

Town Times



ISSUE
08 Quarter 4
2021

Upcoming:

- **October 8th: Paper Shredding Event**
County Transportation Center

- **October 16th: Electronic Waste Collection Event**
Geneva School Bus Garage

- **October 16th: Free Rabies Prevention Clinic** Ontario County Public Works

- **November 6th: Pumpkin Collection Event**
Victor/Canandaigua/Geneva

- **November 13th: Pumpkin Collection Event**
Victor/Canandaigua/Geneva



this issue:

- Updates from Committees and Departments
- Business Highlight: Brewey Ardennes
- Fire Department Highlight: White Springs Fire Association
- Updates from around town

From Supervisor Mark Venuti

Dear Town Residents and Friends,

Happy fall. I hope you are well and enjoyed the summer.

I have been working on the 2022 town budget, which the town board is reviewing and will approve after a public hearing. I am grateful to report the town is in good shape financially and will continue to provide most services without the need for property taxes.

According to the 2020 US census, the town added 182 residents since the 2010 census, for a population of 3,473.

This first full year of the town's bike park has seen constant use by people of all ages, from near and far. A pavilion was added at the Kashong Conservation Area and trails have been re-worked and marked. Adding to our recreation opportunities, we've broken ground on the box turf field behind the town hall and hope it to be ready for action before the snow flies.

Based on the ballot nominations for the upcoming town elections, it appears I will have the privilege of continuing to work with the incumbent office holders from both parties (and one new councilperson). I believe this absence of partisanship helps us deliver services and keep the town moving in a positive direction.

Communications Committee

- From Kim Aliperti, Committee Chair

The Town Communications Committee has been focused on keeping the website and Town Facebook pages up to date and following up on our Google analytics. We continue to look at website best practices and organize our site as best we can. Feel free to check it out and give us your feedback. Additionally, we are considering collecting testimonials from town residents. If you own a business, or simply live in the town and would like to provide us with a testimonial, send it to Amy at buildingdeptclerk@townofgeneva.com. Our meetings continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month as needed.

Water & Sewer Payments

Please note:
Water account numbers and sewer account numbers are different. If mailing in a check, please ensure the correct number is noted to avoid confusion!

Highway Department

-From Bernie Peck, Highway Superintendent

It has been a busy summer at the Highway Department. In June, we chip sealed Billsboro, Lake to Lake Road, Slate Rock Road, and White Springs Lane.

In August, we replaced a cross culvert on Pre-Emption Street, north of Zotos, that had been damaged by a motor vehicle this spring. The old concrete box culvert was dug out and replaced with a 60° poly coated steel pipe. The road only needed to be closed for a couple of days.

In September, we paved two roads: Lincoln Way and Turk Road. That pretty much ends our road work for the year, except for cutting trees and brush. Sorry to say it won't be long before we are gearing the trucks up for that dirty 4 letter word _ _ _ _.

A friendly reminder with winter coming: the town is not responsible for mailbox damage so please make sure that your mailbox post and all braces and fasteners are in good condition. That's all for now!

Building Department

-From Floyd Kofahl, Code Enforcement Officer

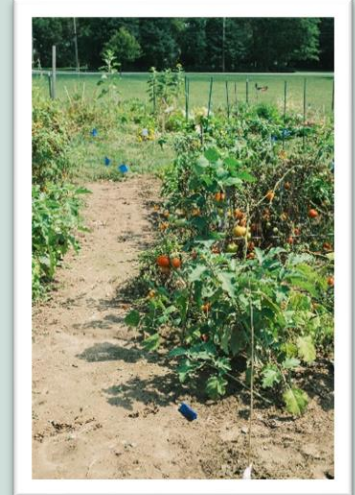
It's almost winter! Some reminders:

- First, for all the property owners that have sidewalks in front of their property, remember that you are required to keep these sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Within 24 hours of snow fall, the sidewalks are to be maintained. This includes any snow pushed onto the sidewalks by snowplows. 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 the cold temperatures there are specific additional requirements to protect the concrete applications. You will have to cover the concrete to protect it from freezing if the temperatures are going to be below 40 degrees at any time during application. If the temperature is below 20 degrees for a consecutive 24 hours, you will not be allowed to pour the concrete. Any application of concrete on the ground requires the ground to not be frozen. So, when you dig the area for the concrete, make sure you cover it with thermal blankets to keep it from freezing prior to placing the concrete.

