



# THE BREMEN BEACON

SHINING A LIGHT ON BREMEN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & SERVICES



## Greetings from the Supervisor

### *We are Family!*

The Bremen Township family is comprised of all or parts of 13 communities and like any family, we are all the same, but each member is unique in their own way. This holds true for all of our municipalities that all share the same goals, but each have various ways and means in achieving them. The common thread that binds us is that, yes, we are a family and we stick together and help each other out.

Each city, town or village contends with different issues or concerns, be it infrastructure, economic development, transportation opportunities, or insufficient funding. But we all want the same thing – a good place to raise our families. Just like any family member or good neighbor, Bremen Township is here to help the residents of every community by reaching out to see how we could be of service. Measured by the increase in participation in our programs and services, our reach out has been successful.

Our ridership in our Senior Wheels Program has soared, our Youth Counseling Program, by reaching out to every School District and private school has resulted in expanding with more programs for our youth and their families (Note: Counseling services for any township resident child between the ages of 5-18 years is free). In addition we have partnered with State and County officials along with area non-profits to supplement the opportunities for every municipality within the township.

The results of these partnerships has been overwhelming. Joining with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) has put us in the forefront of addressing this issue that affects so many families, our collaboration with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Together We Cope allows us to help feed hundreds of families a month and share with other food pantries.

In closing, please allow me to affirm that every resident in every city, town or village in Bremen Township that you are a valued member of our family and we are here to assist you in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us at either of our offices (708) 333-9530 or (708)687-8220 or email us at [info@brementownship.net](mailto:info@brementownship.net). Thanks and have a wonderful holiday season.

“ Like any good family member – we are there for you! ”



Sincerely Yours,

Kathryn Straniero, Bremen Township Supervisor

# Officials **REPORTS**



**Kathryn Straniero** –  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

I am so happy to report that we have broken ground for the construction of our new sunroom addition to our Senior Café, which will also include a covered patio along with exterior comfort stations connected to our walking path. Scheduled opening for this multi-purpose room is the Spring of 2025. We will keep you posted on our progress.

On another note, now is the time according to State Statute that we are in the process of having the township undergoing our annual audit by an independent auditor. As in the past, we are anticipating a clean bill of health from all of our financial policies and procedures which has resulted in Bremen Township being debt free.



**John D. Lord** – TOWNSHIP CLERK

One of the duties of this office is to serve as the township election officer. As such, I cannot stress enough how important it is for each of us to participate in this upcoming election cycle that will not only elect our next President but also many of the state officials who will represent the residents of Bremen Township. This is our opportunity to have our voices heard, so please play a part and cast a ballot for whichever candidate that will best serve your concerns and interests.

For any questions or information about early voting or location of your polling place, contact our office at (708) 333-9530.



**Willie A. Jones** – TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Have you checked your 2nd. installment property tax bill for missed exemptions? We will review your bill to ensure that you received every one of them going back to the year 2018. Please call our office at (708) 331-1591 and get started.



**John P. Flaherty** – TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Our departments is responsible for the maintenance of roads and roadways and alleviating flooding issues in the unincorporated areas throughout Bremen Township and work closely with municipalities and other agencies such as the Cook County Highway Department and Water Reclamation District in seeking solutions. This spirit of cooperation allows us to join forces on projects that are beneficial to the residents and eliminate the need for tax increases – it is a win-win for everyone. We wish to extend our appreciation to all involved in Building a Better Bremen. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (708) 333-9534 and our staff will assist you.

# Your Trustees - Reporting for Duty

The primary roles of the Trustees is to serve as a de-facto auditor by approving bills to be paid and ensuring that financial policies and procedures are followed along with confirming and assisting the administrations goals and operation are being carried out.

How refreshing it is to report that Bremen Township has maintained its strong financial position and that the administration has added, improved and enhanced the programs that the township offers. Following is a snap shot of some of these accomplishments.



## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Two years ago we launched our program for youth counseling and since that time this program has surpassed our expectations. This was accomplished by reaching out to every school district within Bremen Township and collaborating with them to ensure that every school aged parent is made aware of how we can assist them. This program has expanded to include residents of all ages to receive the help they need on a variety of issues of mind, body and spirit that are concerning them. These services are **FREE to all residents of Bremen Township.**



## SENIOR SERVICES

One of our most popular programs is the Senior Wheels Program which provides transportation to Seniors aged 55 or older to destinations that they normally do not have access to. Along with our daily trips we have expanded our fun filled day trips to each month to a variety of destinations. Along with that we have expanded events and programs on a regular basis. Let us not forget our other favorites - the daily lunches and the weekly Bingo where the attendance continually grows



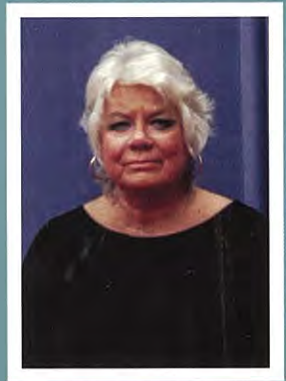
## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

*The premise of Township Government is "Neighbor Helping Neighbor"*

It is our duty and responsibility to serve as a safety net for our most vulnerable residents facing temporary economic hard times. We recognize that a dollar doesn't go as far as it used to and accordingly we have increased the funding that eligible recipients may receive.



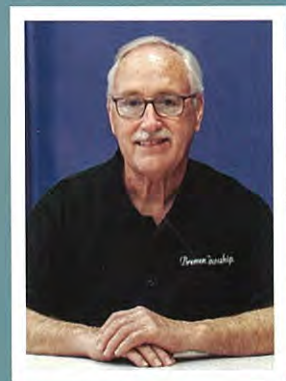
Carolyn Carter



Mary Catuara



Edward Maggio



John M. (Mike) Tatro



# YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES REPORT

**Investing in the well being of our young generation is one of our priorities!**

Every child deserves to enjoy being young. Unfortunately, many of our young people face challenges on a daily basis that rob them of the carefree days of youth and sometimes they need a little help to get by. We offer a safe haven for them to express the obstacles that they are experiencing. They are not alone. Reaching out to all the school districts and other avenues we have found the need of assistance is warranted. Whether it is bullying, low self esteem, anger, dangerous thoughts or any other issues we provide professional confidential counseling and other programs to assist them on their journey to adulthood. These services are free to any Bremen Township youth between the ages of 5-18 years old.

If you are in need of these services please do not hesitate to call so we can assist you: (708) 419-4100.

## **MIND - BODY - SPIRIT**

### ***Sometimes you need a friend***

It is inevitable that at some point in our life we will all suffer a loss that is too much to bear alone. Come join others who have suffered a loss of their partner or loved one on a journey towards healing and hope. We welcome your presence. Experience a place where you can comfortably grow into more peace, comfort and hope while supported by those traveling a similar road. You may even make a new friend along the way. Our Grief Support Group meets the 2nd. Tuesday of each month from 1:00-2:00 P.M.

RSVP to [DrMichele@BremenTownship.net](mailto:DrMichele@BremenTownship.net) or call (708) 419-4100.

### ***Keep your parts moving***

One of our fastest growing programs is our chair yoga days which are held every Monday & Wednesday from 11:00-11:45 A.M. This program offers light exercises for ladies and men of all aged adults and a great way to meet new friends at no cost.

### ***Everyone Deserves Respect***

We are proud to welcome another partnership with the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. Please see more information in this issue to see the many services they offer.

# Bremen Seniors ON THE MOVE!



**Left to Right:** Tracy Roberson, Dispatcher/Driver; Willis Bartee, Driver; Arlene Neely, Bus Driver; William Porter, Bus Driver; Jan Drake, Dispatcher; Sandy Piksryrs, Manager

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

If you wish to be added to our Mailing List and more information please contact our office at (708) 687-8220 and/or email us at [ssmith@bremementownship.net](mailto:ssmith@bremementownship.net)

When you submit your contact information on line, we will keep you updated on all the programs, events, trips and any other information you may be interested in. We hope to hear from you soon.

By far, our Senior Department has seen the largest increase of participation in its programs and services that are offered to seniors aged 55 or older.

This was accomplished by reaching out to the senior community in every city, town and village within our township through our recently developed and distribution of our Senior Newsletter (Senior Sentinel) and recognizing the interests and needs that are vital to them. Our Senior Wheels Program has seen significant growth due to the fact that some municipalities have discontinued their service. We now provide over 1,000 rides per month, transporting seniors to various destinations. Approximately 50% of these rides are medically related and not limited to township boundaries. These trips are essential and life saving to our clients who have no other form of transportation.

