

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: First and foremost, I want to give out some huge THANK YOU's. Our Village workers continue working hard on the streets as the weather has allowed. Byron, Ed, and Michael from our Water / Waste Water Division continue to make headway on the last section of Purvis where we are installing more of the EPA mandated storm sewer. They also worked into their schedule a new catch basin and storm line over on Ford St. from Stuart Burial Vaults up to Angle St. This new catch basin will eliminate the ponding of water in front of Stuart Burial Vaults which has been a huge problem for years. Gary, Doug, and Mike are up to the last 50 feet or so on the west side of Fort St. with brick placement. Hopefully, in this next week, the west side will be done except down by the funeral home where we will have to tear out about 100 feet of the whole street to lower the hump in the middle of the street. They have been out on Fort St. every day it has been dry enough, even on the bitter cold days. Job well done to all of our Village workers!!!

I also want to say THANK YOU to the Community Transition Center of Lancaster. On the days we can work on the streets, they have provided free manpower. Usually I pick up 3 men from the facility who come and work with our Village workers. They have provided an exceptional work ethic, volunteering to help us out, again, even on the coldest of days!

THANK YOU to all who have EXERCISED CAUTION during the snow and ice events.

This time of year we begin seeing all the events for the year. Make sure you cut out the events from the back of the Brick and Mortar and tape to your refrigerator. These and other events are also on our website: www.bremenvillage.com CLICK ON THE BUTTON "COME VISIT BREMEN". Check out all the other information on the buttons on the left hand side of the page. Also check out the "SLIDESHOW" of kids skating at the park and other winter scenes. Our website can answer just about any question you might have!!!

Hoot 'N Howl'n at Howell Park is scheduled for March 26th (Tuesday) at 7:00 pm. All adults and children are invited to just show up! We will be taking a short hike in the park stopping along the way and calling owls and listening for other night sounds. We also will talk about night creatures and how they adapt to their lifestyles. Dress appropriately depending on the weather. Our guest for the evening will be Ms. Vicki Kohli from the Fairfield Water and Soil Conservation District. She has a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Interpretation from Ohio State and has been the Education Specialist with FSWCD for 14 years. She is also a naturalist working with youth and really enjoys the night hikes. Please put this on your calendar and bring your children or grandchildren with you!!!

When doing your taxes, please remember we are a part of R.I.T.A. the Regional Income Tax Agency. Information is online www.ritaohio.com or call 1-866-252-0913 with questions. Customer Service can be reached at 1-800-860-7482.

SWIMMING POOL NEWS Attention teenagers (16 years and up) and adults – lifeguards needed!!! If you take training and receive your certification this year and are hired for the Bremen Pool, we will reimburse your costs for certification by paying an additional \$10.00 per week until you are fully reimbursed. Call the “Y” in Lancaster for certification needs. Reimbursement is based on working a minimum of 20 hours per week.

I anticipate that the costs for the Swimming Pool Admission, Passes, and Parties will stay the same as last year.

The Hours for Operation will be:

Monday, Friday, & Saturday 12:00 – 7:00 with Parties from 7:00 – 9:00
Tuesday 12:00 – 8:00 with Free Swim from 6:00 – 8:00 for all Village residents
Sunday, Wednesday, & Thursday 12:00 – 6:00 with Parties from 6:00 – 8:00

Daily Admission will be \$2.00 per person with Senior Citizens (over 60) FREE

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| Adult Season Pass (18 and older) | \$80.00 |
| Youth Season Pass (17 and younger) | \$75.00 |
| Household (up to 6 people living in house) | \$150.00 |
| Other additional people in household | \$25.00 each person |
| Babysitter on Household Pass is additional | \$35.00 each person |

(Babysitter cannot use the Household Pass if swimming without children from household)

Pool Parties

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Up to 25 registered people | (2 guards) | \$225.00 |
| 26 – 50 registered people | (3 guards) | \$250.00 |
| 51 – 100 registered people | (3 guards, 1 supervisor) | \$300.00 |
| 101 – 150 registered people | (3 guards, 1 supervisor) | \$350.00 |

There will be no Party larger than 150 people unless special arrangements are made with the Village Administrator and Pool Manager. Additional fees may apply.

Swimming Lessons will be offered again this year. The Pool Manager will schedule the time once they know their staffing. The cost will be \$35.00 per child as long as 10 are signed up in each of the two age groups. The lessons will go for 5 consecutive days. If any day is rained out, those days will be made up the following week. Watch for further details...

