



# THE BREMEN BEACON

SHINING A LIGHT ON BREMEN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & SERVICES



## Greetings from the Supervisor

Although township government is the oldest form of government in the United States, as I have traveled throughout the township and attended many events with various municipalities, I have found that inevitably someone asks the question as to what are some of the things that township government is responsible for. Hopefully, this edition will help clarify and give an overview of the services and programs that the township provides, that supplement what is provided by your city/town or village.

Bremen Township consists all of or parts of thirteen different, diverse municipalities, with each having their own unique set of services, circumstances and challenges. Our northern boundary is 135th. St. & extends South to 183rd. St. with Western Ave. at our Eastern border all the way West to Harlem Ave.

Township government serves as a safety net for residents and delivers services that for the most part municipalities don't provide, such as General Assistance, Homeowner tax issue services, unincorporated road maintenance, along with youth counseling services to name a few. In addition, any assistance that is rendered is inclusive for any resident within our boundaries and not limited to municipal residency requirements.

We at Bremen Township recognize and endorse the fact that cooperation and working together as a team with all of our municipal partners has a positive impact that are beneficial for all our residents and our neighborhoods. In this spirit of collaboration, in addition to our local municipalities, we have reached out to our county, state and federal representatives to join us in seeking support and to enhance our efforts in securing funding for future projects. Our mutual and united commitment to serve allows us to better assist our residents and together Build a Better Bremen. As always, please remember, we have an open door policy for all of our residents seeking assistance and we are here to help. Thank you.

Your neighbor,  
Bremen Township Supervisor  
Kathryn Straniero

*Kathryn Straniero*

## team•work

cooperative and/or  
combined effort of a  
group working  
together as a team  
for a common  
cause





## FARM FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

One of our most popular programs is our **Free Produce Day** which is held on the second Friday of each month at our Markham facility - 16361 Kedzie Ave., - from 10:30 A.M. until noon. This partnership with Together We Cope and the Greater Chicago Food Depository delivers an array of farm fresh produce items to individuals and families. There is no age or residency requirement and we invite all of our residents to share in this bounty. For more information contact Rondal Jones at **(708) 333-9530** or [info@brementownship.net](mailto:info@brementownship.net).

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

When residents fall on hard times, Bremen Township is here to help. This program is **available to those in need 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.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

This program serves as a lifeline and safety net for our residents that are struggling and facing dire circumstances. **We provide assistance with utility bills, rent, food and other emergency relief**. Eligible residents may receive Emergency Assistance one time in a two year period. For more information and to determine if you qualify for General or Emergency Assistance please contact Shari Dore at **(708) 333-9530 ext. 1001** or [shari@brementownship.net](mailto:shari@brementownship.net).

## BENEFIT ACCESS PROGRAM

This program offers **License Plate Discounts and /or RTA Free Ride cards** for either seniors or Persons with Disabilities. Applications and assistance of applications is available at both our locations, please call us at **(708) 333-9530** or **(708) 687-8220**.

## NURSES CLOSETS

Medical equipment such as **wheel chairs, crutches, walkers, etc. are available for free** use from both of our locations. All residents are eligible to use these items. A small refundable deposit is appreciated but not required. If we can assist you, please call our offices at **(708) 333-9530** or **(708) 687-8220**.

## SENIOR SERVICES

Our Senior Services Department offers a **wide range of services, programs and activities**, please visit our SENIOR page in this edition to view what we provide.

## YOUTH SERVICES

We offer **Youth Counseling and support services** for our young adults in Bremen Township, regardless of their ability to pay. This issue will serve as a guide and provide you with information needed to access this program.



# A few words from your Trustees

Although we come from different cities, towns or villages throughout the township with different walks of life, backgrounds and experiences, we share in one common denominator that binds us together. We are united in the firm belief that, by working together as we partner with others, gives us more opportunities and probability for success in delivering services and programs for our residents.

The primary responsibility of Township Trustees is to serve as financial overseers of all township funds to scrutinize and authorize spending for each department, and we take this obligation very seriously.

We are proud to report that this administration, along with our fellow office holders and departments respect and adhere to the best financial practices that have been established. The preliminary audit reports are a reflection of their commitment to fiscal responsibility.

We have also made great strides reaching out and partnering with other non-profit organizations and municipalities in order to provide additional resources.

