



SPRING/
SUMMER
2022

THE BREMEN BEACON

SHINING A LIGHT ON BREMEN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & SERVICES

Greetings from the Supervisor

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

How best to Serve?

Never think one person can't make a difference in the world. If you join millions of other people striving for the same goal, you do make a difference and you inspire change in the hearts of others.

I was reminded of that as the world watched in shock and horror recently when Russia invaded Ukraine, killing scores of innocent citizens including children. How would we feel if it was our family or our children? Everywhere I went people were in disbelief and wondered how they could help. Americans, especially, are so very generous.

On my way to the office, as I drove through the neighborhoods of Bremen Township, I reflected on the obligation of public service. The first job of a public official is to serve the people, and I believe that is a special calling. I wondered what I could do as Township Supervisor to improve the lives of Bremen residents – and maybe do something tiny to better the lives of all people everywhere.

I believe the answer lies in what's closest to home: our family. If we can instill in our family members in words and by action, to respect the rights of others and to serve those in need, then we begin a chain reaction of personal responsibility in this world. Maybe we start by cleaning up an empty lot in our neighborhood, or volunteer to be of service in a local food pantry, church or school. Maybe we just give a few minutes of our time to listen to the concerns of senior citizen or a lonely person. Maybe, just maybe that sense of service expands from one person to many, and who knows how far the ripples can spread.

Making a difference always starts somewhere. We can start small and watch it grow. Service to others could begin the next internet trend as we watch the good news stories sprout up in many places. It's already happening in Ukraine. The news is carrying photos of mountains of goods pouring into the country to help the displaced. Think of it – each gift came from just one person like yourself, who joined the many others who wanted to make a difference.

However small, each one of us has the ability to make a difference – let's join together and try it.

Your neighbor,

Kathryn Straniero

Kathryn Straniero, Bremen Township Supervisor



“Never underestimate your ability to make a difference.”



Mental Health ASSISTANCE

Navigating through these difficult times impacts all of us in different ways, and varies in the ability to cope with the challenges that many are facing. The loss of a loved one, the elimination of a job, or just the day to day stress of these uncertain times can affect our well being and put a strain on the mental health of anyone. Assessing mental health concerns is an important first step to take in addressing these issues that affect so many in so many different ways.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for so many families affected by mental health issues, which is motivated by hope and committed to action in assisting these issues.

Bremen Township has recognized the need for assistance and has partnered with NAMI to provide every township resident with the ability to access these services free of charge. If you, a family member or friend is seeking assistance pertaining to mental health issues, please remember you are not alone, and help is a phone call away.

Classes, seminars and other assistance is now available at our Oak Forest facility – 15350 Oak Park Ave. For more information please contact NAMI representative Marianne Bithos at (708) 852-0126 or Shelly Smith at (708) 687-8220



SAVE THE DATES & SIGN UP!

Walkathon

Please join us as we recognize May as Mental Health Month and sign up for our Walkathon that we are hosting on **Saturday, May 14th at 2PM** on the Maggie Crotty Walking Path (15350 Oak Park Avenue). There will also be prizes and activities for children. Contact Marianne at namisouthsuburbsofchicago@gmail.com or (708) 852-9126 to register and/or volunteer.



Mental Health First Aid Classes

April

Family | April 12th – April 30th

Youth | April 12th – April 30th

Adult | April 19th

May

Youth | May 17th

Adult | May 24th

Free 8 Week Family | Family Mental Health First Aid classes begin May 10th.



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Saturday, April 23rd | OBSERVING EARTH DAY

Bremen Township will be sponsoring an E-Waste Disposal Event on Saturday, April 23rd. from 9AM-1PM at our Oak Forest facility located at 15350 Oak Park Ave.

Residents are invited to drop off their old electronics, (one TV per household) old cell phones, medicine, along with documents for shredding.

This event was made possible with the assistance of Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller and the cooperation of Sheriff Tom Dart.

Saturday, April 30th | CELEBRATING ARBOR DAY

This year we will be planting trees and bushes along the Maggie Crotty Walking path, directly behind our Oak Forest facility from 10AM-2PM.

We invite you to join us in helping us enhance the walking experience and beautify the grounds for your enjoyment. For more details contact Shelly Smith at (708) 687-8220.

