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Genoa Charter Township Board Members

Supervisor

Gary McCrie

Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford

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.genoa.org. This address will provide a link to the Secretary of State. 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 six proposals on the ballot that are lengthy and may need your review prior to Election Day. Please refer to pages 4 & 5 in this newsletter to view all the proposals that will be on the ballot Nov. 6th. Please use these pages to help you make your choices on Election Day. This will help speed the process at the polls.

The township web site includes an application to vote absent voter ballot. Please be assured that your vote will count on Election Day. A special counting board has been set up to tally those ballots electronically. The process provides for complete integrity and confidentiality of your vote. If you have questions, please contact me (polly@genoa.org).

RECYCLING – THE PROCESS

You no longer have to keep your paper, plastic and glass separated within your bin because machines separate them for you! Single Stream recycling is sorted into paper, containers and glass right when it enters the recycling line at the Duncan facility. With help from a disc screen the 2-dimensional material (paper) rides along the top of the discs and is delivered to the paper line. The 3-dimensional material (containers and glass) falls through the empty space in between the discs. After falling through, the 3-dimensional material goes through another screen with small spaces in between the discs, which allow for the glass fines to drop through while carrying the containers to the plastics line for further sorting.

Usually, pizza boxes cannot be recycled due to the grease soaking into the cardboard. However, the top portion of the box is often free from grease stains. Simply tear the box in half, recycle the portion that is free from the grease stains and place the grease-stained portion of the box in the trash.

Paperboard boxes are accepted as recycling as long as the boxes do not have a wax coating. Test to see if a box has a wax coating by running your fingernail down the box. If there is no waxy residue, throw it in the recycling bin!

Be sure to check all plastic items for a recycling number 1 through 7 before throwing them in the trash. Items you would not expect to be recyclable, such as jewel cases and kids toys, are indeed acceptable in the recycling stream.

For more information visit www.MyGarbageGuy.com to sign up for their rewards program.

2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: 810.227.5225
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Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

We are a zoned community

By Paulette A. Skolarus

What that means is that even though you own the land, you cannot put just anything you want on the property you own. Every piece of land within the township has a specific zoning. It can be residential, industrial, commercial or neighborhood service district. Under residential zoning there is agricultural (10 acres), country estate (5 acres), rural residential (2 acres), low-density residential (1 acre), suburban residential 21,780 sq. ft., etc. Each one of these zonings has separate dimensional standards including size of homes, setbacks and heights of buildings. Being a zoned community helps to maintain a certain standard for our community and allows for orderly development. Just imagine your subdivision if we did not have an ordinance in place. A person could build their home on the lot line instead of 50' from the street; they could run their industrial business out of their home; they could park their boat or trailer in the front yard; they could park commercial equipment at their home; they could install a pool without a fence. Our ordinance is in place to protect you and your property values.

The same types of standards are established for commercial, industrial and neighborhood service properties. Any person or property owner along Grand River must conform to the standards of the Township Zoning Ordinance. The township may not deny a person or property owner from developing their land but may compel them to meet the standards of the ordinance. In the case of commercial development, the township requires a certain amount of landscaping, colors of the building to be compatible with neighboring properties, setback standards, height of the building, etc.

On occasion, property owners cannot meet the minimum requirements for development of their property. The Zoning Board of Appeals will then hear their petition for a variance at a public hearing. Neighboring properties within 300 feet of the development are notified in writing by the township of the request for a variance. Then a public hearing is scheduled to hear the request of the business or homeowner. Any variance that is approved must carry with it a practical difficulty related to the land. Examples of practical difficulty include: the land or parcel is too small to accommodate the minimum square footage or the terrain will only provide one housing site. Each petition is handled on a separate request and the Zoning Board of Appeals does not set precedents when it comes to granting variances.

The Genoa Township Zoning Board of Appeals is made up of five members of the community. Our board consists of Chairman Jeff Dhaenens, Marianne McCreary, Chris Grajek, Steve Wildman and Barbara Figurski. These members make tough decisions and have a difficult job in denying or approving variances for our residents.

Quotes from Will Rogers:

"The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket"



I-96/Latson Road Interchange Project Ready to Break Ground

by Kelly VanMarter



Fast Facts:

- Winning bids for the project total \$24.6 million, which is \$15 million less than projected.
- Construction will begin in October 2012 with the majority of the construction expected to begin in the spring 2013.
- The project is expected to be complete in November 2013.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will move forward with a long-anticipated project to build a new interchange at I-96 and Latson/Nixon Road in Genoa Township. The interchange project is the culmination of many years of collaboration between MDOT, the Livingston County Road Commission, Genoa Township, Livingston County Board of Commissioners, U.S. Representative Mike Rogers (R-Brighton) and other local partners to secure funding for the project.

The interchange project involves:

- Constructing a pedestrian walkway over the expressway.
- Paving Nixon Road to Chilson Road.
- Constructing a new bridge extending Latson Road to Nixon Road over I-96.
- Building new ramps to connect I-96 and Latson Road.
- Reconstructing and relocating Grand Oaks Drive and Beck Road.
- Reconstructing and widening Latson/Nixon Road.
- Resurfacing and widening the Grand River Avenue /Latson Road intersection.
- Removing the existing rest area along westbound I-96, just past Lake Chemung.
- Constructing a pedestrian path along the west side of Latson/Nixon Road from Grand River Avenue to Beck Road.

In a separate project, expected to be constructed concurrent with the Nixon Road improvements, the Township is proposing to extend the pedestrian pathway from Beck Road to the Three Fires Elementary School property on Crooked Lake Road.

The interchange project has been over two decades in the making and the Township is proud to have played a role in bringing it to fruition. Please contact Kelly VanMarter if you have questions or would like to see a copy of the plans.

2012 Property Taxes

By Robin Hunt, Treasurer

The 2012 Summer Tax Bills were mailed out to **all** Genoa Township property owners July 2, 2012. The Summer Taxes were due September 14th. As of September 15, a 1% per month interest charge is assessed on unpaid summer taxes. If you are unsure if your summer taxes have been paid, please contact the Township Treasurer's Office at 810-227-5225 or check our website at www.genoa.org. Summer taxes are payable to the Township until February 28, 2013.

The 2012 Winter Tax Bills will be mailed out December 3, 2012 and are payable through February 28, 2013. If you do not receive your bill please contact us, so that we can send another copy. If you move or change your mailing address please notify the Genoa Township Assessor's office in writing. Failure to receive your tax bill does not waive penalties and interest.

Partial Payments

Did you know that once you receive your summer and/or winter tax bill you can begin making payments toward your taxes due? Partial payments can be made as often as you like and for any dollar amount. For summer taxes partial payments can be made at Genoa Township from July 1st through February 28th. If you do not qualify or have not filed a Summer Deferment form interest will be applied after September 14th however the interest will only be charged against the remaining balance. For the winter taxes partial payments can be made from December 1st through February 28th. Please contact the Township Treasurer's office if you have any questions.

Proposals

Proposal 12-1

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 – THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW

This public Act of 2011 would:

- Establish criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts.
- Authorize Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials.
- Require EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved.
- Alternatively, authorize state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree.

Should this law be approved? **Yes** **No**

Proposal 12-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

This proposal would:

- Grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor unions.
- Invalidate existing or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements, including employees' financial support of their labor unions. Laws may be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking.
- Override state laws that regulate hours and conditions of employment to the extent that those laws conflict with collective bargaining agreements.
- Define "employer" as a person or entity employing one or more employees.

Should this law be approved? **Yes** **No**

Proposal 12-3

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

This proposal would:

- Require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower; by 2025.
- Limit to not more than 1% per year electric utility rate increases charged to consumers only to achieve compliance with the renewable energy standard.
- Allow annual extensions of the deadline to meet the 25% standard in order to prevent rate increases over the 1% limit.

- Require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.
Should this law be approved? **Yes** **No**

Proposal 12-4

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MICHIGAN QUALITY HOME CARE COUNCIL AND PROVIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR IN-HOME CARE WORKERS

This proposal would:

- Allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC). Continue the current exclusive representative of in-home care workers until modified in accordance with labor laws.
- Require MQHCC to provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage the cost of in-home care.
- Preserve patients' rights to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the MQHCC registry who are bargaining unit members.
- Authorize MQHCC to set minimum compensation standards and terms and conditions of employment.

Should this law be approved? **Yes** **No**

Proposal 12-5

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT

This proposal would:

Require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.

This section shall in no way be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in this Constitution.

Should this law be approved? **Yes** **No**

Proposal 12-6

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS

This proposal would:

- Require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels.
- Create a definition of "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" that means, "any bridge or tunnel which is not open to public and serving traffic as of Jan 12, 2012."

Should this law be approved? **Yes** **No**

**YOUR VOTE
COUNTS!**



Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

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Happy Birthday

Happy 100th Birthday to Dorothy Estelle Musch

Dorothy is a Genoa resident who served as Township Clerk for Genoa from 1956 to 1963. She is pictured in this photo with Wendy Peterson who also served our community as Clerk from 1975 to 1986.



Fall Leaf Collection

Fall Leaf Collection Dates have been scheduled for Saturday Oct. 20, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until noon and Saturday Nov. 17, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Township Hall parking lot 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI.