



THE BREMEN BEACON

SHINING A LIGHT ON BREMEN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & SERVICES



Greetings from the Supervisor

The door is open, but sometimes it's hard to walk in

It is often the case that the people most in need are the most reluctant to ask for help. Our neighbors in Bremen Township are hardworking people who have supported themselves and their families all their lives, and they are usually the very ones to pitch in and help others in need.

So, when we hit a cycle of challenging economic times that impacts all of us, it is sometimes difficult to ask for help. We ask you to remember that one of the responsibilities of local government is to ease the burden in such times. At Bremen Township we have an open-door policy for anyone needing assistance. We realize that our limited resources prevent us from solving every obstacle in the path of families struggling in temporary crisis, but we do our small part in seeking solutions for the problems that confront our residents.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about the many services we offer to our families, such as expanded senior services with new programs for mind, body, and recreation. We operate an established Wellness Center for youth and family counseling at no cost to Bremen residents. We have long partnered with other agencies and local food pantries to provide and distribute food.

Our recent independent audit proves Bremen Township is operated responsibly and remains in a strong financial position. Your township government continues to be one of the lowest taxing bodies on your property tax bill. We can do a lot with minimal resources because our employees have a "can do" spirit that extends to every resident in need.

No one is spared the hard times that can befall we humans as we navigate the course of our lifetimes. Just know that your township government stands ready to help, whether it is direct relief or referral to someone else who can help. The door is open - walk in and let's talk!

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathryn Straniero'.

Kathryn Straniero, Bremen Township Supervisor

“You might be the stranger who sets things right for someone.”



Officials **REPORTS**



Kathryn Straniero –
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Independent auditors have recently completed the annual Bremen Township audit, and I am pleased to report that our township has received a clean opinion and once again in a strong financial position. Maintaining this status has been a priority for this administration, and the combined efforts of the Board of Trustees and the department heads. Congratulations to all of you. The results of these findings is a benefit for homeowners of the township and I am happy to state that once again Bremen Township continues to be one of the lowest taxing bodies on your tax bill and there will be **no tax increase** for township services.



John D. Lord – TOWNSHIP CLERK

As your local Election Officer, one of my responsibilities is to keep our residents informed of the status of past and future elections. Recently, all Bremen Township residents had the opportunity to cast their ballots for multiple positions with a majority of voters choosing to sit out the election. I am going to get back on my soap box as to how important it is for everyone and urge you to participate in the voting process no matter what your political persuasion is. Please get involved, register, study the issues, decide who best will address your concerns and let your voice be heard by voting.



Willie A. Jones – TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

The Township Assessor's Office continues to assist homeowners with property tax issues such as appeals, exemptions, and senior freezes. Please call our office at (708) 333-1591 (option 2) for any updates and assistance.



John P. Flaherty – TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

It seems the snow gods were with us again this year in producing another relatively mild winter, and this gave us the opportunity to focus on maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment. We also took advantage of the chance to collaborate and partner with Cook County and the Water Reclamation Department in identifying and addressing long standing road and flooding issues and we are hopeful that together we can find solutions to resolve them. We have also entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Worth Township Road District in which we will be sharing resources and will also be financially advantageous to us. As always, our annual reminder that spring rains are on the way so please keep your culverts and ditches free of debris to help alleviate unnecessary flooding. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call our office at (708) 333-9534 and our friendly staff will be happy to assist you.

A Few Words from our Trustees

One of our most rewarding aspects of public services is the opportunity to play a part in providing programs and services that have a positive impact for our residents. Whether it be hosting our **FREE PRODUCE DAY ON THE 2ND. FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH**, providing free counseling for our youth, taking seniors to the doctor, or helping families with their utility bills to name a few, we are proud that we can be of service to our residents. Our partnership with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) provides much needed free support to individuals and families dealing with the challenges that these issues bring. Please call Marianne Bithos at (708) 351-6871 for more info.

This coming year we will be breaking ground on our new sunroom, comfort stations, and patio adjacent to our senior café. In addition, along with our partnership with Friends of the Prairie, new plantings of trees and native plants will be installed along our walking path to enhance your walking experience while you enjoy the great outdoors.

