

SUMMER OF HISTORY ACTIVITIES

April 24—May 4: BAHS Major Fundraiser, COBACH Vintage Jewelry Sale, Special hours: weekdays 5-9 pm weekends 1-9 pm.

May 8 through September 29 — COBACH Exhibit: Centennial of GM Proving Ground.

May 27 — Memorial Day:

- COBACH Civil War Weapons Exhibit, 9-1 pm ONLY today.
- Main St Veterans Parade & AMP Program, 10-11am.

June 5 — First United Methodist Church, 10-11am: History Presentation

June 9 — Flag Day Observance Program at COBACH, 12-5 pm: Presentation and story of rare American flags from Civil War through WWII. Museum quality exhibit. One Day ONLY

June 24 — Installation of Brighton's Victorian Silhouettes around Millpond Park and downtown.

June 24 — July 22 — Aug 26 — Old Village Cemetery Headstone Restoration Work Day, 9-12nn

July 4 — Parade on Main Street

August 24 — Lyon Schoolhouse: BAHS Annual Gratitude Dinner

September 15 and October 12 — Old Village Cemetery Tour, 1pm

September 23 and October 28 — Pleasant Valley Cemetery Headstone Restoration Work Day, 9-12nn

October 1 through November 17 — COBACH Exhibit, Local Cemeteries

Jim Vichich — BAHS President
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com
810.250.7276

The Society extends its condolences to the family and friends of

Robert Schaffer

Robert was a Life-time member of the Society and will be missed by all.

CoBACH Exhibit:
May 8 — Sept. 29
“Centennial of GM Proving Ground”

CoBACH Summer Hours
Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
Sunday 2—5pm
Closed Monday

Archiving at Lyon School on Buno Road Every Thursday 9 to 12nn

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK
Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

Brighton Area Historical Society

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Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS: (Reflect dues paid for year 2024 unless otherwise noted)

IND/FAMILY: Jim Birney Family, Dale Borst, Charles & Lois Cheney, Gerald Kelly, Cheryl Krueger

PATRON: Robert (Bruce) Graetz*, Margo Metzger, Margaret Mitschelen

Welcome to new member*: Robert (Bruce) Graetz

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR DUES.

You can still renew your dues or become a member by using the form on Page 3. Through your dues and donations we are able to continue the work of preserving Brighton's history.

THANKS:

- To our members who have renewed their dues for 2024 and beyond.
- John Cameron, MD, Lake Trust Credit Union, John Park, Madeline Kingston-Park and Wallflower Mercantile for their 2024 Platinum Sponsorships.
- To our members who advise us of address changes so we can avoid the charge from the Post Office of returned mail. This is much appreciated.
- Jack Padley for the donation of his father's WWII uniform and display form.
- Gerald Kelly and Margaret Mitschelen for their donations to CoBACH Events along with their dues.
- Pat Franklin for designating her matching contribution from Amica to the Friends of Lyon School.
- Nick Deychakiwsky for designating his matching contribution from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to the Society.
- Robert (Bruce) Graetz for his donation to Old Village Cemetery in recognition of the restoration work done to the headstones of his relatives, Godfrey & Mary Westphal.
- Margo Metzger for her donation to Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Kathy Anderer, Trish Crane, Patricia Duffy, Cheryl Krueger, Wanda Meyer, Lee & Donna Perry, Mary Rose Orzik and Joann Stecewicz for their donation of jewelry.
- CoBACH April desk volunteers: Steve Black, Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Knight, John Rawcliffe, Tom Reinke, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich.
- Lyon School April archiving volunteers: Joe Collins, Ron Cyr, Tony Ferreyra, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Judith Coebly, Beth Ferreyra and Vicki for the jewelry sale preparation work of research, repair and packaging.
- Brighton Art Guild for the use of tables during the Jewelry Sale.
- John Rawcliffe for his watch repair talents with jewelry sale watches.
- Deb Armstrong for her talents with maintaining the BAHS website.

Dates to Remember

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SUMMER CoBACH HOURS

CoBACH: May 8 through Sept 29 FREE Summer Exhibit: "Centennial of GM Proving Ground"

April 26—May 4; CoBACH Center: Vintage Used Jewelry Sale.
Hours: Weekdays: 5—9pm; Weekend: 1—9pm

May: 2,9,16,23,30; Lyon School; 9—Noon: Historical archiving and school visitors welcome.

May 22: 6PM; BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center.

May 27; Memorial Day ONLY; 9—1pm : Free Civil War Exhibit: "Weapons of War" from private collection.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (MI) — Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley (CA) — Janice Beach — Donald & Shari Black (FL) — Steve Black — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Edgar L Cord, Ph.D. — Bonnie Corrigan — Kelsey Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Patricia LewAllen DeFoor (GA) — Frank & Jo Del Vero — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreyra — Nancy Fredenburg — Dave & Jacque Fuller — Lee & Deb Gough — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Kathy Jacoby (OR) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Venno Needham — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — Kathy Lueker Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigette Ritsema — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Michael & Jennifer Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute — Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

Business /Professional Members: (Indicates Life Members)**

Advance Craft Builders (2024) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brewery Becker** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** — Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Lions Club (2024) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2024) — Mark Francuck, DDS, PC (2024) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Liberty Title Agency (2024) — Lindhout Associates** — Liv. County Convention & Visitors Center (2023) — Lawrence Auto Body ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2023) — Preview Properties (2024) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Brighton Automotive (2024) — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2024) — Wallflower Mercantile**

2024 Sponsorships:

Platinum: John Cameron, MD — Lake Trust Credit Union — John Park — Madeline Kingston-Park — Wallflower Mercantile

Gold: Paul & Kathy Bair — Lawrence Auto Body

Silver: Kathy Lueker Pearson

Bronze: Brighton Light House — Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter — Carolina DeLuca

Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become a member, please mail to the address provided on the form below.

Mail check or money order payable to: Brighton Area Historical Society P. O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116-0481	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____	Phone: () _____
Membership Plan: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron or More <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	Additional Donation to—Check as Desired: <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School <input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events <input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	Amount of Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
<small>The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit AND a 509(a)2 Public Charity Organization . All donations are tax deductible.</small>		

BAHS Sponsorship Program

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tails newsletter and through sponsorship placards located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall).

Annual Sponsor levels are:

Platinum — \$1,000+; Gold — \$500+; Silver — \$250+; Bronze — \$100+

If you would like to become a sponsor or have a question, please contact:

Jim Vichich, President
Brighton Area Historical Society
810-250-7276 or James.Vichich@gmail.com

Current BAHS Leadership

President Jim Vichich	Directors Ron Cyr Tony Ferreyra Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial Mindy Kinsey John Rawcliffe Lynn Strong
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon
Secretary Thomas Reinke	
Treasurer Steve Black	
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	

BAHS: How to Contact Us or Find Us

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

E-Mail:
info@brightonareahistorical.com

Phone:
(810) 250-7276

US Mail:
Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Lyon School

11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored, barrier-free one-room schoolhouse and serves as our organization headquarters.

CoBACH Center

202 W. Main Street, in downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. CoBACH is formally known as the City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center. It is located in the historic 1879 two story brick building, also known as the Old Town Hall.

The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit AND a 509(a)2 public charity organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Beginning May 8th, the BAHS display at the CoBACH Center will be all about the GM Proving Ground. Please plan to visit this interesting display. CoBACH Center is located in downtown Brighton on Main Street by the Mill Pond. Below are some interesting facts about GM's top secret development site. (This article originally appeared in the Detroit Free Press, March 6, 2023.)

The GM Proving Ground Celebrates 100 Years!

What it cost: GM paid about \$100,000 for the property in 1923. It has grown to occupy about 4,000 acres of land and has lakes, where employees can fish. It's teeming with wildlife and contains the highest point in Oakland County.

No "S" on the end: The full name of the site is the General Motors Milford Proving Ground. But like Meijer, Kroger or Ford Motor Co., Milford Proving Ground also falls victim to many Michiganders putting an "S" on the end of it that does not belong there, calling it the "proving grounds." It is not plural.

Top secrets: There are secret labs with state-of-the-art virtual technology where engineers can drive on the moon and do the GMC Hummer EV's famous CrabWalk long before the vehicle ever did it on the road.

Like a city with services: The site, which operates 24/7 365 days a year, is self-contained, using its own wells for water; it has a wastewater treatment facility and it employs certified firefighters, licensed EMTs, hazardous materials response, confined space rescue team and road patrol officers. It has a fully staffed medical department.

Why you won't get in: The site is heavily guarded because all of GM's prototypes of future cars are there, hidden from spy photographers either behind closed doors, under camouflage tape or — for super top-secret projects — tested only in the dark of night to shield it from drone photos.

Special driver licenses needed: The engineers who work at the grounds are trained to drive like professional race car drivers so that they can test vehicles to the limits. The level of license is

based on the speed a driver is allowed to go. GM has about 81,000 salaried employees globally, but fewer than 100 have passed the driving tests to do the top-speed test driving at the proving ground.

How many miles of tracks: There are 147 miles of test courses, including the Milford Road Course, a racetrack that mimics parts of the famous Nurburgring in Germany.

Every kind of roadway: The road surfaces of GM's tracks vary from dirt roads, to hills, to bumpy concrete with purpose-made potholes, to six lanes of banked concrete on a 5-mile Circle Track, to a straightaway with no speed limit, to the speedway-ready 3-mile Milford Road Course.

What that asphalt is: The ground's "Black Lake" is a slab of black asphalt that in the sunlight gives the illusion that it is water. It is the size of 59 football fields and is one of the largest vehicle dynamics pads in the world, used for a variety of tests on various aspects of cars, such as vehicle handling.

Replica of Belgian road: One of the smaller test tracks that is no less intriguing is GM's Belgian Block. It is a 2-mile-long replica of the real brick road that ran from Antwerp to Brussels, which was discovered during World War I by U.S. soldiers.

Hollywood knows about it: Portions of the "Transformers 4" movie were filmed at the proving ground. The filming locations included the Oval Track and the North/South Straightaway course. The Oval Track was painted with road markings to transport it fictionally to Asia.

Where guardrails were born: The 130 miles of guardrails that line nearly every road on the proving ground reflect what you see along any major interstate. The rails were first developed at Milford Proving Ground, designed to absorb an impact and pull a car along the rail.

Developing virtual technology: GM is investing millions in virtual technology to test the entire car's performance virtually before ever making a physical prototype and putting it on the road. Virtual technology can get new vehicles to market faster, saving millions of dollars in costs to build physical prototypes. One prototype of a car can cost \$100,000.