



# Genoa Township

October 2002

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## New Fire Station Under Construction

Preliminary groundwork has begun on the Genoa Township Fire Sub Station No. 5. The contract was bid and executed with Brivar Construction last June for the sum of \$780,000.00. First National Bank in Howell is providing financing. The building will be constructed of a brick veneer to match the Genoa Township Hall as well as the design of our existing office. An architectural rendering of the Substation by Lindhout Associates Architects is provided.



## Fall Leaf Collection

### A Chance to Save on Mulch for Next Spring

The Township is instituting a new program for our fall leaf drop-off. Drop-off dates are scheduled for October 26th and Nov. 9th and Nov. 23rd at the Township Hall from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. In previous years we contracted with Waste Management for collection and disposal of yard waste. This year we will provide a mulching service at the Township Hall. We will take your leaves and process them through a mulcher and then return them to you for use in your flower and vegetable gardens. According to local master gardeners the best mulch you can use on your property is your fall leaf collection. If you do not want the mulched materials returned, you may leave them at township hall. Any mulch not returned would be used on the 45-acre parcel that the township hall sits upon.

*Burning leaves contributes to air pollution. Please consider other options when choosing to dispose of your fall leaf collection.*

## Notice

- If you are voting absent voter ballot it is important to return your ballot no later than the Monday before the election. Unlike our Florida neighbors, absent voter ballots are not counted after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. *We received many ballots after the polls closed that could not be counted in the August Primary.*
- Help your local fire department find your home in an emergency. Reflective address markers are still available at the Township Hall. The cost is \$15.00
- Effective March 1, 2002 - Genoa Township no longer accepts postmarks as the date of payment. *Payments must be received in the township office no later than the due date. Payments can be made in person Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or put in the drop box located at the front entrance of the Township Hall or by mail, please allow time for delivery.*
- Genoa Township now charges a \$25.00 fee on all checks returned for any reason.

2911 Dorr Road  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Phone: 810.227.5225  
Fax: 810.227.3420

Visit us online:  
[www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org)



## Polly's Practical Points

- Leaves are the best compost you can use in your flower and vegetable garden. Bring your fallen leaves to the Township and we will mulch them for you.
- Fall is the best time to "put your garden to bed". Cut off dead stems or flowers a few inches above the ground.
- Gather dried seeds for distribution in other areas of your garden or give them to your neighbors for planting.
- Considering this summer's drought be sure to soak all your plantings down to the roots to help them survive our Michigan Winter.

## Bulky Item Disposal

Genoa Township has a contract with Mister Rubbish for curbside disposal of large items. The agreement reached by our township board allows for a 50 - 50 sharing of the reduced cost of \$12.00. Before this policy was instituted residents would call Mister Rubbish for a pickup and would pay \$15.00 for each item. With our new contract the cost is \$12.00, \$6.00 paid by the resident and \$6.00 paid by the township. Many of our residents took advantage of this offer and this policy remains in effect with the following terms and/or conditions:

- The Township Treasurer's office will provide a single sticker to each township homeowner for \$6.00 for a special curbside pickup of household waste. The Township General Fund will pay the other \$6.00. Residents may purchase additional stickers for \$12.00 each should they require additional service.
- The stickers will expire on 12-31-2003 and should be used in a timely manner.
- Residents may place collection items, with the sticker attached, at their curbside on their **REGULAR REFUSE COLLECTION DAY**.
- Large items include but are not limited to household appliance such as water heaters, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. *Any appliance containing Freon must have the Freon removed by a certified contractor prior to collection. The contractor performing the Freon removal will attach a Freon removal certification sticker to the appliance.*
- Other items eligible for collection include stuffed chairs, couches, dining room tables, mattresses, televisions, and other bulky items not exceeding 3' X 4' in area or weighing more than 60 lbs.
- Miscellaneous bundled or boxed household items, including building debris generated from a remodel or home repair, are limited to one cubic yard or a total area of 3' X 3' X 3'. *All miscellaneous items must be bagged, boxed or bundled so that one person can efficiently handle them.* Each bag or box should not weigh more than 60 lbs.
- Bundled items such as carpet must be cut in lengths no greater than 5 feet in width and weigh no more than 60 lbs. each.
- Glass must be removed from doors and windows prior to collection. Broken glass must be securely boxed and clearly identified to limit the potential for injury to refuse collectors.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Greenways Grant

In September of 2002, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan awarded Genoa Township a Greenways Initiative Land Grant in the amount of \$34,300.00 for continued work on our bike/walk path. The grant is for the section of Bauer Road from Brighton Road running approximately one mile south. Boss Engineering will complete the design and specifications this fall and winter with construction beginning next spring. The Bauer Road Greenway will provide a connection to the newly constructed bike path running along Brighton Road. This new section will provide a link and access to the Brighton State Recreation Area.

The Brighton State Recreation Area consists of nearly 5000 acres of rolling woods and meadows interspersed with lakes, streams and marshes. There are several campgrounds, beaches and hiking and mountain bike trails. The Brighton State Recreation Area provides a multitude of year round activities. Beach and picnic areas are available on Bishop Lake and Chilson Pond, both of which have concessions, boat rentals and play areas as well as swimming and picnicking. The Chilson Unit also has four picnic shelters available for reservations. The park offers a variety of camping alternatives including modern and rustic. The Recreation Area also provides complete equestrian facilities including a riding stable with rental horses, staging area and 25 miles of bridle trails. In the winter, residents can enjoy the snowmobile and cross-country ski trails, also ice fishing and skating.

The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, founded in 1984, is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to the future of southeast Michigan. The Foundation works to improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan by supporting a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs.

