



Genoa Township News

Fall 2005

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Take Time to Walk

By Paulette A. Skolarus, Clerk

It has been six years since Genoa Township took its first step toward a walkable community. The one-mile stretch from the city of Brighton to Maltby Middle School was a huge success with a large number of people walking daily along the bike/walk path. The second phase of the project is a recently completed two-mile stretch from the Mt. Brighton Ski Hill south to the township border with Hamburg Township.



Pictured with two children is Susan Fry carrying four-month old baby Aodhan and pushing three-year old McKinney. Susan walks 12 miles every day with her children while carrying her baby on her daily three-hour walk. She said, "People get used to seeing me and they wave and honk while driving by. Thank you, Genoa Township, for the nice walking path for those of us who love the outdoors."

"Walking south along Bauer Road (south of Brighton Road) is a wonderful experience," said township resident Kelli Schwab. "The pathway meanders off the roadway and

runs between trees and wetlands. It is breathtaking. I intend to bring my boys here this coming weekend and then walk down to the YumYum Tree for ice cream."



The scenic bridge near the end of the pathway crosses over the wetland area and provides access to the extensive trail system within the Brighton State

Recreation Area. Just cross the road and walk up the hill and you are in the Brighton Recreation Area. Choose a path and your adventure is in the making.

(I would remind our residents that the bike/walk path is not a horse path. Please don't exercise your horses along this trail and if you have done so, please go back and clean it up.)

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Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

From the Supervisor...

As we head into the season when it gets darker earlier, I thought it would be timely to remind our residents of a service offered by the Brighton and Howell Area Fire Departments and also the township offices.

Gravel road, natural settings and long private driveways contribute to the rural character of Genoa Township. These same attributes can, however, make it difficult for police, fire and EMS personnel to locate residences in emergency situations. This is especially true on the days when it is dark at 5:00 p.m. and again until as late as 7:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. Numbers mounted on the home are not always adequate address signs. Address numbers should be a minimum of three-inches in height and should be clearly visible from the public street. Reflective address signs are also available from several Genoa Township 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. Additionally, orders can be placed at the township hall during normal business hours.

Hopefully, 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.

Leaf Collection

The fall leaf collection has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005 and Nov. 12, 2005 at the Genoa Township Hall. Residents may drop off leaves and small brush from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.



Christmas Tree Collection

Mister Rubbish/Waste Management will pick up Christmas trees on the three consecutive weeks following the Christmas holiday.



Trees must be cut in lengths not to exceed four feet and placed at the curbside with your regular refuse for disposal.

TOWNSHIP HALL HOSTS BOOKMOBILE

Brighton District Library bookmobile is making weekly stops at the Genoa Township Hall. The Township hall is located at 2911 Dorr Road just south of I-96 on the east side of the road (look for the big American flag). The bookmobile will be here on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The bookmobile holds about 2000 items including popular books, audiobooks, videos and DVDs. Two computers are available for your use and have the ability to search a comprehensive library catalog. You can request materials to be picked up at the bookmobile and drop off items to be returned.

The bookmobile is a one-year pilot project funded by the Brighton District Library. The bookmobile service has several goals:

- To provide print, audio, and video materials to people of all ages for their recreation, education and lifelong learning.
- To introduce non-users to library services and collections.
- To promote library services throughout the district.
- To increase convenience of library service for areas of the district which are not near the library building.
- To determine the effectiveness of the bookmobile as a library service option in the district.

We welcome the bookmobile and hope you make use of its resources. If you have questions about the bookmobile service please contact the Brighton District Library at (810) 229-6571.

Fertilize in the fall for early spring green

Fertilizing during early fall can help strengthen your lawn's roots for an early spring green! Applying fertilizer in the cooler temperatures and rain of early fall provides your lawn with the nutrients it needs to recover from the hot summer months.

Remember that storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams! While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer that enters our lakes and streams can cause algae to grow and use up oxygen that fish need to survive.

Here are some tips to help you care for your lawn and help to protect our lakes and streams:

- Buy low and go slow. Choose a fertilizer with no or low phosphorus because phosphorus causes algae growth. A slow-release nitrogen fertilizer causes even less harm to our water.
- Sweep it. Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from the pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into our storm drains.
- Mow high. Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.
- Make fertilizer-free zones. Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.

Everything you never wanted to know about storm drains

Most of us don't think much about the storm drains at the end of our driveways or on our streets. Likewise, there probably isn't much thought given to roadside ditches. They're just there. But, storm drains and roadside ditches play a key role in the quality of our region's lakes and rivers.

How? Anything that gets in a storm drain or a roadside ditch goes directly to rivers and lakes without being treated. If anything other than rain - excess fertilizer, pet waste, motor oil, or other chemicals, for example - gets in drains or ditches, our rivers and lakes will become polluted. A build-up of any of these pollutants in lakes and rivers can be the cause of beach closings and can impact our ability to enjoy time on the water.

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and its coalition of members and partners, have recently initiated a program to educate residents on simple things that we can all do to help keep our water clean. With almost five million people living in Southeast Michigan, there is one simple solution - *only rain goes in the drain.*

Visit the SEMCOG Web site www.semCog.org for more information on fertilizer, deer crashes and storm drains.

Watch out for deer in Southeast Michigan

Genoa Township experienced 97 vehicle-deer crashes in 2004. There were 6,196 vehicle-deer crashes just in Southeast Michigan. Deer crashes occur most frequently in the fall and most occur on two-lane roads between dusk and dawn. Deer crashes are more prevalent today for two reasons: rapid development in previously rural areas and a deer population in Southeast Michigan that is ten times larger than normal.

This year, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates the deer herd in Michigan to be 1.75 million. In Michigan, deer crashes cost at least \$125 million per year; the average insurance claim is about \$2,000 in damages, usually to the front end, often leaving the vehicle un-drivable.

SEMCOG and the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition cautions drivers not to swerve out of a lane to avoid a deer. It's generally safer to hit the deer head on, than run off the road and risk injuring another motorist.

2005 Summer Taxes

The 2005 Summer Tax bills were mailed out to all Genoa Township property owners in July. If you did not receive a bill please contact the Treasurer's Office right away. The summer taxes were due September 14th. You can still pay your summer bill at the Township until February 28, 2006 however there are additional penalties now due. If you deferred your summer tax, a reminder will be sent with your winter bill, a duplicate bill will not be sent. For those who did not defer their summer taxes and are still showing due, a delinquent notice will be sent with your winter bill.

2005 Winter Taxes

The 2005 Winter Tax Bills will be mailed to all property owners the first week of December and are payable thru February 28, 2006. If you do not receive your bill please, contact us so that we can send another copy. If you move or change your mailing address please notify the Genoa Township Assessor's office in writing. Failure to receive your tax bill does not waive penalties and interest. Tax payments can be made at the Township Office by cash or check, Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00, or by mail to 2911 Dorr Rd., Brighton, MI 48116. If paying by mail please allow at least 10-14 days for delivery, postmarks are not accepted. For your convenience there is a drop box located by the front door for after hours payments.

Don't forget to license your dog(s)

The 2006 Dog Licenses will be sold from December 1, 2005 thru February 28, 2006.

Dog License Fees for 2006:

- \$ 7.00 Spayed/Neutered
- \$25.00 Male/Female
- \$30.00 All dogs after February 28, 2006.

In order to issue you a license we must see the paperwork from your veterinarian showing proof of spay/neutering, if applicable, as well as proof of current rabies vaccination.

Reminder:

Even though all payments made at the Genoa Township offices are received at the Treasurer's counter, separate checks are still needed for the different types of services. Example: Taxes, special assessments, sewer/water utility payments, etc.

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 # or address.

Tax payment detail 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.



photo by Victoria Moilanen

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