We have also increased activities and day trips with fun filled destinations and points of interest every month. Some of the new activities we have added include the Spring Fling Event which seniors bring their grandchildren and spend an afternoon of dancing, a photo booth, games and activities. A Holiday Craft Day has been a big hit where seniors have the opportunity to show their creative talents, along with our Plant N Go Day by planting flowers and herbs to take with them when they leave. As always, all supplies and light refreshments are provided by Bremen Township. In order to keep it affordable, our Day Trips are offered at cost.

Let us not forget our mainstays - BINGO and our lunch program. Bingo is held every Thursday at 9:30 for \$5.00 for 25 games with light refreshments being served. Our Lunch Program serves a great lunch in our Senior Café Monday thru Thursday for a requested donation of \$4.00 - a great way to spend the afternoon with your friends and neighbors.





## Greetings From Your Congressman

At my town hall meetings and community events, I've consistently heard from folks who are concerned about the cost of living and its effect on everyday life – be that at the gas pump, the grocery store, or the pharmacy. Like most issues, there is no quick fix and addressing it requires action on a variety of fronts. That's why I have centered my work on making life more affordable for our community.

Whether I'm at work in the district or in Washington, I have prioritized enhancing the local economy and revitalizing manufacturing jobs. I remained focused on returning money to taxpayers and minimizing costs whenever and wherever possible – such as reducing electricity prices, offering energy efficiency rebates, and curbing health care expenses by lowering premiums and capping prescription drugs such as insulin.

My work isn't done, and I will continue fighting to keep costs under control make sure every family has the opportunity to get ahead by:

**Putting Money Directly Back In Your Pocket** – My constituent advocate team has helped return over **\$6.6 million** directly back to constituents and resolved 8,840 cases.

**Lowering Monthly Internet Bills** – The Affordable Connectivity Program provides a discount on monthly internet bills for low and middle income households which includes over 20,000 households in our district. I strongly support H.R. 6929 which will extend this crucial funding.

**Curbing Costs at the Gas Pump** – I introduced the People over Petroleum Act which will deliver \$500.00 direct cash rebate paid directly to consumers by eliminating 11 tax subsidies flowing to fossil fuel companies.

As always, I hope you will share your feedback, thoughts, and priorities as I continue these efforts. Please don't ever hesitate to contact our district office at (630) 520-9450 Or my Washington D.C. office at (202) 225-4561. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Congressman Sean Casten

# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Monica Gordon

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Representing the Cook County 5th District which serves the eastern portion of Bremen Township is Commissioner Monica Gordon who is laser focused in addressing issues that affect the hard working and the most vulnerable residents of the district.

**Invest in Cook Initiative** – Helped secure funding for close to **\$8 million** to be distributed across the Southland for roads, bicycle paths and creating safe routes for our children to get to school.

**Habitat for Humanity** – Along with volunteers, partners and donors broke ground for 20 homes making homeownership possible for families.

**Menopause Research and Funding** – Providing education and treatment for symptoms of pre-menopause, menopause and post-menopause guaranteeing proper care for women.

## Donna Miller

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The Western portion of Bremen Township is represented by our friend and partner Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller. We have been fortunate to work with her on a variety of projects and services.

**Maternal Health Care** – This past May co-hosted a public hearing to gather expert data and strategies to combat the rise in maternal morbidity and mortality. As a result of this informative hearing, Commissioner Miller secured **\$1 million** to establish doula services in the Cook County Health System to curb these rates.

**Behavioral & Mental Health Care** – As a long time advocate for mental health issues Commissioner Miller took a huge role in the Cook County Health “Stronger Together” Grant Program and helped secure **\$44 million** being awarded to non- profits addressing behavioral health with approximately **\$14 million** going to the Southland of Cook County.

**Economic Development & Infrastructure** – This past summer alone Commissioner Miller secured over **\$3 million** to go to local communities in the South Suburb and worked closely with the Southland Development Authority to spur economic growth in the South Suburbs.

**Public Safety** – Secured over **\$500,000** in Urban Area Security Initiative funding for Public Safety and Homeland Security related projects throughout the district.

As always, we are confident and thankful to Commissioner Donna Miller in continuing to work with Bremen Township and other local leaders to serve as an advocate for the residents.

# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**From the Desk of Vice President Patricia Theresa Flynn**



Greetings to all my friends and neighbors in Bremen Township. As a long term resident of the Village of Crestwood, the Bremen Township community is especially important to me, and helped propel me to get involved during the clean water crisis that we experienced in 2010 which threatened access to clean and safe water. And I took action to protect our most precious asset. Since joining the M.W.R.D. board, I have remained committed to protecting our water environment and storm water management projects and partnership programs.

I am grateful to partner with Bremen Township communities on projects such as the Robbins Heritage Park and Midlothian Creek Restoration Project. These flood control projects will remove 140 acres of land from the flood plains and provide the much needed relief for 92 homes and businesses. Other projects throughout Bremen Township have included improvements to Natalie Creek in Oak Forest and Midlothian and the construction of green alleys in Markham, along with the addition of permeable street pavers in Tinley Park.

I along with fellow M.W.R.D. Commissioner Yumeka Brown look forward to continuing our work with the township together and we hope to meet many more residents at the Bremen Township Women's Wellness event on October 19th.

For updates on storm water projects and other events, be sure to stay in touch with my office on Instagram and X at @mwrddvp and on facebook at MWRD Commissioner Patricia Theresa Flynn. If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at (312) 751-5656.

Sincerely,

Patricia Theresa Flynn  
Vice President - Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**Stormwater Projects in Bremen Township**

Project Number	Project Name	Program	Partners	Structures Benefitted	Storage (gal)	Construction/Acquisition Cost	MWRD Contribution	Status
19-IGA-21	Streambank Stabilization Project along Midlothian Creek in Tinley Park	Regional Stormwater	Tinley Park	n/a	n/a	\$984,000.00	\$866,500.00	Complete
10-882-BF	Streambank Stabilization Project along Calumet Union Drainage Ditch	Regional Stormwater	Markham	42	n/a	\$3,217,375.26	\$3,217,375.26	Complete
14-252-5F	Flood Control Project on Natalie Creek in Oak Forest and Midlothian	Local Stormwater	Midlothian, Oak Forest	237	1,834,541	\$7,759,403.24	\$7,759,403.24	Complete
14-253-5F	Flood Control Project on Midlothian Creek in Robbins	Local Stormwater	Robbins	92	21,510,000	\$11,000,000.00	\$9,932,446.00	Ongoing
21-IGA-18	Flood Control Project on Calumet-Sag Tributary C in Bremen Township, Midlothian, and Crestwood	Local Stormwater	Midlothian	16	n/a	\$3,780,000.00	\$3,780,000.00	Ongoing
14-258-5F	Flood Control Project in the vicinity of 135th Street and Central Avenue in Crestwood	Local Stormwater	Crestwood	82	n/a	\$7,724,789.83	\$7,714,839.19	Complete
18-IGA-26	Culvert Upsizing and Channel Improvements on Boca Rio Ditch in Oak Forest	Local Stormwater	Oak Forest	28	n/a	\$903,510.45	\$810,000.00	Complete
19-IGA-15	Tinley Park North Street Permeable Pavers	Green Infrastructure	Tinley Park	3	69,739	\$400,000.00	\$181,709.85	Complete
23-IGA-40	Conceptual Flood Control Project for Markham in Bel-Aire Neighborhood	Local Stormwater	Markham	60	tbd	tbd	tbd	Ongoing
23-IGA-28	Flood-Prone Property Acquisition in Midlothian	Flood-Prone Property Acquisition	Midlothian	1	n/a	\$350,000.00	n/a	Complete
24-IGA-13	Green Alley Program in Markham	Green Infrastructure	Markham	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	Ongoing
24-IGA-18	Stormwater Improvements in Posen	Local Stormwater	Posen	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	Ongoing



# Bremen Township Welcomes Our NEW PARTNER

We are proud to announce that we have joined forces with the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. This non-profit community organization focuses on prevention and provides essential services to individuals and families that are victimized by domestic violence.



THE CRISIS CENTER  
IS SHATTERING THE  
SILENCE AND PROVIDES  
A PATH TO SAFETY  
AND INDEPENDENCE.

They provide an array of services designed for victims that are experiencing abuse of any kind and gain their independence by providing a safe haven.

