

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: Change is hard to adjust to, sometimes. I hate going to the dentist. Not because I have had to have major work done or anything like that. I am a gagger... Some of you are laughing already because you know what I mean. The best dentist I have ever had was Dr. Edwards over in South Zanesville. Somehow, I had the least stress with him. Others just haven't seemed to understand. Of course, my wife (who has perfect teeth and brushes 5 times a day) just says "Suck it up!". Those of you who know Colleen and can hear her saying that, are rolling on the floor now. I just say "Yes, dear".... I hear Dr. Wilson uptown does a great job so I guess I need to adjust to another "change".

I have a big change that I need all our residents to help me with. We have been curbside recycling for a year. Only 20% of the households have participated yet it costs the Village about \$12,000 a year. We do not charge those who recycle any fees. The Village has incurred all the costs. So, if 50% would recycle the Village would be paying close to \$30,000 a year. Even with paying \$12,000 a year, we have found a better way.

Beginning May 1st, there will be a RECYCLING CENTER at the Village Offices.

OK... here is the skinny of it... **YOU WILL BE ON CAMERA!!! WE WILL SEE WHAT YOU ARE PLACING IN THE DUMPSTER. DO NOT THROW JUNK, TRASH, OR NON-RECYCLABLES HERE.**

Because our recycling is "CO-MINGLE", that means all your recyclables can be placed in the one dumpster, and there is no need to sort items from other items. Yep, it all goes in one big dumpster.

This will cost approximately \$120.00 a month. We will save over \$10,000 of taxpayer money. This money saved will help a lot toward other projects. It is also my hope that even more of our residents will recycle as a result. You will be able to recycle at your convenience and not worry about what "2 days a month". You can now recycle 7 days a week, every week of the year. I see this as a HUGE OPPORTUNITY more than a painful change. Please join me in making this change happen. Thank you for your effort!!!

REMEMBER: CONTAINERS NEED TO BE RINSED OUT; NO GARBAGE OR FOODSTUFF. THIS IS FOR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING - NOT GETTING RID OF JUNK... CAMERAS ARE ON WATCHING!

Thank you to all who attended the Bremen Arbor Day Celebration on Friday evening, April 27th. Congratulations to our Tree Commission and Troy Tripp for the Spring plantings!!!

Did you know the Water Division of our Village Services is celebrating 100 years of service this year? 1912 – 2012. Congratulations for continued great service, making sure our water is the safest possible!!! Included in this newsletter is the Village of Bremen Consumer Confidence Report for 2011. Please read this document, especially the back side where it talks about minimizing the potential for lead exposure from the household pipes. We send the highest quality drinking water possible but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Thanks Byron, Ed and Shad for your work.

SUPPORT OUR AREA FARM FAMILIES... We have two opportunities to buy local craft, baked goods, and produce. Beginning this Saturday and every Saturday through October there will be the Chamber sponsored Farmer's Market from 9 – 5 in downtown Bremen. This has been largely baked goods, craft/sewing items, and produce. The other opportunity is the Bremen's Farmers' Auction at 1511 Mount Zwingli Road. This will be the sale of local fruits and vegetables (small quantities or large bulk), hay sales, and hanging plants and flower bedding plants. This will be from area farmers as well as our Amish family farms. The Auction will be open every Friday during May but will also be open on Tuesday and Friday at noon for the rest of the Summer and Fall through October.

