

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume III, Issue 7

Summer 2008

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT **How are YOUR tax dollars being spent?**

The Charter Township of Brighton Board of Trustees recently passed a resolution committing to implementing Transparency in Government. Transparency in Government allows the public to review pertinent financial information and track how tax



dollars are being spent. The measure will provide township residents and taxpayers web access to line item spending in a searchable format. The township is one of the first local units of government to formally adopt “Transparency in Government” in the State of Michigan. The intent is to utilize existing documents, not create new ones. Information that will be available includes the annual budget, financial statements, wages and benefits, including a breakdown thereof paid to elected officials, and 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. The Township has committed to providing web access no later than October 1, 2008.

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Yard Waste Clean Up Days

Saturday, October 18, 2008
Saturday, November 15, 2008

Township Hall
4363 Buno Road
8:00 AM—Noon



Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves and brush under two inches in diameter. It must be delivered in paper compost bags or loose in trashcans. Material in plastic bags cannot be collected. Brush should be bundled for easy handling. Yard waste does not include sod, branches over two inches in diameter, dirt, pet waste, hay, stumps, trash or wood chips.

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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.

E GRAND RIVER RECONSTRUCTION

Pleasant Valley Road to be Closed through mid-July

Pleasant Valley Road will be closed from Grand River to just south of the eastbound I-96 interchange ramp through mid-July in order to widen and raise the grade of the road for safety purposes. Access to popular venues like 7-11 and E.G. Nick's restaurant will be maintained.

Motorists heading to or from I-96 from Grand River should utilize the Kensington Road interchange. Access to I-96 from north of the freeway will *not* be affected.

The Pleasant Valley closure is the only long term closure on the project. The intersection will be raised over 2 feet and widened for improved turn lanes. The grade raise will improve nighttime driving visibility and safety.

The \$8.1 million project includes the complete reconstruction of the road base and the placement of a Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) roadway. The road will be widened to either 3, 4 or 5 lanes, depending on traffic patterns along its 2.1 mile length. The limits of PCC reconstruction are northbound US-23 through Pleasant Valley Road.



The existing 5-lane pavement on Grand River between the Brighton city limits and northbound US-23 will be removed and replaced as part of the project. The approximately one-half mile section will be milled and overlaid. There will be some conditioning work done first, including joint repairs and limited curb replacement.

Street lighting will be added at key points along the corridor in Brighton Township as part of the E Grand River Corridor Plan adopted by the Township Board of Trustees.

The project began in March and is expected to continue on into November. Complete and up-to-date information on the project, along with photos and a detailed explanation of project phases is available at www.livingstonroads.org. Inquiries can also be directed to the Livingston County Road Commission at 517-546-4250.

Primary Election
August 5

General Election
November 4

Polls Open
7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Additional Voter
Information is available on
the back page of this
newsletter.



What is the Difference between a Master Plan and a Zoning Ordinance?

A Master Plan provides general policies for development in the community. It serves as a guide for future development in the Township and provides suggestions for what should happen over the next ten to twenty years. It is flexible to respond to changing conditions in the community over time. The Master Plan includes a future land use map which depicts the future use of various land areas within the Township. It does not rezone any properties; it only depicts current and future proposed uses.

The Zoning Ordinance is the tool used to implement the Master Plan. The Zoning Ordinance is enacted under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act Public Act 110 of 2006 as amended. Its purpose is to promote and protect the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the residents in accordance with the Master Plan.

The entire Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance can be found on the township's website at www.brightontwp.com. You can also visit township hall to review or purchase a copy.

Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect.



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET

Did you know that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreation activities?

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and to keep our yards clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after our pets.

Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated.

So what can you do? Simple.

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches.

Pick up after your pet ...and help keep our water clean.

Wireless Livingston Update

Plans are progressing to bring free, high quality internet access throughout Livingston County, also known as Wireless Livingston. While the project has hit some hurdles lately it is still expected that the service will become available in our area sometime in 2008. The project is a model of co-operation between government and business and is a public private partnership.



Additional information can be found at www.co.livingston.mi.us/wirelesslivingston/wirelesslivingston.htm.

RideShare Easy as 1-2-3

With gasoline prices reaching historical highs, pain at the pump is on everyone's mind. Why not consider joining RideShare?

RideShare is a free carpool and vanpool matching service that links commuters traveling into or within Southeast Michigan for work. RideShare, the free carpool matching program of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Since 1980, RideShare has assisted more than 100,000 Detroit area carpoolers and vanpoolers with their requests.

Carpoolers and vanpoolers:

- Save money on fuel and other vehicle operating costs
- Experience less stress associated with traffic
- Have a more predictable and productive commute
- Help reduce traffic congestion
- Improve air quality
- Enjoy the social and safety aspects of commuting with others.

If you are interested in forming a carpool or vanpool with co-workers who live near you, RideShare gets you on the road quickly. Carpool requires two riders who work similar time schedules. A vanpool requires six or more riders. SEMCOG's free online matching software matches you with commuters who also live near you, and who have similar routes and work schedules.

It is quick and easy. RideShare does most of the work. Just visit SEMCOG's website at www.semco.org or call SEMCOG at 313-961-4266 and follow these three easy steps!

Step 1

Fill out the [application](#) to find your instant RideShare matches.

Step 2

Contact your RideShare matches to organize a new RideShare arrangement or join an existing one.

Step 3

Join [Guaranteed Ride Home](#) for free taxi service if you need to work unexpected overtime or have to leave work early.

Charter Township of Brighton

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

Absent Voter Ballots Available

If you would like to receive an absent voter ballot for the August Primary Election or the November General Election you must first complete an application. They are available by:

- Calling the clerk's office at 810-229-0560
- Visiting the clerk's office
- E-mailing the clerk at clerk@brightontwp.com. Please be sure to put AV ballot application in the subject line so it doesn't get "spammed".
- Visiting the township website at www.brightontwp.com. Click on the clerk's department.

The applications must be completed, signed and returned to the clerk's office. Be sure to check the reason you need an absent voter ballot and also for which election(s) you would like to receive an absent voter ballot.



Michigan Voter Information Center

The Michigan Voter Information Center is a great resource and provides an assortment of information related to voter registration and election administration in Michigan.

By visiting www.michigan.gov/vote you can:

- Determine if you are registered
- Find your polling location
- Learn to use the voting equipment
- Find answers to frequently asked questions

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

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

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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.*