

## Brighton health center a COVID-19 testing site

**Health Crisis: Spring—Summer 2020**

Normally our attention just starts to focus on the beautiful color of our spring flowers! Our local Brighton attention today mimics the worldwide efforts of just trying to stay isolated and safe from the pandemic known as COVID-19.

Many states have closed schools and restaurants and Michigan likewise has received those isolation directives from Governor Whitmer. Restaurants can only be open to serve carry out orders. The auto industry has closed down factories, and the stock market has dropped nearly 10,000 points. Businesses, including restaurants, are being decimated. Even the sacred April 15 tax deadline has been extended penalty-free to July 15. Will schools reopen for the last two months of the school year?

The extent of this coronavirus is unknown. The devastation in Italy includes over 9000 fatalities. Hopefully, US citizens will heed isolation directives to help curb community spread. Experts feel the worst may be a month away with effects lasting 4-6 months.

The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. Known as the Spanish Flu, this virus resulted in 50 million fatalities including over 600,000 in the US. In reviewing the Brighton Argus editions from the fall of 1918, the author has found articles detailing weekly deaths of 2-3 area residents. Deaths were reported from affects of pneumonia as a consequence of the flu. While not all editions were available, no articles were found describing any closing of businesses or schools.

The Great Depression of the 1930s did have some comparisons to today. The collapse of the stock market caused many businesses to close and never to open their doors again. People were out of jobs and families faced starvation. In 1933 schools ran out of money on April 21 and Brighton Schools closed all buildings for the academic year.

I hope you are healthy and remain isolated for safety!! Our beautiful community will resurge. I hope that our summer millpond concerts can take place this year as we all need to finally relax and enjoy the companionship of friends and family! God Bless America!

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276  
BAHS President  
jvichich@comcast.net



L TO R: Sara Thomas, Kate Lawrence,  
Jerry Damon, Craig Muhn

### A GENEROUS CHECK FOR THE LARRY LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Brighton Chapter of the Vintage Motor Car Club of America, in memory of Vaughn Oswalt, Jr.

### CoBACH Hours

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm  
Saturday 11am—5pm

**NEW Hours Sunday 2—5pm**

Closed Monday

**The CoBACH Center is currently CLOSED due to COVID-19**

**Archiving at Lyon School on Buno Road is also CLOSED**

**Check our Facebook Page for the Opening Date of both.**

### CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical Society**

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## Thanks and Recognition

### MEMBERSHIPS:

**IND/FAMILY:** Caren Biermann, Janice Field (2021), Mike Lenninger, Randy & Linda Veno Needham\*, Tracy Price\*, Tom Reinke

**PATRON:** Karen J. Goss\*, Paul Richards

**BUS/PROF:** Davis Multimedia

**SPONSORSHIP:** **Bronze**—Carolina DeLuca, Neighbors Magazine (Mike Lenninger)

\*Welcome new members: Karen J. Goss, Randy & Linda Veno Needham, Tracy Price

### THANKS:

- Brighton Masonic Lodge, #247, City of Brighton and Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2020 Platinum sponsorship.
- Carolina DeLuca and Neighbors Magazine (M. Lenninger) for their 2020 Bronze Sponsorship.
- Vintage Motor Car Club of America (VMCCA) for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund in memory of VMCCA member Vaughn Oswalt, Jr.
- Caren Biermann, Randy & Linda Veno Needham for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- Karen Goss for her donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund and Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- David & Judith Bair and Paul & Kathy Bair for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- Tom & Bonnie Riutta for their donation to the Old Village Cemetery.
- Jerry & Carole Damon for their matching funds donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund from Eaton Corporation.
- Pat Franklin for her matching funds donation to the Friends of Lyon School from Amica Companies Foundation.
- Judy & David Bair, Nancy Fredenburg, Vivian & Mike Hatty, Mary Lou & Ernie Nagy, Norma Jean Pless, and Phil & Jean Smith for donations of jewelry for the BAHS Jewelry Sale rescheduled to May 2021.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Jean Pless and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the March issue of Trail Tales.
- Donated photos of the Seger family from Liz and Don VanSickle.
- Jan Allison, Judith Coebly, Vicki Vichich and Sue Zimmermann for their analysis, research, cleaning, repair and packaging of donated jewelry for the BAHS Jewelry Sales that has been rescheduled to May 2021.

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## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Center:** Has been **CLOSED for March** so volunteer's health is not compromised due to coronavirus. It may also be closed for April if needed.

The Warner Exhibit at CoBACH will be rescheduled.

**Lyon Schoolhouse:** Lyon School has been closed for archival work in March due to the coronavirus health concerns. The school may remain closed in April if required.

