



Genoa Charter Township News

June 2009

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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

Genoa Township official Drop-off site for *Cell Phones for Soldiers*

Cell phones for Soldiers, initiated in 2004 by then 14-year-old Brittany Bergquist and her 13-year-old brother Robbie, use funds from recycled cell phones to buy prepaid phone cards for active duty military members – to help connect them with their families. After reading a story about a soldier who ran up a huge phone bill calling home from Iraq, these two teenagers decided to help out. They started by opening an account with \$21.00 of their own money. They are collecting cash donations and old cell phones. The cell phones are recycled for cash and the proceeds are used to buy prepaid calling cards for our soldiers serving in the Middle East. **Cell Phones for Soldiers** is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Through generous donations and the recycling of used cell phones from drop-off sites across the country, Cell Phones For Soldiers has already raised more than \$1 million and distributed more than 75 thousand phone cards to soldiers overseas.



Every 16 months, U.S. consumers are retiring an estimated 130 million cell phones and only 10 percent of those phones are being recycled. There are tons of phones in junk drawers across America, waiting to be collected and turned into calling card cash. For more information, please visit our website www.genoa.org or their official website www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com

Floodplain Ordinance Enacted

In September of 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) completed their mapping of Livingston County floodplains. Genoa Charter Township has enacted a Floodplain Ordinance to protect those property owners who could potentially be affected by flooding. A number of resources have been placed on the Genoa Charter Township website at <http://www.genoa.org/departments/codeenforcement/floodplain>. Residents who wish to determine if their property is within a FEMA mapped floodplain can view the Township floodplain map generated from FEMA data or view a list of properties sorted by property address number. Homeowners who need assistance challenging their designation in a FEMA mapped floodplain can find on the site a list of recommended businesses from Livingston County.

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

Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

Website

We welcome all visitors to our new and improved Township website. Launched in March of 2009, the website has been designed to service the needs of the community. The Township Staff will be adding more information and functionality as time goes on so please keep the site book-marked. Any comments or suggestions about our new website can be sent to adam@genoa.org.



From the Desk of Polly Skolarus

Donate your old shoes



Today, there are many third world countries where children do not have shoes. Because they do not have shoes they are not allowed to attend school. They also are subject to infection when small cuts allow parasites to enter the body. You may have noticed drop boxes for clothes and shoes around Livingston County. **Soles4Souls**, a Nashville based company facilitates the donations of both new and used shoes, which are used to aid the hurting worldwide. Soles4Souls has distributed more than 5 million pairs (currently donating one pair every 13 seconds) to people in over 125 countries, including Honduras, Uganda, Romania, and the United States. The charity has been featured in Runner's World and the Green Guide by National Geographic. Visit www.giveshoes.org for more information or just drop your gently used tennis shoes or walking shoes in one of the bins along Grand River in Genoa Township.

Livingston County Solid Waste Program

The Livingston County Solid Waste Program will hold two household hazardous waste collections this year. This free event is open to all Livingston County residents wanting to remove hazardous chemicals from their homes, workshops and garages. Collections will be held August 8th and October 10th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. To obtain a list of accepted items, please visit www.co.livingston.mi.us/solid-waste or call (517) 545-9609. Residents must schedule an appointment.

Poison Ivy

Like many spring leaves, poison ivy leaves start out bright red and then turn a shiny green for summer. (Keep in mind that new leaves can always be reddish even when they sprout in mid summer.) Sometimes it's hard to tell poison ivy from the tree it's climbing on, so be careful when cutting down trees for firewood as you can get a good case of poison ivy from the vine stuck to the tree - even in winter. Burning poison ivy is not a good idea because the smoke from the ivy invades your lungs and causes a rash inside your lungs. You can almost count on poison ivy growing at the edge of every field within its range and at the edge of every road, and the edge of every forest. It's a ground cover, a bush, a tree climber and it changes with the seasons.

Teach yourself and your kids to recognize those shiny leaves of poison ivy or poison oak. This oily plant changes with the seasons. Visit: <http://poison-ivy.org/> for complete information. Should you or one of your children come in contact with this poison, washing with Fels Naptha soap and water within 15 minutes of contact should prevent a breakout from the rash-spreading oil. Apply calamine lotion or cortisone cream to ease the itching. Be sure to wash your clothes and sneakers to prevent re-contamination.



Increase Your Gas Mileage

Have you ever noticed that gas mileage in your family is different when different people are driving the same car. That is because some family members drive differently. Usually, men are more aggressive. If your gas guzzler is wasting too much gas, try the following techniques that were used by the Ford Team and recommended to consumers to save gas:

- Slow down and maintain even throttle pressure;
- Accelerate gradually and brake smoothly;
- Maintain a safe distance between vehicles and anticipate traffic conditions;
- Coast up to red lights and stop signs to avoid fuel waste and brake wear;
- Minimize use of heater and air conditioning to reduce the load on the engine;
- Close windows at high speeds to reduce aerodynamic drag;
- Apply the "Pulse and Glide" technique while maintaining the flow of traffic;
- Minimize excessive engine workload by using the vehicle's kinetic forward motion to climb hills, and use downhill momentum to build speed; and
- Avoid bumps and potholes that can reduce momentum.

(These techniques helped achieve 1,408 miles on a single tank of gas for the Ford Fusion Hybrid – averaging 81 m.p.g.)



Help Keep Pollution Out Of Storm Drains

There are four million vehicles in Southeast Michigan. Practicing good car care helps protect our lakes and rivers. **How?** Storm drains and roadside ditches lead to our lakes and rivers. So if motor fluids or dirty water from washing our cars are washed or dumped into the storm drain, it ultimately pollutes our waterways. In addition fertilizer should be kept away from our storm drains for the same reason.

- **Wash it – on the grass.** The dirty water and soap should not be sent to the storm drains.
- **Minimize.** Use less soap.
- **Sweep it.** Do you have extra fertilizer, grass clippings, or dirt on your driveway? Sweep it back onto your lawn.
- **Keep it Clean.** Whether in the street or in your yard, remember to keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers away from storm drains.
- **Only rain in the drain.** Never dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty or soapy water down the storm drain. Once down the storm drain, all of these materials pollute our lakes and rivers.

(Recommended by SEMCOG partners for clean water)

Looking For Your Input

In these trying economic times there is significant competition for attracting and retaining residents and businesses. Genoa Township has undertaken a project to brand and market our community. If you would like to participate in this effort please visit our website: www.genoa.org. Look for "Genoa Charter Township Survey" under the Latest Township News section. If you do not have internet access and would like to complete a survey please contact the Township Manager's office at 810.227.5225

Notice: Genoa Township Residents

Refuse collection for July will be on your regular collection date either Monday July 6th or Tuesday July 7th.



Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

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

POSTAL PATRON

Soccer/Flag Football anyone?

Our soccer and flag football fields behind the Genoa Township Hall are now open. Contact SELCRA (810) 299-4141 or Howell Parks and Recreation (517) 546-0693 to schedule use of the fields. If you're not playing the game, come and walk the .67 mile pathway that loops through the natural wetlands and rolling terrain of the 45 acre township site. All are welcome.



From the desk of Township Treasurer

By Robin Hunt

2009 Summer Tax Bills will be mailed out to all Genoa Township property owners on July 1, 2009. The 2009 Summer Taxes are payable, without penalty, through September 14, 2009. 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 Rd., 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 payments. All tax payments left in our drop will be mailed a paid receipt. You also now have the option to pay your taxes, with a credit card or by electronic check, online at www.genoa.org. Official Payments Corporation is providing this service for the Township. They will charge an additional convenience fee of 3% for credit card payments or a flat fee of \$3.00 for electronic check payments. *Credit card payments cannot be made at the Township.* Township residents also have the option of making partial payments toward their tax amounts due. However, payments can only be made during the tax collection season. Genoa Township can begin excepting payments on your summer tax bill after July 1st. Please feel free to contact the Township Treasurer's office if you have any questions regarding your taxes.

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE