



Genoa Township News

May 2007

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A Message from your Dorr Road Fire Station Team

The Brighton Area Fire Department (BAFD) services all of Genoa Township as well as the City of Brighton and Brighton Township. The area west of the township was serviced through a contractual agreement with the Howell Area Fire Authority. Effective July 1, 2007, this contractual agreement is changing and a new fire station will be built by Genoa Charter Township. The new station (Interstate 96 and Chilson roads) will be known as BAFD Station 35.

Your Station 34 team, including Chief DeLoach, is comprised of Genoa Township residents that bring over 140 years of combined experience in fire fighting to our community. Our team is made up of people with a wide range of backgrounds and skill sets that include laborers, medical specialists and managers for large corporations. As residents, we too are committed to ensuring that our tax dollars are spent wisely. We are also committed to bringing you quick and efficient service and we can do this with the addition of a second fire station.

*The BAFD likes to think of the fire authority as **“neighbors helping neighbors”** and they are always looking for local residents to join their fire fighting team. If interested please visit www.brightonareafire.com or call 810-229-6640 to learn more.*

Signed: BAFD Station 34 Team



2911 Dorr Road
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Phone: 810.227.5225
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Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

From the desk of the Treasurer, Robin L. Hunt

Beware of Services Offered

It has been brought to our attention that a company by the name of National Deed Service, Inc. has mailed letters out informing residents that they need a certified copy of their deed. They are offering to get this information for you at a cost of \$59.50. While they have gone to great effort to create this letter to appear that it is government issued - **they are not affiliated with any government agency.** If you feel you need a certified copy of your deed, contact the Livingston County Register of Deeds Office, located in the Livingston County Courthouse, in downtown Howell. The cost is \$1.00.

Genoa Township property tax information is available on our website. Go to www.genoa.org click the link "Assessing & Property Tax Data", and then click "Search Tax Bill Data Base by Tax Bill". You can search by name, parcel ID number or address. The tax payment detail on the website only reflects payments made at Genoa Township. Payments made at the Livingston County Treasurer's Office, for delinquent taxes, are not reflected on the Genoa website.

The **2007 Summer Tax Bills** will be mailed out to **all** Genoa Township property owners July 2, 2007. Summer Taxes are payable without penalty thru September 14, 2007. Payments by check, cash or money order may be made in person or by mail to the Township Treasurer's Office. For your convenience there is a drop box located near the front entrance for after-hours payments. Please allow sufficient time for mailing, as postmarks are not accepted.

If you qualify, you can defer your summer tax by completing the form enclosed with your summer bill and filing it with our office prior to the due date.

From July 1 thru Feb 28, you can pay current property taxes online with a credit card on the township website. If you do not have access to the Internet you may contact the township for information on how to pay by phone. Credit card payments cannot be physically made at the Township Office. The company providing this service will charge a convenience fee of approximately 3%. The website will tell you exactly what the charge will be prior to entering any credit card information.

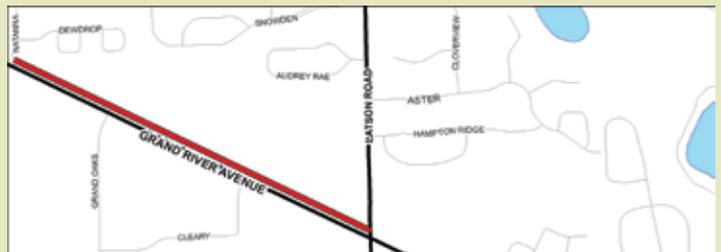
From the Desk of the Clerk, Paulette A. Skolarus

Bike/walk Paths Connecting Our Neighborhoods

Since the Genoa Township Board approved a plan to construct bike/walk paths along our major thoroughfares, the township has built approximately three and a half miles of bike/walk paths along Brighton and Bauer Roads. These paths link local subdivisions to the City of Brighton, Brighton Schools and the Brighton State Recreation Area.

Our township Zoning Ordinance requires developers to include bike/walk paths along the front of any new development. However, many of the older developments along Grand River went in prior to our requirements. This year's project will fill in some of the gaps along Grand River connecting the existing segments of sidewalk.

The summer 2007 project will be constructed along Grand River between Latson Road and Natanna. It includes 3100 linear feet of an eight-foot wide bike/walk path with ADA ramps and slopes. The project will provide pedestrian access between single family homes, apartments, condominiums and businesses all along that stretch of Grand River.



The red area on the map highlights the approved construction that will be completed this summer. Aerial views of Grand River were reviewed to help us determine and prioritize our project. Trails stretching along some areas of Grand River helped us decide on the areas that needed to be paved.