**BAHS Board Meeting:** March Board meeting has been cancelled. April meeting may be cancelled if required.

**May 1—8; CoBACH Center:** Spring Vintage Jewelry Sale has been canceled due to health concerns. Many unknown guests are in close proximity to our senior volunteers. Jewelry is still being processed for the future sale, rescheduled to May 2021.

**May 2; 9—12nn:** Old Village Cemetery Spring Cleanup. The 12th Annual Spring OVC cleanup is still scheduled. Please follow media as that date approaches in case of changes.

**Memorial Day Programs:** Programs are scheduled for Monday, May 25 at the downtown millpond. A Free Civil War Exhibit is scheduled in the CoBACH Center from 9—1pm.

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## 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 Lions Club (2020) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group \*\* — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2020) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2020) — Golfview Painting (2020) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Autobody \*\* Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — Neighbors Magazine (2020) — 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:** Brighton Masonic Lodge #247, City of Brighton, Dan & Anna Oginsky

**Bronze Level:** Carolina DeLuca, Frank & Josephine Del Vero, Bob Hill, Neighbors Magazine/M. Lenninger

## 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>Phone:</b> ( ) _____
		<b>Address:</b> _____	
		<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____
		<b>E-Mail:</b> _____	

  

<b>Membership Plan:</b>		<b>Additional Donation to—Check One:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund	<b>Amount of Donation:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<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 Brighton 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](mailto:jvichich@comcast.net)

### BAHS Leadership 2020

President <b>Jim Vichich</b>	Directors <b>Joe Collins</b>
Vice President <b>Marieanna Bair</b>	<b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>
Secretary <b>Mindy Kinsey</b>	<b>John Rawcliffe</b>
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor <b>Jerry &amp; Carole Damon</b>	<b>Thomas Reinke</b>
Webmaster <b>Debbie Armstrong</b>	<b>Lynn Strong</b>
	<b>Peggy Van Sickle</b>
	Education Liaison <b>Judith Coebly</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  
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Permit #303  
Brighton, MI**

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**Brighton Facts — Did You Know?**

The following were taken from the book entitled, "From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan 1832 – 1945 written by Carol McMacken.

This "coffee table" sized book is a wonderful addition to any library and can be purchased at Lawrence Autobody in Brighton or by contacting Jim Vichich at 810-250-7276. The cost is \$60 for BAHS Members and \$65 for non-members. There is a \$10 mailing charge.

- The population of Livingston County in 1840 was 7,430. The census of Brighton Township including the village at Ore Creek was 786.
- The Eastern House (Brighton Hotel) at the corner of Main and Grand River was the location of the election that officially gave Brighton the status of an incorporated village on March 25, 1867.
- May 1926 Kroger & Co. signed a lease for the first chain-retailing store. A&P followed three years later at the corner of Main Street & Grand River in what was formerly known at the Brighton Inn.
- The formal opening of the new-public library was in April of 1928. Twenty-five membership cards were issued. Dr. J.D. Singer was the first person to take a book from the organized library.
- A contest was held in 1936 to determine the best slogan that would represent Brighton. Father Bath, the priest at St. Patrick's, originated the slogan 50 Lakes in 5 Miles Radius – 50 Cities in 50 Mile Radius, which won the contest.
- Brighton's first Bi-Annual Homecoming was August 21-22, 1907.
- In 1909, total residents having cars was eight. Ownership in Brighton by 1912, was approximately one person out of fifteen inhabitants of the village.
- In 1924, General Motors purchase 1075 acres of land to develop a system of roadways representing a variety of conditions to be used for a testing field for automobiles. The area known as the "Proving Ground," was a source of employment for many of the young men from Brighton and surrounding farms.
- During 1900, the Brighton post office was distributing one thousand to three thousand letters and papers each day.
- Three cemeteries were established in Brighton during the 19th century. The Village Cemetery, Calvary and Fairview. The Village Cemetery, adjacent to the millpond consisted of one acre of land which was established by The Reverend Mr. William A. Clark.
- Memorial Day has always been an important holiday to the citizens of Brighton. Fourth of July parades were always popular in Brighton.
- The Rialto Theater was built in 1918. Considered to be of the latest design, it was lighted with incandescent lights and contained a stage with dressing rooms beneath. The grand opening was held in March 1919, with the house filled to capacity.
- Bowling came to Brighton in 1902. This was not a gambling game of any kind, but a harmless amusement. Ladies would be given the use of the alley free of charge any time and Wednesday afternoons would be reserved for ladies only.
- The first paper in Brighton was the Livingston Courier, which consisted of a five-column folio. It was also the first paper in Livingston County and its first issue was distributed on January 10, 1843.
- Charles E. Placeway published the first issue of the Brighton Argus on April 6, 1880.

