

January 2026 — Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Brighton Area Historical Society Board, thank you to all of our members who have renewed their membership or made additional donations to one of our many projects, it is certainly appreciated by us. We have many that became new sponsors this year as well. Each and every donation and renewal means a lot to us and means we can take on additional projects in 2026. You will note on Page 2 of Trail Tales those that have donated and contributed. The membership drive runs through January 31st. The membership application/renewal form is included with this issue.

Our last event of 2025 – Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus was held on December 14th at Lyon Schoolhouse and was a huge success. We counted approximately 250 people in attendance and we were so happy to offer this event free of charge to the community. Many families have attended for years, and watching their children grow while enjoying our one-room schoolhouse is very rewarding for us. Homemade cookies were available along with each child making a Christmas craft to take home. I wish to thank the following people for their help: Lynn Strong, Pat Tucker, Steve and Denise Black, Ron and Trish Cyr, Mindy Kinsey, Peg White, Tom Reinke, and Jim Vichich. It was a very rewarding day.

Hello 2026 — We are setting our calendar for 2026 and have some exciting events in place. Our Jewelry Show Fundraiser will again be held in May. Watch our newsletter for exact dates and timing. We are planning additional cemetery tours for the community during the summer and offering 2 member events at Lyon School. Watch for those details in our newsletter. Additionally, we will continue work in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

As we venture into 2026, the Brighton Area Historical Society would like to **THANK YOU** for being part of our journey and for sharing our passion for preserving the past.

Nancy Fredenburg
 President, BAHS
 517-304-5044

FREE CoBACH Exhibit
 January — April
“Map Your Way Thru Brighton”
 (Variety of Vintage Brighton Maps)

CoBACH Winter Hours
January thru March

Thurs. — Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
Sunday 2—5pm

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 **JANUARY!**

Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS: (Reflect dues paid for year 2026 unless otherwise noted.)

IND/FAMILY: Ken/Kathy Anderer, Joe/Tina Anderson, Caren Biermann, Bob/Pam Brantley, Floice Frazer, Marcia Guetschow, Richard Hyne, Jeanette Johnson, Marsha Jones, Susan Lanning, Richard/Kathy McKinnie, Robert/Cathy Padget, Tedd/Linda Potter, Philip/Jeanne Smith, Shirley Warren

PATRON: Kathleen Alrubaiy, Debra Ball Johnson, Steven Davis, Mindy/Tom Kinsey, Marsha Luetjen, Caitlyn Perry-Dial, Bob/Priscilla Pettengill, Rich/Mary Ray, Jim/Judy Tavarozzi

MILITARY: Jim DeJohn

BUS/ORG: Tee-Bone'z Tavern

LIFE: Nancy LewAllen Dresden*, Rebecca LewAllen English*, David LewAllen*

SPONSORSHIPS: Platinum: Jerry/Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, **Bronze:** Pamela Bell, Caitlyn Perry-Dial

WELCOME New Members*: Nancy LewAllen Dresden, Rebeca LewAllen English, David LewAllen

REMINDER: Our membership drive/renewal continues thru JANUARY. Please see the insert to renew your membership or become a member. 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 2026 and beyond.
- Lake Trust Credit Union for their 2026 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Jerry/Carole Damon for their 2026 Platinum Sponsorship and donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship.
- Caitlyn Perry-Dial for her 2026 Bronze Sponsorship along with her dues.

- Pamela Bell for her 2026 Bronze Sponsorship and donation to Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration and Friend of Lyon School.
- Bob/Pam Brantley for their donation to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Patricia DeFoor for purchasing Life Memberships for her siblings.
- Debra Ball Johnson, Robert/Kathy Padget and Tee-Bone'z Tavern for their donation to the Society along with their dues.
- Robert/Kathy McKinnie for their donation to Pleasant Valley Cemetery restoration, Larry Lawrence Scholarship, Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Friend of Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Philip/Jeanne Smith for their donation to Friend of Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Steven Davis for his donation to Larry Lawrence Scholarship, and Friend of Old Village Cemetery along with his dues.
- Debbie Armstrong for her donation to Lyon School in memory of Jacque Armstrong and Bill Armstrong.
- Jerry/Carole Damon for their donation to Lyon School in honor of Norma Jean Pless.
- Jim DeJohn and Floice Frazer for their donation to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Caren Biermann, Jeanette Johnson and Mindy/Tom Kinsey for their donation to CoBACH along with their dues.
- Marsha Jones for her donation to Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration along with her dues.
- Joe/Tena Anderson for their donation to the Larry Lawrence scholarship and CoBACH in honor of Alice Arnot along with their dues.

