

# Charter Township of Brighton

Volume 1, Issue 2

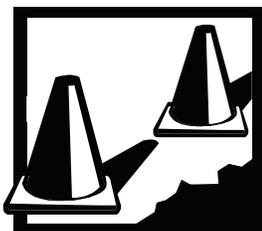
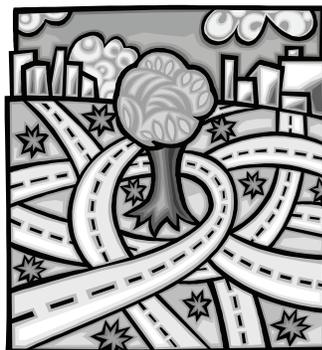
Fall / Winter 2005

## Roads, Roads, Roads

The Livingston County Road Commission recently held a transportation summit. Its purpose was to inform local officials of what is happening in the area; to provide an overview of the Road Commission's responsibilities; and to identify options that may be available to local communities for road maintenance and repair such as special assessment districts.

Primary and secondary roads in Brighton Township are under the jurisdiction of the Livingston County Road Commission. They are the ones responsible for the maintenance of these roads including plowing, grading, filling pot holes, maintaining signage, cutting overhanging limbs, providing signalization and what seems like one hundred other things. A portion of the county taxes paid by each property owner go towards these operating expenses. Additional funding comes through grants, state gas taxes, cooperative agreements with local units and sometimes private developers. The Township has no maintenance responsibilities for any roads in the township. When things get bumpy — *we call them.*

The Road Commission also builds new roads as funding allows. Two major projects are planned for Brighton Township. One project that you may have heard about involves a "roundabout" at the intersection of Jacoby and Kensington Roads on the east side of the Township. Original plans called for that improvement to be completed in 2005 however an engineering problem has caused the project to be sidelined. You can expect 2006 to be the year the Township joins the City of Brighton and Green Oak Charter Township as we get our first "roundabout". Construction is now slated to begin in early Summer, 2006 and is expected to take about ten weeks to complete.



Another major project on deck is the resurfacing and widening of Grand River east of Old U.S. 23. We would have liked to see it completed sooner but for a number of reasons it will not be completed until 2007. However, it must be done in 2007 because it will become the preferred alternate route when the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) rebuilds I-96 between Pleasant Valley and U.S. 23 in 2008.

The Livingston County Road Commission can be reached at (517) 546-4250.

*For more information on maintaining subdivision roads, see the related article on Page Three.*

### Inside this issue:

*It's not just toxic to you!* 2

*Pathway Plan Being Considered* 2

*E Grand River Corridor Planning* 2

*Township Awarded EPA Grant* 3

*Property Tax Shift* 3

*Dog Licenses* 3

*Assessing Information* 4

*Regular Board Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Monday's 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 7:30 P.M.*

## Remember, it's not just toxic to you!

Did you know that many household products are dangerous to our kids, pets, and the environment? These materials pollute our waterways if washed or dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, anti-freeze, used motor oil, and other hazardous products need to be labeled, stored, and disposed of properly.



So, what can YOU do? It's simple ....

- Be aware of household products that can harm children, pets and the environment. Pay attention to words such as "warning" or "caution" on product labels.
- Reduce waste and save money by purchasing only the materials you need.
- Keep unused products in their original containers with labels.
- Never dump hazardous products down storm drains, roadside ditches, sinks, or on the ground — take them to a hazardous waste collection site.

For more information on storm water and protecting the environment please go to the Township's website at [www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com). On the left side, click on "community links". At the center lower column under "local groups" click on "NPDES PHASE II Storm water".

For additional information on planning issues:  
Contact Kelly Mathews, Township Planner, at  
(810)229-0562 or via e-mail at [planner@brightontwp.com](mailto:planner@brightontwp.com)  
Be sure to add corridor or pathway plan in the subject line.



*E Grand River Avenue*

## Corridor Planning Underway

The Townships of Brighton and Green Oak are in the process of developing a corridor plan for the E. Grand River Corridor from the City of Brighton limits to Kensington Road with their consultant, Carlisle Wortman & Associates. The plan being contemplated includes street lighting, signage, sidewalks or paths, landscaping, and pocket park areas with landscaping and benches at various points along the corridor. The plan is anticipated to be completed later this fall and the findings will be forwarded to the Livingston County Road Commission (LCRC) for incorporation into their plans to widen Grand River in 2007.

## Pathway Plan Being Considered

The Township is embarking on a master pathway plan which will be completed in the next six (6) months or so with our planning and engineering consultants: LSL Planning and Orchard, Hiltz & McCliments. The pathway plan will identify where pathways should go and the width of the pathways along the major roads in the community. Workshops and meetings will likely be included as part of the process and will be open to the public. The dates of those meetings will be posted on the Township website, Cable Channel 15, at township hall and forwarded to the local newspapers. A pathway plan was a desirable goal identified in the master planning process. Stay tuned!!!



## Township Treasurer Receives Certification

Township Treasurer Geri Harmon received her Certified Public Finance Administrator (C.P.F.A.) certification in 2005 from the Association of Public Treasurers.

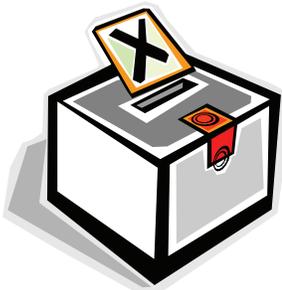
## Township Awarded EPA Grant

The Charter Township of Brighton has secured a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$288,700. This money comes with a local match (the Township's share) of at least 45%. In order for Brighton Township to receive all of the available EPA funds, the local match required is estimated at \$236,209 with a minimum total project cost of \$524,909.