The Bremen Village Council is putting a rate increase in place on the water portion of the Utility Bill. They calculated a shortfall deficit on the revenue coming in for the year 2013. The attached sheet explains how the Council came to this decision. It has been just over 8 years (January 2005) since the last increase. All Village residents, businesses and the Village of Rushville are shouldering this increase. Please read it carefully so you understand what our need is and how we measure up with rates in other municipalities.

A LETTER TO THE VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN BREMEN AND RUSHVILLE

To all who purchase water from the Village of Bremen,

A year ago the Committee On Financial Process noticed that water revenues were barely keeping up with the expenses of the Water Division of Village Services. It was felt at the time that as long as a deficit was not going to put the year 2012 in jeopardy they would continue to study the situation and make the best decision for all involved.

Toward the end of 2012, we experienced several pump repairs at the Water Plant. There are other repairs and maintenance updates that we knew we were going to have to do in 2013. As the Committee On Financial Process evaluated our revenue in preparation for our permanent budget for 2013, it was apparent there would be a deficit.

The last time a revenue increase happened was in January, 2005. The Council raised the rates of the Village of Bremen, and those who buy water from the Village at the Fire Dept. They did not raise the bulk water rates to Rushville. We have been in contract with Rushville since 2000, with their rates not increased.

After calculating the immediate need and future needs, it was proposed to raise the rate on the monthly minimum amount by \$3.50 to \$18.50 per month. Those who use more than the minimum amount, they will be charged \$2.46 per one thousand gallons over the minimum. The Village of Rushville will have their water rates increased at the same percentage as the Bremen village residents. Their bulk rates will rise from \$2.00 to \$2.46 per one thousand gallons for the first 333,000 gallons and the overage rate for use of more than 333,000 gallons will rise from \$1.50 to \$2.03 per one thousand gallons. Bulk water to the car washes in Bremen will rise at the same percentage based on the first 100,000 gallons. People wishing to buy bulk water from the Village at the Fire Dept. will be raised from \$25.00 for the first 3,000 gallons to \$30.00 and from \$10.00 to \$15.00 on the next 3,000 gallons. There is also an additional 7% increase beginning on January 1, 2014, and again on January 1, 2015. That will mean \$1.00 in 2014, and \$1.00 in 2015 for Bremen Village residents on their minimum amount, and 7% for Rushville in 2014, and 2015.

We approached the increase only on what the Village will need for current and immediate future needs. It was not based on what other municipalities pay. However, we did a study that showed what other municipalities pay for water, sewer, and trash. On the back side of this sheet, I will show you the results of that study.

It is anticipated that this rate increase will go into effect on your May 1, 2013, Utility Bill.

Respectfully,

Your Mayor and Village of Bremen Council

The Bremen minimum is based on 3,000 gallons for our base rate. Some municipalities have additional fees they charge, such as Water Debt or Water Capital Improvements. To be fair, all amounts are based on 3,000 gallons. No other municipality charges and collects, on their Utility Bill, for Trash (solid waste). So each household is billed by the refuse hauler. Some municipalities allow for private septic systems.

| MUNICIPALITY | WATER MINIMUM | SEWER MINIMUM |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Amanda | \$31.51 | \$21.97 |
| Baltimore | \$53.22 | \$35.20 |
| Bremen (new rates) | \$18.50 | \$25.00 |
| Carroll | \$40.60 | \$14.25 |
| Crooksville | \$35.00 | \$22.25 |
| Glenford | \$34.25 | \$15.00 |
| Hebron | \$22.35 | \$34.50 |
| Junction City | \$28.00 | \$31.00 |
| Lithopolis | \$19.46 | \$20.85 |
| Millersport | \$25.00 | \$33.25 |
| Nelsonville | \$19.89 | \$21.50 |
| New Lexington | \$31.60 | \$25.75 |
| Somerset | \$23.60 | \$31.60 |
| Thornville | \$53.15 | \$25.50 |

As you read, Bremen is still the lowest (after the rate hike) water rate in the area. Bremen is also in the lower 1/3 of sewer rates. There is no immediate need to raise the sewer rates. One advantage we have over most of the above municipalities is that except for our \$300,000 grant to help us with the storm sewer separation trunk line, we have funded that project so far with Village revenues under our sewer collection. I hope this helps!!!

Wishing you warm and happy days!!!! Spring is soon coming.

Douglas Hockman, Your Village Administrator Working Hard For You