



# Genoa Charter Township News

July 2013

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## In life we wear many hats ...is this one yours?



Brighton Area Fire Authority is seeking professionals in the Genoa Township community willing to serve their neighbors as a Paid On-Call Firefighter! No experience necessary! Training is provided. If you're ready to wear another hat, apply online at [www.brightonareafire.com](http://www.brightonareafire.com) or in person at:



Station 31 at 615 W. Grand River Avenue, Brighton, MI 48116

## Special Election Howell District Library Millage Proposal August 6, 2013



The Howell Carnegie District Library will hold a special election on Tuesday, August 6, 2013. This election will follow the Howell School District boundaries. Requests for absent voter ballots will be mailed to our standing file of registered voters in precincts 1 – 2 – 3 – 5 – 9 – 10. An application is also available online at [www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org). Applications

may be mailed to Genoa Charter Township Attention: Paulette Skolarus, 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116 or dropped in the drop box at the front of the Township Hall. Applications may also be faxed to (810) 227-3420.

This proposal is as follows: Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property within the Howell District Library be increased in an amount not to exceed 4/10 of 1-mill (\$0.40 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 20 years, beginning in the year 2013 and ending in the year 2031, inclusive, as new additional millage for the purpose of providing funds for Library purposes. It is estimated that 4/10 of 1 mill would raise approximately \$820,000.00 when first levied in 2013. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please refer to the Library website at [www.howelllibrary.org](http://www.howelllibrary.org) for further information.

## Leaf Collection

The fall leaf collection has been scheduled for Saturday Oct. 19th and Saturday Nov. 16th with Duncan Disposal. Collection will be at the township hall from 9:00 a.m. until noon on those dates.



## Genoa Charter Township Board Members

### Supervisor

Gary McCrie

### Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

### Treasurer

Robin Hunt

### Trustees

Jean Ledford

Jim Mortensen

Linda Rowell

Todd Smith

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

Visit us online:  
[www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org)

## **SURVEY COMMENTS AND RESPONSE**

by Paulette Skolarus

As a result of the survey included with our last newsletter we received many comments. In an effort to clarify the Township's role in development we felt it necessary to respond to some of your concerns. Please know that all members of the Genoa Township Board care deeply for this community. We care for the future of our children and love Genoa Township, just as many of you do. We, too, do not want to lose the rural atmosphere that we all care for. There is often a desire to keep Genoa Township the same - Naturally Spectacular. Unfortunately, we cannot stop development because we do not own the land and cannot infringe on an owner's right to develop their property. However, with careful planning, we can control how our community develops.

The April Newsletter included a survey about the development and future land use of property south of I-96 and the new Latson Road interchange. The Township received 472 responses. The full results of that questionnaire can be viewed on the township web site [www.genoa.org](http://www.genoa.org). For those of you who completed that survey, we thank you. As a result of that survey, and in consideration of comments that were received, we offer the following information for clarification to some of the comments:

**Comment:** NO MORE TAXES.

**Response:** We do not have any plans to increase taxes. Genoa Township's tax base is .8146, one of the lowest in Livingston County. Our tax base will only change if an increase is approved by YOU, the voters. Changes related to future land use will not affect taxes. The survey was not specifically about taxes but instead about how residents would like to see development south of I-96 at the Latson Road interchange and other areas of the Township.

**Comment:** I DO NOT WANT TO PAY MORE TAXES TO PAY FOR SEWER/WATER THAT WILL BENEFIT BUSINESSES.

**Response:** You won't. The sewer and water costs are not charged to township residents unless they reside in the water or sewer district. Residents do not have to pay for water and sewer services provided to others.

**Comment:** REPAIR THE ROADS AND STOP WASTING MONEY ON BIKE PATHS, SOCCER FIELDS, LIGHTING AND SIGNS.

**Response:** Your comment is one that is shared by some residents, however many of our residents are excited about bike paths, soccer fields and recreation within our community and we strive to balance how your tax dollars are spent. Roads are the responsibility of the Livingston County Road Commission or the Michigan Department of Transportation and not Genoa Township. We do spend nearly half a million dollars on roads within the township each year primarily for gravel, chloride and assistance to subdivisions wanting to repair/reconstruct their roads. This year the township will spend \$610,000.00 on road improvement projects. This is unique to Genoa Township as some communities do not use their General Fund dollars for road repair or maintenance.

**Comment:** WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO PAVE CROOKED LAKE ROAD TO THE SCHOOL?

**Response:** One mile of blacktop road will cost in excess of one-million dollars. The only way roads may be improved within Genoa Township is with a road millage and a bond issue specifically dedicated to that enterprise. Ultimately the choice to approve a road millage rests with you, the voter.

