

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume IV, Issue 8

Winter 2008

NEW BOARD TAKES OFFICE

The newly elected Board of Trustees officially took office on November 20, 2008. The new board is comprised of some new, some old, and some familiar faces.

The Supervisor is Tom Murphy who served as trustee in the last term. The Supervisor's responsibilities include moderating board meetings; overseeing assessing and Board of Review activities; and appointing some commission members. Tom and wife Kelly have three children and live in the southeast area of the township. He recently served on the Utilities Committee and SELCRA and served as an alternate on the Livingston Community Water Authority.

Ann Bollin returns as Clerk. She and husband Tim have three boys and have lived in Brighton Township for over 15 years. Originally appointed in late 2002, she enters her second elected term as Clerk. The Clerk's responsibilities include maintaining custody of all township records (i.e. meeting minutes, book of oaths, ordinances); maintaining the general ledger, preparing warrants for township checks and financial statements; and the elections. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Livingston County Municipal Clerks Association.



Association.

Lana Theis is new to the Board and will serve as Treasurer. She is married to Sam and has two children. As Treasurer she will be responsible for the collection of real and personal property taxes including delinquent personal property taxes; depositing township revenues in approved depositories and investing township funds in approved investment vehicles; and issuing checks.

The rest of the Board is rounded out by the four elected Trustees. The Trustees serve as the township legislators and are responsible for the township's fiduciary health and may perform other duties as assigned by the Board. They include Cathy Doughty, Jim Kovitz, John Rogers and Mike Slaton. Each of them has served on the Board of Trustees in previous years. (Continued on Page 3, Board)

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Regular Board Meetings are 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.

NEW WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION

A new twelve inch water main is being constructed by Brighton Township to serve the new Grand Hilton Mixed Use development at the intersection of Grand River and Hilton Roads. This one-third mile of water main is planned to be extended in the future north along Grand River Road to South Hacker Road and possibly east along Hilton Road.

The new water main project is the result of an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Brighton and Brighton Township. The agreement allows the Township to extend a new water main from the City of Brighton's water tower on Conference Center Drive to serve the Grand River / Hilton area. The new water main will be maintained by the City of Brighton.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$385,252. The Township has been awarded a grant to pay up to 55% of the construction cost. Tap fees, a contribution by the developer and township funds will pay for the remainder of the cost.

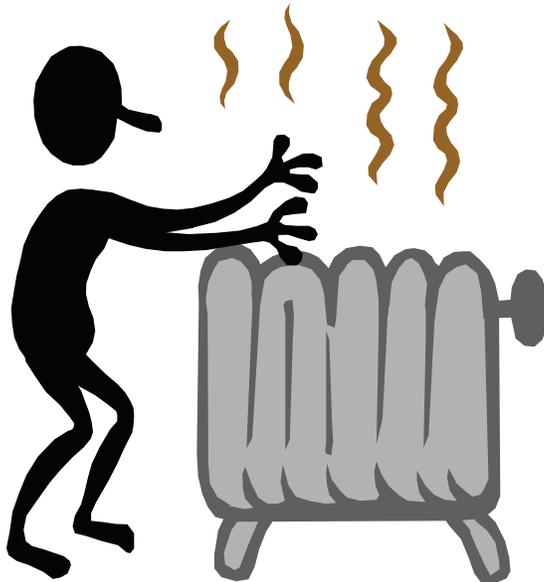


For additional information on the water main construction project, contact Larry Stoever, Township Manager, at (810) 229-0550.

STAY WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER

As winter sets in residents are reminded to think safety first when using portable heating devices such as space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves. The Building Department advises that when these devices are not used or installed properly they can present serious safety

hazards.



Portable heaters can be an affordable supplement or alternative to central heating however if used improperly, they can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, fire and even death. Remember to keep the area around the heater clear at all times with at least three feet of open space around the unit so nothing catches fire. Supervise the heater when it is on; especially when children and pets are nearby, turn the heater off when you leave the room and don't leave the heater on at night.

Other safety tips include filling kerosene heaters outside so that fumes and accidental spills don't cause a fire. Use the correct fuel for the heater. **Also, be sure that your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.**

If you are purchasing a fireplace or wood-burning stove, contact the Building Department *before* installation to determine if you will need a permit and inspection by a trained professional. Be sure the fireplace or wood-burning stove is labeled by an approved testing and inspection agency and if possible work with your builder to find the best interior location. Be

sure to consult your owner's manual for instructions.

A note about your gas furnace. If your gas furnace does not get enough air to properly burn fuel, it will starve. This causes partially burned fuel and carbon monoxide to infiltrate back into your home causing illness or even death. You can prevent this by having your gas furnace inspected and cleaned once a year by a qualified heating specialist.

Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect.

