

## HISTORIC MILESTONE FOR MAYOR OF NEW BREMEN

2016 marked a historical milestone for the Village of New Bremen's mayoral seat. Mayor Jeff Pape became the longest running mayor in the Village of New Bremen's 183-year history.

New Bremen has been served by 38 mayors. By election day in November 2015, Mayor Pape was in a 4-way tie with 3 consecutive terms (12 years) as

Mayor. That honor was shared with: Urban Buschur, Richard Wiedeman and C.V. Huenke, who all served consecutive mayor terms. Another former mayor, William A. Havenman, who was the 2nd mayor of New Bremen, also served 12 years, over a 16-year period (1841-1856). A complete list of New Bremen Mayor History can be found on the village website under 'Community Life', 'New Bremen History'.

With the completion of 2016, Mayor Pape finished his 13th year serving our community. He has 3 more years to fulfill his current term.

If you see Mayor Pape around town, be sure to thank him for his commitment and dedication to our community.



## FOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREES

In December 2016, four members retired from the New Bremen German Township Fire Department.

Collectively, they dedicated 99 years of service to the department and the community of New Bremen. Bob Kuck retired with 36 years of service, 22 as the Chief of the department. Dale Heitkamp with 25 years, Mike Conradi with 21 years, and Rob Ziegenbusch with 17 years of service.

"The department would like to not only acknowledge the sacrifices they have made throughout the years, but also thank them for their time and dedication to the community" stated Lee Kuenning, captain of the fire department.

Moving into the future, the department will be led by a new chief, Dan Voress. Dan has been a fireman for 15 years and has a level II state firefighting certification.

The New Bremen German Township Fire Department is looking for volunteers. Interested candidates must be age 21 and live within German Township.

### German Township extends as follows:

- North to Clover Four/Dicke Road
- South to Amsterdam Road
- West to Mercer Auglaize
- East to E. Shelby Road



Left to Right: Rob Ziegenbusch, Dale Heitkamp & Bob Kuck Not Pictured: Mike Conradi

## RECOGNITION OF BOARD SERVICE

The New Bremen Community Improvement Corporation would like to recognize the board service of Christine (Chris) Fyock. At the end of 2016, Chris completed her 3rd term of service, 9 years, to the CIC Board. During her board tenure, she served as CIC President for 3 years. Thank you to Chris, for her contribution of ideas and involvement of business community initiatives over the past 9 years.

## LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE VILLAGE

Recently Mayor Pape hosted a community strategic planning meeting at the James F. Dicke Auditorium at New Bremen High School. Fifty-six invitations were sent seeking attendance from community members (clergy, schools, business or landownership). Nearly 45 people attended to learn more about the strategic planning efforts for the Village of New Bremen.

The purpose of the strategic plan – to create a 15-year plan for our community. The working document, to be created with community input, will provide direction for future leaders to use for decisions that is in the best interest of the village. "We are seeking guidance by the community, we (council) don't want to make all the decisions, trust us" commented Pape. For proper community planning, all generations need to have a part in identifying the needs of the community. For all in attendance, Pape encouraged "Talk to people, what do we want to do? Help provide the input for the community."

In 2002, a previous study was sponsored by the New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary Club. Poggemeyer Design Group (PDG) served as the facilitator for the 2002 study.

While other entities were considered for the current strategic planning, village council chose to work with PDG on an updated study. Since their firm had gathered community history data during the previous study, the new study could be compiled more efficiently.

PDG representative, Paul Tecpanecatl stated the importance of updating plans, such as reviewing land use every 5 years (residential, shopping, parks, etc.), taking into account current zoning and necessary changes. He stated comprehensive plans, like the 2002 study, should be updated every 10 years. Tecpanecatl shared the importance of getting feedback from the community, including asking high school seniors about their view of the community.

While the working document is to identify what New Bremen could/should look like in 10-15 years, the strategies developed will cover short term (1-2 years), mid-range term (3-4 years) and long-term strategies (5+ years). The process will take about 5-6 months with committee meetings taking place once a month. Mid 2017, a report to the community will be made, as well as presented to village council for review.

