

Charter Township of Brighton

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Summer 2015

BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP RECEIVES PERFECT FISCAL SCORE

Brighton Township recently received a perfect fiscal indicator score which is a sign of fiscal stability. Brighton Township is one of only 18 SEMCOG member communities that received this score. SEMCOG's (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) service area covers 4.7 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan.

The fiscal indicator score is a high-level, single digit metric designed to give a quick look at how a community is faring fiscally considering changing economic climates. The lower the score, the more fiscally stable the community is; as the score increases, the probability for fiscal stress increases. The system is "pass-fail" with ten categories. If a community "passes" a given metric they score a zero in that metric. If they fail, they are assigned a one (1). Adding up the numbers in all ten categories gives you the fiscal score for that unit of government. The ten categories are:

- * Population
- * Taxable Value Growth
- * General Fund Expenditures as a Percent of Taxable Value
- * Operating Results
- * Prior One-Year Operating Results
- * Prior Two-Year Operating Results
- * Size of Available Fund Balance for One Year
- * Size of Available Fund Balance for Three Years
- * Major Fund Deficit
- * Debt as a Percent of Taxable Value

Kathleen Lomako, SEMCOG Executive Director, stated **"This rating is a testament to a local government's fiscal strength as well as to the diligence and perseverance that elected leaders and other community officials have exhibited over several very challenging years."**

The data was collected by Michigan-based Munetrix who is the creator of the Munetrix (municipal metrics) cloud-based local government transparency tool and is among the nation's largest aggregators of municipal and school district data. The system allows subscribers to view public sector financial and demographic data in an easy to understand format. The data can also be used to create reliable budgets and financial projections.

Detailed Township financial data is available on our website at www.brightontwp.com. Click on the Resources Tab—this will take you to the Financial Information page. This is consistent with the Transparency in Government resolution adopted in 2008 by the Charter Township of Brighton.

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Regular Board Meetings are held at least monthly and are broadcast live on Cable Channel 15. Regular work session meetings are scheduled in conjunction with the adoption of the annual Regular Meeting schedule.

The meetings are held in the lower level of Township Hall. Meeting start time is 7:00 P.M.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Your septic system is your responsibility and it is not always easy to know what is going on in your septic system. Households and businesses that are not served by the public sewer depend on these onsite wastewater treatment systems to treat and dispose of wastewater. Proper care and management of your septic system is the key to a long lasting, safe, and environmentally sound system. Here are some important reminders from the Livingston County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division:

- ◆ **Pump Your System Regularly**
It is recommended that you pump out your system every 3 – 5 years.
- ◆ **Use Water Efficiently**
 - Install aerators in the kitchen and bathroom faucets
 - Do laundry daily instead of doing several loads in one day to prevent overload
 - Use low-flow showerheads and water-efficient toilets
 - Take shorter showers
 - Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, soaping hands, or shaving
 - Repair leaky faucets or toilets
- ◆ **Watch What Goes Down Your Drain**
 - No garbage or food waste
 - No medicines, chemicals, or home toxics
 - Do not flush rags or any type of baby or sanitary wipes down the toilet
 - Keep grease, oils, and fats out
 - Only wastewater from toilets, sinks, dishwashers, and clothes washers
- ◆ **Care for Your Drainfield**
 - Keep sprinklers and excess water off of your drainfield to prevent saturation
 - Keep roots out. No woody vegetation (shrubs, trees, deep-rooted plants) within five feet of the drainfield
 - Avoid parking on the drainfield to prevent compaction
 - Eliminate water softener discharge from entering your septic system

If you have backups in your sink and toilets, this is a sign of trouble! Contact a licensed septic tank pumper or certified septic installer. These professionals can assess the problem and make sure your system is working properly.

You can also contact the Livingston County Health Department at 517-546-9858. They can offer tips on maintenance that will save you money and aggravation. The average cost to replace a septic system is between \$9,000 - \$15,000. Taking proper care of your septic system will also help you avoid the unsightly hassle of having your yard torn up.

