

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: Being one of four boys and growing up in a house where we were expected to share toys, clothes, and the evening meal, one would think we knew how to share. Actually, we did pretty well. I remember teaching my younger brother Greg how to share. He had a Creepy Crawler and later a Creeple People machine. Remember? You poured the goop into the molds and heated them up until you had a rubbery resemblance of a bug, or some kind of crawley thing or the head, arms and feet that you put on a pencil. I taught Greg to share with ME... I would trade a marble or something insignificant for a handful of those rubbery delectables. A Big Handful! In turn, I would go to school and sell the items for Big Profit... It was good until Mr. Cunningham called mom and dad.....

Anyway, I am thinking about sharing this month. I remember when our village bucket truck was out of commission and the Township workers came to the rescue with their truck and helped the Village with removing our Christmas decorations. Thank you Twp. Workers

The Village of Rushville began conversations with me about their Utility Billing. Their Utility Billing Clerk is retiring and that began the conversation about Shared Services. A proposal was presented to the Rushville Council based on the Village of Bremen's actual costs to perform such a service. After questions and discussion, the Rushville Village Council voted unanimously to contract with Bremen for their Utility Billing. We talked about other things we both do that could be combined into Shared Services. The Village of Rushville will actually save money by having Bremen do their billing and with the demise and loss of revenue from Superior Fibers this will give the Village of Bremen needed money to maintain office staff.

The Village needed some supplies and a person spoke up and said they had a connection with a company that would be willing to help the Village. Because that person spoke up, it saved the Village about \$500.00.

Another resident called me and said he had some equipment that would fit what the Village already owned and would I be interested. I am still working on this. I was glad for his call.

Shared Services is going to become more and more important. Are there services you could offer the Village? What you offer may not be needed today but kept in the back of my mind, there may be occasion where "just what you know" or "what you can contribute" may help.

Shared Services will help stretch all of our "Tax Dollars. Thanks for thinking about this!!!

We have an EPA Mandate with yearly goals to accomplish with our Storm Sewer separation project. This year, the goal requires us to run connector lines between Purvis and Fort on Collins, Mill, and Walnut. Once the connector lines are in place (Collins and Mill are finished) we will asphalt what has been tore out and get the streets back in shape.

The work on Fort St. is progressing nicely and at a faster pace with the break in the weather! As I write this we are about 100 feet from the Walnut St. intersection. Everything on the west side of Fort is now done including tearing out the whole street for about 150 feet in front of the funeral home! Morgan's Funeral Home was wonderful to work with and we tried to accommodate them during the times of calling hours and funerals. Mark and Sherri were so patient... It's no wonder the Village residents enjoy working with them in their time of need. Thanks to Mark and Sherri... Also a special thanks to all the home owners along Fort who are still watching and waiting... You do show "Bremen's Best".

The Lancaster Corvette Club has chosen Bremen for a special Fall Show to be held on October 5th at Howell Park. It is a great honor to have been chosen for the displaying of Corvettes and other beautiful cars. The show time will be announced later.

RECYCLE NEWS: A THIRD dumpster has been added for CARDBOARD ONLY. If your recyclables are in a box... you must empty the box in the other two dumpsters and either take your box back home for more or you must COMPLETELY TEAR DOWN FLAT the box before placing it in the third dumpster. PLEASE crush down your milk jugs and other items that take up space. We have been filling the dumpsters to capacity and need your help in creating space so we don't have recyclables laying on the ground in front of the dumpsters.

SPEAKING OF SHARED SERVICES: Does anyone have a trencher so we can run a water line for 720 feet out to the Baseball diamonds?

NEW SOCCER FIELDS are coming. Over the rest of the Spring and Summer, the Village will be working on new soccer fields in the three acre lot just north of East Main St at Howell Park. Lester and Yvonne Sharp have established a twenty year lease with the Village to use that land for soccer fields. This will keep our children from having to drive to Lancaster to practice and play their games. It is with deep appreciation we thank Lester and Yvonne for working with the Village to make this dream come true!!! Is there someone who can help with grass seed and fertilizer? Donations are always welcome!!!

BEGINNING MAY 6TH: it is our goal to have the Howell Park RESTROOMS open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (or later). With 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. Still figuring out the weekends!

The Village Offices will be closed on Memorial Day - Monday, May 27th

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

AMERICAN LEGION PANCAKES will be served every Sunday in May from 7 am – 11 am at the Legion Hall 201 North Broad St. I didn't see a cost but like they say, "Mark your calendars and loosen your belts because the pancakes are stacked right!"

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is scheduled for May 28th from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Bremen United Methodist Church at the corner of Walnut and Mulberry. Walk-ins welcome!!!

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY... Plan now for the **BREMEN COMMUNITY YARD SALE** set for Saturday, June 15th from 9:00 am til 3:00 pm. A day for "Happy Treasure Hunting".

