



JANUARY 13, 2014

## VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE

Volume 2013, Issue 4

### Village Officials Sworn In



Four members of Village Council and one member of the Board of Public Affairs began their new four-year terms early in January. Three members of Village Council were re-elected to their positions: Marge Cox, William Long and Eric Campbell. Former Mayor James Opelt fills out the six-person panel. Continuing their terms were Eileen Schuermann and Randy Rothenbuhler. The Board of Public Affairs retained Tom Oberhouse. His fellow board members are Charles Schulte and Dean Krukemyer. All these officials were elected this past November. Congratulations to these fine ladies and gentlemen for their commitment to Village government and services.

The New Year promises to be challenging as budgets and appropriations need to be finalized, infrastructure needs will be analyzed and prioritized, searching for grants will be continued, and maintaining services and staff will be paramount.

Pemberville is fortunate to have long-term employees in most departments. Electric Dept. Supervisor is John Lockard; Sewer Dept. Supervisor is Landry Sheets; and Brian Heestand, who has over 30 years with the Village, backs up both departments plus Water. Nathan Schultze takes over for retired Water Superintendent Gale Loebreck. Nathan has completed all the course work for the Level 2 Water Operations license, and is backed up part-time by David Johnson, retired Gibsonburg water department supervisor. Streets, Sidewalks, Lands & Buildings Supervisor is Jeff Bourdo, backed up by Matt Lenke. Police Chief James Darling has named Jason Kwapich as part-time Sergeant, with part-time patrol officers Christopher Timm, Brian Miller, Jobe McMillin and Brian Hill. Village office staff includes Fiscal Officer Stephanie Bowe, Deputy Fiscal Officer Sarah Dyer, and BPA Clerk Sandy Meisner.

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### MAYOR ASKS FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ON COMMITTEES



Mayor Bowman is requesting interested residents to participate on standing Village committees. Listed below are the committees, meeting times and purpose. Unless otherwise noted, committees meet in Council Chambers. Please e-mail Mayor Bowman or Fiscal Officer Stephanie Bowe if you have any interest in serving.

- FINANCE, PURCHASING, BUDGET & RECORDS**—meets first Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm., review and plan fiscal responsibilities of the Village, creates department budgets.
- FLOOD**—meets as needed; review and plan strategies to mitigate flood damage.
- PARKS/SWIMMING POOL**—meets fourth Monday of each month at 3:30 pm.; oversees pool operations, plans parks development.
- PERSONNEL**—meets third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm.; reviews hiring, discipline and benefits for Village employees, maintains Personnel Handbook.
- PLANNING COMMISSION**—meets third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.; reviews zoning and zoning ordinances, annexation and development.
- LANDS & BRIDGES, STREETS, ALLEYS & SIDEWALKS**—meets third Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm.; reviews structures and maintenance of all Village facilities, plans and prioritizes expenditures.
- SAFETY**—meets as needed; reviews all matters relating to the Police Dept. and all residential safety and traffic concerns.
- TREE COMMISSION**—meets last Thursday at 3 pm. /or as needed; maintains Tree City status, and plans for replacing trees around the Village annually.
- UTILITIES**—meets first and third Mondays of each month at 7 pm. (BPA meeting); liaison between BPA and Council.
- PEMBERVILLE UNION CEMETERY**—meets quarterly, third Tuesday at 6 pm.; joint committee with Freedom Township Trustees.

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## RODINGHAUSEN AUF DER SONNENSEITE 2014



Dear Herr Vortmeyer,

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 2013. I treasure this correspondence between us, and look forward to your comments about the remarkable progress in your area. Your leadership, along with the support of your Council and residents, is a great asset for your community. Please convey our greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to everyone in the Rodinghausen area. In Pemberville, we look back on a good year, but also one with problems to solve and challenges ahead.

We are fortunate to live in Wood County, which has been very well managed for many years. Two new County Commissioners have taken office, and we expect sound fiscal decisions to continue. There is new economic development in Wood County, some of which will impact Pemberville. In September, Home Depot, a chain of large retail outlets that supply nearly every product for the home, started construction on a large distribution center five miles north of our Village. When completed, over 30 acres will be under roof, and over one hundred trucks per day will enter and leave the new facility. Employment could reach 150 or more. Special arrangements have been made to provide \$675,000 per year for 15 years to our Eastwood Schools. Discussion and planning are underway to upgrade facilities at the five school buildings, using these new funds. Other parts of Wood County are experiencing growth as well. In the south, CSX Railroad constructed a \$300 million inter-modal containerized freight handling facility. This facility can unload and reload over 40 trains per day that travel from the West Coast to the East Coast and back. Just recently, CSX announced plans to enlarge the inter-modal terminal to handle up to 70 trains per day. In the north, retail expansion continues in the communities near Toledo. Regionally, construction will begin this summer on widening and improving Interstate highways in Wood County.

