

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: In the last newsletter, Council asked for your input as to whether or not to put on the ballot the issue of alcohol sales. I have received 12 responses. I will give a final report to Council at our next meeting and really would like for you to weigh in with your thoughts before then. Council really desires your input so they can make the best decision for the Village. Putting something on the ballot takes a lot of work and necessary signatures. Council does not want this to be a waste of time. You can email me at administrator@bremenvillage.com or send a letter to P.O.Box 127, Bremen, Ohio 43107. Your response must be documented so no phone calls please.

For the full article go online to www.bremenvillage.com and click on the April Village Voice. It explains what the options are for alcohol sales in the village.

Parents: when you allow your children to come down to Howell Park, PLEASE direct them to use the sidewalk. We have already had a couple close calls with children riding their bikes out on Marietta Road instead of using the sidewalk. Please tell your kids!!!

Drivers: with the break in the weather, please drive with greater caution. Kids are on their bikes and scooters and they tend to not watch for traffic as closely as they should. Be aware of what is going on around you. Please stay within the posted speed limits and slower.

By the time you receive this newsletter, ODOT will be starting to grind and pave Route 664 from Rushville through Bremen to the Hocking County line. They are also doing Route 312 from Route 664 all the way down to Route 93 just outside of Logan. During this time please observe all signage and traffic directions. Plan for extra time due to stopped traffic. Because of the close timeline, I have put off paving Angle St. until ODOT is through the village with their paving. Be safe and let the state workers do their job without fear of vehicles infringing on their safety. You might consider using Bremen Road out through North Berne and over to Route 37 or Marietta Road out to Jerusalem Road depending on the direction you need to travel.

SWIMMING POOL NEWS: The base for the new diving board is in place and we are ready to bolt down the new structure. This brings the village into compliance with current regulations as to height and distance allowed for diving boards. It is also our wish to replace the concrete around the baby pool but I am not sure we will be able to do that this year. A lot depends on the weather and whether the village workers have time.

OPENING DAY AT THE SWIMMING POOL WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 24TH. IT WILL ALSO BE "FREE DAY". THE POOL WILL BE OPEN SUNDAY AND MONDAY OF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BUT WILL NOT OPEN AGAIN UNTIL SATURDAY, MAY 31ST DUE TO SCHOOL STILL BEING IN SESSION. THE POOL OPENS AT 12:00 NOON EACH DAY. PHONE: 740-438-8170

SWIMMING POOL HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday, Thursday, 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 and Wednesday 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

ADULT Season Pass (18 and older) \$80.00

YOUTH Season Pass (17 and younger) \$75.00

Household (up to 6 people living in the house) \$150.00

Other additional people in household \$25.00 each person

BABYSITTER on Household Pass is additional \$35.00

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

POOL PARTIES – NEW LOWER RATES FOR 2014

Up to 25 registered people (2 guards) (was \$225.00) \$175.00

26 – 50 registered people (3 guards) (was \$250.00) \$200.00

51 – 100 registered people (3 guards & supervisor) (was \$300.00) \$250.00

101 – 150 reg. people (3 guards & supervisor) (was \$350.00) \$300.00

There will be no Party larger than 150 people unless special arrangements are made with the Village Administrator and Pool Manager. Additional fees will apply. Groups having a Party will be allowed to bring in their own food. NO COOKING on the premises though.

PARENTS: Your child MUST HAVE FINISHED 4TH GRADE to be able to swim alone at the Bremen Pool. If they are not beyond 4th grade then they need to have a babysitter who is at least 16 years old or accompanied by a parent. There are no exceptions!

The pool has a new LIFT CHAIR for those with special needs who must have help getting in or out of the water. The weight limit is 250 pounds. I will caution all kids and parents by saying this is not something to be played on. Kids making poor choices will be set out for a time out or if repeated problems exist... could be expelled from the pool for a period of time. No bullying... no fighting... no foul language... no inappropriate behaviors!!!

I am happy to announce that Kendal Valesko will be returning as our Pool Manager. She has done a great job for the Village and has been a great role model for our Pool Staff and all who attend the Bremen Pool!!! The POOL PHONE NUMBER IS 740-438-8170

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING
MAY 8TH AND MAY 9TH
Use caution if doing laundry on these days!!!

The Bremen United Methodist Church will be hosting a Vintage Car Show following their Worship Service on May 4th 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.

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

STUDENTS – DON'T FORGET THE BREMEN LIBRARY IS OPEN ON SATURDAY!!! For those last minute research projects, they have the books and computers to help you...

