



**City of Brighton**  
www.brightoncity.org

## **WELCOME**

**NATE GEINZER/CITY MANAGER**

*“Reality – The state of things as they actually exist, rather than as they may appear or might be imagined.”*

For the City of Brighton, the approval of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget is just the beginning of a larger fiscal conversation. The annual budget outlines spending for the year, but solving the City’s long-term needs proves challenging.

The City is struggling with the reality of reversing a decade-long trend in significant capital disinvestment, particularly in roads, equipment, and facility improvements. In 2008, the City faced an unforeseen fiscal crisis. Housing and commercial values tanked, which led to falling City revenues. The “quality” that Brighton became accustomed to has been threatened ever since. Today, property values have rebounded and in some cases have started to exceed pre-2008 levels. However, due to constitutional restrictions and state policies, the City’s revenues are still severely constrained. In an effort to maintain City service levels with less funding, capital investments were not made. Disinvestment throughout the City has taken a huge toll and those who travel on our roads, particularly residential roads, know this well.

Last year, City Council contracted with the City’s engineering firm to complete a comprehensive assessment of our roads. On a scale of 0 (failed) to 100 (new), our road network was rated at a 52. Due to our inability to invest additional resources, we are projecting this rating will fall to a 49 this year. More than two-thirds of our roads are in “poor” condition or worse. When looking only at neighborhood roads, the percentage of poor or worse rises to 75%.

City Council and staff will be studying options and evaluating obtainable goals over the next six to twelve months. We hope to come up with a plan that will steadily, equitably, and strategically improve the conditions of our roads. You will be updated on this conversation moving forward. The only way to build a strong, sustainable, and quality community is to find ways to invest. With the community’s input and support, we can change our reality and improve our solemn road network.



## **BEAUTIFY BRIGHTON: EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE MILLPOND**

**LYDIA MACKLIN-CAMEL/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ 810.225.9255**

The City of Brighton’s first Earth Day Celebration kicked off with a Millpond Cleanup on Saturday, April 22. Over 80 volunteers joined forces to remove brush, trees, trash, and weeds from the Millpond and around the Imagination Station. The shoreline transformation is stunning and the clearing provides an opportunity to repopulate the area with native plants.

The City is increasing its environmental efforts with the Millpond Restoration Project, which plans to restore the natural feature through a series of volunteer cleanups, shoreline restoration, and sustained weed and waterfowl management. The Maltby Intermediate School’s 6th-grade enrichment class celebrated these efforts with an all ages Earth Day event that sought to educate the community on what it means to be an environmental steward. The event offered attendees food, fun, education, and the students even raised money by selling their own handmade recycled art.

To encourage further community participation, Millpond Cleanup Days are being scheduled throughout the year. To stay up to date with future cleanup opportunities, interested groups and individuals are invited to join the Millpond Volunteer Mailing List on the City website.

The Millpond Restoration Project is part of the larger “Beautify Brighton” initiative to establish a healthier environment for the Millpond ecosystem and the City of Brighton. The Millpond Restoration Project will be an ongoing effort led by the City and the greater Brighton community. In this effort, the City is partnering with Landscape Design and Associates, who presented a plan to the Brighton City Council to improve the Millpond. The plan includes extending the shoreline and reseeding the area with native plants that have deeper root systems to reduce erosion.

The City plans to “Beautify Brighton” in many ways. Arbor Day was also observed during the Earth Day event. Mayor Muzzin gave an Arbor Day proclamation and laid the first few shovels of soil onto the new Littleleaf Linden tree that was planted near the Imagination Station. The City of Brighton has long been honored by the Arbor Day Foundation as a national Tree City USA. The annual Arbor Day planting affirms the City’s commitment to enhancing the urban tree canopy of the Brighton community.

For more information about the Beautify Brighton initiative, visit [www.brightoncity.org](http://www.brightoncity.org).

