



Celebrating Mellus Hospital Heritage Day

Mellus Hospital Heritage Day exceeded our expectations and we are so grateful to our community and members who came out to celebrate Mellus Hospital with us on July 19, 2025.

We had over 100 people in attendance, people born there, people that had relatives who worked there, and people who just wanted to learn the history of the building. We heard many stories from residents and also received a birth bracelet from David Bair and the original hospital receipt of Dave LewAllen's birth.

We thank Dave for being our key note speaker and reminding us of the community that we grew up in. Change is necessary, but it is our memories that make Brighton a special place.

A special thank you to Karen Storey, President of the Brighton Chamber and John O'Malley, CEO of Trinity Health of Livingston for their sponsorship.

I also wish to thank the following people who were instrumental in making this day a success: Joanne Bellmard, Ron Cyr, Carole & Jerry Damon, Tony Ferreyra, Mindy Kinsey, Philip Smith, Lynn Strong, Jim Vichich, Peg White and Michelle at Engrave It All USA for the beautiful Mellus ornament.

We already have several suggestions for another Heritage Day next year. We have many buildings that need to be celebrated, so look for more information on what building we will honor next year.

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

The photograph above shows an ornament given to each attendee who was born at Mellus Hospital. If you would like to purchase one, the cost is \$10. Please contact Nancy Fredenburg, 517-304-5044 or info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com.

FREE CoBACH Exhibit
August—September
“Music in the Air”

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 regarding Brighton History.
**Brighton Area Historical
 Society**

**HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY**
**To all those celebrating
 in AUGUST!**

Thanks and Recognition

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

IND/FAMILY: Catherine Cohen*

Welcome to new member*: Catherine Cohen

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.
- Pleasant Valley Social Club for their donations in memory of Carol Warner Marrale's son, Sam Jr. and husband, Sam Sr.
- Bob & Betsy Herbst for their donation to the Society.
- Nancy B. Johnson for her donation in memory of Bonnie Corrigan.
- Bill and Margaret Dixon for their generous donation to the Society.
- The Silhouette Team for setting up the historical figures around downtown Brighton: Steve Black, Ron Cyr, Jerry Damon, Tony Ferreyra, Mike Johnson, Dave Pettigrove and Jim Vichich.
- Norma Pless for the storage of the silhouettes when not on display.
- To all the volunteers who decorated, walked or rode in the Fourth of July parade: Denise & Steve Black, Nancy Fredenburg, Lee & Deb Gough, Tom & Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Tom Reinke, Lynn Strong, Bob & Jenny Triffo and Peg White. Pat Viadya, Kaye and Beth Walker for lending the outfits worn and Jack Padley for the "patient."
- Donation of jewelry for 2026 sale from First United Methodist Church, Denise Black, Mike Dingeldey, Bonnie Riutta and Gigi Valliencourt.
- 2026 Jewelry Sale Repair & Packaging Team: Denise Black, Judith Coebly, Beth Ferreyra and Vicki Vichich.
- Pleasant Valley Cemetery Headstone Restoration Team June workers: Pam Bell, Kari & Anna Bennett, Rick & Margaret Bigham, Howard Bisoski, Steve & Denise Black, Emily Brown, Colleen Donehue, Tony & Beth Ferreyra, Emma Kuckyt, Jim Ireton, Dave Pettigrove, Jim Stevenson, Joe Ventimiglia, Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.

Dates to Remember

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SUMMER CoBACH HOURS

CoBACH Center: **FREE Exhibit:** August through September display "Music in the Air."

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

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

August 27; Wednesday: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center, 6PM.

September 15; Monday; 9—12N: Old Village Cemetery Special Workday.

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 ** — MI Concrete Lifting (2025) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2025) Premier Financial Planning (2025) — Preview Properties (2025) — Promise, 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:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron or More |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renew | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Business/Professional |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life |

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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

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).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum — \$1,000+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold — \$500+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver — \$250+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze — \$100+ |

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 | Directors
Ron Cyr |
| Vice President
Lynn Strong | Tony Ferreyra |
| Secretary
Thomas Reinke | Mindy Kinsey |
| Treasurer
Steve Black | Jim Vichich |
| Webmaster
Debbie Armstrong | 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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The following is Part 4 of the story of the Musch Family of Brighton. Thanks to Bob Musch who submitted this story to the Brighton Area Historical Society as well as the Brighton Alumni Association.

The Musch Family of Brighton, Richard “Rich”

Rich enjoyed his summers growing up on the lake and has many good memories of his school years starting from elementary through high school. Special teachers along the way included Mrs. Langley in Kindergarten, Mr. K, and Pat Lueker, he also fondly remembers principals Mr. Lindbom and Mr. Scranton. It seems like he had an affinity for the disciplinary type. Rich, like many of us appreciated all that Bob Scranton did for the community by getting involved and encouraging kids to be active in a sport at the gym or on the baseball fields, versus driving the loop on Main Street from the A&W to the railroad tracks, (though he did that as well). Also how could anyone forget their time in drivers training, Rich had nervous Mr. Ed Smith! Rich was in one of the last classes in the old high school (on the hill) where it was crowded with three to a locker, he was also one of the luckiest with four to his locker due to friends of friends. His senior trip was also memorable going to both New York City and Washington DC. Back then the legal drinking age in NY was eighteen, needless to say, they kept the chaperones very busy. Rich graduated with a class of 134 students.

Rich went on to Western Michigan University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Engineering and his pilot’s license. While in college, the local draft board monitored his status each semester due to the Vietnam War. Rich ended up receiving his college degree and his draft notice the same day. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and went on to Officers Training School (OTS). After OTS, basic pilot training and special training on the C-141 (large transport aircraft) and

survivor school, he was based at Norton AFB, CA. Most of his missions took place in the Pacific flying out of Hickam AFB, HI, the remainder he flew worldwide. Rich had always been a bit afraid of heights, his worst nightmare turned into reality when he had to learn how to parachute. Rich served seven years including his OTS, in 1978, then joined the reserves until 1981. He, like most of his roommates all went on to become pilots for various airlines. Rich hired on with National Airlines and moved to Miami. After several mergers and a bankruptcy (Pan Am) Rich ended up at the LOVE Airline Southwest as a Captain. Rich was thankful to have worked until his retirement at 65. A government action that took effect in 2007 extended pilots mandatory retirement age from 60 to 65.

Rich tries to get out and play tennis most every day when he isn't babysitting or working around the house. Other than tennis he stays in touch with his flight buddies and has taken numerous cruises out of the Fort Lauderdale port. Rich met his wife, Josie of 40+ years while at the airline where she worked as a flight attendant. They have a daughter Paige and two wonderful grandchildren.

(We will be publishing the remainder of the story in the next several issues of Trail Tales.)



Rich and Josie