PLANNING NEWS

Business is booming in the Township! Projects recently approved, under construction or completed include:

- ◆ Brighton Harley Davidson, 5942 Whitmore Lake Road - improvements included doubling the size of their building and adding a training track
- ◆ Brighton Ford, 8340 W Grand River - construction of a 28,000 sq. ft. collision building
- ◆ Kroger's Gas Station, 9948 E Grand River - nine (9) island gas station and kiosk at the old bank site.
- ◆ Muffler Man, 5955 Whitmore Lake Road - relocating to the old Michigan Stone building
- ◆ C & C Sports, 3561 Old 23 - 3,368 sq. ft. showroom addition to their warehouse building
- ◆ Grand Hilton, 8273 W Grand River - has been filling their newly constructed 45,223 sq. ft. building with tenants, mainly medical
- ◆ Frenius Medical Dialysis Center went into an endcap space at 5757 Whitmore Lake in the CVS center (Boardwalk)
- ◆ Sullivan Center for Autism and Dr. Wines went into space at 10031 Spencer
- ◆ E Grand River sidewalk

TAX INFORMATION

Summer taxes are due September 14, 2015. Postmarks are not accepted.

Tax Payments by Check: Brighton Township deposits checks electronically on the same day the payment is made. Please be aware of this procedure when making payments in order to avoid NSF fees.

Tax Payments by Credit Card: Payments can be made online at www.brightontwp.com, in person at Township Hall or by phone. There is a convenience fee charged by the provider of this service.

If you pay your taxes through your bank via online bill pay, please be aware that the bank cuts a physical check to us. This payment is then sent via mail, usually from out of state. Allow sufficient time for the payment to reach us.

Deferment of Summer Taxes: You may qualify for a deferment of your summer taxes. A deferment allows you to pay summer taxes by February 14, 2016 without penalty. Deferment can only be filed from 7/1/15-9/14/15. Deferments must be filed annually. Please refer to the back of your tax bill for specific requirements.

Treasurer's Department may be reached at 810-229-0556.

I-96/US-23 INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) improvements to the I-96/US-23 interchange in Brighton Township which are underway are targeted to address major safety and operational issues of the interchange. The project includes:

- ◆ Constructing new through-lanes on I-96 between the current eastbound and westbound lanes
- ◆ Building three new bridges over northbound and southbound US-23 and over Old US-23
- ◆ Changing the existing lanes of I-96 to collector-distributor (CD) lanes for easier and safer lane changes for ramp traffic
- ◆ Rebuilding the existing six bridges over US-23 and Old US-23

Residents are encouraged to visit the MDOT website (https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9621_11008-315384--,00.html) for up to date project information including: YouTube videos detailing the scope of the project, detour Information, news releases, contact Information and project updates. By taking advantage of the tools listed under contact information residents can receive direct notifications from MDOT on project alerts.

Please visit the MDOT website for more details or call the MDOT Transportation Service Center located in Brighton Township at 810 - 227 - 4681.

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

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Township offices will be closed on the following days:

Friday, July 3, 2015
Monday, September 7, 2015

Visit our website at www.brightontwp.com for additional holiday closings throughout the year.

LARGE ITEM DROP OFF DATE SCHEDULED

Saturday September 26, 2015
8:30 AM—12:30 PM
Brighton Township Fire Hall
1580 Old US 23



Frequently accepted large items include washer/dryers, TVs, patio furniture, grills, old computer equipment, bed springs, mattresses, hot water heater, furniture, toys.

Large items not accepted at the clean-up are liquid waste, car/boat parts, yard waste, construction debris, railroad ties, oil, pesticides, explosives, poisons, hazardous waste, tires, branches, stumps, batteries, paint/solvents, anti-freeze, herbicides, medical waste, sod, rocks, bricks, dirt, concrete and items that contain Freon. Lawn mowers and/or small engines must have the oil and gas removed at the time of drop-off. Proof of residency is required.

Questions? Call the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

www.brightontwp.com

SUPERVISOR

Tom "Murph" Murphy
supervisor@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0550

CLERK

Ann Bollin
clerk@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0560

TREASURER

Deb Hawk
treasurer@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0556

TRUSTEES**

Cathy Doughty
trusteecathy@brightontwp.com
Patrick Michel
trusteepatrick@brightontwp.com
Mike Slaton
trusteemike@brightontwp.com
Lucille Weaire
trusteelucille@brightontwp.com

MANAGER

Brian Vick
manager@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0550

*Regular Meeting Days and Times**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM
as scheduled with the adoption of the annual meeting schedule.

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*

Please forward newsletter comments to the editor:
clerk@brightontwp.com

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