One of the crowning achievements of this administration is the partnership that was established with Sertoma to provide counseling and support for our young adults. This joint effort ensures that any township child between the ages of 5-18 years of age has the necessary tools needed to guide them to adulthood.

In closing as always, stay safe, support your local businesses, be a good neighbor. Until next time have happy, healthy, and prosperous holiday seasons.



Carolyn Carter



Mary Catuara



Edward Maggio



John M. (Mike) Tatro

# Officials **REPORTS**



**Kathryn Straniero** - TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

We are now in the process of conducting our Annual Audit, with preliminary information indicating that once again Bremen Township is in a strong financial position delivering a balanced budget that is debt free without raising Bremen Township taxes. These findings are a result of the combined effort of the Bremen Board of Trustees along with every department taking their obligation to be fiscally responsible seriously and is a critical part of our success. Thank you and congratulations to all.

**In other news:** We are pleased to report our outreach program for youth counseling is ongoing, expanding and evolving. Please remember that any Bremen Township adolescent between the ages of 5 - 18 years is eligible to receive these services regardless of their ability to pay.

New Digital Signage will be soon installed at both township facilities which will serve as informational centers.

Wishing all of you the very best in the coming holiday season and please stay safe and healthy.



**John Flaherty** - TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

As our construction season comes to an end, we are completing our resurfacing projects throughout the township. The open lines of communication with our local municipalities, along with the assistance of Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller will amplify our ability to plan upcoming road and drainage projects next season.

A special shout out is in order for Mayor Gary L'Heureux of Midlothian and Crestwood Mayor Lou Presta along with their Boards of Trustees for their assistance in resurfacing the multi jurisdictional portion of Long Ave. Their support and cooperation with this joint effort project was essential in its completion.

As we look forward and prepare for the approaching winter, please remember to keep your culverts clean of leaves and debris to allow proper drainage and as always drive safe and keep an eye out for the little ones on the streets.

Have a great holiday season and stay safe and healthy!



**Willie Jones** - TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

The Townships Assessor's office is one of the least understood offices of township government. This office does not assess property, however we assist the homeowners with filing appeals with both the Cook County Assessor and the Board of Appeals. This office also ensures that residents are receiving all the exemptions that they are qualified to obtain.

We are here to assist you with any property tax concerns or questions. If you prefer to visit our office, for your safety and with limited space, at this time, we urge you to call us at (708) 333-1591 Option 2 or email us at [assessor@brementownship.net](mailto:assessor@brementownship.net) to schedule an appointment and our friendly staff will assist you.

As always, wishing you the best in the upcoming holiday season and please stay safe and healthy.



**John Lord** - TOWNSHIP CLERK

As the official recorder and keeper of all records of township business, our office also prepares, conducts and processes the bidding procedures for all entities including the Highway Department. In addition, the office prepares all meeting agendas and conducts the Annual Town Meeting which is a distinctive feature of township government, where any registered voter of the township has the opportunity to cast their vote on items on the agenda. It is also unique, for the fact that at this meeting a resident is nominated, elected and sworn in to serve as a moderator and preside over the proceedings of the meeting after being sworn in by the Township Clerk. These proceedings bring the will of the people to the forefront and provide our residents

the opportunity to be truly engaged in the decision making process of government.

Until we meet again in our next issue, our office wishes all of you Happy Holidays and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

# Our first 100+ DAYS



**Elected officials at walking path sign**  
 Highway Commissioner John Flaherty, Trustee Ed Maggio, Clerk John Lord, Trustee Carolyn Carter, Assessor Willie Jones, Trustee Mary Catuara, Trustee John m. (Mike Tatro), Supervisor Kathryn Straniero

On May 17th of this year we were honored and proud to have Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller preside over and swear in the newly elected officials of Bremen Township.

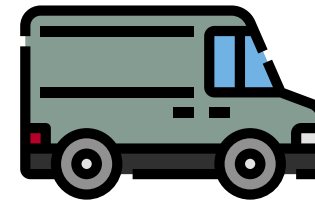


One of the first official acts of this body was to formally designate and name our new walking path to Bremen Townships late Supervisor Maggie Crotty. This dedication was held on May 22nd, with a crowd of family and friends from near and far, along with large contingent of local, county, state and federal officials that spoke of the good times they had shared while they served in office together.