Governed by a board of 50 community leaders, the Foundation makes grants to outstanding charitable projects in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. The Foundation has assets of nearly \$330 million and since its inception, has distributed nearly \$122 million in 15,350 grants to nonprofit organizations.

*Genoa Township wishes to thank Township Planner Kelly Kolakowski, and Amy Ruthig for their work and effort in successfully applying for and receiving this grant.*



## View Ballot On-Line

### *The Secretary of State has your Ballot on Line*

Voters wishing to view their ballot or find their polling place may do so by logging on to [www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org). This address will provide a link to the Secretary of State. Then, simply type in your name and address and click on the icon to view your ballot as well as your polling location. In addition to candidates seeking office there are four proposals on the ballot that are lengthy and may need your review prior to Election Day. They too will be included on your ballot. The proposals are as follows:

- AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW

- A PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE BONDS FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS PROJECTS, STORM WATER PROJECTS AND WATER POLLUTION PROJECTS
- A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO GRANT STATE CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH BINDING ARBITRATION
- A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REALLOCATE THE "TOBACCO SETTLEMENT REVENUE" RECEIVED BY THE STATE FROM CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS



## Hilda Kirsch

Hilda Kirsch has passed a milestone as an employee of Genoa Township. She recently was honored for her twenty years of service. Before joining us, Hilda worked as a financial assistant with Howell Public Schools. In 1982 she was hired as the Deputy Treasurer under Lucille Glynn. Hilda now works in the Assessing Department and is the first person to greet residents needing assistance in that department. In addition to her work at Genoa Township, Hilda is a homemaker and decorator. She makes the most beautiful floral arrangements. An example of her work can be seen in the two big pots outside of the front doors of the Township Hall. Hilda is married to John Kirsch and they have four grown children: John, Adam, Victoria, Christina and nine grandchildren. Hilda is looking forward to retirement in a few years. We congratulate her on her anniversary and wish her good health, happiness and prosperity.

## Rolling Thunder

Harleys, Hondas and Yamahas roared up the driveway to the Genoa Township Hall on Saturday, Sept 28th. Michigan State Police and officers from Livingston County Sheriff's Department escorted the nearly 100 cyclists through the county. Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 sponsored the event. They came to remind us of those men and women who remain prisoners of war and missing in action.

Township Clerk Polly Skolarus accepted a flag on behalf of the township residents. The black flag insignia includes a profile of a soldier and the letters MIA and POW with the words You are not forgotten written across the bottom.

The flag will fly in their honor just under the township flag on Dorr Road. Genoa

Township will remember this event by having this first flag placed in the Township Hall as a remembrance.

Rolling Thunder's "major function" according to Randy Soubliere, Chairman of the Board for Rolling Thunder, "is to publicize the POW-MIA issue; to educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars; to help correct the past and to protect the future veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war or missing in action. We are committed to helping American veterans from all wars."

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost."

## Help Needed at the Memorial Garden

Master Gardeners, Boy Scouts, and Service Groups - We can always use your help. If you need a volunteer project, the Genoa Township Memorial Garden is a great place to meet new friends and learn from the experts. Contact [polly@genoa.org](mailto:polly@genoa.org) for more information or check the news bulletins section of the township web site.

## Thanks Media Net

A special "Thank You" to Jay Gibbons of Media Net for providing Internet service to the township at no charge. Please check out our new and improved website at [www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org).

# The Soda Fountain of Life

By Polly Skolarus

Imagine 100 persons sharing a root beer float. Everyone sticks their straw in the fountain and drinks. How much root beer you personally drink takes away from what your neighbor might consume who is drinking from the same fountain. This is exactly how it works when you use your well water. We need to be concerned not only with the quantity of water we share but also the quality.

We have many newcomers moving into our community. In rural Livingston County, water does not come from the Detroit River. Even if you are on municipal water here in Genoa Township you are still getting well water. Know that our groundwater is a precious resource that needs to be protected and conserved.

First we need to conserve our water. We have had a very dry summer and many of us are soaking down our grass on a daily basis. Drinking water is more important than green grass. Less than an inch a week is enough to keep your grass green. Ask yourself how often and how long your automatic sprinkler is running. Our ground water will not last forever.

The second issue has to do with those many straws in the same root beer float. What goes down the straw will eventually come back up. Individual homeowners can damage our ground water. Each time a well is drilled in our community we open up a direct line for contamination to that underground natural resource. To protect our groundwater your wellhead needs to be protected.

The wellhead is the part of the well that can be seen above ground. It should extend at least 12 inches above the ground and be located well away from plants and animals. Never tie a dog to your wellhead unless it is very well trained. The well cap includes a small vent that allows air into the well but stops bugs and other debris from entering. It is important that the well cap be in place and that it be kept clean because this is the most likely entry for contamination to your drinking water. A small mouse will do more damage to your drinking water than to your house should it be allowed inside.

There are traces of arsenic in Livingston County well water, however, this is a small problem when compared with the damage individual homeowners do to our groundwater on a daily basis. Hire a qualified well driller. Take samples of your water to the Livingston County Health Department for analysis every five or six years. A partial chemistry analysis can determine hardness, iron, sulphate, nitrate, arsenic, coliform bacteria and barium.

Hazardous materials such as old paint, gasoline, oil and chemicals should never be located near your well. The damage they do may be uncontrollable. Today we hear about contaminants continuing to spread through our ground water ten and fifteen years after the spill.

You are responsible for the water you drink, please conserve and protect this life giving natural resource.

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Genoa Township

2911 Dorr Road  
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## Genoa Township Board Members

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Clerk • Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer • Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith • Jim Mortensen

Anthony Combs • Jean Ledford