A committee of community members have volunteered their time to be a part of the development of the strategic plan. Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts with the community members. Those serving on the committee are as follows:

Dave Albers	Angela Hamberg	Bob Parker
Rhonda Bergman	Jim Kronenberger	Tom Paul
Gen Conradi	Rob Kuenning	Larry Tangeman
Chris Dicke	Scott Kuenning	Linda Topp
Trent Fleddarjohann	JoAnne Meckstroth	Jeff Utz
James Gilberg	Jeff Pape	

The first series of strategic planning meetings began in mid-January. Meeting updates will be made available via blog posting on the village website (*available on the [www.newbremen.com](http://www.newbremen.com) home page, scroll down to the bottom of the page*).

- Detailed description of the kick-off meeting can be found on the blog under the December archive
- First strategic planning meeting details can be found under the January archive

## New Bremen 301 Club

The New Bremen 301 Club donates money to the Bremenfest Festival Association and the Athletic Boosters. Members pay an annual fee of \$75 to join the club. Members are entered into weekly drawings, with winners awarded \$100.

The club also has an annual dinner/dance, usually the first Saturday in April unless this falls on Easter. The dinner/dance is free to all currently paid members, the dinner is comparable to a wedding meal. Entertainment is either a dj or a band. The 2017 annual dinner will be held on Saturday, April 1st.

Join today for your chance to support our school and community. If interested in joining, please send \$75 written to 301 Club to:

**Andrea Huber**  
504 E. Front St.  
New Bremen, OH 45869

## WHO MUST FILE A RETURN?

The Village of New Bremen requires all residents working outside the city limits and residents not fully withheld upon. Any person or business located outside of New Bremen and performing services inside the Village of New Bremen must file a return. Anyone who receives income from rental properties, partnerships, self-employed business ventures, etc., must file an annual return regardless of any tax due.

More information regarding New Bremen income tax regulations can be found on the village website. From the village website [www.newbremen.com](http://www.newbremen.com), choose 'Current Residents', 'Downloadable Forms'.

## UPCOMING events...

- American Legion Lenten Fish Fry** - Fri., March 3
- Danu** (Lock One Community Arts) - Sun., March 12
- 301 Club Annual Dinner/Dance** - Sat., April 1
- NB Historical Association Annual Dinner** - Mon., March 20
- Well Strung** (Lock One Community Arts) - Sun., April 2
- Wingfest** - Sat., April 15
- Community Garage Sales** - Fri., April 21 & Sat., April 22
- Spring Clean-up Day** - Sat., May 6

For other community events, be sure to check out [www.newbremen.com](http://www.newbremen.com).

# 5th YEAR OF LOCAL CAREER EVENT

In December 2012, the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Village of New Bremen and the school guidance counselors in Minster, New Bremen and New Knoxville to put on the first ever "Exploration Academy" career event.

On Monday, February 27th, Exploration Academy V will take place at Wright State University, Lake Campus. The committee has learned a lot over the past 4 years, and adapted to necessary changes that were identified or in some cases, requested by the students.

While nearly 50 professionals serve as presenters in this one-day career event, each student only hears from 6 presenters. Of the career survey results, 4 of the career sessions are determined from the student's selection, the other 2 are determined by the committee. "If a student picks 4 health careers, that it is a good indicator that the student has been inspired to enter the health field. In this case the other 2 sessions will introduce the student to other career's in the health field. If the student is all across the board in a variety of industries, this is an indicator that the student is searching for a career of interest", stated Angela Hamberg, Village of New Bremen economic development director. Hamberg serves as the coordinator of the annual event.

Each session is 20-minutes in length, during this time, the speaker discusses the education or training required of their profession, their working environment, the course of their work day, and the soft skills necessary for their job.

The program has great value to be placed between 8th grade and sophomore year visits of career tech education held at Tri Star Career Compact. "The students have already been on the tour as 8th graders, so now hearing from some of the speakers sharing the necessary skills, it connects the dots for how the students have access to obtain necessary skills in a field of study. It is also important timing for the college prep path, college readiness begins long before high school graduation day", stated Hamberg.

## CIC Photo Contest

The New Bremen CIC annual photo contest votes are in, **CONGRATULATIONS** to Dennis Dicke, for his entry of "New Bremen Cardinal".

During the January CIC meeting, CIC Vice-President, James Gilberg awarded a \$50 Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber Gift Certificate to the first place entrant. Dicke's photo will become the 2017 Christmas Card for the CIC, which is sent to all New Bremen local businesses, county commissioners and state elected officials, who all play an important role in the success of the New Bremen community.



