



THE BREMEN BEACON

SHINING A LIGHT ON BREMEN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & SERVICES



A Message from the Supervisor

I am so happy to share some good news with you. The most fundamental obligations of local government is to be responsible with tax payer's dollars and to deliver services to its residents in an efficient & cost effective manner.

Now the Good News!

One important issue that Elected Officials vote on is their salaries and benefits. Already, one of the least compensated townships in the South Suburbs, the Bremen Township Officials used this opportunity and took the initiative to pass a resolution to **reduce their own salaries by 5%**. And again rejected insurance and pension benefits for themselves. I would like to express my thanks to **Trustees Mary Catuara, Edward P. Maggio, and John M. (Mike) Tatro** who along with myself took this unprecedented measure and kudos to **Clerk John D. Lord and Highway Commissioner John P. Flaherty** for supporting this effort.

Part two of the good news is that we completed our Annual Audit and once again the findings were that Bremen Township has maintained its strong financial position resulting in the highest financial ranking possible, while presenting a balanced budget as we have in the past four years without a township tax levy increase. Another finding, was that Bremen Township is one of the very few government entities that is debt free.

Last but not least, after a thorough examination of township finances, we determined that we have the ability to offer a **rebate** to every homeowner in Bremen Township. This rebate will refund **100%** of the Township General Fund for your 2024 property tax bill. Although the refund will not be substantial, because township taxes are among the lowest taxing bodies, we feel that every little bit helps, and we wish to do our small part to help out. Our legal council is in the process of preparing the resolution that we will present and pass as soon as it is complete. More information is available in this edition.

In addition, even with these actions, Bremen Township has increased services and programs in every department while not increasing fees or taxes, and we look forward to continue to do so in every community and neighborhood of the township.

In closing, we are so proud that we have this golden opportunity to give back to our residents this much needed assistance.

Sincerely Yours,

Kathryn Straniero, Bremen Township Supervisor

“We are proud to have the ability to give back.”



More Rebate Information Inside!



Officials Reports



Kathryn Straniero –
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

The findings of our Annual Audit have been completed and I am pleased to inform our residents that once again Bremen Township has maintained its strong financial position. These results are a confirmation of the accounting policies and practices that are followed by every Department Head in the township, who keep a watchful eye on expenditures and once again finished off the year under budget and with a surplus.

For the past four years, we have taken those surpluses and invested them wisely. The return on these investments was a contributing factor in our ability to offer the rebate. Following the financial road map we have established, we have projected that we will have the ability and funds to propose a refund again in four years.



John D. Lord – TOWNSHIP CLERK

As the Chief Election Officer of Bremen Township, it is my responsibility to inform you that the Municipal Election will be held on April 1st of this year and urge all of you to participate. This election will include referendums, Mayors, Alderpersons, Trustees, and Township Officials, all of which have a direct impact on you and your community and give you the opportunity to decide which direction you want your community to follow.

Early Voting begins on March 17th. Please call my office at (708) 333-9530 or (708) 687-8220 for locations or any other election questions. Last but not least, please exercise your right and vote.



John P. Flaherty – TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

I would like to begin by recognizing and thanking our partners at the Cook County Highway Department, that together we have solved a road issue that has plagued an area for decades. This joint venture includes a comprehensive engineering study, drainage issues, and a complete road re-construction and finally give our department the authority to maintain it while costing Bremen Township Taxpayers **Zero Dollars. Partnerships works!**

Other re-surfacing projects have been identified and bid packages are being prepared to ensure these projects can be completed in the upcoming construction season. Meanwhile, our staff continues to maintain the roads and roadways and has continued to service, repair our fleet of vehicles and equipment to ensure we move effortlessly from our snow season to this coming summer.

As always, please contact our office at (708) 333-9534 with any questions and/or concerns and we will address them promptly.



Willie A. Jones – TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Bremen Township Residents – if you would like to be notified when appeals open, please send us an email to be added to our appeal listing. Please include your name, address, contact number (we will only contact by phone if your email is rejected). If you have questions about exemptions, please contact us at (708) 333-1591 Monday thru Friday from 9:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M.

assessor@brementownship.net

Committee Reports

Trustee Carolyn Carter – INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CHAIRPERSON
NO REPORT.

Trustee Mary Catuara – YOUTH SERVICES CHAIRPERSON

Two years ago we established our very own Youth Department to offer counseling and other programs for our young people that need assistance. Since its conception we have expanded services to include support for the entire families of those seeking help. Every School District within our boundaries has partnered with us in reaching out to every parent or guardian of the many programs and services we offer and is available to them. The response has been both overwhelming and heartwarming for the many youths and families that we are now assisting. No child between the ages of 5-18 years old is turned away because of lack of funds or insurance – these services are free of charge to any youth that resides in Bremen Township. If you believe your child or grandchild could benefit from the many services we offer, please do not hesitate to contact our Health & Wellness Center at (708) 419-4100.

