

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

9090 Marietta Road SE
Bremen, Ohio 43107

740-569-4788 Office
740-569-7085 Fax Number

administrator@bremenvillage.com
www.bremenvillage.com

THOUGHTS: When you receive this newsletter, I will have finished my time as your Village Administrator. I have taken another position with a private foundation. November 1st is my first day with my new job.

It has been a joy to serve you, the village residents. I trust you feel the same about me. A lot has been accomplished. I am in my fourth year with you.

When I came, I inherited the storm sewer trunk line project. After dealing with easement issues, the project proceeded and was accomplished. The project provided for a three foot storm sewer main line from Rushcreek all the way up Marietta Street. We had a grant for \$300,000.00 and the Village paid an additional \$250,000.00 for our part of the grant. In addition to the grant project, we have added connector lines on the existing storm water separation. This EPA mandated project is now about 85% finished. We are currently working on 1200 feet of storm water separation on South Mulberry. We have until December, 2016, to finish all the storm separation sewers.

Howell Park has come alive during my time here. One of the first projects in Howell Park was refurbishing the Horseshoe Pits. We replaced the dry rotted wood on the backstops and painted the fencing. There is a new storage barn to house the Horseshoe Pitching Assoc. supplies. The Horseshoe Pits have new lights which are an upgrade to the ones that were in place. The Horseshoe Pitchers' Assoc. paid for half the cost. Along with this, the concession stand was refurbished with new wood and roof. The restrooms have been upgraded to handicap accessibility. The shelter house at the park and at the swimming pool have been renovated and painted. The baseball dugouts have been repaired and painted. All the fencing in Howell Park, swimming pool, and waste water plant has been painted silver. The oil derrick pump was painted and recently a light was placed to shine up on the derrick at night. The electric has been upgraded throughout the park with new lights at the baseball diamond and on the tennis courts. A separate power line was run out to the oil derrick. The power lines have been brought up to code with new power boxes and cable. Recently, a new water fountain was added to the park for people and dogs.

The electric in Dowling Park has been upgraded with new boxes and outlets on the side of the Wilson Building. Prior to this, the electric was up the power pole. The outlets were illegal and not grounded. These were a real hazard to anyone plugging in to them. The three circuits provide ample power for any activity in the downtown region. There is currently a community committee working to renovate Dowling Park led by Mary Hoffman.

With a grant from the Marten's Trust (a private foundation) we were able to build the sidewalk and curb and gutter along Marietta Road. It was a \$9,000.00 grant with \$3,000.00 of our park monies. John Seifert Construction did the work. The Marten's Trust is in memory of their son who passed away at an early age. This private trust is managed by PNC bank out of Cleveland. Next year we will run a rockhound and clean up the area between the curb and sidewalk. Top soil will be spread and several gardens will be constructed.

The property at 136 Marietta was completely renovated and brought up to code. It was a storage area for the Chamber. After cleaning it out, all new upgraded lighting was installed, walls painted, new ceiling, new flooring, and the restroom expanded to ADA compliance. New windows and doors were installed as well. All the plumbing was upgraded. Upstairs in the apartment, a new water heater, new commode, new flooring was installed in the bathroom and kitchen, and new air conditioning was installed. The Utility Billing clerk was moved up to the newly renovated office.

All the overhead lights in the Council Chamber were upgraded with new energy efficient lighting. An office was built for the Clerk-Treasurer and all the interior walls through out the building were painted, an entrance overhang was added to the front of the building as well as new window treatment for all the windows.

I negotiated with Rushville to contract with them to do their Utility Billing. They agreed and pay Bremen \$11,000.00 a year. This covers almost half the salary of our Utility Billing Clerk. This is a huge cost savings to the Village. Other projects have been a part of our conversation with our friends in Rushville. One for the future is the laying of a sanitary line from West Rushville to Bremen to provide for waste disposal keeping Rushville from having to build their own Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The Village received a grant from OPWC for the replacing of the curbs and gutters on Fort St. We had a mild winter in 2012 so work continued most of the winter. We had 18 months to finish the project and came in exactly at 12 months. The grant paid for the new curbs and gutters while we provided in-kind labor of repositioning the bricks. \$267,000.00 project. While the project tried all our patience, Fort St. is a beautiful example of what can be!!!

Another Block Grant provided for 8 new handicap ramps on Marietta St. totaling \$36,900.00. We will be eligible for another Block Grant next year.

Angle St. was paved this year along with the alley between Mulberry and Broad St. Then Angle and Marietta were striped. The total for this project was almost \$54,500.00. We had the good fortune of ODOT paving Rt. 664 (Broad St.) from Rushville to the Fairfield / Hocking County line as well as Rt. 312 all the way to Rt. 93 near Logan.

Three new water lines were added to Howell Park; one going to the Baseball Concession Stand, one to the new water fountain, and a spigot out near the Butterfly garden.

The storm water catch basins have been painted each year while this year we have painted all the fire hydrants red.

The Waste Water Treatment is in great shape. When the large screw pumps went down, we replaced all the pumps with new submersible pumps. To replace the screw pumps the cost would have approached \$500,000.00. Instead, the submersible pumps and engineering cost the Village only \$70,000.00. These should be good for years to come

Current and future grants that been awarded have three main projects. The first is the soccer fields. The field has been sown with grass which will be ready in the Spring. A machine to line the field has been bought and the soccer goals have been purchased. The new parking area came in well under budget due to using the grindings off of Angle St. and providing a better surface on which to park. Handicap ramps still need to be made connecting the street with the sidewalk at three points and access down onto the field needs to be put in place on the southwest corner of the fields.

The second is the installation of new curbs and gutters along Strayer. Council has delayed the project until Spring, 2015. Newcomer Concrete Services have agreed to the delay as long as we do both sides at the same time. Should Council split the job in the Spring, then the Village will have to pay a penalty for the further delay. This project will be similar to Fort St. Newcomer will replace the curbs and gutters and the Village workers will remove and reposition the brick street after the curbs and gutters are in place.

The third is the SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL... This is \$340,000.00 of free money that will begin in Fall of 2015 and run through 2016 maybe into 2017. This provides for new sidewalks, crosswalks, and safety signage along Angle St. and Strayer Ave. (in places).

We have been on a roll with these grants. It is my wish the Village continues to provide "Match" monies to make further grants possible.

Along with my work in the Village, I have served as Secretary of the District Advisory Council to the Health Dept., and sat on the Regional Planning Commission for Fairfield County. It has been my pleasure to represent Bremen on these commissions.

FOOD DRIVE: The Youth Group from First United Methodist will be delivering paper grocery bags to every home between November 16 – 19. The Ladies' Auxillary from the Fire Dept. will gather the bags on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND BETWEEN 8:00 AM AND 12 NOON. The request is for non-perishable foods. CASH DONATIONS will be accepted. You can place it in your bag or put a note on your sack to knock on your door to collect. Food donations are always received at our churches when you attend services.

The Bremen First United Methodist Church will have their NEXT TO NEW SALE on December 5th from 9 am – 5 pm and December from 9 am – 12 noon. Gentle used items that are in good shape are needed for their sale. Contact the church with your donation.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A FOOD BASKET AT CHRISTMAS..... You MUST sign up for a basket at the NEXT TO NEW SALE at the Bremen United Methodist Church. This is the only sign up

and you will not be eligible should you not sign up. See the above dates and times. The Basket Give Away will be on December 20th.

The Chamber of Commerce voted earlier this year to NOT HAVE the Lighted Christmas Parade any longer. So there will be NO PARADE this year.

PROJECT DELAY... The project on Strayer has been delayed until Spring. Council decided to delay the project due to finances and the lateness of the Fall start of the project. Council also decided to keep the one way in force until the project begins in the Spring. So the traffic patterns will remain in effect permanently until the project is finished. Thank you to the folks on Strayer who are cooperating and understand.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR VILLAGE: We need TWO ADULT VILLAGE RESIDENTS to serve on the Zoning Commission. The Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The meetings generally last 1 to 1 ½ hours. You will deal with Zoning issues and issues of Property Maintenance. Call the Village Office if you are interested... 569-4788.

LEAF PICKUP has begun. Please be patient. The guys have a routine for pick up so we will get to your street. Please rake your leaves into piles on the street leaving room for vehicles to park and not set on the leaves. There is NO BURNING of leaves in the Village.

THE RESTROOMS in Howell Park are now locked and closed for the year. There will remain the Porta John at the east end of the park by the basketball courts.

SCHOOL STUDENT PICK UP CHANGE: Instead of all the traffic back up on Angle St., beginning October 27th we will move traffic onto Ford St from Angle St. Ford St. will be one way running west to Strayer. This is a permanent change until the Strayer Ave. project is complete. Parents will proceed west on Ford then left at Stuart Burial Vaults and follow the pick up route through the school parking lot and then back west on Ford St. to Strayer. This is a small adjustment to the current traffic pattern. It allows us to move 12 cars or so off Angle onto Ford making the wait on Angle not so long.

The Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church will host their Annual Turkey Dinner on November 1st from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The cost is \$7.50 for adults and children 12 and younger is \$4.50. Carry out is available. They will also be hosting their bake sale so bring a few extra dollars for some scrumptious baked goods.

The Bremen Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting will be held at the Historical Society on November 11th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00. The evening will be highlighted with the State of the Village and State of the Township addresses.

The Historical Figures will be placed around town beginning November 8th and running through January 10th. For your Driving Tour Through Yesteryear begin at the Historical Society for tour maps and more information.

YOU ARE INVITED to the Bremen Elementary School to attend their Annual Veterans Day Program. The program will be at the school on November 11th at 3:00 pm. The school invites all local veterans and current military personnel to attend as well as any who are interested in seeing the program. The students will be presenting the program in honor of the veterans. You can RSVP by phone at 569-4135 or email to RoseAnnElliot@fairfield-union.k12.oh.us

PLEASE NOTE: IN RECENT WEEKS... I have noticed a number of dogs running loose in the Village. I have reports of people while walking their dogs, free running dogs came charging at their dogs. This is a dangerous situation. **ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES!!!**

DISCOVER WELLNESS: Our Mission is to “help people become a better version of themselves.” People treat at the Wellness Center in order to change their life and in particular their health. But, every person who wants to change must start with a passion for action. It takes time and an ocean of emotional energy to face the reality that for many to improve their health means to conquer the excess weight and admit the need for change. Because many dieters believe that every encounter with food holds the potential for either accomplishment or diet disaster, they are always alert and on guard. People who have never had to lose weight or have not worked at improving their health do not understand how exhausting the process can be. If you are going to expend all that energy for change, you should get something more than broken promises and/or disappointment. You deserve to get something that empowers you for your efforts! Most individuals must be willing to 1) change their mind, 2) change their eating style, 3) change their loyalty to food. You are more than just food. You can be stronger than a craving. YOU are more complicated than a habit, and you are more thoughtful than mindless eating. For help, support, and accountability contact Dr. James Grilliot at the Natural Wellness Center on West Main St. in downtown Bremen.

A WORD ABOUT UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS:

- 1.) **THE DEADLINE** for the Village Office to receive your payment is the 20th of the month before 3:00 pm. If the 20th falls on Saturday or Sunday then the deadline is with the mail or bank deposit on the Monday following the 20th.
- 2.) Payment at the **BANK** does not guarantee we will receive your payment by the deadline. Payment **ON THE 20TH** after 3:00 pm at the Bank is **DELINQUENT**.
- 3.) Methods of payment include: Payment at the Village Office, by Postal Service, monthly payment set up with your bank, payment at Bremen Bank in Bremen or Lancaster only (delays are possible) or the drop box at the office at 9090 Marietta Road.

FUND RAISER: The Bremen United Methodist Church is selling coupon books for Elder Beerman Stores. The books are full of coupons that are good on November 14th & 15th. The cost is \$5.00 per book. They can be purchased by contacting a member of the church or by calling the church at 740-569-4220. Leave a message and times as to how to reach you. Let's help support the United Methodist Church in their fundraiser... Buy several books and pass them out to your family and friends.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

The Village of Bremen, Ohio, is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Village Administrator. The person appointed will report to the Mayor and will provide administrative direction; supervises the activities of assigned personnel; advises employees on proper operations and procedures; directs the management and operation of all Utility, Street, and Park Activities. This candidate will be responsible for budget, planning, economic development, and grant writing activities. A complete job description can be requested via email from joshbremen@gmail.com

The candidate will have a high school diploma or general education degree (GED), completion of college level course work in public or business administration. A Minimum of five (5) years experience in professional supervisory and management in municipal government and public utility operations; or any equivalent combination of training and experience. This candidate should possess excellent communication and leadership skills.

Please submit resume to Josh R. Groce, Mayor, Village of Bremen, 9090 Marietta Road, P.O. Box 127, Bremen, Ohio 43107 or via email at joshbremen@gmail.com. Interested individuals must submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 pm October 31, 2014.

My final thoughts:

There is a real need for residents to get involved on the Council and committees in the Village. I always heard misinformation in the week following Council, the result of rumors. ATTEND your Council meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. To speak at Council, one must contact the village office (569-4788) before 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting and be put on the agenda.

I wish the Village nothing but progress and successful projects in the years ahead. I hope with the work that has been done, you see what can be and dream for the future of Bremen.

It has been a joy to return to my hometown and renew relationships from my childhood. I have nothing but pride for who Bremen is and has been through the decades. The accomplishments of the past number of years are burnt into my heart and am happy to have been a part of it all.

As I move on, I wish for you all... Warm and Happy Days...