# BUILDING NEW CONNECTIONS

**BRANDON SKOPEK / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / 810.225.8019**

For far too long, municipal community development departments have only been associated with brick and mortar developments, land use regulations, permitting, and code enforcement; but Brighton Community Development staff are changing that. Dr. John Huie from Purdue University defined community development as "... the process of local decision-making and the development of programs designed to make their community a better place to live and work." Community Development staff are working toward building a strong sense of community by engaging in an ongoing, permanent relationships with City residents and businesses. The Community Development Department has redefined their role:

*The City of Brighton Community Development Department is an innovative team committed to building a strong sense of community and a thriving economic environment for Brighton's residents, businesses, visitors, and workforce. Community Development seeks to strengthen unique neighborhood identities, ensure safety, sustain and grow our Downtown, coordinate investment to improve public amenities, and promote a welcoming culture. Through forward-thinking planning practices, which incorporate public input, we strive to make the physical landscape reflect the values and priorities of our community members.*

With a number of new staff members joining the Community Development team, the Department places confidence in the knowledge that this new vision will allow staff to work collaboratively to encourage public engagement and a two-way dialogue with community stakeholders.

The City has an ambitious list of planning and economic development strategies covering a wide range of topics including neighborhood preservation and revitalization, recreation planning, specific site redevelopment, and downtown development. With forward-thinking planning practices, enhanced community engagement, and by incorporating public input, the City will be able to bring many of these strategies to fruition.

The City's current Downtown Blueprint and Master Plan encourage staff to use forward-thinking planning practices to assist with preservation and revitalization throughout the City; however, these current plans are far outdated. In order to ensure all long-range planning documents are consistent, and reflect the values of residents and businesses, the City has kicked-off a sixteen month master planning project. The project will allow staff to gather valuable public input through various engagement strategies that will assist with determining goals and objectives for Community Development staff to strive toward.

The refreshed Master Plan will be far more comprehensive in nature. It will focus on recreation/open space planning, downtown development, non-motorized transportation, and future land use to inform and guide development and redevelopment in the City. By having all plans compiled into one concise document, the City will ensure that the master plan offers consistency between all individual plans, and will aid in promoting a vibrant community.

## THINK BIG. THINK BRIGHTON

The City is undergoing an exciting Comprehensive Master Plan Process! To begin, the city is seeking community input. Please visit the City website for a link to a resident survey and the Brighton mySidewalk page.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

## BRIGHTON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Serving the City of Brighton and the members of the Brighton City Police Department is an honor and a privilege. My goal as Chief is to work diligently toward organizational excellence while adhering to the department's core values of Service, Integrity, Courage, and Professionalism.

Our focus is the protection of life and property and the preservation of peace. We value our partnerships with the community that have been built on trust and mutual respect. I am committed to the delivery of consistent and quality customer service to all that we serve. This is done by hiring quality people, encouraging education, and access to relevant and cutting edge training, and empowerment to all of the men and women of the Brighton City Police Department.

Sincerely,

Rob Bradford  
Chief of Police



## SUMMER EVENT SCHEDULE

### RECURRING EVENTS

#### The Story of Us: Summer Performance Series

Weekly performances beginning at 7 p.m. in either the Sculpture Garden or Hyne Alley

**Music:** July 6 and August 3

**Visual Art:** July 13 and August 10

**Storytelling:** July 20 and August 17

**Performance Art:** July 27 and August 24

#### Farmers Market

Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### Imagination Station Volunteer Days

2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

#### Kiwanis Millpond Concerts

Sundays from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. July 9 through August 13

#### Swinginfusion

Mondays from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Jazz @ The Pond

2nd Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

#### Livingston County Concert Band

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

#### Terrific Tuesday Book Reading & Crafts

Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### PARADES, FESTIVALS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

#### 4th of July Parade and Duck Run

Millpond Park

**Duck Run:** 6 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

**Duckling Dash:** 9:30 a.m.

**Parade:** 10 a.m. - Noon

**Duck Race:** Noon - 1 p.m.

#### A Taste of Brighton

July 14 and 15

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Brighton Paint Out

July 22-23

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### Fine Art & Acoustic Music Festival