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. We may be able to help to get it right on the first try.

Updates From Town Hall

The community garden had a great year!



The bike park was open all summer and saw lots of action



Work on the box field has started and is moving quickly



Business Highlight – Brewery Ardennes

-From Councilman Bob McCarthy, Town of Geneva Economic Development Committee Chair

The Town Times highlights a Geneva town business in each issue. This quarter's feature is on Brewery Ardennes.

Starting a new business is always a daunting task. To do so at the onset of a pandemic takes a special commitment and vision, and Brewery Ardennes has plenty of both in owners Stacey and Derek Edinger. The Edingers closed on the beautiful Brewery Ardennes (located at 570 Snell Rd in the Town of Geneva) on March 13, 2020 – the date New York was put on pause due to Covid-19. But they were not about to let that become a barrier to their dream of opening a Belgian inspired beer destination.

Stacey, Ardennes's Head of Hospitality, and Derek, Head of Brewery Operations, met as students at Cornell University. While living in the San Francisco area, Derek began making some home brewed beer. His hobby soon became a passion, and he was able to convince Stacey to embark on a journey to visit beer destinations in Europe. Their favorite stop was Belgium, especially the Ardennes forest region in the eastern part of the country. The Ardennes area reminded Stacey of the rustic wine regions in the San Francisco Bay area, and Derek was drawn to it because of his increasing interest in Belgian-style beers. Their vision of opening their own brewery began to take shape. Upon their return to the States, they began their quest in earnest.



Brewery Ardennes on Snell Rd

They felt the Finger Lakes area offered the same rural character, beauty, and dedication to local food and beverages that they found in the Ardennes region of Belgium. They searched the entire Finger Lakes vicinity for the location of their venture. The Town of Geneva had what they were looking for – its central location between Rochester, Syracuse, and Ithaca, its proximity to the start of the area's wine trails, and its reputation as a robust and growing tourist destination.

When they came upon the French Norman style barn at Bellwood Farms on Snell Rd, they knew they found their spot. Originally built by Katherine Bell in 1909, this beautifully restored barn was once home to 2000 Shropshire sheep. It now houses a full-service kitchen, a spacious taproom, outdoor seating for 80-90 on its beautiful lawn, and a sparkling beer making facility where seating is also provided.

Business Highlight (continued)

The beers of course are mostly Belgian style, but other offerings are available, and wine and cider are also served. The food menu also relies on Belgian influences, featuring items such as the delicious mussels with frites.

Rounding out the management team with Derek and Stacey are Derek's brother Cory Edinger who is the Brew House Manager, and chef Jayden White. Derek's parents Jon and Linda often serve as hosts and greet guests with a history of the unique facility.

A visit to Brewery Ardennes's pastoral setting is relaxing, and coupled with its delicious food offerings and beers, makes for an enjoyable respite. It is a unique destination experience that rolls a brewery, tap room, and kitchen into one memorable location, and is a welcome addition to the Town of Geneva's notable list of breweries, wineries, and cideries. It is both children and dog friendly. Check the Brewery Ardennes's website for hours of operation.



Brew master Derek inspecting his equipment

Water & Sewer Department

- From Charlie Bracko, Water and Sewer Superintendent

The Town of Geneva Water and Sewer Department has been exercising its water main line valves and its water customer's water curb-stop valves. This is done to make sure we can turn off the main line water and the customer water service if needed due to an emergency situation.

