



Genoa Charter Township News

September/October 2007

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From the Office of Township Clerk

Paulette A. Skolarus

Identification, Please

Effective for the presidential primary scheduled for Jan. 15, 2008, all residents will be required to show Michigan or school photo identification in order to receive and vote a ballot at the polling place. Please be kind to our election officials who will only be doing their job when they ask. No ballot will be issued to any person who does not have photo identification. Acceptable photo identification may be one of the following:

- Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal identification card
- A driver's license issued by another state
- Federal or State government-issued photo identification
- A U.S. passport
- Current student identification with photo
- Military identification card with photo
- Tribal identification card with photo

If the voter states that he or she has photo identification **but did not bring it to the polls** or if the voter states that he or she **does not have any form of photo identification**, the voter can vote by signing the "Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture Identification."

NOTICE: Vendor Permits Required

Vendors soliciting in Genoa Charter Township are required to obtain a permit from the Clerk's Office. If any person comes to your home soliciting, ask to see a copy of their permit. If they don't have a permit, advise them that they must first make an application at the Genoa Township Hall. This action will prevent any unlicensed persons from knocking on your door. The township retains copies of their driver's license when providing a permit. In addition there is a \$100.00 non-refundable application fee.

Genoa's Web Site

Genoa created a township web site long before most other local communities in Livingston County. Our web site will provide you with information about meetings of the local boards going back to January of 2000. The site www.genoa.org includes miscellaneous ordinances as well as the township zoning ordinance. There are maps (wetland, zoning, future land use, etc.) assessing information, newsletters, and other information related to the governing of our township. Check it out.

NOTICE: Waste Management

Genoa Charter Township has been advised that some cell phone carriers and Vonage will not allow their users to dial 800 numbers. Residents who need to call Waste Management Customer Service and cannot call the 800 number may call an alternate number (1-248-596-3500) and press 0 for Customer Service.

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

Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

From the Office of the Township Supervisor

Gary McCririe

Each year, the assessor reviews sales of properties to determine if assessments are equitable to the value they bring in the market. The assessor also reviews changes that have taken place through demolition or new construction. A detailed property record card is kept on file for each property listing the physical characteristics of each parcel. You can help yourself and our assessor by making sure the information on file is as accurate as possible by coming into our office or you can go to our website at www.genoa.org. Please contact the assessing department at (810)227-5225 if you have any questions.

If you believe your property is improperly assessed you have the right to appeal. Property assessment appeals are heard in March of the current assessment year. The dates the Board of Review convenes for this purpose are established by the State of Michigan. Every property owner is notified each February (around Valentines Day) of their property's assessed value, taxable value, property classification, Principal Residence Exemption status, and the dates of the Board of Review on their Notice of Assessment. Once the final date to appeal assessments has passed, the assessment is finalized and by law cannot be changed.

Many people get their first tax bill in July and wish to appeal their assessment at that time because they feel it may be too high. The window of opportunity to appeal that assessment has passed by this time. But understand the limits of your assessor's job responsibilities and of the Board of Review's responsibilities: if you think your taxes are too high, the Board of Review is not the proper forum to voice your concerns, they can only address your properties assessment.

The Principal Residence Exemption allows a property owner an exemption from paying school operating taxes, up to 18.000 mills, on their principal residence that they own and occupy. You are only entitled one of these exemptions at a time. Commercial and Industrial properties, as well as rental, vacation properties or property owned in another state do not qualify because they cannot meet the principal residence status. Many believe they can still have this exemption on a home they have vacated while waiting to sell it, or that they get to choose from two of their property's which one should have the exemption. This is untrue. If you own property in another state and are getting a Homestead Exemption on that property, you will not qualify for the Principal Residence Exemption in the State of Michigan. You MUST take the exemption on the property used as your principal residence you occupy. If you have vacated the home as your principal residence, you must rescind the exemption.

It is the property owner's responsibility to apply for this exemption. Applications are available at the Township Hall or by calling (810) 227-5225. Once you have been granted the exemption, it will remain in place until such time the use of the property changes. It is your responsibility to notify the assessor's office if you have changed the use of the property (renting it or moving are some examples) and a Principal Residence Exemption Rescind/Withdrawal form will need to be filed. You should always confirm on your assessment and tax notices the percentage allowed of this exemption. If you do not agree with what your notices indicate, you should call the assessor's office immediately.