Trustee Edward P. Maggio – FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

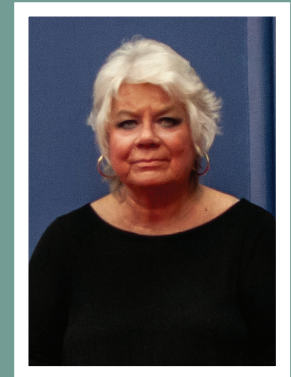
Fiscal responsibility has been the hallmark of this administration and I would like to begin by thanking **Supervisor Straniero, Trustee Mary Catuara, Trustee John M. (Mike) Tatro, and with the concurrence of Clerk John D. Lord and Highway Commissioner John P. Flaherty** who joined me in passing the resolution to **reduce the salaries of all Bremen Township Elected Officials by 5%**. Our Department Heads also need to be recognized for keeping a watchful eye on the bottom line by coming in under budget while increasing services. This collaboration, with everyone playing a small part has contributed to Bremen Township maintaining a strong financial position and remaining DEBT FREE. We are also proud to state that Bremen Township continues to be one of the lowest taxing bodies and our new budget will reflect that there will be **NO INCREASE IN TAXES OR FEES**. Kudos to all!

Trustee John M. (Mike) Tatro – BUILDINGS & GROUNDS CHAIRPERSON

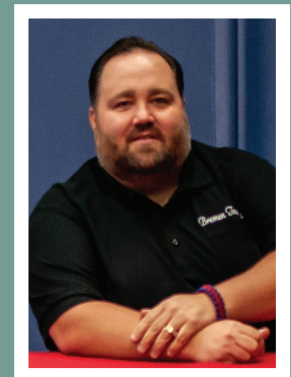
It gives me great pleasure to announce that our Sunroom addition to the Senior Café is near completion and will open later this Spring. This new structure will include a multi- purpose room along with seating under a covered patio and exterior comfort stations adjacent to our Award- Winning Maggie Crotty Walking Path. This project, with Bremen Township serving as the General Contractor with staff members doing preliminary preparation, oversight and other input has resulted in a quality addition while saving thousands of dollars. I would also like to thank Highway Commissioner John Flaherty for his expertise, oversight, and assistance in making this project a reality. Our next Capital Project we are working on is the rehabilitation, re-surfacing & striping of the driveways and parking lot at our Senior Center. Bid packages are now being prepared in order for this project to be completed this year.



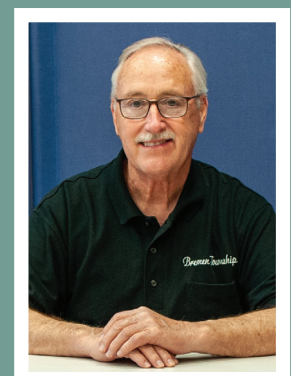
Carolyn Carter



Mary Catuara



Edward Maggio



John M. (Mike) Tatro

Working Together to **BUILD A BETTER BREMEN**



Robert (Bob) Rita
State Representative

Congratulations are in order to State Representative Robert (Bob) Rita who was named Deputy Majority Leader in the Illinois House of Representatives. His elevation is well deserved and ensures that Bremen Township will have a strong advocate in addressing the issues that affect so many of us. Representative Rita, who serves a Northern portion of the township, is well known for his constituent service, and his ability to cut through the red tape and get the job done for our residents. As a lifelong Southsider, he has a clear understanding of what is important to all of us and has always been a fierce proponent of cutting costs for Seniors, expanding access to health care, and helping working families to get ahead during these tough economic times. As a champion for working families, his well- deserved new position will give us a stronger voice to the residents of Bremen Township. Again, congratulations and we at Bremen Township look forward to Building a Better Bremen together.



Donna Miller
6th District County Commissioner

Our friend, Cook County Commissioner, who represents the Western portion of Bremen Township, continues to be a strong proponent for the Southland, and her initiatives have delivered results for all of us. Commissioner Miller re-wrote the narrative of Maternal Health and secured \$3 million in funding for the Doula Program which supports the physical and emotional health of mothers before, during and after pregnancy. Her awareness and commitment to mental health issues helped secure \$74 million in grants to ensure accessibility to residents. In addition, her boots on the ground approach delivered \$20 million to support storm water management in our communities that are affected by flooding issues. Commissioner Miller has a proven record of working with and collaborating with local governments in advocating for funding for infrastructure, social service needs and the safety of all of our neighborhoods. For your convenience she has established a first-ever satellite office in the Oak Forest City Hall at 15440 Central Ave. We are proud of her accomplishments and proud to call her a friend and look forward to continue to working together in Building a Better Bremen

Welcome to Bremen Township



Dr. Kisha McCaskill

5th District County Commissioner

We welcome newly appointed Cook County Commissioner to the Bremen Township family, who will be representing the Eastern section of the township. Commissioner McCaskill has a long history of service to the community and we are confident that she will bring that same sense of commitment as our County Commissioner. Her core values reflect ours with integrity and accountability along with the importance in the power of partnerships to foster a sense of working together to address the needs and concerns of residents. Listed below are some of the priorities that she will focus on.

Effective Engagement: Work closely with residents and community leaders for feedback to directly shape initiatives and services with timely communications.

Accountability & Transparency: Commissioner McCaskill will respond promptly and adhere to sharing results of initiatives and progress with stakeholders(residents).

Purposeful Action: Engage in meaningful projects that enhance the lives of residents served. Ensure that projects and activities align with core value of mission of integrity & accountability.

For the benefit of Bremen Township residents, we look forward to our new partnership and collaboration.



