

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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**THOUGHTS: I need your help... seriously... I hope to get several hundred responses to pass on to the Council.**

The Village Council and several of our committees have been considering the worth of putting the issue of beer and wine sales back on the ballot. The considerations coming to the forefront are two-fold. One is to allow packaged sales of beer and wine for no on premise consumption. The other is to allow consumption on premises such as restaurants or possibly a sports bar.

The Village is only allowed (by the state liquor commission) to have 2 licenses for beer (C-1) and two licenses for wine (C-2). At the present, Jeff Qualls holds a C-1 and C-2 license under a "Pending Status". There is also a C-2 license pending under the name of My Little Market. That leaves one remaining C-1 license that is not committed to anyone. Until the Village passes to allow this all licenses remain on a pending status.

It is the same for allowing "on premises" consumption. There are two licenses available for both C-3 (beer) and C-4 (wine). These are not committed to anyone at the present. These licenses would allow a restaurant or other establishment to serve beer and wine to their customers.

Part of the rationale is that Dollar General and Outback Drive Thru already sell packaged sales and when the Sunoco moves up to the corner beside Dollar General they too will sell packaged sales. The Village is looking at annexation or a Joint Economic Development District with the Township so we can take advantage of income tax revenues. If we pass (by Village vote) and the Route 37 / Route 664 interchange becomes part of the Village then the existing licenses they hold will be protected by the Village vote. If they become part of the Village then their licenses come with them and are grandfathered in. However, the Village could take another vote and vote them dry. So if we pass having packaged sales then the businesses have nothing to fear by coming into the Village because the Village approved packaged sales.

The Zoning Commission raised the issue of having the opportunity for sales on premises. The rationale is that our restaurants or a sports bar would be able to have extended hours in the evening and on the weekends, keeping more business in Bremen. The truth is, most people wanting a nice meal with a glass of wine or beer have to travel to Lancaster, Logan or other outlying city. Would this keep more business in Bremen?

**SO, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THESE ISSUES? THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PUT THE ISSUE(S) ON THE BALLOT BASED ON YOUR RESPONSES.**

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESPONSE AND FEEDBACK TO:**

**Village of Bremen  
136 Marietta St, P.O. Box 127  
Bremen, Ohio 43107**

**OR EMAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO: [administrator@bremenvillage.com](mailto:administrator@bremenvillage.com)**

**Thank you for helping your Council make this decision!**

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**HAVE YOU TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE HOMESTEAD TAX BREAK???**

The deadline to apply for the Homestead Tax Break is JUNE 2, 2014. Fairfield County Auditor said this might be the last chance for some homeowners to qualify for the property tax break. More than 10,500 homeowners in Fairfield County were enrolled in the Homestead Exemption Program last year. Those homeowners saw a reduction in their annual real estate taxes by an average of more than \$350.00.

Toni Harper, a Bremen Village resident said this affects any homeowner who is 65 or over. If you were 65 last year (2013) or before and haven't applied, you would apply as a late resident. There is NO INCOME LIMITATION. The Auditor's website explains it. Once on the Auditor's website, look at the AUDITOR NEWS and click on the Homestead Exemption article. That leads to the explanation. To access the application paper go to the strip of links in black at the top of the page. "Click" on Auditor's Office then "Homestead Exemption" in the pull down menu. You will need Adobe Reader to read it. If it doesn't load, try going to the top right of the page and "Click" on "Open with a different viewer" then click on "Open with Adobe Reader". If you don't have Adobe Reader, try saving it and opening it with whatever program you have. It is worth a try. Toni said it will save her \$300.00 per year on her property taxes and she would have never known it but for the article in the Eagle Gazette. Thank you Toni for sharing this information!!!

**FREE LUNCH SCHEDULE FOR Faith Apostolic Tabernacle on Oak Street for the second quarter of 2014 is: Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>; and June 21<sup>st</sup>. The meal is served from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm.**

**The church also has a special meeting every Thursday evening for those dealing with issues of alcohol and drugs. Contact Matt Olson for further details: 740-468-9277.**

**BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY!!!** Come and join the Bremen Rushcreek Firefighter's Association for their PANCAKE, EGG, & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST. The event is Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon at the firehouse 201 Marietta Street. Adults \$5.00; Children Under 10 years old \$2.00 and Seniors \$4.00. Get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny!!! Images by Miss Mindy will be there to take pictures. Package A is 1- 8x10 and 2- 5x7s for \$17.00; Package B has 8 wallets and 2 - 5x7s for \$25.00 or individual pricing: 8 wallets \$7.00; 2 - 5x7s \$12.00; 1 - 8x10 \$12.00; digital copy \$7.00.

