

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume X, Issue 14

Winter 2011

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

John F. Kennedy once said "those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." The past few years have been depressing for sure. Present times continue to be challenging but the future is full of promise. One of the main reasons our future looks bright is due to location, location, location!



Brighton Township is in close proximity to world-renowned institutions of higher learning, professional sports teams, diverse cultural opportunities, beautiful natural resources, recreational opportunities and a variety of housing options. These are just a few of the reasons people choose to live, work and play in Brighton Township. Our residents have a high per capita income, are well educated, active

in the community, involved in their children's schools and proud to call Brighton Township **home**.

We have begun to see signs of a turn-around with an uptick in building related permits, site plan inquiries and sewer hook-ups. Waiting passively for good things to happen is a strategy for failure. In this day and age, we must seize the day and make good things happen.

The Township Board is positioning the community to take full advantage of the turn-around once in full swing. Current strategies include identifying opportunities to expand our utility system customer base; working with neighboring communities to identify ways to share costs, improve efficiencies, and leverage expertise; and maintaining a sound financial position. We continually look for ways to operate more effectively and efficiently. We are engaging in conversation with communities and organizations outside of the County limits to help us address the future. While we work to recruit business opportunities from outside the area we believe our future will also involve local residents desirous of starting their own businesses within the community.

Due to our location, available resources, regional amenities and strong family connections we believe future generations will continue to call Brighton Township **home**.

Inside this issue:

EDC / SPARK	2
MI State Police Update	2
Notice of Assessment, Taxable Value and Property Classifications	2
2012 Will Be A Busy Election Year	3
Did You Know?	3
Township Hall Hours	4
Treasurer's Tidbits	4

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.

EDC—SPARK WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN TO OUR TOWNSHIP

No doubt many of you have read recent reports about a proposed agreement between the Livingston County Economic Development Council (EDC) and SPARK (Ann Arbor based economic development agency) to assist with business attraction, retention and development. The purpose is to accelerate the business expansion in the region and to identify and support the needs of existing local businesses already committed to Livingston County.

With the recent resignation of its long-time director, the need to position the organization to meet the current demand for services and the expanding needs of the region, the EDC Board and Livingston County representatives approached SPARK. The proposed agreement will allow the EDC to continue providing the necessary leadership, direction, cohesive strategy, planning assistance and political savvy to ATTRACT new business to the County and RETAIN businesses that currently call Livingston County home. The SPARK relationship will expand the resources currently available. SPARK is well known for their ability to attract new business and leverage existing resources. In 2010, they attracted new investment commitments totaling \$151 million and accounted for 1,425 new jobs.

Livingston County is uniquely positioned to capitalize on an economic turn-around with our location, infrastructure capacity, low tax base, and quality of life. Future business investments will help put Livingston County on the map. These investments will help bring better roads, stabilize the revenue erosion, fill existing housing stock, establish higher paying jobs and help retain our local college grads.

Brighton Township has been asked to participate financially in this effort. The Board will be evaluating its participation, considering its merits and identifying the expected deliverables.

This is an exciting time in Livingston County and especially for Brighton Township residents. If we continue to work together to find ways to make our community better and self-sustaining, we will continue to see our quality of life improve.

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE UPDATE

With the planning complete and the outstanding items cleared, construction can finally begin on the new Michigan State Police (MSP) post. It will be located across the upper parking lot at Township Hall.



While it has taken a long time to get through the negotiations with the State, the wait will be well worth it. This will allow us to keep a highly skilled public safety organization right in our backyard and add continued support to other local and county public safety organizations. The building is expected to be completed within the next 12 months! Please pardon the mess as the building goes up and a few jobs are brought into the township during this project!

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

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Please be on the lookout for your 2012 Notice of Assessment, Taxable Value and Property Classification. The notice will tell you what your 2012 assessed and taxable values are and whether there has been a change in your property classification. You should receive the form around the last week in February. It will include information for the 2012 March Board of Review including meeting dates and times.