Mariyana T. Spyropoulos

Clerk of The Circuit Court

The Clerk of the Circuit Court Office is the front door to our justice system, and we welcome newly elected Mariyana to the Bremen Township family. First and foremost, the Clerks Office is about customer service and she will ensure that the office will run as a reliable and a pleasant experience for residents seeking assistance. Mariyana's past performance as Board President of the Water Reclamation District is a clear indication of her commitment to service and professionalism that she brings to this office. Under her leadership, this office will move forward into the 21st century by being more helpful and available and most importantly more accountable. This office offers a wide variety of services and assistance and we encourage you to visit their website at www.cookcountycourt.org for information to assist you. We thank you for all the services that this office offers to our residents and are confident of your management is a benefit to all in Bremen Township.





Youth & Family Services

Our goal in establishing the Youth Department was to provide a safe haven for any Bremen Township young adult between the ages of 5-18 years old could receive counseling, guidance, and any other assistance they may need for the challenges they face on their journey to adulthood.

To guarantee that no child is left behind because of financial reasons, all programs and services for any child in every one of our communities is Free of Charge. We are grateful that this successful program has served as a safety net for an increasing number of our young people. In our mission to better assist, we have found that at times, parents and/or guardians need help also, so we have extended our program to include the entire families that need this assistance that helps heal the mind, body, and spirit.

One of the most popular activities we have instituted is our bi-weekly chair yoga program which serves residents of all ages with light, low impact exercises. These classes are held every Monday and Wednesday at the Maggie Crotty Senior/Youth Complex (15350 Oak Park Ave.) This is a great way to keep those parts moving and meet new friends.

WELLNESS FAIR

Our first Wellness Fair will be held on Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. at our Oak Forest facility. We invite residents of all ages to attend and visit the many partners and vendors promoting healthy living. Listed below are some but not all agencies that will be presenting their services.

- Perfect Women's Wellness and Medical Spa
- Governor State University giving Blood Pressure Checks
- Hero - Drug Prevention
- Age Options for senior services
- Athletico Physical Therapy
- Together We Cope
- Southland Recovery
- The Crisis Center of South Suburbia
- Alzheimer's Association
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- And so many more for all ages!

Complimentary light refreshments provided by Bremen Township.

Investing in Our **SENIOR COMMUNITY**

*Our Seniors have spent their entire lives investing in their respective communities, **now it is our turn to give something back.***

SENIOR WHEELS PROGRAM | This is our most popular program, which provides over 1,000 rides per month for seniors over 55 to various destinations. Our fleet of cars, vans, & buses are handicap accessible for your convenience if needed, and we keep it affordable with a round trip ticket costing only \$4.00.

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM | Our partnership with Age Options provides lunches in our Senior Café Monday thru Thursday for a requested donation of \$4.00. Senior Wheels waives the fee for transportation for the lunch program.

SENIOR HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM | As all of us age, the likelihood of feeling isolated and experiencing grief over the loss of a loved one increases. We offer counseling and a variety of services to deal with these issues in our Wellness Center at no cost to any Bremen Township resident. Senior Wheels also waives the transportation fee for any senior needing these services.

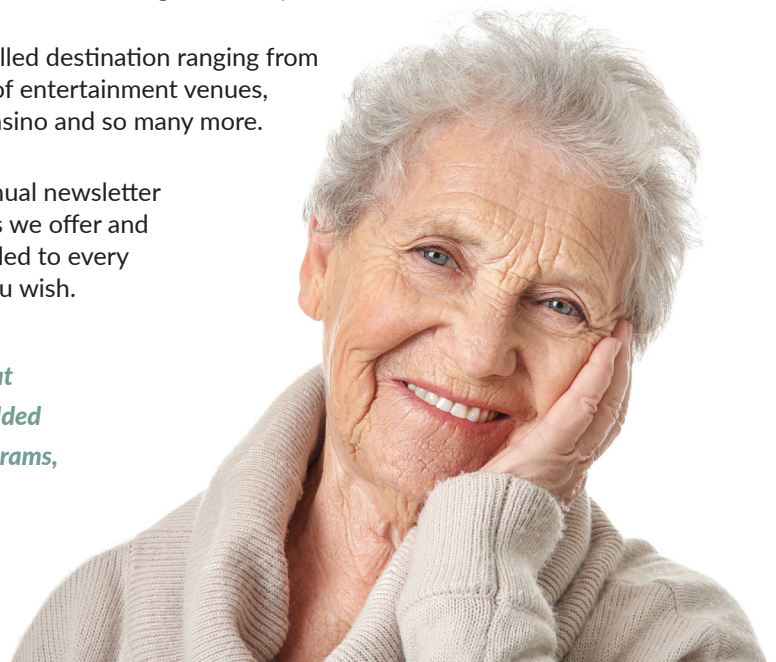
BINGO | Every Thursday, from 9:00 A.M. till Noon you can join in the fun and camaraderie, and free light refreshments while playing 23 games of bingo for the minimal cost of \$5.00.