Saturday, May 14th | MENTAL HEALTH WALKATHON

NAMI and Bremen Township is hosting a Walkathon beginning at 2PM at the Maggie Crotty Walking Path. Prizes and refreshments will be provided. To register please call Marianne Bithos at (708) 852- 9126 or namisouthsuburbsofchicago@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 19th | PLANT AND GO PARTY

Expanding on last year's success we will once again be providing plants, pots and all supplies for residents of all ages to planting their own plant to take home or plant at the James Jesk Activity Center – 15350 Oak Park Ave. from 10:30AM-1:30PM.

Call Shelly Smith at (708) 687-6220 or at ssmith@brementownship.net to reserve your space and plant.

2nd Friday of each month | FREE PRODUCE

In partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Together We Cope, we distribute free fresh produce to any resident in need at our Markham facility (16361 Kedzie) from 10AM-Noon every 2nd Friday of the month. With the cost of groceries soaring, this helps families supplement their shopping list by providing fresh fruit and vegetables.

For more information contact Rondal Jones at: (708) 333-9530 or info@brementownship.net.

Officials **REPORTS**



Kathryn Straniero –
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Approximately one year ago, this administration and Board of Trustees was sworn into office. It gives me great pleasure that in our inaugural year, we have made substantial progress in Building a Better Bremen, from the expansion of programs, enhancing services, forming new partnerships to maintaining a strong debt free financial base.

These accomplishments were not achieved alone, but by a team effort with a united goal of establishing Bremen Township as an example of what can be accomplished through teamwork. Each individual brings with them unique strengths and areas of expertise. The glue that binds them together is their combined commitment to service. That being said, each board member has volunteered to take on more responsibility by serving as chairpersons in our newly formed committees which will utilize their talents to better serve our residents. I am very proud to be a part of this team and look forward to continuing on this journey with them.



John Flaherty – TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Hopefully the dark, dreary days of winter are behind us, and we can continue on with the upgrading of roads and roadways within the unincorporated areas of Bremen Township. The constant freeze/thaw winter conditions of our Midwest winters takes a toll on paved surfaces, and the department is now in the process of filling in and repairing the potholes that the season has left behind.

We closed out the year completing resurfacing projects throughout the township, with two of the largest being in the Crestwood/Midlothian and Hazel Crest/Country Club Hills areas. Over the past few months we have been planning and prioritizing roads to be resurfaced during the upcoming season. Work will soon begin in the unincorporated areas of Tinley Park and Posen, as soon as the asphalt plants open.

With our wet, rainy season fast approaching, we remind you to make sure that your culverts and ditches are free of obstructions to ensure that water flows through properly to avoid flooding and/or standing water. Please call our office at (708) 333-9534 to request any assistance with our roads or roadways. Have a great summer!



Willie Jones – TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

During Tax Season our office receives questions from our residents in regards to unsolicited mail they receive from agencies that wish to appeal their taxes. Please note that these agencies and businesses charge a fee for their services.

Our staff reminds the residents that our office performs the same services and more at no cost. We also have the ability to go back 3 years to ensure that you receive every exemption that you are eligible for.

Keep up to date with Tax Appeal information and /or scheduling an appointment by contacting our office at (708) 333-9530, option #2 or email us at assessor@brementownship.net.



John Lord – TOWNSHIP CLERK

One of the responsibilities of the Township Clerk's Office is to serve as an election informational center. Listed below is a listing of important dates and information for the upcoming June 28th election.

May 31st | Last day to register to vote
June 12th | Last day to register to vote online
June 13th | June 27th | Early Voting

Bremen Township Early Voting Locations:

Markham Courthouse | 16501 Kedzie; Markham
Oak Forest City Hall | 15440 S. Central Ave.; Oak Forest
Biela Community Center | 4545 Midlothian Turnpike; Crestwood
Tinley Park Village Hall | 16250 S. Oak Park Ave.; Tinley Park

The Clerk's Office is always in need of Election Day judges and other positions to work on election day. The pay ranges from \$200.00 - \$365.00, depending on what position you fill. For more information, call us at (708) 333-9530 or directly to the Cook County Clerk's Office at (312) 603-0965.

