

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter From Your Village Administrator: Douglas Hockman

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THOUGHTS: Have you been to Howell Park recently? I am telling you there is no other park in any other municipality that compares to our own Howell Park!!! Under the leadership of Debbie Wolfe, the park benches have been power washed and painted. A special thank you to her and to Larry Hill who has been volunteering by painting parts of the shelter house and benches. The other day, there were teenagers playing in the park and they noticed the work being done. They approached Debbie and asked if they needed help. These young people worked until about 6:00 pm that evening.

JOIN ME IN SAYING THANK YOU TO: Sarah Robinson (10th grade), Autumn Robinson (9th grade), Amber Loschiavo (8th grade) and little Adie Loschiavo (2 year old). Even little Adie wanted to paint so Larry Hill held the paint brush so she could paint too. These young people live in the downtown area and frequent the park to play and have fun!!! They each received a pass to the swimming pool for the last two weekends the pool will be open.

The wheels on the bus go round and round... The wipers on the bus go swish swish swish... The children on the bus go up and down.... (Bet you are singing the rest of the song now...) Yes it is time for school and my annual caution to be on the look out for kids making their way to the bus stops and those who are walking home after school buses drop them off. Please drive with caution keeping in mind a child could dart out from behind a car or run across the street not at a cross walk. Please observe the speed limits in the village, in fact, please slow down to below the speed limit. Our Sheriff Deputy will be on patrol at random times and will pull you over and levy a fine if you are not being a safe responsible adult.

The paving on Rt. 664 (Broad St.) will be a Spring project for ODOT. We had hoped it might be this Fall but I have received confirmation that it will be a Spring project. This is 100% funded by ODOT and no money out of our village revenues. We gratefully thank our Ohio Department of Transportation for realizing our need and helping keep Bremen's roads safe and in good shape.

We had one bid for the Community Development Block Grant. Actually, it is two companies working together under one bid. The Village has been awarded \$39,600 and the bid came in at \$35,000. If there are no unforeseen costs on the project, we are hoping to add one more additional handicap ramp that wasn't being counted on. This work will be on Marietta St. starting at Purvis, Oak, and Bartlett. Again, there will be some delays on Marietta as the workers are tearing out curbs and gutters and forming the handicap ramps. Please use caution when you see barriers along Marietta. Keep the workers safe!!!

THIS IS THE LAST WARNING... The EPA began a process several years ago to mandate that all roof gutters and other rain water channels must be disconnected from the SANITARY SEWER LINE and channeled into the yard or flower beds for drainage. Every property owner received a letter last year saying the disconnect must be done by the end of 2013. In 2014 the EPA requires the Village to do inspections of all properties and where there are violations to this mandate, there will be fines levied against the property owner.

With 12 inches of rain in June and rain in the first half of July our workers were limited in the work done on Fort St. However, we are back on task. We are almost to the corner of Collins St. Once we reach the corner, there will only be one block left up to Carter. When we reach the corner of Collins, the workers will drop back and do the intersections of Mill and Walnut since we now have the storm sewer lines in place. If the weather holds, we will be on the home stretch. We have learned so much from this project to help us when we do curbs and gutters on any other brick street. What is finished looks absolutely wonderful!!!

Terminex, our contract for mosquito spraying, has been spraying every two weeks or so, weather permitting. I know there are mosquitoes but the village is doing what it can. Please look around your property especially in the alley and make sure there are no items that can hold water where the mosquitoes breed. Thanks for looking and helping...

Thanks to all who enjoyed our Municipal Swimming Pool this Summer. A special thanks to all our life guards and Kendal, our Pool Manager.

The Village Offices will be closed on Labor Day Monday, September 2nd.

It was the privilege of the Village to have Randy Comisford from ODOT to come and speak at our last Council meeting concerning the \$340,000.00 Safe Routes To School Grant the Village has received. He addressed Council with the scope of the project.

I want to give Fran Drake a special THANK YOU for her hard work in the addition of the Rushville Utility Billing. She worked tirelessly with our computer programmer and Charlotte Beyer, from Rushville, to make sure the transition went smooth. Last month, was our third mailing for Rushville and there were no glitches or concerns. When you see her, thank her for the job she does!!!

We now have workers who hold a Commercial Herbicide and Pesticide License. You will see workers on the street spraying the grass and weeds in the brick streets and along the curbs and gutters... Workers are starting on the east side of town and working westward.

I am asking the Village residents to set aside either Friday, Sept. 13th or Saturday, Sept. 14th to help in the Village with Community Care Days. We have a number of projects to do and can use your help painting and getting things ready for winter. Please call the office and put your name and phone number on my list, if you know you can help. Once again, wishing you warm and sunny days full of smiles and cheer!!! If there is something I can do, please call me or come see me at the village office. Coffee is always perking!!!