RULES FOR A RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL: Any outside pool or open tank, deeper than 24 inches is considered a swimming pool. A private spa or hot tub with a lockable cover shall not be considered a swimming pool. No swimming pool, exclusive of portable swimming pools with an area of less than 100 square feet, shall be allowed in any residential district UNLESS the following conditions and requirements are complied with:

- 1. The pool is intended to be used solely for the occupants of the principal use of the property on which it is located, and their non-paying guests.**
- 2. Such pool, including any walks, paved areas, and appurtenances thereto, shall not be located in any front yard, nor closer than 10 feet to any property line or structure.**
- 3. The surface area of the swimming pool, exclusive of decks, walks, and other appurtenances, shall not exceed 10% of the area of the lot or parcel.**
- 4. Any private swimming pool, or the property on which the pool is located, shall be enclosed by a wall or fence constructed so as to prevent uncontrolled access. Such wall or fence shall not be less than six (6) feet in height, maintained in good condition, and affixed with an operable gate and lock.**
- 5. All lights used for the illumination of the swimming pool and adjacent areas shall be designed, located and installed so as to confine the direct beams thereof to the lot or parcel on which the pool is located.**

A ZONING PERMIT SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION OF ANY PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL. The owner of the property, or his/her agent, shall certify that the pool will be constructed, installed, and maintained in conformance with the above requirements. If you have any questions call Code Enforcer Sean Fowler at 740-468-2330.

YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE... Community CPR Day is Saturday, May 19th from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. Go to fmchealth.org for a complete list of locations and registration form. For additional information, call (740) 689-6893. The goal of this FREE EVENT is to have Community CPR Day teach as many community members as possible, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in order to save lives. This free event is sponsored by the Snider Community Heart Watch Task Force. We can help save lives!!!

PURVIS AVENUE AND STREET NEWS: Work continues on our storm water separation as we move up Purvis laying the connector line. Not much has happened in the last three weeks due to our reading the water meters. We are now back at it. Other Village workers have been working hard at crack sealing our paved streets. We may not get all of it done due to budgeted appropriations. However, we will use whatever funds that are available. This will help save our asphalt streets from deteriorating more quickly than we would like. We will continue to patch holes the best we can. If you have any severe issues, call the Village office and make sure we put it on our list. Again, this calls for patience. We know there are a lot of needs and we will continue to work our hardest to resolve these needs.

PLEASE NOTE ABOUT BRICKS: The bricks we are salvaging at the Waste Water Treatment Plant are NOT for sale or for use by Village residents. These bricks are saturated with creosote. They cannot be used inside a house or on a fireplace or fire pit. The creosote can actually burn your skin if held without gloves. Our workers must use eye protection, gloves and long sleeves when handling these bricks. These are different from sidewalk bricks. Please do not remove these bricks from the WWTP.

PANCAKES are being served EVERY Sunday morning at the Legion Hall on Broad Street from 7:00 am until 11:00 am. This is a great project as well as opportunity to see your friends and neighbors while sharing a meal.

SPEAKING OF WORTHY CAUSES – The Gazebo Committee, headed up by June Van Dyke, will be hosting the first **ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, & CRAFTS FAIR** on West Main Street in downtown Bremen, May 12th (Saturday) from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. There will be quality crafts, antiques, and collectibles lining the street. Food and Door Prizes will offered as well as **WELDON'S ICE CREAM**. Music groups will be performing on the street as well. Just a personal note: **LOOK FOR "Forever Fashions"** booth... That will be my 13 year old daughter, Jennifer and her handmade wares. She hand makes purses and jewelry. She sews, knits, crochets, quilts, and makes jewelry and clothing. Quite a young lady at 13, and a great student! She will have special discounts just for this event. **SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!** The booth cost proceeds will go toward the Gazebo being planned for Dowling Park. If you would like to be a vendor, please call 740-503-7673.

PLAN NOW for the huge Village Yard Sale scheduled for June 16th from 9:00 – 3:00.

THANK YOU to the other 12 people that attended the Kat Kommittee meeting in April. The presentation was well received with much information shared. It gave all in attendance a chance to hear first hand what the dynamics are concerning Cat Colonies and how wild, feral cats operate. Please support 2nd Chance Companions in their efforts to help control the cat population in Bremen. A special thank you to Jackie Hardman who heads this effort.

Enclosed in this mailing is a brochure to help you understand the dynamics of cats. Please read this and become informed. It will help you appreciate the effort underway. If you have a severe feral cat problem, you can call Jackie at 569-4548 and she can suggest ways to help your situation. Thank you for your compassion and for being open minded to learn about cats and certain realities we can't change.

