



Town Times

ISSUE
12 Quarter 4
2022

Upcoming:

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

November 5th:
Pumpkin Recycling
Event

November 12th:
Pumpkin Recycling
Event

Visit
OntarioCountyRecycles.org
for details on events

NOTICE:

The bin for
Construction &
Demolition Debris
at the Town's
Recycling &
Disposal Station will
be removed after
November 12 until
next May



this issue:

- Updates on past events
- Information about committees
- Updates from Town
Departments

From Supervisor Mark Venuti

Dear Town Residents and Friends,

I hope you are well and have been able to enjoy our beautiful fall in the Finger Lakes. The town continues to grow with new housing and commercial development, which we are able to support with current staff. The town board approved the 2023 town budget at its October 11 meeting. We remain fortunate to be able to provide general services without a property tax. The state comptroller's review of the town's financial situation again concluded the town is not susceptible to fiscal or environmental stress.

On September 18 we held our popular Fix-it Clinic and Free Stuff Day. People had broken lamps, furniture and appliances mended by volunteers, while others were able to drop off useful items like games, toys, furniture and appliances that were then taken by people who could use them. Lots of smiles. More happy faces on September 8 when we held our Senior Citizen Clean-out Day where town staff assisted elders in removing items they no longer could use that were then recycled or donated. These activities keep useful items out of the landfill. Speaking of the Ontario County Landfill, its projected closing at the end of 2028 makes it all the more important we continue to expand recycling and reuse efforts, and take responsibility for what we acquire.

The town also hosted a county mattress recycling event at its Recycling & Disposal Station on September 24, nearly filling a tractor trailer with mattresses and box springs bound for a recycler near Buffalo. All of these events were made possible by volunteers generously donating time and talents. Contact me or the town clerk if you'd like to get involved.

Speaking of volunteers, a group marked and cleared trails at the Kashong Conservation Area on October 1. This beautiful woods off Kashong Road has a new pavilion near the parking lot.

(continued on next page)

From Supervisor Mark Venuti (cont'd)

Don't put your pumpkins and corn-stalks from Halloween in the trash. Recycle them at town's station at 32 White Springs Road on November 5 from 11 to 1, and November 12 from 8 to 11; sponsored by Ontario County.

Due to many actions over the past few years, like changing streets lights to LED and supporting solar power generation, the town was recently certified by the state as a Climate Smart Community at the bronze level. This achievement brought with it a grant of \$70,000.00, which we will use to continue to do our part to reduce polluting fossil fuel emissions. Over the next year we will be installing a fast-charge electric vehicle charging station in the town hall parking lot and purchasing an electric vehicle for the code enforcement officer.

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.

From the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Office

NOVEMBER 1, 2022: New 2023 Recycling stickers for **Town residents only** will go on sale

Town of Geneva
2023



RECYCLING PERMIT

ON SALE Nov. 1st \$15.00 per sticker

ORANGE

At the Town Hall, Open Mon- Thurs 8-4

JANUARY 1, 2023: 2023 Ontario County/Town of Geneva Property Taxes

- Return entire bill when paying!
- **Checks-** Make out to Lorrie S. Naegele /Tax Collector and put your bill # and Phone # on checks.
- **Payment-** In person at Town Hall, 3750 County Road 6, Geneva NY, or **Drop Box-**By flagpole.

Full Payment option must be paid by January 31, 2023 with no interest.

ONLY ONE PAYMENT CAN BE MADE IN JANUARY! Either full or 1st Installment

Installment payments- If paying installments 1st installment by January 31. Second installment at 1% interest by February 28, 2023 or 2% interest by March 31, 2023.

OFFICE HOURS:

- **January:** Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm and Saturdays 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- **February** (at 1% interest) and **March** (at 2% interest): Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Reassessment Frequently asked Questions:

- From Town Assessor Vinny Fischer

-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 a 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 reinspection of some or all of the parcels. Those whose assessments are adjusted will receive notification in the mail.

Does my town collect more taxes if it does a reassessment?

It is not uncommon to hear property owners state that their city or town is updating their assessments just so it can collect more taxes. Actually, a cursory understanding of the municipal budget process would dispel this misconception.