From the Desk of the Supervisor, Gary T. McCririe

Many of you may have read the articles in the newspaper or heard radio reports regarding the recent negotiations between the Brighton Area Fire Authority and the Howell Area Fire Authority. I feel it is time to give some historical data and to set the record straight with regard to those negotiations.

- In the late 80's Genoa Township joined the Brighton Area Fire Authority. We did this because we understood that fire protection would continue to be a long-term need in our growing community and a stable form of funding was necessary.
- The legislation that allowed the formation of Fire Authorities only allowed townships to join a single such entity or authority.
- The Brighton Authority opted at the time to continue the long-standing practice of contracting for fire services for the western half of Genoa Township with Howell Fire (and later with the Howell Authority).
- That was accomplished with contracts between the two authorities. This arrangement served our residents very well and the service was exemplary.
- The most recent three-year contract between the two Authorities is set to expire June 30, 2007. For the last year of that agreement, our fee was \$340,000 per year for protection of the Howell portion of Genoa.
- The quote from Howell on a renewal for the next year was approximately \$520,000 per year.
- The Brighton Authority Board asked the Brighton Chief to explore whether he could provide coverage to the entire area of Genoa Township at a lower figure than \$520,000 per year. The study concluded that this service could be accomplished internally for significantly less than the quote from Howell.

So, where are we today? We remain committed to outstanding service to all of our residents and will continue to work toward that end. We are proceeding with Genoa building a new fire station in the western portion of the township. The Brighton Authority will outfit the station with personnel and equipment and the Brighton Fire Authority will assume responsibility for all of Genoa Township on July 1, 2007 with no reduction in response times or level of service. In the mean time we have arranged, through the generous support of Livingston County and Jeff Boyd (director of Livingston County EMS), for fire equipment to be available at the Livingston Ambulance building just off Grand Oaks and Latson Road until our new fire station is completed.

Please feel free to call me at 810-227-5225 if you have any questions about this subject or any other.

Howell Parks & Recreation Programs

As a result of the current funding available to pay and operate the Parks and Recreation Programs and with the failure of the most recent Millage request, there will be different levels of participation fees for residents in the 4 communities within the Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority. The Authority has put in place a three tier pricing system. This tier pricing is based on each municipality funding levels. Genoa Township will continue our payment to the Authority of \$56,127.00 rather than increase the annual payment to \$100,000.00. Therefore, Genoa residents will pay the tier 2 pricing for programs offered through the Authority. Prices vary by program.

Example of tier pricing: \$45/\$65/\$90 Tier 1/Tier2/Tier3.

The fee increases in addition to cost cutting is in order to offer continued programs for Children and Adults in a quality manner. This change in the participation fees for Genoa Township residents will begin with the upcoming Spring & Summer programs. Also, Genoa Township will no longer be receiving the Thompson Lake stickers to hand out to our residents. Day or annual permits can now be purchased at either the Bennett Recreation Center, 925 E. Grand River or from the Park Guard at the front gate.

**Last day for our "Spring Cleanup" May 19, 2007
9:00 a.m. until Noon at the Genoa Township Hall
Bring us your yard refuse (leaves and small brush)**

Panhandle Eastern Pipeline

By Paulette A. Skolarus

Just off of Crooked Lake Road, behind a wire fence, sits the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, a storage field and compressor station for natural gas. It is a division of Southern Union Gas. In 1929 Southern Union decided to move gas from the producing fields in Kansas to the more populated areas of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. This was the beginning of a 15,000-mile Pipeline System that traverses Genoa Township, Livingston County and Michigan. The pipes range from 20 to 36 inches in diameter and are located approximately 36" underground. Today, the pipeline runs from Texas to Florida and from Texas to Michigan. Planes monitor the pipeline 24 hours a day searching for suspicious activity and unusual blowing of dust or dirt in the air which may indicate a leak. The emergency number for Panhandle is 1 (800) 225-3913.

Since this system crosses right through the center of our township, Panhandle would like residents to be able to recognize and report possible hazards. Today we must be vigilant for any suspicious activity as well as any excavation activity near the pipeline right-of-way.

- Encroachment: Excavation-related activity near a pipeline right-of-way or utilities may cause a leak or damage when digging occurs. Call Miss Digg at 1-(800) 482-7171 at least three days before doing any excavation.
- Leaks: In Michigan natural gas has a strong odor like sulphur; call Miss Digg if you smell an unusual odor (rotten eggs), or hear a hissing/roaring sound.
- Ruptures: A rupture is indicated by a loud roaring noise like a jet plane taking off and possible fire. Potential ignition sources may include motor vehicles, cell phones, pagers, keyless entry remotes, flashlights or other spark-producing items. Call 911 from a safe area if you suspect trouble.



Genoa Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116



POSTAL PATRON

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Gary McCrie

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Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford



photo by Victoria Moilanen