**THOUGHT FROM THE VILLAGE TREE COMMISSION:** As the cherry, dogwood and pear begin to bloom throughout the village, it makes for a beautiful backdrop, living in a tree lined community. We see the beautiful flowers and bright green sprouts, but underground, the roots are also growing... sometimes growing in places that can get them (the trees) in trouble! Residents with old clay sewer lines should take note to keep their lines in good working condition. If you have battled tree roots in your line, it is recommended by local plumbing companies that you should use copper sulfate available at the local Dollar General, use septic-safe toilet paper and don't dispose any "flushable" baby wipes in the toilet. Over the years, old clay lines can crack and break which is an open invitation for tree roots to invade the lines. Using copper sulfate is a good way to keep the roots at bay. Use or disposal of certain paper products in the sewer lines tend to get snagged or "hung up" in these old cracked or broken lines. By taking these preventative steps, we can enjoy the flowering trees, and not become frustrated by their roots. Contacting your trusted plumber to recommend the right product for your particular situation is always recommended. Submitted by Troy Tripp, Chair of Tree Commission.

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES :**

The Village is looking for a possible position of an adult to mow the village properties. Must have knowledge of mower repair and maintenance. Send your application and resume to the Village Administrator P.O. Box 127 Bremen or drop off at Village Office 136 Marietta St.

The Village is looking to hire someone to work with the Clerk Treasurer 21 hours per week, (three 7-hour days) This is a training position to cover all facets of the Clerk-Treasurer's position in her absence. Must have computer skills, data entry and good financial skills. Send your application and resume to the Village Administrator P.O.Box 127, Bremen or drop off at the Village Office 136 Marietta St.

Items can be emailed to [administrator@bremenvillage.com](mailto:administrator@bremenvillage.com).

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

<b>APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL PROCESS</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMITTEE ON RECREATION &amp; FACILITIES</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>ZONING &amp; PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>

**SUBWAY is coming to Bremen. The vacant lot on North Broad Street just to the north of the railroad tracks will be developed into a SUBWAY RESTAURANT!!! Watch for signs of construction. Their plan is to have the building up and ready for operation by early June. If you are interested in employment go to Subway.com or email the franchise owner at [mill45@hotmail.com](mailto:mill45@hotmail.com)**

**THE FORMER BP STATION is undergoing a remodel and will be set to re-open soon!!!**

**The prices for the swimming pool will be set by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Watch in the next newsletter for details. We anticipate opening May 24, 25, 26 over Memorial Day weekend and then once school is out the pool will be open every day.**

**HUGE ODOT PROJECT TO GET UNDERWAY... The Ohio Dept. of Transportation has finalized their paving plans. Beginning April 7<sup>th</sup> they will start road repairs and by the first of May to be grinding and ready to pave. The project will run from Route 22 at Rushville, south on Route 664 all the way to the Hocking County line. Then ODOT will also add Route 312 from south of the Village to Route 93 in Hocking County. As much as I can, I will keep you posted as to when they plan on coming through the Village. Be prepared to use Bremen Road to Lake Road to Route 37 once construction commences. The work through the Village is at NO COST to the Village.**

**THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC GATHERING at the firehouse on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm until approximately 4:00 for residents on Strayer, Angle, and Ford Streets to learn about the new curb and gutter project on Strayer and traffic changes during the project. The whole public is invited but the project specifically impacts those living on Strayer.**

**Fairfield Union Junior Soccer Association reports 250 kids are signed up for Spring Soccer. They are working with the Village to get started on the new soccer fields in Bremen! I need a farmer that can help us get grass seed planted... Know anyone??? Let me know!!!**

**BREMEN ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Howell Park Butterfly Garden (by the oil derrick). Former mayor and current council member David Ray will be the guest speaker. There will be a new tree dedication hosted by the Bremen Tree Board and Bremen Scout Pack 93.**

**Don't forget... The BREMEN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will have their Annual Dinner Theater April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with dinner at 6:00 pm followed by their play entitled "A Loving Christmas Eve". This is another Mr. Frank Muckensturm original!!! A must see...**

**PERMANENT PARKING NOTICE: To those living on HIGHLAND BLVD... the Village is changing the parking on Highland Blvd. between Fort St. and Oak St. There will only be parking on the NORTH SIDE of the street to better facilitate the flow of traffic. The Village is in the process of getting signs to address this issue. Parking will be enforced once the signs are in place. All parking will face west.**

**Watch for LITTLE LEAGUE AND PEE-WEE LEAGUE to begin playing baseball at Howell Park!**

**Have you heard the RUMOR??? Actually it is not a rumor but the TRUTH!!! There is a committee of village residents that are working on the park in the downtown area on West Main St. They are working on revitalizing this into a much more user friendly park. The initial plans call for the old fountain to be removed (Troy Tripp has committed the scout troop to doing this), the trees removed, and the old sidewalks within the area to be removed. Once a clean slate is created, there are plans for a pavilion with a stage, a trellis running the whole west side of the park with tables and chairs for outside eating and relaxation, and a new fountain with a more contemporary design.**

