

# Charter Township of Brighton

Volume XI, Issue 15

Summer 2012

## **BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP UPDATE**

Things are happening in Brighton Township!

The Michigan State Police Post building next to the Township Hall is progressing on schedule. The new post will keep the State Police presence in Brighton Township for the foreseeable future.

The Township is reviewing the Master Plan last adopted in 2008. We will be asking residents and property owners for input via a survey which should come out this summer. Watch for the survey!

We are seeing an uptick in activity and construction is picking up. Vacant lots have been purchased with permits for new housing being sought. Local businesses are planning investments with the hope of increasing their business. Our location, access to amenities, low tax base and beautiful environment continue to make Brighton Township an attractive place to invest.



The Township continues to enjoy a solid financial footing. The Township Board has made fiscal soundness a priority. The Township Board monitors future liabilities when passing current expenses and continually seeks opportunities to better manage our available assets. Through prudent oversight, the Township Board has managed to budget positive cash flow in the current year's budget without a reduction in services. While this has been a longstanding practice for this community along with the mindset that local government should be limited in its scope, it is worthy to note.

The Michigan Department of Transportation recently held an informational meeting at the Township Hall to inform residents and businesses of a planned major renovation of the I-96 and US-23 interchange. The project will improve safety and traffic flow for this very busy 50-year old interchange.

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*Regular Board Meetings are generally on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. The meetings are held in the Board Room in the lower level of Township Hall and are broadcast live on Cable Channel 15.*

*Meeting start time is 7:00 P.M.*

## I-96 / US-23 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS BEING PROPOSED

### What Is Being Done?

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is proposing major safety and operational improvements to the I-96/US 23 interchange.

The proposed project includes construction of six new through lanes between the current east and westbound sides of I-96 and repurposing the existing lanes to better facilitate merging vehicles along with building three new bridges. The existing lanes of I-96 will become collector-



distributor (CD) lanes in order to allow easier and safer lane changes for ramp traffic through the interchange. The bridges over US-23 and Old US-23 will also be rebuilt. The existing ramps at the interchange will remain in their current configuration. However, ramp traffic will no longer need to merge

on and off I-96 since ramp traffic will be using the CD lanes where traffic volumes and speeds will be lower. These improvements will increase mobility and safety at the interchange.

### How Will Traffic Be Affected?

There will be minimal impact on traffic during the construction. Under the proposal, the new six-lane freeway and bridges will be constructed in 2015 while work on the CD lanes and subsequent bridges will take place in 2016. This approach will significantly reduce the need to close lanes on I-96 during construction and will allow ramp traffic to be maintained.

### Where Can I Find Additional Information On The Project?

Contact MDOT's Brighton Transportation Service Center at 810-227-4681 or visit [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot). Additionally, a link will be provided on the Township's website as the project moves forward.

## MICHIGAN STATE POLICE UPDATE



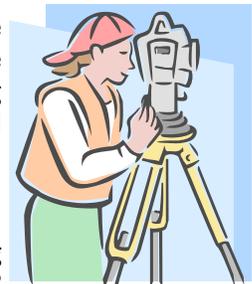
Construction for the new post began in February with the Colonel of the Michigan State Police joining other State of Michigan employees, the developer, staff and Board of Trustees shortly after the groundbreaking event.

Significant progress has been made with the exterior walls up and the roof on. The exterior windows have been installed and the parking lot is being graded in preparation of paving. Additionally, improvements are being made to combine the drainage and detention requirements for the new building and the existing Township Hall. This will result in reduced expenses for the Township related to Phase II Storm water compliance.

Please contact Tom Murphy, Supervisor, at 810.229.0550 for additional information.

## ASSESSING FIELD VISITS

With the return of the warm weather, the Assessing Department will continue to update property records. If your property is going to be visited, a post card will be sent in advance notifying you that we will be in the area. While on our visit, we will check exterior measurements, story heights, decks, outbuildings, etc. We will also verify interior information with property owners. A tag will be left on the door requesting that the owner contact us to answer any questions we may have regarding the property. We will also be updating photographs during the field visit. All field personnel will carry identification badges.



Please contact the Assessing Department at 810-229-0558 with any questions.

## ON THE ELECTION FRONT

### Redistricting - It happens every 10 years!

Following the official release of the census information and as part of the decennial reapportionment process, the Governor signed redistricting legislation into law that established new State House of Representatives, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts. As part of this decennial reapportionment process, counties created new County Commissioner Districts. Brighton Township voters will continue to fall within County Commission Districts 1 and 9 but voters in Precincts 3 & 8 along with Precinct 5 will be represented by County Commission District 9. Voters in Precincts 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 9 will continue to be represented by County Commission District 1. **No precinct boundaries or polling locations have been affected by this redistricting.** Additionally, the State House District Number has changed to District Number 42. As a result new voter id cards were issued. You should have received a new voter identification card by mail noting the changes. If you have *not* received your new card contact the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560.