Their counseling services are free of charge and offers limited funds to move to self efficiency. Along with that they grant emergency housing which is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They also have traditional housing and resources and supportive services and gain life skills to assist victims for up to 24 months. They have a 24 hour hot line with professionally trained staff to intervene during a crisis and provide support and referrals to help them break free.

The **Safe Start Program** collaborates with local schools to educate young people about dating violence and encourage healthy relationships.

If you or someone you know are in need of the many services offered please do not hesitate to call (708) 429-SAFE or [www.crisisctr.org](http://www.crisisctr.org) at any time, 7 days a week 24 hours a day – they will be there for you.

## NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Our partnership with NAMI has been a blessing to so many of the families in our township, who thought there was nowhere to go or to confide in with their struggles. NAMI has opened the door and individuals and families have found out they are not alone. This organization offers so many avenues seeking assistance and connecting them with life-saving resources and keeping their loved one safe.

September begins with the **Family to Family** sessions held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. at our Oak Forest Facility where you can gather all kinds of related information, along with learning to cope, take care of yourself, manage your stress, and taking care of the person you love.

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Contact Marianne Bithos at (708) 385-9126 or email [namisouthsuburbsofchicago@gmail.com](mailto:namisouthsuburbsofchicago@gmail.com).



# THE SEASON OF GIVING is Right Around the Corner!

## Make Someone Happy

As we approach the Holiday Season, Bremen Township is once again gearing up to partner up with the National Honor Society and Student Council of Bremen High School (District 228) in their annual **STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE**. This event, carried out by the students renews our faith in the younger generation. The effort they put forth in identifying, collecting and distributing food for the less fortunate sets an example for all of us. The compassion and empathy for the needy in making sure no family goes hungry during the holidays reinforces our pride in these young citizens now more than ever when the cost of groceries prohibitive for many.

We are asking all of our residents to join with us in making this drive a success. Canned goods and other non-perishable food items are now being accepted at both our facilities (15350 Oak Park Ave. in Oak Forest & 16361 Kedzie in Markham) from now until November 15th. With faith in you and your help we are optimistic that this year will be the most successful yet. As we all sit down for our holiday dinners with our families, we will all be able to take pride in the fact that we helped make another family share in the bounty. In advance, we thank all of you for your consideration and contributions.



## Helping Those In Need

As we all know, the cost of feeding a family has skyrocketed with many limited to the essentials, foregoing the extras like fruits and vegetables. Our partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Together We Cope helps supplement the grocery lists for individuals and families and helps stretch your dollar for those little extras.

On the **2nd Friday of every month** we host our **FREE PRODUCE DAY** at our Markham facility (16361 Kedzie) from 10:30 A.M. until noon, or when our supply is depleted. This program fills the need of approximately 200 families per month. It would not be possible to undertake this endeavor without the help of the volunteers who show up and join us like mail persons during rain, sleet, and snow to deliver these goods to the residents. These volunteers, with a smile on their face, prepare, direct, and distribute the groceries in quick, efficient drive through. We thank you for your unselfish service to your neighbors.



*If anyone is interested in joining our volunteer team, please contact our Administrator Rondal Jones at (708) 333-9530.*

# Women's WELLNESS WALK



DONATIONS  
GO TO  
THE CRISIS  
CENTER

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

WOMEN'S WELLNESS VITAMIN B SHOTS | JEWEL/OSCO PHARMACY IMMUNIZATIONS |  
 TINLEY PARK CRISIS CENTER | MEMORY CARE | PODIATRIST | FACE TO FEET CARE |  
 PHYSICAL THERAPY | MELLOW NUTRITION | LOCAL VENDORS SPECIALIZING IN  
 WOMEN'S CARE & BEAUTY | GOODY BAG GIVEAWAYS | RAFFLES |  
 FOOD TRUCK | REFRESHMENTS | ACTIVITIES & SO MUCH MORE

**MAGGIE CROTTY SENIOR/YOUTH COMPLEX | 15350 OAK PARK AVE.**

Women's Wellness Walk!

PROJECT	EMAIL	ADDRESS	PHONE	AMOUNT

## JOIN US AS WE KICK OFF OUR INAUGURAL WOMEN'S WELLNESS WALK.

This exciting event will focus on the interests and needs of women and to promote the mind, body and spirit of women of all ages.