August 4-6

#### Brighton 150th Block Party

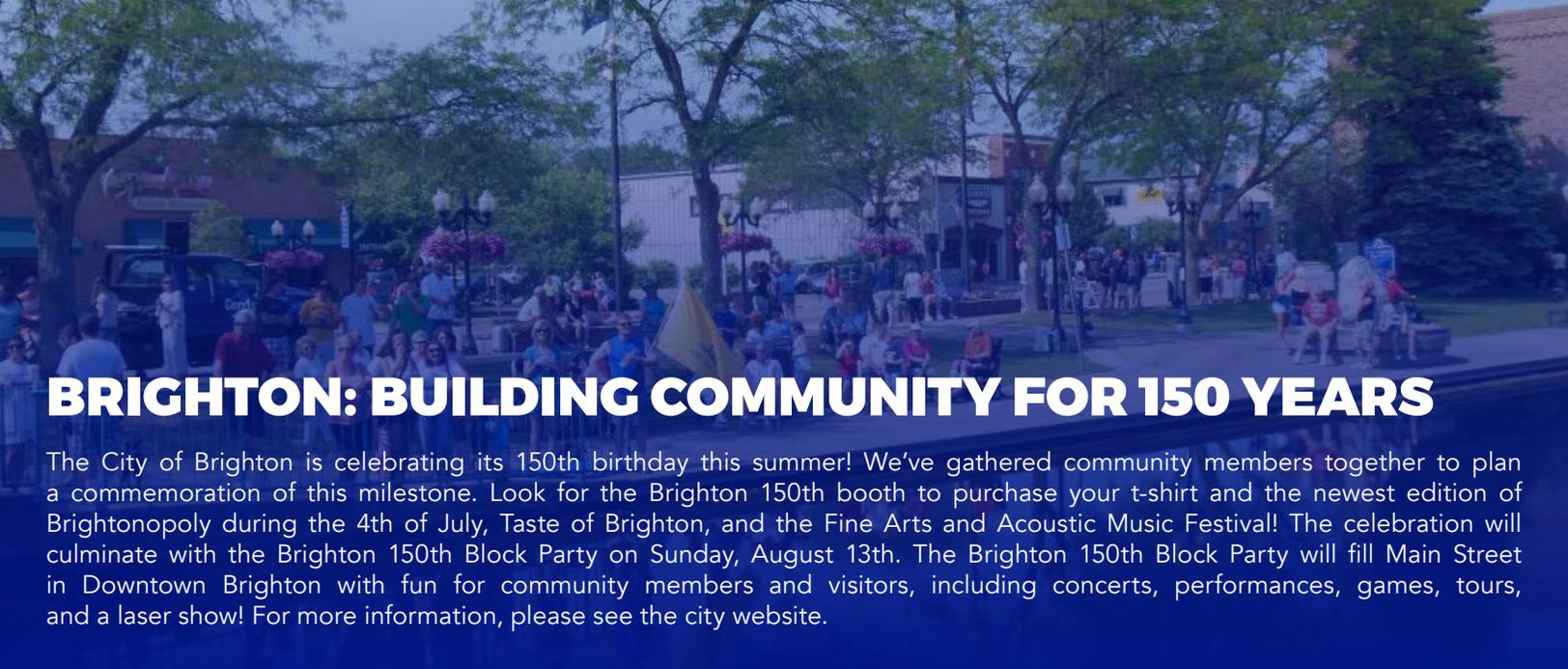
August 13

Noon - 11 p.m.