We are always seeking your input as to what other services and programs that you would like to see the township implement or expand. Please call our offices at (708) 333-9530 or (708) 687-8220 or email us at info@brementownship.net to let us know. Following are some of the events that are scheduled for this spring and summer:



BREMEN TOWNSHIP, GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY, & TOGETHER WE COPE

2nd Friday of each Month | 10:30am - noon

Free, fresh produce is distributed at our Markham facility (16361 Kedzie).



E-WASTE DISPOSAL

Saturday, April 27 | 9:00 AM - when truck is filled

In partnership with Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, we will be hosting our annual disposal event at our Oak Forest facility (15350 Oak Park Ave.).



HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, April 27 | 10:00am - 1:00pm

Building on the support and success from our inaugural event, this year will include blood pressure and hearing screenings, Women's Wellness info, bag painting, a sensory obstacle course, along with presentations from multiple health care professionals for all ages. This event is for all ages. It will be held at the Maggie Crotty Senior/Youth Complex (15350 Oak Park Ave.). Don't miss it!



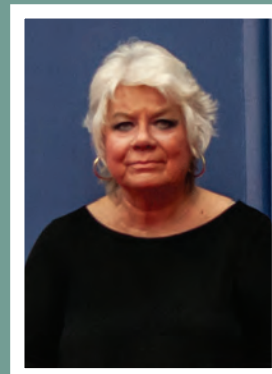
NAMI FRIENDS & FAMILY

Saturday, April 6 | 10:00am - Noon

A 90-minute seminar informing how to cope with loved ones experiencing mental health disorders. Call Marianne Bithos at (708) 351-6871 for more details and information.



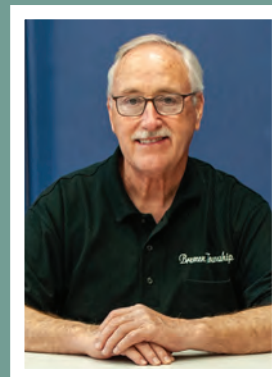
Carolyn Carter



Mary Catuara



Edward Maggio



John M. (Mike) Tatro



YOUTH & FAMILY – YOUR CHILD’S WELL-BEING IS OUR PRIORITY

Our Health & Wellness Center is a safe haven for our younger generation as they navigate the sometimes difficult journey to adulthood.

Our professional staff offers counseling and programs designed to assist our younger people in dealing with bullying, eating disorders, substance abuse, anger issues, peer pressure and so many other issues that they are faced with on a day to day basis. Each and every client is treated to the dignity and confidentiality that they deserve. **This service is free to any and all Bremen Township youth aged 5-18 years old.** If you believe that your child or grandchild may benefit from this program please call our office at (708) 419-4100 and get started.

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

On Saturday, April 27 from 10:30am till 1:00pm we will be hosting our 2nd Annual Health & Wellness Fair. This event will be packed with health related information and giveaways for all age groups. Governors State University will be on hand to perform Blood Pressure and Hearing screenings along with representatives from U of C Medicine promoting their *All of us Research Program*.

TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH

Sponsored by Bremen Township
& Illinois Pathway to Health

Every Monday April 22 – June 3
1:30 – 4:00pm

These presentations will be addressing chronic pain, improving sleep, reducing stress & fatigue and so much more and are free of charge.

