The Soda Fountain of Life
By Polly Skolarus

Imagine 108 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 ground water 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 chemcials 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.

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.

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The Brighton State Recreation Area consists of nearly 5000 acres of rolling woodlands 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 riding stables 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 skiing.

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Governed by a board of 50 community leaders, the Foundation makes grants to outstanding charitable projects in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Ingham, St. Clair and Livingston counties. The Foundation has assets of nearly $380 million and since its inception, has distributed over $122 million in 15,350 grants to nonprofit organizations.

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Bulley 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 conditions:

- The Township Treasurer's office will provide a single sticker to each township household 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, furniture and appliance such as water heaters, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. An example of 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, washing machines, television sets, and other bulky items not exceeding 3’ X 4’ in area or weighing more than 60 lbs.

- Miscellaneous bonded or boxed household items, including building materials 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 bogged, boxed or bundled so that one person can efficiently handle them. Each bag or box should not weigh more than 60 lbs.

- Examples of such carpet must be cut in lengths no greater than 5 feet in width and weigh no more than 60 lbs. each.

- Glassware must be removed from the 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 grants were for the section of Bauer Road from Brightton Road running approximately one mile south. Bright Construction will complete the design and specifications this fall and winter with construction beginning next spring. The Bauer Road Greenways will provide a connection to the newly constructed bike path running along Brightton Road. This new section will provide a link and access to the Brighton Recreation Area.

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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角逐.org. This address will provide a link to the Secretary of State’s website. 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**

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 1000 motorcyclists to Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 sponsored the event. They came to remember and honor those who are still in service, those who served, 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 American flag. The flag will fly in their honor just under the American flag.

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 for more information or check the news bulletins section of the township web site.

Thanks

Rolling Thunder

Riding Thunder

Hilda Kirsch has passed a milestone as an employee of Genoa Township. She recently was honored for her 50 years of service. Before joining us, Hilda worked as a financial assistant with Howell Public Schools. In 1982 she was hired as the Deputy Township Clerk. Under Lucille Glynn, Hilda contributed to the Assisting Department and was the first person to enter residents’ records, existence 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 that sit outside of the front doors of the Township Hall. Hilda is married to John, and they have four grown children: John, Adam, Victoria, and nine grandchildren. Hilda is looking forward to retirement in a few years. We congratulate her on her longevity years of service and good health, happiness and prosperity.

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Genoa Township Board Members
Supervisor • Gary McCrerie
Clerk • Paulette Skolarus
Treasurer • Robin Hunt
Trustees
Todd Smith • Jim Mortensen
Anthony Combs • Jean Ledford

Genoa Township Fall Leaf Collection

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 Lindblom Associates Architects is provided.

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