

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR DOUGLAS HOCKMAN

THOUGHTS: Well, November is upon us. As the weather takes on the Autumn chill, I have been scrambling to finish up projects in the Village. I was thinking the other night that one might entertain the thought of Bremen not having any homeless. While it is true that no one lives under Rushcreek bridge or sleeps on the benches in Dowling Park or hides in Howell Park at night; there are numerous persons and families in need. As we approach the Holidays, please be aware of needs you see. Many of our single parent families live at or below the poverty level. Especially where children are concerned, let us keep them close to our hearts and our charitable giving. Throughout this winter, our Food Pantry at Calvary UMC is going to need our help. Pick up one or two extra items each time you grocery shop and donate to the cause. We all can at least do that. Thanks.

There has been a **PROCLAMATION** issued to the Village Residents from our Mayor, Tad Moyer; and the Village Council. This Proclamation declares November 6th- 12th as "VOLUNTEER AND HELP A NEIGHBOR WEEK". Village residents are asked and encouraged to take the initiative and responsibility to volunteer and help. This may be helping a neighbor, the Village, or a renewed commitment to an organization where you belong. Regardless, whether it is a simple project or large project, find the energy and desire to be of help to something other than for yourself. You will have such a warm feeling from doing good just for the sake of doing good!!! This week long effort will bring much goodwill and expressions of love toward each other and our Village of Bremen. The complete Proclamation is hanging in the main hall of the Village Offices.

I was so glad to see the great turnout for the PUMPKIN WALK. It was a great evening and the "pumpkin drop" from the Fire Dept.'s Ladder Truck extended way up in the air was a special joy for the young and old alike! A Very Special Thank You to Kelley & Troy Tripp, Coordinator for the event and all those who volunteered time and effort!!!!!!

As you have been watching the work on Marietta Street progress, we have had to face a big weather obstacle with all the rain. As you receive the Voice, we should be paving the Broad St. / Marietta St intersection and getting it back open. Everyone on Marietta from Broad St up through the 400 block received a flyer with information as to how the project will progress west up to the Oak St. storm sewer tie-in. Marietta St. residents: You will have your recycling, trash, and leaves picked up the same as always!

Please continue to rake your leaves INTO PILES down at the curb for the Village to pick up. I ask for piles because I need you to rake the leaves in the areas where your vehicles are parked. Otherwise, the leaves lying under your vehicles and will be a bigger mess once the snow and ice come our way. When you see the Village Workers tell them what a GREAT JOB they have been doing. We still collect limbs and debris every Monday morning as we drive throughout the Village cleaning out the storm sewer catch basins.

BREMEN ELEMENTARY PTO RECYCLING FUNDRAISER: Protect the environment by donating your used cell phones, inkjets, laptop / notebook computers, iPods, digital cameras, & digital video cameras. They will be recycled and sold. Please drop off your used consumer electronics at the Bremen Elementary School.

A Wonderful Thank You to the Chamber of Commerce for providing an informative evening at the Election Forum held at the Historical Society. It was great to listen to unbiased presentations on the State Issues and to hear from candidates running for office in the Village and Township.

THERE IS NO OPEN BURNING OF FALL LEAVES OR TRASH IN THE VILLAGE OF BREMEN

THE EVENING EDITION OF COFFEE WITH THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE OFFICES ON NOVEMBER 3RD FROM 6:00 – 7:15. There will be NO morning session. The December session will be Dec. 1st at the usual place on Main St.

Dr. James Grilliot will be at the Bremen Bulk Foods & Mercantile - November 22nd at 7:00 in the evening speaking on the topic “MINDLESS EATING” Come and get healthy!

Please do not put out your trash until Wednesday evening. Be kind and considerate to your neighbors and how your neighborhood looks! We do have a 24 hour law!

GAZEBO UPDATE: The Committee is working hard. Our Design Team is working on size and shape while Fund Raising is launching their first fund raiser. Please share in the VISION of having a Gazebo downtown from which the Village and Township residents will enjoy many different forms of entertainment. The goal of the committee is to have the financial support come from the Village residents and friends in the Township. The gazebo is for all of us, whether we use it as individuals, or community organizations, or as a center for our Cultural Arts with exhibits and concerts. The material costs will be our largest expense. We hope to utilize as much volunteer effort as we can. You can share a gift by contacting me at the Village Office or make donations at Bremen Bulk Foods. All funds will be accounted for through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office since the Gazebo Committee is an ad hoc committee of the Village Council. Help us bring another measure of restoration and revitalization to the downtown area of Bremen.