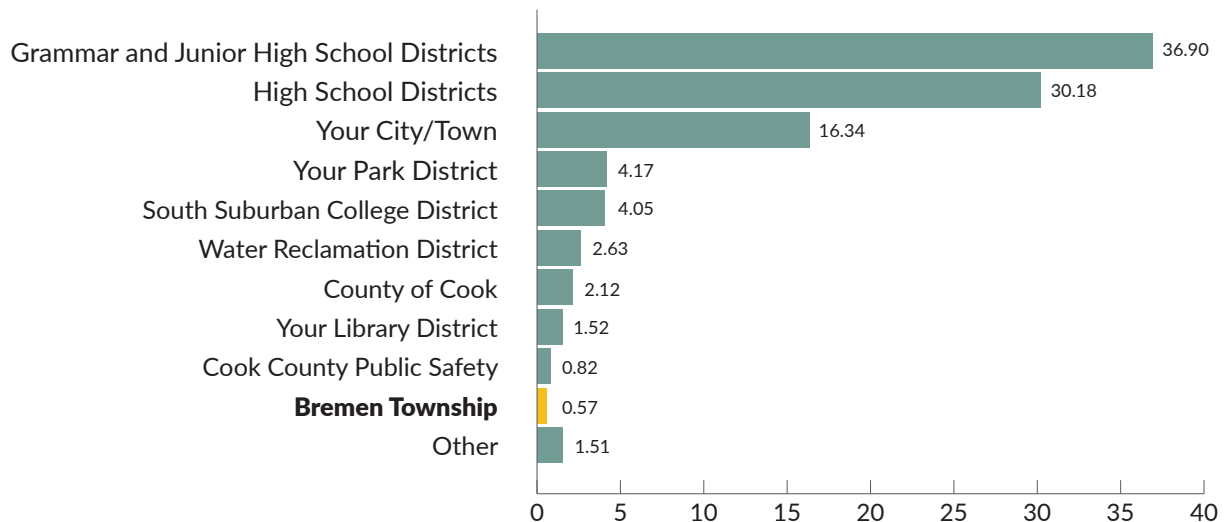


WHERE DO MY TAX DOLLARS GO?

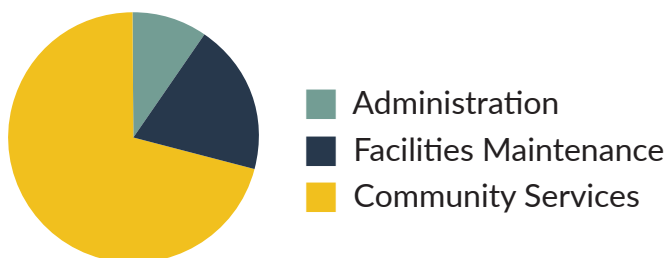
This is intended to serve as a guide for homeowners and your city/town/village/Park District/Library percentages may vary. The one constant is that Bremen Township receives the lowest amount of revenue.

The typical Bremen Township homeowner pays approximately \$7,500.00 in property taxes. The illustration below shows the average amount paid to each taxing body, clearly confirming that Bremen Township Government is one of your greatest values.

TYPICAL PROPERTY TAX BILL



BREMEN TOWNSHIP EXPENDITURES



For Our SENIORS

Our Senior Services Department, one of our most popular programs, continues to grow, with more programs and activities geared toward our silver residents than ever before. One of our mainstays is our Senior Wheels division which has provided **over 10,000 rides** for seniors going shopping, to medical appointments, visits with friends, and many more destinations within the township. We keep it affordable with a fee of \$4.00 per trip with discount tickets available. Please note that **Medical related trips are not limited to township boundaries.**

We also have monthly day trips scheduled from now until September with a variety of destinations that suite every ones taste. Call our office at (708) 687-8220 for more info.



Staying busy and active is a great way for seniors to stay fit and healthy, and we try our best to provide activities and events that promote that. Please see some of the upcoming activities that are planned and join us.

Our Senior Café continues to serve great lunches Monday thru Thursday for a requested donation of \$4.00. This is a great way for seniors to be served with a delicious, healthy and nutritional meal while enjoying the companionship of their friends and neighbors. The Senior Café also hosts the board game Mahjong (American version) every Tuesday morning from 9:30 – 11:30am.



SPRING FLING WITH GRANDCHILDREN

Wednesday, March 27 | 1:00 – 3:00pm

Enjoy an afternoon of dancing and other fun filled activities with your grandchild & preserve these memories in our photo booth.

SPRING CRAFT DAY

Tuesday, April 16 | 11:00am

A fun filled spring day making crafts – Supplies and light refreshments will be provided

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

Saturday, April 27 | 10:00am – 1:00pm

Blood Pressure & Hearing Screening, Bag Painting, Sensory Obstacle Course and so much more health related info.

