any of the village streets. Act in a safe manner.

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 where you pay your Utility Bill. To ensure timely processing, please visit RITA's website at www.ritaohio.com and use the accurate, secure, and FREE E-File service to file and pay your municipal income taxes. If you have questions and need to speak with someone, you can call 1-800-860-7482.

REMEMBER: FILING DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2014

PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR

TRASH PICK UP FOR BREMEN: Most of the Village is scheduled for THURSDAY pick up with some residents getting their pick up on FRIDAY. To keep the schedule simple I am SHOWING FRI/SAT pick up ON DATE CHANGES. There are only 5 times when the pick up will be changed: Thursday to Friday and Friday to Saturday.

2/6/14	2/13/14	2/20/14	2/27/14	
3/6/14	3/13/14	3/20/14	3/27/14	
4/3/14	4/10/14	4/17/14	4/24/14	
5/1/14	5/8/14	5/15/14	5/22/14	5/30/14 FRI/SAT
6/5/14	6/12/14	6/19/14	6/26/14	
7/3/14	7/11/14 FRI/SAT	7/17/14	7/24/14	7/31/14
8/7/14	8/14/14	8/21/14	8/28/14	
9/5/14 FRI/SAT	9/11/14	9/18/14	9/25/14	
10/2/14	10/9/14	10/16/14	10/23/14	10/30/14
11/6/14	11/13/14	11/20/14	11/28/14 FRI/SAT	
12/4/14	12/11/14	12/18/14	12/26/14 FRI/SAT	
1/2/15 FRI/SAT	1/8/15	1/15/15	1/22/15	1/29/15

The Village uses BIG "O" REFUSE. Have your refuse out on the curb in front of your residence by 5 am and do not put it out any sooner than 24 hours before pick up. All refuse cans and bins must be moved off the street once your refuse is picked up. If you have questions you can call them at 1-888-924-2446. If your refuse is not picked up on the appointed day, you can call the Village Office and we will send an email to Big "O".

2014 VILLAGE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND DATES OF MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the Bremen Village Council will be the SECOND MONDAY of each month at 7:00 pm at the Council Chambers at 9090 Marietta Road S.E. in Bremen. Anyone who would like to attend the council meeting to speak on a specific topic must call the Village Office at 740-569-4788 before 12:00 noon on the Friday before the Council Meeting to be put on the agenda. Village residents are encouraged to attend.

The Committee on Administrative Process will meet quarterly at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at 9090 Marietta Road S.E. in Bremen. The members of this committee are: Chairperson - David Ray; Seat One - Sherman Prince; Seat Two - Debbie Wolfe

The Committee on Safety and Infrastructure will meet quarterly at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at 9090 Marietta Road S.E. in Bremen. The members of the committee are: Chairperson - Sherman Prince; Seat One - Troy Tripp; Seat Two - Mike Henwood

The Committee on Financial Process will meet monthly at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month of this year. The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at 9090 Marietta Road S.E. in Bremen. The members of this committee are: Chairperson – Mike Henwood; Seat One – David Ray; Seat Two – Mindy (George) Bussart

The Committee on Recreation & Facilities will meet on the second Wednesday of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and November. The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at 9090 Marietta Road S.E. in Bremen. The members of this committee are: Chairperson – Debbie Wolfe; Seat One – Troy Tripp; Seat Two – Mindy (George) Bussart

The Committee on Zoning, Property Maintenance, and Planning will meet monthly at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of every month of this year. The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at 9090 Marietta Road S.E. in Bremen. The members of this committee are: Chairperson – Mindy (George) Bussart; Mayor – Josh Groce; Village Representative One – Brenda McCafferty; Village Representative Two – Don Elkins; Village Representative Three – Susan Henwood

The Downtown Business District Design and Review Board will meet as needed following the Zoning Meetings to discuss design issues with businesses and property owners to retain the historic sense of the downtown area. The members of this committee are: Chairperson – Troy Tripp; Property Owner – Dr. Jeff Wilson; Property Owner – Bremen Bank (Natalie Nutter); Property Owner – Susan Scholl; Resident – Susan Henwood

FREE LUNCHES ARE BEING SERVED at Faith Apostolic Tabernacle on Oak Street this February 22nd and then again on March 22nd from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm in the basement of the church. The entrance is on the side of the church building. They also want to acknowledge all those who make this happen. The meals are provided by donations and help is always needed. Your gifts are tax deductible. The church is also continuing their classes for those with drug and alcohol issues on Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. If you have any questions please contact Matt Olson at 740-468-9277.

For periodic updates visit us on Facebook under Village of Bremen or go to our website at www.bremenvillage.com.

If you need to do community service for receiving assistance or court ordered community service; please call me at the Village Office at 740-569-4788 and I can help you meet those qualifications. I always appreciate the extra help.

My friends, stay warm (today was -18 regular temperature) and be aware of those around you who might need your help. I always trust the goodness of our village residents. Let's see what the groundhog says in a few days... I wish for a big break in the weather. Know that the Village is working hard on your behalf and making this a great place to live. Thanks for the privilege of serving you!!! Douglas Hockman, your Village Administrator.