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### **QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS**

In less than 24 hours, we will welcome a new season and with it, the realization that longer and warmer days will soon be upon us.

Spring is a time of renewal, growth, and the inevitable 'spring cleaning.' We symbolically toss back the curtains and open our windows to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine while taking a long look around our homes, yards and neighborhoods. So little time, so much to do.....but where to start?

For many of us, 'spring cleaning' extends beyond the confines of our homes. We tackle home improvement projects, yard clean-ups, and renovations of all shapes and sizes. These projects improve the aesthetic appeal of our homes and neighborhoods, but there is a larger and more important issue at stake: maintaining the excellent quality of life that we have come to expect and enjoy in the town of Brighton. "Pride of ownership" has long been a Brighton trademark, and our residents have worked hard to maintain the value of their homes. Our excellent and affordable housing, outstanding schools, quality community services, and location, are often cited as driving forces that contribute to a strong and vibrant community and draws new families to our town.

As you consider new projects this spring and summer, and in the interest of being a good neighbor, we ask that you review the proper procedures and guidelines before starting any home or yard project.

An ideal starting point is the town of Brighton's Web site at [www.townofbrighton.org](http://www.townofbrighton.org). At the touch of a mouse, you can view the municipal Town Code, which contains all of the Town's ordinances and local laws. There you will easily find an abundance of information and helpful tips to guide you along the path from project start-up, to permits and enforcement. The Town Code spells out in clear language the necessary steps for maintenance, compliance, and ultimately, reporting of violations. Samplings of issues that are addressed in the Town Code are: Noise Ordinances, Junk Vehicles, Property Maintenance, Tree Planting and Preservation, Yard Debris and Collection, etc. As we enter the spring and summer months, these are timely issues that combine to create a code of living that promotes not only an aesthetic appeal, but also the right to peaceful living in neighborhood harmony.

When residents don't realize that their conduct or property maintenance violates the Town Code, sometimes a kind word or helpful gesture is all that is needed to prevent a problem from escalating. In most instances, once a possible violation is pointed out, residents voluntarily fix the problem. When that fails, the necessary measures and

guidelines are in place to correct the problem. A phone call or visit to Town Hall will lead you to the correct department that will address your particular need, or you can contact Brighton Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Marshall, Chris Roth directly at 784-5220 or [chrisroth@rochester.rr.com](mailto:chrisroth@rochester.rr.com).

Over the years, we have heard from residents at our Town Board meetings, public hearings and community forums about various issues of concern. The Town Code is updated periodically as new amendments are adopted by the Town Board, often as a result of your input and suggestions. It is important that residents know that their complaints will be taken seriously, and with an eye toward resolution and compliance. At its March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Town Board responded to concerns of residents who live near properties that are chronically non-compliant with regard to property maintenance, by approving increased fines for repeat offenders. As always, we encourage you to make your concerns known to us. Our shared community goal is to ensure that Brighton neighborhoods remain strong and beautiful.

Being a good neighbor is easy. All it takes is a little foresight and planning, plus a healthy dose of thoughtfulness. We are mindful that as good neighbors, we must abide by the rules and regulations that are put into place for the benefit of all. Peaceful living is a tradition that we cherish in Brighton. Please do your part to ensure that all of us can continue to live in harmony. Happy spring!