THE HOSPICE CRUISE – IN will again be hosted by River Valley Rods and Customs in downtown Bremen on West Main St., August 11th from 11 am – 4:00 pm. For more info on this event – please contact Larry Mathias at 740-653-8659.

BREMEN ELEMENTARY to sponsor their **NATIONAL BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY** on May 9th in conjunction with their Health Fair activity which will be an all day event. They have received a number of donations of bike helmets for the children who ride their the bikes that day. There will also be a bike safety presentation during the Health Fair.

BREMEN ELEMENTARY BSAFFE COMMITTEE still has a number of garden plots. You may have one by calling the school and agreeing to the contract involved with the gardens

ALERT * ALERT * ALERT* : THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL PEOPLE GOING DOOR TO DOOR AND TRYING TO SOLICIT OR PANDER MONEY FROM VILLAGE RESIDENTS. THIS IS NOT ALLOWED OR APPROPRIATE. DO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR TO THEM!!! One person had a female come to her front door while a male had run around to her back door. Fortunately, she did not let the female in and sent her on her way. That's when she realized the male was at the back door and watched as he ran back to the front of the house. She called the Sheriff and described the pair to them... She is glad she did not let them in. Another resident offered to take another person to the Sunoco for gas and a sandwich. They refused the offer **BECAUSE THEY WANTED THE MONEY...** My dear friends: do not put yourself in a position to where you can become the victim or be seriously hurt... If it is during the day, during the evening, or late at night...**CALL 9-1-1 FIRST!!!** Remember – we have an officer on duty 40 hours a week and there is a Sheriff's Deputy in our sector of Rushville south through Bremen to the county line 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. **PLEASE CALL 9-1-1**

KUDOS AND SINCERE THANKS to all who participated in **HOOT'N & HOWL'N** at Howell Park on March 26th sponsored by Bremen Parks and the Fairfield Soil & Conservation Dist.

WHAT A MEANINGFUL CEREMONY was performed on April 20th as the Village of Bremen received a gift of a new flagpole in front of the Village Offices. The flagpole was donated and dedicated by the Bremen Masonic Lodge # 608. The procession was led by the Sons of the American Revolution, Past Grand Master Jack Allen read the Dispensation, Master Jeff Milligan offered the flagpole as a gift to the Village, and as the flags were raised the Fairfield Union Men's Ensemble sang the National Anthem. The American Legion donated the Flag. The Official Bremen Flag was raised under the Stars and Stripes. Thank You Masonic Lodge.

Don't forget... when on the playgrounds at Howell Park or putting recyclables in the dumpsters in the Recycle Center... YOU ARE ON CAMERA AND WE SEE YOU BEFORE YOU SEE US... Please be kind and respectful when on Village Property!!! Please pick up your trash and dispose of properly in our many trash cans throughout the Parks.

SUPPORT OUR AREA FARM FAMILIES at the Bremen's Farmers' Auction at 1511 Mount Zwingli Road, southwest of Bremen off Old Bremen Road. This will be the sale of local fruits and vegetables; hay sales; hanging plants and flower as well as garden bedding plants. The Auction will be open on Fridays during May but will also be open on Tuesday and Friday beginning in June at noon.

THANK YOU to the Bremen Scout Troop and Troy Tripp for leading our Arbor Day Celebration on April 21st at Howell Park. A Basswood Tree was planted.

If you desire to perform any construction whether it be buildings, add-ons to your house or garage, fences, porches, or any other construction – you must first secure a permit from the Village Office.

NEW SHELTER HOUSE REGULATIONS: If you wish to use the Shelter House at Howell Park there will be a FEE of \$20.00 with \$10.00 refunded provided everything is cleaned up and all litter and trash is disposed of properly. If you also wish to use the Concession Stand there will be a FEE of \$50.00 with \$25.00 refunded provided the above conditions are met.

Now that winter is over... ALL HOMEOWNERS: 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 receive 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. If it does, at that point I will ask our Zoning Code Enforcer to get involved.

OPENING DAY AT THE SWIMMING POOL IS SATURDAY, MAY 25TH. IT WILL ALSO BE "FREE" DAY. THE POOL WILL ALSO OPEN THAT SUNDAY AND MONDAY BUT NOT OPEN AGAIN UNTIL SCHOOL IS OUT ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY. POOL OPENS AT 12:00 NOON. FOR TICKET AND POOL PASS PRICING LOOK AT LAST MONTH'S NEWS-LETTER OR GO ON LINE AT www.bremenvillage.com

Well, my friends, wishing you warm and happy days. Keep a watch out for the kids on bikes and those walking as school lets out and heads us toward our beautiful summer months. Get out to a baseball game at Howell Park, use the Walking Tour Map and enjoy or get in the car for a nice ride out through Amish lands. I hope for you many quiet and peaceful evenings. Best Wishes Always... Douglas Hockman, Your Village Administrator