#### Smokin' Jazz and BBQ Blues Festival

September 8 and 9

For more information on any of these events, please see the city calendar at [www.brightoncity.org](http://www.brightoncity.org)



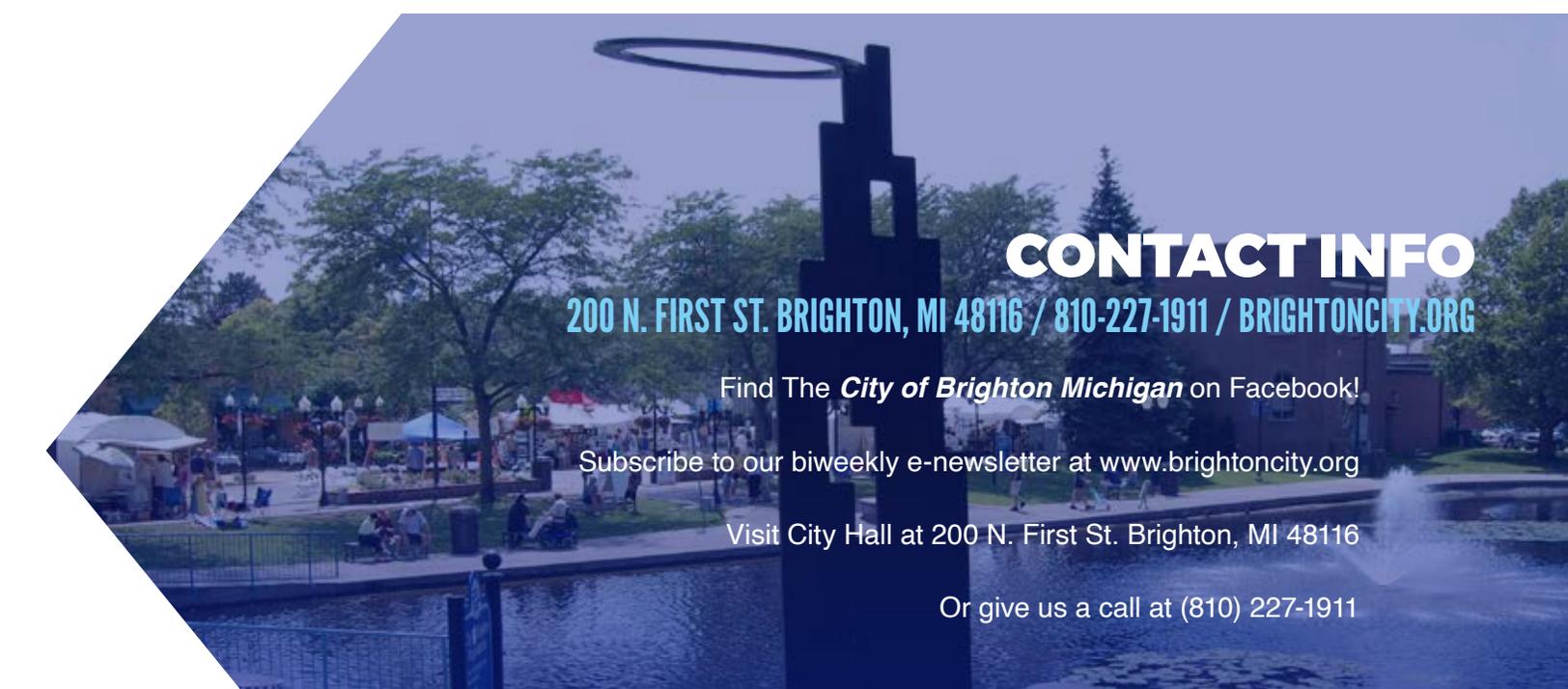
# BRIGHTON: BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR 150 YEARS

The City of Brighton is celebrating its 150th birthday this summer! We've gathered community members together to plan a commemoration of this milestone. Look for the Brighton 150th booth to purchase your t-shirt and the newest edition of Brightonopoly during the 4th of July, Taste of Brighton, and the Fine Arts and Acoustic Music Festival! The celebration will culminate with the Brighton 150th Block Party on Sunday, August 13th. The Brighton 150th Block Party will fill Main Street in Downtown Brighton with fun for community members and visitors, including concerts, performances, games, tours, and a laser show! For more information, please see the city website.

## CITY OF BRIGHTON

200 N. FIRST ST. BRIGHTON, MI 48116

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## CONTACT INFO

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Visit City Hall at 200 N. First St. Brighton, MI 48116

Or give us a call at (810) 227-1911