



## The New Face of the Millpond!

The millpond was man-made about 1838 by Orville Quackenbush when he built a dam to hold back the water of Ore Creek. He needed the water behind the earthen dam to power his new grain mill that was the stimulus for the newborn community of Brighton.

Fast forward 182 years and the appearance of the millpond is changing rapidly. You find townhouses under construction, new and improved dining experiences, and soon a large multilevel apartment complex on the north side along Second Street.

These new construction developments bring the city important additional revenue in a desperate financial period. With the big drop in property taxes during the 2008 recession, it has been challenging to provide basic city services. Funds from state revenue sharing have all but vanished. The city has reduced staff but continues the goal of growth and moving forward.

Many community members prefer the old millpond appearance where they played hockey, skated and fed the ducks. The modern upscale community created their own memories by building the children's play area in 1995 called Imagination Station. The Tridge followed to greatly increase walkability around the millpond. The city recently completed the new Amphitheatre in 2019 which replaced the worn-out gazebo.

The city needs more downtown relaxation and activity areas than ever especially with the forecasted city center growth. Maybe it's time to rehumanize the mini park setting from the old chamber of commerce site on Hyne Street before it becomes another unchangeable parking lot. Possibly by relocating the court and razing the district court building, the site can provide needed water accessible recreational space.

The new face of the millpond is people, lots of people. Continue to plan and accommodate for those faces with desirable spots to congregate and have fun!

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276  
BAHS President  
jvichich@comcast.net

*(Millpond Photo courtesy of George Moses)*

### 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:** Bill & Gigi Vaillencourt

**PATRON:** Brighton Gardens Association/Kaye Bruns, Michael & Vivian Hatty (2021), Sue Zimmermann

**Renewing and new memberships keep the Society vital.** Please see the form on Page 3 if you would like to renew your dues or become a member of the Society.

### THANKS:

- Brighton Masonic Lodge, #247, City of Brighton and Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2020 Platinum sponsorship.
- Pleasant Valley Social Club for their donation in memory of Phyllis Kerslake.
- Nancy Fredenburg for her matching funds donation from Bank of America.
- Robert & Pauline Schaffer for their donation to the Friend of Lyon School and the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- Bill & Gigi Vaillencourt for their donation to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.

- Kate Lawrence and Lawrence Auto Body for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- John Sauve for his donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- Carole & Jerry Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the May issue of Trail Tales.
- BAHS Board for their dedication in keeping the Society moving forward during these COVID times by conducting Board meetings via Zoom. A new learning experience for most members!
- To our members who continue to recognize the value of this Society through their payment of dues and donations. We are grateful for all you do in support of this organization.

## Stay Safe and Be Well

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## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Operations / CoBACH Center:** Has been **CLOSED for March/April and May.** At this point, no determination has been made about June and future operations.

**Lyon Schoolhouse:** Lyon School has been closed for archival work in March, April and May. Unable to determine operations for June and beyond.

**BAHS Board Meeting:** Scheduled for June 24.

**OVC Headstone Restoration** days for 2020 are being reconsidered due to COVID-19. Originally scheduled for the 4th Monday during the summer months as follows: June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28 and October 26.

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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 Auto Body \*\*  
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'z 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 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.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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**“The Heart Has Its Reasons”  
Rene’ Montaigne  
Brighton 1949**

Home is never very far away. Admit it or not, where we are from most often defines who we are: it colors how we embrace life, how willing we are to deal with both the good and bad turns life takes, how we accept ourselves and others, how we reject failure. No matter how far away we live, if we are truthful with ourselves, memory always beckons us back to the place we used to call home.

I was raised in a small family, associated with a small circle of friends, and lived in a relatively small neighborhood. And I am from a small town, a place where memories were remarkable. That town coasted into the middle of the twentieth century unchanged, for the most part. It was a quaint village with a Millpond and ducks swimming lazily from one bank to the other, a scenic church overlooking it, the city and fire hall anchoring stores on both sides of its main street from east to west.

“Town” and “home” were indistinguishable to me in the first few years of my life. Going “downtown” was a ritual for most families once or twice a week, always on Saturday night and Sundays for most church goers. Very unostentatious cars, mostly gray or black and dusty from gravel roads in the country, parked at angles abutting sidewalk curbs. A penny or two deposited into meters covered two hours of parking at the most, zealously overseen by the town cop. It was commonplace to see someone you knew—or perhaps wanted to avoid—strolling down Main Street or the main thoroughfare between Detroit and Lansing, Grand River Ave.

Not less than six churches competed for peoples’ souls in my town. Two bowling alleys, Masonic, Eastern Star and Veterans halls and a motion-picture theater were places some of the townspeople gathered in the evening or weekend afternoons for social activities. In the town proper or on its outskirts were two law offic-

es, a furniture store, four car dealerships, a small implement store, flower shop, funeral home, two drugstores, three soda fountains, five restaurants and six grocery stores. There were, as in most small towns throughout America in mid-century, blacksmith and shoe repair shops, a bank, post office, feed store and mill, four bars, an elevator/lumberyard, a printing shop and two dry goods stores. These were complemented by more than the usual number of hardware establishments—four—,plumbing and electrical contractor stores, two shoe stores, one clothing store, two barber shops, two beauty salons, the newspaper and a beer garden/hotel. Not a small number of gas stations, where one could easily make it through the week by purchasing one dollar’s worth of gas, dotted both sides of East and West Grand River.

*Excerpts used by permission from “Remarkably Brighton: Still in Touch,” former Brighton resident Paul Weber’s upcoming sequel to his historical novel “Con Weber’s Brighton” Portrait of Family, Church and Nation, 1832—1942 (Peppertree Press, 2014).*