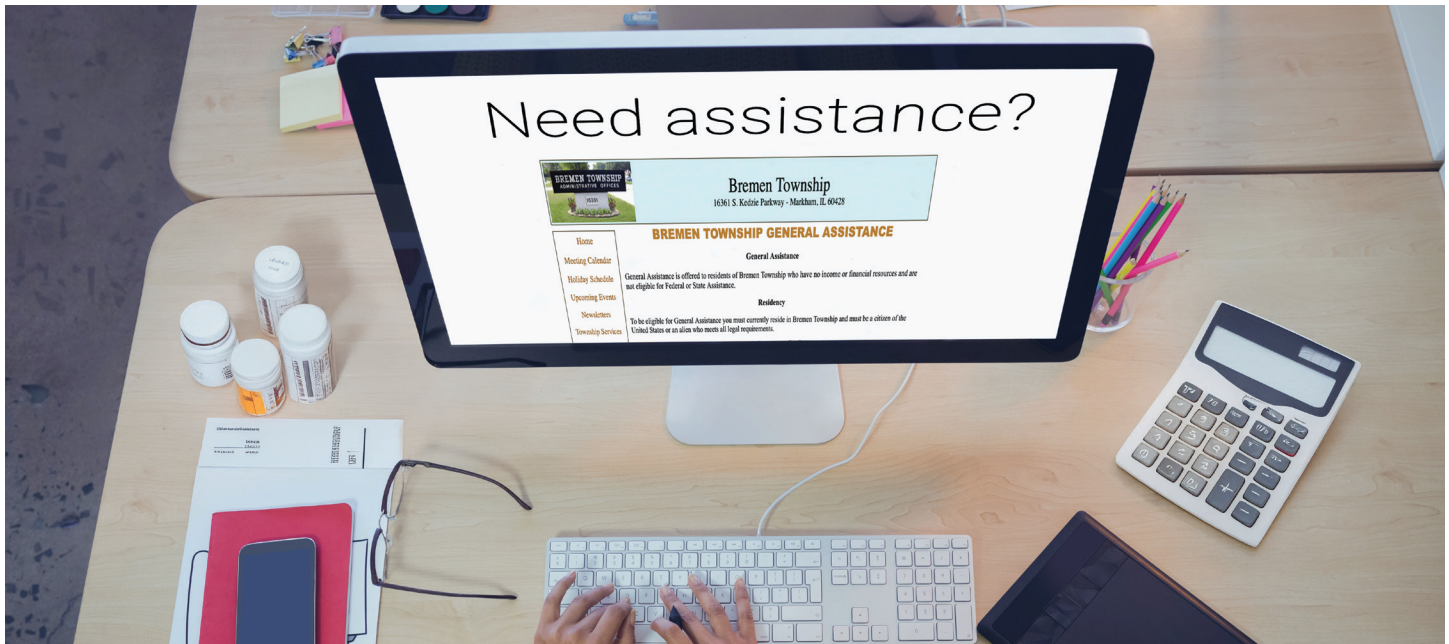
OTHER ACTIVITIES | Throughout the year, we host a variety of fun filled activities for your enjoyment. The Senior Valentine Party, the Spring Fling Dance when you bring your grandchildren for an afternoon of fun and dancing, and our Plant N' Go Party where you plant your own flower(all supplies provided by township) to take home are a few of the most popular events, along with many more.

DAY TRIPS | Every month we head off to another fun filled destination ranging from Lake Michigan Lunch Cruises, to State Parks, a variety of entertainment venues, along with our most popular trips to the Four Winds Casino and so many more.

SENIOR OUTREACH | We have established a semi-annual newsletter (The Sentinel) which informs our seniors of the services we offer and other upcoming planned events. This publication is mailed to every senior in the township, along with a digital version if you wish.

Please contact our Senior Services Director Shelly Smith at (708) 687-8220 or ssmith@brementownship.net to be added to our mailing list and a comprehensive list of Senior programs, services, events and activities that we provide.





General Assistance Program

When difficult times arise, we support our most vulnerable residents in need.

We Are Here to Help.

If you need other assistance, we have partnered with other agencies to fill your needs. Our staff will help you in finding the right agency to assist you.

MORTGAGE & RENT ASSISTANCE | Sometimes, the escalating costs of just getting by causes individuals and families to fall behind. We are there to help you.

UTILITY BILLS | No one should have their gas, lights or water shut off because they can't keep up. You must bring in your disconnection notice and valid identification prior to the date of disconnection and we will assist you.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE | This special program helps residents who have suffered a catastrophic event such as being displaced by a fire at their home or other life-threatening circumstances.

PRESCRIPTION RELIEF | Nobody should have to choose between eating or taking their medication. We offer assistance with your prescription needs.

AUTO REPAIR | If a broken vehicle is preventing you from getting to & from work, we have programs that will assist you.

NURSES CLOSET | We supply medical equipment such as wheel chairs, walkers, shower seats and more at both of our facilities. A \$25.00 refundable deposit is required.

Our General Assistance Department is located in our Administration Building located at 16361 Kedzie in Markham. Please contact our office at (708) 333-9530 and our friendly staff will be happy to assist you.

Please Note: General Assistance is available to those in need and who are not eligible for other State or Federal assistance. All recipients are required to provide necessary documentation to determine eligibility before assistance can be rendered.



Helping Hand Partners

TOGETHER WE COPE & THE GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY | Our partnership with Together We Cope and The Greater Chicago Food Depository distributes Free farm fresh produce on the 2nd. Friday of each month from 10:00 A.M. Till Noon at our Markham facility. Thanks to our partnerships we have delivered over 275,000 pounds of food to over 20,000 individuals and families.

PATHLIGHT'S | This agency guides people over 60 years old along their best path to aging, and adults with disabilities, their caregivers, families, and friends. They offer a wide variety of resources and services including but not limited to: Adult Protective Services, Caregiver Resources, Home Delivered Meals, Housing Options and Assistance, In- Home Services and more. For more information, contact Rojean Cope at (708) 361-0219 and her professional staff will assist you.

