

General Motors Proving Ground

Free Exhibit Opens at the CoBACH Center!

The City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center is ready to open the new history exhibit this month. The exhibit focuses on the history of the General Motors Proving Ground (GMPG) located on the border of Livingston and Oakland Counties. Learn about the local people that have been employed there since the first property acquisitions in 1924. Many photos show the growth of GMPG over time.

The CoBACH Center is located at 202 West Main Street adjacent to the Millpond in downtown Brighton. Hours of operation can be found listed on the first page sidebar of this newsletter and also on Page Two.

1885 Lyon Schoolhouse

Did you know the restored 1885 Lyon Schoolhouse can be toured for free every Thursday morning from 9:15—11:30am? Bring the children and let them experience the splendor of this totally refurbished schoolhouse. This style of schoolhouse could be found through Canada and the US in the 19th Century. The school setting is the early 1900s. Kids can sit in the old maple desks with the ink wells and flip seats. All kids enjoy pulling the rope that makes the bell on the exterior bell tower ring. An authentic old cast iron stove illustrates the heating system in the original school.

Stop by and experience history. Both the school and restroom are barrier-free. Address for the schoolhouse is listed on Page Three of this newsletter.

Jim Vichich, BAHS President
Jvichich@comcast.net — 810.250.7276

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends its sympathy to the families of

Charles Beach
Michael Ewing
Carol McMacken
Patricia Thomas

All were long-time members of the Society and will be missed.

If you need written confirmation of a contribution you made to the Society during 2021, please contact Jerry Damon at 248-345-4080.

Current CoBACH

Exhibit:

General Motors
Proving Ground

CoBACH HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11—5pm

Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Monday

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 2022 unless otherwise noted.)

IND/FAMILY: Tim Bennett, Howard & Syndy Bisoski, Elaine Blight, Dale Borst, Richard & Barb Briggs, Mary Fonseca, Dave & Jacque Fuller, Joanne Harte, Robert Hill, Susan Lanning, John & Ruth LePatourel, Ralph Miller, Patricia Mrozek, Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Tedd & Linda Potter, John & Linda Rawcliffe, Paul & Cindy Sawallich, Shari & Martin Smith, Patrick Smith, Richard & Letitia Smith, John & Anne Zemke

PATRON: Margaret Bowland, Sharron Cantarini, Joyce Hubbs, Robert Johnson, Tom & Mindy Kinsey, Marsha Luetjen, Bob & Priscilla Petten-gill, Jane Tomlinson

BUS/PROF: Golfview Painting, Power House Electric

SPONSORSHIPS:

2022 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES Please see the insert or the form on Page 3 if you would like to join, or renew your dues.

THANKS:

- To our members who have renewed their dues for 2022.
- Howard & Syndy Bisoski, Sharron Cantarini, John & Linda Rawcliffe and Pat Smith for their donations to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Margaret Bowland, Joanne Harte, Richard & Letitia Smith for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- Tom & Mindy Kinsey for their donation to CoBACH Events along with their dues.

- Tim Bennett, Marlene Fonseca, Golfview Painting, Tedd & Linda Potter for their donations to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Joyce Hubbs for her donations to Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Joyce Hubbs for her donation in memory of Marieanna Bair.
- Jane Tomlinson for her donation to Friend of Lyon School and Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Robert Johnson for his donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund, Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Old Village Cemetery along with his dues.
- Nancy Fredenburg for her donation to the Society in honor of Norma Jean Pless.
- John Rawcliffe for donating a Cars & Concepts Auto Expo '83 Brass Exhibitor Tag.
- Natalie & Todd Buckley for donations from the sales of Brighton Advertising vintage tee-shirts from Wallflower Mercantile.
- Jon Luker for the donation of the 1915 Victrola phonograph and records for use in the Lyon Schoolhouse. Thanks to Joe Collins & Jim Vichich for phonograph pickup and delivery to Lyon School.
- CoBACH volunteers for November/December: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Jean Pless, Tom Reinke, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Jerry & Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the December Trail Tales newsletter.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH: Days and hours of operation:

Tuesday—Friday 5—8 pm, Saturday 11—5 pm and

Sunday 2—5pm. Masks must be worn.

CURRENT EXHIBIT: January-February: General Motors Proving Ground

March-April Exhibit: Casual Quilters

Lyon School Open Dates: January 6,13,20,27; Thursdays: Archiving work from 9-11:59am. Masks must be worn.

January 26, 2022: Next BAHS Board Meeting at 6PM, CoBACH.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Shirley Barton — 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) — Kathy Jacoby (FL) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Veno Needham — Greg & Pamela Park (OH)
John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — Kathy Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigitte Ritsema — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Carole Scott
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 (2022) — 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 (2022) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body **
Livingston County Convention Visitors Bureau (2021) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Michigan Consulting & Environmental (2021)
Neighbors Magazine (2021) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2022) — Preview Properties (2021) — Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research ** — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2022)

Sponsorships

Bronze: Carolina DeLuca (2022)

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"/> \$50 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 2022

President Jim Vichich	Directors Joe Collins
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	John Rawcliffe
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon	Thomas Reinke
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	Lynn Strong
	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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SO WHERE DID GAY LAKE GO?

The 1895 Platt Map of Brighton Township showed the closest lake to the city of Brighton was Gay Lake. A lake of less than thirty acres and about 35 feet deep. The property west of Gay Lake was owned by Amanda Gay, thus likely where the name for the lake originated.

Gay Lake was a kettle lake, also called a kettle hole, known in geological terms as a depression in a glacial outwash made by the melting of the detached mass of glacial ice that became wholly or partly buried. When filled with water, they are called kettle lakes.

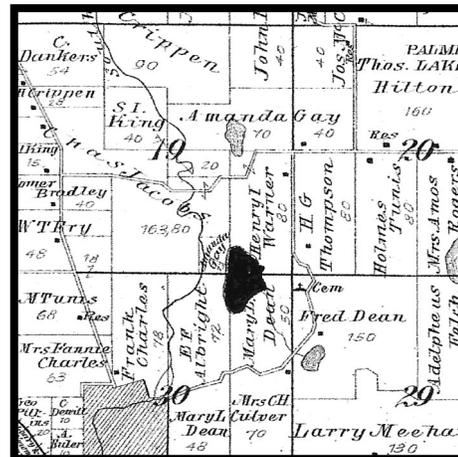
In the 1920's, the Capital Land Company of Detroit began buying up land in Sections 18 and 19 of Brighton Township along the Ore Creek north of the City of Brighton. The same Ore Creek that flows through Brighton when the dam formed for the Millpond.

Capital Land Company purchased some 1200 acres of mostly farmland located along both sides of South Ore Creek. The 1915 Platt Map shows that much of the acreage was owned by Ernest Crippen, Mr. and Mrs. Fracion, JL Taylor, JW Crippen, Amanda Gay and others. Capital Land Company's plan was for a large recreational area with a lake and 9 miles of shoreline, two golf courses, a senior and junior course, along with four hundred acres of building sites.

In 1927, a dam was built north of what is today Hilton Road and East of Grand River. The result of this dam is Woodland Lake. Woodland Lake is the largest lake in Brighton Township at 290 acres and a depth of 35 feet, including six islands and over three hundred homes. The 35 foot deep area is what was previously called Gay Lake!.

(Submitted by Jerry Damon. *Information compiled from: Brighton Argus, MLive, and Huron River Watershed Council documents.*)

1895 Platt Map



Current Map of Woodland Lake