If you purchase a Non-Homestead property that you intend to occupy as your principal residence, the filing deadline to receive the exemption that year is May 1st. If you do not meet the criteria for the Principal Residence Exemption by that date, your exemption will become effective in the following year. The Principal Residence Exemption is not pro-rated. May 1st is an absolute deadline mandated by state law.

You may also visit the State of Michigan's web site at www.treasury.mi.us/ for printable Principal Residence Exemption Forms.

Fall Cleanup

Our fall leaf collection program has been scheduled for the following dates at the Genoa Charter Township Hall:

Saturday - Oct. 27, 2007 - from 9:00 a.m. until noon

Saturday - Nov. 17, 2007 - from 9:00 a.m. until noon

Please bring your leaves, small brush and other natural yard waste to the Township Hall on those dates for recycling. Brush and tree branches should be cut in three foot lengths.



From the Office of the Township Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Important Dates to Remember:

July 1, 2007	Summer Taxes Levied
Sept. 14, 2007	Last Day to Pay Summer Taxes Without Penalty
Dec. 1, 2007	Winter Taxes Levied
Feb. 29, 2008	Last Day to Pay Summer & Winter Taxes to the Township.
March 1, 2007	Penalty & Interest is applied to all unpaid taxes and are due/payable to the Livingston County Treasurer's Office.
Dec. 1, 2008	Dog Licenses Available for purchase
Feb. 29, 2008	Last Day to purchase 2008 Dog Licenses without a delinquent fee.

F.Y.I:

- If paying taxes in person, please bring your entire tax bill with you for a stamped paid receipt.
- Separate checks are required when paying for more than one type of service.
- All tax payments put in the Township Hall Drop Box will be mailed a paid receipt.
- If you have questions or concerns with your tax bill please contact the Township Treasurer's Office as soon as possible.
- Online check payments processed through your banks online service take much longer to be received at the Township Offices – please allow extra time. Postmarks are not accepted; payments must be in our office no later than the due date to avoid penalties.
- Tax/property information is available at our website, www.genoa.org
- The option to pay property taxes online with a credit card has been available to Genoa Township residents for over a year now. However, the company does charge a 3% convenience fee.
- The Township is currently working on adding the option of online debit payments. We are hopeful that this will be available in time for the 2007 winter tax season. Our utility department is also working on the capability of online payments for sewer/water bills as well.



Safe Delivery of Newborns Act 488 of 2006

In 2001 the Michigan Legislature passed the Safe Delivery of Newborns Act which allows parents who are unable to care for their newborn (within 72 hours of birth) to turn the baby over to employees of a fire department, hospital or police station with no questions asked. Public Act 488 of 2006 which took effect Jan 1, 2007 expanded the law to require all uniformed emergency medical technicians, police officers or firefighters responding to a 911 call to accept the unharmed newborn. The child is then released to temporary protective custody and is given to a private adoption agency for placement with an approved family. A 24 hour toll-free hotline is available at 866 733-7733 for further information.



Just for your information

Christmas Trees Collection – from Waste to Energy

Christmas tree collection will run for three weeks following the holiday. Place your tree at the curb on your normal collection day. The solid waste vehicles will collect your tree. If your tree is over six foot tall, please cut it in half so it can fit in the collection vehicle. Waste Management separates your trees from the normal waste stream and hauls them to Woodland Meadows Landfill in Wayne County, where they become organic waste, a source of energy.



Organic waste produces a gas called methane as it decomposes. Methane is an energy-rich gas that is a natural gas. In this case the gas is sold to the Ford Michigan Truck Plant in Wayne, Michigan. At the Ford Plant, the gas is burned to generate steam and electricity used to operate the plant.

Today, there are almost 400 operating landfill gas energy projects in the United States and Michigan has 27 of them.

Walking

If you walk the bike path south along Bauer Road you will come across a memorial to Chase Michael Edwards. It is a special place built by Chase's parents in memory of their son who was a victim of depression. It is a place to rest and ponder a terrible loss to any family who loses their child in the prime of their life.

On July 20, 2006, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed House Bill 4375 after it was initially introduced by Rep. Chris Ward. This bill encourages school districts to include age appropriate instruction programs regarding the warning signs and risk factors of suicide and depression. The Edwards family does not want to see another child lost and is hopeful that their effort will not be in vain. It is so easy to walk away and think that this could never happen to you. Know the warning signs. It is sometime the overachiever who thinks that they are never good enough.



photo by Victoria Moilanen



Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116



POSTAL PATRON

Genoa Charter Township Board Members

Supervisor

Gary McCrie

Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford