

Keep The Bright Light On Over Brighton !

The City of Brighton is both lucky and smart! The Brighton Area Historical Society was formed in 1981 by concerned citizens. The citizens were alarmed that the City Council of Brighton was considering removal of Brighton's most formidable structure—Old Town Hall. The removal of the 1879 two-story, red brick building on the Millpond would be a slap in the face to all community members. Thankfully common sense prevailed and preservation of the people's center continues today. This uniquely shaped and styled Victorian era structure was built to accommodate the vital services of the fledgling Village of Brighton. Fire station, judicial center, jail, social center, library and thankfully today museum, art gallery, small playhouse, and a second floor classroom for the arts.

There are many cool cities, both large and small, that attract homeowners and guests because of the unique qualities found within the downtown and local region. One of the qualities of many cool cities is the appreciation of local history, art and culture. Typically in these communities, you will find a downtown historical museum supported by the city and the local historical society. Brighton City Council stands tall for their support of the City of Brighton Arts, Cultural and History (CoBACH) Center found within the Old Town Hall. The historical society is a community asset with strong ties to its many supporters. The local historical programs shared within CoBACH provide much reflection like art. Studying history allows us to illuminate our past so that even a brighter light can help guide our future plans.

Brighton is definitely a very cool city for its many attributes that are loved by many folks and certainly envied by many less fortunate communities. Let's never lose sight of those characteristics of why Brighton is such a cool city!

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276
President of BAHS
jvichich@comcast.net

RETURNING IN MAY 2020

BAHS Spring Vintage Jewelry Sale
CoBACH Center — May 1—8, 2020

If you have old family jewelry you no longer desire,
please consider donating to this sale.
Contact Jim Vichich, 517-304-7722 for pickup of items.

CoBACH Hours

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
NEW Hours Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Monday

CoBACH Display

FREE EXHIBITS

February — March 15
“Canopy Restaurant”

If you would like a written receipt for a donation you made to the Society in 2019, please let us know. Contact: Jerry Damon 248-345-4080

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Daily postings regarding Brighton History.

Brighton Area Historical Society

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Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS:

IND/FAMILY: Dave & Jacque Fuller, Lin & Clark Millar, Ernie & Mary Lou Nagy, Edwin & Sherry Nyhus, Tedd & Linda Potter, Paul & Cindy Sawallich, Robert Wilkinson

PATRON: William & Jacqueline Damm, Nicholas Deychakowsky, Robert Johnson, Bob & Shirley Knight, Brenda Ochodnick

LIFE:

BUS/PROF: Power House Electric

SPONSORSHIP: Frank & Josephine Del Vero—2020 Bronze

If you haven't already done so, please consider renewing your dues for 2020. Not a member? Use the form on Page 3 to join the Society.

THANKS:

- Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2020 Platinum sponsorship.
- Frank & Josephine Del Vero for their 2020 Bronze Sponsorship.
- John & Debbie Armstrong and Jim & Janis Miller for their donations to the Society.
- Tedd & Linda Potter for their donation to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.

- Vivian Hatty for her donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship fund.
- Robert Johnson for his donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund, Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Old Village Cemetery along with his dues.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Kate Lawrence, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich for preparing the January newsletter for mailing.
- "Thank You Dinner Volunteers" for a wonderful evening: Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim & Vicki Vichich.
- Carole Damon, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for setting up the current CoBACH display of the Canopy Restaurant.

Did you know, the Society offers items for sale such as books, afghans, ceramic tiles of iconic locations in Brighton, etc. Looking for a special item for your history buff, contact Jim at jvichich@comcast.net

Dates to Remember

CoBACH Center: FREE EXHIBITS — (See Page 1 for Hours).

February—March 15: "Canopy Restaurant" — Stop by and see cool old photos and information about Brighton's most famous 20th century eatery located downtown on Grand River.

February 6,13,20,27; 9am—11:59am: Archiving will continue every Thursday in 2020 at the Lyon Schoolhouse. Looking for information about your family members? Archivists will share information on hand.

February 26; 6pm: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center.

March 14; 9am—4pm: Old Hartland HS Gymnasium — Antique Show by Brighton Masonic Lodge #247

May 1—8; CoBACH Center: Spring Vintage Jewelry Sale. Please consider donating your old family jewelry you no longer desire. Share this date with family and friends.