Dates to Remember

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR WINTER CoBACH HOURS

CoBACH Center: FREE Exhibit: Jan—April: "Map Your Way Through Brighton." (Variety of vintage Brighton maps.)

Every Thursday during January; 9am—12nn: Beginning January 8, Lyon Schoolhouse Open for archiving & tours.

January 28; 6pm at CoBACH Center: BAHS Board Meeting

February 7 at 6pm & February 8; at 2pm, CoBACH Center: Mark Twain, a one man show with Pat Tucker as Mark Twain.

March 15, Sunday, Noon at Lyon School: BAHS Annual Meeting & Election of officers.

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 Nancy LewAllen Dresden — Joan Engel — Rebecca LewAllen English — 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) David LewAllen — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Venno Needham — Roland Owens 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) Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — 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) Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Brighton Automotive (2025) — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2026) — Wallflower Mercantile** Wealth & Wellness Group (2025)

2026 Sponsorships:

Platinum: Jerry & Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union — **Gold:** Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

Silver: Kathy Lueker Pearson, Pauline Schaffer — **Bronze:** Pamela Bell, Caitlyn Perry-Dial

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 payable to:

Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would like to receive Trail Tales via: E-Mail _____ US Mail _____

Type of Membership Plan: ___ New ___ Renew

___ \$5 Student ___ \$15 Military/Veteran ___ \$20 Individual
___ \$30 Family ___ \$50 Patron or More
___ \$75 Business/Professional ___ \$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+

We are looking for volunteers: If you would like more information, please contact **Nancy Fredenburg at 517-304-5044.**

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 \$ _____

Donation in memory /honor of: _____

For Membership, donation, or sponsorship via PayPal, scan the QR code which will take you to the BAHS website.



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



Brighton Country Club

The Brighton Area Historical Society is always thankful for the generous donations of artifacts received from various sources. Recently, we were delighted to receive a donation from John and Linda Rawcliffe in the form of a couple of stock certificates. These certificates are Certificate #12 Brighton Country Club Holding Company and Certificate #15 Brighton Country Club Holding Company Annex 1. They were issued in October of 1926 by Thomas S. Leith.

Thomas S. Leith had ambitious plans to establish a grand country club and real estate project in Brighton that would rival clubs in Bloomfield and Birmingham. However, his vision was disrupted by the Great Depression of the 1930s. The proposed location for the Brighton Country Club was to be in Brighton Township near the intersection of Grand River and US 23, encompassing the north half of Section 32.

But who was Thomas S. Leith? Well, he was a remarkable individual with a very diverse background. A standout athlete at Michigan State Normal College, he excelled in various sports and even earned a scholarship to Syracuse University in 1909, where he was a member of the football, baseball, and track and field teams. After college he was head football coach at Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan for the 1911 and 1912 seasons and head basketball coach for the 1911, 1912 and 1913 teams. Thomas married Ethel Duncan (1890-1982) in 1909, while they were students at Michigan State Normal College. They eloped and only told their families five months later. They had two daughters, Dorothy Louise (1910-1973) and Clara Jean (1911-1982).

Thomas later became very involved in real estate in the Brighton area, both as a property developer and builder. In 1925, Thomas built and owned the Hotel Lincoln on Grand River and St. Paul Street, followed by building the Washington Theater in 1926. He was deeply involved with the Brighton school system while developing a platted subdivision on East Main called Brighton Heights. He donated 5 acres to the school system in 1927 to build a new school on the hill and athletic fields.

Thomas S. Leith's civic engagement extended to serving three terms as the mayor of Brighton and made two unsuccessful bids to the governorship of Michigan. His legacy lives on, he passed away on August 24, 1960, leaving behind a lasting impact on the Brighton Community.

We would like to thank John and Linda Rawcliffe for donating the stock certificates for our archives.

(This story compiled by Jerry Damon from various on-line sources and the BAHS archives.)

