

## Message from our President

I begin with a huge thank you to Jim Vichich. Under his leadership, over the past 18 years, the Brighton Area Historical Society has continued to grow and thrive. His work on the Old Village Cemetery and his frequent Facebook postings kept our organization visible in the community. He will still be involved in many ways and I look forward to his help as I learn the ropes to lead us this next year.

We have exciting news to share this month. First we are kicking off a Matching Funds Campaign sponsored by Corrigan Oil Company in memory of their mother Bonnie Corrigan. This matching funds campaign will be used for the replacement of the fence at Lyon School. Your donation of \$25 becomes \$50.

### See the insert in this month's Trail Tales regarding this Matching Funds Campaign

Secondly, we are announcing the Mellus Hospital Heritage Day on Saturday, July 19th 2025, starting at 10:30. We are partnering with the Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce to hold the event. This will be held at the Chamber building (218 E. Grand River Avenue) which was originally the Mellus Hospital built in 1931. We are asking all people born at Mellus to contact us and they will receive a commemorative ornament at the day of the event. We look forward to sharing the rich history of Mellus Hospital.

Dave LewAllen, Brighton native, retired Emmy award winning journalist and anchor for Channel 7 (WXYZ TV) will be our keynote speaker. We also want to thank John O'Malley, President of Trinity Health Livingston for sponsoring this event who will share a few words on the continued legacy of healthcare and community support in Livingston County.

Nancy Fredenburg, President BAHS  
517-304-5044  
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com



Mellus Hospital 2025



Lyon School Fence

**FREE CoBACH Exhibit**  
**May through July**  
**"The Office**  
**Before Apple"**

**CoBACH Summer Hours**  
**April thru October**  
**Wed. — Friday 5—8pm**  
**Saturday 11am—5pm**  
**Sunday 2—5pm**  
**Closed Monday & Tuesday**

**Archiving at Lyon**  
**School on Buno Road**  
**Every Thursday**  
**9 to 12nn**

**CHECK OUT FACEBOOK**  
Frequent postings regard-  
ing Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical**  
**Society**

We were saddened to hear  
of the recent passing of  
**Joanne Harte**  
Joanne was a long-time  
member of the Society.  
Our condolences to her  
family and friends.

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## Thanks and Recognition

**MEMBERSHIPS:** (Reflect dues paid for year 2025 unless otherwise noted.)

**IND/FAMILY:** Xavier Ferreyra\*, Tom Reinke, John Wallbank\*

**BUS/ORG:** Brighton Lions Club

Welcome to new members\*: Xavier Ferreyra, John Wallbank

**REMINDER:** you can still renew your membership or become a member using the form on Page 3. Through your dues and donations we are able to continue the work of preserving Brighton's history.

### THANKS..

- To our members who have renewed their dues for 2025 and beyond.
- Dr. John Cameron, Jerry & Carole Damon and Lake Trust Credit Union for their 2025 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Wallflower Mercantile for the 2025 Platinum Plus Sponsorship and their donation to the Society.
- Alice Wyland for her donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- Members who have donated towards the Lyon School Fence Restoration Matching Campaign.
- Deb Armstrong for her help on continuously updating our website.
- Jerry & Carole Damon for the excellent work on our newsletter to keep our members up-to-date.
- Vintage Jewelry Committee: Judith Coebly, Beth Ferreyra, John Rawcliffe and Vicki Vichich for their extensive time researching, repairing cleaning, packaging and organizing the donated jewelry.
- Joyce Duke, Mary Masters and Kathy Novak for their donation of jewelry.
- Fence Committee: Steve Black, Tony Ferreyra and Mindy Kinsey for organizing our matching funds campaign and flyer.
- Dr. Matt Outlaw, Superintendent of Brighton Schools for arranging for us to speak to the Brighton PTO Presidents regarding visitation to Lyon School next year.
- CoBACH volunteers for April: Steve Black, Tony Ferreyra, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Pettengill, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.

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## Dates to Remember

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SUMMER CoBACH HOURS**

**CoBACH Center:** **FREE Exhibit:** May — July **FREE Exhibit:** “The Office Before Apple”

**Every Thursday during May; 9am—12nn:** Lyon Schoolhouse Open for archiving & tours.

**May 28; Wednesday:** **BAHS Board Meeting** at CoBACH Center, 6PM.

**May 30; 9am—1pm:** **Memorial Day Civil War Exhibit** at CoBACH Center. See museum quality display of long guns, pistols, swords, uniforms and great static displays of much memorabilia.

**June 10; 10am Island Lake Park Pavilion at Spanish American Historical Marker:** DNR Free Senior Series. History of Island Lake by Brighton Area Historical Society.

**June 23; 9—12; Pleasant Valley Cemetery Headstone Restoration:** Other PVC dates: July 28, August 25, Sept. 22, Oct 27.