Additional information is available on our website (www.brightontwp.com) including an explanation of your property assessment and taxes and other frequently asked questions. If you have additional questions, please contact the Assessing Department at 810.229.0558.

2012 WILL BE A BUSY ELECTION YEAR



2012 will bring us a closed Presidential Primary (February), a Partisan Primary (August) and a General Election (November). A possible fourth election could be scheduled for ballot questions in May. In recent years Brighton Township residents living in the Hartland Consolidated School District elected their board candidates in May. Recent legislative changes require school board candidate elections to be included on the even year November General Election ballot. The law does provide for ballot questions to be presented on any of the four predetermined election dates. (February, May, August or November) If there is a May election it will most likely only include school millage related questions due to these recent MI election law changes.

The 2012 election dates are as follows:

Tuesday February 28, 2012 - Closed Presidential Primary Election

A "closed" primary means that voters will be required to select a specific ballot type. They will be asked to select one of the following: a Republican Party Presidential Primary Ballot, a Democratic Party Presidential Primary Ballot or a Ballot without Presidential Primary if available and applicable. Only those political parties that received greater than 5% of the total vote cast nationwide in the last presidential election are eligible to participate in this Primary. Basically the election results are used by the political parties to determine their National convention delegate representation. Each ballot style will also contain a space for an elector to vote uncommitted.

Voters will be required to select the Ballot Style. If one is not selected a ballot will **not** be issued. This includes persons wishing to vote by Absentee ballot. Please visit our website at www.brightontwp.com or call the Clerk's office for additional information.

Tuesday August 7, 2012 - State Primary Election

This is a general primary for all political parties except as noted otherwise in MI election law. Its purpose is to select Partisan candidates for nomination for various national, state, county, and local offices and Nonpartisan candidate nominations for the office 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. All candidates will be listed on one ballot v. in a closed primary where voters select a Ballot style by political party. Voters cannot split their ticket on a primary ballot. Ballot questions (i.e. millage questions) may also be included on this ballot.

Tuesday 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. Also, the MI Voter Information Center (www.Michigan.gov/vote) is a great resource for persons wishing to determine if they are registered to vote, where they vote, a copy of their ballot, and other valuable information. There is 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brighton Township has 1.4 square miles of water. This natural resource is a precious asset that helps make us who we are. The Township participates in the Federal Phase II Storm Water program to help protect our environment. To learn how to protect this asset go to www.SEMCOG.org/Water or www.HRW.org for more information.



Charter Township of Brighton

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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 TIDBITS

Online Banking and Your Tax Payment

With online banking becoming more prevalent, we wanted to bring a few things to your attention. Most banks use a third party to process checks requested through their online bill payment system. This means that your money is deducted from your account and sent to a third party processor, not directly to the designated payee.

Recently, a third party processor placed the **previous** nine days of payment checks in the mail in one envelope **on** the due date. As a result, those payments arrived late and resulted in late fees being assessed. Michigan tax law is very specific about due dates and when fees are to be applied. Many of the banks reimbursed their members for the incurred fees. We thought it would be helpful to explain it so you can avoid it from happening again. Please consider the turn-around time if your bank uses a third party processor.

Per State statute and Township Charter, the winter tax due date is the last day of February (February 29, 2012 due to leap year). On March 1st the tax roll will fall under the jurisdiction of Livingston County and late fees will incur. The County imposes a 4% penalty and a 1% interest fee per calendar month. An additional 1% interest is added each month that the payment is late.

Winter 2011 tax payments will be accepted December 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012. Payments can be made:

- 1) in person with check or cash,
- 2) using the overnight drop box with check **ONLY**, or
- 3) over the internet or by phone with check or credit card (a fee applies). See the back of the tax bill for additional information on these payment methods.

Contact the Treasurer's office at 810.229.0556 for additional information.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

www.brightontwp.com

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*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

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
4th Wednesday at 7:00 PM
(February, April, June, August, October, December)

**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

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