



THE BREMEN BEACON

SHINING A LIGHT ON BREMEN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & SERVICES



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



Greetings from the Supervisor

A season of giving, a season of hope

Like a candle in a winter window, its flame flickering but persistent, hope keeps us going during the worst of times.

As we enter the season of giving, we understand that need never hurts more than during the holidays. But it is also the season when hope makes us dare to believe that things can get better in our lives. Often, it is strangers who make us believe in miracles. Our little Bremen community, where I have lived most of my adult life, inspires me constantly with its people and institutions that respond to neighbors in crisis and make things better for many.

In our schools, little ones gather warm pajamas to help children in need to face cold nights. In our churches, residents contribute to food drives to address the daily issue of hunger. Someone is running a coat drive, someone else is rounding up Thanksgiving turkeys. Others are helping to pay someone's rent or to keep the heat on, still others are helping someone to find a new job or repair the family car.

Often it's the smallest of gestures that can make the largest difference, and keep hope alive for those among us struggling to move past a crisis: a pair of mittens for cold hands, a donated flu shot, a tank of gasoline to get to work, a bus pass, a free dental visit, a box of diapers for the littlest ones.

Our Bremen Township government answers the call all year round with many services for families, youth, and the elderly. We ramp things up during the fall and winter seasons to meet the holiday need. At the same time, we know that help must extend beyond the holidays in order to effect true change in people's lives. We allocate your tax dollars to serve the greater good, and we count on your generosity to supplement our efforts. We have never been disappointed.

This is a season of remembrance. We acknowledge our good fortune, and remember that others are struggling. We find a way to step into someone's life and bring some hope. Make a call to anyone organizing a giving campaign and ask: "How can I help?"

Sincerely Yours,

Kathryn Straniero

Kathryn Straniero, Bremen Township Supervisor



Officials **REPORTS**



Kathryn Straniero –
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

I find it so rewarding that the programs and services that we have improved and/or implemented come to fruition. We are so proud of our entire staff whose efforts make it all possible and successful. From our **Youth Counseling Services** to our **Senior Services Department** and everyone between, their dedication has enhanced opportunities for all the residents of Bremen Township. THANK YOU ALL!

We are also honored to welcome back former Trustee Norm Pestlin of Tinley Park who has volunteered to head up our new **Veterans Commission**. This is the first time that our township will have a commission dedicated to the appreciation of all of our service members. More information and details are included in the following pages of this edition. Thank you Norm – we are confident that you will serve admirably.



John D. Lord – TOWNSHIP CLERK

As an active member of Township Officials of Cook County Clerks Division I, along with other township officials and staff, recently attended the Township Officials of Cook County seminar, which presents classes and workshops to explore services that other townships provide along with the opportunity to learn how to increase performance and implement other programs. It was also eye opening and gratifying to confirm that our township offers programs that are comparable or exceeds more affluent townships. One of the presenters informed us that our township may be possible to issue passports, which we are going to pursue, and hopefully be able to launch this service to our residents this coming year. This office will be providing oversight for this new service and keep you aware of updates.



Willie A. Jones – TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!

This is the year that Cook County will be re-assessing property for Bremen Township. As of now, Cook County has not given a date as to when the notifications will be sent out so please be on the lookout and do not disregard the information. In the meantime, our office is currently setting up workshops in your community to answer any questions you may have before the appeal process begins. Please call our office @ (708) 333-1591 (Option2) for any updates and assistance.



John P. Flaherty – TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

We are now approaching the end of the construction season and one of the hottest summers on record. Weather conditions play a huge part on the day to day operations and dictate how we approach and accomplish many of our day to day operations. With that said, this year we resurfaced, patched, and repaired numerous roads and roadways throughout the township with our biggest project being the complete rehabilitation of portions of George Brennan Highway and drainage ditches along with stoning shoulders throughout the unincorporated roads. We are now beginning our sign replacement program on all roads under our jurisdiction. If you live in an unincorporated area of Bremen and any signs (street, speed limit, parking, etc.) are damaged, missing, faded etc. please contact our office at (708) 333-9534 so that we can address it. Also, just a quick reminder to keep your driveway culverts and ditches clean of debris and obstructions before the snow season. Wishing you the best for the upcoming holiday season.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have made significant technical improvements at both of our facilities, which include updating our computers and phone systems in every department.

We are now developing a plan to address capital projects and physical improvements for our properties. This plan will evaluate, prioritize, and schedule the projects accordingly. Some of these projects include the completion of the senior center four season room, patio and walking path comfort stations in the Spring of 2024, the exterior renovation of our administrative office in Markham for the fall of this year, resurfacing of parking lot at the Senior/ Youth Complex, and installation of emergency generators at both locations, and the expansion of our bus garage for our Senior Wheels program to name a few. These and many more projects are scheduled to be completed within a five year time frame and a comprehensive list of our five year plan can be viewed on our web site. We are most proud of the fact that through this careful planning, each and every one of these projects **will not** require any increase to homeowners.



2023

2022

2021

HELP US HELP OTHERS!

It is time again for Bremen High Schools annual **STUFF THE BUS** food drive. This event, sponsored by the National Honor Society and Student Council of Bremen High School, collects non perishable food items that are distributed to the less fortunate households during the holiday season. We have been a proud partner with them for the past three years and look forward to assisting these outstanding students and their exemplary undertaking. Please help us in making this event record breaking for the area families that are served.

Food donations will be accepted at both of our locations (15350 S. Oak Park Ave. in Oak Forest & 16361 Kedzie Ave. in Markham) from now until November 10th.

For more information call our offices at (708) 687-8220 or (708) 333-9530.

Please help us **STUFF THE BUS** so that no one goes hungry this season.



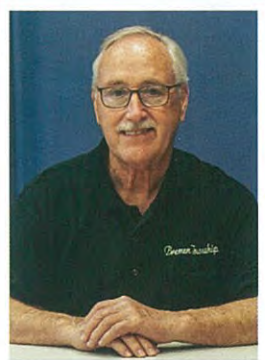
Carolyn Carter



Mary Catuara



Edward Maggio



John M. (Mike) Tatro



HELPING HANDS FOR OUR YOUTH



As we have stated before, today's young people face many challenges and obstacles just trying to be a kid. Every child, no matter their social status, zip code, neighborhood

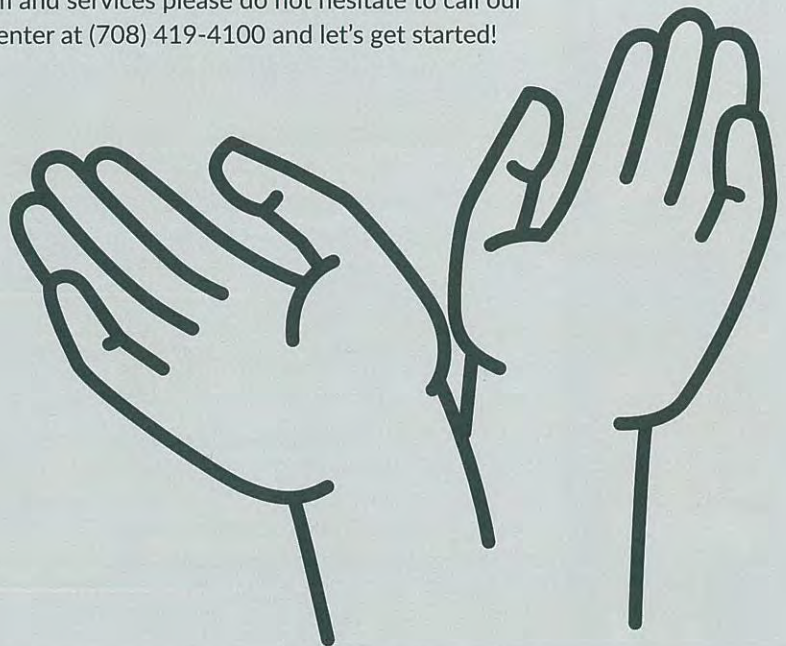
or religion deserves to have the very best care and assistance as they struggle to navigate their growing years. It is our obligation as adults to provide these basic expectations. This past year we have opened the Bremen Township Wellness Center at our Maggie Crotty Senior/Youth Complex (15350 Oak Park Ave. in Oak Forest) to provide a safe haven for our young adults.

To launch our outreach program, our staff convened a meeting and open house with every school district within the township to provide them with information on the programs, activities, and counseling services that we provide. Each district will be sending out this information to the parents at the beginning of the school year. In addition, for your convenience we have distributed to every municipality the brochure that outlines these services. It is important to note that these services are **free of charge** to any and all residents of Bremen Township between the ages of 5-18 years old.

Anxiety, Bullying, Depression, Eating Disorders, Fear, Grief, Mood Fluctuations, Sadness, Substance Use & Abuse, Suicide Prevention are only some of the issues that we can help with.

Individual and group sessions are available.

If you think your child or grandchild would benefit from this program and services please do not hesitate to call our Wellness Center at (708) 419-4100 and let's get started!



ENJOY THE GOLDEN YEARS – **YOU DESERVE IT!**

We have recently added a new Newsletter designed especially for the senior community. This publication will be mailed township wide to residents 55 years or older in the month of July and January. If you did not receive the July edition please call our office at (708) 687-8220 so that we can add you to the mailing list.

Our Senior Services Department, especially the Senior Wheels program has grown by leaps and bounds, with us providing transportation to over 800 rides per month. These trips provide a life line to many of our residents.

The Senior Lunch program continues to grow as more of our seniors are coming out to enjoy the good company with their neighbors and new found friends. Lunches are served Monday – Thursday in our Senior Café. View our menu on our web site and call (708) 687-8220 to make your reservation.

Due to the overwhelming interest, fun filled day trips are scheduled on an almost monthly basis. We have some great trips planned to suit everyone's preference. These trips fill up fast, so it is advisable to book your reservations early. Check out our web site or call us at (708) 687-8220 for all the details.



LET'S GET **CREATIVE & FESTIVE** ON CRAFT DAYS

Tuesday, November 7th – 10:00 A.M. – Noon
Fall Centerpiece crafts – Building A

Tuesday, December 5th – 10:00 A.M. – Noon
Christmas Wreath Decorating

*All supplies will be provided along with coffee,
tea, and light snacks*



STUDENTS RESTORING OUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE

Each year, during the holiday and giving season, the Bremen High School National Honor Society and Student Council mounts the Bremen Food Drive. This year's event will be held from November 6 through November 17. The extraordinary effort that these young people put forth in this food drive helps ensure that no family goes hungry during the holiday season and beyond. Their example strengthens our faith in the next generation; and we commend them for their efforts.

Bremen Township is proud to be part of this worthwhile cause by providing two locations as **STUFF THE BUS** drop-off centers for food donations at 16361 Kedzie Ave., Markham & 15350 Oak Park Ave., Oak Forest).

Canned goods and other non-perishable items can be dropped off from now until November 13th, in time for Thanksgiving. The goal this year is to break the record of 16,000 lbs. of donated food items. With your help, we can achieve this goal. We ask and urge everyone to do what you can to help us **STUFF THE BUS** and make this goal a reality. Thank you in advance for your support and your contributions.



BREMEN FREE PRODUCE PROGRAM

As grocery prices continue to rise, many families can only afford to buy the basic essentials, with fresh fruit and vegetables out of reach for many of our residents. Bremen Township with our partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Together We Cope distributes **FREE PRODUCE** on the 2nd Friday of every month from 10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. at our Markham location (16361 Kedzie).



DON'T FORGET

Bremen Bingo – Every Thursday
9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
at our Oak Forest facility.

Enjoy the fun, light refreshments,
and prizes - \$5.00 for 25 games.
Doors open at 9:00 A.M.



THE BREMEN BEACON

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Prst. Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bridgeview, IL
Permit No.318

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



*Thank you for
letting us serve you!*

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Straniero
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STAY CONNECTED With Us

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

BREMEN



TOWNSHIP

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