



Genoa Township

June 2002

IN THIS ISSUE

Genoa Township Large Item Collection page 1

Tax Law Changes page 2

Polly's Practical Points page 2

Memorial Park Maintenance page 3

Tax Dollars at Work page 3

Child Passenger Safety page 3

Yard and Garden Tips page 4

Refuse Collection for Large Items

Dear Genoa Township Residents:

For many years you have been asking the township to establish a collection date for large and bulky items. We are pleased to respond to your request and have established the following guidelines to assist you in collection and disposal of those unwanted items. The township will subsidize this program by providing \$10,000.00 to partially cover the costs to our residents.

- The Township will purchase stickers from Waste Management at a reduced cost of \$12.00 each. *(The regular cost is \$15.00)*
- **The Township Treasurer's office will then sell one sticker to each township homeowner for \$6.00, with the Township subsidizing \$6.00 from the general fund. Each sticker will provide for a SINGLE item pickup as described below.**
- Residents may purchase additional stickers for \$12.00 each.
- The stickers will expire on 12-31-2003 and must be used in a timely manner.
- Residents may place collection items, with the sticker attached, at their curbside on their REGULAR REFUSE COLLECTION DAY.
- Large items include but are not limited to household appliance such as water heaters, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. *Any appliance containing Freon must have the Freon removed by a certified contractor prior to collection. The contractor performing the Freon removal will attach a Freon removal certification sticker to the appliance.*
- Other items eligible for collection include stuffed chairs, couches, dining room tables, mattresses, televisions, etc.
- Bulky items include any household miscellaneous item or items not exceeding 3' X 4' in area or weighing more than 60 lbs.
- Miscellaneous bundled or boxed household items, including building debris generated from a remodel or home repair, are limited to one cubic yard or a total area of 3' X 3' X 3'. *All miscellaneous items must be bagged, boxed or bundled so that one man can efficiently handle them.* Each bag or box should not weigh more than 60 lbs.
- Bundled items such as carpet must be cut in lengths no greater than 5 feet in width and weigh no more than 60 lbs. each.
- Glass must be removed from doors and windows prior to collection. Broken glass must be securely boxed and clearly identified to limit the potential for injury to refuse collectors.

This policy will become effective July 1, 2002 and will be extended as long as there is a need and funds are available. Your Township Board thanks you in advance for your cooperation in cleaning up our community.

Polly Skolarus, Genoa Township Clerk

Attn: Howell Schools Property Owners

Summer Tax Bills will be mailed July 1, 2002 and are payable without penalty until September 14, 2002. Payment must be received at the Genoa Township Hall on or before the due date. Qualifying taxpayers may defer their summer tax payment, without penalty, until February 28, 2003. Deferment forms must be completed and submitted to the Township by September 14, 2002. (Note: Deferment forms will be mailed out with your tax bill.) If you do not receive your tax bill or if you receive a bill that does not belong to you please contact the Genoa Township Treasurers Office at (810) 227-5225. Thank You! (Note: taxpayers within the Brighton, Hartland and Pinckney School Districts will only receive a Winter Tax Bill in 2002.)

Robin L. Hunt, Genoa Township Treasurer

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

Visit us online:
www.genoa.org



Polly's Practical Points

- Drink six to eight glasses of water a day? Just who does that? Not me. That is until I got sick. I was dehydrated. Spent the morning at urgent care getting hydrated after I blacked out. Now I make the effort and carry around one of those plastic water bottles. Coffee and pop do not do it because they contain caffeine. Take care of yourself. Your heart and body need water to survive - Don't put any extra stress on your fragile being.
- Exercise is the best remedy for arthritis. If you hate to get out of bed and exercise, then try it in bed. A half dozen crunches will do wonders for your day. The good part is that it soon becomes a habit and you will want to do more.
- Just like your car needs an occasional overhaul, so does your body. See your doctor on a regular basis to make sure that all your parts are running smoothly. Preventive medicine is the best cure.

Tax Law Change - This Will Effect You!

On April 30, 2002 Governor Engler signed Senate Bill 1165 regarding the State Education Tax (S.E.T.) and a summer tax levy.

How does this affect you?

In the 2003 tax year every parcel in the State of Michigan will receive a Summer Tax Bill. Today, only the residents of the Howell School District receive a summer tax bill. This bill will not be a tax increase but instead a splitting or a partial transfer from your winter tax bill to a summer levy. In an effort to ease the burden for the initial change the state has reduced the millage by 1 mill for the first full year. As a result a total of 5 mills will be billed on the Summer Tax Bill for 2003. Beginning in the summer of 2004 residents will again pay a total of 6 mills toward the S.E.T.