THE 2012 BREMEN PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL PROGRAM IS IN PLACE.

The swimming pool will be open (weather permitting) over Memorial Day weekend. Saturday, May 26th hours 12:00 – 7:00; Sunday, May 27th hours 12:00 – 6:00; and Monday, May 28th hours 12:00 – 5:00 (due to school the next day).

The pool will not open Tuesday or Wednesday due to school being in session. However, we will open the pool on Thursday, May 31st (even though the teachers still have to work!!!).

OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE WILL BE:

MONDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY: HOURS 12:00 – 7:00 with PRIVATE PARTIES 7:00 – 9:00

TUESDAY: HOURS 12:00 – 8:00 with FREE SWIM FROM 6:00 – 8:00 FOR ALL RESIDENTS!!!

SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY: HOURS 12:00 – 6:00 with PRIVATE PARTIES 6:00 – 8:00

THURSDAY: HOURS 12:00 – 6:00 with FREE OLDER ADULT (over 50) SWIM – 6:00 – 8:00

ADMISSION PRICING:

DAILY GATE PRICE: Everyone from infant to age 60 will pay \$2.00 (60 & over FREE)

ADULT 18 - up INDIVIDUAL PASS will be \$80.00

YOUTH 17 - under INDIVIDUAL PASS will be \$75.00

HOUSEHOLD (UP TO SIX PEOPLE LIVING IN THE HOUSE) PASS will be \$150.00

ADD - ON: OTHER ADDITIONAL PEOPLE LIVING IN SAME HOUSE will be \$25.00 each

BABYSITTER ON HOUSEHOLD PASS will be \$35.00 each

(household pass cannot be used by babysitter unless babysitting)

ALL CHILDREN 8 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER MUST BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ANOTHER PERSON, 16 YEARS OLD AND OLDER!!! THIS WILL BE ENFORCED!!!

POOL PARTIES: (all pool parties will be 2 hours long)

Up to 25 registered guests, the price will be \$225.00

26 – 50 registered guests, the price will be \$250.00

51 – 100 registered guests, the price will be \$300.00

101 – 150 registered guests, the price will be \$350.00

Unless special arrangements with the Village Administrator are made, there will be no parties larger than 150 guests. Every person, regardless of age, will be counted toward the total guests present.

BEHAVIOR AT THE POOL WILL BE MONITORED. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE YOU!!!

Depending on the degree of misbehavior, it could be 1 day, 1 week, or for the season.

BLOCK WATCH IS THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT FIREHOUSE. Everyone in the Village is encouraged to attend and learn as well as share concerns!

AS A RESULT OF LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE ON GRANT FUNDING, I received information from a resident about a private Trust that was looking to share funds in the form of a grant. As a result, I was able to write a grant request for \$9,000.00. I wrote concerning our need to construct a sidewalk along Marietta Road going from the downtown out to Howell Park. Thank you so much for offering this information. Are there opportunities where you work or organization you belong to? If there is, please contact me with the information! Let's keep our fingers crossed for the good fortune of this grant request being approved.

TO MY FRIENDS AT THE BREMEN DRIVE IN... hankering for a cherry slushy... just sayin'

Beginning May 7th, I will try having the Howell Park restrooms open from 8:00 – 4:30 during the day. With the cameras in the park able to see who approaches the restroom doors, we hope for no vandalism. Those who use the restrooms should report any needs they might find in the restroom, toilet paper or paper towels, etc. I hope this is a convenience for those who use the park during the week. I haven't worked out how to do this on the weekends. Would there be any volunteers to help?

A WORD ABOUT EMPTY HOUSES in the Village... There are several houses sitting empty in the Village. When the house is a rental, I am able to communicate with the owner if conditions around the house are not acceptable. The landlords have been very cooperative. However, when a house is in foreclosure or abandoned, we tend to have more issues. The financial institutions are generally slow in getting someone to mow the grass or do any upkeep. If you live beside such a residence, I know it has to be frustrating. Even my hands are mostly tied. The only thing I can do is, after notifying the owner, bank, etc., send a letter and then when no response is given, hire a contractor to come in and clean the mess. The Village then certifies the amount paid to the auditor's office to be added to the responsible party's taxes. Feel free to call me about such situations. I would caution all concerning "just doing it yourself". When you go on another's property you assume the risks involved. We try to stay current on the changes in the housing market but do not always know the full circumstances. I appreciate your help.

A WORD ABOUT OCCUPIED HOUSES in the Village... I have had to draft a letter that is friendly in nature, yet points out a need on a given property. We have rules for how a property is to be maintained. When I see something not appropriate, you will received this letter asking you to remedy the situation. Sometimes I think we just forget about things or lose awareness of how something looks. I hope a friendly letter will be a reminder and a condition doesn't continue to exist. At that point, I would have to have our code enforcer investigate the conditions. If you get a letter, it is friendly reminder and I trust you to clean up the issue of concern.

THE SHELTER HOUSE at Howell Park is being booked for picnics and gatherings. Please call and reserve the space for your special event. There is no charge for using the shelter. On Saturday and Sunday we try to schedule a lunch event and also a dinner event for the day.

THE VILLAGE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Memorial Day Monday, May 28th.

If your group or organization is wanting to sponsor an event using the Village streets, properties, or parks, you must fill out an Event Form and have it approved before hosting the event. Call or stop by the Village Office.

A WORD ABOUT YARD SALES... There are no forever yard sales. What I mean is there is no such thing as setting up your front yard for a yard sale and leaving it there for weeks on end. Can we just be kind and considerate with having a yard sale where we set it up, have the yard sale, and tear everything down. Last summer there were several where residents just left stuff in the front yard with tarps over it causing the front yard to be unsightly. No, there is no specific rule or law about this. I really don't want to write one, but I will if I need to. I am just asking that we be kind and considerate toward our neighbor and keep the Village looking like the nice place it is. THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! and THANK YOU!!!

KIDS ON BICYCLES... As school comes to a close, there is the need to remind our children the proper use of riding their bikes. There are laws for riding on the street in traffic. I am appealing to parents, grandparents, or whoever will be in charge of your children on a day to day basis. PLEASE GO OVER THE RULES AND LAWS FOR RIDING BIKES IN THE STREET. We want our children to be safe but we want them to also respect those driving vehicles. Go over the meaning of the road signs, where the dangerous intersections are, and especially if they are riding on Marietta Road coming out to Howell Park or riding on Broad Street to go to one of the gas stations to get a pop. Can you help me with this? I know you want the children in your life to be safe. Thanks for helping!!!

MANY PEOPLE MOVE in June and July. You MUST let the Village Office know if you are moving so we can handle your water bill and let you know your responsibilities for paying the balance. We are required to turn the water off and take a final reading. Only then will you know what you owe and not end up paying someone else's water because you didn't tell us. Even if you rent and your landlord pays the bill, we still need to know you have moved.

FAIRFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION is Sunday, June 3rd.

People who solicit door to door must have a permit from the Village and the Sheriff's Dept. When someone come to your door, your first question needs to be, "Do you have a permit?" Make them show it to you. If they don't have a permit, call the Village Office or if after our regular hours, call the Sheriff Dept. I seem to say this every month, but it is the truth, there are SCAMS all around us. Unfortunately, it isn't just a handshake anymore... Be Careful!!!

Well, a final thought (since I have an inch or so left)... To those who regularly drive our streets, please be watching for our children on bikes and walking along our streets and road. As adults, we should be the mature ones taking responsibility to be on the look-out for situations around us. I wish us a wonderful summer. Please use the swimming pool and Howell Park as much as you can. We are at your service, always working to make Bremen a better place in which to live and work. Wishing you always... happy and sunny days!!!