

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume XVI, Issue 20

Winter 2014

BRIGHTON AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

Dedicated to the protection of life and property

Submitted by Lucille Weaire, Trustee and BAFA Liaison

In 2000, Brighton Township, Genoa Township and the City of Brighton joined together to form the Brighton Area Fire Authority (commonly referred to as BAFA). BAFA is governed by a Board comprised of two members selected by the governing bodies of each member community and one at-large member. Brighton Township is currently represented by Trustee Lucille Weaire and Treasurer Lana Theis.

The Authority is a full service fire department which provides the highest quality service to our citizens through multiple programs. It is funded through the levied millage of 1.25 mils which was approved for a five-year renewal at the August 2010 election. While our firefighters are meeting the demands of fighting/preventing fires and rescuing those in harm's way, they are also conducting classes in CPR and AED, and partnering with SELCRA (Southeast Livingston Recreation Authority) to teach CPR and babysit-



ting classes through their outreach programs. They are also in continuous training mode fulfilling the requirements of the State, FEMA, and the Department of Homeland Security.

BAFA instituted a program in the Summer of 2013 by offering the first official Fire Academy in a high school setting in the State of Michigan. Out of 26 students, 21 successfully obtained Firefighter 1 & 2 Certification. The Authority gained one Paid-On-Call firefighter and three Junior Cadets through the program.

Need a smoke alarm? Contact BAFA at 810-229-6640 or visit www.brightonareafire.com. Firefighters will come to your home at no charge and install a working smoke detector. Installation takes only fifteen minutes. This program is available only to residents of the City of Brighton, Brighton Township and Genoa Township.

Kudos to Chief Michael O'Brian and his team of firefighters for their service and dedication to keep our community safe.

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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.

PROPERTY VERIFICATION

Have you filed your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit?

If you recently moved into your home, you may qualify for the Principle Residence Exemption. In order to qualify you must both own and occupy the property as your principal residence.

Principal residence means the dwelling that you occupy as your permanent home and any unoccupied adjacent or contiguous properties that are classified residential. **Occupying** means this is your principal residence, the place you intend to return to whenever you go away. It is typically the address that appears on your driver's license or voter registration card. Vacation homes and income property that you do not occupy as your principal residence may not be claimed. You may have only one principal residence at a time. In order to qualify for tax year 2014, you must have owned and occupied the property on or before June 1, 2014. If you purchased and/or moved in after that date you would not qualify until tax year 2015.

You can verify your principal residence exemption percentage by looking under the **TAX DETAIL** section of your 2014 Winter Tax Bill. If your property is also your principal residence, the percentage listed to the right of the **PRE/MBT %** on your tax bill should indicate a percentage greater than 0%. For principal residence exemption properties, the percentage is typically 100%; however it can be less in circumstances where only part of the property is being used as your principal residence.

On another note, if you claim an exemption and then stop using it as a principal residence, you must notify your township or city assessor within 90 days of the change or you may be responsible for interest and penalties. This can be done by filing the **Request to Rescind Principal Residence Exemption** (Form 2602) that can be found on our website, www.brightontwp.com, under the Assessing Department page, under forms.

Notice of Assessment, Taxable Value and Property Classification

Please be on the lookout for your 2015 assessment notice, which you should receive around the third week in February. The notice will list your 2015 assessed and taxable values, as well as the classification of your property. Your current year Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) is also indicated on the assessment notice. If you feel the indicated percentage for Homeowner's Principal Residence is incorrect, please notify the Assessing Department. The dates and times of the 2015 March Board of Review will be listed on the notice. For residential property **please note** that you must appeal to the March Board of Review in order to further appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

If you have any questions regarding your principal residence exemption, assessed or taxable values, please feel free to contact the Assessor's office at 810-229-0558.

SIDEWALK ON THE NORTH SIDE OF E GRAND RIVER

An approximate one mile stretch of five (5) foot concrete sidewalk is under construction on the north side of E Grand River. The sidewalk is part of a Pathway Master Plan developed about ten (10) years ago. The Plan was amended recently scaling back the location of sidewalks / pathways in the Township to limited areas to encourage connectivity to Kensington Metro Park and Downtown Brighton. This section of sidewalk is Phase One of the Plan to connect to Kensington Metro Park.

Portions of E Grand River traverse through Green Oak Township. Green Oak has plans to install the next section of sidewalk heading east towards Kensington Road. Brighton Township will construct the final portion from the Green Oak border to Kensington Road.

Future plan phases call for a five (5) foot sidewalk on the west side of Old US 23 from the US 23 bridge north to Spencer Road and a ten (10) foot asphalt pathway along the west side of Kensington Road north to Sunset Park at the corner of Kensington, Buno and Jacoby Roads.

Questions can be directed to Kelly Mathews, Planner, at 810-229-0562 or via email at planner@brightontwp.com.

LARGE ITEM DROP OFF A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Township hosted a large item drop off day in September that collected over 16 tons of large items. The Township hosts this annual event at the Brighton Township Fire Hall on Old US 23 and Hyne Roads. We recently moved the annual date for this to the Fall to allow us to publish the scheduled date in the July newsletter.

Additional information is also available on our website at www.brightontwp.com or by calling the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560.



Have something large to get rid of during the year? Have trouble getting the large items to the Fire Hall? No worries - The Township also sponsors a large item tag program. Residents can purchase a sticker for \$15.00 from the Treasurer's Office to attach to



the large item. The Township will notify the hauler to arrange for the pick up. A sticker is required for each large item. Additional information on this program can be obtained by calling 810-229-0556.

CLERK'S CORNER



The November General Election has been canvassed by the County Board of Canvassers and the Township had over 54% voter turnout. Detailed election results are posted on our website at www.brightontwp.com. Click on the link on the home page or via the Clerk's Department webpage.

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

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:

Wednesday, December 24, 2014
Thursday, December 25, 2014
Wednesday, December 31, 2014
Thursday, January 1, 2014

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

TOWNSHIP HALL IS DROP OFF SITE FOR GLEANERS & HUMANE SOCIETY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Gleaners donations are being accepted **through December 31st**. All non-perishable items are accepted.

Humane Society of Livingston County donations are being accepted **through December 31st**. Supplies needed are:

- Any canned cat, kitten, dog or puppy food
- Cat toys/Dog toys
- Catnip
- Cat beds / Dog beds
- Cat litter boxes
- Strong dog leashes
- Dog chew bones / treats / biscuits

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

www.brightontwp.com

SUPERVISOR

Tom "Murph" Murphy
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Brian Vick
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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