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## Life — Business — Professional Members

### Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (MI) — Tim & Kerry Bennett — Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley (CA) — Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (FL) — Steve & Denise Black — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — Jack Collett — John & Jenny Conely — Kelsey Corrigan Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Patricia LewAllen DeFoor (GA)— Frank & Jo Del Vero — Bill & Margaret Dixon Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreyra — Nancy Fredenburg — Dave & Jacque Fuller — Lee & Deb Gough — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Jason Conrad Huntley, CFP — Kathy Jacoby (OR) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence Jim Leith (IN) — Stephen Leith — 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 Lueker Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigitte Ritsema Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich Michael & Jennifer Vichich — Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

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

Brewery Becker\*\* — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor\*\* — Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce (2025) — Brighton District Library \*\* Brighton Lions Club (2025) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group \*\* — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2025) Mark Francuck, DDS, PC (2024) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Liberty Title Agency (2024) — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Auto Body \*\* Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2025) — Premier Financial Planning (2025) Preview Properties (2025) — Promess, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\* — Serra Brighton Automotive (2025) — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2025) Wallflower Mercantile\*\* — Wealth & Wellness Group (2025)

### 2025 Sponsorships:

**Platinum:** John Cameron, MD, Jerry & Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, **Platinum Plus:** Wallflower Mercantile

**Silver:** Steve & Denise Black — Kathy Lueker Pearson

**Gold:** Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

## Support BAHS: Become a Sponsor, 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, become a member or a sponsor, please mail your check 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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Membership Plan:

New       \$5 Student       \$50 Patron or More  
 Renew       \$20 Individual       \$75 Business/Professional  
                  \$30 Family       \$500 Life

### BAHS Sponsorship Program:

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tales newsletter and through the sponsorship placard located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall).

Platinum — \$1,000+       Gold — \$500+  
 Silver — \$250+       Bronze — \$100+

### Additional Donation to — Check as Desired:

Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration  
 Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund  
 Friend of Lyon School  
 BAHS CoBACH Events  
 Friend of Old Village Cemetery

### Amount of Additional Donation:

\$10       \$100  
 \$25       \$250  
 \$50       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit AND a 509(a)2 Public Charity Organization . All donations are tax deductible.

## Current BAHS Leadership

President  
**Nancy Fredenburg**

Vice President  
**Lynn Strong**

Secretary  
**Thomas Reinke**

Treasurer  
**Steve Black**

Webmaster  
**Debbie Armstrong**

Directors  
**Ron Cyr**  
**Tony Ferreyra**  
**Mindy Kinsey**  
**Jim Vichich**

Trail Tales Editor  
**Jerry Damon**

## 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:**  
(517) 304-5044

**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 AND a 509(a)2 public charity 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**



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**The Musch Family of Brighton, “Max”**

The Musch family has deep roots in Livingston County, with Max Musch’s family originally farming just west of Chilson, off King Road in Genoa Township. Dorothy Musch (Smith) grew up on the Smith family farm on Pingree Road in Howell. Both Max and Dorothy were active and dedicated members of their community throughout their lives. Together, they raised three sons—William (1959), Richard (1966), and Robert (1970), all of whom attended Brighton High School.

Max A. Musch married Dorothy Schultz in June 1937 in Howell, Michigan. After her passing in 1941, he married Dorothy E. Smith in December 1945, also in Howell.

Max was a graduate of Brighton County School, after which he attended Capital University in Ohio (a Lutheran-affiliated institution). He later transferred to the University of Michigan, where he earned a degree in Architectural and Civil Engineering. At that time, graduates from Brighton and Howell High Schools were automatically accepted into the University of Michigan.

Max began his career as an architect with a firm in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. A few years later, he returned to the Brighton-Howell area to establish his own architectural design business. Eventually, he accepted a position at General Motors’ Milford Proving Ground, where he worked for 20 plus years. There, Max managed and supervised the drafting department, overseeing the expansion of multiple buildings and the development of the proving ground’s extensive road system. He cherished his time at GM, where he considered his colleagues family, often reminiscing about the lifelong friendships he made, the successful projects he led, and the memorable Christmas parties and open houses GM hosted for employees and their families.

In addition to his work at GM, Max continued to design homes, remodels, and commercial buildings after hours. Over his career, he completed more than 700 projects in the Brighton area. Some of his notable works include Keehn Funeral Home, St. George Lutheran Church, and Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church. One of his earliest designs, the Vina House next to the Methodist Church

on Grand River, stands as a testament to his skill and dedication. The house was originally designed for a local doctor who served the Brighton Hospital, now the Brighton Chamber of Commerce building. A chalk drawing Max made of the Vina House to commemorate his first architectural project is displayed in the house’s lobby to this day.

Max was also deeply involved in local civic life, serving on the zoning and planning boards of Genoa Township, and as a dedicated member of St. George Lutheran Church. In the late 1970s, he was honored to serve as the Grand Marshal of the 4th of July parade. Max passed away in 1988, leaving behind a legacy of architectural excellence, community involvement, and a strong sense of family.

*(Thanks to Bob Musch who submitted this story to the Brighton Area Historical Society as well as the Brighton Alumni Association. We will publish the remainder of the story in the next several issues of Trail Tales.)*