**Mary Ellen Hoffman is heading up this group. There are many needs for donations (both money and labor) to help make this happen. To inquire as to how you can help, please call Mary at 569-7364. Thank you in advance for helping Bremen move forward!!!**

**INCOME TAX INFORMATION: The Village is in contract with R.I.T.A., the Regional Income Tax Agency. You will not receive tax forms in the mail. You can pick up a set of tax forms at the Bremen Village Office (136 Marietta St.) or from the Bremen Library. To ensure timely processing, please use R.I.T.A.'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 taxes. If you have questions and need to speak with someone, you can call 1-800-860-7482. April 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline!!!**

**A WORD ABOUT YOUR UTILITY BILL: You receive your Utility Bill on the first few days of the month. It is actually due upon receipt. We have so many that wait until the last minute to pay their bill. To be ON TIME your payment must be received by our office before 3 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>. If you pay at the Bremen Bank - your payment must be made by the 18<sup>th</sup> so we can receive it in our office. When paying at the bank YOU MUST have your bill with your account number. NOTE: if you pay your Utility Bill the last week of the month, there is a good chance your payment won't be shown on your bill until the bills go out at the end of the month depending on how the dates fall. Once the system is in the billing mode to print the new Utility Bill - your payment made during the last week of the month may not show.**

**My friends, April is CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.**

**Our friends at Fairfield County Job & Family Services ask us to do two things this month. They ask us to WEAR BLUE TO WORK on April 9<sup>th</sup> in an effort to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. They would love to "SEE THE BLUE" and encourage us to take a photo of yourself, your group, or company wearing blue and send it to [wearblue@fcjfs.org](mailto:wearblue@fcjfs.org). The other event is their CANDLELIGHT WALK. The "walk" begins (6:30-8:00 pm) at Job and Family Services, 239 West Main St. in Lancaster and continues up Main St. to the Zane Square Gazebo. Carry a candle to light the way of hope for children impacted by abuse and neglect.**

**I feel confident in saying the winter is now over. There may be some moments of snow but they will be short lived. My forsythia is ready to bloom any day now! That is such a hopeful sign to all. Wishing you (really) warm and happy days. May this Spring renew your spirit and bring hope to you and yours! I will share again when I return from my vacation!!! Need anything, feel free to call Fran in my absence. Going where it is really warm!!!**

**STREET LIGHT BURNT OUT???** There is a tag on each pole with a number. Please call the Village Office with the location of the light and the number on the pole. We will then contact AEP with the information. Call Fran at 569-4788. Thank You!!!

**CALENDAR ITEM:** The Bremen American Legion will be serving **PANCAKES IN MAY**. The event is **EVERY** Sunday in May from 7:00 am – 11:00 am at 201 North Broad Street. The Pancakes will be stacked high!!!

The **HOWELL PARK SKATING RINK** is now closed for the season. Thanks to all that used the rink this winter. We promise an even bigger and better rink next winter!!!

The next **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Bremen United Methodist Church will be May 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm. The Church is on the corner of Mulberry and Walnut.

Do you want something to do as the weather breaks? Don't forget to go on the Village website [www.bremenvillage.com](http://www.bremenvillage.com) and click on Bremen's Walking Tour of Trees, and the Rushcreek Township Amish Country Tour.

The Bremen United Methodist Church will be hosting a Vintage Car Show following their Worship Service on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm. The event will be held in their Church parking lot across from the Church on the corner of Mulberry and Walnut. The community is invited to come and enjoy a festive time. Questions can be answered by Billy Lecrone at 740-304-7000.

Bremen will be welcoming back the River Valley Rods and Customs on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The **HOSPICE CRUISE-IN** is one event the Village always look forward to. This year the event will be held in Howell Park. For more information please contact Larry Mathias at 740-653-8659 or at [scooter1279@columbus.rr.com](mailto:scooter1279@columbus.rr.com)

Did you know you can use a credit card to pay your Utility Bill but only at the Bremen Bank if you have an account with them **AND YOUR UTILITY BILL ACCOUNT NUMBER**. Your payment will be shown as **A CASH ADVANCE**. You must have your driver's license present.

The Bremen Methodist Church would like to thank everyone for your support during their Baked Steak Supper.

The Bremen Rushcreek Fire Department Auxilary would like to thank all the vendors and those who came and supported their Craft Show. It was well attended and worth it!!!

I would like to thank everyone who wrote a note, called the Village Office or emailed me to say "THANK YOU TO THE VILLAGE WORKERS" for all their hard work during the snow this winter. In spite of a shortage of salt the Village lucked out each and every time there was a winter event. We still have about 15 ton on a salt/grit mix to finish out the winter/spring. It is kind of you to recognize the time and effort of our Village Workers.