**Comment:** A BIKE PATH IS NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME ON NIXON ROAD.

**Response:** We have worked very hard to promote transportation opportunities other than automobiles in Genoa Township. The Michigan Department of Transportation is constructing a path over the freeway as part of the interchange project. The path was originally planned to stop at the railroad tracks. The township board felt that extending the bike path now was desirable and more cost effective if it was completed in conjunction with the road improvement project for Nixon Road.

**Comment:** OUR AREA IS ALREADY TOO CONGESTED. THE OPEN FEELING OF COUNTRY LIFE IS BEING TAKEN AWAY. I STRONGLY OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT SOUTH OF THE NEW INTERCHANGE.

**Response:** We hear you and understand how you feel. The Master Plan designates possible future use of a property while the zoning determines the current use of that property. The owner legally requests the use within the zoning classification. We cannot deny a person's use of their land just because some don't want to see development. The public is encouraged to provide input on how they want the community to grow and public hearings are held to receive your comments and concerns.

**Comment:** CODE ENFORCEMENT DOES NOTHING TO SUPPORT THE RESIDENTS AND PLACES THE ONUS ON THE VICTIM WHO HAS TO PAY.

**Response:** Our Zoning Official is charged with making sure that Township ordinances governing property are enforced. He receives complaints about fences, dogs, noise, etc. There is no charge to use this service. Please know that we are always open to comments that would allow improvement to any aspect of our Township governance.

**Comment:** WE NEED TO INCREASE POLICE PRESENCE.

**Response:** A police department would have to be approved by our voters. Some local communities have passed millage to support a police department. Genoa relies on the State Police and the Livingston County Sheriff's Dept. Additional police protection would mean an increase in taxes. There may be an opportunity to increase police presence in the near future. We will keep you posted as discussion progresses.

**Comment:** FARMERS FEED AMERICA, NOT SUBDIVISIONS. KEEP IT RURAL.

**Response:** Good point. Most large farms have left our community a long time ago. We must honor the rights of the property owner to continue farming or when they want to develop their land. We don't want to do anything to discourage those who want to farm their land from doing so. It has been many, many years since the Township Board last approved a subdivision in our community. We do need to understand that there will be more development in the future. The Township Boards will work hard to make sure that the development is compatible with our Township standards.

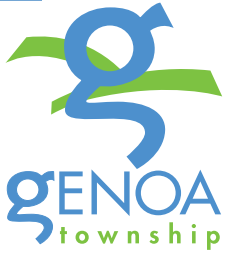
## **From the Treasurer's Office:**

**The 2013 Summer Tax Bills** were mailed out to **all** Genoa Township property owners on Monday, July 1, 2013. The Summer Taxes are due September 14, 2013. Since the due date falls on a Saturday payments will be accepted without penalty on Monday, September 16th. As of September 17th a 1% per month interest charge is assessed on unpaid summer taxes. Postmarks are not accepted as the date paid. Once you receive your tax bill you can begin making payments toward your taxes due. Partial payments can be made as often as you like and for any dollar amount.

**Tax Bill Payment Options:** Tax payments can be made online with a credit card 3% fee or electronic check \$3.00 fee, by mail with a check or at the Township offices by cash or check. For your convenience there are two drop boxes located at the Township offices for after hour payments. All payments paid by mail or put in the drop box will be mailed a paid receipt.

With online banking becoming more prevalent, we wanted to bring a few items 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 online banking system may take up to 15 business days to be received.**

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Genoa Charter Township  
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

PR-SRT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT No. 298  
BRIGHTON, MI 48116  
ECRWSS

## POSTAL PATRON

### From the Treasurer's Office: *(continued)*

#### Watch for Important Tax Mailings Three Times a Year

- Mid February – The Township Assessor's Office mails to all property owners the Assessment Notice indicating the Taxable and Assessed Values of your property for the upcoming tax year. The March Board of Review is your opportunity to appeal the values if you do not agree.
- July 1st - Summer taxes are mailed to all Township property owners
- December 1st - Winter taxes are mailed to all Township property owners

**Please contact the Township Office at 810-227-5225 if you do not receive any of the above mailings.**

## PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

A third phase of the Genoa Park play structure has recently been completed. The new addition to the very popular destination includes zip lines, teeter-totters and climbing equipment. The play area is covered with poured in place rubber over a cushioned base for safety. Two Playgrounds are designed for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. A water-misting feature cools-off kids during summer fun. There are benches for parents and grandparents and an adjacent pavilion with picnic tables.