The department has trimmed trees along the trails and kept the trails mowed at the Kashong Conservation area. This is a great place to take a walk and enjoy the area.

The water and sewer department has connected several new homes up to its water and sewer system this summer. A new Car wash on Route 5 & 20 and County Road 6 will also be connected shortly. Several other commercial projects and a housing development are in the planning stages.

The box lacrosse and soccer field is starting to move forward and this department will assist with the work with help from volunteers. The site has been prepped and drainage piping is on the site ready to be installed.

New Town Assessor

Assessor Lorie Peck has resigned to take on other challenges. We thank Lorie for her years of faithful service and welcome town resident Vincent Fischer to the position.

Agricultural Enhancement Committee

-From Mitchell Wilber, Committee Chair

The 2021 growing season for the Town's farmers is approaching its end. Every year has its challenges, but overall, 2021 has been pretty cooperative for those making their livings off the land. Agriculture is far and away the major land use in the Town. We're fortunate to have the combination of good soils and good people that keep farming viable here, with all the benefits that brings to our community.

There are still some weeks of activity left: managing the last stages of crop development, harvesting and marketing diverse crops, planting cover crops, and many other tasks on these often 24/7/365 operations. Following are four snapshots of what's been happening down on some of Geneva's farms in recent days.

Reed's Farm: The variety and quality of produce available at the intersection of Reed Road and Route 14 are familiar sights and tastes to many Geneva residents and visitors. Bruce and his team manage over 50 different varieties of vegetables and ornamentals. Sweet corn season isn't over yet! But will be soon. There will be an ongoing harvests of cabbage, pumpkins, and other squashes and gourds.



Vince DeBoover Farms: Ron DeBoover has been busy bringing in the crops to sustain over 800 animals at the Town's largest dairy operation. 2021 provided a rare fifth cutting of hay that's just been put in the bunk and now it's on to chopping corn silage. Below is Ron (on the right) with an operator from Mar-Allen Farms taking a momentary pause in the amazingly fast harvest that happens with a 10 row chopper.



Agricultural Enhancement Committee (cont'd)

Kasper Vineyards: We would be a very different region without the Finger Lakes wine industry and the growers who produce the grapes at the heart of it. John Kasper is pleased with the potential of his Riesling crop that needs to hang for a few more weeks. His Gewurztraminers also look excellent. Their juices will end up in Herman Wiemer bottles.



White Springs Orchards: Geneva has a historic connection to US apple production. Joe Nicholson continues to extend that history with his orchards and nursery stock operations. His crops may end up not only as an apple in your hand, but also in juices, slicers, and ciders. It was a good day to harvest Honeycrisp when Joe and his crew posed on Healy Road.



Kashong Conservation Area Committee

The Kahong Conservation Area is a perfect place to usher in Autumn. You can see changing leaves and watch birds gather under grey clouds as they prepare to head south. In addition, a new pavilion has been built, along with updated trails and trail maps. The new pavilion will be a gathering site for school visits, Hobart and William Smith research and various local groups.

So, button up and head to the KCA for a cool walk in a charming environment.



Regenerative Farming Trials

-From Sustainability Committee

For over a year the Town Sustainability committee and the Town Ag committee have come together to discuss how working agricultural lands can serve as a carbon dioxide removal (CDR) solution. CDR solutions are a very important part of solving climate change because they remove carbon and the greenhouse gases that are already over abundant in our atmosphere. Renewable energy and other carbon offsets are good, but they will not fix the 419 ppm (parts per million) of carbon dioxide already in our atmosphere and causing global problems.