This money can only be used for water, storm water or waste water related projects. The Board has not yet decided how to use this money, but several projects are under consideration.

For additional information, please contact David Murphy, Township Manager, at (810) 229-0550 or via e-mail at [manager@brightontwp.com](mailto:manager@brightontwp.com). Please be sure to add EPA Grant to the subject line.

## Township Voters Overturn Land Clearing / Tree Preservation Ordinance



Township voters overturned the Land Clearing / Tree Preservation Ordinance at the election held on November 8, 2005. Opponents of the Ordinance expressed concerns that it was too restrictive and proponents have stated that some revisions to the existing language should be pursued. With the final results certified, the vote count is as follows:

**YES** 1,495    **NO** 2,418

Questions can be directed to David Murphy, Township Manager, at (810) 229-0550.

## Property Tax Shift

A tax shift in collecting County taxes is now underway. The General Property Tax Act provides for the following:

- In 2005, 1/3 of the County allocated taxes were collected through the Summer 2005 tax bill and 2/3 will be collected with the Winter taxes
- In 2006, the shift will continue with 2/3 of the County allocated taxes being collected with the Summer 2006 tax bill and the remaining 1/3 collected with the Winter tax bill
- In 2007, the shift will be complete when 100% of the County allocated taxes will be collected with the Summer 2007 tax bill

## Subdivision and Private Roads

Who is responsible for subdivision roads that are deteriorating? While these roads sometimes fall under the control of the Livingston County Road Commission, they are the responsibility of the abutting homeowners when they need resurfacing. These improvements are necessary and usually costly.

In some instances, the township has worked with local subdivisions to establish Special Assessment Districts which allow for the cost of the repairs to be spread over several years. The district repays the township through a special assessment on their tax bill at a specified interest rate over a specified period of time.



Private roads are a slightly different matter. They are the sole responsibility of the directly benefiting property owners. A Special Assessment District can be used for maintenance and improvements to private roads as well.

Maintenance measures usually include grading, dust control and snow plowing. Improvements may include paving and drainage. The County Road Commission does not do any work on private roads.

## Dog Licenses Available

All dogs must be licensed in Livingston County. Dog licenses may be purchased at Township Hall in the Treasurer's office from 12-01-05 through 2-28-06. After February 28th, licenses must be obtained through Livingston County.

**When:** 12-01-05 through 02-28-06

**Where:** Township Treasurer's office  
4363 Buno Road

**How much:** \$25.00 per dog, \$7.00 if spayed or neutered  
\$30.00 after 02-28-06 at Livingston County offices

**What do I need:** Proof of rabies vaccination  
Proof of being spayed or neutered

Payments made by mail should include a stamped, self-address envelope. Please call (810) 229-0556 for additional information.



## Charter Township of Brighton

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

### Assessing Data On-Line

The Brighton Township Assessing data is available on our website. Just go to [www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com), click on departments, then click on assessing data. You can search for data by parcel number, owner name, or property address. The following information is available: Land information, legal descriptions, building information, tax information, building images and sketches. You can also print assessing related forms from our website.

### Principal Residence Exemption (formerly Homestead Exemption)

Please check your tax bill to make sure that the Principal Residence Exemption (P.R.E.) information is correct. If you owned and occupied your primary residence on or before May 1, 2005 you may qualify for a P.R.E. You can only have one P.R.E. If you claim an exemption on another home in Michigan or any other state you must rescind that exemption before you can claim another. Your P.R.E. must be filed on your primary residence. This is typically the address that is on your driver's license and voter registration card, If you think there is an error on your tax bill regarding the P.R.E. please contact the Assessor's Office at (810) 229-0558.

### Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation & Classification

Change Notices are scheduled to be mailed the last week in February, 2006. On the notice you will find your 2006 assessed and taxable values and property classification (*agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, personal*). It will also indicate the Principal Residence Exemption Percentage. Please look over this form carefully to make sure that you understand it. The taxable value on the form will be used when calculating the 2006 taxes. If you feel the information is incorrect and you wish to appeal, please follow the instructions on the form to schedule an appointment with our Board of Review. If you have any questions please contact the Assessor's Office at (810) 229-0558.

Please forward newsletter comments to:  
clerk@brightontwp.com or  
david.murphy@brightontwp.com

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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

#### SUPERVISOR

H.E. "Bud" Prine  
bud.prine@brightontwp.com  
(810) 229-0550

#### CLERK

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

#### TREASURER

Geri Harmon  
treasurer@brightontwp.com  
(810) 229-0556

#### TRUSTEES\*\*

Cathy Doughty  
cathy.doughty@brightontwp.com

Tom "Murph" Murphy  
tom.murphy@brightontwp.com

Mike Slaton  
trusteemike@brightontwp.com

Tim Winship  
tim.winship@brightontwp.com

#### MANAGER

david.murphy@brightontwp.com  
(810) 229-0550

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

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st & 3rd Mondays of every month at 7:30 PM

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 7:30 PM

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

4th Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM

*\*Meetings are subject to change. Contact the Clerk's office for more information.*

*\*\*Phone messages may be left at (810) 229-0550 for all trustees.*