Locally, two properties have been purchased by a local developer, who plans to subdivide them into individual lots for home construction. Over 40 lots will be created, providing growth for our community after several years of no growth. The Board of Public Affairs, who is charged with providing utilities to this new development, is also planning for upgrades to our water system and a second water tower to re-

place our current tower, which was constructed in 1936. A successful new well was completed, and will be connected to our water system in few weeks.

In January, we purchased a new Police vehicle, the first new car in five years. The up-to-date equipment in the vehicle allows our police officers to record and communicate police business much more efficiently. However, since our regular officers are all part-time, there has been turnover as these officers find full time positions in other departments. We are fortunate to have comprehensive law enforcement training at Owens Community College nearby.

The Pemberville-Freedom Historical Society created a new Christmas event—a lighted Christmas Parade. Over 30-lighted vehicles participated in the first parade that was enjoyed by over 500 residents and friends. The Pemberville Independent Merchants attempted to create a new world's record for Most Lighted Santa's in a Downtown Area. Nearly 100 lighted Santa's and snowmen filled every storefront and window in the downtown area.

As I compose this letter, Pemberville is challenged by severe weather. In the most difficult winter since 1978, we received 8 inches of snow a week before Christmas. That melted, and then we received over 3 inches of rain, which caused significant flooding. Temperatures dropped rapidly, then another 7 inches of snow, then a few days later another 8 inches of snow, and then temperatures dropped well below zero Fahrenheit. Our employees and equipment are challenged to maintain services as this severe weather persists.

Please send our friendship and best wishes to all the residents of Rodinghausen, and may good fortune and prosperity continue under your leadership.

Yours truly,

Gordon Bowman, Mayor

Village of Pemberville





## Municipal Income Tax Reminder

Another year has come and gone and we are quickly approaching the time to begin preparing and filing our 2013 Income Tax Returns. As you are preparing and filing, please remember that the Village of Pemberville has a mandatory income tax filing on all wages, salaries, commissions and/or net profits of business, professions or other enterprise or activity; all winnings from gambling or games of chance, including winnings from Ohio Lottery earned by residents and non-residents for work done or services performed or rendered in the village. The deadline for filing is the Federal Income Tax deadline of April 15, 2014. Forms are available at the Pemberville Library, Town Hall or on our web site at [www.villageofpemberville.org](http://www.villageofpemberville.org). Please keep in mind that should you need to file an extension, a copy of your federal extension form, should be submitted to our office no later than April 15, 2013, to avoid a late filing penalty and interest. Please contact the office should you need to verify estimated payments, carry-over and loss carry forward.



## WINTER DRIVING TIPS



Nearly one-quarter of weather related vehicle crashes occur on snowy, slushy or icy pavement, resulting in more than 1300 deaths and 116,800 people injured annually, according to the Federal Highway Administration. AAA recommends motorists brush up on winter driving techniques before the weather outside turns frightful.

**PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR USE IN ICE OR SNOW.** Use a checklist from AAA or have your mechanic put your vehicle in top operating condition.

**DRIVE DISTRACTION FREE.** The Traffic Safety Foundation found that looking away from the road for just two seconds doubles your risk of being in a crash. If you have a passenger, have them perform any task that is not driving.

**DO NOT USE CRUISE CONTROL AND AVOID TAILGATING.** Double safe following distances when driving on snowy, icy slippery surfaces. Using cruise control will not allow you to react instantly to trouble.

**KNOW WHEN TO BRAKE AND WHEN TO STEER.** When traveling over 25 mph, AAA recommends steering over braking to avoid a collision in wintery conditions. Sudden braking can lead to loss of vehicle control. If steering is not an option, braking on slippery surfaces requires you to look farther ahead and increase following and stopping distances.

**STAY IN CONTROL THROUGH A SKID.** When a vehicle starts to skid, it is important not to panic. Continue to look and steer in the direction the car needs to go. Avoid slamming on the brakes.

## Portage River Basin Council



The City of Bowling Green partnered with Bowling Green City Schools this Fall to expand the study of water quality for seventh grade students. After classroom lessons on water treatment and the methods for testing water quality, 240 students were bused to the Portage River at William Henry Harrison Park in Pemberville. Teachers and naturalists set up several learning stations for the students. At one station, students measured chemical and physical features of water samples taken from the river. The parameters measured included pH, phosphates and nitrates, amount of ammonia, and dissolved oxygen. At another station, students learned to use a seine to collect macro-invertebrates and then used charts to identify their samples. The Ohio EPA was on hand to demonstrate electro-fishing, a technique that safely and temporarily stuns fish to allow scientists to count and examine them.