Master of Ceremony, former State Representative Terry Steczo and Supervisor Kathryn Straniero speaking at dedication

Provided over **3,500 RIDES** to senior citizens.

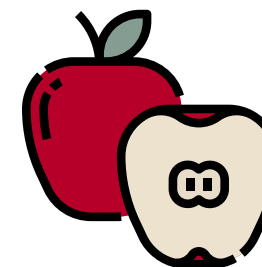


Newly sworn in Supervisor Kathryn Straniero presiding over 1st meeting.



Supervisor Kathryn Straniero and Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller with Supervisor's Certificate of Election.

Distributed over **48 TONS OF PRODUCE** to over 6,000 individuals and families.



Provided every municipality, school and park district with access to youth counseling services.



Partnered with Cornerstone Community Development & Together We Cope in establishing Job Training Program.



Program Director Shelly Smith and Age Options Senior Lunch Coordinator Sue Ernst presenting award to Volunteer extraordinaire Willis Barte for his dedicated service to Age Options.

Distributed over **5,000 PERSONAL PROTECTION ITEMS** to residents.



Hosted vaccination events.



Installed over **80,000 SQUARE FEET** of asphalt and stone to complete road resurfacing projects throughout the township.



# For Our SENIORS



This ongoing pandemic has been difficult for all of us, and especially so for our most vulnerable residents, our seniors, who have missed the opportunity and ability to socialize with their fellow seniors. The isolation that has been forced on many of them can have a devastating effect on their well being. Although we all have busy schedules, let's all try to take some time and do a wellness check or a call just to say hello to a senior – it could make their day.

As we navigate through the ever changing Covid situation, our Senior Division is making every effort to continue to provide as many activities and services while taking precautions and not putting the health, safety, and welfare of our seniors in jeopardy.



## LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US

Our Senior Wheels Program offers transportation for Bremen Township residents 55 years of age or older on a daily basis. We will take you shopping, to the doctor, hair dresser, or just to lunch or visit a friend anywhere within Bremen Township. Medical related transportation is not limited to township boundaries. Along with our cars we also have Pace buses and vans with wheel chair access for those who need them, with all vehicles having been retro fitted with protective shields for the safety of our passengers and drivers.

The fare is \$2.00 each way, with a 10 ride ticket available at a discounted price of \$16.00, which can be purchased with any of our drivers.

Operational hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. – 4:P.M. with the first scheduled pick-up at 8:30 and the last return trip at 3:P.M.

To schedule a ride, please call our office at **(708) 687-8220** and our friendly staff will be happy to assist you.

## SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

Our partnership with Age Options provides delicious, nutritious lunches for seniors 60 years of age or older Monday through Wednesday in our Senior Café located at our Oak Forest facility, with a requested \$4.00 donation.

Reservations are required one week in advance.

Look to our web site at [www.brementownship.net](http://www.brementownship.net) to view our monthly menu, or call our Age Options Director Sue Ernst at **(708) 687-8220** for more information to make your reservation or place an order to go..

For your protection and safety our Lunch Program adheres to all CDC and Age Options guidelines, recommendations and requirements.

Please join us for not only some great food but some great company with your friends and neighbors as well.

If you are in need of transportation, our Senior Wheels Program will waive the fee to and from for our township residents.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Due to the unrelenting pandemic some activities that we all have enjoyed such as our field trips and large gatherings such as bingo have been placed on hiatus. We too miss these large functions and look forward to resuming them as soon as it is declared safe to do so. For the time being, we have been exploring other scaled down events that allow for safe participation and socialization.

This past Spring and Summer found us hosting our first Plant and Go Party along with a Rock Painting Day. All participants were supplied with plants or herbs which they planted in pots to take home or in flower beds at the Activity Center.

Our Rock Painting event gave our residents an opportunity to show off their artistic skills while getting the chance to socialize with their friends and neighbors. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to expanding these two activities and making them annual events and hope you join us next time.

We will keep you posted as we add more events like this in the future, and once again as we asked in our survey, please let us know if you have any ideas of activities or services that you would like to see us provide.

Please contact our services coordinator Shelly Smith at **(708) 687-8220** or [ssmith@brementownship.net](mailto:ssmith@brementownship.net).



## COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

These times are demanding for everyone, and especially for our young men and women who are navigating their journey to adulthood, who face their own set of challenges and obstacles along the way. On a daily basis, some of our young people are confronted with bullying, peer pressure, anger issues, or seeking out someone to listen to their concerns, understand their situation or offer comfort.

**Bremen Township has made youth services a priority and our partnership with Sertoma in providing counseling to our young adults of Bremen is ongoing and expanding, and indications have shown that our outreach program is paying dividends. We have provided every school and Park District within Bremen Township with information and access to this program.**

Counseling and support services are available for youth experiencing:

- + ADD or ADHD
- + Depression
- + Anxiety
- + Eating Disorders
- + Self Esteem/ Identity Difficulties
- + Substance Abuse
- + Suicide Prevention
- + Bullying
- + Conduct Disorder/ ODD
- + Other Mental Health Diagnosis

This service is available to each and every young adult of Bremen Township regardless of their ability to pay. If you or someone you know is in need of these services you can find help by calling us at: (708) 748-1951 Ext. 455 or (708) 687-8220

*(Child must be 5 years or older to qualify)*



# YOUTH IN ACTION

Many years ago in his Inaugural Address, President Kennedy presented all of us with the challenge of "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country". Those words were as important then as they are right now in these demanding days. Following is a shining example of our young residents who have taken those words to heart, followed through and stepped up to the plate and took action.

The Annual Bremen Food Drive is now in progress. This outstanding event is sponsored by the Student Council and National Honor Society of students of Bremen High School. Each year these future leaders host this event that collects non-perishable food items to **STUFF THE BUS** and distribute to families in need during the holiday season. The unselfish and unmatched dedication and effort put forth by these young adults is a testament to their commitment to serve their community and instills our faith in our next generation.

**Bremen Township is proud to support and lend a helping hand in making this noteworthy event a success. Both of our facilities (15350 Oak Park Ave. in Oak Forest & 16361 Kedzie Ave. in Markham) will serve as additional drop off points for food donations from now until November 12th.**

We ask all residents from all of our communities to support, share and join with us by making a contribution to this cause and help **STUFF THE BUS!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Sarah Bogard**  
National Honor Society  
sbogard@bhsd228.com

**A.J. Chelepis**  
Student Council  
achelepis@bhsd228.com

**Terry Stephens**  
Volunteer  
tstephens@bhsd228.com

**Bremen Township**  
(708)333-9530 or  
(708) 687-8220  
info@brementownship.net



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We commend the leadership of the 13 communities that are encompassed by Bremen Township that work very hard to provide an array of events and activities for their resident's enjoyment and participation. We have reached out to every community to tell us about some of the upcoming events in their town/city/village.

## Here is some of what they said...

### HOMEWOOD

#### Farmers Market

- Every Saturday until October 9th | 8AM–Noon
- Martin Ave. (Between Ridge & Chestnut Rd.)

#### Holiday Lights

- Friday, December 3rd | 5–9PM
- Martin Ave. (Between Chestnut & Kroner Ave.)

#### Miracle on Martin

- Saturday, December, 11th | 2–6PM
- Martin Ave. & 18022 Dixie Highway

### TINLEY PARK

#### Downtown Kiddie Boo Bash

- Saturday, October 24th | Noon–3PM
- 17375 Oak Park Avenue

#### Holiday Market

- Friday, December 3rd – Sunday, December 5th (check village web site for times)
- 17375 Oak Park Avenue

#### Farmers Market

- Every Saturday until October 9th | 8AM–Noon
- 17375 Oak Park Avenue

### MIDLOTHIAN

#### Annual Fall Fest & Scarecrow Display

- Sunday, October 24th | Noon–2PM

#### Rain Ready Garden

- **Date/Time???**
- 149th. & Pulaski (Next to VFW)

#### Christmas Parade

- Saturday – December 4th | 3:30PM
- Parade begins at 147th. & Cicero

### OAK FOREST

#### Annual Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

- Saturday, December 4th | 11AM
- Parade begins at Oak Forest High School (151st. & Central)

#### Tree Lighting at City Hall

- **Date/Time???** | 7PM
- 15450 Central | 7PM

### HAZEL CREST

#### Trunk or Treat

- Saturday, October 30th | 6PM
- Hazel Crest Recreation Center (2600 W. 171st. St.)

#### Holiday Tree Lighting

- Friday, December 3rd
- Vernard L. Alsberry Jr. Municipal Center (3601 W. 183rd. St.)

