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A Reminder from Township Treasurer Robin Hunt

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The SET is the 6-mill tax that was created in 1994 as part of Proposal A. The tax, while collected by the Township, is actually a state tax used to support all school systems in the state. For 2003 only, the tax rate will be reduced from 6-mills to 5-mills. In 2004 the rate will return to the usual 6-mill rate. While the SET will be paid in the summer, the early collection of the SET will not change the overall amount of property taxes paid each year. Beginning in 2003, the SET will not be collected on the December winter tax bill as it has been in the past.

Genoa Township taxpayers in the Howell School District have already been receiving a summer tax bill. The Howell School District collection will remain the same (1/2 the school tax in the summer the other 1/2 in the winter) with the addition of the SET tax in the summer.

The best way to estimate what your bill will be in July is to find your 2002 Winter Tax Bill, then find the line item titled “State Ed Tax” then locate the dollar amount to the right. This is what will be shifted to the summer bill (a little less for 2003). For taxpayers in the Howell School District expect that amount plus what you were billed on your 2002 Summer Tax bill. For taxpayers in the Brighton, Hartland and Pinckney Schools you will only receive the SET plus a 1% Administration Fee. This is only an estimate based on the taxable value for 2002.

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 capitalized as in the picture. “D” shaped exit holes can be seen on the trunk. The bark will split like the tree is growing too fast for its skin. “S” tunneling can be seen on the trunk and branches. The Larva is a light green color approximately one inch in length.
**From the Treasurer’s Office:**

**Dog License**  
Livingston County residents are required by law to obtain a license for their dogs (along with a rabies certificate) each year. Fees for 2003 are:  
- $25.00 Male/Female  
- $7.00 Spayed/Neutered  
- $10.00 after February 28  
Licenses may be purchased in person or by mail. The documents needed to obtain a license are: a current rabies certificate, and proof of spay/neuter if applicable. If you are a new resident to the township, or if you have a new dog, the lower rate applies.  
Hunt/Sportsman –  
- $30.00 Grand River and Dorr Roads and be established at Genoa Township Hall on Monday, February 3, 2003. The second public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2003.  
Contracts for engineering for extensions to the Genoa bike/walk path were let to Boss Engineering. This next summer’s expansion will run approximately one mile north and one mile south of Brighton Road along Bauer. Both projects should be bid in early spring.

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**Our Lake Levels - At a New Low**  
It’s Nothing New - Just Part of Nature  
By: Patasha A. Statter

Lakes and water sports are a main source of recreation in Livingston County. When our lakes are low, it is an all too familiar story. Today our water levels appear to be at an all time low. 2002 was a very dry year - very little rain and minimal snowfall.  
Mankind, watershed, rainfall, seasons and evaporation are all ingredients to be considered in dealing with our fluctuating lakes.  
Mankind - Whether you believe it or not, you do make a difference. Domestic use such as how often you water your lawn, how often you wash your car, or if you have a septic system can all play a part in our lakes.  
Our watershed and our lake levels. Since water in Livingston County is supplied by underground wells, the water pumped from the aquifer depletes the groundwater and subsequently the lake levels.  
Water is a term used to describe all that land area surrounding a lake that feeds the lake. If the watershed ratio is small in comparison to the lake, the lake will see many and great fluctuations in lake level. If the watershed is large, the lake will maintain a better overall balance in relation to depth. Therefore, when more land sheds its water into the lake, it provides a more stable lake level with less fluctuation.  
In reverse, the level of the lake is also a good predictor of the groundwater table. The groundwa- ter table is the top of an area that is saturated with water. The water table may be very near the ground surface or may be hundreds of feet beneath it. Gravity moves water through the ground and into our lakes and aquifer. At the same time lake water will also move into the ground and away from the lakes during drought. It takes a significant amount of water to raise the water table, and usually requires above normal precipitation for many months before any long-term effect is noticed.  
Rainfall - The quickest way to replenish our lakes is rainfall. Rainfall also quickly diminishes the lake level as it moves away from the lake into the ground. It is easy to understand why lake levels are low when there is little rain or snow. A quick rain, however, is just a temporary fix during a drought. The rainwater runs too quickly from the watershed to the lake because it does not have time to be absorbed into the ground since the ground is too hard to absorb the water.  
Recharging the groundwater raises the water table and provides a long-term benefit to the lake level. A soaking rain does just what it says soaks the ground for the best groundwater recharge. Runoff from snowmelt can raise water levels during the spring either as it flows over the land to the lakes and rivers or as it filters into the soil. Mid-temperatures that produce a slow, steady snowmelt cause a significant amount of infiltration that recharges the groundwater. This increased groundwater helps sustain water levels over a longer period of time. However, a pronounced rapid warming often produces more snowmelt than the soil can absorb. The result is mostly surface runoff into rivers that produces short-term rises like those caused by a heavy rain. The word “spring” is just that, a slow release of winter water into the land.  
**Evaporation** - A constant factor in dealing with diminishing lakes and streams. An temperature, direct sunlight, humidity, and wind all play a role in evaporation. Cold winter winds deplete the open water of the lakes until such time as the lakes freeze over. Hot summer winds moving over the cooler lake water cause the surface water on the lakes to evaporate. It is difficult to measure evaporation but it can be readily seen in the ever-dropping lake levels, especially during a drought.  
**Seasons** - Lake levels begin to rise when grass no longer needs to be cut. A significant amount of water is depleted during the growing season due to transpiration, which is the natural uptake of water into the root system of plants for nourishment. Since plants are the main source of evaporation from most wetlands, once they stop photosynthesizing they also stop growing and evaporating water. Our late autumn did not help us this past year.

