



The Downtown Lowdown

News from the Brighton PSD

February 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February

12 - Lincoln's Birthday

14 - Valentine's Day

16 - President's Day
(Brighton Offices Closed)

22 - Washington's Birthday

24 - Flag Day

25 - Ash Wednesday

March

3 - PSD Meeting
City Hall 7:30 am

8 - Daylight Saving
Time Begins

17 - St. Patrick's Day

20 - Spring Begins

State & Federal Grants to Fund Downtown Projects

By: City of Brighton - CD/P Staff

Several downtown infrastructure projects are being queued up for construction this spring thanks to the City's recent successes with state and federal grants. According to Matt Modrack, City of Brighton Planning/Community Development Director: "In this time of limited local resources the City is making every effort to win federal and state funding for downtown projects. So far we've enjoyed some success securing approximately \$1.5 million dollars in committed or pending grant funding for sewer and street improvements, a new parking lot, and even a \$3,000 grant to help continue the work of the Brighton Arts & Culture Commission." Projects funded in whole or part by state and federal grant awards include:

- Orndorf Drive- reconstruction from Grand River Ave. to Library Dr. with a full center turn lane, reconfiguring the Post Office access, a crosswalk at Library Dr., and an industrial depth pavement cross-section

to accommodate truck traffic. MDOT awarded a \$460,200 Cat. A grant to the City, while the balance of the \$900,000 project is being funded through a Special Assessment District.

- Second Street Municipal Parking Lot- construction of a parking lot immediately east of the CSX railroad tracks to accommodate overflow parking demand from the Millpond and Creamery parking lots. The City was awarded \$180,000 for this project from the MSHDA Downtown Infrastructure Program.
- Mill Pond By-pass Sewer Project- the existing sewer in Mill Pond Lane is at capacity severely limiting the potential for new development in the core downtown. This \$460,000 project was awarded \$195,000 of the MSHDA Downtown Infrastructure Program as well as a federal EPA allocation of \$165,000. The Downtown Development Authority contributed \$100,000.
- Brighton Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit- The City's Arts & Culture Commission is proceeding with a second exhibit with many new sculptures in and around our highly walkable downtown. The Brighton Arts & Culture Commission was awarded \$3,000 from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) for artist stipends and installation expenses for the second exhibit.



Second Street Municipal Parking Lot

A grant request to reprogram \$400,000 in MSHDA Downtown Infrastructure Program funds from the previously approved North/West streetscape improvements to a complete upgrade of the Grand River/Main intersection is now under consideration. This project represents a second MSHDA grant in the amount of \$400,000.

Look for updates on the construction schedules for these projects in the Downtown Lowdown and on the PSD and City of Brighton websites.



Main Street Minute

By: Claudia Roblee, PSD Board Member



I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and took some time off to be with family and friends. Now that the New Year is here it is time to

get back to the business of further exploring the Main Street Program. To refresh your memory, the Michigan Main Street Program assists communities in developing their own local Main Street program by utilizing the **Main Street 4-Point Approach** – a common-sense approach to tackling the complex issues of revitalization by identifying and capitalizing on the unique assets of the community. Last month I introduced you to one of the 4 points, Economic Restructuring. This month I would like to talk about another of the 4 foundations of the Main Street Program, Design.

The Design Committee of the Main Street Program will be charged with identifying the physical attributes that are the assets of our core commercial district. This committee will also develop Design guidelines that protect and enhance our unique physical characteristics and create a "sense of place". Design

guidelines are among the most useful tools available for preserving community character in a traditional commercial district and help to arbitrate a community-supported balance of tradition and change.

According to the State Historic Preservation Office, "The process of creating Design guidelines can transform passive citizens into proactive community stakeholders and effective advocates for quality public space." The design guideline process as directed by the Design Committee builds community awareness of urban design principles through education events, setting up community information networks, and providing opportunities for public discussion, feedback, and consensus building. The process culminates in a publicly defined and supported vision of the future. Design guidelines empower citizens to manage change and growth by providing an objective framework for evaluating a proposed design's potential for enhancing the qualities described in that collective vision." The Design Committee will also be responsible for guidelines pertaining to streetscape design, signage and awnings, and technical assistance for window displays and visual merchandising. While all the committees of The

Main Street Program seek ways to revitalize commercial activity in our community and take advantage of new development opportunities that promise solid economic growth, the Design Committee will be creating awareness of and dedication to preserving our community character. Protecting the distinctive qualities of our traditional commercial district will strengthen our community identity and promote Brighton as a unique tourist and shopping destination.

Because of the role that our Downtown Development Authority already plays in our community it would seem only natural that the DDA be an integral part of this committee. In addition to those members of the DDA who would be interested in being on this Committee we would also be looking for architects, developers, landscape architects, interior designers, planners, graphic artists, contractors, preservationists and sign manufactures.

If you feel you would be a good fit on this committee, call me at 810-229-3100 or email me at roblee178972mi@comcast.net.

" When you look at a city, it's like reading the hopes, aspirations and pride of everyone who built it." - Hugh Newell Jacobsen

Summerfest 2009 Planning Is Underway!!

