



2017 Volunteers  
 Cub Scout Pack 345



2017 Volunteers  
 Cheryl Stockwell Academy

## Old Village Cemetery Cleanup — May 5, 2018

Please join the Brighton Area Historical Society and the Brighton community for the 10th Annual Spring Cleanup of Brighton's Old Village Cemetery on **May 5th from 9am—12nn**. This is a great opportunity to show your civic pride and to learn Brighton history from studying the restored headstones. You will experience a beautiful setting looking down on the Millpond as the water glistens like diamonds.

Jim Vichich, 810-250-7276  
 President, Brighton Area Historical Society  
 Jvichich@comcast.net

### Quality Spring Recycled Jewelry Sale at CoBACH

April 28, 2018—1pm—5pm

Is your jewelry box overflowing? Never worn jewelry from your late mom, grandmother or aunt? Time for spring cleaning! It doesn't matter if new or used, fine, costume or broken. The Society is having a spring sale where 100% of the funds received will be used to fund Brighton area preservation and restoration projects of the Society. Jewelry needed by April 8. Contact Jim Vichich for pick-up.

### Special WWII FREE Presentation — A B-17 Pilot's Story of Survival

May 20 — 1pm—3pm @ CoBACH Center

Lt. Carah's B-17 is shot down and crashes into German held France. The story will cover how he evaded the enemy many times, being protected by local patriots and his odyssey to safety. This is an awesome presentation by son Warren Carah. Wonderful photos, crash site B-17 memorabilia and the rest of the story. **A definite don't miss!**

### EXHIBITS at CoBACH

Sunday—Friday 5—8pm  
 Saturday 11am—5pm  
 Closed Monday

### CoBACH Display April — May

Free Exhibit

**"General Motors Proving  
 Ground"**  
**Featuring old photos and  
 documents.**

### CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Daily postings regarding  
 Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical  
 Society**

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## Thanks and Recognition

### MEMBERSHIPS:

**IND/FAMILY:** Bradley Beal (2020), Nancy Cardle, Tony & Beth Ferreyra (2019), Ernest Nagy.

New and renewing members keep the Society viable and able to serve its reason for being.

- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Priscilla Pettengill, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich for preparing the March issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Tony & Beth Ferreyra for their donation along with their dues.
- Dan & Anna Oginsky, City of Brighton and Brighton Masonic Lodge for their generous Platinum Level sponsorships.
- The CoBACH volunteers who assisted visitors during March: Nancy Fredenburg, Bob Hill, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Pettengill, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich.
- The General Motors Proving Ground and the retired staff who are establishing the history of the Proving Ground and sharing these memories with the BAHS for the April-May GMPG Exhibit at the CoBACH Center.
- Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for their research work at the Proving Ground and compiling photos and documents for the April-May CoBACH Exhibit.
- The GM Archive team, Marieanna Bair, the Buxton Family, Joe Collins, Carole Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Bill Langhorst, Norma Pless, the Family of Tommy Nelson and Lynn Strong for the donation of time setting up and/or loan of materials for the GMPG exhibit at the CoBACH Center.
- Donors of jewelry for the April 28th CoBACH Jewelry Sale: David Bair, Marieanna Bair, Maggie Carah, Judith Coebly, Nancy Fredenburg, Laura Hatch, Guinn Heotaky, Mindy Kinsey, Shirley Knight, Marcia Luetjen, Loretta Murray, Vicki Vichich and Sue Zimmermann.
- Volunteers who are helping clean, research, repair and grade the donated jewelry for the April 28 Jewelry Sale at CoBACH: Judith Coebly, Christine Sarazin and Vicki Vichich.

The Brighton Historical Society extends its sympathy  
to the family of  
**Ruth Green**  
a long-time member of the Society.

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## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Center Exhibit — FREE!! April—May:** History of the General Motors Proving Ground. Visit the General Motors Proving Ground exhibit featuring old photos, documents and several videos that show the past of the world's largest automotive test facility.

### BAHS Volunteers at CoBACH Center

**April 4,11,18,25: Wednesday, 5pm—8pm**

**April 8,15,22,29: Sunday, 5pm—8pm (Closed April 1 for Easter)**

**April 5,12,19,26; 9am—12nn:** Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Visit the archivists and share information. Closes promptly at 12nn.

**April 25; 6pm at CoBACH Center:** Historical Society Board Meeting.

**April 28; 1pm—5pm at CoBACH Center:** Spring Quality Recycled Jewelry Sale. BAHS Fundraiser for Local History Preservation. Great deals on fine and costume jewelry. **DON'T MISS**

**May 5; 9am—12nn at Old Village Cemetery:** 10th Annual Cleanup of Brighton's oldest cemetery. Bring your gloves and a rake and take in the history and beauty of downtown's scenic 1838 burial ground.

**May 20: 1pm—3pm at CoBACH Center: Special WWII FREE Presentation:** A B-17 Pilot's Story of Survival. See Page 1 for details.

