

**BRIGHTON MASONIC LODGE #247**

**TRESTLE BOARD**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**



Brethren,

As we move into the summer months, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication shown by the members of Brighton Lodge No. 247. The energy and commitment displayed throughout the first half of the year have been remarkable, and it is because of your efforts that our lodge continues to thrive.

The strength of our fraternity is measured not only by our meetings and rituals but also by the impact we make beyond the walls of the lodge. Over the past several months, we have demonstrated that commitment through both service and charity. We have many upcoming events and opportunities for brother to get engaged in several meaningful ways. Whether you are a new brother wondering how to get more engaged or perhaps a brother who has been away for a while and are looking to reconnect with the community through charitable outreach or simply reconnect with your brothers through fellowship. We likely have an event coming up that can help with that. Also as a friendly reminder Our lodge **WILL NOT** be going dark this year. We have moved the July meeting to the following week as to not conflict with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday.

As we look ahead, I encourage all members to remain engaged and involved in the life of the lodge. To those brothers who have not been able to attend recently, please know that your presence is valued and your company is missed. Whether it has been weeks, months, or even years, you will always find a warm welcome waiting for you at Brighton Lodge. We look forward to seeing you again whenever circumstances allow.

Our focus for the remainder of the year continues to center on several important goals:

- **Raising the Profile of Masonry in Our Community** – Ensuring that our Lodge is visible, active, and known for the positive impact we make.
- **Creating Opportunities for Brothers to Engage** – Both inside and outside the Lodge through fellowship activities as well as hands-on charity opportunities where we can work together and serve others.
- **Educating and Supporting Our New Brothers** – Through mentoring, involvement, and guidance so that each new Mason feels welcomed, supported, and able to grow without becoming overwhelmed.
- **Encouraging Family and Friends Involvement** – Through events such as game nights, picnics, social gatherings, and service projects that allow those closest to us to share in the fellowship of the Lodge.
- **Practice and Ritual** – Continuing to strengthen our ritual work through practice and participation so that we maintain the high standards expected of our Craft.

Fraternally,

Garrett Graham, WM  
Brighton Lodge No. 247



## **The Worn Tool and the Weary Man: A Masonic Reflection**

Among the lessons taught in Freemasonry is the importance of labor. The working tools of the Craft remind us that honest effort is essential to building not only structures of stone but also character, wisdom, and virtue. Yet there is another lesson hidden within the tools themselves—one often overlooked. A tool used carelessly or without proper maintenance will eventually fail. Likewise, a man who labors without balance, reflection, or renewal will eventually wear himself down.

A craftsman understands that every tool has a purpose and a limit. The finest chisel, repeatedly struck without rest or care, will lose its edge. The strongest hammer will eventually crack if subjected to constant abuse. No sensible workman blames the tool for failing when he has neglected its proper use and upkeep.

The same principle applies to the brothers of your lodge. It is for these reasons that we must work together. We see far too often the same handful of brothers leading the charge time and time again until they are worn out and defeated by the endless labors of our craft. It is for this reason that I call on all our brothers to make a concerted effort to stand up, grab the reins and steer your lodge in the direction you want to see it progress.

Freemasonry teaches that man is a living stone, rough and imperfect, yet capable of refinement. Through labor upon ourselves we seek improvement in knowledge, morality, and service. However, the Craft does not encourage endless toil without wisdom. A Mason is instructed to divide his time properly between labor, refreshment, and repose. This ancient teaching recognizes a profound truth: strength is not sustained through constant exertion alone, but through balance.

In today's world, many men measure their worth solely by their productivity. They drive themselves relentlessly in pursuit of success, responsibility, or recognition. They carry burdens for their families, their communities, their professions and their lodges. While such dedication is admirable, even the strongest among us are not inexhaustible. The mind can become dull, the spirit can become weary, and the body can become weakened when denied proper care.

The working tools offer a symbolic warning. Just as a neglected tool loses its usefulness, a man who never pauses for reflection may lose sight of his purpose. A man who never seeks refreshment may find his enthusiasm replaced by fatigue. A man who ignores the needs of his body and spirit may discover that his ability to serve others gradually diminishes.

Freemasonry does not view rest as idleness. Rather, it recognizes restoration as a necessary part of useful labor. The operative mason sharpened his tools before beginning work. The speculative Mason sharpens his mind through study, his heart through fellowship, and his spirit through contemplation. These acts are not distractions from labor; they prepare him to labor more effectively.

The lesson extends beyond the individual Brother. A Lodge itself must be maintained. Its traditions must be preserved, its members encouraged, and its harmony protected. Just as tools require care and craftsmen require rest, so too must the institutions we cherish be nurtured if they are to remain strong.

The wise Mason therefore seeks balance. He labors diligently but not recklessly. He serves faithfully but remembers that he, too, is worthy of care. He understands that exhaustion is not a badge of honor and that preserving one's strength is not selfishness but stewardship.

The worn tool and the weary man teach the same lesson. Neither fails suddenly. Both deteriorate gradually through neglect, overuse, and the absence of proper maintenance. Yet both can remain useful for many years when treated with wisdom and respect.

As Masons, we are called to build. But we must also remember to maintain the instruments with which we build—our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. For a tool kept sharp serves its purpose well, and a man who tends to his own well-being is better prepared to serve his God, his family, his community, and the Craft.

In this, as in all things, wisdom lies not merely in labor, but in knowing how to sustain it.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

So I ask each of you. Have you stopped to sharpen your tools? Have you made sure that the brother and craftsman next to you has done the same? Check on one another support one another, strengthen and sharpen one another!

