

**GENEVA TOWNSHIP**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**MARCH 28, 2009**

**GENEVA TOWNSHIP**  
**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

MARCH 28, 2009

8:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order - Special Meeting
- Pledge of Allegiance**
2. Open Budget Public Hearing  
    Review of Budget  
    2009 Millage Rates - .7823 Operating; 2.9892 Roads  
    Close Budget Public Hearing
3. Call to Order - Annual Meeting
4. Minutes of Annual Meeting - March 29, 2008
5. Treasurer's Report - As of March 20, 2009
6. Appointment of Township Depositor - West Michigan Savings Bank  
    - Fifth-Third Bank  
    - Sturgis Bank
7. Board Meeting Date & Time - Second Tuesday of Month - 7:00 p.m.
8. Annual Meeting Date & Time - March 27, 2010 8:00 a.m.
9. Road Plan for 2009
10. PUBLIC COMMENT
11. Adjourn Annual Meeting
12. Re-Open Special Meeting  
    2009 Millage Rates - .7823 Operating; 2.9892 Roads  
    Adopt 2009-2010 Budget
13. Pension Plan - Withdrawal Change
14. Adjourn Special Meeting

**THINK SPRING**

## GENEVA TOWNSHIP LISTING

3/24/09

### Supervisor

Nancy Ann Whaley  
63133 16th Avenue  
Bangor, MI 49013-9661

Phone & Fax 269-427-7607  
email - geneva8009@yahoo.com  
S.H. Area Emergency Services Representative

### Clerk

Bridgette Gumpert  
19881 CR 687  
South Haven, MI 49090

Phone 269-427-7422

### Treasurer

M. Jeffery Primmer  
61159 CR 384  
Bangor, MI 49013

Phone & Fax 269-427-8588  
email - treasprimmer@genevatwp.org

### Trustees

Norman Funk  
14739 62nd Street  
Bangor, MI 49013

Phone 269-427-7276  
Sexton

Audrey Krader  
00653 CR 681  
Grand Junction, MI 49056

Phone 269-253-4221

### Assessor

Manning Professional Services  
Hal & Sue Manning  
1447 Clarke Place  
South Haven, MI 49090

Phone 269-637-0421  
Fax 269-639-0917

### South Haven Community Hospital Authority Representative

Clare Olney  
Phone 269-637-3506

### South Haven Area Senior Services Representative

Linda Primmer  
Phone 269-427-8588

### South Haven Regional Airport Authority Representative

David Orr  
Phone 269-427-2521

### Building Inspector

Charles Moore  
19624 CR 687  
South Haven, MI 49090

2000 Michigan Building Codes  
Phone 269-427-8328  
Fax 269-427-8753

### Electrical Inspector

Richard Burrows  
10311 68th St. P.O. Box 411  
South Haven, MI 49090

State of Michigan Electrical Codes  
Phone 269-637-3203  
Fax 269-637-9413

### Mechanical Inspector

Walter DeVisser  
63165 CR 380  
Bangor, MI 49013

State of Michigan Mechanical Codes  
Phone 269-427-7543

### Plumbing Inspector

Phyllis Centers  
63421 CR 380  
Bangor, MI 49013

State of Michigan Plumbing Codes  
Phone 269-427-7890

### Well & Septic Permit Information

Department of Public Health  
57418 CR 687  
Hartford, MI 49057-9634

Phone 269-621-3143

### Driveway Permit

Van Buren County Road Commission  
319 James Street P.O. Box 156

Phone 269-674-8011  
Fax 269-674-3770



**Statement of Accounts as of March 20, 2009**

General Fund (Money Market & CD's)	682,249.02
Fire & Ambulance Account	360,905.44
Fire Insurance Account	90.00
Liquor - Certificate of Deposit	6,200.00
Liquor - Savings Account	154.75
Tax - Savings Account	1003.23
Tax - Checking Account	0.00
Trust & Agency	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Balance in all Accounts</b>	<b>\$1,050,602.44</b>

**Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009 Geneva Township TAX DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>Van Buren County</b>	Real & Personal Tax	\$176,069.25	
	Geneva County Drains	10,557.54	
	Dog Licenses	<u>15.00</u>	<b>186,641.79</b>
<b>Geneva Township</b>	Real & Personal Tax	65,406.91	
	Roads	255,143.92	
	Street Lights	750.75	
	Fire	203,891.61	
	Other-Demolition Fees	0.00	
	Administration Fees	<u>23,503.61</u>	<b>548,696.80</b>
<b>South Haven Hospital</b>	.3594 Mill	28,403.74	
<b>South Haven Senior Services</b>	.2491 Mill	19,683.49	
<b>Bangor Public Schools</b>		115,765.42	
<b>Covert Public Schools</b>		850.15	
<b>V.B. Cty. Intermediate School District</b>		389,525.98	
<b>South Haven Public Schools</b>		1,782.85	
<b>Other (Refunds o/payments, etc.)</b>		<u>26.30</u>	<b>556,037.93</b>
<b>2008-2009 Fiscal Year TOTAL TAX DISBURSEMENT</b>			<b>\$1,291,376.52</b>

South Haven School, Lake MI College & State Education Tax is collected in Summer by Van Buren County Treasurer.