Assessments are determined by the assessor. The assessor's job is to make sure that all property owners are assessed fairly based on the market values (or a uniform percentage of the market values) of their properties.

Months after assessments are finalized, school districts, cities, towns and counties determine how much they need to collect in taxes.

You can think of the total amount of taxes collected by the city, school district or county as a pie. The assessor does not determine the size of the pie – that is the job of city councils, town boards, school boards and county legislatures. The assessor's job is to ensure that the pie is cut up fairly – that taxes are fairly distributed based on current market values.

When a reassessment results in increased assessments due to rising property values, tax rates should go down proportionally. This is because the tax levy is now being distributed over a broader tax base. If tax rates go up or stay the same, it simply means that municipal and/or school budgets are going up.

If my town does a reassessment, will my taxes increase?

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 others 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 reassessment, but the value of brick houses had increased much faster than wooden houses? Then the owners 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.



Want to get involved? Join us!

Overview of Town Committees

The Town has several committees that are constantly striving to find new ways to improve the life of our residents. If you are interested in joining a committee or attending a meeting, please visit our website for contact information and meeting dates!

Agricultural Enhancement

The purpose is to provide input to the Town board on policy issues related to agriculture, the greatest land use in the town, and to be a liaison to the Town's agricultural community on resources that advance the goals of the Town's plans.

Communications

The Town of Geneva Communications Committee is dedicated to building and improving all avenues of communication between town residents and Town government. It is our goal to make it easy for residents to get information about their town and the variety of services provided here.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Committee supports existing businesses and recruits new enterprises that are aligned with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Kashong Conservation Area

The Kashong Conservation Area Committee works on maintaining and improving the Kashong Conservation Area.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Committee works on projects that help residents be less wasteful in their day to day lives and is dedicated to helping grow sustainable development in the town.

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Committee helps with the maintenance of the Bike Park and the Town's new box turf field, also behind the town hall and getting a lot of use by lacrosse and soccer teams and players.

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.

Highway Department

-From Bernie Peck, Highway Superintendent

With winter fast approaching I would like to remind everyone to please check the condition of your mailbox. Now is the time to make any necessary repairs to assure the snow coming off the plow and wing does not damage them. Remember, the town is not responsible for any damage to mailboxes.

Also, please remember when shoveling, snow blowing, or plowing your driveway do not, under any circumstance, put the snow out in the road. It is hazardous to people driving on the road and it is illegal! If you have your driveway plowed by a contractor, please advise them.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

Bernie Peck, Highway Superintendent

Building Department

-From Floyd Kofahl, Code Enforcement Officer

Brrr, it's getting cold out there! With colder weather comes several concerns that need to be addressed.

- First, for all property owners that have sidewalks in front of their property, remember that you are required to keep these sidewalks clear of snow and ice. The sidewalks are to be maintained within 24 hours of snow fall. This also includes after plow trucks go by and throw snow on to the sidewalks. This is a safety issue for the residents of the Town.

- Second, if you are thinking of doing any construction with a concrete element involved, be aware that during cold temperatures there are specific requirements to protect the concrete applications.

Please remember, if you are looking to do any type of construction, or you are unsure if you need a permit, you can call the Building Department and ask questions prior to designing your project.

My email address is codeenforcement1@townofgeneva.com and the phone number is 315-789-3922 x 303, if you have any questions or concerns you would like to have addressed.

I look forward to working with you on all your future endeavors.

Community Choice Solar

The Town of Geneva is introducing **community choice solar**, which automatically offers the benefits of community solar to eligible residents and small businesses with no individual contract, one bill, and no credit check. This offering is in addition to the community choice electricity supply offering. Join an info session at Town Hall on Thursday, November 10, 2022 or Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6 P.M. to learn more.

A Look at the Ontario County Office of Economic Development

By Bob McCarthy, Economic Development Committee Chair

Building wealth throughout Ontario County is the focus of the Ontario County Office of Economic Development (OCOED). Ryan Davis, the new Director of OCOED, explained to the Town's Economic Development Committee at a recent meeting that his office achieves this by bringing in new businesses to the County and helping to retain existing enterprises. Three entities staffed by OCOED personnel deliver economic development services. Financing is provided by the Ontario County Economic Development Corp. The Ontario County Industrial Development Agency offers tax incentives and bonds. The third, Ontario County Local Development Corporation, assists not-for-profit and civic facilities.