**Updates:**  
- Our new fire substation is just about complete. It is located just off Dorr Road near the I-96 expressway. We are hopeful that it will be up and operating early this spring.
- Contracts for engineering for extensions to the Genoa bikeway path were let to Boss Engineering. This next summer’s expansion will run approximately one mile north and one mile south of Brighton Road along Bauer. Both projects should be bid in early spring.
- Lake Chemung residents have petitioned the Township Board for the creation of a special assessment district for aquatic weed control. The first public hearing was held on Monday, February 3, 2003. The second public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 17th.
- Mountain View Subdivision has petitioned the Township Board for road improvement to Catalpa and Grand Circle. The Township General Fund will support this project out of the general fund with the township paying 25% of the cost and the residents paying 75% over three years with 1% interest.
- The American Red Cross will again be conducting a blood drive at the Genoa Township Hall on Friday, April 4, 2003. Our goal is to receive 35 units of blood that will help save 140 lives. Please call the Genoa Township Hall and ask for the Clerk’s Department to schedule an appointment on that date. Our number is (810) 227-5225. “Together we can save a Life!”
- The Humane Society of Livingston County will be holding a Grand Opening for the new animal shelter located at 2464 Dorr Road in Genoa Township. Activities will take place on April 5, 2003, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. and will include a tour of the facility, story reading, face painting and dog obedience instructions for children as well as adults. Phone (517) 992-8050 for information.

**Polly’s always-practical points**  
Our residents have been so kind as to lash out with compliments about the professional look of our newsletter. At the same time they have inquired about possibly wasting their hard-earned tax dollars. In answer to all your comments and concerns, I first want to thank you for your kind remarks and then I want to thank First Impression Printing and Graphics and Don Corea for their subsidy of this colorful newsletter. They have assisted us with this cost and we are able to bring this new look to you for only pennies more and issue.

Our goal is not only to keep you informed but also to hold your interest as you peruse our quarterly newsletter. If you would like to see other information or materials in this newsletter, please let me know what is important to you. Our first and foremost concern is knowledge and passing that along to you.

(Bodies of Information: The Internet and Consulting Limnologist Wallace Fusilier)
Polly's always-practical points

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Just a quick note from Gary McCririe

• Senator Valde Garcia will be closing his old office off Grand River and Dorr Road and be establishing regular office hours at the Genoa Township Hall to meet with constituents. Regular office hours will be established on a month-to-month basis. Watch your local newspaper for dates and times.
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It's Nothing New - Just Part of Nature
By Paulette A. Skolarus

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Genoa Township Board Members
SUPERVISOR
Gary McCririe
CLERK
Paulette Skolarus
Treasurer
Robin Hunt
Trustee
Todd Smith
Jim Mortensen
Anthony Combs
Jean Lefford

We’re in Quarantine and We’re Infected

By Polly Skolarus

Livingston County is just one area in quarantine because of the Emerald Ash Borer. We are in the same pack as Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne and Monroe Counties. We’re all infected and we need to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. The best way to do that is to tell you and ask you to tell your neighbors and friends about this invasive pest that is desiccating our beautiful ash trees. Don’t let the ash go the way of the elm.

The Emerald Ash Borer
Don’t Move Ash Firewood

It’s fireplace time and the Emerald (the color of the beetle) Ash Borer is an unwanted hitchhiker. It’s a wood boring beetle that kills ash trees. This new invasive pest may have slipped into southeast Michigan a few years ago. Now the sound of chainsaws signals the end of thousand of dying ash trees along our streets and in nearby wood lots. The Emerald Ash Borer probably invaded southeast Michigan in pieces of untreated wood from its native home in Asia. In a similar way it can re-infest ash trees hundreds of miles away from its present location - through movement of infested firewood.

What you can do to help.

Simply, DON’T MOVE ASH FIREWOOD OUT OF THE LIVIGNGTON COUNTY QUARANTINED AREA. This pest came into Michigan as a hitchhiker. Don’t repeat the process by taking it on vacation with you. Imagine how your favorite vacation spot would look with some or all of the beautiful ash trees gone.

It’s the law.

Transporting ash firewood is prohibited and Livingston County is under quarantine. Violators may be subject to fines and/or imprisonment. If you’re not sure whether the wood is ash, it’s better to be safe than sorry.

Symptoms of ash borer infestations:

The crown of the tree will die-off and new side shoots will proliferate as in the picture. “D” shaped exit holes can be seen on the trunk. The bark will split like the tree is growing too fast for its stem. “S” tunneling can be seen on the trunk and branches. The Larva is a light green color approximately one-inch in length.

For more information contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture at (517) 373-1087 or on the Internet at www.michigan.gov/mda keyword: ash borer.