### MARKHAM

#### Fright Night Friday

- Friday, October 22nd (Movies begin at dusk – weather permitting)
- Roesner Park – 16053 Richmond Ave.

#### Turkey Give Away

- Monday, November 22nd | (Call City for Time)
- Roesner Park – 16053 Richmond

#### Winter Wonderland

- Saturday, December 11th | **Time?**
- Roesner Park -16053 Richmond

# LOOKING AHEAD



## Coming Soon

We have begun exploring the possibility of installing men's and women's comfort stations, along with a covered patio and Four Season Room addition at our Oak Forest facility. The comfort stations will have easy outside access for anyone using the walking path. The Four Season Room will be an additional well ventilated space for lunches and other activities. Preliminary plans are being drawn and will be presented to the various agencies for permits and approval. If all goes well we would hope to break ground during the next construction season.

## EARTH DAY 2022 | April 22nd

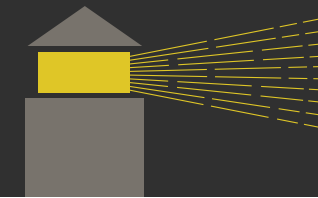
Last Spring, in celebrating Earth Day, Bremen Township hosted its first ever E-Waste disposal event. Because of the overwhelming turnout and requests from our residents we are hoping to make this an annual event. At this time we are preparing the final details, with the tentative date between the 2nd. & 3rd. week of April. We will post the exact date and time in our Spring/ Summer edition.

## ARBOR DAY 2022 | April 29th

In order to enhance your experience on our walking path, we will be planting more trees and shrubbery throughout the area. Volunteers are always needed and welcome to help us with the plantings, and/or helping maintain and decorate our rest areas along the path. If you have a green thumb, enjoy the outdoors, and /or have a talent for landscape ideas, please join us. We are now in the process of installing additional benches and rest areas that have been dedicated by residents, families and friends of Bremen Township for your convenience. You too have the opportunity to have your family name or business prominently displayed on any bench, bush, tree, or rest area which you dedicate.

To volunteer or for more details please call: (708) 687-8220 or (708) 333-9530.

## SHINING THE



# Spotlight ON...



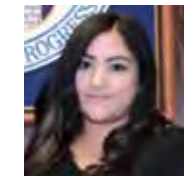
**Frank Podbielniak**  
Village President



**Melanie Myers**  
Village Clerk



**Jeffery Casillas**  
Village Trustee



**Araceli Costello**  
Village Trustee



**Richard Klappowski**  
Village Trustee



**Yesenia Lopez**  
Village Trustee



**Donald "DJ" Schnering**  
Village Trustee



**Aaron Wisniewski**  
Village Trustee

## POSEN

Bremen Township is proud to serve 13 different and diverse communities within our boundaries. Each Beacon edition will share information and facts about an individual community and the efforts being made to improve and enhance the well being of its residents. Our inaugural spotlight will be on Posen, which is on the far northeast portion of our township.

Posen is one of the oldest communities in Bremen Township having being settled in 1893, with the village motto of "Peace - Pride - Progress". The current administration, under the leadership of Mayor Frank Podbielniak has reached out to multiple businesses to invest in Posen, along with working closely with other government agencies to address infrastructure issues. These efforts have paid dividends for the village which the administration is proud to announce the opening of new businesses in Posen including Dunkin/Baskin Robbins, Wendy's, Captain D's, along with a new 3200 square foot laundry. Working together with Federal, State, & Cook County officials, they have secured grants for multiple road resurfacing projects throughout the village along with installing ADA compliant sidewalk on each corner in town in addition to improvements to the Community Center.

Posen is a prime example of what can be accomplished when elected officials join forces and work together for the betterment of their residents. We recognize and applaud the achievements that the elected officials of Posen have accomplished for the village and doing their part to Build a Better Bremen. **Nice Job!**





## THE BREMEN BEACON

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


Supervisor, Kathryn Straniero  
Clerk, John D. Lord  
Assessor, Willie A. Jones  
Highway Commissioner, John P. Flaherty

### Trustees

Carolyn R. Carter  
Mary Catuara  
Edward P. Maggio  
John M. (Mike) Tatro



# STAY CONNECTED With Us

Please send your email address to [info@bremetownship.net](mailto: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

