



IN THIS ISSUE

Vote - November 4th.....	1
Fall Leaf Collection.....	2
Michigan's Liquid Gold.....	2
2008 Property Taxes.....	3
Freon Recycling.....	3
Road Maintenance	4

Genoa Charter Township News

October 2008

Vote - November 4, 2008



In addition to the presidential candidates, there are two proposals on the ballot for this coming November. The first is to permit the use of marijuana for specified medical conditions. The following language is printed on the ballot. In an effort to save time at the polls, I am providing the wording for your perusal:

The proposed law would:

- Permit physician approved use of marijuana by registered patients with debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, MS and other conditions as may be approved by the Department of Community Health.
- Permit registered individuals to grow limited amounts of marijuana for qualifying patients in an enclosed, locked facility.
- Require Department of Community Health to establish an identification card system for patients qualified to use marijuana and individuals qualified to grow marijuana.
- Permit registered and unregistered patients and primary caregivers to assert medical reasons for using marijuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marijuana.

The second proposal on the ballot addresses human embryo and human embryonic stem cell research in Michigan. The language for that proposal is as follows:

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Expand use of human embryos for any research permitted under federal law subject to the following limits: the embryos –
 - are created for fertility treatment purposes;
 - are not suitable for implantation or are in excess of clinical needs;
 - would be discarded unless used for research;
 - were donated by the person seeking fertility treatment.
- Provide that stem cells cannot be taken from human embryos more than 14 days after cell division begins.
- Prohibit any person from selling or purchasing human embryos for stem cell research.
- Prohibit state and local laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, future therapies and cures.

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Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Saturday, November 22, 2008

Our autumn leaf and yard waste collection will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Genoa Charter Township Hall. Residents are discouraged from bringing their leaves in plastic bags. The recycling and composting of yard waste does not mix well with plastic. However, we understand the ease of filling the plastic bags. So if you choose to use such a product, you may be required to tear open the plastic and assist with the disposal.



Michigan's Liquid Gold Joining Great Lakes Compact is just the start

By Paulette A. Skolarus

It is a mystery to me why the State of Michigan wasn't the first to join the Great Lakes Compact. However, it is better late than never. The compact joins the eight Great Lakes States and Ontario and Quebec into a compact that will set standards for diversion of our water. Michigan's Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenaw were co-sponsors of the Senate Bill (S.J. Res 45) that passed on July 30, 2008. The house bill, sponsored by 45 members, included all Michigan congressmen. That bill was taken up on Sept. 9, 2008 and won congressional approval on Sept. 23, 2008 as 390 members of congress voted approval.

This compact requires a 100% commitment from all the representatives of the Great Lakes States in order to allow any diversion of water from the Great Lakes. This agreement, now approved by both the House and Senate, will then need the President's signature. While today's White House has not taken a position, both major presidential candidates have signed a pledge to support and fully fund Great Lakes restoration projects. However, the battle to protect the Great Lakes is not over until all of our ducks are in order and swimming in the right direction.

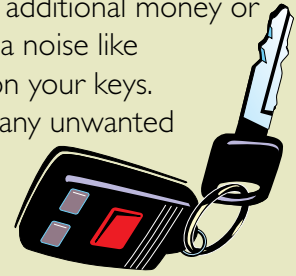


While the state has taken the first step in the preservation of our water, local government needs to understand its roll in this process. We need to preserve our wetlands and find ways to prevent contaminants from being filtered into our lakes and streams.

Our water is a renewable resource as long as it is properly managed. Don't let Michigan's *liquid gold* slip between our fingers. Contact your local congressman and tell him you are concerned with this valuable resource and that it should be preserved at all costs.

Your car keys could save your life.

While the internet is host to many bright ideas, this one is unique. Use your car keys as an alarm system. It is a security alarm system that won't cost you any additional money or installation fees. Put your keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise like someone is trying to break into your home, press the alarm button on your keys. Your car will honk until the battery runs out. This should discourage any unwanted callers in the middle of the night.



2008 Property Taxes

The 2008 Summer Tax Bills were mailed out to **all** Genoa Charter Township property owners July 3, 2008. The Summer Taxes were due September 15, 2008. If you are unsure if your summer taxes have been paid, please contact the Township Treasurer's Office at 810-227-5225 or check our website at www.genoa.org. Summer taxes are payable at the Township until February 28, 2009 however there are additional penalties now due.

The 2008 Winter Tax Bills will be mailed out December 1, 2008 and are payable at the Township Treasurer's office until February 28, 2009.

Freon Recycling Tag

In addition to the Large Item Sticker program, Genoa Charter Township residents can now purchase a Freon Appliance Recycling Tag to dispose of appliances with Freon. Items with Freon are collected on a scheduled basis only, on your normal rubbish collection day. Tags can be purchased at the Township Treasurer's office at a cost of \$50.00 and must be purchased at least two full business days prior to your intended pickup date. Refrigerators and freezers must have the doors removed before placing at the curbside. Questions related to this program should be directed to Genoa Charter Township at 810-227-5225.

Stand up and be counted Or just relax in your own home

Vote – Nov. 4th – Don't stand in line when you can vote in the privacy of your own home. Just log in to www.genoa.org and print an application for an absent voter ballot. Mail or FAX that application to the clerk's office and a ballot will be mailed to your home. *(Just be sure to return that voted ballot in time for it to be counted.)*



Preventive Road Maintenance

Genoa Charter Township believes in preventive maintenance when it comes to our local roads. This year we contracted with a firm called Scodeller Construction to crack seal thirty-three roads in our township subdivisions. Crack sealing will extend the life of your road since it prevents water damage from freezing and thawing within the blacktop. In addition we provided crushed lime stone and limited drainage work for Pardee, Westphal and Beattie Roads. This work was done with your General Fund local tax dollars. Future road projects will be considered each year as they become necessary.



Interesting points from the internet: A billion dollars is way beyond my comprehension. Try counting to a billion using 100s. It is \$999 million plus one more million. A billion seconds ago it was 1959. A billion minutes ago was 2000 years ago. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the stone-age. A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes at the rate our government is spending it. Now multiply that number by 3 and then by 365 (my calculator will not even compute that figure).

KNOW WHERE YOU VOTE

Genoa Residents, call (810) 227-5225 if you are unsure or check the internet at www.genoa.org *Citizens Guide to Voting Systems*. You may also view your sample ballot from that same site.

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POSTAL PATRON

Genoa Charter Township Board Members

Supervisor

Gary McCrie

Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford



photo by Victoria Moilanen