SALVATION ARMY | We are the Bremen Townships representative for our residents. This organization provides assistance with rent, utilities, and programs for Nicor Gas Energy Aid, and Nicor Sharing. Call Shari Dore or Kenya Jones at our General Assistance Office at (708) 333-9530 and they will assist you in getting started.

CRISIS CENTER FOR SOUTH SUBURBIA | This wonderful and much needed organization provides a safe haven for victims of domestic violence, offering immediate safety, along with an array of services to help victims gain independence from that cycle. They are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All services to victims are Free & Confidential.

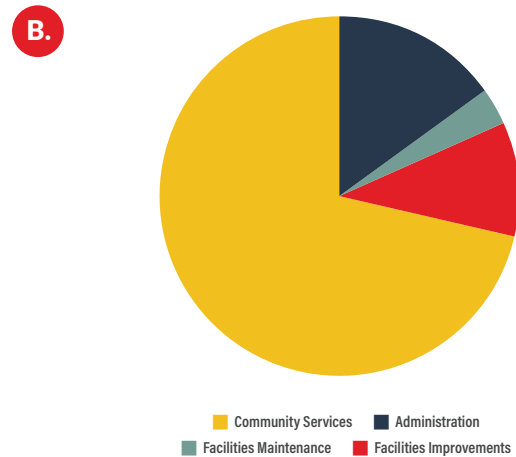
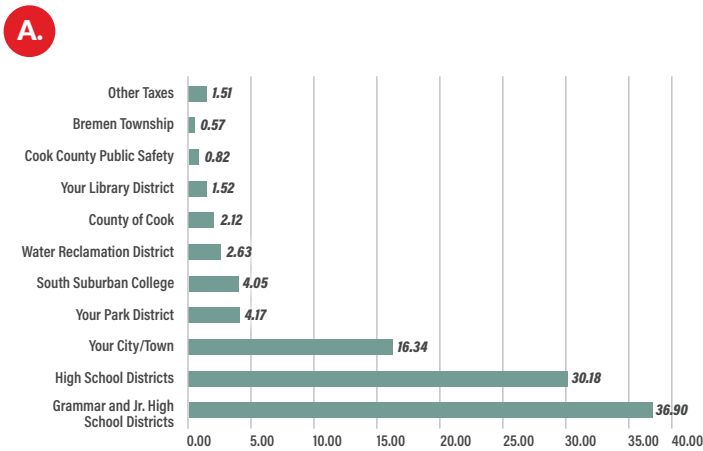
RTA & PACE | Reduced fare and Free Ride Passes are available along with ADA Paratransit tickets for Bremen Township residents.

NAMI (NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS)
No matter what your financial status is, what line of work you are in, what neighborhood you live in, no one is exempt from having a friend or family member dealing with Mental Health issues. You are not alone. NAMI is there to help with the challenges of coping with a friend or loved one who is confronted with these issues. The programs NAMI hosts have helped countless people looking for assistance in dealing with these issues. These programs are free to every resident in everyone of our communities. For more information as to how we can help contact Maryanne Bithos at (708) 351-6871 and she will guide you through on your road to recovery.



Where Do Your TAX DOLLARS GO?

As indicated, Bremen Township remains one of the lowest taxing bodies reflected on your property tax bill. We have maintained that status by careful planning, not raising the tax levy, and just using common sense. **We do not spend money we don't have.**



A. This chart helps the homeowner have a better understanding of the taxing bodies that are reflected on your property tax bill. Depending on your city/town/ or village these totals may vary. The one constant is that Bremen Township maintains the position of one of the most valued for the least amount of revenue.

B. This chart indicates the distribution of revenue that the township receives.

C. This graph explains our revenue, budget, and balances. The surpluses are transferred to programs and services with the remaining funds invested. The return on these investments played a vital role in our ability to offer a rebate to homeowners.

How Did We Do It?

REBATE INFORMATION

Every home owner in every community of Bremen Township is eligible to receive the rebate. As soon as final details are completed, you will be notified and forms will be available for you after the 2nd installment is received and paid. (Most likely it will be late Summer or early Fall, depending on when the Cook County Assessor sends them out.)

Multiple factors contributed to Bremen Township to our ability to offer the first ever rebate to our residents. Listed below are some, but not all, of the steps we took to accomplish this.

REJECTION OF PENSIONS & AND BENEFITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The independent auditor, when presenting the results to the Board of Trustees, congratulated Bremen Township for being one of the few South Suburban communities that pensions for employees is fully funded. While many government agencies kick the can down the road saddling future generations with debt, Bremen Township pays it bills in a timely manner, resulting in no deficit.

Pension and Insurance Benefits are one of the largest liabilities governments are challenged with. Eliminating these costs resulted in a saving of township funds to approximately **\$70,000.00**.

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

Surpluses from budgets were not spent. Instead, we took those savings and invested them, over the past four years those investments accumulated to a total of approximately **\$330,030.00**.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Planning for and saving future of capital projects instead of borrowing funds was a key element. One example is the township serving as the General Contractor for our new sunroom addition to the Senior Cafe coming in under budget resulting in a saving of approximately **\$400,000.00**.

When And What Will You Need For Rebate

100% of your 2024 General Fund Township Taxes will be available to all homeowners after the second installment is paid. The first installment has already been issued with the second installment due this late summer or early fall. We will notify all homeowners of the various locations including both of our facilities to apply for the rebate, and distribution of refund will begin on or before October, 2025.

For your convenience, applications will be available at both facilities.