Respectfully Yours,

Jonathon McKinney,

Senior Warden, Brighton Lodge #247

## **UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS in May**

*(Please refer to Grandview for more details & Updates)*

[https://mi.grandview.systems/users/sign\\_in](https://mi.grandview.systems/users/sign_in)

### **June 4<sup>TH</sup> Thurs**

#### **Regular Communication**

(Dinner 6:30; Gavel 7:30)

### **June 5<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **Coney Night in support of Rainbow Girls**

(Dinner 5-7pm)

Please plan to join your brothers and friends for Coney dogs and root beer floats at the Howell Masonic Lodge.

### **June 11<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> Thurs**

#### **EA Degree Practice**

(7:00pm)

Please feel free to join your brothers for a night of ritual practice and fellowship (ALL BROTHERS WELCOME)

### **June 20<sup>TH</sup> Sat**

#### **Game Night**

(Event starts at 5:30pm)

Please feel free to bring your favorite board game and drinks.

### **June 25<sup>TH</sup> Thurs**

#### **EA Degree (tentative based on candidate)**

(Dinner starts at 6:30pm degree to follow)

All Brothers welcome to attend!

## **EVENTS Looking Forward**

*(Please refer to Grandview for more details & Updates)*

[https://mi.grandview.systems/users/sign\\_in](https://mi.grandview.systems/users/sign_in)

### **July 9<sup>TH</sup> Thursday**

**Regular Communication** (Moved due to holiday)

(Dinner 6:30; Gavel 7:30)

### **Aug 15<sup>TH</sup> Sat**

**Joint Festive Board** (To Be Confirmed)

**Location:** (Location Brighton Lodge) (Hosted by Brighton & Howell Lodges – Open to other brothers also)

**RSVP** to TBD (Committee Chair Needed)

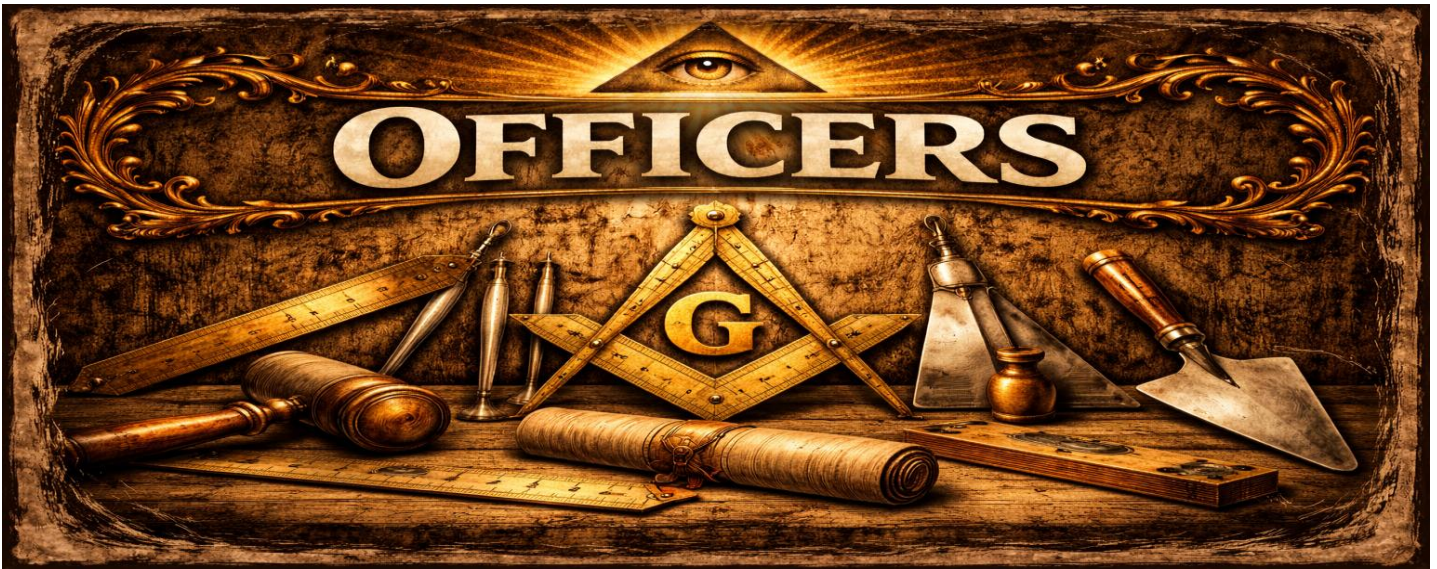
### **Sept 19<sup>TH</sup> Sat**

**District #31 Picnic and Disc Golf event**

Open to family & friends

**Location:** Independence Park Whitmore Lake Mi.

Please RSVP to Oscar A. at (810) 772-1440 or by email at Spaniard201066@gmail.com



OFFICERS 2026		
Worshipful Master	Garrett Graham	(734) 578-7790
Senior Warden	Jonathon McKinney	(419) 565-1950
Junior Warden	Will Budnick	(203) 751-3139
Treasurer	Daniel S. Powell	(810) 383-2370
Secretary	Jim Watters PM	(810) 360-3608
Senior Deacon	Mike Wilkinson	(248) 514-9322
Junior Deacon	Scott Fust	(248) 974-0936
Senior Steward	Chris Byrd	(313) 290-1900
Junior Steward	Robert Martin	(734) 341-2229
Chaplain	John Penley PM	(734) 474-0783
Marshall	Mason Stanbury	(954) 952-6518
Tiler	Patrick J. Tucker PM	(810) 599-4041
Lodge Education Officer	George Brutchen PM	(765) 730-1630



***Please come out and support our local Girls masonic youth group. This is a great opportunity to support some of our young adults through our Masonic youth organization.***

***Coney Night 5-7pm Upcoming Dates:***

***April 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> , May 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> , June 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> , July 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>***