



Genoa Township News

July 2004

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Vote the Primary August 3, 2004

By Paulette A. Skolarus

Applications for **absent voter ballots** were mailed in mid June to all person eligible to vote absent voter ballot – primarily persons over 60 years of age and our handicapped voters. In just the few weeks since those applications were mailed, I have heard from so many residents who want only the ballot for the November General Election. Sure the General Election will allow you to vote for the next president of the United States, however, the primary allows you to vote and choose the person to represent you on local boards or offices.

The **August Primary, in some ways, is more important than the November General Election.** In the Primary members of each party nominate the candidates for the General Election. In August, voters must choose a party and cast votes for only those persons representing that party. As an example there are six persons running for trustee in Genoa Township. Four of the five republican candidates will be chosen and the democratic candidate will be chosen to then face off in November. The supervisor and clerk positions are also being contested in our community. There are two persons running under the Republican Party for Supervisor and two persons running under the Republican Party for Clerk. Only one of each of those persons will be on the ballot for the November General Election. So you will no longer have a choice if you wait until November because most of your local races for local government as well as some county positions will already have been decided.

So please don't diminish your right to vote by only voting in November.

Make your voice heard and vote both the primary and the general election. If your application was completed choosing to vote only the November election and you now wish to change your mind, please call my office and we will amend your application and send you a ballot.

If you are not one of our residents who were automatically mailed an application to vote **absent voter ballot**, you may obtain an application on the Internet site HYPERLINK www.genoa.org. Please click on that site then print your application and send it to Paulette A. Skolarus, Genoa Township Clerk, 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116, or FAX it to 810 227-3420.

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

Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

The General Fund budget may be viewed in its entirety at
HYPERLINK www.genoa.org

VOTING PROCEDURES

Where do I vote?

Most of our residents were mailed new voting cards just a few weeks ago. Those cards list your polling place for both the August and November Election. If you are not sure where to vote, you can find out on the Internet. Go to [HYPERLINK www.sospublicus.org](http://www.sospublicus.org) and enter your name. All your questions should be answered. If you still do not have the answers you need, call the clerk's office (810) 227-3420 and ask for the information you need.

What can I do if I spoil my ballot or make a mistake?

Simply return your ballot to your township clerk (if you are voting absent voter ballot). If you are voting in person just ask one of your precinct officials for another ballot and return the one that you made the mistake on.

Can a voter receive assistance in voting?

Any voter who requires assistance may be given assistance by just asking. Michigan law requires two-election officials of different parties to assist anyone who asks.

Are the polling places handicapped accessible?

Federal law requires that every precinct be made accessible to the handicapped. Genoa Township has purchased and provided special booths at tables so that all persons who choose to vote in person may do so sitting down.

Can I vote for republicans and democrats in the August Primary?

No you may not. You must choose your party in August. **You cannot split your ticket.** Splitting your ticket under this new computer age will simply void your ballot – the computer will reject your vote. So please don't waste your vote.

GENOA TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S OFFICE:

NOTICE

The 2004 summer tax bills that were mailed out this past week have an incorrect address on them. The township hall address is 2911 Dorr Road not 2311 Dorr Road. Please mail your tax payments to the 2911 address.

***Thank you,
Robin Hunt, Treasurer***

Robin Hunt, Township Treasurer 810-227-5225 ext.17
HYPERLINK mail to: robin@genoa.org

Renee Gray, Deputy Treasurer 810-227-5225 ext.18
HYPERLINK mail to: renee@genoa.org

Judi Smith, Assistant 810-227-5225 ext.16
HYPERLINK mail to: judi@genoa.org

Please Note: Even though all payments made at the Genoa Township offices are received at the Treasurer's counter, **separate checks are still needed for the different types of services.** Ex: Taxes, special assessments, sewer/water utility payments, etc. Most of the different payments are either paid to different entities or deposited into different banks.

2004 Summer Tax Bills

The 2004 Summer Tax Bills were mailed out to **all** Genoa Township property owners around the middle of July for 2004. If you do not receive a bill please contact the Treasurer's Office right away so that we can send you another copy. The Summer Taxes are due September 14, 2004. Any payments received after the due date will be charged a penalty. Payments can be made in person or by mail to the Township Treasurer's Office either by check, cash or money order. For your convenience there is a drop box located near the front entrance of the hall for after hours payments. Please allow sufficient time for mailing, as postmarks are not accepted. If you qualify, you can defer your summer tax by completing the form enclosed with your summer bill and filing it with our office prior to the due date.

From the Supervisor's Office; FAULKWOOD SHORES

The Faulkwood rezoning is the most controversial issue we have faced in many years. The request to rezone brought out hundreds of concerned citizens to the meetings of the Planning Commission and Township Board and both boards gratefully received a lot of useful and insightful information. I sincerely appreciate the candor and professional manner in which our residents presented their side of the issue. While growth, especially when it is close to your home, is difficult, local residents did a masterful job of asking the right questions and offering their views. Undoubtedly there will be more for us to address on this proposal and others like it in the future.

In case you did not see the newspaper articles or missed the information on the Township web site, the Genoa Township Board voted on June 1, 2004 to deny the request from Landtec, Inc. to rezone the Faulkwood Shores Golf Course from Public Recreation Facilities to Medium Density Residential. The reasons cited for the denial were:

- The plan was not Consistent with the goals, policies and future land use map of the Genoa Township Master Plan.
- The rezoning proposed was not compatible with

the site's physical, geological, hydrological and other environmental features.

- The applicant did not present evidence that they could not receive a reasonable return on investment through developing the property with one (1) of the uses permitted under the current zoning.
- The uses permitted in the proposed zoning classification were not compatible with the surrounding uses and zoning in terms of land suitability, impacts on the environment, density, nature of use, traffic impacts, aesthetics, infrastructure and potential influence on property values.
- There is not capacity of Township infrastructure and services sufficient to accommodate the uses permitted in the requested district without compromising the "health, safety and welfare" of the Township and it's residents.
- The applicant did not demonstrate a demand for the uses allowed in the requested zoning district taking into consideration the amount of land currently zoned for such uses.

We do not believe this issue is over; please stay tuned as the process continues. We will make every effort to keep you informed of our progress.

Sodium and Chloride Levels Rise At Lake Edgewood Wastewater Plant

Michael Archinal; Township Manager

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality places strict limits on the levels of sodium and chloride (salt) in wastewater effluent. Over the past four years the Lake Edgewood system has maintained compliance through the efforts of our customers. We appreciate this. Unfortunately, the levels have begun to rise and are now perilously close to the mandated limits. The most common source of sodium and chloride is water softener salt.

The Lake Edgewood Sewer System serves Genoa Township east of Kellogg along Grand River. The system serves the new Cortland Condominium project but does not serve Sylvan Glen Mobile Home Park. If the Marion/Howell/Oceola/Genoa (MHOG) Water Authority serves you you do not have to soften your water at all. MHOG water is softened at the water plant through a lime process. Softening the water further can lower its pH to the point that it could become corrosive to your pipes. MHOG provides water to properties west of Bendix on the north side of Grand River and properties west of Brighton Village Mobile Home Park on the south side of Grand River.

If you are served by Lake Edgewood sewer but do not receive MHOG water you are served by City of Brighton water or private wells. While City of Brighton water does have iron removal it is not softened. If you are connected to Lake Edgewood sewer, and you chose to use a softener, you must use potassium based regenerant. Also the recharge or brine tube must not be connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Once sodium and chloride are in the wastewater there are no economically viable means to remove them. If the system does not maintain compliance, heavy fines will be levied which will ultimately have to be paid by the users. If you are on MHOG water you do not need to soften in the home. If you are on a private well or served by City of Brighton water and feel you must soften please do so in a manner consistent with Township requirements. Should you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact the Township at (810) 227-5225, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 P.M. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

For those of you who missed the notice in our March newsletter, we are again including the following reminder. Please take note of the following collection dates for refuse collection in Genoa Township.

Labor Day, Monday, September 6
All collection days will be one day behind
Week of September 6 – September 11

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 25
Only Thursday and Friday will be one day behind

Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25
*****No change in collection day*****

New Years Day – Saturday, January 1, 2005
*****No change in collection day*****

Good News for Crooked Lake Road

Resident living along Crooked Lake Road will be pleased to hear that work on the re-construction of the old blacktop road (from Dorr to Fishbeck) is scheduled to begin August 2, 2004. The one-mile, quarter of a million dollar project will include engineering, crushing and reshaping of the exiting pavement, the addition of two lifts of asphalt (totaling four inches), and blacktop approaches to the existing driveways as well as restoration. Construction is expected to be complete by September 1st.

Mulch and Make a Difference A Cut Above the Rest

Whether you cut your grass yourself or hire an outside firm, please remember the following:

When cutting your grass along the roadside, direct your grass clippings back into your yard so that the cuttings will not end up in our storm drains. Even if your lawnmower is not a mulcher you can make it work like one if you start on the outskirts of your lawn and re-direct your grass clippings into the center so that they are re-cut with each turn around the yard. Don't fertilize too often. Run off from your fertilizer drains into our lakes and wetlands and causes pollution and rapid weed growth.

If we all work together, we can protect and preserve our fragile environment. (A special thank you to all of our residents who notice when things are not right and ask us to include a note in our newsletter.)

Parks and Recreation

The Genoa Township Bike Path – Construction will begin late this summer on the two-mile stretch along Bauer Road. The difficulty has been in obtaining the necessary easements for construction. The project went out for bid in June. A grant application has been submitted to assist in the construction of the two soccer fields to be located behind the township hall. The soccer fields will be designed to accommodate six fields for our smaller athletes. In addition to the soccer fields, a bike path will be constructed around the wetland and adjacent to the fire hall. There is also a plan for a small fishing pier on the mini lake in the center of our site. The township will continue to fund SELCRA and Howell Parks and Recreation so that our residents may receive a discount when using those facilities.

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Genoa Township

2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116



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Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

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Jim Mortensen

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