



Town Times

ISSUE
13 Quarter 1
2023

Upcoming:

***Please check website and/or facebook for updates!**

April 14th: Paper Shredding Event

April 15th: Hobart & William Smith Colleges Day of Service

April 22nd: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

April 29th: Free Rabies Prevention Clinic

May 6th: Residential Tire Collection Event

May 20th: Electronic Waste Collection Event

June 3rd: Mattress Recycling Event

June 4th: Fix-It Clinic and Free Stuff Day

June 17th: Paper Shredding Event

June 17th: Free Rabies Prevention Clinic



this issue:

- Harmony Park Coming
- Business Highlight: Howlett Farms Feed Mill
- Article: 6 Reasons to Love the Kashong Conservation Area
- Updates from Departments & Committees

From Supervisor Mark Venuti

Dear Town Residents and Friends,

Spring is coming and our beautiful Finger Lakes region is awakening from its winter slumber. There are many things to do and occurring in this new year.

Hobart & William Smith Colleges Day of Service is Saturday, April 15, and student volunteers will be removing the tarps from the town bike park behind the town hall. The box field will also reopen, and a new addition to our property will be installed this spring: a small harmony park with four outdoor instruments will be added between the bike park and box field. It's also time to start planning your garden plot – let us know if you would like a 10' by 15' plot in our community garden at the town hall. And don't forget about our beautiful Kashong Conservation Area with its scenic trails and pavilion.

Mark your calendars for these town events: Fix-It Clinic and Free Stuff Day will be Sunday, June 4; drop off old mattresses and box springs on Saturday, August 26; both at 32 White Springs Road. If you'd like to help with any of these events, let us know. The county is sponsoring a household hazardous waste collection event April 22, and an electronic waste collection event October 14, both at the Ontario County Landfill (pre-registration required – details at ontariocountyrecycles.org).

Seneca Watershed Steward Ian Smith has brought in over \$1.7 million in grant funds over the past few years for designing and implementing projects in the watershed that reduce pollution and improve water quality in Seneca Lake. He's currently working on an application for funding for a project on town property west of Carter Road that will include retention basins to improve the quality of water flowing east to the lake, recreational trails and other park amenities, and an interactive watershed model that will increase awareness and inspire action.

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From Supervisor Mark Venuti (cont'd)

We are working with Design Connect, a group of Cornell University students, on a project to design a Resource Recovery Park for the town that will expand opportunities to reuse and recycle items as we prepare for the closing of the Ontario County landfill at the end of 2028. Although a final decision on closing the landfill has not been made, all indications are that it will either close altogether or at least the large trash importing business will cease. Speaking of reducing landfill waste, the town has received a grant to support efforts to increase food waste collection and composting to keep it out of the trash, and you will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

Questions? Ideas? Contact me anytime or come to a town board meeting; we meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the town hall.

Small Harmony Park to be Installed



This is a sample photo of the ensemble that will be installed for the harmony park. Photo taken from www.freenotesharmoniypark.com

Six Reasons to Love the Kashong Conservation Area

By Karen Miltner

For the public--forever. The 84 acres that make up the Kashong Conservation Area used to be farmland and were once owned by Polly Spedding and family. When the Speddings moved out of state, the family worked under the guidance of the Finger Lakes Land Trust and donated the land to the Town of Geneva in 2008. The land will forever be a public conservation area dedicated to peaceful recreation and education.



Birdwatching: Geneva is on the Atlantic Flyway, so birds like to start their families here then head south to the Southern U.S., Mexico and Central and South America. Perhaps that is why more than 140 species have been sighted at KCA, according to ebirds.org, a place where bird enthusiasts track their explorations.

It's quiet. No motorized vehicles are allowed inside KCA. No hunting, camping, or other noisy distractions. It's an outdoor sanctuary for relaxation, reflection and recreation.

It's a great place to roam. With three miles of trails, KCA welcomes hikers, joggers, cross-country skiers, dog walkers (keep your pup on a leash, please) and snowshoers throughout the year. The terrain ranges from level marsh and meadows to hillier hardwood forests that lead down to a creek-fed gully. From its high spots, you can see Seneca Lake.

It's also a good place to sit. There are a few benches along some of the trails, and picnic tables near the parking area. Bring a book, a journal, a sketch pad or your lunch and take a time out.



The oldest oak tree in town lives here. There is no signage, but it's not that hard to find. It's a lot bigger than the surrounding trees.

Kashong Conservation Area is at 320 Kashong Road, Geneva. It's open daily from dawn to dusk. For more information, go to https://www.townofgeneva.com/about_the_town/creation_and_tourism.php

Water & Sewer Department

- From Charlie Bracko, Water and Sewer Superintendent

The Town of Geneva recently signed contracts awarding the construction of Well House #4 and Pump House improvements to its existing water plant at Kashong. The improvements include a new well #4 and upgrades to higher capacity pumps along with new controllers and a new Scada system. A contract was also awarded and signed on March 1, 2023 for a new 1.5 million gallon concrete Water Storage Tank. These improvements will meet future water demands for years to come to the Town of Geneva residents, the Town of Seneca residents and Town of Benton residents. We are also looking to upgrade the Route 14 Sewer Station. The town engineers MRB will be looking into adding high capacity pumps and new controllers to meet future development in the town.

Water Conservation:

In addition to saving on your utility bill, water conservation helps prevent water pollution in nearby lakes, rivers, and local watersheds. Conserving water also prevents greenhouse gas emissions associated with treating and distributing water. Reducing your water consumption also lowers your residential sewer bill. Installing low-flows aerators, shower heads, toilet tank banks and other water saving devices usually is a simple operation which can be done by the homeowner. Water conservation at home is one of the easiest measures to put in place and saving water should become part of an everyday family practice.

2023 TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION:

After March 31st,
2023 taxes must be
paid directly to
Ontario County.

Visit

<https://ontariocountyny.gov/1612/View-Your-Tax-Bill> for
more information or
call 585-396-4382

SALT Council: Free Presentations

March 14, 2023 - 1:00pm Scams, Fraud, & ID Theft

@ Lyceum Heights with Trooper Jason Klewicki

Lyceum Heights Bldg. #2, 150 Lyceum St, Geneva, NY 14456

March 22, 2023 - 12:30pm Fall Prevention

@ Quail Summit with Kaylee Stearns, HCR Health

5102 Parrish St Ext, Canandaigua, NY 14424

April 3, 2023 - 11:00am Healthy Living for your Brain & Body

@ Naples Elementary School with Brian Potvin

- Pre-registration is requested for this presentation. Call 800-272-3900

2 Academy St, Naples, NY 14512

For an more information, contact: Ontario County Office for the Aging (585) 396-4040

The SALT Council (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) is a committee of local senior citizens and representatives from the Ontario County Sheriff's Department and Office for the Aging, the Canandaigua Police Department, Quail Summit and the Alzheimer's Association who educate the community on senior health and safety issues.

Upcoming

Communications Committee

- From Kim Aliperti, Committee Chair

The Communications Committee has been busy keeping the town's information up to date. Did you know that there is a [Welcome](#) letter which can be found on our website? It was designed to provide new residents to the Town of Geneva useful information about everything from healthcare, education, utilities, and recreational opportunities. You don't have to be new to town to find useful facts about the town. Our website is updated regularly, and the town has a [Facebook](#) page as well (Town of Geneva NY). Additionally, you can sign up to receive this newsletter electronically at our [town website](#): townofgeneva.com

Building Department

-From Floyd Kofahl, Code Enforcement Officer

As the weather starts to get warmer and the snow begins to melt, it is important to check your sump pump operation. Check that it is working correctly and that the flow at the discharge location is not blocked.

Also, with spring approaching, it's that time of year when residents start thinking about upgrading their property. You may be looking to add a fence or maybe a shed or even a swimming pool. There are requirements for most of these outdoor items.

A building permit is required for a new shed or to replace one you already have. There are building codes and zoning codes that must be met for the placement of a shed.

The same holds true for a fence. A building permit is required, and the location, style, and height of the fence all come into play.

Thinking about getting a swimming pool this year? Make sure you get your permit first. Any swimming pool that has the ability to hold 22 inches of water or more is required to have a permit and may also be required to have a fence around it.

When thinking about building or renovating, or questioning the need for a permit, it is worth your time to call the Building Department to check what needs to be done prior to starting the work.

Email codeenforcement1@townofgeneva.com or call 315-789-3922 x 303, if you have any questions or concerns you would like to have addressed.

Stay Informed!

Email users, give us your email address and we'll include you on periodic messages about important town and area events. Send an email to supervisor@townofgeneva.com to sign up! Your email address will never be shared with others, and you can be removed from the list at any time by hitting the unsubscribe button at the bottom of town messages.

Corn Flakes for Cows

- Bob McCarthy, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee

Each edition of the Town Times includes one local business that the Economic Development Committee highlights. This quarter the focus is on the Howlett Farms feed mill.

Ever drive along CR6 on a nice day with the windows down and suddenly get a waft of corn flakes as you approach the land near the John Davie farm? That smell emanates from the Howlett Farms feed mill, and is exactly what it smells like - corn flakes! But unlike the product you eat for breakfast, these flakes are processed strictly for the dairy industry. They are Howlett Farms' signature steamed Super Flakes that offer great digestibility and starch availability for dairy herds, leading to healthier cows and more milk production.



