



# The Village Voice

Bremen Ohio's Monthly Newsletter

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## December 2019

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### Council & Committee Meetings

Members of the public should feel welcome to attend and participate at the following meetings regarding Village business:

- Planning & Zoning:  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM
- Parks & Recreation  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM
- Administrative Process  
December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM
- Village Council  
December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Economic Development  
December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM
- Financial Process Committee:  
December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

If you would like to speak at the Council meeting, please contact the office by noon of the previous Friday so you can be added to the agenda.

These are the meetings scheduled as of the time this newsletter is going to press. Should the need for other Village meetings arise, they will be publicized by legal advertisement by posting in five (5) public areas. Meetings are held at the municipal building, 9090 Marietta Road, SE.

### Village Office Hours

The village office will be closed on Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas! And also be closed on Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup> in celebration of New Year's.

### Water & Sewer Rate Increase

Over the past year the village has been watching its financial standing in the water and sewer departments. Our infrastructure is crumbling and our departments are losing money from years of neglect and planning. We are extremely lucky to have the staff in place now that is looking to upgrade our systems for the future. The village had a rate study completed to see where we sit and the outcome is that our rates are not where they need to be. Not only is the village struggling financially to sustain our operations at both the water and sewer plants, but we are behind substantially from a funding standpoint. In order for the village to qualify for necessary financial aid in grants we must increase our rates. Enclosed with this newsletter is a snapshot of what the new minimum bill will look like effective January 1, 2020. Please note this will be the new "*minimum bill*" for service. This rate increase is also matched with a reduction in the water usage. The previous minimum usage was 3,000 gallons per month or 9,000 gallons per quarter. The new minimum usage is 2,500 gallons per month or 7,500 gallons per quarter. The village understands that this is a significant increase; but it must be done in order to move forward and continue the progression for Bremen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is also a good time to discuss the importance of the U.S. Census which will be completed in 2020. Participating in the Census is a very important responsibility of every Citizen. The Census supports the villages reporting



status which can be a crucial tool in the village applying and receiving federal funding dollars for projects and grants. An invitation to participate in the Census should be sent out on March 12<sup>th</sup> and it can be completed online this year. This is the first time the census has allowed an online option. Please take the time to participate in the census as it is beneficial to us all!

## Leaf Season Pickup Coming to a Close!

Leaf collection will continue beyond December 6<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. The Street Crew will continue the operation until snowfall makes it impossible to work. The Village asks you to keep putting your leaves in the dog walk and not in the street. Leaves piled in the street create costly repair and maintenance issues. Visit the Village website for updates on leaf collection after December 6<sup>th</sup>!



**Incorrect:** Leaves piled in the gutter and street



**Correct:** Leaves piled behind the curb.

## Future Employment Opportunity



For those who are interested in applying to become a lifeguard next summer, now is the time to start planning when to take your Red Cross certification class. Lifeguarding classes are given at only certain times during the year so advanced planning is necessary. Inquire about class schedules and prices at places such as the YMCA in Lancaster or in Newark.

## Election Results

Congratulations to Michael Cunningham and Susan Henwood for being elected to village

council, and to Anthony Taylor for being elected as mayor. Their new terms start in January, with Oaths of Office being conducted at the first council meeting of the new year. Thank you to each of them for their willingness to serve the community in these roles.

## Street Levy Passed!

To everyone who voted for the street levy we thank you for your support. This levy was a 3-mil levy for five years. The passage of this levy will generate roughly \$60,000 per year for road improvement projects. The Safety & Infrastructure Committee as well as the Mayor Elect have already begun discussion on projects for the money.

## Santa In The Village

Good News! Santa in the Village is scheduled for Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the Bremen Historical Society!



# Merry Christmas

On behalf of the Village staff we want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May your holiday season be filled with good tidings and joy!

## No Cash Payments at Village Office!

Effective January 1, 2020; the Village of Bremen will no longer accept cash payments in the office. All cash payments will have to be made at the Friendly Bremen Bank. Credit cards and checks will still be accepted at the office. We apologize for the inconvenient changes to the payment methods available. We will put word out as soon as online bill payments are available!

## January Newsletter

The December newsletter is being mailed to include details and a sample bill with the new water and sewer rates to each resident who receives a utility bill. January's newsletter will go back to being posted in five locations around the village as it has been for the past several months.