BOARD THE BUS TO ENJOY HISTORY AND LAUGHS!

This is a unique opportunity to be chauffeured around Brighton to learn history and laugh as you hear many unusual stories. A comical mixture of local history interspersed with tales about people and their unusual encounters with the absurd!

The bus tour is Saturday, July 19 and is part of the event filled Community Reunion weekend running July 18, 19 and 20 in downtown Brighton. This first annual event is sponsored by the Brighton Area Historical Society and the Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association.

The fun tour starts and stops at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center (aka Old Town Hall). Board the bus and be ready to depart at 4PM for the 1.5 hour tour around the Brighton area. There will be a ten minute restroom stop inside the Island Lake State Park after we share stories about the infamous bare butt beach.

Tammy Sexton will lead this epic adventure tour of laughs and history.

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased online at www.brightoncore.org or call Bev Barton at 810-588-4510. Seats are limited for this one time bus tour cruising down Brighton’s memory lane!

Jim Vichich (810-250-7276) President, Brighton Area Historical Society

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK at Brighton Area Historical Society

If you’re not a member of the Brighton Area Historical Society See page 3
Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:
FAMILY/INDIV: Millie Quinn

Renewing members are what keeps the Society vital.

THANKS:
- Marieanna Bair, Jerry & Carole Damon, Jeanette Johnson, Lee and Sue Garcia, Lin and Clark Millar and Jim Vichich for preparing the May newsletter for mailing.
- Sheryl James for her history of the Gove Motor Company in the June issue of Trail Tales. Larry Lawrence for his research on the subject for this story.
- Pat Mrozek for sending more material related to the Gove Motor Company. Also for sending very early issues of the Brighton Argus, Brighton Citizen, Livingston Democrat, etc., and the genealogical records of the Bitten, Keihl and Neuendorf families.
- Jean, Joan and Cheryl daughters of the late Lyle Herbst for materials with a connection to area history.
- CoBACH volunteers for June: Nancy Fredenburg, Joe Collins, Hank Wineger, Larry Lawrence, Sheryl Vigmostad, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich.
- Our historical comic tour guide, Tammy Sexton for collecting historical stories and researching information for the Brighton CoRe historical bus trip around the community on July 19.
- The many BAHS members, board members and supporting spouses who came and helped at the CoBACH Center on Memorial Day.
- Don Boyer and Mike Boyle for their awesome Civil War memorabilia display on Memorial Day at the CoBACH Center. Approximately 275 guests were impressed with the outstanding quality and selection of these personal collections.
- The devoted archivists who join each other for laughs and information sharing every Thursday at the Lyon School including Jerry Damon, Joe Collins, Marieanna Bair, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia, Lynn Strong, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
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CoBACH Future Exhibits:
Do you have items to loan?
Aug-Sept “From Farm to Table-Food Preserving”
Oct “Silent Film Festival”
Nov-Dec “An Old Time Home Christmas”
Jan-Feb 2015 “Yesteryear Winter in Brighton”

Dates to Remember

July CoBACH Exhibit: “Time for A Community Reunion” this exhibit will feature 2’ x3’ photos of Brighton from the early 1900s. These wonderful photos show our community in its early years. See if you can recognize these classic settings.

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 9am—12nn: Archiving/ Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Tour the school or share photos and stories with archivists.

July 28 9am—2pm: The Headstone Preservation Project Team meets today and the 4th Monday of each month through October 27 at the Old Village Cemetery. Your help is needed as we rebuild broken headstones. No experience necessary. You can learn as we work together. Info call Jim at 810-250-7276

July 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30; 5pm—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun. and Wed.

July 23: 6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH.

July 18, 19 and 20: Brighton Community Reunion (CoRe). This first annual event will celebrate the people and places of our unique community, BRIGHTON. This event is co-sponsored by the Brighton Area Historical Society and the Brighton Alumni Association. A full weekend of events is planned. For information see www.brightoncore.org or call Bev Barton 810-588-4510

July 19: Sign-up for the $10 bus tour around Brighton and Island Lake. Learn about local history and hear amazing stories retold by special comic historian Tammy. This event will last about 1-1/2 hours, departing from CoBACH Center at 4pm and return to the same. This is one of many events of the CoRe weekend.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:


We Need Your Help

We are asking our members to step up and get involved. “Can you fill this need?”

