

The March 22th Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting was opened by President Connie Moyer leading in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Wheatley gave the blessing.

The Back To Brick kick-off event was held on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Members of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee were present along with Council members and Mayor Tad Moyer. Approximately 3 feet of asphalt across the entire street in about 15 minutes was removed. The Village street department will dedicate one day per week to the project and has began on the East side of Main Street. The Logan Daily provided a very nice write up on the project which was distributed to the body.

The Village had agreed to solicit the prisoner programs to help them with this project. The old BIS program, now Camp Ream has notified us that they are closing their work program. Connie spoke with Tim Voris(Sheriff Office) and Commissioner Judy Shupe concerning a program that the Sheriff had discussed with Rushcreek Township back in September. This program was going to be handed down by the Judges for "Community Service" instead of jail time. Commissioner Shupe advised there is a glitch in this program and it is now in the prosecuting attorneys hands for clarification. Normally items handed off to the prosecutor has a tendency to be delayed. Therefore, at this time we do not anticipate much out of either of those programs. That leaves the COBRA program, which is a group of kids south of town who have made a commitment to help.

The Sheriff does have a program "Prisoners At Work" which provides 8-10 prisoners working on community projects. The catch is that the Deputy must receive pay at \$30.00 per hour to oversee the prisoners. The upside is that for \$30.00 per hour you are receiving 8-10 working guys. The Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee has decided to contribute money from that fund as seed for 100 hours (\$3,000.00) which would provide from 800 to 1,000 man-hours. This project is seeking volunteers to help out but many businesses would consider providing the money for the PAW program instead of providing the physical labor them. The Chamber will be sending letters to our members requesting donations for the PAW program, which the Chamber will supervise.

Several years ago the Bremen Tree Board established a self-guided walking tour focusing on tree identification and history of the trees in the Village. The map is on the home page of the website and is mainly for tourist to click on the link and print the map for their enjoyment. The Chamber was a sponsor of this project (at no cost) and has been contacted many times with words of praise.

Recently Kim Huston and some downtown merchants have been working on a "Driving Tour" of the Amish of Rushcreek Township. The Amish included in this tour have given their permission. Downtown merchants and the Bremen Farmers Market is promoted in the "Driving Tour". The Chamber has been contacted to see if we would be interested in sponsoring this map (at no cost). A copy of the map was distributed. A couple of the downtown businesses are not Chamber members nor are the Amish. However the Amish are very supportive of the Farmers Market. Not all places of business are listed on the tour, but having the extra traffic and visitors as a result of this driving tour is sure to have benefits to the whole community. Connie asked the members present if they were supportive of this project. Motion carried for the Chamber to sponsor this project.

Lancaster Public Transit System is now serving all of Fairfield County. The Chamber, Bremen Area Ministerial Association, Bremen Village, and Rushcreek Township Trustees were all willing to be involved in a pilot program for 2010. Reduced rates are being offered with countywide service running Monday-Friday 7am-8pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm. Pamphlets were distributed and employers were asked to advise their employees and friends.

Upcoming Events:

March 30<sup>th</sup> Ann Bonner with the Ohio Department of Forestry will be conducting a class on spring tree care and a planting class. This will be held from 6pm-7pm at the Village office in Howell Park. Following the class a guided tree identification tour will take place along the ½ mile-walking track at Howell Park. Wear comfortable shoes.

Historical Society's Annual Dinner Theater will be held April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. A *Medieval Tale* written by local playwright Frank O. Muckensturm, the play will be directed this year by Jill Henwood who has previously been one of the cast of the Bremen Players. A steak dinner will be served at 6:00pm both evenings followed by the entertainment. A matinee is being planned and information will be posted when details are finalized. **This is a longtime tradition in Bremen and has been a sellout for many years, so if you wish to purchase tickets please act quickly.** Dinner Theater tickets are \$12.00 prepay and may be purchased by contacting Jean Doan at 740-569-7313.

Bremen Farmers Market dates have been set for June 4<sup>th</sup> – September 24<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Main & Broad Streets. Market hours are 9am – Noon. Space rental is \$10 per week or a season pass is available. Market master is Natalie Nutter from Bremen Banking Center. 569-4121.

Next month meeting will be a location change. Brenda Johnson, Manager of the Bremen Rushcreek Memorial Branch Library, will be our guest speaker at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. She will be discussing the different programs available at our local library branch. The meeting will be held at the Bremen Branch Library, 200 School Street in Bremen.

Esther Heaton of the Towne Crier was the guest speaker and discussed different advertising strategies.