

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Genoa Township has embraced social media as a way of quickly getting information to our residents. We



are maintaining an active role on Facebook and Twitter. Updates include refuse collection delays, Board meeting topics and other Township-related news and events.

Like us on Facebook by searching for Genoa Charter Township and on Twitter under the handle @GenoaTownship.

Spring Yard Waste Cleanup Dates Scheduled: Saturdays – April 26th and May 24th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Genoa Township Hall.

2013 Property Tax Reminder

The last day to pay 2013 Summer & Winter taxes at the Township is **Friday, February 28, 2014**. Taxes become delinquent March 1st and are payable, with additional 1% interest per month and 4% administration fee, to the Livingston County Treasurer, 200 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843, 517-546-7010.

The **Brighton Veterans Memorial** Project at the Mill Pond in downtown Brighton is still seeking veterans who have honorably served their country and would like their name memorialized in brick pavers. The cost is \$ 115.00 a brick and includes your name, rank and dates. Please contact Bill Rubin at www.brightonveteransmemorial.org

Livingston Community Alliance asks – **What is in your medicine cabinet?** Heroin addiction often starts with the use of common prescription pain killers known as gateway drugs. Dispose of your unused medication in the big red barrel at one of these locations:

- Livingston County Jail
- Michigan State Police – Brighton Post
- Hamburg Police Dept.
- Green Oak Township Police Dept.

Disabled Veterans can now get an exemption from real property taxes

The State of Michigan recently passed a law allowing for disabled veterans who were honorably discharged to apply for an exemption from real estate property taxes. To get this exemption, you must fill out an affidavit for a Real Property Exemption for Disabled Veterans. You **MUST** also attach a current United States Department of Veterans Affairs notification letter indicating disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of **100% disability or individually unemployable**. This process must be done annually. The affidavit can be obtained at the Genoa Township Assessing Department.

Q. What are the qualifications for this exemption?

In order to qualify, the veteran **MUST** meet **ONE** of the following three criteria:

- (a) Has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to be permanently or totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
- (b) Has a certificate from the United States Veterans' Administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
- (c) Has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs as individually unemployable.

Q. How much of my home's value will it exempt?

If you qualify, your home will be totally exempt from property taxes in all jurisdictions, regardless of the home's value. If you co-own the home with someone other than your spouse, your share of the home's value will be exempted.

Q. Why do I need to send you my documentation for this exemption?

The Township does not have access to any military record. You must document that you receive 100% disability compensation for a service connected disability, and have a rating of 100% disability or individually unemployable.

Q. When is this new exemption effective?

If you apply and qualify for the Real Property Exemption for Disabled Veteran, it will become effective January 1, 2014.

Q. If I die, will the Real Property Exemption for Disabled Veteran be passed down to my spouse or children? Your surviving spouse is entitled to the exemption as long as the spouse remains unmarried. The children are not entitled to the exemption after the death of the disabled veteran.

Q. My spouse and I own a home together. How is this exemption calculated?

If the home is community property, it is calculated as if you owned 100% of the home. If the home is not community property, the exemption is prorated in proportion to the value of your interest.

Q. Will I have to reapply every year for the Real Property Exemption for Disabled Veteran?

Yes. Your circumstances may have changed during the past year.

Q. What if I have special assessments on my property, will they be exempt?

No. The real property Exemption for Disabled Veteran applies only to the real property not the special assessments or the refuse charged on your tax bill.

Q. How do I get documentation of my status from the VA?

You can contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000. Their website is at www.va.gov