Get your lap pledge card & walk and help us raise money for women's health and awareness by walking the ¼ mile Maggie Crotty Walking Path.

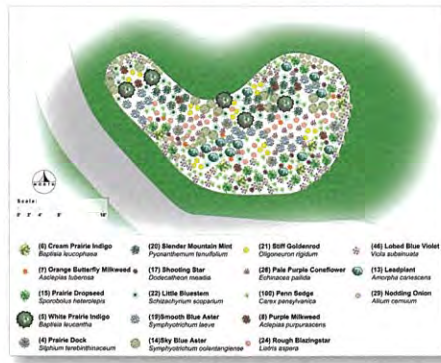
RSVP your pledge and more information by contacting [ssmith@bremontownship.net](mailto:ssmith@bremontownship.net) or call our office at (708) 687-8220.

# ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

A little while back, a wonderful group of volunteers approached Bremen Township with their concerns about how the open space and natural areas are rapidly shrinking and disappearing within our township and asked our assistance in sharing the information concerning the remaining untouched natural areas within our borders. *That group was the Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies!*

With our shared commitment in the preservation of these natural habitats for future generations, along with our vision of creating more green space, it was a no brainer for us to join forces with them. This past June, we partnered with our new friends in designing and planting a butterfly garden along our walking path. While our staff prepared the area, the Friends of the Prairie designed and supplied the plantings that are now growing into that area which will attract Monarch Butterflies and other wildlife. A great time by all on the planting day and we wish to thank all the volunteers and staff who participated, and invite everyone to take a walk along our path to see this addition.

This is a great organization that is always looking for new recruits of volunteers to join them to pass the torch to. If you love the great outdoors and would be interested in joining this wonderful group, please call our office at (708) 687-8220 or email us at [info@brementownship.net](mailto:info@brementownship.net) for more information.



The State of Illinois is comprised of 1,432 townships. Recently, T.O.I. (Township Officials of Illinois) sponsored a contest that challenged to submit highlights and projects that are beneficial to its residents. Knowing that we would be facing stiff competition from larger and more affluent townships, we accepted the challenge. We entered this competition and submitted the construction of the Maggie Crotty Walking Path, which was previously a plot of our land that was overgrown and filled with debris and transformed into an area for all our residents to enjoy. Much to our delight, we received a 2nd Place finish – similar to a silver medal in the Olympics – not bad. We are proud that 90% of the construction was carried out by our very own staff.

We invite all of our residents to enjoy the outdoors and take a ¼ mile stroll along this Award Winning Addition located adjacent to our Senior Café located at 15350 Oak Park Ave.

**Hope to see you there!**



**Left to Right:** Jeff Dunne, Bremen Township Maintenance Superintendent; Theresa Stepski, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies; Ron Kurowski, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies; John M. (Mike) Tatro, Bremen Township Trustee; John Sullivan, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies; George Derkovitz, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies; John Taylor, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies; Helen Taylor, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies; Shelly Smith, Bremen Township Senior Services Director; Kathryn Straniero, Bremen Township Supervisor; Mary Anich, The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies

# COMING SOON

## *Our New Addition*



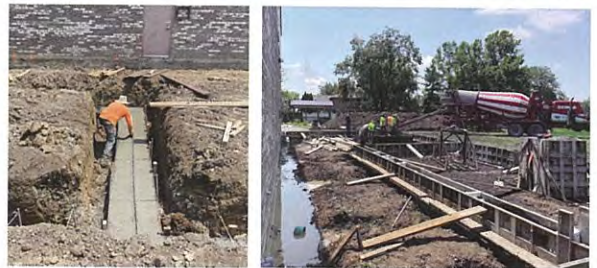
**We have finally broken ground for our multi-purpose sunroom addition adjacent to our Senior Café which will be connected to the Maggie Crotty Walking Path.**

This added space will supplement our café along with more space for other programs and events. This addition will also include exterior comfort stations to be used by our walkers, along with covered and open air patios with tables and chairs. Not only will this project enhance the amenities of our facility we are pleased to state that it was achieved with funds available with no need for a tax increase. We believe that the residents will be as excited as us upon its completion this coming spring.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize and thank two of our officials who were instrumental in getting this project off the ground with their insight and input. Those two individuals are Trustee John M. (Mike Tatro and Highway Commissioner John Flaherty. With their combined efforts and vast indispensable knowledge of the construction industry, they have ensured that we will have a quality built structure at the lowest possible cost.

