



# Genoa Township News

Spring 2006

## IN THIS ISSUE

Electronics Recycling.....	2
Charter Township Status .....	3
Volunteer Honored.....	3
Recycle Your Shoes.....	4
Holiday Schedule .....	4

## **Absent Voter Applications laws are changing**

As you are aware, laws governing elections were recently changed. Local clerks now assume the responsibility for holding school, library and other elections. Your representatives in Lansing have established a maximum of four election dates in a calendar year. This year elections have been scheduled for May 2, 2006, August 8, 2006 and November 7, 2006. The May election will be primarily for school and library proposals. *The turn out for last year's school election was a whopping 35% turnout in contrast to the usual 5% or 10% voter turnout for regular school elections.* We want to continue with this success.

There has been discussion in Lansing concerning the arbitrary mailing of absent voter applications to persons 60 years of age and better (*as a result of the Detroit fiasco*). In an effort to resolve this issue, Genoa Township has available a card that will need your signature if you should wish to vote *absent voter ballot* on a regular basis and would like applications automatically mailed to your home each time there is an election. Please drop by the township office and pick up a request form. Residents 60 years of age and those with disabilities have already been mailed a registration card. Applications for Absent Voter Ballots for the May election are also available at the clerk's office.

## **The American Community Survey** *By Paulette A. Skolarus*

Watch your mail! While you may not be so lucky with those state lottery tickets, you may be one of the lucky recipients of the new American Community Survey. Several weeks ago my office received a call from a resident who had received a survey. At that time we were unaware of the new program recently implemented by the Federal Government and thought that the survey was a hoax. In fact the U.S. Census Bureau has implemented a new program called the American Community Survey. It is a new way that the Census Bureau is using to collect data about characteristics of the population throughout the decade rather than once every ten years. The survey is part of the census and is required by law to be completed.

Your answers remain anonymous, and must be returned to the Census Bureau. Your address is selected at random and your chance of receiving a survey is 1 in 480 in any single month. This would mean that as many as 240 households in Genoa Township may receive a survey within the next year. This survey is ongoing and will continue from year to year so please do not disregard the survey should you receive one at your home.

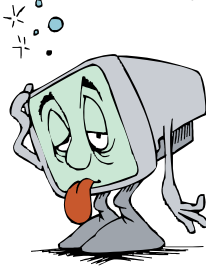
The Census Bureau will protect the confidentiality of your information. Federal law sets a high fine and imprisonment for any Census Bureau employee who gives out your personal data to anyone inside or outside the government. If you require additional information, you may contact Dwight P. Dean at (313) 259-1158. Mr. Dean is the Regional Director of the Michigan Area Census Bureau.

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

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

## Electronics Recycling at Recycle Livingston

Electronic waste is toxic to the environment. Computers contain from three to eight pounds of lead, cadmium, beryllium, chromium, mercury, dioxins and other toxic chemicals. Dispose of your old computers, radios, television, DVD's, cell phones, etc. at Recycle Livingston. Site hours are the first and third Wednesday of the month from 12:00 to 5:30 and every Saturday (except for holiday weekends) from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is minimal and you will be saving our planet from unnecessary pollution. For more detailed information, call Linda Berch at 1 (517) 548-4439 or log on to [www.recyclelivingston.org](http://www.recyclelivingston.org).



## Absent Voter Application

Print your absent voter application on line [www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org) Complete and mail it to Genoa Township Clerk, Paulette A. Skolarus 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

**Application for Absent Voter's Ballot**

Complete and Return to:  
Genoa Township Clerk  
Paulette A. Skolarus  
2911 Dorr Road  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Phone (517) 277-5225 Fax (517) 277-3420

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Election Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Check reason(s) why you are requesting ballots. If a reason is not checked for an election, the election ballot will not be issued for that election.  
**WARNING:** A person who makes a false statement in this Declaration is guilty of a misdemeanor.

I am 18 years of age or older.  
 I appear to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the election date I wish to vote on election day.  
 I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another person.  
 I cannot attend the polls because of the nature of my religious observance.  
 I have been appointed or elected to public office or a position other than the polls.  
 I have a conflict of public interest or a job-related assignment on that day.

I declare the foregoing statements to be true.

**SIGN HERE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DO NOT COMPLETE UNLESS YOU WANT BALLOT SENT TO OTHER THAN YOUR REGISTERED ADDRESS.**  
**SEND PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

(NO.) \_\_\_\_\_ (STREET) \_\_\_\_\_ (CITY) \_\_\_\_\_ (STATE) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

**CLEVER'S USE ONLY** **May 3, 2005 School Election** Ballot No. \_\_\_\_\_  
First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Declaration: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Application To Vote-Poll List (Absent Voter)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby certify that I am registered and qualified elector in the precinct above and hereby make application to vote at the above-indicated election.  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME)  
 School Election: May 3, 2005  
Ballot No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Voter No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of elector)

**SIGN HERE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (SIGNATURE OF ABSENT VOTER)  
**(REGISTERED HOME ADDRESS OF ABSENT VOTER)** \_\_\_\_\_

## IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

Introducing Dr. Gregory M. Tatara

By Paulette A. Skolarus

The answer is yes and no... Not the kind of doctor that can cure your illness but one that will keep the Genoa Township utility systems healthy – that is when our system gets sick. Genoa Township recently hired Dr. Greg Tatara, formerly with the Livingston County Drain Commissioner's office, to oversee the operation and maintenance of the township's numerous utility systems. Greg graduated magna cum laude from Gannon University with a Major in Biology. He then received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University with a Major in Environmental Microbiology.