When You Apply This Is What You Will Need

- Proper identification and proof of residency
- A copy of your paid 2024 property tax bill from either your mortgage company or the Cook County Treasurer's Office.

If you have any questions, please contact our Administration facility at (708) 333-9530 or via email at info@brementownship.net.



Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, March 15th

FAMILY WELLNESS FAIR

Join us for our first-ever Family Wellness Fair—a fun and educational event for all ages! Bring the kids and enjoy a day filled with activities, information, and resources to support your family’s well-being. The event will be held at the Maggie Crotty Senior/ Youth Complex (15350 Oak Park Ave.) from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. For more details and a complete list of presentations, call Dr. Michele at our Wellness Center at (708) 419-4100.

Every 2nd Friday of the Month

FREE FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Bremen Township distributes FREE fresh fruits and vegetables from 10:00 A.M. to Noon at our Markham facility (16361 Kedzie). Families and individuals in need are warmly welcomed by our staff and volunteers.

Wednesday, March 26th

GRANDPARENT & GRANDCHILD FUN DAY

Spend a memorable afternoon with your grandchild! Enjoy dancing, games, and other activities while bonding with your loved one. Light refreshments will be provided by Bremen Township. This event is free of charge. To sign up, call our senior center at (708) 687-8220.

Saturday, April 19th

E-WASTE & SHREDDING EVENT

Dispose of your old electronics and securely shred documents at our annual E-Waste & Shredding Event, in partnership with Sheriff Tom Dart and State Representative Robert (Bob) Rita. Join us from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at our Oak Forest Facility (15350 Oak Park Ave.).

Friday, May 16th

PLANT N’ GO PARTY

Get your hands dirty and enjoy a fun community gathering! Choose a plant or flower, plant it, and take it home with you. We provide all necessary materials, including pots and soil, along with light refreshments courtesy of the township. This event is free for all township residents and open to all ages. Call (708) 687-8220 to reserve your plant.

We look forward to seeing you at these exciting events!



Day Trips to Fun Destinations

Wednesday, April 2nd

OCEAN'S RAT PACK AT JACOB HENRY MANSION

Experience the ultimate tribute to the legendary music of Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and Sammy Davis Jr.

Wednesday, April 9th

FOUR WINDS CASINO - NEW BUFFALO, MI

Feeling lucky? Trip includes a \$10 Food Voucher & \$15 Instant Slot Credit.

Tuesday, May 6th

SHIPSHEWANA FLEA MARKET

Enjoy a day of shopping at the world-famous flea market and indulge in delicious Amish cuisine.

Monday, May 19th

STING RAY ANTHONY AT STARVED ROCK

An electrifying tribute to Ritchie Valens and other Rock 'n' Roll legends of the '50s.

Wednesday, June 11th

FOUR WINDS CASINO - NEW BUFFALO, MI

Another chance to test your luck at one of Michigan's premier casinos!

Tuesday, June 17th

SHIPSHEWANA FLEA MARKET

More shopping, more great finds, and, of course, more incredible Amish food!

Wednesday, July 16th

ODYSSEY LAKE MICHIGAN LUNCH CRUISE

Set sail for a scenic cruise paired with a delicious signature lunch.

Wednesday, July 23rd

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS GAME

Catch the action at Ozinga Field in Crestwood from a premium executive suite.

Tuesday, August 6th

DANCING HORSES - LAKE GENEVA, WI

Experience a Vegas-style show featuring mesmerizing performances—it's truly AMAZING!

Reserve Your Spot Today!

These trips fill up fast—call our office at (708) 687-8220 to secure your reservation.

Working Together & GETTING RESULTS



There is an old saying that “There Is No I In Team” and that is especially true in a government that is responsible to delivering services to its residents. One of the cornerstones of this administration is to collaborate with other agencies to provide essential services in the most efficient and cost- effective manner.
Teamwork works and gets results!

TOGETHER WE COPE & THE GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY

Through the combined efforts of Bremen Township staff and volunteers along with Together We Cope and the Food Depository, **we have delivered 275,000 pounds of food to 20,000 individuals and families over the past four years.** With the escalating cost of groceries, this joint effort is a benefit and blessing in helping our residents meet the demands of healthy without the burden of high-priced items at the grocery store. This program is free and there is no restriction of age. We are currently exploring the possibility of identifying another location in order to open an additional facility to serve you.

COOK COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

With the co-operation of the Cook County Sheriffs office, we **observe Earth Week by hosting an E-Waste disposal & shredding event.** This not only protects our environment, but gives our residents to dispose their unwanted electrical devices properly & conveniently close to home. This service is free to all Bremen Township residents.

THREE AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER

These three agencies, working together have found a way to solve a road and drainage issue that has plagued an area for decades. With the co-operation of the Village of Midlothian Public Works Department, it has been ensured that the maintenance of this project will be resolved at long last. The Cook County Highway Department has prepared all the legal documentation along with the engineering and construction aspects and will be providing the funding which means the homeowners will not adsorb the cost. This much needed project to be completed this spring was a result of all of us working together and the efforts of **Bremen Township Highway Commissioner John P. Flaherty and Highway Superintendent Jim Grande** who relentlessly pushed to get this job done.

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 228

Our Youth and Family Services Department has established communication and a **good working relationship with High School District 228** and every Grammar School District within the township to make every parent aware of the services we provide for their students. No child is turned away.

