



Vote the Primary; It's Your Right August 5, 2014 By Polly Skolarus

The **August Primary**, in some ways, **is more important than the November General Election.** In the Primary voters choose from among many candidates for a specific office. The candidate who receives the most votes in August for the Republican and Democratic parties will then face off in November. The November General Election will allow you to vote for the next Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Livingston County Board of Commissioners, Livingston County District Court Judge, Library Boards and others as well as state proposals.

Please don't diminish your right to vote by only voting in November. Make your voice heard and vote in both the primary and the general election.

**Help Wanted –
The Brighton 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 or in person at: Station 31 @ 615 W. Grand River Ave. Brighton, MI

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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

Request your absent voter ballot

Applications for *absent voter ballots* were mailed to all persons who have signed cards for this service. If you are not one of our residents who were automatically mailed an application to vote **absent voter ballot**, you may obtain an application at www.genoa.org. Please click on that internet site then print your application and send it to Paulette A. Skolarus, Genoa Township Clerk, 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116, or FAX it to 810 227-3420. There are also drop boxes at the township hall that may be used for your convenience.

Voters must choose a party to vote in August

August is a primary election. At the primary election voters must choose a party in order to cast their vote. There are only two parties on the ballot – Democratic and Republican. Under Michigan law you may only vote one party; in accordance with the State law our poll workers do not have the authority to make exceptions.

The Monarch Butterfly

Today the numbers of our beautiful Monarch Butterfly population is plummeting. The Monarch Butterfly can't survive without milkweed and milkweed is sharply in decline. Milkweed has become a victim of herbicide.

Here are a few facts about the Monarch Butterfly and their habitat:

- 50 butterflies together weigh less a than one ounce
- Females lay eggs on milkweed
- The larvae grow into caterpillars that feed on the milkweed's leaves
- Milkweed inoculates the Monarchs from predators
- The caterpillars form chrysalises and then emerge as butterflies
- 24 million acres of milkweed have been lost because of conversion to cropland



- Milkweed is the only food source of the Monarch Butterfly
- A single generation of Monarchs migrate over 2,000 miles from Canada and the U.S. to Mexico each year
- A one acre colony in Mexico may contain several million butterflies
- Since 1996 the colonies have been reduced by nearly 95%
- The colony has been reduced from 45 acres to 1.5 acres

There are ways that we can make a difference. Turn a small patch of land into butterfly-friendly habitat. Buy milkweed (*speciosa*) at your local nursery and plant it in your back yard garden. If you write to the following address and include a self-addressed stamped envelope each dollar donated will buy 50 seeds.

Live Monarch – Seed Campaign 2014
 3003-C8 Yamato Road #1015
 Boca Raton, Florida 33434



Visit <http://www.livemonarch.com/> for more information.

(Thank you to Karleen Shafer our Certified Green Industry Professional for bringing this to our attention.)

From the Treasurer's Office:

The 2014 Summer Taxes are due September 14, 2014. Since the due date falls on a Sunday payments will be accepted without penalty on Monday, September 15th. Beginning September 16th a 1% per month interest charge will be 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 or electronic check, 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 then sent to a third party processor, not directly to the designated payee. **Bills paid through your on-line banking system may take up to 15 business days to be received. Postmarks are not accepted as the date paid. Any payments received after the due date will have an additional amount due for interest.**

Watch for Important Tax Mailings Three Times a Year

- Mid February – The Township Assessor’s Office mails to all property owners the Assessment Notice that tells you what they are proposing your Taxable and Assessed Values to be 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 and are payable without penalty through Sept. 14th
- December 1st - Winter taxes are mailed to all Township property owners and are payable without penalty through Feb. 28th

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

Recreation

Two popular local attractions are available free to Genoa residents. Genoa Park is located at 2911 Dorr Road in Genoa Township (see park map). Thompson Lake is located just north of Howell. These are great destinations for residents to enjoy.

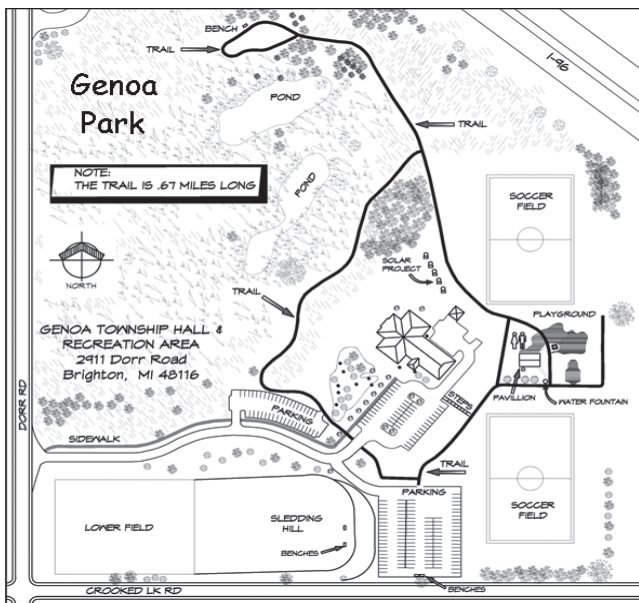
Thompson Lake Park Passes Available

As full members of the Howell Parks and Recreation Authority, our residents can also receive a free Thompson Lake Park Pass. Passes are now available at Bennett Recreation Center located at 925 W. Grand River in Howell.

Genoa Park

At Genoa Park, discover a .66 mile walking path, three playgrounds, a water-misting feature, two regulation-sized athletic fields, swings, picnic tables, kite flying, a sled hill, and a pavilion with heated bathrooms and warming area for all-season fun:

- **The Genoa Park Walking Path** extends north to the fire station, circles the Township Hall, and flanks the athletic fields. Residents report seeing varied wildlife such as herons, hawks, sand-hill cranes, and deer. Keep pets on a leash and use available dog waste baggies/receptacles. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the path.
- **The Genoa Sled Hill & Kite Field** offers a vertical 40-ft drop with a 20 percent grade and a 200-ft run length for fun for all ages. A light pole allows sledding until 10 p.m. In summer, this is a great spot to fly a kite!
- **Three Playgrounds** are designed for ages 2 - 5 and 5 - 12. A water-misting feature quickly cools-off kids during summer fun.
- **Two Lighted Regulation-Sized Athletic Fields** are leased for organized sports. Reservations may be made through Howell Parks and Recreation or SELCRA.



Refuse Collection and disposal:

- Fall leaf collection and yard waste cleanup dates: Saturday Oct. 25th, and Saturday Nov. 22nd from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Genoa Township Hall
- Recycle carts may be rented for \$3.00 a month from Duncan Disposal; bins may be purchased for \$10.00. Call (248) 437-8600
- Bulk stickers may be purchased at the township hall for \$5.00 for the first item and \$10.00 for any additional sticker within each calendar year. Stickers are NONREFUNDABLE.