



### Let's Celebrate the July 4th Parade!

Brighton's parade to celebrate independence will be held downtown on **Sunday, July 4th from 10am—12nn.** The parade down Main Street will start on top of the hill where the BECC building (old high school) is located. The colorful floats and fire engines will travel to the Brighton High School for its conclusion.

This year's parade has an additional reason to attend and celebrate independence. For the past year everyone had been isolated due to the pandemic. The vaccinations for COVID19 are allowing vaccinated people to get together freely with families and friends that are now protected from the deadly virus and free to enjoy public festivities.

Plan to celebrate our independence and freedom by attending Brighton's Main Street Parade on Sunday, July 4th at 10am.

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276  
BAHS President  
jvichich@comcast.net

### Opportunity to Experience One-Room Schoolhouses

Michigan One-room Schoolhouse Association has its **Fall Conference, September 25** at the relocated and restored Hicks One-room Schoolhouse located at the Warner Farm where Pleasant Valley and Buno Road cross in Brighton Township. A session will also be held at the Lyon Schoolhouse at 11455 Buno Road, just 1/2 mile to the west. Learn about the headstone restoration project taking place at the Old Village Cemetery in Brighton. Over 160 headstones have been carefully restored from being broken and laying on the ground. Another 240+ that were leaning were removed and reinstalled vertical. Details will be shared on restoration techniques. Bring your questions on repairing those family headstones. Members and anyone interested can attend but must have a paid registration. (Registration form available at <https://www.miorsa.org>)

Additional details will be included in future newsletters.

### CoBACH HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11—5pm

Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Monday

**Current FREE Exhibit**  
"Music in the Air"

**Archiving at Lyon School**  
**at Lyon Schoolhouse**  
**Every Thursday**  
**9 to 12nn**

**See Page 2 for**  
**Additional details**

### **CHECK OUT FACEBOOK**

Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical Society**

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

DATES TO REMEMBER	2
THANKS AND RECOGNITION	2
SPONSORSHIP FORM	3
BAHS LEADERSHIP	3
CONTACT BAHS	3
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	4

---

## Thanks and Recognition

**MEMBERSHIPS:** (Reflect dues paid for year 2021 unless otherwise noted.)

**IND/FAMILY:** Edmund Case

**BUS/PROF:** Davis Multimedia International, Inc.

**SPONSORSHIP:** Bronze: Weld Mold Company

**Renewing and new memberships keep the Society vital.**

Please see the form on Page 3 if you would like to join, or renew your dues.

**THANKS:**

- Brighton Light House/Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2021 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Weld Mold Company for their 2021 Bronze Sponsorship.
- Bob and Pauline Schaffer for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund and Friend of Lyon School.
- Jerry and Carole Damon for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- Edmund Case for his donation to the Society along with his dues.
- The many members and donors who provide financial support to the historical society are greatly appreciated. The BAHS programs and projects at CoBACH Center, Lyon Schoolhouse and Old Village Cemetery would not be possible except for the generosity of those supporters.
- John and Linda Rawcliffe for the Vagabond picture.
- Dave and Kathy Campbell for the “Gay” Motel items.
- Judith Coebly for her work in preparing the program for the August Tours of Civil War Soldiers’ Graves at the Old Village Cemetery.
- Jerry and Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the June Trail Tales.

---

## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH, Operations:** The City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center has reopened to its regular schedule. The regular schedule is Tuesday—Friday 5-8 pm, Saturday 11-5 pm and Sunday 2—5pm.

The CoBACH **FREE exhibit is called “Music in the Air.”** Learn about the different bands in the early 1900s that shared their love of music with the folks of Brighton. Many old photos show those musicians.

**Lyon Schoolhouse:** Open for archiving and tours on Thursdays from 9—11:59am. All visitors must wear facial masks and observe social distancing.

**July—October Headstone Restoration Days at Old Village Cemetery** always on the 4th Monday of the month from 9am—2pm. Those dates are July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25.

**August 8 and 21st; Old Village Cemetery:** Guided Tours of the Civil War Soldiers’ gravesites. Tours will last 1.25 hours and you will learn about the soldiers whose headstones are located here. Each tour will focus on different soldiers. Maximum of 20 guests per tour. Donation is \$5 per person and reservations required. You can pay online. Follow the Facebook page of the Brighton Area Historical Society for upcoming details.

