

Genoa Charter Township News

Winter 2012

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Genoa Charter Township Board Members

Supervisor

Gary McCririe

Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford

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

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www.genoa.org

From the Desk of Township Clerk, Paulette Skolarus

FEBRUARY 28, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

A Presidential Primary Election will be held in Genoa Township on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting for candidates seeking nomination to the Office of President of the United States. All registered voters who are on our permanent absent voter list should have received their applications by this time.

Electors who wish to vote in the Presidential Primary Election must be registered no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 30, 2012. To register, visit any Secretary of State Branch Office, the County Clerk's Office, or any City or Township Clerk's Office.

Applications for absent voter ballots are available for the February 28, 2012, Presidential Primary Election and may be viewed on line at www.genoa.org. Simply print your application and FAX it to the attention of Paulette Skolarus (810) 227-3420. On the absentee voter application, voters are reminded to check a box to indicate which ballot style they would like to receive—the Democratic Party ballot or the Republican Party ballot. In addition voters may check a box stating that they are U.S. Citizens.

The Presidential Primary Election will be conducted as a "closed" primary. Upon arrival at the polls on February 28th, voters will be asked which Party's primary they wish to vote in. Voters must indicate if they wish to receive the Democratic Party ballot (*at this time only Barack Obama is on the ballot*) or the Republican Party ballot (*at this time there are 11 candidates vying for the nomination*).

Voters are again reminded of the photo identification requirement. They will be asked to present photo ID at the polls, such as a Michigan driver's license or identification card. Voters who don't have a Michigan driver's license or identification card can show the following forms of photo ID: Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state; federal or state government-issued photo identification; U.S. passport; military identification card with photo; student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, such as a college or university; or tribal identification card with photo.

Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID or who is not carrying one can still vote. They will sign a form stating that they are not in possession of a photo ID. Their ballots will be included with all others and will be counted on Election Day.

A Change of Polling Place

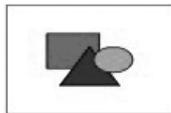
Nearly 3,000 of our registered voters were recently sent new voter identification cards changing their polling location, either from Hornung Elementary to Brighton Church of the Nazarene or from Brighton Church of the Nazarene to Hornung Elementary. This change allows a more even distribution of voters between the two locations and should lessen the wait time during this busy election year. Please be sure to check your i.d. card before heading to the polls. No changes were made with regard to other polling locations in the township.

NEW VOTING PROCEDURE

For those of you who voted in the recent school election it will be no surprise when you are again asked to slide your driver's license at the polls in order to receive your ballot. This is a new procedure put in place by the Michigan Secretary of State's Office. The scan will automatically bring up your eligibility to vote in any election. No data is received from your license at the polls. Your action will simply allow for a shortened wait in line to receive your ballot. Your picture i.d. is still required by law to receive a ballot. An affidavit will be required of a voter not in possession of picture identification. The voter must sign an affidavit stating: *I hereby affirm that I am not in possession of a driver's license, a state-issued personal identification card or any other acceptable form of picture identification and wish to vote.* Please be aware that making a false statement in this affidavit is **perjury, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.**

Notice from your Secretary of State

The Michigan Secretary of State has a newly expanded online destination for Michigan residents and it is now available. Services—including change of address, and driver's license and vehicle plate renewals—are now just a click away. <http://michigan.gov/sos> Township voters wishing to use this site may view their polling place and ballot for upcoming elections. Check it out.



Let's Have a Drink and Celebrate Life

Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body:

- **2 glasses of water after waking up** - helps activate internal organs
- **1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal** - helps digestion
- **1 glass of water before taking a bath** - helps lower blood pressure
- **1 glass of water before going to bed** - avoids stroke or heart attack and water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with a Charlie Horse.



GENOA PARK

Open for fun, games and exercise

The sled hill at Genoa Park was opened last year and has been very popular. This year lights have been added to extend the fun on these short winter days. The lights will come on at dusk and will turn off at 9:00 p.m. Radiant heaters have been added to the pavilion to provide a warming area. The pavilion restrooms will be heated and open all winter long during recreation hours. The walk trail is kept open throughout the winter and receives considerable use from two and four legged residents. It is winter in Michigan but you can still come to the park and enjoy some outdoor activities. Don't forget our beautiful playground for kids for all ages. This spring we will be adding swings to the park.



From the desk of Treasurer Robin Hunt 2011 Property Taxes

The 2011 Summer Tax Bills were mailed out to **all** Genoa Township property owners July 1, 2011. The Summer Taxes were due September 14th. As of September 15, a 1% per month interest charge is assessed on unpaid summer taxes. Please visit our website at www.genoa.org or contact the Treasurer's Office, 810-227-5225, for your current amount due.

The 2011 Winter Tax Bills were mailed out to **all** Genoa Township property owners December 1, 2011 and are payable through February 29, 2012. Postmarks are not accepted as the date paid.

With online banking becoming more prevalent, we wanted to bring a few things to your attention. Most banks use a third party to process checks requested through their online bill payment system. This means that your money is deducted from your account and sent to third party processor; not directly to the designated payee. **Bills paid through your on-line banking system may take up to 15 business days to be received.**

Delinquent Taxes: Taxes become delinquent **March 1st** and are payable, with additional 1% interest per month and 4% administration fee, to the Livingston County Treasurer, 200 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843, 517-546-7010.

Between March 1st and March 20th tax payments cannot be accepted by the Township or the County due to tax reconciliation. The interest + administration fee will remain the same if the tax is paid between March 1st and March 31st.

Spring Yard Waste Collection

The spring cleanup for the collection of yard waste is scheduled for the following dates: April 21st and May 19th. Residents may drop off their yard waste from 9:00 a.m. until noon on those dates at the Genoa Township Hall.



Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

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POSTAL PATRON

From the desk of Township Supervisor, Gary McCririe:

Congratulations on becoming a recycling community! The level of participation since the program was unveiled in August continues to grow. The best news is that the number of tons of garbage collected goes down each month while the number of tons of recycling goes up. I think we all knew that given the number of blue bins we see lined up along our streets. Additionally, the number of homes using the curbside yard-waste program has almost doubled in the period from August to November.

To put this great news into perspective, in August 2010 Duncan picked up 502.67 tons of garbage. That was reduced to 462.79 tons in November. That is an 8% reduction. In the same period the recycling went from 90.84 tons to 97.35 tons. That is an increase of just over 7%. Those are actual gross tons that are no longer going into our landfills adding up to 440.75 total tons in just 4 months.

There were very few hiccups when we added this service and made the conversion to Duncan Disposal. I want to thank everyone for their patience and commend them for becoming great stewards of our environment. With this level of participation and the recent addition of wind turbines and solar panels to the township hall property it shows that Genoa Township remains on the leading edge of innovation and is willing to embrace meaningful change for our future!

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

A Master Plan is a blueprint for the future. It is a comprehensive document, long range in its view that is intended to guide development in the Township for the next 10 to 20 years. The Master Plan sets public policies regarding growth and development. The information and concepts presented in the Master Plan are intended to guide decisions on public and private uses of land, as well as the provision of public utilities. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act requires that a community update its master plan every 5 years. The Genoa Township Planning Commission will be seeking public input on an update to the Township's Master Plan over the next few months. The Master Plan Update is an important opportunity to be proactive in addressing the proposed interchange at Latson/Nixon Road as well making any necessary adjustments to other areas of the Township. Make your opinion count; consider getting involved and sharing your thoughts on the future of your community. Please contact Kelly VanMarter, Planning Director or visit the Genoa Charter Township webpage at www.genoa.org for information and updates throughout the planning process.