Howlett Farms, who purchased the Geneva operation in 2019 from Pat O'Brien, is headquartered in Avon, N.Y. and is a vertically integrated agricultural operation. They specialize not only in grain production (they have been growing crops as a family since 1880) but also trucking, grain handling, marketing, and feed manufacturing. Their Geneva operation, managed by Chris Boyce, is one of two feed mills they operate in Western New York.

About half of their steamed corn flakes are sold directly to local farmers for dairy feed, while the balance is sold to other feed mills. In addition to offering straight steamed corn flakes, the Geneva location mixes custom feed blends for local dairy farmers such as Ron DeBoover. These may include cottonseed, molasses, and chocolate among other ingredients recommended by the farm's nutritionist.

Corn is purchased from local growers in a 10 to 20 mile radius from Geneva who then deliver their crop to the feed mill operation. The corn must be at a moisture level of no more than 15% or the flaking equipment can plug. Some corn comes in from the field with moisture levels as high as 30% in the fall. A



Operations Manager Chris Boyce with steamed Super Flakes

Corn Flakes for Cows (cont'd)

moisture sample is taken from each load that comes to the mill, and if necessary, the corn is sent to Lilyea Farms on CR6 in Penn Yan for drying down to the 15% level.

Presently, the Geneva location can store about 170,000 bushels of corn. They process about 100,000 bushels of corn every month, and also take wheat in at harvest before the new crop of corn arrives in the fall. Chris Boyce, Howlett's Geneva Operations Manager, says the feed mill employs 6 people on site, and has 4 tractor trailer drivers that are kept busy picking up and delivering product. Their work week begins at 6:00 pm on Sunday and runs around the clock until 5:00 pm Friday. Saturday is set aside for maintenance and some well deserved rest. Presently their operation is powered by generators as NYSEG has had trouble getting transformers delivered to their location.



A Howlett Farms truck weighing a load of corn at the feed mill

This has served as an impediment to expansion, but Chris is hopeful the problem can be rectified soon. The feed mill is always bustling with activity. Farmers drop off their corn, Howlett employees steam and roll it into flakes and mix it with other products for feed, and ship the finished product back out, often to the farmers that delivered the raw grain in the first place.

Howlett Farms is a five generation family farm presently run by Bruce Howlett (4th generation) and his son Michael (5th generation). Their family motto is their business mission statement, and is "Choose to move forward, put your whole heart into it, and never look back". Their Geneva operation is a very well run enterprise, and offers both a good place for local grain producers to sell their crop and for local dairy farms to buy excellent feed made with locally sourced corn.

Highway Department

-From Bernie Peck, Highway Superintendent

It hasn't been much of a winter this year. Plenty of salt left in the barn, fuel usage is down, and the equipment hasn't been overworked, which are all good things for the town's budget. We do still have March to contend with which can be bad at times, but the good thing about March is it won't last long. Other than that, the highway department has been cutting down some trees and brush around town and cold patching some potholes. That's all for now, THINK SPRING!

Get involved!

The Town of Geneva has a number of committees that meet to discuss and brainstorm ideas to improve the community. Visit the https://www.townofgeneva.com/town_committees/index.php to see a list of the committees and more information on each!

Reassessment Information

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A REASSESSMENT??

The purpose of the reassessment is to ensure that all properties are assessed fairly at a uniform level of assessment. (Typically, assessments are adjusted to 100 percent of market value at the time of reassessment.) To analyze the real estate market, the assessor will review recent property sales and other indicators. All assessments in the municipality will be reviewed to determine where assessments should be increased, decreased or remain the same. This may or may not include visual re-inspection of some or all of the parcels.

WILL MY TAXES INCREASE AFTER DOING A REASSESSMENT??

First, a reassessment does not necessarily mean that your assessment or your taxes will increase. Furthermore if your assessment does increase, it does not necessarily mean your taxes will increase.

A property's assessment is supposed to reflect its market value. As market values increase or decrease and the assessments do not keep pace and reflect these changes, some property taxpayers could pay more than their fair share of taxes, while other may pay less than their fair share. Reassessments are intended to restore fairness within the community.

Sometimes the taxes will be shifted among types of property. What if all of the market values in a community increased since the last assessment, but the value of brick houses had increased much faster than wooden houses? Then the owner of brick houses should pay a greater portion of taxes, while the owners of wooden houses should pay a smaller portion. This is one of the reasons that it is important for municipalities to conduct reassessments on a frequent basis. The longer between reassessments, the more likely taxpayers will experience dramatic tax shifts.

Contact Us

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