Did you know that everything we throw down on our sidewalks, steps and driveways in the winter months impacts our surface waters, soil and groundwater. The Huron River Watershed Council offers a few tips to help protect our waterways:

- * Shovel early and often and limit the use of sand, salt and deicing chemicals. Snow and ice removal is best done with a shovel or snow plow. Sand, salt and chemical deicers wash into our waterways directly or through the nearest storm drain.
- * Consider environmentally preferable alternatives to salt (sodium chloride) to keep heavy traffic areas safe. Magnesium chloride is a good choice.
- * Check the label. Choose a deicer that fits your location and the weather conditions. Consider its impact on nearby plant life, concrete, vehicles, and pets.
- * Apply early and sparingly. Consider applying a liquid deicer before a storm hits to prevent ice from forming.
- * Promptly remove slush and residual salt, sand or deicer from concrete surfaces minimize polluted runoff.



WIRELESS LIVINGSTON UPDATE

Wireless Livingston is an initiative of the Regional Cooperation Group (RCG) of Livingston County to create free, high quality internet access throughout Livingston County. While the RCG remains committed to bringing the project to reality, a combination of the challenging economy in Michigan and reports of problems with community wide wireless programs in other major cities has resulted in a delay in implementation.

In response to this, the RCG is considering alternative arrangements to make the project a reality. Additional information and updates can be found at www.co.livingston.mi.us/wirelesslivingston/wirelesslivingston.htm.

NEW BOARD TAKES OFFICE
(Continued from Page 1)

Cathy Doughty begins her second term. Her and husband Ron have two dogs and live in the northeast area of the Township. She was raised in the Clark Lake area and recently served on the Lakes Committee, Livingston Community Water Authority and on the SELCRA board.

Jim Kovitz rejoins the Board as a Trustee. He has lived in the township since 1979. First appointed to the Planning Commission he later served on the Board of Trustees in the late '80's.

John Rogers is another familiar face. He previously served as a Trustee and as the Supervisor. Married to Joyce, he is one of three Rogers' elected to public office in November 2008. Son Mike will serve another term as a U.S. Congressman and son Bill will begin a term as a State Representative.

Rounding out the Board is Mike Slaton. Mike enters into another term as a Trustee. He lives with wife Sharon on the Township's southwest side. He recently served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

TOWNSHIP HIRES NEW MANAGER



Larry Stoever began work as Township Manager in early October. He has 23 years of experience as a municipal manager. He most recently served as City Manager for the City of Saline (Washtenaw County) for 10 years and prior to that as City Manager of Greenville, Illinois for 13 years. He holds Master's Degrees in Business Administration and Urban Planning. He said he hopes to continue the tradition of providing high quality services to the Township's residents and businesses.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY ASSESSORS SCHEDULE PRESENTATIONS TO PROPERTY OWNERS

There will be four informational sessions held during the month of January 2009 regarding assessment administration. These sessions will be open to the public and will be held in various locations throughout Livingston County. A Power Point presentation will be given by local assessors to help taxpayers understand the assessment process. Please watch the local newspaper for the dates and times of the sessions in early January.

Charter Township of Brighton

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TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE IS IMPLEMENTED

Have you ever wondered "how are my tax dollars being spent?". The public now has web access to line item spending, budgets, financial reports and audits. The information is available through the Township's website at www.brightontwp.com. Click on the "Government" OR "Resources" tab where you will find a link to Financial Information. Information that is available includes the annual budget, revenue and expenditure reports, wages and benefits paid to elected officials, the check register in the form of a list of accounts payables showing the payee, amount, date, account expenditure is being charged to, and a brief description of the expenditure and recent audit reports. A link is also available through the Clerk's Department.

CONDITIONAL RESCISSION OF PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION

On April 8, 2008, Governor Granholm signed House Bill 4215, enacting Public Act 96 of 2008, which amended section 211.7cc of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893. The amendment enables a person who has established a new principal residence in Michigan to retain a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) on property previously exempt as the owner's principal residence. The conditional rescission allows an owner to receive a PRE on his or her new property and on previously exempted property simultaneously if certain criteria are met. An owner may receive the PRE on the previous principal residence for up to three years if that property is not occupied, is for sale, is not leased, and is not used for any business or commercial purposes. A property owner must file Form #4640 with the assessor of the local unit of government where the property is located on or before May 1 of the first year the exemption is being claimed. If your exemption was denied by the Assessor for any reason, you cannot qualify for this exemption. A copy of the form can be downloaded from our website at www.brightontwp.com.

If you think you might qualify for this exemption, please call the Assessor's Office at (810) 229-0558.

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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

www.brightontwp.com

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*Regular Meeting Days and Times**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st & 3rd Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM

PLANNING COMMISSION

2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 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.*