New Voter I.D. Cards in the Mail

As newly drawn U.S. House, State Senate, State House and County Commissioner district lines will be in effect for the August Primary, new voter identification cards will be mailed to all registered voters to advise them of any change. This mailing (as mandated) is a result of the change in the State Senate seat for all Livingston County voters. Please discard all old voter identification cards.

Are you a new resident to Genoa Township with a dog?

Have you recently added a new dog to your family?

All dogs in Livingston County must be licensed. Residents may purchase licenses at the regular price of \$7.00 spay/neutered and \$25.00 male/female. After February 28, delinquent dog licenses may be purchased for \$30.00. Licenses may be purchased by mail or in person at the Genoa Township Treasurer's Office or the Livingston County Treasurer's Office. Residents will need to supply proof of rabies and proof of spay/neuter to purchase a dog license. (Note: New residents or new puppies to the home may still purchase license tags at the non-delinquent rate.)

Township Board

Willing to Assist with Road Construction Projects

If your subdivision or public roadway is in need of a face-lift, please contact Township Clerk Polly Skolarus for the proper documents to ask your township board for financial assistance. Genoa Township will support your road improvement by paying up to 25% of the cost. In the case of private roads, the township cannot financially support your project, but we can assist you with collection of funds from your neighbors to get the job done through the creation of a special assessment district.

We have completed projects for Walnut Hills, Summer Hill, Homestead, Sharp and Mt. Brighton. Homeowners in those areas submitted petitions to the board asking for a resurface of their existing roads. At least 51% of the homeowners must sign the petitions for a project to be accepted by the Township Board. Those projects then go forward under formal resolutions of the board.

The township receives so little of your tax dollar that we can only apply a Band-Aid to our constantly deteriorating road. Please let us assist you in keeping them in good shape. Call us @ (810) 227-5225

Help Us Find Your Home

The Brighton and Howell Area Fire Departments are asking residents to clearly identify the address numbers of their homes. Gravel roads, natural settings and long private driveways all contribute to the rural character of our township. These same attributes can, however, make it difficult for police, fire and EMS personnel to locate residences in emergency situations. Numbers mounted on the homes are not always adequate.

The fire departments recommend that homes and driveways be identified with reflective address signs. Address numbers should be a minimum of three inches in height and should be clearly visible from the street. Reflective address signs are available from several hardware, home improvement and general merchandise retailers.

The Brighton Area Firefighters Association will create a sign with either a vertical or horizontal orientation for a \$15.00 Charge. You can contact them at (810) 229-6640. Residents may also purchase signs at the Genoa Township Hall. All proceeds will be returned to the Fire Department. We hope that you will never need an emergency response to your home but when minutes count it is critical that police, fire and EMS can find you quickly.

You're Tax Dollars At Work

By Polly Skolarus

Dust Control:

Big Barney's Gets the Okay

Genoa Township has contracted with Big Barney's of Howell to provide dust control for all PUBLIC ROADS within the Township. Big Barney's will work with the Livingston County Road Commission to coordinate dust control with road grading. This year your Township Board has approved \$115,000.00 for chloride application.

Private Road Homeowner's Associations or individuals may contract with BB, on their own, at the reduced rate of \$.34 per gallon as negotiated by the township for dust control of their roads. State law will not allow taxpayer dollars to be used for private roads.

Installation of Park Benches

We're installing Park Benches all along our bike path. The first two benches will be located on Brighton Road. The benches made of a recycled plastic product, cost \$619.00 plus installation. If you would be interested in donating a bench as a memorial to a loved one, please contact Polly Skolarus at (810) 227-5225. We are asking a donation of \$500.00 for each bench. The bench will include a plaque with the name of the person to be remembered and the person who made the donation.

If any of you have walked the trails at Kensington, you will notice that this type of policy is in place there. Your township board felt that this was a good idea, hopefully you will too.

Child Passenger Safety

Genoa Township is reminding motorists that children should be placed in child safety seats, booster seats, or seat belts - every time they ride in a car or truck. An analysis of the 2000 crash data for southeast Michigan reveals that children not properly restrained in a crash were four times more likely to incur a fatal or incapacitating injury.

- More than half of all children killed in crashes were unrestrained.
- Child safety seats reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers in cars.
- For infants and toddlers in light trucks, safety seats reduce fatal injury by 58% and 59% respectively.

Michigan's child passenger safety law requires that children from birth through age three be in a child safety seat and belt. Buckling up children every time is a simple act that saves lives. Children are our most precious cargo. Let's keep them safe and alive.