BREMEN MASONIC LODGE GOLF OUTING: SATURDAY, MAY 17TH beginning at 9:00 am
The event will be held at the Estate Club Golf Course in Lancaster. The fun time will be a Four Person Scramble with a Shotgun Start. First Place wins \$200; Second Place wins \$100; Third Place wins \$50. Door Prizes will celebrate THE LONGEST DRIVE; CLOSEST TO THE PIN; AND THE LONGEST PUTT. The cost is \$60.00 per person and Lunch is included. Contact David Mowry at 740-503-8958 for information and registration.

PANCAKES AT THE BREMEN AMERICAN LEGION every Sunday morning during May. They will stack them high from 7:00 am until 11:00 am. The Legion is at 201 N. Broad St. The American Legion thanks you for your support.

THE BREMEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY YARD SALE will be Saturday, June 21st from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Plan your route and hit all the hot spots for your treasures!!!

THE ANNUAL ART IN THE YARD will be held at the Bremen – Bethel Presbyterian Church front yard at the corner of Purvis and Walnut on June 21st. Picture will be priced at \$5.00 and \$10.00. The Church will also be serving their wonderful lunch from 11:00 to 2:00.

FREE LUNCH SCHEDULE for Faith Apostolic Tabernacle on Oak Street. Saturday, May 24th; and June 21st. The meal is served from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm. Use the side door. 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.

HAVE YOU TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE HOMESTEAD TAX BREAK? The deadline to apply for the Homestead Tax Break is JUNE 2, 2014. This is for homeowners 65 years old and older. There is no income limitations. Go to the Fairfield County Auditor's website or stop by their office in the Fairfield County Courthouse. More than 10,500 homeowners in Fairfield County were enrolled in this program last year. Those homeowners saw a reduction in their annual real estate taxes by an average of more than \$350.00.

THE RIVER VALLEY RODS AND CUSTOMS will sponsor their HOSPICE CRUISE – IN on August 10th at Howell Park to the east of Downtown Bremen. The event will be from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. There will be prizes for many different categories. For more information contact Larry Mathias at 740-653-8659 or email scooter127@columbus.rr.com.

Don't forget the weekly Farmer's Produce Auction. In May, the auction will be on Fridays until May 20th which is the first Tuesday it will be held. From the 20th on, the auction will be every Tuesday and Friday through the month of October. The auction begins at 12:00 noon.

AS WE BEGIN MOWING GRASS... Please DO NOT BLOW YOUR GRASS into the street. When you blow the grass into the street the grass is washed into the catch basins causing a matting of the grass and subsequent clog that blocks the storm sewer line.

YES – BREMEN HAS A CURFEW: If you are under the age of 18 you must be off the streets between the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. Our Sheriff Deputy will enforce this curfew and there will be legal consequences should a child under 18 be caught out on the street. If you are 16 and older and coming home from work in a vehicle, you will be excused upon showing proof of where you work and can show you are in fact headed home.

The RESTROOMS IN HOWELL PARK will be open by May 1st or sooner. The village workers are working on the facilities as I write this. They will be opened in the morning and locked in the evening. Also, remember when on the playground at Howell Park or over around the village buildings, YOU ARE ON CAMERA and we see you before you see us. Please pick up your trash and dispose it properly in our many trash cans throughout the Park...

PET OWNERS: your dog must be on a leash at all times when in the park. Please bring your own pet-waste baggy or use one found in the boxes around the walking path. Please keep our Park in a sanitary condition and by doing so show your respect for others in the Park.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RESERVE THE SHELTER HOUSE... On the weekends we provide the shelter house for a lunch slot 11:00 – 4:00 and a dinner slot from 4:30 to dusk. It is important to do this so more families can take advantage of the shelter house. Please call Fran at 569-4788 to reserve the facilities and to get the fees involved for using electric and the concession stand as well as the CONTRACT that expresses the village's expectations.

PERMITS are a vital necessity if you are building any size structure as well as all swimming pools, fences and even sheds that are moveable and not permanent, need a permit!!! Call Fran at the village office – 740-569-4788.

As the Spring warms us toward Summer I want to say a SPECIAL THANK YOU as we celebrate Mother's Day this month. That "thank you" goes to Marilyn Hockman, my mom. She has been and is a person who continues to nurture and encourage me. I will never forget how before going to school each morning, she would share a devotional with us boys. As I look back, that was an important part of my and my brother's spiritual development. I love you mom and thank you for being the mother you have been to me. May all of us find the positive impact our mothers have had on all of us. Wishing you warm & happy days!!!