FRIENDS OF THE INDIAN BOUNDARY PRAIRIES

Bremen Township has 5 prairies that are protected and watched over by this wonderful group of volunteers ensuring that they are preserved in their natural state and no development. Joining forces with them has been a benefit for the residents of the township who use our walking path. They were instrumental in helping the **planting of the butterfly garden & providing a bench along the path**, which not only enhances the landscaping but also providing another rest stop along your walk. These additions were donated and cost the taxpayers nothing. Thank you friends.

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

We have developed a strong working relationship with Governors State University and have partnered with them on many fronts. A variety of their departments will be **joining us for our upcoming Health Fair** where they will be providing an array health related issues including screenings and tests. Quarterly, together we provide a **lunch N' learn** on topics such as fall prevention, nutrition, diabetes, chronic pain and more for our senior community. In addition, they **provide us with interns to assist with our Youth Counseling Program**. For a comprehensive list of offerings, Contact Dr. Michelle at (708) 419- 4100.

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

At the North end of Bremen Township the Calumet Sag Tributary C Project has made extensive progress. This project, when completed, will **help alleviate much of the flooding from Natalie Creek** which runs through the township starting at our Northern boundary in Crestwood and going as far South as Tinley Park. We appreciate the districts and municipalities seeking input from us to ensure that concerns from our areas impacted by flooding will be addressed.

BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL

Each year during the holiday season we partner with the National Honor Society and Student Council of Bremen High School for their annual **STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE** which **distributes groceries ensuring that no family goes hungry during the holidays**. These future leaders restores the faith in our next generation.

A Message From Our Friend **Cook County Clerk** **Monica Gordon**

Dear Residents of Bremen Township,

I am so excited to connect with you in my new role as the Clerk of Cook County. Serving the vibrant communities of Bremen Township in my previous role as Commissioner of the 5th. District was an immense privilege, and I am eager to continue our partnership in my new job as Clerk. In this position, I will be managing one of the largest consolidated Clerk's Offices in the nation that have many wide- ranging responsibilities. This includes the top priority of managing elections in suburban Cook County, something that we work on very closely with all townships and municipalities. As always, I urge everyone to study the issues, decide what is best for you, and let your voice be heard by voting. Currently, we are still looking for Election Judges for the April 1st. Consolidated Election, so if you would like to serve your democracy, and earn some cash in the process, sign up today at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

While my duties now stretch across all of Cook County, Bremen Township will always hold a special place in my heart. The collaboration and support from your community members has been instrumental in our shared success, and I look forward to the future where we build a Better Bremen together.

Yours in Democracy,

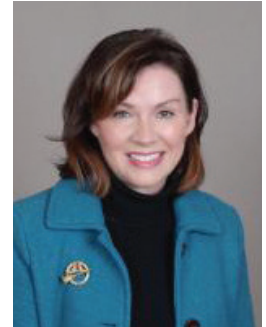
Monica Gordon
Cook County Clerk



Metropolitan Water Reclamation **District of Greater Chicago**

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

It is my privilege to serve as a Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner, whose mission is to protect the health and safety of the public and ensuring the safety of our water supply source, and protect businesses and homes from flooding. For the past 135 years we have worked to treat waste and storm water to protect the public health.



As a long time Southlander, Bremen Township remains one of the important areas to me, personally and with the District where I serve as Vice-President. I am grateful for the opportunity with the township and their communities on projects of which we have completed 7 and have 5 ongoing projects such as:

- Midlothian Creek in Robbins addressing overbank flooding affecting residents.
- Flood control project on Cal-Sag Tributary to address flooding and erosion protecting flooding on structures and roadways.
- The Green Alley Program in Markham to convert impervious alleys using permeable bricks.
- Conceptual Flood control project in Markham's Bel-Aire neighborhood.
- Storm water improvements in Posen.

I look forward to continuing our work together and hoping to meeting many more residents of Bremen Township.

For updates on upcoming events, job openings, storm water projects & other exciting news, be sure to stay in touch with my office on instagram at @mwrdd and on facebook at MWRD Commissioner Patricia Theresa Flynn.

Sincerely,

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





Recapping Our Past Year

Township Government is unique in that each Spring, when townships host their Annual Town Hall Meeting residents have the opportunity to vote for items on the agenda, and it is chaired by a resident - no other form of government does this.

Also at this meeting, each department presents a review of what their department has accomplished and plans for the upcoming year. Listed below are some of the highlights that will be presented and plans for the upcoming year.

SENIOR DEPARTMENT | Our Senior Wheels Division has provided a total of 13,202 rides to Seniors which 7,229 were medically related. Our fleet currently has 8 vehicles – 1 handicap accessible van and 3 handicap busses. We continue to add more programs and activities for our Senior Community.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES | What started out as counseling services for youth has grown to include entire families along with adult individuals and groups. Our individual sessions conducted reached a grand total of 983 with 687 for youth, - seniors 146, -

and adults 150. Recognizing that residents have other needs, we have expanded this program to include an array of services including grief support groups, chronic pain groups to name a couple. We continue to strive to accommodate whatever you and/or your family needs to live a happy and productive life.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE | When you fall down, we are here to help pick you up. This past year we have assisted 401 clients with helping with utility bills, rent, prescriptions to name a few, translating to \$223,913.25 given to our most vulnerable residents. If we are unable to help, we will help find an agency that can.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT | We have significantly increased the co-operation with other government entities such as the Cook County Highway Department and the Reclamation Water Districts and neighboring municipalities resulting in finding solutions for road and flooding issues that affect township residents. As we continue to move forward, we will continue to maintain the upgrades and re-surfacing of roads as funds are available. This past year we have distributed the replacement tax to every community in Bremen Township totaling **\$24,708.33**.