PICTURED ABOVE:

*Highway Commissioner John Flaherty and Trustee John M.(Mike) Tatro*



***Thank you, Mike and John, in helping Build a Better Bremen.***

# A SALUTE TO ALL OUR VETERANS

As we approach the giving season, a day in November is one of the most important days of the year.

The date is November 11th – Veterans Day. Let us not forget these men and women that have given so much to all of us. Many of our municipalities and Veteran organizations will be hosting events and ceremonies observing this day of thanks which is so richly deserved. Because of them, our entire world is a much better place. We thank you for your service! Please check with your local municipality or Veteran organizations for the location and time of these events and take the time to thank a Veteran for their service.



## Annual Paper Shred Event

On Saturday, September 21st Senator Mike Hastings will host his Annual Paper Shred Event from 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. at the Maggie Crotty Senior/Youth Complex (15350 Oak Park Ave.). All papers will be shred on site and there is no limit to the amount of papers that you bring. We wish to thank Senator Hastings for being a part of our Bremen Township Team in providing services.



## NAMI

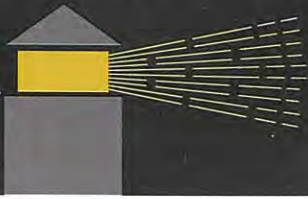
Beginning this September, NAMI will be hosting its Family to Family seminars every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 - 8:30 P.M. at the Maggie Crotty Senior/ Youth Complex (15350 Oak Park Ave.). These seminars are designed to help families cope and address the challenges faced when a loved one is struggling with mental health issues.



## You invite us - we will come!

Bremen Township was a proud participant in many of the local events in our municipalities. We attended the Memorial Day Observance in Oak Forest, the 4th of July Parade in Midlothian, the Hazelnut Parade and celebration in Hazel Crest, National Nights Out events and the Back to School Event in Robbins. We are always happy to join with all of the Bremen Township Municipal Families in promoting good will to all our residents. We ask that all municipalities keep us informed about events that they would like us to attend.

SHINING THE



# Spotlight ON...



**Rich Hofeld**  
Village President



**Marilyn Thomas**  
Clerk



**Vivian Harris-Jones**  
Trustee



**Jay Heiferman**  
Trustee



**Allisa Opyd**  
Trustee



**Lauren Roman**  
Trustee



**Julie Willis**  
Trustee



**Phillip Mason**  
Trustee

## HOMEWOOD

*Tucked away in the far Southeast corner of Bremen Township is one of the jewels of the South Suburbs. This gem is the vibrant Village of Homewood.*



Homewood has not one, but three business districts in town, all of which have seen solid growth over the past year. Restaurants and businesses abound with mom and pop stores to national brands and big box establishments with everything in between and resident's wishes for additional choices continue to be met. At last count Homewood has 67 eating establishments – including my favorite, the old standby – White Castle – you will never go hungry in Homewood.

On the west side of town the former Brunswick Zone bowling alley has been transformed into retail use with many new establishments coming soon, including a new breakfast/lunch restaurant in the Cherry Creek Plaza.

Our eastern section is home to the Wind Creek Casino which will be open by mid-November. This is a venture shared with our neighbor East Hazel Crest, with a percentage of the gaming revenue will be divided amongst all of the 45 suburban communities. Adjacent to the casino, construction has begun on a new hotel and entertainment center, which has been slated to open in the spring of 2025.

Our downtown area is anchored by both a METRA and AMTRAK station and is home to over a dozen quaint, attractive small boutique type businesses. Additionally, it hosts numerous restaurants with a variety of offerings to please your palates.

We have had positive and productive discussions with several developers who are interested in building more Transit – Orientated Developments (TOD) close to the METRA station and we anticipate ground-breaking next year which will add even more eateries to chose from.

Homewood's economic development successes are due to the hard working staff and great Village Board that understands how to get things done. If you haven't frequented our shopping and dining scene lately, I encourage you to do so. Come on in to town, visit our shopping areas and try out our many restaurant choices. Sample some of the Homewood Hospitality.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rich Hofeld

## THE BREMEN BEACON

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*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

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