By: Gail Sherman & Jeff Kelly

Last year's Summerfest took on a Mardi Gras theme and was a huge success! Changing the focus from Sidewalk Sales to more of a Community Event featuring Live Music, Sidewalk Sales, Best Pizza Contest, Kids Bouncy Area and more really made it a lively occasion. This event has happened the last weekend in July for many years and has become some-

what of a Homecoming event. Plans for the 2009 Summerfest are already underway. Once again, there will be a strong focus on Live Music. This year's theme will be "Motown" and there should be dancing in the streets! We are planning more activities to the Summerfest to entice a larger crowd. Some of these ideas are to have more outdoor food booths from local food establishments – a crafts fair – more kiddie rides and activities –

more sponsor booths. Considering this event has evolved to being one of "the" Brighton Community Events of the year, we are hoping to get more business sponsors involved. Contact Gail Sherman (810.225.7992) for more information or suggestions, to volunteer or to be a sponsor. With your help, we'll make this year's Summerfest an even bigger success.



Let's All Welcome:

AvaShay' A Natural Nail Spa - 401 Spencer

AvaShay' offers our clients a lovely & relaxing experience in our unique & beautiful surroundings for an **affordable price**. We have a private pedicure room with two HoMedics Massage Chairs letting you enjoy your pedicure with a massage. All pedicures include a beverage & appetizer.



Pedicures start at \$25, \$40 & \$55 Manicures \$20

We also offer Vegan (Green) products Spa Rituals

Hot Stone Foot Massage, Mens & Ladies Spa Pedicures & Manicures

Bridal Spa Parties & Packages (Includes appetizer & beverage),

Pretty Princess Parties Manicures \$10 Pedicures \$12

A wonderful addition to AvaShay' Cris Hatter A Cosmetologist for over 25 years

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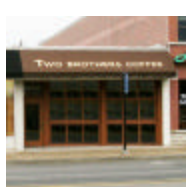
PLEASE COME VISIT OUR LOVELY SALON

By: Diane Rickard, Owner/Manicurist

248-866-6022 Cell or 810-229-5011 Salon Number



Two Brothers Coffee - 423 W. Main Street



Introducing Downtown Brighton's New Coffee Shop and gathering place-- Two Brother's Coffee! Located at 423 West Main, the family owned coffee shop offers the very best coffee and espresso around, and that's not all! We also have fresh baked goods and pastries everyday, along with a lunch menu including delicious wraps, daily soups, ice cream, and a variety of smoothies and cold drinks. We strive to become a welcoming lounge for the

Brighton Community. Sit by the fireplace, or relax on a comfy chair and enjoy the free wi-fi. We are open (winter hours) weekdays from 6am to 6pm, Saturdays 7-7 and Sundays 8-4, and are available for private bookings and parties. Our goal is to provide the Brighton community a friendly and relaxing place to enjoy a great cup of coffee and a bite to eat amongst friends at great prices. When you visit don't forget to ask for your free Club Card (log ten drinks and the next is free!). Find out more at twobrotherscoffee.com! By: James Starnes, Owner

PSD Board Members:

Mark Binkley, Chairperson

Shawn Pipoly, Vice-Chairperson

Claudia Roblee, Secretary

Nick Palizzi, Treasurer

Dan Szymanski

Cheryl Mayday

Arthur Des Gravise

John Okoniewski

Lisa Nelson

Newsletter Produced By:

**City of Brighton Planning/CD
Staff**

Please contact Lauri French at

810-225-9244 or

frenchl@brightoncity.org

**with any comments or
questions.**

Meet Your Newest PSD Boardmember...



Photo By:
Leslie Hipp -
Arbonne
International

Hush, it's personal. There's a new PSD board member: Lisa Nelson, owner of Hush Intimate Apparel in downtown Brighton. Lisa has both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in engineering from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She began her career in the Automotive Industry. After 14 years, Lisa accepted a buy-out in August 2007. It was a dream come true when she opened her own business in November the same year.

Lisa has always been involved in the community. She says, "I like to be at the heart of things. If you want to make a difference, you have to get involved. I was thrilled when I was asked to join the PSD!" Since opening her business 15 months ago, she has been attending PSD meetings, organized the community entertainment for Summerfest 2008 & 2009, and was involved in many of the other community events downtown.

On the private side - Lisa, 38, is a 9-year resident of Brighton. She enjoys life at home with her husband (Brandon), her 3 year-old

Happy

Anniversary

Please contact Lauri French with the date your business opened, so everyone can be included in the anniversary column.

(Hannah), Daisy the crazy Labrador retriever, and her trusty 19 year-old cat (Locke). Her passions are many: family, friends, community, music, crafty things, and dance. "Once upon a time, I was a ballet dancer... and I would love to dance again. Maybe when things settle down..." she says in reference to juggling her new lifestyle.



Get Involved & Mark Your Calendar



Regular PSD Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at Brighton City Hall (unless otherwise noted). We encourage business and building owners in the Principal Shopping District to attend these meetings to let the Board know what you're thinking--what we're doing right, what needs to be improved, suggestions for marketing and promoting your PSD!

Upcoming Meetings:

March 3, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.

April 7, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.

May 6, 2009 (Wednesday) at 7:30 a.m.

Agendas and minutes are available at www.downtownbrighton.com

Help us to go paperless -- sign up for future newsletters. Just visit www.downtownbrighton.com click on "PSD Newsletter" on the upper left side of the page and sign up.

On November 20, 2008, the Brighton City Council amended their 2009 Goals to include considering renewing the Principal Shopping District. This amendment of the annual goal statement is simply the protocol used by Council to put an issue on the table for discussion, deliberation and possible action. The goal pertains to the renewal of the PSD board alone, which was intentionally designed to sunset after three years and DOES NOT pertain to the Special Assessment District passed in November 2006.



Brighton PSD
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Brighton, MI 48116

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