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The American Community Survey

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.

Genoa Township News

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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.

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.

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 was used to connect copper pipes is no longer used in new home plumbing construction.

My hot water smells bad but not 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 “road” 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 act, 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. Mr. Rusbush 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.
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Genoa Township Board Members

Supervisor
Gary McCririe

Clerk
Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer
Robin Hurt

Trustees
Todd Smith
Jim Mortensen
Steve Wildman
Jean Ledford

2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: 810.227.5225
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Visit us online:
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