

# The Genoa Township NEWSLETTER

“A Nice Place to Live”

May - June 2016

## From the Trustees

Dear Genoa Taxpayer:

Since taking office January 1, 2016, as a Genoa Trustee, this is my first letter to Genoa taxpayers (residents and businesses) and there are several important topics I want to share with you:

- Genoa will celebrate its 200th anniversary (Bicentennial) on August 20, 2016, at McNamara Park. The Parks Advisory Board has started planning for this historic and fun event that will include food, exhibits, activities, a special movie, and a “time capsule.” Contact Dave Blair - Chairperson Parks Advisory Board at 614.260.9770 if you have any ideas or are willing to volunteer to help with the Bicentennial celebration. More information will be published in future Genoa newsletters and website.
- The first and long-awaited warning siren was recently installed at the intersection of Big Walnut Road and State Route 3. To continue improving the safety for all Genoa taxpayers, in the future the Trustees will be discussing installing additional warning sirens in other areas of Genoa.
- Have you looked at Genoa’s website recently? There is a lot of new information on the website, such as: Genoa’s 2016 budget of expenditures, organizational chart of all departments, police and fire union contracts, summaries of cash / investments, and Ohio’s Sunshine Laws for conducting public meetings.
- The Zoning Commission sent a recommended update to Genoa’s Comprehensive Plan (land use plan) to the Trustees for additional review and consideration. The Trustees have scheduled the first public hearing of the updated 2016 Comprehensive Plan at 7:00 PM on May 16, 2016. **All taxpayers are encouraged to attend this meeting to voice their support, opposition, or opinion for future commercial and residential developments in Genoa.**
- The Trustees have agreed to create a new Genoa website and will be forming a website development committee in the near future. Contact Paul Wise - Township Administrator at 614.568.2021 if you have interest in volunteering for this committee, have website experience, or want to provide input into Genoa’s new website.

- To prepare for the future, the Trustees are evaluating Genoa’s current buildings and computer systems. Depending on the results of these evaluations and costs, the buildings and / or computer systems may be updated at some time in the future.
- In November 2015 Genoa taxpayers authorized the Trustees to aggregate (combine together) certain eligible households and businesses in Genoa to negotiate reduced electric and gas utility rates. The Trustees signed a 24 month contract with Capital Energy Ohio to provide electric generation service (not electric transmission or distribution services) for 5.39¢ per kilowatt hour. Taxpayers will soon receive important information about the “Terms and Conditions” of this new electric program in the mail and how to “opt-out” if you do not want to participate in this new electric program. If you do not “opt-out” within 21 days of receiving the notice, you will be forced to automatically be included in the new electric program.
- The Genoa Citizens Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping all taxpayers living in Genoa. The next meeting for the Coalition will be at 9:00 AM on September 10, 2016, in the Township Hall and will feature Trustee Karl Gebhardt and also include other presentations about identity theft protection and Genoa zoning issues. Contact Dorothy Driskell – Coalition President at 614.882.1401 for additional information or suggestions for future topics.
- With Summer rapidly approaching, it’s time to start mowing grass again and Genoa has a lot of grass to mow. As a result, Genoa is now hiring part-time help for the Summer at up to \$15 per hour (depending on experience). Contact Linda Greco – Township Director of Human Resources at 614.568.2022 if you have a good work ethic and have experience driving a lawn mower, using a grass trimmer, planting, or want additional information.

In closing, I strongly believe open two-way communications are very important for efficient and effective government and the future success of Genoa. I encourage all Genoa taxpayers to be active in presenting their questions, comments, feedback compliments, concerns, and criticisms to Genoa by telephone, email, letter, or better yet - come to a Trustees’ meeting and introduce yourself to us. (Trustees’



*Swearing in of Fiscal Officer Pat Myers by Rick Carfagna*



*Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny and friend!*



*Berkshire MS Easter Egg Hunt volunteers*

meetings are generally at 7:00 PM on the first and third Thursdays of each month).

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as a Genoa Trustee for the next four years and I look forward to the challenge of balancing efforts to preserve Genoa’s rural heritage with Genoa’s continued growth. After all, it’s our township and collectively everyone must provide input to set the course for Genoa’s future.

**Frank Dantonio**  
Trustee

**How Do You Want To Stay In Touch?  
Part II**

The topic of keeping our residents informed on the latest news and current events in Genoa Township was revisited at a recent trustee meeting. Since we are a community comprised of 2 area codes, 2 zip codes, and 3 major school districts it is difficult to reach all of our residents. As a township, we are always trying to improve on communication. Last year, I wrote about the various ways that you, as a resident in a community of 25,000 + people, should stay engaged as an informed citizen. The positive take-away from last year's newsletter was an increase in the number of residents receiving the newsletter electronically, and also an increase in Facebook subscribers. I will update the statistics in parentheses on where we stand a year later.

Everyone receiving a paper copy of this newsletter has one thing in common; we are all residents of Genoa Township. Every two months over 8,300 residents receive news from the Township in the form of a newsletter. For most of you, this is the only way you know what is happening in your community. Do you want to stay better connected with us? Did you know that our police department will let you know if there is an immediate threat or hazard happening right now? The 1,240 subscribers (The number is now down to 1,184 in 2016) to our "Criminal Activity Update" email will get the notice. Where are the other 7,000 households? Should they be alerted too? We can't get you the message unless you take the first step and subscribe. The Township sends out general news updates. Only 1,424 (1,121 in 2016) of you subscribe to this email. Do you

want to read this newsletter electronically at work or on your smartphone? Only 648 (1,163 in 2016) out of a potential for over 8,300 households receive the electronic version of the newsletter. We will never be able to stop printing the hard copy of the newsletter to save money. I understand that you are bombarded with emails every day. Most of what you get is junk, so you hit the delete button immediately. It is important to know that Genoa Township will not send you an update or crime alert if it is not necessary. If you have made it this far in my newsletter and want to stay more in touch with Genoa Township, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the Township website (and bookmark it please): [www.genoatwp.com](http://www.genoatwp.com)
2. On the top left hand corner of the website is the word "Sites." Look under this word. The first 4 links are important.
3. "Delaware County Code Red Emergency Notification System": This is not an email alert, it is a telephone alert from the Delaware County Emergency Management. Please subscribe to this if you have a home phone or cell phone. It will alert you in the event of a weather emergency or other immediate threat.
4. "Subscribe to our Township Newsletter." Click on this link to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter.
5. "Subscribe to Criminal Activity Notification." Our Police Department will send you important notices about crime prevention or criminal activity. Click this link to subscribe.
6. "Subscribe to Twp. News and Info." Click on this link if you want periodic updates on Township news and events.

In addition to these email updates and notifications, I wanted to inform you that Genoa Township has two Facebook Pages. The first page is the Genoa Township Facebook page. It has over 1,300 (1,836 in 2016) subscribers presently. It is also good for keeping apprised of local news and events. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our page. Just type: "Genoa Township Facebook" and hit enter. If you want to receive our posts then remember to "Like Us." Our Police Department is also on Facebook. Check out "Genoa Township Police Department Facebook," and "like it" along with the 2,700 (3,724 in 2016) subscribers who enjoy police posts.

## Thank You Sponsors & Volunteers!

Once again, the Township Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by a record number of happy children and adults.

Special thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors for all the hard work and donations that make our Township events so memorable. Our volunteers are a special mixture of students to seniors, and to watch them all work together can only be described as magical!

Thank you for continuing to offer your special talents and support!

Linda Greco  
Director of Human Resources/  
Community Relations

## Development and Zoning

Joe Shafer  
Director**Chickens, Goats, and Pigs...Oh My!**

About once a week, the Zoning Office receives a call from a resident interested in, or concerned about, chickens, goats, and/or pigs on residential properties in the Township. In order to honor and maintain Genoa Township's rural heritage and promote sustainability, the Township permits the keeping of chickens, goats, pigs, and other legitimate domestic livestock on any lot within the Rural Residential or Suburban Residential zoning districts.

