

**Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce  
Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2007**

Opening of Meeting/ Pledge & Grace by Greeter Jackie Helsel.

Anna Marie was not present so the minutes from the last meeting were not available. Tracy had copies of the financial report at the door for anyone wishing a copy.

The family of Ralph Ricket sent a thank you note for the flowers that the Chamber sent during their time of sorrow.

Jim Gilkerson of JaBar Art was a member of the Chamber and passed away. Notification was sent out to all members by email and a card was sent on behalf of the Chamber Membership. Pastor Debbie Nance stated she would make a visitation to see if there was anything we could do to help.

Crafty Grannies Too had a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor and Chamber was present to celebrate the ribbon cutting. The Chamber delivered a cheese and meat tray to owner Laurie Knowlton prior to the event welcoming her to the community. Over 50 years ago, Olive's Confectionary was located in this store which was a lunch counter also offering notions and necessities. Laurie accented the hardwood floors and the beautiful tile ceiling by displaying current merchandise and old antiques to make this location so quaint. It is a walk down memory land for those who were around in the "Good Old Days". Connie encouraged everyone to stop in and enjoy the atmosphere. There is certainly something for everyone.

Report on the Red, White, & Bluegrass event. Over 300 people attended the event. Three individuals were obtained to represent the Village in a pie throwing event to represent the White. Mayor David Ray, Fire Chief Joe Westenbarger, and Business Owner David McCandlish were the recipients. We received great coverage from both the Towne Crier and The Eagle Gazette.

We have started the feature with the Towne Crier called "Hittin The Bricks", Wendy Rose of Rose Insurance will be the first business featured. This will be a Chamber membership benefit.

Report on the Brick & Mortar. The Downtown Revitalization Program made commitments with the Membership drive that was done in January of this year. One of the commitments was each member would be given 2 ads in the Brick & Mortar newsletter. Five editions were done in 2006 and only one edition has been done in 2007. Connie contacted the Village and requested their help with the newsletter. Debbie Berry will be writing and laying out the newsletter on a quarterly basis with the help of Kim Carter and Chamber President. Debbie will

be paid \$50.00 per issue. The Village will enclose the newsletter in an envelope and mail with the water bills. The dollar difference between the envelope and post card is 15 cents which the Chamber will pay along with copying. The approximate cost of each quarter will not exceed \$250.00. Eric Mahler motion to approve & John Schmelzer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Carried.

Downtown Revitalization Program received a grant in 2005 from Fairfield Foundation. Part of that grant was for a Village of Bremen sign. When going over the books it was discovered that this project had not been completed. Fairfield Foundation was contacted and they advised to complete and send in the proper documentation. Although we hold the money, approximately \$3,000.00, Connie advised she will be contacting Mike Qualls of Gene's Sign to handle this project for us.

During the Bremen Community Yard Sale six hardwood chairs and a very nice table were found for the Chamber office. The cost was \$70.00 and the Board Members opted to approve this purchase in order to have seating in the Chamber office.

Chamber President has been asked to do a monthly show on 90.9 radio station to promote Bremen which will be aired on the last Monday of each month at 11:30am. If anyone has items they would like announced please contact the Chamber office.

Sean Platt is a Bremen artist who does caricatures. He performs all over the State of Ohio. Connie contacted him to do a caricature of Katie Rienschild, Susan Scholl, and Marilyn Stephenson for the Chamber Annual Program. A poem was written about the Maids of Bremen in a rhyme "Rub-A-Dub-Dub Three Maids in A Tub". The cost of his services is \$43.00.

We have completed the Welcome Packets and turned the material over to Bremen Area Ministerial Association for delivery. Pastor Debbie Nance will keep the Chamber informed on an "as-needed" basis. Thank you to all businesses and organizations for their contributions. It was decided to start delivering August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Upcoming Events/Current:**

The Friendly Bremen Bank is sponsoring a Farmers Market. This is being held at the Bremen Branch in the parking lot every Friday night from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. starting June 8<sup>TH</sup> through August 17<sup>TH</sup>. If you are interested in renting a spot at the Farmers Market, please contact Jodi Motta at 569-4121 for more information. The Revitalization Department is sponsoring live music in Dowling Park coordinating with the Farmers Market hours during the month of July.

The Bremen Chamber Golf Outing Committee has been working on preparing for that event. It is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 13<sup>th</sup>. We

are in need of a couple of volunteers to help during the event at the registration table. Anyone wishing to volunteer or participate at the event, please contact the Chamber office for more details. Proceeds for this event will benefit the Revitalization Department. 259 personal invitations were mailed and we are receiving forms back on a daily basis.

The 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church is coordinating & providing hospitality for the "Guns & Hoses" blood drive on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Bremen-Rushcreek Fire Department from 1-7pm. The guns & hoses is a competition between police officers and fire fighters for the purpose of blood collection. All donors will receive a \$8.00 discount coupon to Cedar Point. For further information contact Pastor Debbie Nance at 569-4220.

Avalon Church is having their All You Can Eat Fish Fry on July 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:00pm. The cost is \$7.00 per person for all ages. RSVP by July 25<sup>th</sup> at 569-4419 or 569-4813.

Members were encouraged to check with the Treasurer and make sure their membership dues were current.

Sheriff Phalen explained a new program that he is working on with regards to citizens that will help patrol communities. Jim Herd stated that Fairfield Union will be holding their ground breaking ceremony at the high school on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Judy Shupe stated that the Tiki Swimming Pool will host a party for teenagers free of charge in July and then another in August at Miller's Swimming Pool. Pastor Debbie Nance stated that the community bible school will begin August 6, 2007 at 6:00pm at the Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church.

Featured Speakers Jackie Hardman & Susan Boch of Susan's Grooming & Boarding