

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume XIII, Issue 17

Summer 2013

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE POST OPENS



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The new Michigan State Police Brighton Post was officially dedicated on February 7, 2013. It is located next to Township Hall on Buno Road. The new post is approximately 8,000 square feet and includes a conference room, two temporary holding cells and two interview rooms.

The first detachment in the Brighton area was a convict labor camp established in the mid-1920's. The first permanent Brighton Post was established in 1936. The traditional two-story brick Works Progress Administration building served as the post and barracks and was located on the corner of Grand River and Old U.S. 23. The familiar design is a hallmark in many communities throughout the State. The building still stands today and serves as a real estate office.

In 1985, the Brighton Post relocated to a larger, leased facility further north on Old U.S. 23 in Brighton Township. The current building will better serve the Post's needs today particularly since the Brighton and Ypsilanti Posts merged in October 2011 and now includes Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

The Post is open daily from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lt. Joel Allen is the Post Commander.

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.

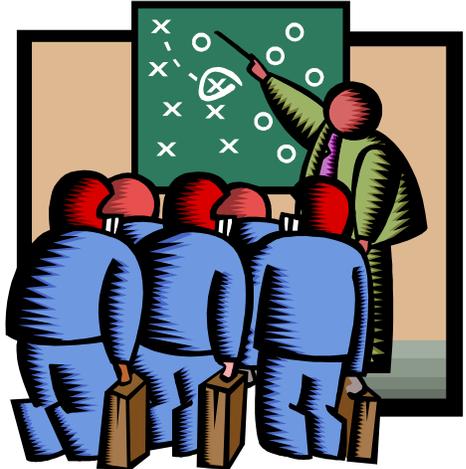
Meeting start time is 7:00 P.M.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the master plan process so far. The process began last summer with a community wide survey. A series of focus group meetings and a public workshop meeting were held this past winter to gather public input. In April, a joint meeting was held with the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees to review the findings. The plan update is now being drafted for review in late August.

Upon review of the draft plan by the Planning Commission and Township Board, it will be sent to neighboring communities and outside agencies for review and comment as required by law. Following the review period, a public hearing on the plan will be held. Public comments received at the public hearing will be considered for incorporation into the Plan. The Planning Commission will provide a recommendation to the Township Board for adoption. It is expected that this final draft will be presented to the Township Board for adoption in late 2013/early 2014.

Please check our website (www.brightontwp.com) for updates and meeting dates or contact Kelly Mathews, Planner, at planner@brightontwp.com or 810-229-0562.



TREASURER'S TIDBITS

TAX MAILING/DUE DATE: Tax bills are mailed out July 1st (due September 14) and December 1st (due February 28) in accordance with state statute. Payment is considered received upon submission of the payment to the Treasurer's office. Our policy is to receipt the check upon delivery to our office, processing and depositing the check within 24 hours. We cannot consider postmarks as a date received, nor can we accept post-dated checks.

ONLINE/PHONE PAYMENT: Should you find yourself in a situation where you cannot get a tax or utility payment to us before the due date either in person, through the drop box, or via mail, please consider using the online payment option linked through the township website (www.brightontwp.com). It allows both credit card and e-check payments. Banks charge a fee for this option, so rather than use general fund monies to pay for an option only a few avail themselves of, we use a third party processor and they will add their fee to this option.

DOG TAGS: If you have a dog, state statute requires they be licensed. There are two options for tags, one-year and three-year. All tags expire on the expiration date of the dog's rabies vaccination. Offered year-round, tags should be purchased within 30 days of the expiration of your previous tag. If your pet's rabies vaccination has expired, please get them a new one and bring the vaccination certificate when you come to get the tag. For neutered or spayed dogs, the cost is \$7 for one year and \$21 for three years. The cost for an unaltered male or female is \$25 for one year and \$60 for three years. Keep in mind, three-year tags are only an option immediately after a three-year rabies shot.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Tax and Assessing information, including payment history, are available online at www.brightontwp.com.

Please contact the Treasurer's Office at 810-229-0556 if you have any questions.

PUBLIC GRAVEL ROADS

All levels of government share responsibility for portions of America's vast system of transportation. In Michigan, drivers pay taxes when they fill their tanks with gasoline and annually register their motor vehicles. Motor vehicle taxes are apportioned under state law to the MI Department of Transportation, County Road Commissions and cities and villages but no monies are sent to townships.

Townships in many other states have primary responsibility for local roads but that is not the case in Michigan. County Road Commissions are responsible for maintenance and construction of local roads with the individual townships responsible for non-transportation uses of road rights-of-way (i.e. sub-surface rights of way usage such as utilities and communication systems). In spite of state law assigning maintenance and construction responsibility to road commissions, the state transportation fund doesn't provide sufficient financial resources for road commissions to perform their responsibilities at a level acceptable to everyone.



Consequently, Township Boards voluntarily contribute over \$150 million per year to county road commissions to support road projects in their respective townships.*

In Brighton Township, the Livingston County Road Commission (LCRC) performs grading maintenance on all public gravel/limestone roads. This service may be performed multiple times per year depending on traffic, road condition, and road structure. The Township assists the Road Commission to serve our community by hiring an independent contractor to apply chloride for dust control purposes.

*Source: Michigan Townships Association.

CLERK'S CORNER

While 2012 was a very busy year in the Clerk's office with elections held in February, May, August and November; 2013 provides us with an opportunity to share some valuable election resources for voters.

The Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) is a great resource for Michigan registered voters. By visiting the website, you can:

- ◆ Determine if you are registered
- ◆ Find your polling location
- ◆ Learn how to use voting equipment
- ◆ See a sample of *your* ballot
- ◆ Track your Absent Voter Ballot

Follow the link on our website: www.brightontwp.com/clerk or access it directly at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

The Michigan Secretary of State's office also provides full-service online, no-wait service for renewing vehicle and watercraft license tabs, driver licenses, state id's, replacing vehicle registrations and titles, and even joining the organ donor registry. Access it at www.expresssos.com.

DOG ORDINANCE

There is an ordinance against allowing dogs to run loose and constant barking. Please be considerate of your neighbors.



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

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 are ready to wear *another* hat, apply online at www.brightonareafire.com or in person at: Station 31, 615 W Grand River, Brighton MI.

PROPERTY VERIFICATION

With the return of the warmer 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. Our staff will be checking exterior measurements, story heights, decks, outbuildings, etc. We will also be verifying interior information with property owners. If you are not home during our visit, a tag will be left on the door requesting a call from the owner to answer any questions we may have regarding the property. We will also be updating photographs at the time of the field visit.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact the Assessing Department at 810-229-0558.

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
(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

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