

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR DOUGLAS HOCKMAN

THOUGHTS: HOLIDAYS, A NEW YEAR, THINGS THAT MATTER MOST...

Happy Holidays to one and all!!! I send this newsletter with the warmest of wishes yet with some seasonal warnings for all of us to think about. First, the warmest of wishes... I hope for each and every one of you a time of blessing, family and fun. If you are facing the holidays with illness or with the illness of a loved one; I wish for you peace in your heart. If family is far away and you are apart this season; I encourage you to think of the love that bridges the distance and gives you warm reassurance. May those things that matter most be the things that make the season bright.

There have been several instances that have come to my attention that warrants seasonal warning: This time of year there are a lot of people going door to door. There is NO soliciting door to door in Bremen unless they have a permit. Your FIRST question is... Do you have a permit? If they don't, then contact the Village Office with all the information you can get about them including the vehicle they are driving and license plate number. There are a lot of SCAMS this time of year. If you choose for someone to do work for you... DO NOT GIVE THEM THE MONEY UNTIL THE JOB IS DONE TO YOUR SATISFACTION!!!!. There are a lot of people raising money for "causes". Make sure the "cause" is real by asking for literature with a phone number you can call and verify. Be wary of people who stop and say "something is wrong with your house" whether it is the roof, chimney, or whatever... If you have not seen a problem, thank them for bringing it to your attention and YOU will check it out. Get their information and price as well as several other companies.

Please keep your garage doors shut at all times; make sure your windows are locked; be aware of any "smells" and have them checked out; keep a bag of ice melt at home and in your car; do not leave keys hidden under the mat or behind a downspout; or under a decoration. A thief is a thief and will look for any way to get into your home and rob (or possibly hurt) you. Keeping outside lights on is a great deterrent. It may cost a little extra on your electric bill BUT it could save you from becoming a victim.

From now until the end of winter... make a plan to check on your elderly neighbors and those who have limited mobility. Check on those neighbors that you know have been sick or had surgery...

As we move to the end of the year please express thanks and best wishes to our Mayor, Tad Moyer who will be leaving office as mayor but who was elected to the Council; Farewell to Susan Schoenlaub who is leaving as a councilperson. We welcome Josh Groce who won the mayoral election and say thank you to Sherman Prince for a great effort running a close second to Josh. We welcome Carl Graham as the other person elected to Council and a thank you to the others who also ran for Council.

As you read this newsletter, the huge storm water separation project on Marietta is finished or almost finished. As of 11/25, all the pipe was in place and now the clean up and last of the asphalt should be coming close to completion. Thank you, everyone, for your patience and perseverance during this project. This is a huge step toward meeting our EPA mandate for storm and sewage separation.

This will be the week for our final clean up of leaves. We have experienced major malfunctions with our leaf machine in recent weeks. Please be patient as we finish the clean up. After this week, please put your leaves in bags and set out for your refuse hauler. If you have a huge amount of leaves left, call the village office and talk with me... I seriously mean "a huge amount". We will continue to pick up limbs and debris on Mondays as usual throughout the winter months as conditions permit.

Coffee with the Village Administrator will not be held on December 1st as previously planned...

At the last Village Council meeting, the Mayor and Council presented a special PROCLAMATION to Debbie and David Wolfe for all the work they spearheaded in Howell Park with the complete renovation of the Concession Stand / Restroom facility. It was a major overhaul and took countless hours to complete. Congratulations and thank you to David and Debbie Wolfe.

The Gazebo Committee says to stop by the Tripp Building downtown before or after the Christmas Parade on December 17th. They will have a great selection of gifts for kids to give to their parents, grandparents, or siblings! Prices start at 50 cents, and there will be a bake sale too! All proceeds will be used for the Bremen Gazebo Project.

Parents and Grandparents... have your little ones write their letter to Santa and put it in the red box downtown. Every letter will get a personalized letter in return from Santa.

Remember, your water usage in the holiday season will be reflected in the February, March, and April billing cycle. So... if you have house guests, parties, even just visitors can drive up your water usage. Many are surprised when their water bill jumps up during the above months. The extra cooking, cleaning, toilet usage, and laundry adds up quickly.

Santa will be downtown the first three Saturday mornings in December from 9:30 – 11:00. Make plans for the kids to see Santa Claus.

How can I not mention the ONE AND ONLY LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE... There is still time to get your float or entry into the parade. Call the Chamber of Commerce office at 569-9150 or get on line to get your reservation form. www.bremenvillage.com The downtown businesses will also be open before and after the parade for your shopping convenience.

During the winter months, especially in bad weather, keep an eye out for the Village workers who may be out plowing snow or salting the roadways. If you see flashing lights, slow down and proceed with caution. Listen to your radio or television for updated information about snow emergency levels. I hope you will take advantage of Bremen Bulk Foods, Dollar General, Quick Stop, and our local restaurants in times of poor weather and not have to try and drive into Lancaster.

**HOLIDAY WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS
FROM THE WHOLE VILLAGE STAFF, WORKERS, AND COUNCIL**

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY BE BRIGHT AND FULL OF CHEER!!!

MAY YOUR TRAVELS BE SAFE!!!

MAY YOU SHARE IN THOSE MOMENTS OF MEANING!!!

My final note: May the Holiday Season provide the opportunity to reflect, be thankful, and to cause us to make decisions to better our lives and the lives of those around us. For those with heartache this holiday season, may the new year create perspective and be our peace. For families with little ones, may you see the hope and joy evolve with a new generation. Find those things that make life worth it and always remember there is nothing so terrible but that it can't be overcome. I wish my warmest of love and care as we continue together to make Bremen the most wonderful village in which to work and live.

Respectfully, Douglas Hockman
Bremen Village Administrator