LET'S GO OUT TO A BALL GAME...

Howell Park is the host to many baseball games! Below are the dates and times of the current schedule:

Saturday	May 3 rd	Games at 10:00 am; 12:00 noon; and 2:00 pm
Thursday	May 8 th	Games at 6:00 pm
Saturday	May 10 th	Games at 10:00 am;
Saturday	May 17 th	Games at 10:00 am; 1:00 pm; 6:00 pm
Tuesday	May 20 th	Games at 6:00 pm;
Thursday	May 22 nd	Games at 6:00 pm
Thursday	May 29 th	Games at 6:00 pm
Friday	May 30 th	Games at 6:00pm
Saturday	May 31 st	Games at 10:00 am; 3:30 pm
Tuesday	June 3 rd	Games at 6:00pm
Thursday	June 5 th	Games at 6:00 pm
Saturday	June 7 th	Games at 10:00 am; 1:00 pm
Tuesday	June 10 th	Games at 6:00 pm
Thursday	June 12 th	Games at 6:00 pm
Saturday	June 14 th	Games at 10:00 am; 2:00 pm; 4:00 pm

Let's go out to the baseball games and support our young people!!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who showed up Sunday, April 27th to discuss the up coming curb and gutter project on Strayer Ave. This group of Strayer Ave residents were very helpful in discussing the potential difficulties with parking and traffic flow. This group will continue meeting to further map out a plan of action to help everyone on Strayer. The next meeting will be Thursday evening, May 22nd at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at Howell Park offices. Any others who live on Strayer are welcome to join us and share input.

DO YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME TO VOLUNTEER AT THE PARK???

The Village has numerous projects that we can use some help with. In order to come into compliance with our insurance policy we need to do some repair work on the play equipment and add pea gravel in the existing area as well as an area where play equipment sits on the grass. All the play ground equipment needs painted and we can use you to help keep the flower beds weeded. Let me know how you can help by email: administrator@bremenvillage.com or call me at the office 569-4788 ext. 2.

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT: www.bremenvillage.com

This month will be the anniversary of my coming to Bremen as your administrator. As I start my fourth year, I am pleased with the progress the village is making. Our infrastructure is improving each year. We are fortunate to have received the grant monies that we have.

Since my coming the village has accomplished or is in the process of accomplishing:

The Storm Separation Trunk Line at a cost of \$500,000. \$300,000 in grant money.

Our Water and Waste Water team continues the Storm / Sanitary separation work on our own saving the village several MILLION dollars by doing the project as we are able instead of outsourcing the work.

New Curbs and Gutters and repositioning of the bricks on Fort St. at a cost of \$268,00

This was an OPWC Grant.

New sidewalk from downtown to Howell Park with Marten's Trust at a cost of \$12,500.

All new pumps and electrical updates at the Waste Water Treatment Plant at a cost of \$75,000.00.

Established a working relationship with Rushville whereby we now do all their Utility Billing which brings \$11,000.00 of revenue to the village. We are also working on other projects which will benefit Bremen and Rushville.

Block Grants that provided new Handicap Ramps for \$39,600.00 on Marietta St.

Major renovations and beautification of Howell Park with a special thank you to David and Debbie Wolfe and village workers.

New Curbs and Gutters and in-kind labor to reposition the bricks coming for Strayer Ave. starting this summer for \$168,000 with our OPWC Grant.

In 2015 - 2016 Safe Routes to School Grant. We have already been awarded a grant of \$340,000 for sidewalks, cross walks, signage, and flashers on Strayer and Angle Streets.

Just our Grant projects have a total value in excess of \$1,338,000.00. This is a great accomplishment between grant monies and the village's in-kind labor and minor financial contributions. The other monies the village has spent show fiscal responsibility to extend the tax payer's money.

This is just a list of major projects while much, much more is accomplished on a day to day basis with the work of our village workers.

SHRED - IT DAY will be hosted by the Bremen Bank in LANCASTER this year at the branch on 1971 West Fair Ave. on June 7th from 10:00 - 12:00 noon.

SECOND ANNUAL BREMEN 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT IS COMING IN JULY!!! The event will be July 19th at the parking lot at Bremen Elementary. The registration is still just \$100.00 for a team of 4 players. For more information, contact Paul McCray at 740-215-9841. Further information will be in the next newsletter. All the participants had a great time last year. This year promises to be even bigger and better!!!