Volunteers at CoBACH
Welcome desk, help set up displays, loan of personal items for displays of the early days of Brighton.
Contact Jim Vichich at 810-250-7276

From Settlement to City: Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945
By Carol McMacken
450 plus pages
Over 300 photos
$65.00

This book can be found at Lawrence Autobody and CoBACH Center or by calling 810-250-7276

The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become a member, please mail to the address provided on the form below.

BAHS Leadership

President
Jim Vichich
Vice President
Marieanna Bair
Secretary
Linda Millar
Treasurer
Jerry Damon
Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon

Directors
Joe Collins
Nancy Fredenburg
Mindy Kinsey
Larry Lawrence
Thomas Reinke
Bill Basso
Education Liaison
Judith Coebly
Sue Skwarski

The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

Mail check or money order payable to:
Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Name: ______________________ Phone: ( ) —
Address: ______________________
City: ______________________ State: _______ Zip Code: _______
E-Mail: ______________________

How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: ___ Email ___ US mail

Membership Plan:

☐ New $2 Student $50 Patron
☐ Renew $15 Individual $60 Business/Professional
☐ $25 Family $500 Life

Friend of Lyon School:

☐ $10 ☐ $100
☐ $25 ☐ $250
☐ $50 ☐ Other $________

BAHS Projects Fund:

☐ $25 ☐ $250
☐ $50 ☐ Other $________

☐ $10 ☐ $100
☐ $25 ☐ $250
☐ $50 ☐ Other $________

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. All donations are tax deductible.

From Settlement to City: Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945

BAHS How to Contact Us or Find Us

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

E-Mail: info@brightonareahistorical.com

Phone: (810) 250-7276

US Mail:
Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Lyon School
11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored, barrier-free one-room schoolhouse and serves as our organization headquarters.

CoBACH Center
202 W. Main Street, in downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. CoBACH is formally known as the City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center. It is located in the historic 1879 two story brick building, also known as the Old Town Hall.
The Press Locates in Brighton

The first issue of Livingston County's first newspaper, the Livingston Courier, was dated January 10, 1843. It was published in Brighton, by Nicolas Sullivan. The editor was Frederick C. Whipple. News of the death, January 4, 1843, of Michigan's first governor Stevens T. Mason at the age of 31, was included. One also read notices of marriages, deaths of others, and ads of local professionals and businesses.

Sullivan moved the Courier to Howell, where it became the first newspaper to be published, October 11, 1843; with Lewis H. Hewett as the editor. In ensuing years several other newspapers followed in Howell, the County seat.


The Brighton Bulletin was bought by George W. Axtell, a printer from New Jersey, later that year. January 2, 1872, Axtell published the first edition of the Brighton Citizen in Brighton. He enlarged it from a seven column folio to a five column quarto. November, 1877, Axtell sold the Citizen to W. H. Bowman of Howell and J. D. Ellenwood of Brighton.

At 18, Brighton native Charles E. Placeway had begun working for Axtell. Placeway then began the South Lyon Herald and also the Pinckney Gazette, those towns’ first newspapers. Two years later (at 20) he started the Brighton Argus in a small room at the rear of Maltby’s store (S.W. corner Main and Hyne Streets) in Brighton competing with Axtell’s Brighton Citizen. One source relates that “Placeway has an attractive personality and is the kind of man people like to converse with — unless they get into a dispute with him. In that case...”

In 1897, E. W. Town and Seth B. Jacobs bought the Brighton Argus from Placeway. In 1924, Jacobs bought out Town and moved the Argus to 415 W. Main. From there it was located at 401 W. Main from 1932-1949.

Frank Seger and Robert Rowe bought the Argus in 1938. In 1943, 1945 and 1947, the Argus was recognized nationally as a premier weekly newspaper winning general excellence awards. In 1947, Seger sold the Argus to Russell LaCombe and Wallace Scotten. From 1949-1954 it was lodged at 440 W. Main.

Paul Champion and Glenn Young became owners in 1955. By then the Brighton Argus had moved to 107 E. Grand River.

In 1980, The Brighton Argus and the Livingston County Press merged and continued publishing two weekly papers. The Livingston County Daily Press and the Argus, also daily, began publishing September 7, 2000.

July 1, 1997, the Brighton office moved to the Old Town Hall at 202 W. Main; moving to Howell in 2008.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; “From Settlement to City” by Carol McMacken; news clippings and Brighton Area Historical Society archives. Additions / corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)

The BAHS is looking for your story!

Readers of Trail Tales are encouraged to compile their memories for use in assembling a complete history of the Brighton area. Your notes, photograph or articles, will be added to our existing collection. And if you like the Trail Tales editors will assist in preparation for a local history article for this page.