The loans the County offers are described as gap loans, and are not meant to be a business's main source of financing. They have terms of 5-10 years, target job creation, and have an attractive interest rate of 3/4 of the prime rate. The companies receiving the loans must stay in the County for the term of the loan. Principal amounts range from \$100,000 to \$400,000 and must be approved by an 11 member Board of Directors. In 2021 ten loans were approved in Ontario County totaling \$999,534. These loans leveraged \$5,929,534 in private investments and created or retained 172 jobs.

The Ontario County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) approved 7 projects in 2021 which leveraged \$125,755,932 of private investment and created or retained 804 jobs. Each project must use at least 80% local labor and local building materials. In addition to property tax abatement through Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) transactions, the IDA offers sales tax abatement for one-time large equipment purchases. The IDA owns the Canandaigua Airport and much of the railroad in Ontario County. The IDA also owns the Geneva Industrial Park with the City of Geneva.

The Ontario County Local Development Corp. (OCLDC) is the third and final entity staffed by the OCOED. Its charge is to benefit not-for-profit and civic organizations by helping with financing through tax exempt bonds, taxable bonds, or notes. In recent years the OCLDC has assisted the Canandaigua YMCA, F.F. Thompson Hospital, and Mercy Flight Central.

When Director Ryan Davis was asked what the Town of Geneva could do to help market itself to outside businesses, he made several suggestions. At the top of his list was the importance of the Town compiling an inventory of industrial/commercial/retail locations that could be submitted to the County for prospective businesses to review. Another suggestion was that the Town develop a marketing plan for prospective employers to review about who the Town is, what the Town is doing, and what direction the Town is headed. Finally, Director Davis suggested the Town and the County communicate regularly so that any fit between the Town of Geneva and prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area is explored. The Town's Economic Development Committee is committed to working on these suggestions so appropriate new businesses are brought to the Town, and existing businesses are supported and retained.

A New Streaming Development in the Town

By Mitch Wilber, Agricultural Enhancement Committee Chair

No, it's not a new rival for Netflix. Rather, it's another example of the Town's leadership in finding innovative ways to enhance water quality in the Seneca Lake watershed. In 2021 the Great Lakes Commission (www.glc.org), a binational, interstate compact agency established in 1955 to advance the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region, was searching for a partner to implement water management improvements on an agricultural parcel. The Town's engagement with the Seneca Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization and the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District laid the groundwork for securing a \$10,000 matching grant opportunity for our township. The funds are being used to construct two water retention basins on a farm owned by Ralph and Dee DeFelice on County Road 6. The ponds are an upstream feature that will lessen soil erosion and mitigate the potential for downstream flooding by a creek that reaches the lake north of Kashong. Google "Kashong flood" to see images from 2015 that speak to why this public-private collaboration is a good use of resources.



Communications Committee

- From Kim Aliperti, Committee Chair

The Town Communications Committee hosted a Fraud Prevention workshop earlier this October. Eric Heieck, Assistant VP of Compliance at Lyon's National Bank, and Retired Lieutenant of Detectives with the Geneva Police Department, led the discussion warning participants of current scams and how to avoid them. Another workshop will be held in the spring. We continue to meet every other month on the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on November 1.

**Reminder: Geneva
Lake Friendly Living
Educational Series &
Lake Friendly Living
Questions**

The Town of Geneva Sustainability Committee, in partnership with the City of Geneva Green Committee, has begun a series of educational events on Lake Friendly Living. Topics include: Eco lawn care, composting, rain barrels, and others as requested.

To view recordings of past events or to submit a Lake Friendly Living question please visit the town's website. These questions do not need to be specific to an upcoming program. We want to help with any questions or concerns you have when trying to be more eco-conscious!

Mattress Recycling Event

The Mattress Recycling Event was a success! The truck was just about full by the end of the day!



Contact Us

**Town of Geneva
3750 County Road 6
Geneva, NY 14456
315-789-3922
townofgeneva.com**