At the November meeting of the Portage River Basin Council, held at Riverview Banquet Center, several students from Bowling Green Middle School were in attendance with teachers Kristi Krupp and Paula Williams. Working as a team, the students presented their water quality reports to the members of the council. Members of the Portage River Basin Council also elected 2014 leadership at the meeting: chair: Gordon Bowman, mayor of the Village of Pemberville; and vice chair: Jim Sass, president of the Ottawa County Commissioners.

## SAFE SHOPPER TIPS

The Christmas shopping season has come and gone, but the chance of encountering potential danger in commercial shopping and parking areas continues. Below are some tips to keep in mind.

- \*Stay aware of your surroundings and notice what is going on around you.
- \*Be aware of people trying to distract you while someone else is close by.
- \*Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- \*Keep items in the car out of sight and place things in the trunk whenever possible.
- \*Never leave valuable items (lap-tops, iPads, phones, jewelry, money, credit cards, etc.) in an unattended car.
- \*Hold on to your purse and don't leave it in a shopping cart or on the floor while shopping or checking out.
- \*Put your purse in the car first, before you unload your cart.
- \*Try not to "telegraph" which car you are entering by hitting the unlocking button too soon.
- \*Report suspicious people or activity immediately: 419-287-3250 or 911 if it is an emergency.
- \*Consider not answering your phone or texting while shopping or walking in a parking lot.

## Free-Roaming Cats

### Seeing Outdoor Cats? What You Can Do

Under Ohio law, there is no one agency responsible for handling free-roaming cats. As a result, cats are often left to roam the streets and breed.

These cats multiply quickly and can exhibit bad behaviors associated with mating like yowling, fighting and spraying. Some of these cats are owned and some are not. But when they breed, they make more unwanted cats.

The cat problem is threefold:

- Owned cats are allowed to roam outside and mate.
- Domesticated cats have been abandoned or lost and reproduce; their litters grow up on the streets as feral/wild cats who are not socialized to humans and do their best to keep their distance from people.
- Feral/wild cats live together in colonies and breed. A feral cat is a cat that was born on the streets and grew-up with little or no human contact. Feral cats are usually silent; they will not approach humans and are usually only seen from dusk to dawn.

### What is Trap-Neuter-Return(TNR)?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a proven and humane solution to the free-roaming cat population. Cats are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered and returned to the area where they were found. Humane Ohio.

Cats are territorial animals and form strong bonds with the location they inhabit so they will be returned to where they were found after they recover from their spay/neuter surgery. Relocating free-roaming cats - and convincing them to stay in their new territory - is a difficult, time consuming and challenging undertaking. Trapping and killing does not solve the problem because of the "vacuum effect" - new cats will move in and take over the food source and resources - and trapping and killing is costly to taxpayers.

On the other hand, a Mr. Woodsman of Oregon, who claims cats are one of the 100 most destructive invasive species in the world, offers this solution: "I used a .22 equipped with a good illuminated-scope and a laser-sight for use when they are most active, dusk to dawn; as well as to afford precision aim for a humane kill. I shot every last one of them on my property to restore all the native wildlife to proper balance. This is even a more humane method than terrorizing, trapping and animal-shelter methods; and why it is the preferred feral-cat management policy in so many areas today. One moment the cats are happily stalking defenseless animals to cruelly torture again, the next they are dead and don't even know what happened. Making your land 100% cat-free is something that cat advocates haven't been able to solve nation-wide for 30-40 years...All cats gone for the price of a few cups of coffee. And, contrary to another famous TNR-Advocate's bald-faced "vacuum effect" lie no cats replaced them. The native predators and their required native prey that was here and belongs here is what replaced their lousy invasive-species cats that had destroyed the entire native food-chain." Woodsman obviously does not live in the city where he would get arrested for discharging a firearm.

Another person argues, "My question to those who want to catch and kill all feral cats is: Who is going to do this? When towns already have budget shortfalls? Just from an economic standpoint it makes sense to allow over 1,000 feral cat groups in the country to continue with TNR, as they have been doing for many years, with their own money."

### Are there any other solutions?

Ban outdoor feeding of cats. Allow trapping and removal of cats. Let people take feral cats to animal control...Enforce leash laws and abandonment laws. Perhaps require micro-chipping. Require spaying and neutering.