PLANT & GO EVENT

Tuesday, May 21 | 11:00am

One of our most requested events – this annual activity where seniors plant their favorite flower and take it home with them. All supplies and light refreshments are provided.



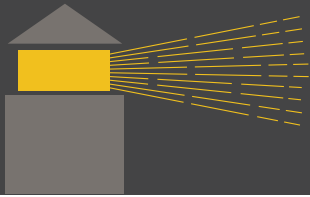
SPIRIT OF CHICAGO LUNCH CRUISE

Tuesday, July 16th

And don't forget **BINGO EVERY THURSDAY at 9:30am.**

NOTE: For more details for all senior activities please call our office at (708) 687-8220 or email us at info@brementownship.net

SHINING THE



Spotlight ON...



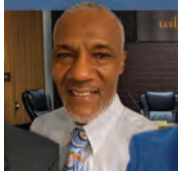
Darren Bryant
Mayor



Sharon S. Dyson
Clerk



Gregory Jackson
Trustee



David Dyson
Trustee



Michael Collier Sr.
Trustee



Thomas Harper Jr.
Trustee



Ernest Maxey Jr.
Trustee



Tiffany Robinson
Trustee

VILLAGE OF ROBBINS

Renewal in Robbins: A Beacon of Change



At the north end of Bremen Township lies the historic Village of Robbins, a community of great pride once overlooked and is now on the cusp of a remarkable transformation. Spearheading this revitalization is Mayor Darren E. Bryant, the youngest minority mayor in the State of Illinois, whose visionary leadership has ignited a fervent drive for progress. Mayor Bryant has led a united front with the collaboration of Clerk Sharon Dyson, the Board of Trustees, and the resilient people of Robbins uniting behind a shared vision of renewal. Together, they've embarked on a journey to breathe new life into their community.

Since taking office in 2021, Mayor Bryant has orchestrated an unprecedented influx of \$40 million in grant funding for capital improvements, laying the groundwork for sweeping changes across the village. The historic Village Hall, once a symbol of neglect, is now undergoing a \$1million renovation, poised to emerge as a beacon of civic pride and community engagement. Concurrently, the \$22 million Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) project is on track to alleviate flooding and catalyze economic and recreational, heralding a new era in the village's future.

Fresh off the heels of these monumental achievements, the village also recently approved a \$3 million commercial development initiative to revive Claire Boulevard and rejuvenate its downtown district. This bold investment signals a renewed sense of optimism and confidence in the village's future.

One of the cornerstones of the Bryant Administration's initiatives has been the ambitious public works clean-up effort. The village which is currently plagued with 160 distressed properties, has seen the demolition of over 40 distressed properties creating opportunity for economic advancement, while decreasing opportunities for crime.

Another significant stride forward has been the introduction of Robbins' own self- service ambulance, ensuring swift responses to emergencies and enhancing the safety of its residents.

As Robbins embraces its identity as a hub of opportunity and innovation, Mayor Bryant's Clerk Dyson, and the Board of Trustees transformative leadership continues to inspire hope and fuel for momentum towards a brighter tomorrow

With the sun setting on the old and rising on the new, Robbins stands as a beacon of hope and resilience – a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with determination and a vision.

THE BREMEN BEACON

16361 Kedzie Parkway
Markham, IL 60428
708.333.9530
info@bremetownship.net
www.bremetownship.net



SAVE THE DATE

Health Fair
Saturday April 27
10am - 1pm
Maggie Crotty
Senior/Youth Complex
15350 Oak Park Ave.




*Thank you for
letting us serve you!*

Left to right -

Highway Commissioner John Flaherty,
Trustee Ed Maggio, Clerk John Lord,
Trustee Carolyn Carter, Assessor Willie Jones,
Trustee Mary Catuara, Trustee John (Mike) Tatro,
Supervisor Kathryn Straniero

STAY CONNECTED

With Us

Please send your email address to info@bremetownship.net to get all the latest updates for programs and services and follow us on facebook. 

BREMEN



TOWNSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
16361 Kedzie Parkway
Markham, IL 60428
708.333.9530

SENIOR/YOUTH COMPLEX
15350 Oak Park Avenue
Oak Forest, IL 60452
708.687.8220