On lots less than five acres, housing for chickens may not be located closer than 50 feet to any lot line, while housing for goats and pigs may not be located closer than 200 feet to any lot line. Buildings and stables for horses are required to adhere to the front yard setback restrictions of the property, must be located at least 200 feet from any side or rear

lot line, and may not be located closer than 500 feet from any existing dwelling. It is also advised that at least 2.5 acres per horse be provided in order to ensure sufficient room for grazing.

Please note that the keeping of livestock may be further regulated or even prohibited by property deed restrictions or your homeowner's association, neither of which can be reviewed, interpreted, or enforced by the Township. It is always a good idea to review your deed and/or contact your homeowner's association before acquiring livestock of any type.

Finally, the keeping of livestock for any legitimate agricultural purpose, as defined by the State of Ohio, may be exempt from zoning and permitting requirements altogether. Questions may be directed to the Department of Development and Zoning at (614)899-0725 or [zoning@genoatwp.com](mailto:zoning@genoatwp.com).

**2016 Comprehensive  
Plan Update Status**

The Board of Trustees will be holding a public hearing on Monday, May 16 at 7 PM at the Genoa Township Hall to review and receive public comment on the "Genoa Township 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update." The draft plan may be viewed, in its entirety, at [www.genoatwp.com/zoning/comp](http://www.genoatwp.com/zoning/comp).

**SAVE THE DATE:****Genoa Township Citizen's Coalition**

The Genoa Township Citizen's Coalition (formerly known as the Genoa Township Neighborhood Coalition) will be holding their next meeting on Saturday, September 10th at 9 AM at the Genoa Township Hall. Tentative topics of discussion include identify theft, road projects, and an update from one of the Township's Trustees.

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE?

Did you know that the Delaware County 911 Communications Center (known as Delcomm) fields over 2,000 emergency calls per month? Of those calls, 80% are cellular phone calls.

You may ask why this is important to us and those at the 911 center? When you call 911 on a cellular phone, the tele-communicators have to verbally confirm your address with you, as opposed to a "land-line" phone which they receive instantaneous address information.

We have recently had several emergency calls in Genoa Township that the caller did not know where they "lived." Now that may sound odd, but when they were making the call, the caller would state they "lived" in Westerville or Galena, which is not accurate. If you live in Genoa Township, that should be how you identify where you live, not by what your mailing address is.

The misinformation can lead to delays in emergency response by 1-2 minutes, or you may get transferred to another 911 center that does not cover your area, which again wastes time, and delays emergency response personnel to your call for assistance.

**Family Communication Plan**  
Let them know you're OK!  
Pick the same person for each family member to contact. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.

### Important Information

Fill in this information and keep a copy in a safe place, such as your purse or briefcase, your car, your office, and your disaster kit. Be sure to look it over every year and keep it up to date.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Out-of-Town Contact</b><br>Name: _____<br>Home: _____<br>Cell: _____<br>Email: _____<br>Facebook: _____<br>Twitter: _____                     | <b>Neighborhood Meeting Place:</b><br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br><b>Regional Meeting Place:</b><br>_____<br>_____<br>_____                      |
| <b>Work Information</b><br>Workplace: _____<br>Address: _____<br>Phone: _____<br>Facebook: _____<br>Twitter: _____<br>Evacuation Location: _____ | <b>School Information</b><br>School: _____<br>Address: _____<br>Phone: _____<br>Facebook: _____<br>Twitter: _____<br>Evacuation Location: _____ |
| Workplace: _____<br>Address: _____<br>Phone: _____<br>Facebook: _____<br>Twitter: _____<br>Evacuation Location: _____                            | School: _____<br>Address: _____<br>Phone: _____<br>Facebook: _____<br>Twitter: _____<br>Evacuation Location: _____                              |



## Outdoor Warning Siren

The previous newsletter incorrectly stated that the Genoa Township's outdoor warning system (tornado siren) would be tested the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. The correct time is the first Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon.

## Family Unification Planning

Emergencies can happen at any time. Does your family know how to get in touch with each other if you are not all together? Before an emergency happens, have a family discussion to determine who would be your out of state point of contact and where you would meet away from your home -- both in the neighborhood and within your town.

For assistance creating a family unification plan, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/images/115157>

## Community Invited to Ceremony for Retiring Police "Miracle Dog"

Our new K9 team is currently in training and about to hit the street very soon. Officer Mike Sigman will be partnered with Ben, a Belgian Malinois and will be certified in narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension. This breed of dog is known for it's drive, loyalty, and social interaction.

We will be retiring Gandolf, our current K9 at the same time, and subject to Trustee approval, he will be sold to his current handler Officer Jason Berner for \$1 as state law allows. Gandolf began his career in Genoa Township in early 2012 and was purchased through private donations. Gandolf served the Township faithfully since then and participated in numerous searches and police matters. He suffered a life-threatening illness in 2014, and after undergoing emergency surgery, the veterinarian proclaimed it was a miracle Gandolf survived. After 13 years as a K9 handler, Officer Berner has accepted a new position with the department, school resource officer at Genoa Middle School. Since then, they have continued to work as a K9 team when school was out or whenever necessary.

We are grateful for the support of our K9 program that has received more than \$30,000 since 2012 from generous donors. We'll continue to rely on future donations for the police K9 program so as not to burden our taxpayers.

We are holding a ceremony to retire Gandolf and swear in Ben at the Trustee meeting on May 5th at 7 p.m. at Genoa Township Hall. We invite everyone to attend the meeting to say goodbye to Gandolf and welcome Ben!

# Maintenance

## Maintenance and Repairs

Spring has sprung, and with the warm temperatures, you may have noticed the need for pothole repair in the Township. Please let us know if you notice any bad potholes in your neighborhood.

Rookery Way and Water Willow Court will be the roads resurfaced during the summer months in the 2016 Road Improvement Programs. Striping will be done on Freeman Road.

The Zone 3 Sidewalk Maintenance Program will begin on June 1st and continue through the month of July as long as the weather is favorable and concrete can be poured. Bad weather will extend the program into the month of August, if needed.

Please contact the Maintenance Department at 614-568-2080 if you have any questions or concerns.

# Fiscal Report

| Fund Name                            | 01/01/2016 Fund Balance | YTD Revenue           | YTD Expenditures      | Ending Balance 03/31/2016 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| General                              | \$2,551,017.94          | \$1,239,697.02        | \$483,417.23          | \$3,307,297.73            |
| Motor Vehicle License Tax            | \$24,313.32             | \$7,846.74            | \$-                   | \$32,160.06               |
| Gasoline Tax                         | \$32,850.22             | \$42,897.53           | \$-                   | \$75,747.75               |
| Road and Bridge                      | \$286,097.01            | \$263,322.10          | \$383,715.70          | \$165,703.41              |
| Cemetery                             | \$41,982.89             | \$918.50              | \$424.54              | \$42,476.85               |
| Police                               | \$2,539,502.72          | \$2,024,793.50        | \$935,114.57          | \$3,629,181.65            |
| Fire                                 | \$3,454,458.38          | \$2,367,299.98        | \$1,188,150.23        | \$4,633,608.13            |
| Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax | \$140,361.32            | \$49,581.70           | \$23,111.30           | \$166,831.72              |
| Law Enforcement Trust                | \$61,598.63             | \$-                   | \$-                   | \$61,598.63               |
| Enforcement and Education            | \$3,909.70              | \$114.00              | \$-                   | \$4,023.70                |
| TIF Fund                             | \$1,119,860.16          | \$413,682.88          | \$8,441.72            | \$1,525,101.32            |
| General (bond) (note) Retirement     | \$1,386.69              | \$-                   | \$-                   | \$1,386.69                |
| Police Capital Projects              | \$811,869.22            | \$-                   | \$-                   | \$811,869.22              |
| Fire Capital Projects                | \$1,825,166.73          | \$-                   | \$-                   | \$1,825,166.73            |
| Big Walnut/Worth Rd Improvements     | \$105,763.96            | \$147.31              | \$-                   | \$105,911.27              |
|                                      | <b>\$13,000,138.89</b>  | <b>\$6,410,301.26</b> | <b>\$3,022,375.29</b> | <b>\$16,388,064.86</b>    |

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
 5111 So. Old 3C Hwy.  
 Westerville, OH 43082  
 (614) 895-1126 Fax (614) 895-1255  
 www.genoatwp.com



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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



**Trustee**  
 Rick Carfagna  
 (614) 568-2024  
 trustees@genoatwp.com



**Trustee**  
 Karl R. Gebhardt  
 (614) 568-2025  
 trustees@genoatwp.com



**Trustee**  
 Frank Dantonio  
 (614) 568-2026  
 trustees@genoatwp.com



**Fiscal Officer**  
 Patrick Myers  
 (614) 568-2023  
 pmyers@genoatwp.com

**Fiscal Assistant**  
 Donna Batten  
 (614) 568-2023  
 dbatten@genoatwp.com

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Administrator**  
 Paul F. Wise  
 (614) 568-2021  
 pwise@genoatwp.com

**Director of Human Resources/  
 Community Relations**  
 Linda Greco  
 (614) 568-2022  
 lgreco@genoatwp.com

**Director of Development & Zoning**  
 Joe Shafer  
 (614) 568-2031  
 jshafer@genoatwp.com

**SAFETY SERVICES COMPLEX**

7049 Big Walnut Rd.  
 Galena, OH 43021

**Fire** (614) 568-2040  
 Gary Honeycutt, Fire Chief  
 ghoneycutt@genoatwp.com

**Police** (614) 568-2060  
 Stephen Gammill, Police Chief  
 sgammill@genoatwp.com

**Maintenance** (614) 568-2080  
 Bob Mathews, Director of Roads & B&G  
 bmathews@genoatwp.com

**Genoa Township Community Calendar**

**May 2016**

**June 2016**

|        |  |                       |  |                                |                       |
|--------|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| May 2  | Zoning Commission  | 7:00 p.m.             | June 1   | Parks Advisory Board           | 7:00 p.m.             |
| May 4  | Parks Advisory Board<br>(Administration conference room) | 7:00 p.m.             | June 2   | Board of Trustees              | 7:00 p.m.             |
| May 5  | Board of Trustees  | 7:00 p.m.             | June 4   | Rumpke holiday trash pick up   |                       |
| May 11 | Investment Committee<br>(Administration conference room) | 8:00 a.m.             | June 6   | Zoning Commission              | 7:00 p.m.             |
| May 11 | Citizens Police Advisory Board<br>(Fire Department)      | 7:00 p.m.             | June 9   | Seniors                        | noon                  |
| May 12 | Seniors  | noon                  | June 13  | State Rep. Margaret Ruhl       | 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| May 16 | Zoning Commission  | 7:00 p.m.             | June 15  | Health Clinic                  | 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| May 18 | Health Clinic  | 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | June 18  | Movie Night<br>(McNamara Park) | 9:00 p.m.             |
| May 19 | Board of Trustees  | 7:00 p.m.             | June 28  | Board of Zoning Appeals        | 7:00 p.m.             |
| May 24 | Board of Zoning Appeals                                  | 7:00 p.m.             | Unless otherwise noted, or if changes occur after publication, meetings will be held in the Genoa Township Community Hall at 5111 So. Old 3C Hwy. Check at www.genoatwp.com prior to meetings for any updates. |                                |                       |
| May 30 | Memorial Day   | Offices Closed        |  |                                |                       |

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Genoa Township is accepting applications for part-time summer help.

- Must have experience with hand mowers, weed eaters, and Zero Turn mower.

- Duties include setting up and tearing down for meetings in the Town Hall and park shelters, and other jobs necessary to the maintenance of the Township.

- Must be able to perform physical labor, including but not limited to shoveling and lifting objects up to 50 lbs.

- Ability to use heavy equipment and CDL certified is preferred, but not required.

- Up to \$15.00 hr. depending on qualifications.

Employment applications can be found online at [www.genoatwp.com](http://www.genoatwp.com). Applications, resumes, and questions can be sent, faxed or emailed to:

Linda Greco, Human Resource Director  
 5111 S. Old 3C Hwy., Westerville, OH 43082  
 phone (614) 568-2022 • fax (614) 568-2039  
 lgreco@genoatwp.com

*"Genoa Township is an equal opportunity employer."*