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A crowd gathers around a statue of Howell icon Duane Zemper that was unveiled Sunday at its location outside the Howell Carnegie District Library. SEAN BRADLEY/LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Brighton plans new tax proposal, \$500K in reductions

Susan Bromley  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Brighton City Council has a new plan for solving a \$2 million deficit and finding money to fix roads after voters turned down a tax request in August. The plan starts with \$500,000 in cuts, \$350,000 of which officials said will come in concessions from employees and retirees. And the council plans to ask voters in May for a new 2.5 mill levy for 7 years that will generate \$115 million yearly for streets. The new tax request would represent a 40% reduction from the August proposal for 4.3 mills for 10 years that failed by 128 votes.

"We came really close to getting the millage passed," Councilmember Jim Bohn said Thursday. "The message I heard is that we asked for too much. We're asking for less money now and a shorter term and, coupled with cuts to employees and other revenue, we have a new plan to fix the roads."

The changes were recommended by a task force consisting of Bohn, Mayor Jim Muzzin and Councilmember Jon Emaus.

Bohn said while the council was in "consensus," various votes will need to be taken, including on ballot language for the tax proposal. He expects that vote in December or January. The savings to the budget from pension, healthcare and salary changes also

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## Statue of Howell icon Duane Zemper unveiled

Decorated WWII veteran, photographer recognized for contributions

Sean Bradley  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Many people who met Duane Zemper have a story to tell of the Howell icon. "He was one of the best teachers I've ever met," said Howell resident Gary Finch, who co-owned part of Zemper Photography Studio with Zemper and

Zemper's son Steve. "He told me, 'If you don't learn something new every day, you've wasted your time.'"

A statue of Zemper was unveiled Sunday on the lawn of the Howell Carnegie District Library, honoring him on what would have been his 99th birthday. He died in 2016 at the age of 96.

The statue, which was started in 2016 after Zemper's death, weighs 647

pounds and stands 7 feet tall. It also incorporates Zemper's philosophy into its design.

Created by Kristine and Colin Poole, it shows Zemper holding a camera and leaning on a stack of books. It includes approximately 50 "Easter eggs," bits of trivia about Zemper, his family and

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## Zemper

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more.

"He gave enough to this community. It's nice he's getting some recognition for it," Finch said.

Derek Crandall, a Howell portrait photographer who has heard many stories about Zemper from Finch, said the statue looks "amazing."

He believes it will help the community learn more about Zemper, honor creativity, emphasize the importance of history and instill a sense of pride in the people of Howell and Livingston County.

Those are the things that Mike Hall, "Zemp Legacy Committee" chairperson, said the project should accomplish.

Zemper's photography will be the first step for people to learn about him and his contributions to the community, Crandall said.

Zemper was a decorated World War II veteran, serving as an aerial combat photographer during the war, a professional photographer in the Howell area for nearly 50 years, and an active volunteer with the Howell Area Archives. His work forms the basis of the archives' photo collection. He saved many historical photos of the Howell area.

Zemper's son Dan was in attendance at Sunday's event, which included an open house at the Howell Opera House. Many of the Zemper family members were in attendance for the event as well.

He said his father may have been overwhelmed by the idea of being honored.

"It demonstrates what the community thought of him, which was beyond the scope of what I understand that to be," Dan Zemper said. "He enjoyed being very involved. He wasn't one to do anything halfway." The project is only partly complete.



The event continued at the Howell Opera House, where a capacity crowd watched a video documenting Duane Zemper's life, heard a proclamation via state Legislators from Gov. Rick Snyder, and Howell Mayor Nick Proctor re-proclaimed "Duane L. Zemper Day" as Nov. 4, which was also Zemper's birthday; he would have been 99 years old. PHOTOS BY SEAN BRADLEY/LIVINGSTON DAILY

It will also have an educational component in the form of a large book permanently mounted next to the statue that will list all of the donors who made donations toward the project on one side and have Zemper's story on another.

The story of Zemper's life for this portion of the project is being written by Joyce Fisher of the Howell Area Archives in the Howell Carnegie District Library.

That portion of the project is planned to be completed within the next six months, Hall said.

Contact Livingston Daily reporter Sean Bradley at 517-552-2860 or at [sbradley@livingstondaily.com](mailto:sbradley@livingstondaily.com). Follow him on Twitter @SBradleyLD.



A flyover of WWII vintage aircraft occurred as part of the unveiling ceremony that honored Zemper.