Remembering our Heroes

Let us not forget that we are who we are because of the sacrifices of those who proceeded us.

As Memorial Day is rapidly approaching, municipalities and Veteran Organizations throughout the township are planning events to commemorate and honor those that have come before us. As a show of respect, we urge everyone to join us in attending one of these events in your local city, town or village to show your appreciation and pay homage to those that have given so much.

Bremen Township has plans to erect a memorial celebrating our armed services and is looking for Veterans of every community and every branch of service to give us your input and assist us in location and design for this project.

If you are interested in assisting us, please call our office at (708) 687-8220 or email us at info@brementownship.net.

And last but not least – Remember our Heroes!



**SCAM
ALERT!**

It has come to our attention that many of our residents have been receiving phone calls from persons representing themselves as Bremen Township for a survey regarding services that the township offers. Please be aware that the persons conducting this survey is not and has never conducted a phone survey.

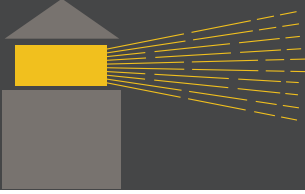
For whatever reason, these calls are being made to some of our most vulnerable of residents, namely Seniors in which they are being misled by misinformation and claims, and attempt to confuse.

As we have in the past, Bremen Township has welcomed your feedback by posting it in our Township Newsletter (the Beacon) or online on our website www.brementownship.net. If you wish to offer any suggestions or inquire about or adding additional programs and/or services you may also contact us at info@brementownship.net and our staff will promptly respond.

Please be aware and do not share your personal information with them.

If you receive these calls, please capture the phone number and call our Administration Office at (708) 333-9530 (option 1) and contact your local law enforcement authorities.

SHINING THE



Spotlight ON...



Kenneth Klein
Mayor



Catherine Johnson
Clerk



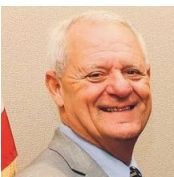
Anthony J. Benigno
Trustee



Linda M. Madlener
Trustee



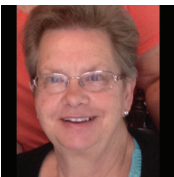
Kevin Wasag
Trustee



Frank Caldario
Trustee



Brian Skala
Trustee



Denise M. Pietrucha
Trustee



Leadership makes a difference. Over the past decade, the village of Crestwood has seen significant progress on infrastructure and economic development, and our motto of "Village on the Move" continues to ring true. With a primary goal to replace aging water mains to prevent loss and road excavation was required, we took the prudent step to upgrade the sanitary sewer system in the same problematic areas. Additionally, the upgrades on the storm sewer system will provide much needed relief to homeowners and businesses alike. This project is scheduled to be completed in late 2025.

In addition, the Village has successfully completed and have plans for several other storm water management projects. The 135th. Street project included the installation of a 68 inch storm sewer, which has alleviated flooding concerns for residents adjacent to the Forest Preserve. Another major undertaking is the Cal-Sag Trib C project is currently in development in collaboration with Bremen Township, Midlothian, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

I, along with our dedicated Trustees, take great pride in fostering partnerships with neighboring communities and governmental bodies. We believe teamwork translates into results for the benefit of all of us. This past year Crestwood and Midlothian completed a one- mile street replacement and sidewalk improvement project. We are also working on another significant joint venture - the Natalie Creek Trail which will connect, Crestwood, Midlothian, and Oak Forest to the Tinley Creek Trail, offering residents enhanced recreational opportunities for Biking & walking. We are also anticipating the completion of the Cicero Ave. enhancement project which will feature new LED lighting, improved sidewalks, & upgraded business entrances from Cal-Sag Road to 143rd. Street.

Additionally, the long -awaited development at Midlothian Turnpike and Cicero Ave. will break ground this Spring. This project will include a gas station, multiple restaurants, and retail stores. The Village played a pivotal role in acquiring the property, paving the way for more economic growth. As businesses evolve, our economic development team continues new enterprises s to attract new enterprises this past year alone, Crestwood has welcomed 15 new businesses.

Crestwood is truly a Village on the Move, with infrastructure enhancements, business development, & community improvements.

Ken Klein
Mayor

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

info@brementownship.net
www.brementownship.net

Thank you for letting us serve you!

One of our greatest achievements and source of pride is the fact that in the past our years, we have had the opportunity to meet so many of you at various events or visits to our offices.

Our establishment of the Beacon (This Newsletter) and the Sentinel (Senior Newsletter) has given us the ability to reach out and promote the many services and programs that we offer to every resident of every community in our township. The results of that have been both overwhelming and rewarding. There is no community in Bremen Township that for one reason or another that has not joined us for services, events, or activities, from the far Northeastern border in The Village of Robbins to our far Southwestern Village of Tinley Park and every community in between, where everyone is welcome and we are happy to assist. Don't forget, we are all members of the Bremen Township family.

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

Please remember, we are here to serve you and your input is important to us so that we can continue to offer services that you may need or assist you. You may contact our offices at (708) 333-9530 (Option 1) or (708) 687-8220 and our friendly staff will assist you or Email us at info@brementownship.net. We look forward to hearing from you.

Again, thank you for your friendship and confidence.