(Printed with the authority of SEMCOG)

Genoa Township Memorial Park Maintenance

2911 Dorr Road, between Grand River & Crooked Lake Road

Please join us in June for work in our natural wildlife garden. The beauty of our garden will be maintained with mulch distribution, transplanting, pruning and preparing plant labels. You can learn from the best. We will have Irene Cahill and Karleen Shafer in attendance to tell you everything you might want to know about gardening. Horticulturist Irene McDonnell Cahill orders the plants, applies for grants and arranges the work. Co-Coordinator Karleen Shafer is a Landscape Designer and designed the Native plant restoration and plant placement. Tools and gloves are available on site. Please join us on site. For more information, contact Irene by E-mail at icahill@ismi.net or Polly Skolarus at the polly@genoa.org.

Many hands make the work go quickly.

- 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, 2002
- 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Designed and printed by First Impression Printing & Graphics

Neighborhood Watch

Your Genoa Township Board wants you to be safe and wary. Please secure your home and keep a watch on your neighborhood to prevent break-ins.

Reminder:

Change in Policy 3/1/02

Genoa Township no longer accepts postmarks as the date of payment. Payments must be received in the township office no later than the due date to avoid penalties. Payments can be made in person Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or put in the drop box located at the front entrance of the Township Hall or by mail, please allow time for delivery.

Genoa Township now charges a \$25.00 fee on all returned checks.

Refuse Collection

During the Holidays

While there are many holidays that we celebrate, there are only a few that affect the local refuse collection. This year refuse collection will be one day later in celebration of Memorial Day and Labor Day. The 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years will not effect our residents because they are after our regular Monday and Tuesday collection dates. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

Yard and Garden Tips

How can you help your watershed? It's easy. Select a few of the following tips. Give them a try. Remember a few simple changes will make a big difference and you can save time and money in the process.

LAWN CARE - smart and simple

A beautiful, well-maintained lawn enhances your property value and provides a place for recreation and relaxation. But you may be making more work of your yard than is necessary. Did you know that a few simple changes in your lawn care practices could save you time and money, while improving the quality of your lawn? It's true! You'll also be protecting water resources. Just follow the tips below.

- **Mow high** - Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high — three inches is the rule! The roots of your lawn grow as deep as the grass grows tall, so taller grass has deeper, healthier roots. Keep your lawn three inches or higher and never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade each time you mow. Leave the clippings right on your lawn for a natural fertilizer rich in nutrients and organic matter.
- **Water sparingly** - Over-watering can damage plants, stimulate fungus, and leach nutrients out of the soil.
- **Create a smaller lawn area** - Use trees, shrubs and flowers to landscape the rest of your yard.
- **Landscape with deep-rooted native plants** - They are naturally suited to our weather and soil conditions, which means less work for you!
- **Put rainwater to work for you** - Border your lawn with deep-rooted flowers and shrubs to prevent water runoff. Direct down spouts into garden areas, or install rain barrels to collect water for use during dry weather.

FERTILIZERS - Less may be more in the case of your yard.

Did you know that over-application of fertilizers wastes money, ruins plants and pollutes our waterways? Be an informed consumer. Read on for more tips that save you time and money while protecting water quality.

- **Put your lawn to work for you!** Grass clippings are the ideal food source, providing essential nutrients by releasing them slowly over time. Grass clippings, mulched leaves and compost also provide organic matter, which keeps soils from compacting. To learn more about composting, call the Michigan Composting Council at (517) 371-7073.
- **Check yard and garden product labels.** If you decide to use commercial fertilizers, always choose a low-phosphorous fertilizer (indicated by the middle number of the three number series on the bag, such as 34-3-4). Why? Most soils in this area are already high in phosphorus.
- **Spread lightly.** Most manufacturers' guidelines are excessive for the Southeast Michigan area. One application of low phosphorus fertilizer in the fall is adequate for most lawns.
- **Make a clean sweep.** Fertilizer can be an "asset" to your lawn, but it becomes a "pollutant" if it reaches our waterways. Keep fertilizers out of storm drains and ditches. Use a broom to clean up spills on sidewalks and driveways.
- **Get your soil tested.** Learn what your lawn and garden need for optimum health and growth. Testing services are provided at a low cost through your Livingston County MSU Extension Agent (517) 546-3950. It's easy, and agents provide individual recommendations based on your soil test results.

(Condensed and revised from the Huron River Watershed Council: Information and Education Campaign Yard and Garden Tips.)

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