Our town working group has engaged in soil testing on Town of Geneva farms, webinar hosting (see our website for the recording), and solutions testing. As part of the solutions testing phase, the town working group has partnered with Bejo Seeds on Healey Rd in the Town of Geneva to test CDR solutions. This year we had two participants in our trials. One trial was undertaken by ABM (Advanced Biologicals Marketing), whose website states they are "a leading developer/manufacturer/distributor of agricultural biologicals that increase yields and improve farm productivity while simultaneously interacting with the environment in an elevated and positive manner." ABM's trial involved inoculating corn and soybean seeds with Trichoderma, a biological agent (beneficial fungus) that has been shown to increase carbon sequestration by plants. The other trial was undertaken by Closed Loop Systems, who applied a cover crop mixture through a hydroseeder, that included vermicompost soil, vermicompost liquid, organic mulch, and a 10-species cover crop mix. Initial soil tests were taken on each site to set a baseline for physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil. The trials will be monitored over the winter and the soil will be tested again in the spring before we will have final data on the two applications. Please reach out to foxjacob@me.com if you are interested in learning more about the trials or would like to go visit the trials. Final data will be shared with the town Ag and Sustainability committees as well as hosted on the town website.



Pictured from left to right Hydroseed application, initial seed germination, and cover crop stand in mid July

Fire Department Highlight – White Springs Fire Association

- Councilman Bob McCarthy, Chairperson Geneva Town Fire Protection Committee

The Town of Geneva is very fortunate to be served by three volunteer fire departments. The dedication and commitment by the men and women that make up these service organizations are appreciated by all, especially those people who have needed their aid. The Town Times is highlighting each of the three fire departments. This second article in the series delves into the White Springs Fire Association (WSFA).

The WSFA has been in existence for over sixty years, having been established in 1957. It protects lives and properties from County Rd 4 in the Town of Geneva south to Turk Rd. Its firehouse is on CR 6. Property in the fire district is evenly divided between residential and commercial entities. WSFA has seen a lot of growth and development within its fire district, and the spread of multi-story hotels, apartment complexes, and traffic congestion (particularly at the intersection of CR6 and 5 and 20) present many challenges. The equipment WSFA uses to service its district are a 105' ladder truck, 2 class A fire engines, and 2 rescue trucks. It is the busiest of the Town's three fire associations with an annual call volume of approximately 360 incidents.



The White Springs Fire Association's firehouse on CR6

In 2000 a basic life support first responder program was initiated by WSFA. This program trains volunteers to identify and correct life-threatening issues while waiting for the arrival of an ambulance. WSFA presently has 8 Emergency Medical Certified (EMS) members.

WSFA has always emphasized training for its members, and Chief Tim Higgins underscores that training for excellence is of the highest priority for his group. Volunteers have the opportunity to train for various fire, rescue, and medical first responder services. Chief Higgins proudly points out that 80% of the department's membership has one or more firefighter standards certificates under NYCRR Title 19. Members have attended training in 5 different counties and at various agencies including the Frederick Warder Academy of Fire Science, American Heart Association Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, and the New York State Department of Health. In addition to these offsite opportunities for continuing education, WSFA offers training at its firehouse every Monday night.

WSFA is led by Fire Chief Tim Higgins, and other fire officers include Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Mcguigan, Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Phillips, Ems Chief Josh Sahrle, Captain Matt Picchi, Safety Officer James

(Continued on back)

Fire Department Highlight (continued)

- Councilman Bob McCarthy, Chairperson Geneva Town Fire Protection Committee

Grady, and Lieutenants Alex Sullivan and Bill Fordon. Business Officers are President Bill Pilkenton, VP Alex Sullivan, Secretary Ron Passalacqua, Treasurer Kari Wright, and Directors Ron Passalacqua, Matt Pichi, Colin Mcquigan, and Bill Fordon.

Currently WSFA has 30 active members, 1 charter member, and some life members. They also have an active junior membership where the youngest member is 13 years old. Fundraising events include periodic chicken barbeques and a bottle and can return facility on the south side of the firehouse's parking lot.

WSFA is always looking for new volunteers. They can be contacted via various social media or stop down to the firehouse on any Monday night to find out about joining this vibrant group.

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!

From the Town Clerk's Office



ON SALE November 1st
\$15.00 per sticker
GREEN
At the Town Hall
Open Mon-Thurs 8-4

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