**Saturday, September 25;** One-room Schoolhouse Association Fall Conference. See Page One for details.

**Sunday, December 12; 1—4pm:** Santa will visit the Lyon Schoolhouse. Visit the school with the children and grandchildren for those great holiday Christmas card photos. **This is a FREE event.** Mark your calendars for this fun event! More details in future newsletters.

---

## 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 — Edgar L Cord, Ph.D. — Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan  
Jerry & Carole Damon — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreyra — 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 — Randy & Linda Veno Needham  
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 — Al & Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

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

Advance Craft Builders (2021) — Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\* — Brighton Area Women’s History Roll of Honor\*\* — Brighton District Library \*\*  
Brighton Lions Club (2021) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group \*\* — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2021)  
Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2021) — Golfview Painting (2021) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Auto Body \*\*  
Livingston County Convention Visitors Bureau (2021) — Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\*  
Michigan Consulting & Environmental (2021) — Neighbors Magazine (2021) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2021)  
Preview Properties (2021) — Promess, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\* — Tee-Bone’z Tavern (2020)

### 2021 Sponsorships

**Platinum:** Brighton Light House/Dan & Anna Oginsky

**Bronze:** Weld Mold Company

## 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>Additional Donation to—Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund <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 \$ _____

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 2021

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



(Following is a letter from Elsa (Marten) Stegenga. Elsa was a 1929 graduate of BHS and a 3rd grade teacher.

**BRIGHTON SCHOOL BAND**

The Brighton School Band was started back in April of 1934. I had received my teaching certificate in Music Education and was living in Brighton where I grew up.

Mr. Guy Pitkin, a respected citizen was very interested in forming a School Band, hoping it would be a feeder for a future Brighton Community Band.

Back in the early 1900s, there had been a Brighton Band made up of some of Brighton’s leading citizens. They played Sunday concerts and marched in holiday parades. (There were no radios or TVs and people made their own entertainment.)

Mr. Pitkin called me into his office one evening and talked with me about starting a band. I was teaching 3rd grade, my first year, and I was delighted with the idea.

A Conn Instrument salesman was contacted. The PTA had a meeting and a small segment of interested children from grades 6—9 started to receive lessons at the school. The school bought the drums, French horns, and the base horn.

Mr. Pitkin also decided we needed uniforms. So, capes and hats were ordered. They were Blue and Gold but the High School Football team was absolutely negative to the idea of changing their Orange and Black school colors. They had no use for the band.

The little band flourished. The kids did a good job and were proud. Mom and Dad were proud, too. We marched at the football games. By 1937 we were giving a concert a month for which we charged a dollar. The money was used for music and band needs. We also had fun with parties and picnics. At one, I received a beautiful black eye when in a race, I collided with Bill

Reckman, our six-foot drum major. The band kept growing and when I left, in 1938, it was a nice little organization. We marched in the holiday parades and played on Wednesday nights by the Mill Pond during the summer, but times were changing. Many of the kids had and needed jobs — the jobs came first and so the school band did not become a feeder for the Brighton Community Band. After high school, the young people left Brighton for college or other places where they could fulfill their dreams.

“My Kids” as I called them went to war — tears fill my eyes — Bob Morland, my drummer was the first to die — our Drum Major, Bill Reckman in the Philippines — Ray Carmack and Fred Singer some place in Europe — Ray Thomas — in the Navy some place in the Pacific and Garnet Rolison in the Marines of a nervous breakdown. Some of Brighton’s best gave their lives.

Then there was young David Leith who joined the Army Band 78 AGF based in Germany and played at the Peace Conference in Paris in 1945. He told me his slide trombone never sounded more beautiful then when he was flying 30,000 feet above the earth. He said the sound was incredible.

My life has taken many wonderful turns and lovely people have crossed my path; but some of my fondest recollections are of the little band I started in Brighton.

My congratulations to you all and my best wishes for continued success of the Band.

Most Sincerely, Elsa Stegenga

**This and more stories and photos about Brighton’s love for music are currently on display at CoBACH Center. “Music in the Air” — See page one for hours.**