Dennis Dicke & James Gilberg

Six photos were submitted for the contest. The photos were on display at the New Bremen Public Library throughout the month of December. Entries for the Photo Contest were accepted through the end of November. The community and visitors of the library were encouraged to vote for their favorite New Bremen scene.

## NEW SERVICE OFFERED

New Bremen utility bills and traffic tickets can now be paid via credit card on the Village of New Bremen website or [www.villageofnewbremenpmts.com](http://www.villageofnewbremenpmts.com). This option has a charge assessed to it by the provider of the service, NCourt. The fees are as follows:

- \$4.95/utility bill
- 7% for traffic fees

For questions about this service call 419-954-3038.

### Other payment options include:

- **Cash/Check at the Village office**  
payment made at the village office via postal mail, drive thru window or after hours drop box
- **ACH (Automated Clearing House)**  
your payment is automatically deducted from your bank account (*no fees apply*)
- **Online bill-pay with your bank**  
set up on your bank's website, the bank sends your check to the Village (*approx. 5-day delay*)

NEW BREMEN CARDINAL

## Fire Hydrant Snow Removal

The Village of New Bremen requests any resident with fire hydrants in front of their house, to please remove snow away from the hydrants. This will help the Fire Department locate the hydrants in the case of an emergency.

## Street Snow Removal

All village residents are reminded of the upcoming snow season. A car parked along the street creates a problem for our snow plows. We ask for the cooperation of all village residents to move vehicles off the street so that the street crews can adequately and safely remove the snow off the streets during and after a snow storm.

Vehicles parked on the street cause a safety problem, extra hours and expense for the crews to remove the snow. It is also a violation of the Village Ordinance for any vehicle to remain parked on the street over 72 hours without being moved. The Police Department will be checking these vehicles that are not moved every 72 hours. The penalty is \$150.00 plus court costs.

## Tree City

The Village of New Bremen was recently approved as a Tree City USA community for 2016. This serves as the 21st consecutive year for New Bremen. Recognition of the achievement will take place on May 3rd during the Northwest Ohio Tree City USA Awards Program ceremony in the community of Lakeside, Ohio.

Currently, the New Bremen tree commission is seeking new members. The committee meets 6 times a year, typically in the month of January, March, May, July, September and November. If you are interested in serving on the tree commission, contact Parks superintendent, Mike Hibner at (419) 629-3563 or via email: [parcs@newbremen.com](mailto:parcs@newbremen.com)



TREE CITY USA

## DID YOU... know

Older toilets can use as much as seven gallons of water per flush. Newer toilets use less water. When replacing your toilet, purchase one with 1.6 gpf. (gallons per flush) or less.  
*Advice provided by Greg Dennings, New Bremen Water Superintendent*

## LOCK ONE COMMUNITY ARTS "ON A HIGH NOTE"

The fourth act of the 2016-17 season will be Danú, taking stage on Sunday, March 12th. Hailing from Counties Waterford, Cork, Dublin and Donegal in Ireland, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. For over 2 decades Danú's virtuoso players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English) have delighted audiences worldwide. Winners of numerous awards from the BBC and Irish Music Magazine, Danú has toured throughout Europe and North America with stops at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Symphony Space in New York City. Danú takes its audiences on a musical journey to their native Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience.

For more information about the performance, check out the artist website: <http://www.danu.net>

### FUTURE EVENTS INCLUDE:

**Sunday, April 2nd, 201**  
**Well-Strung**

All shows will be presented on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. on the dates listed, and all will be staged at the New Bremen High School in the state-of-the-art James F. Dicke Auditorium.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of the lead sponsors, Crown Equipment Corporation, Dianne Komminsk, The New Bremen Foundation, and Machine Concepts, Inc., along with the numerous donations from area businesses and private individuals. Lock One Community Arts is grateful for these donations. To learn more about the upcoming events, check out Lock One Community Arts website: <https://lockone.org/>

## COMING SOON!!

The postcard type bill will be changing to a regular envelope-type statement. We will also be providing the option (preferred) to sign up for your Utility bill to be emailed to you. To sign up, please contact the Village office or send an email to [office@newbremen.com](mailto:office@newbremen.com) (provide your name, address, telephone number, email and utility account number).