Introducing Bremen Committee Chairpersons

Carolyn Carter – INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Establishing good working relationships with all Bremen Township municipalities is a fundamental key to past and future successes. In our effort to expand and enhance our cooperation with our other government entities, we are fortunate to have our very own Trustee Carolyn Carter serve in this role. With her background serving as a Director of Community & Business Relations in a local municipality, Carolyn brings a portfolio of relationships she has built from all aspects of government, along with a vast network of Local, County, State, and Federal elected officials that she is on a first name basis with. Her experienced talents will serve the residents of Bremen Township well.



Carolyn Carter

Mary Catuara – SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

A couple of the unique services that are offered by Bremen Township are Youth Counseling and Mental Health Assistance. Trustee Mary Catuara was in the forefront and instrumental in bringing these services to the township, with the stipulation that every young adult in every one of our communities has access to these services regardless of their ability to pay. Serving as Chairperson of the special services is a reflection of Mary's commitment to ensuring that no child is refused services which are needed, and that no individual or family experiencing Mental Health issues is forgotten. We thank you for your dedication.



Mary Catuara

Edward Maggio – FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Proper handling of government funds carries a huge responsibility of integrity and fiscal knowledge. With a career of finance in the private sector, along with a clear understanding of preparing and balancing budgets, Ed is the obvious choice to serve as Bremen Township Finance Chairman. His extensive knowledge of the procedural process, while keeping an eye on the bottom line will be a benefit for the residents of Bremen Township. He will be working closely with the Supervisor along with each department head to ensure that the appropriation and distribution of funds to programs and services is maintained, while staying focused in keeping costs at a minimum and sustain fiscally sound practices.



Edward Maggio

John M. (Mike) Tatro – BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Spending his entire adult career in the construction and maintenance industry, Mike has a clear understanding of building and maintenance practices that are both efficient and cost effective. With plans in the works for structural additions and enhancements to our facilities, and Mike's past experiences of working with contractors and tradesmen, he is perfectly suited to lead the way and serve as Chairman. His comprehension of architectural design, blue prints, and attention to details in the building process is an added asset and advantage for the residents of Bremen Township.



John M. (Mike) Tatro

For Our **SENIORS**



Senior Wheels Drives & Dispatchers

Flexible Hours – Good Pay – Friendly Staff

Our Senior Wheels Department is looking for you to join our team. These are part time positions with hours to fit your schedule. To apply please contact Shelly at (708) 687-8220 or ssmith@bremementownship.net.



Open for Lunch

Our Senior Café has re-opened for in person dining!

After a long period of “to go” lunches only, Age Options has given us the go ahead to resume serving lunches with in person dining in our Senior Café.

Once again our seniors have the opportunity to enjoy a great lunch while reconnecting with their friends and neighbors. Check out our menu at www.bremementownship.org or call Sue Ernst @ (708) 687-8220 for more information and to make your reservation. A \$4.00 donation is requested.



You're Invited

All are welcome to spend some time with your friends and neighbors at our Plant and Go party.

Everyone will be provided with their very own pot and plant to take home with them or plant on the grounds of our facility. This event will take place at the James Jesk Activity Center (15350 Oak Park Ave.) on Thursday, May 19th at 10:30AM. To reserve your plant and more details call our office at (708) 687-8220



Leave the Driving to Us

Going to the doctor, shopping, visiting a friend?

Let us do the driving. We offer rides to seniors daily from 8:30AM-3PM for a nominal fee of \$2.00 each way. Schedule your ride at (708) 687-8220.

Bremen YOUTH

A GREAT INVESTMENT

In our last edition we asked for your help with our partnership with Bremen High School students in their annual STUFF THE BUS food drive. Your support was overwhelming and exceeded expectations. This year the National Honor Society and Student Council of Bremen High School collected over 1,500 pounds of food that they distributed to hundreds of families in need in our area, shattering every record for the past 30 years. Congratulations to all on a great job and let it be known how proud we are of all of you. A special shout out to Sarah Bogard of the National Honor Society and A.J. Chelepis of the Student Council for coordinating this effort. We also wish to extend our thanks to the St. Stephens and St. Christopher Food Pantries which served as collection and distribution sites.



