



Genoa Charter Township News

January 2009

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Genoa Charter Township Board Members

Supervisor

Gary McCrie

Clerk

Paulette Skolarus

Treasurer

Robin Hunt

Trustees

Todd Smith

Jim Mortensen

Steve Wildman

Jean Ledford

A message from Township Treasurer, Robin Hunt

2008 Summer & Winter Taxes

All Genoa Township property owners were mailed a 2008 Summer & Winter Tax Bill. The 2008 Summer Taxes were due 9-14-08. If you are unsure if your Summer bill has been paid please contact the Genoa Township Treasurer's Office at 810-227-5225 or check our website at www.genoa.org. Your Summer Tax bill, plus penalty, is still payable to Genoa Township until 3-02-09. If you need to pay a delinquent summer bill, please contact our office for a current amount due.

2008 Winter Taxes are payable, without penalty thru 3-02-09. Tax payments can be made at the Township Office by cash or check, Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00, or by mail to 2911 Dorr Rd., Brighton, MI 48116. If paying by mail please allow extra time for delivery, **postmarks are not accepted.**

The last day to pay 2008 taxes (February 28th, 2009) falls on a Saturday and the Township Offices will be closed that day. Because of this all payments made in person on Monday, March 2nd will be accepted as on time. For your convenience there are two drop boxes located at the Township for after-hours payments. All tax payments left in our drop boxes on 3-02-09 will be mailed a paid receipt dated 2-28-09.



You also now have the option to pay your taxes, with a credit card or by electronic check, online at www.genoa.org or by calling 1-800-272-9829. Official Payments Corporation is providing this service for the Township. They will charge an additional convenience fee of 3% for credit card payments or a flat fee of \$3.00 for electronic check payments. *Credit card payments cannot be made at the Township.*

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

Visit us online:
www.genoa.org

Township Utility Information

By Michael Archinal

We often receive calls from Township residents about their water. Genoa Charter Township residents receive their water from either private wells or public municipal systems. Municipal customers receive their water from one of our three systems from a Four-Township Authority called MHOG (Marion/Howell/Oceola/Genoa), the City of Brighton or the Oak Pointe water system. Genoa is not connected to the City of Detroit system. Your utility bill indicates which water and sewer district you are in.

All Genoa systems obtain their water from underground wells. The water is treated to remove iron. MHOG water is also softened to remove calcium carbonate. If you are on MHOG water you do not need to have a water softener. Further softening MHOG water is unnecessary and is corrosive to your plumbing. If you are on City of Brighton water (Brighton Village Mobile Home Park and properties east including Lake Edgewood) or Oak Pointe (including North Shore) you may wish to utilize a home water softener. If you soften your water and are on Oak Pointe or Lake Edgewood sewer, make sure you utilize a potassium-based regenerant because regular softener salt causes compliance problems for our sewer plants. If you have any question about which district you are in please call the Township Hall at 810.227.5225

Genoa Charter Township contracts the operation and maintenance of its water facilities (MHOG and Oak Pointe) to Severn Trent Environmental Services. The City of Brighton maintains their systems. Operators from Severn Trent monitor your drinking water daily according to federal and state laws. Operations personnel must be certified by the State of Michigan and meet testing and continuing education requirements. Your municipal drinking water meets or surpasses all federal and state parameters. For further information about your water visit www.genoa.org or call Genoa Charter Township at 810.227.5225

Many people purchase bottled drinking water. Empty bottles often end up in a landfill or along our roadsides. We continually strive to provide our customers with a quality product. Purchasing bottled water is a personal choice. The following table compares the relative cost of water.

Source	Approx. Cost/Unit	Cost/Gallon
Convenience Store	\$1.25 per 16 oz. bottle	\$10.00 gallon
Grocery Store	\$6.00 per 24 pack	\$2.00 gallon
Grocery Store	\$.89 refillable jug	\$.89 gallon
Genoa Municipal Water	\$2.90 to \$3.84/1,000 gallons	1/2 penny per gallon

Don't forget to license your dog(s)

The 2009 Dog Licenses are being sold thru March 2, 2009.

Dog License Fees for 2009:

\$ 7.00 Spayed/Neutered

\$25.00 Male/Female

\$30.00 All dogs after March 2, 2009.

In order to issue a license we must see the paperwork from your veterinarian showing proof of spay/neutering, if applicable, as well as proof of current rabies vaccination.



A message from Township Assessor, Debra Rojewski

The Assessing Department will be sending out the annual assessment notices around February 23rd. The notices are sent out to all property owners notifying them what the 2009 assessed and taxable values are changing to for the next tax year.

Below are the dates and times for the March Board of Review:

March 9	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
March 10	1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
March 11	1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO THE ASSESSED VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY.

We also accept written appeals to the Board of Review, which will be accepted until 9 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Many issues and questions can be answered without a visit to the Board of Review. One option would be to check out the township website www.genoa.org and reading the **frequently asked questions** by clicking Departments on the left and then click on Assessing. The other option would be to come into the office to discuss your question or issue with someone in the Assessing Department.

If you feel that you have not been satisfied then you should schedule an appointment with the Board of Review. You must have an appointment to appear before the Board of Review.

Maintaining Your Septic System

By *Paulette A. Skolarus*

As new residents move into the rural areas of Genoa Township that are not served with municipal water or sewer, they are faced with a new form of sewage disposal - A SEPTIC SYSTEM. It is important to service your septic system on a regular basis or you may have to replace your septic system, should it fail. Failure and replacement may cost as little as \$5,000.00 or as much as \$25,000.00 (engineered system). The cost to have your tank pumped runs between \$180.00 and \$270.00 depending on the size of your holding tank. Your tank should be pumped and inspected every three years. The septic system is made up of two parts. The first part is a double holding tank where the wastewater from your home goes. The second part is the septic field where the water from the holding tank flows after the sludge sinks to the bottom of the holding tank. The sludge from your holding tank should never enter the septic field. Sludge will destroy the septic field.

Here are a few suggestions to assist you in protecting your septic system investment:

- Spread your laundry washing over the whole week to avoid putting a lot of water into the system at one time.
- Avoid using chemicals that kill the bacteria that break down the sludge in your septic system. Use soaps and detergents that are biodegradable. An alternate drain cleaner is 1/2 cup of baking soda, followed by 1/2 cup of vinegar (let that sit for a few minutes), followed by boiling water.
- Don't dispose of anything other than toilet wastes and water from laundry, bathing and dishwashing into your septic system. It cannot handle wastes such as diapers, coffee grounds, tampons, cigarette butts, grease and other food products. Limit the use of your garbage disposal.
- Never drive or build anything on the drain-field portion of your septic system. Soil compaction and paving prevents oxygen from getting into the soil. The majority of the water in your field evaporates into the air.
- Pump your system every two to three years to avoid having to replace the entire septic system.



Genoa Charter Township
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 298
BRIGHTON, MI 48116
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We're updating our old web site

COMING SOON, Genoa Charter Township will be unveiling changes to the official Township website. The website was first initiated in 1999 so we are celebrating our ten year anniversary. Residents will find many new options on our new site and we are excited to hear your comments. Our continuing goal is to bring the most up-to-date and accurate information to our residents. Look for the new website coming in early Spring 2009 at www.genoa.org.