### August 7, 2012 - Primary Election

This is a nominating primary election. Its purpose is to select Partisan candidates for nomination for various national, state, county (Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Drain Commissioner, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds and County Commissioners), and local offices (Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Board of Trustees) (MCL 168.534), **and** Nonpartisan candidate nominations for the offices of Judge of the Court of Appeals, Judge of the Circuit Court, Judge of Probate and for Circuit Court Commissioner as applicable for placement on the November General election ballot (MCL 168.535).

Please note that political parties must be qualified by the SOS to nominate candidates by this direct primary method. Voters cannot split their ticket on a primary ballot.

### November 6, 2012 - General Election

The general election ballot will include all partisan nominated candidates, other nationally recognized political party candidates and local candidates including those with no political party affiliation.

Additional voter information including how to obtain an Absent Voter application and ballot is available on our website under the Clerk's Department at [www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com). The MVIC (Michigan Voter Information Center) is also a great resource for persons wishing to determine if they are registered to vote, where they vote, a sample ballot, and other valuable information. You can find it at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote) or via a link to the MVIC on the Clerk's Department home page. Please contact the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560 if you have additional questions.

### MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Brighton Township is embarking on a new master plan. A master plan is a guideline for development in a community and is required by law to be updated every five years. Public input will be sought through a Township survey. It will be available on-line through the Township's website ([www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com)) or at Township Hall later this summer.

Additional public input meetings will be held later in the process. Contact Kelly Mathews, Township Planner, at 810-229-0562.

### In life we wear many hats ...is this one yours?

Brighton Area Fire Authority is seeking professionals in the Brighton Township community willing to serve their neighbors as a Paid On-Call Firefighter! *No experience necessary!* Training is provided.

If you're ready to wear another hat apply online at [www.brightonarefire.com](http://www.brightonarefire.com) or in person at:

Station 31 @ 615 W. Grand River Ave. Brighton, MI

## Charter Township of Brighton

4363 Buno Road  
Brighton, MI 48114  
Phone: (810) 229.0550  
Fax: (810) 229.1778

### TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

Mondays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, and Fridays      8:00 AM to 5:00 PM \*  
Tuesdays                              8:30 AM to 5:00 PM \*

\* Closed daily for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

### TREASURER'S FAQ'S

**Bill Payment:** We are using a new third party processor for credit card and e-check payments. Point & Play will process tax and utility payments over the internet or via phone. We will also be able to accept payments at the counter for these transaction types. There will be a convenience fee applied by the third party for this service. Checks and cash payments can also be made directly at Township Hall. See the website ([www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com)) for additional information.

**Online Bill Pay Notice:** Taxes paid through your bank's online bill-pay system are not processed electronically. They are typically forwarded to a third party processor located outside of Michigan. The third party cuts a physical check and then forwards it via mail to the Township. As a result your requested payment date does not guarantee payment will be received by that date. Banks generally will exclude tax payments from their pay date guarantee. Please consider this when paying by this method as it often results in late fees being assessed when the payment is late. Be sure to include the correct account number. Also making a tax payment from the same payee account as your utility payment may result in that check being applied to your utilities rather than your taxes.

**Postmarks Are Not Accepted:** We have had checks take over one week to be delivered from areas within the Township. Please be aware that it is your responsibility to get your tax payment in our office by the due date. If you are nearing the due date and cannot make it into the office during regular office hours there is a drop box located at Township Hall. It is located to the left of the front entrance doors.

Contact the Treasurer's office at 810-229-0556 for additional information.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

[www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com)

### SUPERVISOR

Tom "Murph" Murphy  
[supervisor@brightontwp.com](mailto:supervisor@brightontwp.com)  
(810) 229-0550

### CLERK

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[clerk@brightontwp.com](mailto:clerk@brightontwp.com)  
(810) 229-0560

### TREASURER

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(810) 229-0556

### TRUSTEES\*\*

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[trusteejohn@brightontwp.com](mailto:trusteejohn@brightontwp.com)  
Mike Slaton  
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### MANAGER

Dan Bishop  
[manager@brightontwp.com](mailto:manager@brightontwp.com)  
(810) 229-0550

### *Regular Meeting Days and Times\**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM  
(January, March, May, July, September, December)

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
4th Wednesday at 7:00 PM  
(January, March, May, July, September, November)

*\*Meetings are subject to change. Contact the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560 for more information.  
\*\*Phone messages may be left at (810) 229-0550 for all trustees.*

Please forward newsletter comments to the editor:  
[clerk@brightontwp.com](mailto:clerk@brightontwp.com)

Please be sure to add "newsletter" in the subject line