



Genoa Charter Township News

Summer 2010

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Clerk

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Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

The Census Counts

If you live in Michigan be counted in Michigan

By Paulette Skolarus

The 2010 Census will begin this spring. Most citizens see the census merely as the government asking personal questions, but the political significance of the census is far greater. The 2010 census will impact Michigan financially, as well as politically. So make sure that you are counted correctly. The census will define who we are as a nation. The data will define the changes that have occurred since the founding of our country. The first census was held in 1790.

Every resident of the United States should be counted by the Census ONCE, and in the right place. Michigan residents who spend the winter months in the Sunbelt are often referred to as snowbirds. Snowbirds, who are Michigan residents most of the year, should complete their census giving Michigan as their usual address – because that is where they live most of the year.

Snowbirds, when you receive that Census questionnaire in the Sunbelt, simply enter zero for the number of people living there on Census day. Leave the rest of the form blank except for writing “usual address elsewhere”. Then complete the census form that you receive at your Michigan address.

College Students should be counted in the township, city or village where their family resides and not their campus dorm room or their apartment – which is a temporary residence. Tell your college student that you will fill out the census information for them and they will be counted in the right place.

Census forms do not ask where you live. That information comes from the bar code on the address label. Thus you will be counted in the Sunbelt if you complete the census form that you receive at your Sunbelt address. You will be counted in your dorm if you complete the census form that you receive at your temporary dorm or apartment address.

The census population count is the basis for determining how many congressional districts each state is apportioned. Snowbirds, who listed another state as their residence, caused the loss of one congressional seat in the 2000 census in Michigan. This loss lowered the power of our Michigan delegation and gave the seat to Florida. That decision also caused the loss of \$200 million dollars annually for the State of Michigan. Over the course of ten years, the loss ballooned to over \$1 billion dollars in lost revenue for our state. Your participation is critical to ensure that Michigan and Genoa Charter Township receive their fair share of Federal Revenue.

We Have a New Look

Genoa Charter Township would like to thank Susan Pominville of Abovo Visual Communications for her hard work in creating our new logo as seen on the cover of this newsletter. Community identity is an important tool for attracting economic development. The new emblem is part of an effort to brand the Township as an attractive place to live and work. Look for continued efforts in this regard as we wrestle commercial vacancies and declining property values.

Hartland Schools Special Election

Hartland Schools has scheduled a special election for Tuesday, May 4, 2010. This special election will be held at the Genoa Township Hall located at 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116. Residents may print an application from the township web site www.genoa.org, complete the application and either FAX it to (810) 227-3420 or mail it to:

**Paulette A. Skolarus, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, MI 48116**

The Hartland School Election will again be held at the Township Hall. For your convenience, applications for absent voter ballots will be mailed to all residents of Hartland Schools residing in Genoa Township.

Protecting Our Own

On Oct. 15, 2009 Governor Granholm signed a wetland bill that will keep Michigan's wetland program administration in the state rather than being transferred to the Federal Government. Earlier this year in her State of the State budget message the Governor proposed that the federally delegated wetlands program be returned to the U.S. E.P.A., a move that would provide a savings of 2.1 million to the state general fund. The final bill was a compromise of the House and Senate. The original plan would have left Michigan without any wetlands protection. Michigan has 5.5 million acres of wetlands and 20% of the earth's fresh water and this new plan ensures that those resources are protected by the people who understand their value and necessity – the people of Michigan. Hooray for Michigan.

Soccer Anyone?

Our athletic 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 .65 mile pathway that loops through the natural wetland and rolling terrain of the 45 acre township site. Our new gazebo and restroom attached to the athletic fields will be open this spring. All are welcome.



Warning: 2010 Census Cautions from the Better Business Bureau

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. . . . Census. **REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS...**
- While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.**
- The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Anyone asking for that information is **NOT** with the Census Bureau.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.
- Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Your Taxes:

Township Treasurer, Robin Hunt

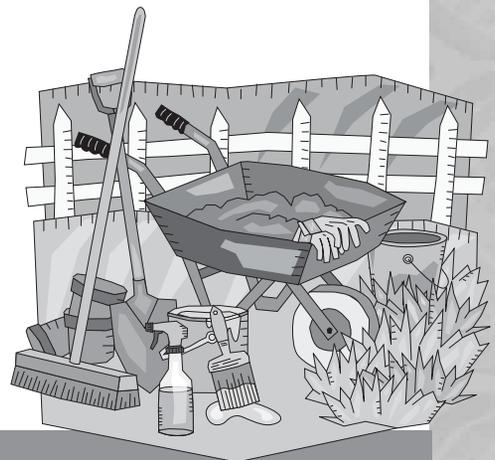
March 1, 2010 was the last day to pay 2009 Summer & Winter property taxes at the Township Hall.

If you are not sure if your taxes were paid, please contact the Township Treasurer's Office at 810-227-5225 or visit our website at www.genoa.org.

If payment has not been made, please contact the Livingston County Treasurer's Office at 517-546-7010 for a current amount due.

Spring Cleanup

The spring clean up will be held on **April 17 and May 15 at the Genoa Township Hall**. Residents may bring their yard waste to the township on those dates between 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.





Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

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CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

Join us for a springtime celebration with an evening **Moon Glow Easter Egg Hunt on April 1, 2010**. All children ages 2-15 are welcome at the Genoa Township Hall Athletic Fields at 2911 Dorr Road. This one-of-a-kind outdoor event begins with a massive airdrop of thousands of soft white marshmallows with a few specially marked marshmallows that can be turned in for age-specific prizes.

After the marshmallow drop, we will move directly into a nighttime Easter Egg Hunt - the Moon Glow - so make sure everyone brings a working flashlight and dresses appropriately for the weather.

Easter baskets, donated by Wal-Mart, will be provided to all paid participants while supplies last. A raffle will also be held for a family get-away to be awarded to one lucky family.

Don't forget to bring your camera as the Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo ops or you can purchase a photo available by Richard Lim Photography. Every "bunny" is sure to have a great time. This event sponsored by ITC Corp. and Genoa Township.

**Site: Genoa Township Athletic Fields
2911 Dorr Road (Genoa Township)
\$7 Flat Fee**

April 1st Thursday 8:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

All participants **MUST** be registered for this event so please contact the Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority at www.howellrecreation.org or 517-546-0693.