**2008 - 2009 TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT**

Trailer Park Fees	\$7,713.00
Less Pay Out 5/6 - V. B. County	\$6,427.50
1/6 - Geneva Township	<u>\$1,285.50</u>
Balance on Hand	<b>\$ .00</b>

Trailer Park Fees are levied on trailer parks at \$3.00 per unit with \$2 to State Education fund; \$.50 each to Township & County. Geneva Township has four trailer parks - Port of Call, Whispering Pines, Mitchell Brothers, Meadowbrook Village.

<b>Geneva Township Revenues</b>	<b>2008 - 2009 Fiscal Year</b>	<b>\$ 966,449.22</b>
<b>Geneva Township Expenditures</b>	<b>2008 - 2009 Fiscal Year</b>	<b>\$1,345,093.84</b>

**GENEVA TOWNSHIP**

**2009-2010 Regular Board Meeting**

**Second Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. at 62127 CR 380**

<b>April 14, 2009</b>	<b>October 13, 2009</b>
<b>May 12, 2009</b>	<b>November 10, 2009</b>
<b>June 9, 2009</b>	<b>December 8, 2009</b>
<b>July 14, 2009</b>	<b>January 12, 2010</b>
<b>August 11, 2009</b>	<b>February 9, 2010</b>

September 8, 2009

March 9, 2010

March 27, 2010 - 8:00 A.M. - Annual Meeting

**GENEVA WEBSITE**

**[www.vbco.org/geneva.asp](http://www.vbco.org/geneva.asp)**

**Site includes Geneva Township Information**

Directory; Cemetery Information; Ordinances & applications on certain ordinances; Road Information; Minutes synopsis; Contact information; Tax collection dates, Board of Review dates; Library information; Election Consolidation and any election announcements; Transfer Station Operation, Free Dump Day Information; Calendar; Annual Report; Mechanical & Electrical Permit applications; other items of importance as they occur.

**LINKS to:** South Haven Area Emergency Services; South Haven Community Hospital; State of Michigan website; State Representative, Tonya Schuitmaker, State Senator, Ron Jelinek; U.S. Representative Fred Upton; Van Buren County Sheriff Department; Cities of South Haven and Bangor; Van Buren County Government; Kal-Haven Trail; Black River Heritage Trail; Bangor and South Haven Public Schools; Road Commission; Surrounding Township websites; Michigan Flywheelers; South Haven Rod & Gun Club; miscellaneous others.

**Maintenance:** Site is updated as information is ready for site with more information being added as it occurs.

**Contact:** Nancy Whaley, 269-427-7607 or [geneva8009@yahoo.com](mailto:geneva8009@yahoo.com). Feed back and ideas are appreciated.

**ELECTION CONSOLIDATION**

**All Geneva Township Voters will be voting on ALL elections at the Geneva Township Hall.** This includes Bangor and South Haven School Elections. If you live in Geneva Township you will be voting in Geneva Township Hall, 62127 CR 380, Bangor. Please feel free to contact Bridgette Gumpert at 269-427-7422 with your questions on voter registration, voting process and absentee ballots applications. Tuesday, May 5, 2009 election: Van Buren County 911 proposal and Bangor Public Schools school board election.

**Exercise your right to VOTE.**

**South Haven Area Emergency Services Authority**

**Ronald L. Wise, Executive Director 269-637-5151 or 269-637-1813**

**EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**

**website: [www.shaes.org](http://www.shaes.org)**

**LIFE SIGNS could SAVE A LIFE or your HOME.**

Life Signs available from South Haven Area Emergency Services Authority - contact any one at the South Haven Fire Complex 637-5151 or 637-1813. Signs are installed by Authority personnel at a cost of \$13. Posts are \$4.00 additional.

**Please check SMOKE DETECTORS monthly and replace the batteries twice a year or when you change your clock for daylight savings time.**

***Think Fire Safety - Drive Safely***

**2008 Firefighter of the year is Felice Gruber**

**2008 SHAES Leadership Award to Al Hosier**

**History:** South Haven Area Emergency Services Authority was formed through combined efforts of Casco, Geneva, South Haven Townships and South Haven City, through many brainstorming meetings held from 1992-1995. The Authority was formed January 1, 1996 and is served by a 5 member board. Authority Board meets first Wednesday each month at Station 3, (South Haven Fire Complex). Representative on S.H.A.E.S. Board is Nancy Whaley - phone 427-7607.

**Union Contract:** - Four year agreement effective 2008. South Haven Fire Fighters Union thanked SHAES board & Deb Lull for time spent in negotiating a fair and equitable agreement.

**2008 CALLS for SERVICE:** Total Authority in 2008 - 1,740 calls, 1,214 ambulance, 526 fire. Geneva - 304 calls - 223 ambulance, 81 fire. Casco - 272 calls - 162 Ambulance, 110 Fire; South Haven Township - 375

calls - 266 ambulance, 109 fire; South Haven City - 746 calls - 553 ambulance, 193 fire; Mutual Aid - 43 calls, 10 ambulance, 33 fire. Mutual aid included, Ganges, Bangor, Columbia, Covert, Coloma Ambulance.

