From the desk of Township Treasurer
By Robin Hunt

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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.
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;
- Avoid bumps and potholes that can reduce aerodynamic drag;
- Minimize use of heater and air conditioning;
- Coasting to stop signs and red lights reduces brake pressure;
- Maintain a safe distance between vehicles and anticipate traffic conditions;
- Keep cold engine from warming up;
- Avoid unnecessary acceleration;
- Use cruise control;
- Avoid rapid acceleration and short trips;
- Avoid idling;
- Avoid air conditioning;
- Avoid tire pressure.

(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.

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.
Increase Your Gas Mileage

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• Slow down and maintain even throttle pressure.
• Accelerate gradually and brake smoothly.
• 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.
• Avoid bumps and potholes that can reduce momentum.

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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.
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(Recommended by SEMCOG partners for clean water)

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