



Newsletter February

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Utility Director*

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Paulette Skolarus,
Township Clerk*

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*From the Zoning
Department*

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FROM THE DESK OF GREG TATARA, UTILITY DIRECTOR
**Don't Flush Your Money Down the Drain
Whether Septic or Sewer**

Whether city sewer or septic system, using flushable wipes can cause big time sewer woes and in some cases big time money. It is very important to remember that by its very definition, something is “flushable” if it can pass through a toilet and into a sewer system; however that does not mean because it can be flushed that it should be flushed. Toilet manufacturers test the strength of their toilet’s flush mechanism by measuring the number of golf balls that the toilet can flush. Therefore, golf balls are by definition flushable, but by no means should we ever consider that they should be flushed. In this article we will emphasize why flushable wipes can cause the same types of problems as if you were flushing golf balls down your toilet.



Flushable wipes clogged in pipe.

More and more people are using flushable wipes for personal hygiene and convenience. However, unlike traditional toilet paper, these wipes have a much thicker woven fiber nature, which makes them much slower to break down or decompose biologically and also very resistant to break down by mechanical processes typical in municipal operations. As



Pump impacted with flushable wipes.

a result, in a typical rural residential septic system, they build up in septic tanks reducing treatment and capacity. They can clog pipes by getting stuck in bends or catching on joints, and if your septic system has a pump, they can clog and bind pump parts. In the municipal sewers flushable wipes can become an even greater expense item as they can clog sewer mains resulting in expensive and devastating sewage backups into homes or businesses. Wipes frequently clog pump impellers by balling up in the center or winding tight around rotating parts to slow or halt pump performance. These impacts cost significant money as we have to increase cleaning maintenance of sewer pipes and pump stations, including more frequent change out of pumps. Unfortunately, these increased costs are passed onto all residents in the form of higher sewer rates.

FROM THE DESK OF PAULETTE SKOLARUS, CLERK Another Invasive Species Arrives in Michigan

The red swamp crayfish is bright red with raised bumps on the back and claws. They build deep burrows into our lakes and streams and cause shoreline erosion. The only good thing about them is that they are delicious and you can cook them up just as you would lobster.

The red swamp crayfish compete with native crayfish and prey on small fish and fish eggs. Most recent sightings occurred in a small retention pond in Novi where traps collected 699 crayfish between July 17 and July 26 2017. Crayfish were then found in Farmington Hills and Livonia. The red swamp crayfish spread quickly and lay as many as 600 eggs. These very aggressive invaders are difficult to eradicate because they burrow down so deep in the ground.



Example of a Red Swamp Crayfish.

DNR officials are trying to control the population. So if you see what looks like a tiny lobster, maybe at a lake, or just trying to cross the road, take a picture, trap it, so it doesn't spread to new water bodies (but be careful: like most crayfish, they do pinch). If you do trap one the DNR recommends putting them in your freezer. Yes, you may consume them, but it is important to emphasize that it is not legal to possess live red swamp crayfish. The DNR doesn't want people to catch the crayfish live and potentially expand their range by taking them to another lake or stream. For more information, check out the DNR site at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/> for more information.

FROM THE DESK OF ROBIN HUNT, TREASURER 2017 Summer & Winter Taxes

All Genoa Township property owners were mailed 2017 Summer & Winter Tax Bills. The Summer Taxes were due 9-14-17 and the Winter taxes are due 2-28-18. If you are unsure if your Summer or Winter bills have been paid please contact the Genoa Township Treasurer's Office or check our website.

Tax payments can be made at the Township Office by cash or check, Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00, or by mail to 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116. If paying by mail, please allow extra time for delivery, **postmarks are not accepted**. For your convenience there are two drop boxes located at the Township for after hours payment.

You also have the option to pay your taxes with a credit card or by electronic check on our website. The company providing this service will charge a 3% convenience fee on credit card payments or a \$3.00 flat fee for electronic check payments. Credit card payments cannot be made at the Township.

(The Township Citizen Guide, Performance Dashboard, and all documents related to our CVT Revenue Sharing may be found on our website at www.genoa.org.)

Addresses and phone numbers to remember:

Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, MI 48116
810-227-5225
www.genoa.org

Livingston County Treasurer
200 E. Grand River
Howell, MI 48843
517-546-7010

FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT Permits and Waivers



Land use permits or waivers are required for any construction including additions, interior renovations, detached garages or pole barns, fences, decks and pools. Land use permits may also be required for small scale projects such as inflatable or collapsible pools, retaining walls, gazebos, temporary storage shelters including canopies, finish basements, and patios. The Township Zoning Department encourages you to call our friendly staff to verify if a permit is needed.