

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: Happy Holidays, A New Year, Things That Matter Most...

I seem to always run into people at the Bank or on Main Street that want to talk. That makes me glad. Spending part of my time at the Utility Billing Office has also provided more people just stopping in to ask questions and talk. This is good because I feel like I am more accessible to the residents than I was at the Howell Park Office. One resident asked me "What matters most to me about the village?" That was a good question! I have given it serious thought.

As far as the physical infrastructure of the Village, I would invite you to go to the Village website and read Mayor Josh Groce's "State of the Village Address". Go to our website : www.bremenvillage.com At the top of the Home Page you will find directions for reading the Address in its entirety. If you do not have access to a computer or internet you may pick up a paper copy at the Utility Billing Office at 136 Marietta St. This "State of the Village Address" lays out the many successes of our Village but is honest in addressing major concerns and situations the Village is facing in the up coming years. Please read this!!!

As important as the above paragraph points out, that is not what matters the most to me. YOU, the Village residents matter the most to me. With almost 1500 residents of all ages, each of you are the most important. I want to make sure you are safe and protected. Our children deserve a safe route to school with quality sidewalks and crosswalks. Drugs have no place in this Village and the Sheriff's Department is constantly working leads and making arrests. Your ability to receive immediate health care is so important whether it is the emergency squad or access to the Fairfield Healthcare doctors' office in Bremen. Keeping you safe from SCAMS and letting you know what scams are at work in the Village further protects you. I am very concerned for our elderly population and their day to day welfare. I contemplate our poor and unemployed hoping there are resources to help meet their needs. I work with Fran to have a list of resources where families can find help during their time of need. Finding Grant monies which extends our tax revenues and saves our Village hundreds of thousands of dollars is an absolute priority. I want you informed with what is happening in the Village so my newsletter continues each month and our website remains an additional source of information. So...YOU... the Village residents are "What Matters The Most To Me". Our quality of life in the Village depends on the COMPASSION we have for each other and how we extend that compassion to everyone regardless of their circumstances. For me... this is what the Holiday Season is all about. I extend to you my warmest of wishes as we celebrate this great time of the year. Happy Holidays!!!

I just received an email from the Perry County Health Department. Last month, we wanted people to sign up for Free Mammograms. HOWEVER, Ohio Health just notified them that they are OUT OF FUNDING for this year and cannot cover the cost of the Mammogram Unit on December 23rd. If you signed up for your free mammogram you will be contacted and your appointment will be cancelled for December. We will work to set up another event in the Spring when new funding is released for Ohio Health. Sorry for your delay...

The Village is continuing our leaf pick up through the first week of December. After the first week in December you will need to bag your leaves and put out for refuse pick up. So, as much as you can, please rake your leaves now and have them at the curb. Thank You...

Congratulations to the Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church for their successful "Operation Christmas Child" program. The church members responded with a great collection of toys, school supplies, personal hygiene products, and clothing items which they packed into shoe boxes to be sent to children in one of sixty countries around the world. The church members filled 25 full kits. This program is part of Samaritan's Purse headed by the Rev. Billy Graham's son Franklin Graham. Since 1993 Samaritan's Purse has provided more than 86 million gift filled shoe boxes which brought hope to children all over the world.

The Apostolic Faith Tabernacle continues their free lunch and food pantry. The December free lunch will be December 21st from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm. The food pantry is available if you call Penny at 740-569-0057 by the 3rd Friday of each month no later than 5:00 pm to receive food and other supplies on the following Saturday from 11:00 to 12:00 noon. To pick up items, you will need two pieces of identification. The Church is located at 228 Oak Street in Bremen.

The Chamber is sponsoring our Lighted Christmas Parade on December 14th with the lining up of floats and parade entrants at the Bremen Elementary School. The parade will travel down Marietta Street into the downtown beginning at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there!!!

If you are in genuine need for a food basket for Christmas to help with your Holiday meals, you MUST SIGN UP at the "NEXT TO NEW SALE" held at the Bremen First United Methodist Church (corner of Walnut and Mulberry) on Friday, December 6th from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm or Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. It is IMPORTANT you sign up. You will not be eligible for a Christmas Basket unless you do.

ON BEHALF OF OUR MAYOR, COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATOR, AND EMPLOYEES...

WE WISH YOU A MOST BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON... MAY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS BE WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT. IF THIS IS A HARD TIME FOR YOU AND YOURS, MAY YOU SEE HOPE, PEACE AND COMFORT AS THE NEW YEAR APPROACHES. PLEASE KNOW YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE WORK WE ALL DO FOR YOU AND THE VILLAGE...