Job Opportunities for High School Students

The Cook County Clerk's Office is reaching out to our High School students to serve as election judges for the upcoming June election. This is a great opportunity to earn a few dollars while serving your community. For more information contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at (312) 603-5656.

Youth Counseling

Our partnership with Sertoma in providing counseling to our young adults of Bremen Township continues to pay dividends. Most importantly, our young people are receiving the help and support they need, along with the savings to the residents of Bremen Township. We are currently in every High School within our boundaries providing service and are in the process of establishing a presence in our Middle Schools to provide those students the same opportunity to seek assistance and access to care. Our combined goal is to reach every school, public or private in offering these same services.

Please remember that every Bremen Township youth aged 5-18 years of age is eligible and qualified to receive the many counseling services that are offered regardless of their ability to pay. If you believe that your child is in need or could benefit from these services, please do not hesitate to contact us at (708)687-8220 or (708) 748-1951 Ext. 455.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HAZEL CREST

Senior Health Fair

- May 6th | 11AM
- Senior Auditorium

Village Wide Garage Sale

- May 21

Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

- June 4th | 7AM

Flag Day Celebration

- June 18th

Coffee with a Cop

- June 25th | 11AM-1PM
- Hazel Crest Family Center

Fireworks Display

- July 4th | Dusk
- 170th. & California

National Night Out on Crime

- August 2 | 6PM
- V.L.A. Municipal Center (3601 W. 183rd. St.)

Hazelnut Festival & Parade

- August 6th | 9AM-Dusk
- V.L.A. Municipal Center (3601 W. 183rd. St.)

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...

MIDLOTHIAN

Village Clean-up Day

- April 16th

Junk in the Trunk

- May 7th | 9AM-1PM
- Metra Station parking lot
- Sponsored by Community Policing Committee

Village-wide Garage Sale

- May 7th

4th of July Parade

- June 25th | 11AM
- 147th & Kilpatrick east to Village Green

St. Christopher Fiesta

- July 13th-17th
- 147th & Keeler

CRESTWOOD

Easter Egg Hunt

- Saturday, April 16th | 10PM
- Walker Park (13900 Laramie Ave.)

National Night Out

- Tuesday, August 2nd | 6PM-9PM
- Walker Park (13900 Laramie Ave.)
- Come join the community for a Fun Filled night of Food, Drinks, Games & Community Spirit!

HOMewood

Public Works Open House

- Saturday, May 21st | 11AM-2PM
- Department of Public Works (17755 Ashland Ave.)

Homewood Artisan Market

- Friday, June 4th | Noon-6PM
- Saturday, June 5th | 10AM-6PM
- Martin Avenue & Hickory Road

TINLEY PARK

Farmers Market

- Every Saturday from June – October | 8AM-1PM
- Zabrocki Plaza (17375 Oak Park Ave.)

Cruise Nights – Classic Cars

- Every Tuesday from June 7th - August 30th | 5PM-8PM
- 171st – 173rd & Oak Park Ave.

Music in the Plaza

- Every Saturday from June 11th – Sept. 10th | 7PM-10PM
- Zabrocki Plaza (17375 Oak Park Ave.)

Tinley Park Block Party

- Saturday, July 16th | 2PM-10PM
- Sunday, July, 17th | Noon-7PM
- Zabrocki Plaza (17375 Oak Park Ave.)