May 2; 9—12nn: Old Village Cemetery Spring Cleanup.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton — Charles & Janice Beach
Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan
Jerry & Carole Damon — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris
Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Ray & Bessie Maltby — Carol McMacken — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Greg & Pamela Park (OH)
John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong
Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

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

Advance Craft Builders (2020) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** — Brighton District Library **
Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark Eye Center (2019) — Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2019) — Golfview Painting (2020)
Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Autobody ** — Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
Neighbors Magazine (2019) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2020) — Preview Properties (2020) — Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research ** — Tee-Bone's Tavern (2020) — Weld Mold Company (2019)

2020 Sponsorships

Platinum Level: Dan & Anna Oginsky

Bronze Level: Frank & Josephine Del Vero, Bob Hill

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.

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: _____	

Membership Plan:		Additional Donation to—Check One:		Amount of Donation:	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life				

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

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

BAHS Leadership 2019

President Jim Vichich	Directors Joe Collins
Vice President Marieanna Bair	Nancy Fredenburg
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	John Rawcliffe
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry & Carole Damon	Thomas Reinke
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	Lynn Strong
	Peggy Van Sickle
	Education Liaison Judith Coebly

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 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.

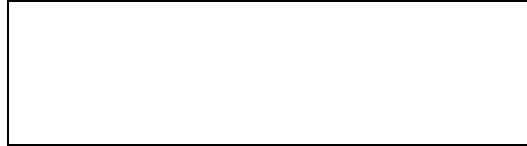
BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE CANOPY

The Hotel was built in 1925 by Tom Leith and opened New Year’s Day, 1926 at 130 W. Grand River.

It was originally the “Lincoln Hotel” and the 1st National Bank of Brighton, then “Graham Hotel,” the “Monk Hotel,” then became the “CANOPY HOTEL,” then just “THE CANOPY.” The building started to be called the CANOPY when in early 1955, three businessmen assumed ownership over the hotel from Ralph Monk. Their vision was to install canopies from the ceiling of the restaurant to create a warmer feeling inside and place a canopy on the outside entrance.

In May 1955, Mrs. Sargent of Brighton was hired to paint murals on the walls in the banquet room. Russell and Joyce Yetier from Clare, MI became the managers for the hotel. But by Thanksgiving 1955, Bill Clemens is the manager. The Wrights were managers and part owners by 1957, along with two other businessmen from Ann Arbor.

The Canopy had four primary areas. Three dining rooms (the Main Dining room which held up to 100 people, the Walnut Room, the Gaslight Room for private parties, and the 4th was the bar, known as the “Vault” due to the bank vault from the 1st National Bank still being part of the building. The vault is still in the building of Preview Properties.

The Canopy was not just a stopping point for travelers, it was a destination for many. It drew the elite, the politicians, the high profile criminals and show people and was sought out for many occasions by locals. Or for that Sunday brunch or dinner. Don’t forget the sticky buns!

The high points were not just the food (which Bill Brown and his crew made delicious) and the great service, it was all the wonderful people that worked there. **Earl Williams**, the piano player, who played for

over 30 years there, made the experience very special. There was also the wait staff and hostess’, such as **Jenny Fredenburg** and **Nanette Edwards** and various others. We would love to know all their names.

They also acquired some very interesting paintings. Some nudes for the bar, as well as a 7’ x 3.25’ velvet painting of a bartender that hung over the bar (currently owned by a private individual in Brighton). Also a large molded painting, “The Lady and the Lion,” which currently hangs over a fireplace at Stout’s Restaurant.

By 1984, Jack Wright retires from managing the Canopy and Bill Davis becomes manager. Bill was the assistant manager for 20 years before becoming the manager.

By 1985, Doug and Suzie Wood become new owners, and at that time, “The Canopy received a timely new renovation.”

The last meal was served in June 1989. Much speculation occurred on why it closed. The moving in of fast food places, times changing, trouble with the IRS, etc. Because of the wonderful reputation of the restaurant, very few people understood why it closed.

It sat vacant for 2-1/2 years until Preview Properties saw the wonderful potential of the classic building.

The CANOPY will live on in the memories of all that were able to go there. You can’t say the CANOPY without someone saying, “Oh I loved that place and I miss it. Especially the Sticky Buns!”

(Compiled and submitted by Mindy Kinsey from sources in the BAHS Archival files and articles from the Brighton Argus.)