Greg has been married to Michelle for a little less than ten years. They have two children, two-year old Asheleigh and five-year old Madelyn. Madelyn recently visited the University of Michigan to see a heart doctor. She was so enamored with the female doctor at the heart center that she made her choice to become a pediatrician so that she could help little children who are sick. Greg was glowing with pride when he heard her decision. Little Asheleigh has brown hair and blue eyes and keep the whole family hopping while she goes through potty training. In his spare time Greg plays hockey and hunts deer and turkey with a bow and arrow.



Dr. Greg M. Tatara

Today, Dr. Tatara will provide a few answers about your water system. First, should hot water be used from the tap to make coffee or tea? Answer: Dr. Tatara - The heat from hot water leaches the lead from the lead solder from your plumbing system into your hot water. Lead also leaches into the cold water but not in the same capacity. The simple solution is to use cold water and reduce the possible lead contamination. Run your cold water for a few seconds before use. If your home was built within the last ten or twelve years then you should not have a problem because the lead solder that used to be used on copper pipes is no longer used in new-home plumbing construction.

My hot water smells bad but not my cold water; what is wrong? Answer: Dr. Tatara - Calcium, magnesium and iron settle on the bottom of your hot water tank and should be periodically cleaned out. Shut your gas or electricity off to your tank and let the water cool down. Then shut off the water at the top of the tank and draw the water out from the bottom. This will drain some of those minerals that have settled on the bottom of your tank. Then turn the bottom spigot off and refill the tank and re-start the heat source. Sometimes the "rod" is the problem and a plumber should look at that, because removing the rod may vacate your warranty.

## Blood is a Regional Issue

The American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan has issued an emergency appeal for all eligible blood donors. Recent winter storms and low holiday season donor turn out are having a dramatic effect on local blood supply inventories

“Since Thanksgiving weekend, the community blood supply has been on a steady decline. The Red Cross must collect 3,000+ more blood donations than are currently scheduled in just the last two weeks of December to meet hospital needs,” explains Diane Ward, CEO of the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region. “Please help by donating lifesaving blood during the holiday season.”

While the American Red Cross in Southeast Michigan distributes blood to 47 hospitals in Southeast Michigan, the blood supply essentially belongs to the community and, as such, is a regional issue...critical to our quality of life and, in fact, to life itself.

In response to the growing need for blood in Southeast Michigan, Red Cross efforts increased donations locally by nearly nine percent in 2004. Still, local blood donations meet only 80 percent of our true need. Donations made in other regions must make up the balance.

To donate, you must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be 17 years old or older.

## Charter Township Status

Genoa Township recently initiated the process to seek Charter Township status. What this means for our community is an enhanced ability to protect the township borders. In addition to boundary protection against annexation, the Charter Act grants charter township additional flexibility in their organizational structure. Note: Genoa Township does not intend to increase taxes and in fact cannot do this. Our decision to change is merely to protect the land boundaries that define Genoa Township.

Recent Michigan Supreme Court decisions indicate a township must provide more than minimum service to obtain greater protection from annexation. However, the exemption from annexation is not complete immunity. Although the authority of the State Boundary Commission over charter township land is lessened by the action, the commission may order a portion of the township to be annexed to straighten the boundaries and avoid instances in which portions of the township are completely surrounded by the annexing city. Township territory can also be annexed if the citizens themselves initiate the action.

## United Way Honors Volunteer

Genoa Township Trustee Jim Mortensen was recently honored with the Livingston County United Way Donald Epley Lifetime Community Service Award. Mortensen serves on the United Way committee that decides how the agency's money is spent. In addition, he helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the United Way working with companies in the community. Genoa Township is pleased to have Mr. Mortensen as a township trustee who continues to serve our community on both the Planning Commission and Township Board.

**Tao Quote: “Care about what other people think and you will always be their prisoner.”**

## Spring Yard Cleanup

A Spring Yard Cleanup has been scheduled for Saturdays, April 22 and May 20, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Residents may bring the yard waste to the Township Hall on those dates. Mister Rubbish will have trucks on site for the collection of small brush and other accumulated yard waste. The township regularly receives complaints about smoke from the burning of yard waste. Please recycle – Don't burn.

## Recycle Your Old Shoes and Fill a Need

Recycle Livingston recycles shoes. They are recycled in open markets in other overseas countries – Africa and the Middle East. Men's dress shoes, women's practical shoes, athletic and casual shoes, work boots and sandals are accepted. Please no rubber thongs, spike heels, slippers, winter boots or ice skates. Drop them at the following collection sites:

- Recycle Livingston
- Vitamin Planet in Howell
- Great Escape in Howell
- Kroger Store in Brighton
- Livingston County Environmental Health Department  
(2300 E Grand River, Howell)



## Help Wanted

The township is looking for as many as ten persons to work on the upcoming elections. This is a paid position and the dates are August 8, 2006 and November 7, 2006. Work hours are from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Election Day. There is also a two-hour training class that is mandated before anyone can be scheduled. Please call the Clerk's office at (810) 227-5225 and ask for an application to be mailed to your home.

## Holiday Schedule for Refuse Collection

**Memorial Day** – Monday, May 29, 2006 – There is no collection scheduled. Collection will be one day later for that entire week.

**Independence Day** – Tuesday, July 4, 2006 – The Monday collection will be on schedule. Homes scheduled for Tuesday will be Collected one day later.

**Labor Day** – Monday – September 4, 2006 – There is no collection scheduled. Collection will be one day later for that entire week.

### Fireworks...

**Did you know that you need a permit to put on a Fire Works display? Requests for permits need to go to the township board for approval. At least one million dollars in liability insurance is required.**



photo by Victoria Moilanen

PR-SRT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT No. 298  
BRIGHTON, MI 48116  
ECRWSS

Genoa Township  
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116



### Genoa Township Board Members

#### Supervisor

Gary McCrie

#### Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

#### Treasurer

Robin Hunt

#### Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford

POSTAL PATRON