POSEN

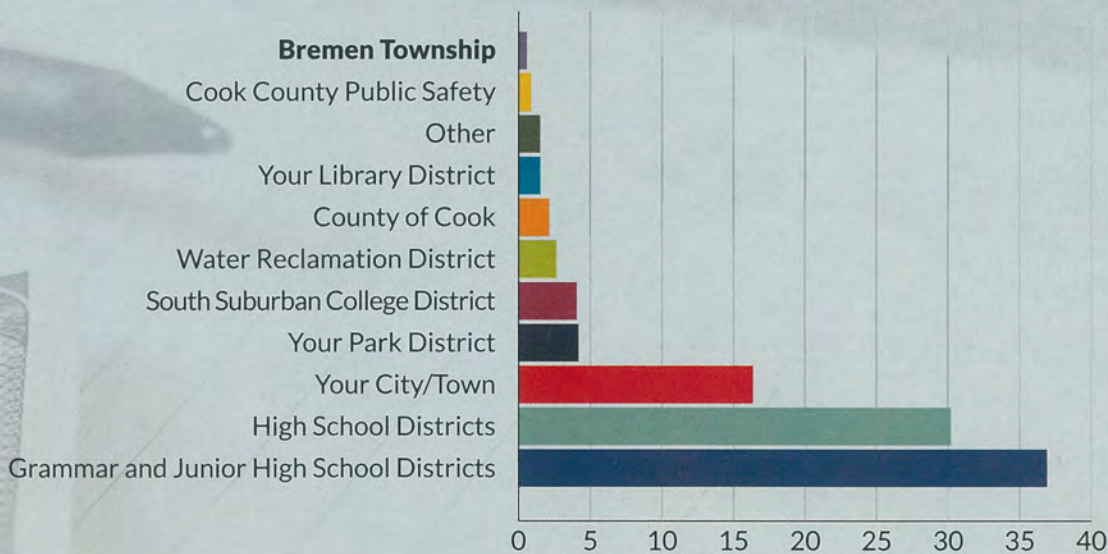
National Night Out on Crime

- Tuesday, August 2nd | 5PM-7PM
- Posen Village Hall (2440 W. Walter Zimny Drive)

Where do your TAX DOLLARS GO?

As facts indicate, Bremen Township is one of the lowest taxing bodies in the south suburbs.

The above evidence supports that Bremen Township provides services at less cost than any other entity. Our recent audit confirms that Bremen Township is in a strong financial position and one of the very few government agencies that is debt free.



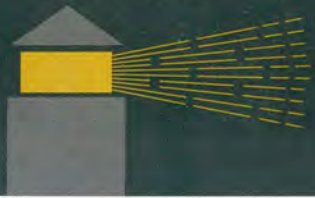
NEW SERVICE FOR BREMEN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Along with property taxes, sales taxes, and other fees, residents also have the added burden of paying to have their income taxes prepared, and this additional cost can put a strain on many households.

Seniors living on a fixed income, and/or families just scraping by to meet day to day expenses, the added cost of paying to have their taxes prepared for the I.R.S. forces many residents to make unwelcome choices and decisions such as buying medicine or groceries, or pay to file taxes defies logic.

**Recognizing this, Bremen Township is now offering
free tax preparation and filing for qualifying township residents.**

Please contact us at (708) 687- 8220, (708) 333- 9530 to see if you qualify.



Vernard L. Alsberry Jr.
Village President



Isaac Wiseman
Village Clerk



Mary Emily Grant
Village Trustee



Marlon D. Rias
Village Trustee



Java Rogers
Village Trustee



Kevin Moore
Village Trustee



Ben Ramsey
Village Trustee



Sandra Slayton
Village Trustee

HAZEL CREST

Hazel Crest was first settled as a farming community in 1870, and named for the large number of hazelnut bushes that surrounded the area. Over the years, significant developments have occurred, due to groups of residents joining together for a common cause, transforming a former agricultural hamlet into a thriving suburb. This spirit of working together carries on until today.

Under the leadership of Village President Vernard Alsberry Jr., there has been substantial growth in community based programs, along with economic development. As a champion for his constituents, President Alsberry Jr. along with the Board of Trustees have invested heavily in infrastructure and Public Works projects for the betterment of its residents and community.

In the past year alone, the Village has welcomed over two dozen new businesses to date, offering a wide range of shopping opportunities and services close to home. In addition, Hazel Crest was able to convert a vacant parcel of unused property into a transportation hub by securing Heniff Trucking to locate in the village. This not only contributes to the tax base, but increases the opportunity to find well paying employment for its residents.

This Spring, the Village will see the completion of a new park with equipment on the 175th. St. Project. This endeavor was made possible with the Village being awarded a \$400,000.00 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Great job to all of you!

This Administration lives by the mantra of “**Service Before Self**” and these results and accomplishments verify their commitment to their community. We are proud to have Hazel Crest part of our township and together we will **Build a Better Bremen**.

THE BREMEN BEACON

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

Presrt St
318

22-343

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*

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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

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