Speaking of restoration and revitalization, have you seen the Concession Stand and Restroom Building at Howell Park? My call for volunteers brought several together who launched into this project. The building had fallen into severe disrepair. Much of the siding had to be replaced. Most of the trim boards had rotted. All of this has been replaced and new paint applied. We will be replacing the roof as soon as weather allows and adding a cupola to the roofline. The bathrooms are being made ADA compliant and our hope is to have the restrooms open to the public each day from mid April into November (depending on weather). It is my goal to always have them available when activities are going on in Howell Park. The color theme is based on the colors of the official Bremen Flag. This will look so nice when we host the First Annual Jim Knisley Ohio Classic Horseshoe Tournament next summer. I didn't have enough volunteers to get the playground equipment painted but that can wait until Spring.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 11/1 Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet at Historical Society 6:00 pm
Tickets are \$12.00 at the door. State of Village & Township addresses
- 11/1 Bremen Elem. Market Day Pick Up from 6:30 – 7:30
- 11/3 Coffee with the Village Administrator EVENING EDITION at 6:00 at the
Village Offices. Hope to see you!
- 11/3 Budget and Finance Committee at Village Offices; 7:00
- 11/5 Turkey Dinner at Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church from 4:00 – 7:00
Adults \$7.00 and Children 12 and under \$3.50
- 11/7 Bremen Elem. parent-teacher conferences; 4:30 – 8:30 pm
- 11/8 Elem. students go to High School for Marching Falcons In concert
- 11/9 Block Watch meets at Firehouse; 7:00 pm Come and Join Us!!!
- 11/10 Bremen Elem. parent-teacher conferences; 4:30 – 8:30 pm
- 11/11 Veteran’s Day... Please hang your flag in honor of our Veterans
- 11/11 Bremen Elem. LATE ARRIVAL... School starts at 11:20 am
- 11/14 Bremen Village Council Meeting at Village Offices; 7:00 pm
- 11/15 Bremen Elem. PTO Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 11/16 Zoning, Property Maintenance & Planning; at Village Office; 6:30 pm
- 11/16 Design and Review Board at Village Office; 8:00 pm
- 11/17 Safety Committee at Village Office; 7:00 pm
- 11/20 Community Thanksgiving Worship Service at Bremen Bethel Presbyterian
Church 7:00 pm. Bring nonperishable food donations.
- 11/21 Bremen Elem. Columbus Zoo Outreach Program “Wild Wonders”
- 11/21 Policy & Grants Committee at Village Office; 7:00 pm
- 11/22 Bremen Community BLOODMOBILE 1:00 – 7:00 pm. Call Judy Sherlock
to make an appointment (preferred) but walk-ins are accepted.
Held at Bremen United Methodist Church, corner of Walnut & Mulberry
- 11/22 Water & Sewer Committee at Village Office; 7:00 pm
- 11/23 – 25 Thanksgiving Break... No School
- 11/24 Thanksgiving... Village Offices Closed
- 11/25 Village Offices Closed
- 11/28 No School for grades 5 – 12 ONLY
- 11/28 Bremen Elem. Market Day Pick Up from 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- 12/1 Coffee with Village Administrator at Bremen Bulk Foods; 9:00 – 10:30
- 12/1 Budget and Finance Committee at Village Offices; 7:00 pm
- 12/1 NEXT TO NEW SALE at Bremen United Methodist 9:00 – 5:00
- 12/2 NEXT TO NEW SALE at Bremen United Methodist 9:00 – 12:00
- 12/17 Bremen’s Lighted Christmas Parade; 5:30 pm
- 12/19 Your Village Administrator’s Birthday (remember – Snickers Bars)
(The day I was born, Bremen had a SNOW STORM!!!) lol
- 12/24 Christmas Eve. Village Offices Closed
- 12/25 Christmas Day, Village Offices Closed
- 12/31 New Year’s Eve. Village Offices Closed
- 1/1 New Year’s Day Village Offices Closed

Do you know someone (including yourself) that has need for some help with groceries or clothing? I know it is a touchy subject and most of us would have trouble asking for help. However, there is help available to those with genuine need. All you need to do is call three numbers... 211 Yep... 211. This is the Information Referral Number. They will ask your name, what your food or clothing need is, and a way for someone to get back to you. This Information Referral Number works through the Food Pantry.

Speaking of the Food Pantry. During the week of November 13th through 18th you will receive a grocery sack on your porch. As much as you are able, please fill this bag with nonperishable goods. It will be picked up by the Fire Dept. Ladies' Auxillary on Saturday, November 19th. This will all go to the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry personnel ask that if you wish to give a MONETARY DONATION... please put in an envelope and give it to any of the churches or drop it off at the Village Office. Nonperishable items can also be dropped off at the Village Offices between 8:00 - 3:30 Monday through Friday if a church site is not convenient.

If you are in genuine need for a CHRISTMAS BASKET to help with your Holiday meals then you MUST SIGN UP at the "Next To New Sale" held at the Bremen United Methodist Church on DECEMBER 2nd between 9:00 - 5:00 or DECEMBER 3rd between 9:00 - 12:00. There is already appearing to be an even greater need than last year; so it is important that you sign up. If you do not sign up, you will not be eligible for a Christmas Basket. The "Next To New Sale" will be at the Bremen United Methodist Church, at the corner of Walnut and Mulberry Streets in Bremen.

As winter approaches, the Village is in good hands. Our Contract for Rock Salt has been awarded to American Rock Salt Co. We have 80 ton on order and are committed to purchasing at least 50 ton. This was negotiated through the Ohio Department of Transportation. Our first shipment will arrive mid-November. We have a current inventory of about 35 ton in our salt shelter.

How can I not mention the ONE AND ONLY LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE... Are you making your plans to be represented in this great evening of fun? The downtown businesses will be open for your enjoyment before and after the parade. Let's get excited and in the Holiday Spirit as we work toward this night of Wonder and Awe. Questions can be directed to our Chamber of Commerce by calling 569-9150.

Approaching Thanksgiving gives me pause to reflect. I am so grateful to be your Village Administrator. I am not perfect and I know I will not meet everyone's expectations. As I come to work each day, you are in my mind. I drive around the Village looking for projects and things that need done. Some things I can do right away, others have to go on the back burner for another day or time of the year. I am seeking out "Grant" monies to help extend your tax dollars and help keep our Village financially in good health. Having lived 37 years outside the Village, I know just how wonderful Bremen is and how lucky we are to be here. If you have only lived here, please trust me when I say living in Bremen is a dream others can only imagine. Happy Thanksgiving To All!!!!

