



Newsletter December

IN THIS ISSUE

*From the Desk of
Township Clerk,
Paulette Skolarus*

*From the Desk of
Township Treasurer,
Robin Hunt*

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Supervisor
Bill Rogers

Clerk
Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer
Robin Hunt

Trustees
Jean Ledford
Jim Mortensen
Terry Croft
Diana Lowe

2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, MI 48116
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Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

FROM THE DESK OF PAULETTE SKOLARUS, CLERK

Petitions: Be Sure, Be Careful

Every now and then you may be approached by someone asking you to sign a petition. It may be to place a question on a ballot, approve a candidate for office, or for local improvements. This action is allowed by law and is encouraged with the creation of a special assessment district. Before you sign, please be sure to read the complete petition to assure yourself that it is something that you believe in. Once your signature is on a petition it may not be removed.



Know what you are signing, be informed.

The township recently received petitions from residents of one of our lake districts asking for an aquatic weed control project. More than 60% of the residents who lived on the lake signed the petition. When the first public hearing was scheduled 19 families asked to rescind or remove their signature from the petition. Our Township attorney advised the board that under a Supreme Court decision from 1959, a person may not rescind after their signature once it is added to a petition.

A New Infestation Hits Michigan

Over the last 60 years we have seen the decline of Michigan's trees. Just observe the trees along our roadways that are dead or dying. Elm trees have disappeared. Beech bark disease may wipe out our beech trees. Half of all oak trees from a 45,000 acre study by the University of Michigan, have disappeared. All this is a result of acid rain, according to experts.

Today Michigan's pine and spruce trees are on the decline. Perhaps you have noticed that your spruce and pine trees are no longer looking healthy. The culprit is more than likely



Example of needle cast disease.

needle cast which may cause the inner needles to die off, leaving only green tips on branches. The brown needles will have tiny black dots, which are evidence of the fungus. You can spray with a fungicide in early spring just as the needles are emerging and again several weeks later to prevent infection. This disease is usually worse where air circulation is poor. Pruning some of the branches for better airflow may also help reduce this disease. The second fungus, called

Phomopsis, has been around for a long time and has previously infected small seedlings but not mature trees. Now it has its eye on larger trees. The fungus starts out with dead branches on lower limbs and then moves up the trunk, finally killing the entire tree.

Blue, White and Norway spruces are not native to Michigan and are susceptible to the disease. Scientists are trying to determine why this is happening but do not have any answers. Homeowners need to be aware that Michigan's spruce and pine trees are dying.

Tips from Michigan State Extension:

- If you are planting new spruce trees, don't group them together as this allows easy contamination from one to another.
- If you have a tree that is infected near a healthy tree, remove the infected tree so that the disease is not transmitted to the healthy tree.
- If you spot dead branches, you should prune them and get rid of lower limbs to help with air circulation.
- If you're not sure what is going on with your tree call an expert. Not all spruce trees are diseased. Some may be dying of natural causes.

References: Michigan State University Extension
Karleen Shafer, Arborist



Example of Phomopsis fungus.

FROM THE DESK OF ROBIN HUNT, TREASURER

Summer Tax Bill Information:

- Mailed June 30th
- Due between July 1st and September 14th
- 1% interest fee if paid after September 14th
- Additional 1% will be applied the first of each month until paid
- Payable to Genoa Township until February 28th
- March 1st tax bills are payable to the Livingston County Treasurer
- County will charge 1% interest per month and 4% administration fee

Winter Tax Bill Information:

- Mailed November 30th
- Due between December 1st and February 28th
- Payable to Genoa Township until February 28th
- March 1st tax bills are payable to the Livingston County Treasurer
- County will charge 1% interest per month and 4% administration fee

Things To Remember:

- Partial payments can be made at Genoa Township until February 28th on Summer or Winter taxes and payments can be made as often as you like, in any dollar amount
- Tax payments can be made at the Township office by cash or check Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 1. By check mailed to: Genoa Township, 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116 **POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED**
 2. By check placed in the drop box located at the Township Hall
 3. **Credit card and electronic check payments can ONLY BE MADE ONLINE at www.genoa.org**
 - * 3% convenience fee for credit card payments
 - * \$3.00 fee for electronic check payments

If you have any questions about your taxes, please contact the Township Treasurer's office at 810-227-5225. Genoa Charter Township has a wonderful website full of information, please visit: www.genoa.org. For more detailed information see the back of your tax bill.

Addresses and phone numbers to remember:

Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Rd.
Brighton, MI 48116
810-227-5225

Livingston County Treasurer
200 E. Grand River
Howell, MI 48843
517-546-7010