## South Haven Area Emergency Services Authority - continued.

**Ambulance Service Rate Change:** Medicare adjusted payable amounts for ambulance service July 1, 2008, therefore SHAES Authority changed rates for providing Basic and Advance Life Support emergency ambulance services to take advantage of these new payable amounts by Medicare & Blue Cross Insurance:

Basic Life Support	\$350.00/per patient	Advanced Life Support	\$700.00/per patient
Transport Mileage Rate	\$ 6.00/per mile	Oxygen & Oxygen Supplies	\$ 40.00/per patient
Non Transport Charge	\$100.00/per patient	Intercept with Other Ambulances	\$100.00/per patient

**SHAES Fire Inspection** on all commercial buildings requires plan review and approval by Fire Inspector prior to any new commercial building or renovation. Shaes municipalities have put in place process format that requires signed plan reviews by Fire Inspector before issuance of any commercial building, electrical, mechanical or plumbing permits. SHAES Fire Inspectors: Al Hosier, Owen Ridley, Tony Marsala & Ron Ridley.

**Personnel:** **Ronald L. Wise**, has completed his first year as Director and serves on Van Buren Medical Control Board, Allegan Fire Chief & West MI Fire chief meetings. Ron has worked to review all policies and procedures and continues to serve SHAES Board and personnel providing opportunities through education and training. **Tony Marsala and Ron Ridley** passed NFPA Fire Inspector tests. **James Quinn and James Lindemulder** have successfully completed an 18 month paramedic classes, now serving their internships at SHAES. Upon completion of internship they will take the national registry test and be allowed to become state licensed. **Al Hosier and Dawn Florey** are VFIS certified drivers training instructors.

**SHAES Paid On Call Volunteer Association** - Fundraisers and other solicitations this year to supported purchase of a dive trailer to house all dive team equipment. Dive trailer purchased through Walt Sicard at cost and is currently being prepared for use in spring, 2009. List of donors is being prepared for recognition.

**Thanks to Paid on Call Association** for all your assistance in all you do to enhance the health, safety and welfare of both SHAES personnel and community. **Harry Overhiser Fund** Administered by Paid on Call Association and will be used as SHAES scholarship fund for fire-fighters. **Boot Drive** by SHAES netted \$3,000 for Muscular Dystrophy.

### **SUPPORT Paid on Call Volunteer Association Fundraisers**

**2009 SHAES Budget:** Adopted 2009 Budget at 3.68% overall increase with largest increases in benefits due to Health Insurance. Appreciation extended to Debra Lull, Ron Wise & Jerry Sajewski for work in budget preparation and keeping increase minimal. Geneva contribution for fire and ambulance service is \$201,452 in 2009. Geneva was able to reduce Fire and Ambulance millage levy from 2.90 mills to 2.65 mills for the 2008 tax year.

**New Equipment:** Two Stryker Power Pro ambulance cots in service helping to reduce risk of employee injury and ease in working with patients; New fire truck replacement of engine 12; New Med-Tec Squad 2 ambulance in service. Zoll monitors for heart patients; Toughbook computers for use by both ambulance and fire inspection reporting; Minivan for economical personnel transportation to training's, special events, etc.; Light bars for command vehicles; Quick connectors for Hurst extrication tools.

**Boat Fire:** Twenty-two SHAES personnel responded to fire. MSP Fire Marshall, Scott Leroy and Diane Openheimer continue to be great help in this un-going investigation. Bronson Hospital review of burn patients following boat explosion with SHAES personnel will enhance future safety in this type of situation. Class A foam truck worked well.

**Vehicle Maintenance:** Keith Bierhalter provides oversight on in-house maintenance of equipment. Tony Marsala & Keith Bierhalter are certified vehicle mechanics. Most all vehicle maintenance is done in house by personnel.

**Casco Fire Station** - Purchased three acres in Casco Township at 66th & 109th for construction of new fire station. Final papers are being completed for USDA grant and funding. Design work has been completed. Brian Dissette and City of South Haven have spent much time on behalf of SHAES with USDA on this project.

**Continuing Education & Ongoing Training** include: Med-Evac live helicopter training with MI National Guard; Local business & industry tours; Dive Rescue including ice water rescue; Dive Rescue medical diver class with 6 SHAES attending; Extrication classes; Live fire training; Radiological testing with Palisades; Advanced Cardiac Life Support; VFIS certification; EKG paramedic training on 12 leads on heart patients;

Grant writing seminar; Fire Chief classes; CPR re-certification; Simulation disaster drill. Confined space simulator being installed at Station 3 by Dustin Guminski and Mark Kaput for confined space training.

## **South Haven Area Emergency Services Authority - continued.**

**Fire Prevention Week** - October 9th - Fire Safety Fair at Station 3. Presented education and Tower 1 demonstration to Kids Camp at Wellness Center. Paul Quinn did an excellent job overseeing the prevention program again this year with cost provided by donations.

**Donations received:** Whirlpool donated washer and dryer for station 4 which will safely clean fire and EMS gear of contaminants; Money for Highway Safety Vest for all SHAES personnel from Doug Kuhn, Cashway Body & Frame; Engraving of Fire Fighter plaque by Johnny's Jewelry.

**Grants received:** Medical control Grant Funds \$3300 provided two Advanced Life Support Pediatric Mannequins. Entergy Grant \$7,500 received; purchase new rope rescue equipment & dive gear. EMS-5th District grant provided two EZ-IO's for Shaes in heart patient use. MI Works Grant provides funding for EMT and Paramedic training with three SHAES personnel attending last year and five this year at LMC. 100% personnel pledge to comply with seat belt usage.

**Other: M-43 Detour & Round-a-bout** -Contractor worked very well with SHAES personnel, keeping at least one lane through construction site open at most times. **Approved** equipment insurance coverage increase at 75% of insurance values. **Adopted** 2006 International Fire Code. **Squad 2** - Sold old ambulance to Lee Township for \$3,000.

**Thank you to each and every employee & volunteer of South Haven Emergency Services Authority for their dedication to all of us in the service area, as well as visitors to our community. We are fortunate to have the expertise of each of you.**

## **Burning permits are required for ALL OPEN BURNING.**

**For permits: Call 269-637-1813 or at [www.shaes.org](http://www.shaes.org)**

### **South Haven Area Regional Airport Authority**

South Haven Regional Airport is located at 73020 CR 380, South Haven. David Orr, 269-427-2521, represents Geneva Township on Airport Authority Board and serves on the Executive Board of the Airport Authority.

**Thank you Dave for service to the Geneva Township and Airport boards.** SHARA Authority was formed in 1983 with Casco, Covert, Geneva & South Haven Township's and cities of Bangor and South Haven. Dave Johnson serves as Airport Manager - 269-637-7343. Geneva supports this authority with .25 mill annually based on taxable value and this .25 mill comes out of the .7823 operating millage.

**OTHER:** Mead & Hunt Engineering firm continues work on runway extension and removal of trees on adjoining property in flight path. Hangers are full with 15 on wait list and review of additional hangers being completed. Snow removal by Exterior Site Services and is providing some savings over previous bids. Authority agreement calls for .25 mill from all members, but all members have taken Headlee rollbacks that affect operating millage and working with the Authority Board has provided a decrease for the 2008 tax year in which Geneva's rate was .08 of a mill. Environmental study being done on adjoining property of Monitor Mold for evaluation of acquisition by Airport Board. MDOT grant received for crack sealing paved runway areas.

**Annual Fly-In 8-14.** Fly-In well attended with 90 planes attending; Rotary breakfast served 1700. Antique cars displayed. Due to liability issues plane rides are not offered.

### **South Haven Community Hospital Authority**

**website: <http://www.shch.org> Phone: 269-637-5271**

**Hospital Grounds and Facilities are SMOKELESS - Users cannot smoke at these sites.**

South Haven Hospital Board representative is Clare Olney, 637-3605. **Thank you Clare for giving of your time to keep Geneva Township informed of activities at the Hospital.**

**History:** September 12, 1961 Geneva township voted on a proposal to form a joint hospital authority with total votes of Yes 144 and No 26. We pay .4 mill (rolled back for 2008 to .3594) and have since 1961. On April 12, 1977 a proposal to levy 1 mill for three years (1977-8-9) for the SHCHA remodeling was passed. Geneva Township provides representation on the SHCHA board since forming of the Authority. In 2007 Geneva

Township passed resolution supporting \$4,500,000 Revenue Bond procurement by SHCH Authority for the Wellness Center with Geneva's responsibility at 6.56% in the event the Hospital was unable to meet the bond. SHCH Authority consists of townships: Arlington, Bangor, Casco, Columbia, Covert, Geneva, South Haven, and cities of Bangor and South Haven.

### **South Haven Community Hospital Authority - continued**

**Services Available:** Annual Heart to Heart Screening annually in February; Yoga, Tai Chi, skin care, Reiki & Massage therapy; Pulmonary & Cardiac Rehabilitation programs; Better Breathing Tele-Health Presentations; CPR classes; Flu Clinics; Sleep Clinics; Cancer Care; Diabetes support; Occupational Medicine; Infusion Center; Sensible options for good health.

**Water birthing option** available for mothers-to-be, call 639-2720 for more information. SHCH is only hospital in Van Buren County that delivers newborns. Birthing Center is remodeled and open.

**SHCH Home Care Service** provides traditional care ordered by a physician and private duty service provided at client expense. Call Traditional home care 639-2888; Private Duty 639-2882. Lifeline personal response system available by calling 639-2888.

**Screening Mammograms** offered at special price in October each year, National Breast Health Awareness Month. Mammography program passed all Federal & State guidelines with no infractions for fourth year.

**10th Annual Harvest Food Drive** - Food Drive supplies We Care food pantries with 5440# of food \$395 cash; 1,385 from Health Science Department of the VBISD. In ten years of Food Drive, 63,545 pounds of non-perishable food items have been collected from hospital personnel for food pantries benefiting many families through We Care, I.N.C.

**Shoreline Wellness & Rehabilitation Center** - Programs and usage of the Wellness Center continue to be an asset to the community. For more information: Community events contact: Kim Wise at 269-639-2805; Membership contact: Kathy Wolf at 269-639-2648.

**New Physicians:** Dr U, pediatrician, call 639-2772 for appointment. Dr. Kovach, MD, family medicine and does OB, delivering newborns.

**Urgent Care After hours clinic** open 7 days week 1 to 9 pm at SHCH. **Cooper Clinic - Bangor** 520 Railroad St. phone 269-427-5811; **Covert Medical Clinic** - 33380 M-140 phone 269-764-0005.

**Volunteer Recognition** Volunteers assisting at Hospital provide many hours to SHCH, April 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009 15,037 volunteer hours have been provide to enhance services throughout hospital. Volunteers provide many services, including but not limited to: coffee and gift shop, front desk, surgery waiting area, clerical work as needed. The Hospital Auxiliary gave \$50,000 toward the Wellness Center and \$7,000 toward the OB renovation. Auxiliary holds a book fair in Hospital lobby twice annually as a fundraiser. "Make a difference in someone's life and be a Volunteer". Volunteers are always needed, call Hannah Schlecker 637-5271 #2203 for more information.

**Look for the "brightly colored smocks" around the hospital and thank these VOLUNTEERS, they truly are the "Heart of SHCH & America"**

### **South Haven Area Senior Services Phone 269-637-3607**

**Executive Director - Jennifer Carver**

South Haven Area Senior Services coverage area includes Arlington, Bangor, Columbia, Covert, Geneva & South Haven Townships & Cities of South Haven and Bangor. Linda Primmer, 269-427-8588, is Geneva representative on the SHASS Board, which meets the third Wednesday each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Warren Center. **Thank you Linda for your time and effort you put in to enhance the quality of life for our Seniors.**

**SHASS Board Officers:** President; Alesia Webb, Vice President, Dennis Palgen; Secretary & Treasurer, Cheri Brenner. Other Board Members include Arlington Township - Larry Retherford; Columbia Township - Dick Curtis; Geneva Township - Linda Primmer; South Haven City - John Kneeland; Member at Large - Nan

Edwards; Bangor Township - City of Bangor - South Haven Township - un-represented. Financial status is consistent without accessing the line of credit prior to tax collection in December, 2008.

**SHASS Senior Sentinel** contains monthly information on programs, services, fun activities, meals, and is included in the South Haven Tribune last Sunday of each month. **Special Events:** Check Senior Sentinel calendars for these.

## **South Haven Area Senior Services - continued**

**Senior Assistance:** If you know Seniors that need assistance or would benefit from SHASS programs have them contact Senior Center at 637-3607 or Geneva Township representatives.

**In-Home Service** being offered by SHASS, as of Feb. 1, 2009, for light housekeeping, etc. at a cost of \$11.00 per hour. One clients is participating for 17-20 hours per week with anticipation of growth in this program.

**Geneva residents** take advantage of the many programs and activities for Seniors offered at the Warren Center in South Haven, including meals, trips, computer training. In the last fiscal year 769 seniors took part in programs of SHASS. Currently Geneva has 68 Care Watch clients. Many Geneva Seniors spend time volunteering and helping others. Services include, but are not limited to: Employment assistance; equipment loan rental; exercise; food programs; health programs; prescription assistance; hospice; housing; legal services; Medicare/Medicaid assistance; tax form assistance; transportation; home delivered meals; Community caring, Care Watch; computer classes, Smoke Free program and numerous other activities.

**Transportation** - Work continues with Van Buren Public Transit to provide transportation for seniors. Transportation committee continues to look for ways to enhance this area of Senior Services. Saturday trips are being offered beginning in April, 2009.

### **Tax Form Assistance**

SHASS offered basic in some tax assistance for seniors. Served 136 people so far for 2008 tax forms.

**Growth & Budget;** Growing pains continue as services and needs expand for Seniors in all areas involved. Office space is needed to ease operations of SHASS. Office facilities and programs are being provided in Bangor, Columbia, Arlington, Bangor City and Covert to enhance the outlying coverage areas. SHASS continues to add programs and opportunities for Seniors throughout the service area.

**Fundraising events** are ungoing to enhance the programs of SHASS. Annual "Give from the Heart" Campaign has a \$6,000 goal for 2009. United Way Funding remains at lower levels of funding for SHASS than in past. Making and selling pasties in fall is a fundraiser which requires lots of volunteer manpower but has matching funds from Thrivent through Peace Lutheran Church. Donations of time, service and money are always welcomed. Fundraising committee is planning a number of events this year, watch for opportunities to support Senior Services.

**There are fun and exciting programs for Seniors - check it out.**

## **Van Buren County District Library & South Haven Memorial Library**

**website: VBDL** <http://woodlands.lib.mi.us/van/vanburen.htm>

**website: SHML** <http://shmlibrary.org/>

### **Geneva Library Services - Van Buren District Library & South Haven Memorial Library**

Geneva Township Residents can use both Library systems at no charge. You must have a Van Buren District Library card, available at the Bangor Division of V.B. District Library and take it to the South Haven Memorial Library and they will honor it for no charge library service. Books and materials that you get from the individual library systems must be returned to the library where you got them. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

**South Haven Memorial Library** - 269-637-2403 314 Broadway, South Haven - Hours: Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Bangor Division of Van Buren District Library** - 269-427-8810 413 Division St., Bangor - Hours - Monday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday 12 to 5 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday - CLOSED. Phone 427-8810.

**Special Thank You to Deb Jones, Director. S.H. Memorial Library and David Tate, Director, Van Buren District Library for working together to benefit Geneva Township Residents.**

## **AL - VAN HUMANE SOCIETY**

**website: [www.al-van.org](http://www.al-van.org)**

***The Mission of the Society is to meet the needs of our pets and community by promoting the humane and responsible care of pets and animals.***

Al-Van Humane Society is a tax exempt corporation serving surrounding townships and working closely with Van Buren County Animal Control. Facility located at 73303 8th Avenue, South Haven - phone 637-5062. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday & Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Al-Van Humane Society does fundraisers throughout the year. **“Paws on the Pier”** Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. South Beach in South Haven; **On-line shopping** through **[www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)** and register for Al-Van Humane Society and they get percentage of purchase. Watch for other fundraisers throughout the year and support our animal friends. Dog food, paper towels, blankets, etc. are always needed at the shelter.

Funding is through donations and contributions. Send your donation to Al-Van Humane Society, P.O. Box 421, South Haven, MI 49090. Geneva contracts annually for service to residents. Al-Van meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Shelter on 8th Avenue. If you are interested in serving on the Al-Van Board, please contact Nancy Whaley, 427-7607.

## **Van Buren County Public Transit**

**website: [www.vbco.org/government755146.asp](http://www.vbco.org/government755146.asp)**

**Director: Tony Dacoba - 269-427-7377**

Service is available by calling 269-427-7921 or 1-800-828-2015. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 24 hours notice is appreciated for long trips within Van Buren County. Outside County service is available for medical appointments, at an additional charge. Public Transit is working with South Haven Senior Services to enhance coverage for Seniors in our area.

## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM**

Geneva Township participates in the Household Hazardous Waste Program through Van Buren County Resource Recovery Office at 269-657-8213 or email [clawsonb@msu.edu](mailto:clawsonb@msu.edu). **County Wide collection June 20 at 801 Hazen Street in Paw Paw by appointment.** Contact Beth Clawson, 269-657-8213, for details as to drop off sites for household hazardous waste; electronic collections; tire collections. Last year 3500 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected. Miscellaneous other solvents, pesticides, automotive fluids; batteries, alkaline, Ni-Cad, silver; aerosol cans, fluorescent bulbs, etc. and cleaners were collected.

## **Ordinance Code Enforcement**

**Van Buren Sheriff's Department:** Ordinance Code Enforcement Officer, Deputy Kyle Romeo, voice mail 427-6085 or 637-7089. If you have questions or complaints, contact Kyle or any board member. Blight, Nuisance, Junk Vehicle & Dilapidated Building ordinances are being actively

enforced. If your property does not comply with ordinance, you will be visited by officer. Building Maintenance Code enforcement of dilapidated and unlivable buildings is being actively pursued. If unsafe conditions are not addressed and taken care of by property owners, legal action will be pursued to bring property into compliance.

**Thanks Kyle for service to Geneva Township Residents and Property Owners both with your dedication to police work and Geneva ordinance enforcement.**

Take advantage of **FREE DUMP DAY May 2 and September 12, 2009**

## Cemetery Information

Burial Records available on website - [www.vbco.org/geneva.asp](http://www.vbco.org/geneva.asp)

Geneva Township has three cemeteries - Monks located at 62nd Street & CR 380; Chambers at 66501 CR 388; Lacota at 60601 Baseline Road. Grave sites are available in all three cemeteries. Many hours are spent in the upkeep of these burial grounds and your help is needed in complying with the rules for the planting of shrubs, trees. **Contact Township Sexton, Norman Funk, 269-427-7276** before placing any shrubs and or trees on any grave site or for any issues regarding Cemetery operations.

### CEMETERY RULES

All flowers, wreaths, and decorations of any kind must be placed at the head of the graves.

NO trees, bushes, shrubs, private burial structures, or foundations shall be placed **WITHOUT APPROVAL** of the Sexton or the Cemetery Board.

NO excavating or grave openings shall be done **WITHOUT** attendance of Township Sexton.

NO motor bikes, horses or snowmobiles permitted in cemetery.

The Cemetery Board reserves the right to trim or remove trees, shrubs and bushes without notice.

The clean up of the Cemeteries will be May 1st each year, which includes flowers, wreaths and decorations.

The Cemetery shall be in a neat and orderly condition at all times.

All Cemetery operations are under the jurisdiction of the Cemetery Ordinance #34, the Township Sexton and the Geneva Township Board.

GENEVA TOWNSHIP SEXTON REPORT		by Norman Funk, Sexton												
BURIALS		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTALS
	Chambers Cemetery	11	6	11	11	8	18	12	10	12	13	10	9	131
	Lacota Cemetery			1	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	10
	Monks Cemetery	18	16	19	19	9	16	10	15	14	16	16	20	188
<b>Total Burials</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>329</b>
	Veterans	8	5	11	6	3	11	3	7	5	6	6	2	73
	Ashes	8	3	6	9	3	9	5	8	6	8	12	10	87
<b>Funerals</b>														
	Calvin's	5	7	11	5	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	34
	D.L. Miller	16	13	17	12	5	12	6	8	12	8	15	12	136
	Family	7	2	1	3	0	5	5	3	2	1	3	4	36
	Filbrandt				6	9	15	6	11	14	19	15	14	109
	Other	1	0	2	2	0	0	3	2	1	2	1	1	15
	<b>Total Funerals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Footings</b>														
	Installed	15	17	22	21	21	27	22	17	19	16	10	26	233
				21 Installed										
<b>Lots Sold</b>		8	4	4	7	15	12	16	9	11	10	8	17	121
		(2 burials)(3 burials)								(6 burials)				
<b>AVERAGE BURIAL AGE</b>		76	78											
	Female			72	60	73	76	70	67	71	67	71	72	70
	Male			62	64	64	67	75	71	61	71	62	68	67
<b>Hours Mowed</b>				108	150	148	138.8	108.8	147.8	111.5	130.8	126	130.5	1300.2

**2001 Goals:** Lacota 3 acres purchased; New mower purchase/sold old mower. Clean up all Cemeteries.

**2002 Goals:** Chambers - land worked, seeded, new drives; Lacota land lease; Clean up all cemeteries. One dis-interment in Chambers Cemetery.

**2003 Goals:** Chambers - New addition opened, Lacota - trees removed. Clean up all cemeteries with trees removal, flag poles fixed.

**2004 Goals:** Lacota - New addition open; Brush clean up all Cemeteries; Chambers Pine Tree removed; Purchased: John Deere 335 mower; 2 Stihl trimmers; Snow Blower - Hall & Cemetery Usage

**2005 Goals:** New Signs in all Cemeteries. Trees removed in Monks. Clean up all Cemeteries.

**2006 Goals:** Land purchased - Monks Cemetery; Crushed Concrete Chambers Drives; Clean cemeteries;

**2007 Goals:** Crushed concrete Monks; Cemetery Ordinance & Resolution; tree removal in all cemeteries as needed. Back hoe usage for grave digging.

**2008 Goals:** New drives - Monks & Chambers; Updated Cemetery rule signs; Veteran memorial markers at Lacota & Township hall; purchased new John Deere mower, repair mower trailer.

**Special Thanks to Cemetery Workers:** - Brian Gregory & helper, Peter & Eugene Sorenson, Jasper Empson, Lisa Jackson; Brutsche Vault Co., Board Members, and others that helped this year.

## Building, Electrical, Mechanical, & Plumbing Codes Enforced.

State of Michigan Building Codes, include building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, plan review are enforced. Building Inspector, Charles Moore, 427-8328; Electrical Inspector, Richard Burrows, 637-3203; Mechanical Inspector, Walter DeVisser, 427-7543; Plumbing Inspector Phyllis Centers, 427-7890. **Property numbers are required on permits.** Address questions on permits to inspectors. **Sanitation permits** required to obtaining building permits from Van Buren County Department of Public Health Permits at 269-621-3143. **Driveway permits** are required from Van Buren County Road Commission before any work can be done in the road right of way, at 269-674-8011.

The **Geneva Township Board, Chuck Moore, Dick Burrows and Walt DeVisser** would like to **THANK** all residents that are working to comply with the ordinances.

GENEVA TOWNSHIP								1/6/09
Permit Listing Log				Single Family Dwelling Information				
	Building	Electrical	Mechanical	Total	Housing	Housing	Housing	% Housing VS
YEAR	Permits	Permits	Permits	Permits	Site Built	Manufactured	TOTAL	Build Permits
2008	77	80	64	221	8	13	21	27.3%
2007	89	95	42	226	3	12	15	16.9%
2006	120	102	77	299	9	29	38	31.7%
2005	100	74	50	224	3	19	22	22.0%
2004	100	85	51	236	5	27	32	32.0%
2003	103	69	54	226	10	16	26	25.2%
2002	88	83	44	215	7	25	32	36.4%
2001	115	85	58	258	4	24	28	24.3%
2000	80	83	46	209	4	14	18	22.5%
1999	117	90	42	249	3	24	27	23.1%
1998	96	79	65	240	14	18	32	33.3%
1997	79	85	55	219	16	22	38	48.1%
1996	104	109		213	17	23	40	38.5%
1995	74	100		174	8	31	39	52.7%
1994	101	79		180	8	23	31	30.7%
1993	105	95		200	5	33	38	36.2%
1992	88	76		164	8	31	39	44.3%
1991	94	76		170	6	25	31	33.0%
1990	108	88		196	6	28	34	31.5%
1989	99	73		172				
1988	92	58		150				
1987	81			81				
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2110</b>	<b>1764</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>4522</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>27.5%</b>

Geneva Township has adopted a **Subdivision/Site Condominium Ordinance #32** and **Private Sewer Ordinance #33**. The continuing growth in Geneva Township your board is working to have some continuity in our community. Copies of these and other ordinances affecting you are available by calling Supervisor: Nancy Whaley, 269-427-7607 or on Geneva website at [www.vbco.org/geneva.asp](http://www.vbco.org/geneva.asp)

Set back Ordinance #15 and Housing Ordinance #17 could affect your property as to building sizes, placement on your property, pre-inspection of buildings being brought into the Township. Contact Building Inspector, Charles Moore, 269-427-8328 for more information.

# *GENEVA FREE DUMP DAY*

*May 2 & Sept. 12, 2009*

*8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

Dump passes are issued to property owners with property tax bills. Passes are good for two years and the 2009-2010 pass was included in your tax bills, December, 2008. If you do not get a pass they are available from the Supervisor, Clerk, & Treasurer.

**Disposal of NORMAL HOUSEHOLD REFUSE ONLY. ONE (1) TRIP ONLY; One (1) appliance per household. NO REFRIGERATORS. NO FREE DUMPING of Construction materials, commercial dumping or tires.**

**RECYCLING - FREE - Save the Environment.**

**LOCATION: CR 384 - 1 mile east of M-43 OR 1 Mile west of 68th Street - North Side. TRANSFER STATION PASS REQUIRED.**

## **Transfer Station & Recycling Center**

Transfer Station & Recycling Center is located at 70000 CR 384 or 4 miles west of the 62nd Street. Open Saturdays 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. You must have your dump sticker for identification. Use of Transfer Station, for disposal of normal household refuse only, No refrigerators accepted.

**RECYCLE.** Recycling bins are available at the site every Saturday. There is no charge for using recycling. **HELP SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT.**

## **Road Side Clean Up**

Geneva Township road side clean up is **May 5th and 6th** with V.B. Cty Sheriff Department Work Crew for road side clean in the spring. Report areas of road sides that need clean up to Norman Funk or any board member. Striving to keep our community clean and safe is **EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**.

**DON'T BE A LITTER BUG !!!**

## **GENEVA Neighborhood Watch**

Neighborhood Watch program is an inactive program in Geneva. A coordinator is needed to work with Neighborhood Watch program, contact Nancy Whaley, 427-7607. It is important that you get acquainted with your neighbors and area. Be aware of any activities that could be criminal in nature. Report to Deputy assigned to Geneva by voice mail 637-7089 or 427-6085 or Nancy Whaley 427-7607 will be helpful in efforts to keep areas where problems are occurring alerted. Steps are taken as events happen to notify the residents by way of notices in the Reminder, South Haven Tribune, via e-mail's and fax. **Provide e-mail addresses for Alerts.**

**EMERGENCIES CALL 911**

## Geneva Township & General Taxing Information

### STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (SEV)

State Equalized Value should be 50% if the Market Appraised Value. 2009 residential properties realized an average 9% decrease in SEV. If you are a new owner within the last 3-4 years you might very well see a reduction in your State Equalized Value (SEV) that affects your Taxable Value (TV) wherein your TV can not exceed your SEV, so if you have not changed anything on your property in these 3-4 years and you have seen your SEV escalate your TV could only escalate the CPI rating annually, but now your SEV has declined to a number lower than your TV, your new TV number will be your SEV. On the other hand, if you have owned your property since 1994 (Proposal A inception) and you have not removed or added any real property to your assessment, you have seen your SEV and TV spread reach up to a 25% lesser TV than SEV. Therefore you may see your SEV decline in 2009 and your TV increase the 4.4% CPI for 2008.

### TAXABLE VALUE (TV)

Taxable Value is number used to calculate property taxes. Formula is Taxable Value times the millage rate for your property. Millage rate is different in each school district, as well as whether property is exempt under Principal Residence Exemption or non-Principal Resident Exempt. Increase in Taxable value is limited to 5% or the CPI for the current year. Formula used in figuring Taxable value is: example:

Current Taxable Value	\$10,000		
- Losses (if any)	\$ 1,000		<u>If any occur</u> , loss of building, sale of part of property.
Adjusted Taxable Value	\$ 9,000		
CPI Adjustment	X1.044	CPI - 2009	4.4%
+ Plus	\$ 396		
= Adjusted Taxable Value	\$ 9,396		
+ Plus any Additions(if any)	\$ 2,000		<u>If any occur</u> , new building, additions to property.
<b>Adjusted Taxable Value</b>	<b>\$11,396</b>		<b>Millage rate X Taxable Value = Tax Dollars owed.</b>

### STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (SEV) - TAXABLE VALUE (TV) CHANGES

When property changes ownership, the first year of new ownership the SEV now becomes the Taxable Value (TV) which could see adjustments up or down from the current SEV based on property and land values. **When buying property you cannot assume you will be paying the same amount of taxes of the previous owner.** Properties are "uncapped" when ownership is changed which normally sees an increase in Taxable value and **TAX DOLLARS**.

### Taxable Value Rates of Increase

**PROPOSAL "A" became effective in 1994 by vote of the people in Michigan. It changed the structure of value that taxes are levied against. In 1994 the State Equalized Value became the Taxable Value. Since 1995 significant raises have occurred in the State Equalized Value, however the Taxable Value can only raise with the following limits:**

**LIMIT: 5% or Annual Determination of the Consumer Price Index**

#### TAXABLE VALUE INCREASES

2.6%	for	1995 Tax Year	3.2%	for	2002 Tax Year
2.8%	for	1996 Tax Year	1.5%	for	2003 Tax Year
2.8%	for	1997 Tax Year	2.3%	for	2004 Tax Year
2.7%	for	1998 Tax Year	2.3%	for	2005 Tax Year
1.6%	for	1999 Tax Year	3.3%	for	2006 Tax Year
1.9%	for	2000 Tax Year	3.7%	for	2007 Tax Year
3.2%	for	2001 Tax Year	2.3%	for	2008 Tax Year
			4.4%	for	2009 Tax Year

\* Changes in ownership, addition or deletion of real property effects the Taxable Value in the year of the change. SEE Table of SEV - TV values attached in this report.

The table on Page 21 gives you the Actual Taxing Rates for Geneva Township for the years 1995 through 2008. The 2009 rates will change if there are any additional voted millages approved before October 1, 2009 and some slight decreases will occur in standing millage rates based on the Headlee Amendment rollbacks.