Eventually, we may be forced to adopt some of these hard-to-enforce laws. Perhaps, a more comprehensive approach is warranted during these tough economic times when many families cannot afford to support their pets.



Pemberville’s first Lighted Christmas Parade was staged through downtown at 6:30 pm., Sunday, December 1, 2013. Over 30 units participated in the parade that included floats, lighted vehicles, walking units, experimental aircraft and the Eastwood and Otsego bands. Over 500 on-lookers viewed the half hour display, and comments ranged from good to great. Patricia Rollins, representing Pemberville Independent Merchants, one of the parade’s organizers, wrote,

“The Lighted Parade was a huge success. I heard many people say how great it was, how surprised they were at the number of parade entries and the large crowd watching it. Thanks go out to many who helped.”



Todd Sheets, received a letter with a Thank you and compliment that stated, ‘Not sure who to pass my mother and my applause and thanks to, but here is my post I put on Facebook a few minutes ago:

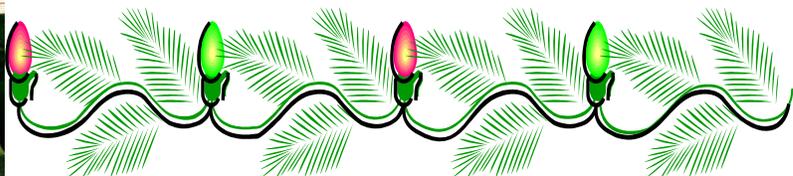
**‘Pemberville did it once again! Awesome First Annual Lighted Christmas Parade! Lasted 30 minutes. Good crowd of people and weather was perfect. We are so fortunate to have the dedicated, hard working volunteers who do so many events so well! Thanks Pemberville. Proud to live here.’**

"Thanks so much to you and whoever ??? for making a new event so special and memorable! Heard LOTS of great comments during and after the parade. With all that we learned this year, next year will be even better!!!"

Special thanks to the Eastwood and Otsego bands, who participated without any compensation—they just love Pemberville. After the parade, the Historical Society, The Forks Restaurant, Higher Ground Coffee Shop, Beeker’s General Store, and Janelle’s Diner provided warmth and hot beverages to all the band members.



The parade’s organizers were Pemberville Independent Merchants, Pemberville-Freedom Area Historical Society, Beeker’s General Store and Pemberville Public Library.



**VILLAGE OF  
PEMBERVILLE**

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**A great place to live.**



**JOIN THE MAYOR ON FACEBOOK**

Three or four times each week, Mayor Gordon Bowman posts INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OHIO, WOOD COUNTY & PEMBERVILLE on his Facebook wall. Using a wide range of topics that include history, biography, current events, science and transportation, he tries to write 100 words or so on a specific topic. If you would like to be included, send a friend request to [www.facebook.com/mayorbowman](http://www.facebook.com/mayorbowman).

**NOTE TO COLUMBIA GAS CUSTOMERS**

Columbia Gas of Ohio in 2013 has invested in infrastructure replacement programs. In addition, Columbia makes investments in energy-efficiency programs that help customers save money on their energy bills. The Public Utilities Commission allows Columbia to recover some of these infrastructure costs by resetting rates. Beginning May of 2014, Columbia monthly bills will raise by approximately \$1.13 for infrastructure replacement, and \$.30 for energy efficiency changes.

We're on the web: [www.pemberville.org](http://www.pemberville.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**JANUARY**

7—Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

11—Recycling

20—Martin Luther Day  
(Town Hall Closed)

21—Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.



**FEBRUARY**

4—Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

8—Recycling

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>—For the LOVE of Art

17—President's Day  
(Town Hall Closed)

18—Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.



**MARCH**

4—Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

8—Recycling

15—Federal taxes due for Corporate  
1120 & 1120S

18—Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

31—1st Quarter Estimates due

**Brush Collection for 2014**

April 7<sup>th</sup>

May 5<sup>th</sup>

August 4<sup>th</sup>

October 6<sup>th</sup>

December 8<sup>th</sup>



**MONTHLY MEETING DATES & TIMES**

**Council Meetings:** The first and third Tuesday of each month

**BPA Meetings:** The Monday preceding Council Meetings.

**Parks/Swimming Pool:** meets fourth Monday at 3:30pm

**Personnel:** meets third Tuesday at 6pm

**Planning Commission:** meets third Wednesday at 7pm

**Lands & Buildings, Streets, Alley & Sidewalks:** meets third Thursday at 3:30pm

**Tree Commission:** meets last Thursday of each month at 3pm

**Utilities:** meets during BPA meeting

**Finance:** meets the first Tuesday at 6:15pm