**May 28; 9am—1pm at CoBACH Center: Memorial Day FREE Civil War Exhibit.** Enjoy seeing museum quality memorabilia including uniforms, various rifles, handguns and much more from America's War of Rebellion.

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## Life — Business — Professional Members

### Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong — Muriel (Jacque) Armstrong — Tom Archer — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton Charles & Janice Beach — Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — Jack & Heide Clausnitzer — John & Jenny Conely Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Emil Engel — Nancy Fredenburg William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Larry & Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) Carol McMacken — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park Richard Park (IL) — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

### Business /Professional Members: (\*\* Indicates Life Members)

Acorn Deck Accessories (2018) — Advance Craft Builders (2018) — Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\* — Brighton Art Guild (2017) Brighton District Library \*\* — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Real Estate Team (2018) — Clark Eye Center (2017) Concord Mortgage (2018) — Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2018) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Autobody \*\* Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — MI Backyard (2018) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2018) Preview Properties (2018) — Promess, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\* — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2018)

## 2018 Sponsorships

**Platinum Level:** Brighton Masonic Lodge No. 247 — City of Brighton — Dan & Anna Oginsky

## Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

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.

<b>Mail check or money order payable to:</b> Brighton Area Historical Society P. O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116-0481	<b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Address:</b> _____ <b>City:</b> _____ <b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____ <b>E-Mail:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> ( ) _____
<b>Membership Plan:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		
<b>Donation to—Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School <input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events <input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund		
<b>Amount of Donation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		
<b>How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail		
<small>The Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.</small>		

### BAHS Sponsorship Program

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tails newsletter and through sponsorship placards located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall) and the Lyon One-room Schoolhouse.

#### Annual Sponsor levels are:

**Platinum — \$1,000+;    Gold — \$500+;    Silver — \$250+;    Bronze — \$100+**

If you would like to become a sponsor or have a question, please contact:

Jim Vichich, President  
Brighton Area Historical Society  
810-250-7276 or [jvichich@comcast.net](mailto:jvichich@comcast.net)

### BAHS Leadership 2018

President <b>Jim Vichich</b>	Directors <b>Joe Collins</b>
Vice President <b>Marieanna Bair</b>	<b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>
Secretary <b>Carole Damon</b>	<b>Mindy Kinsey</b>
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor <b>Jerry Damon</b>	<b>Larry Lawrence</b>
Webmaster <b>Debbie Armstrong</b>	<b>Lin Millar</b>
	<b>Thomas Reinke</b>
	<b>Lynn Strong</b>
	Education Liaison <b>Judith Coebly</b>
	<b>Sue Skwarski</b>

### 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](mailto: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 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.

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #303  
Brighton, MI

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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**History of the General Motors Proving Grounds (GMPG) — Part 1**

In 1923, Alfred Sloan, chairman of General Motors had an idea. General Motors should develop a testing facility that would be representative of road conditions in real life. One that would be consistent in testing all cars and their components. After investigating different locations, they purchased 1,125 acres in a hilly area in the northeast section of Brighton Township known at "The Bluffs." This is one of the highest locations in Livingston County found in Section 13 and the south portion of Section 12. The property also included part of the western section of Milford Township in Oakland County. The majority of the land was in Brighton Township.

Groundbreaking began with 5.6 miles of test roads where 1.7 miles were concrete and 3.9 miles were gravel. Nearby farmers were hired to work developing the roads on the Proving Ground. Local operators and their trucks were hired to move special gravel from the Brighton train depot to the site. North and South Muir and Bamber Roads were closed in early 1924. GMPG incorporated them into some of their test roads.

The first buildings were started in May 1924 and ready for use in November. These were located on the old David Jackson property on the Brighton side of Labadie Road (the county line road). These included a 60' x 200' garage and a 40' x 100' two-story clubhouse. The Brighton Argus reports in April 1926 "...a massive brick entrance building was built—the gatehouse—for \$10,000. Also a residence for Mr. Kreusser, the Director, was built on the eastern side of the property over the county line." The Argus further stated "GM is a deep significance to Brighton and already employs several Brighton people."

As the roads and buildings were being completed so began the hiring. Management looked towards the local farm boys be-

cause "they had strength in body and a good work ethic from being on the farms." (Argus) They were hired as mechanics, test drivers etc. The average pay was 50 cents per hour and some worked 7 days a week. With the influx of workers at the GMPG, an increase of housing was needed. Land needed to be cleared and construction crews were needed to build the homes. The building of homes in the Brighton area further stimulated the local economy. The Argus stated in August 1924: "the proximity of the Proving Grounds to Brighton has already contributed to the profits of Brighton businesses. And will continue if we show our interest."

To be continued....

(Compiled by Mindy Kinsey from the GM Archives, Brighton Argus and Bill Pless writings.)



General Motors Proving Grounds, Gatehouse