



Town Times

ISSUE
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2020

Upcoming Events:

Events are cancelling and postponing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so check websites or call for updates before going.

April 24th – Special Collection Event: Confidential Paper Shredding County Transportation Center

April 25th – Special Collection Event: Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center/County Landfill

April 25th – Spring DEA Day Canandaigua Wegman's

May 30th – Special Collection Event: Electronic Waste Bristol Highway Facility

June 13th - Special Collection Event: Residential Tires Farmington Highway Facility

June 13th - Free Rabies Prevention Clinic Geneva Hydrant Hose Company



this issue

- Enjoy some fun facts from our departments!
- Learn about upcoming events and plans for 2020

From Supervisor Mark Venuti

Dear Friends,

Here we are in the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I speak for the town board and staff in hoping you are well. Don't be afraid to reach out if you need help; there are many resources and good neighbors in our community - town, city and county - working together to get through this crisis. We must all do our best to follow the recommended precautions, like social distancing and frequent hand-washing. At the same time, a smile can be very helpful to ourselves and those around us; even if it cannot be seen, a smile and grateful attitude on the phone or in an email message will be felt by the sender and receiver.

Although at this time (early April) the town hall is closed to the public, we continue to provide essential services like drinking water, and the Recycling & Disposal Station remains open Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Here are some on-line resources with video links, ideas for parents with children at home, and helpful information and updates: www.connectgeneva.com; www.visitfingerlakes.com/flxtogo/community; www.co.ontario.ny.us/101/public-health; www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home; www.coronavirus.gov. If you do not have a computer, the Finger Lakes Times and local radio stations are doing a good job keeping us up to date. The UR Medicine COVID-19 support line is 1-888-928-0011, and FL Health's is 315-787-5110 (weekdays 8-4:30).

Celebrating the Town's Renewable Energy Programs. We planned to celebrate the Town's Renewable Energy programs on Earth Day, April 22, with an event at the NYS Welcome Center on the lakefront, but have had to postpone the event. The town has earned \$25,000.00 for its efforts that will be applied to one or more stormwater control projects to reduce erosion and property damage, and protect Seneca Lake from unhealthy nutrient loading. Stay tuned for updates.

For times and more information on events visit the Town Events Calendar at townofgeneva.com or visit ontariocountyrecycles.org. Have some stuff for one of the special recycling events but can't take it yourself? Contact Supervisor Venuti and we'll see if we can get it for you.

From the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

We have collected 97% of the County Taxes as of March 31st!

Attention Senior Citizens

Looking for exercise or other YMCA programs but can't afford or take advantage of a full membership? Town residents can pick up a card at the Y that allows you to use the facilities and programs on 12 occasions at no charge. How about sharing meals, making crafts or playing cards? The Geneva Senior Citizens Club is supported by the town and meets at the Geneva Community Center on Carter Road every Thursday from 10-2. Contact Ginny Shoemaker at 315-789-1257 for more information.

Have Home Construction and Demo Waste?

The Home Construction and Demo Container will be available at the Recycling and Disposal Station starting May 2. We had to raise the charge to 15 cents per pound to cover our costs. The container will be there when the station is open, Wednesdays and Saturdays, through October.

From Supervisor Mark Venuti (continued)

Town Finances. How are we doing? Every year by the end of February the town has to file a detailed report of revenue and expenditures for the previous year with the NYS Comptroller. The town filed on February 12, and one bright take-away is we ended 2019 with more money than we started with. The financial records of the town Justice Court and the Town Clerk are also reviewed each year by an independent accountant hired by the town.

Stormwater Control. Three erosion and stormwater control projects were completed in the Town in 2019. Pictures of the two retention basins constructed in the Kashong Conservation Area were featured in the previous issue of Town Times. Two Town farms on the south side of the Town also installed erosion and stormwater control facilities. These projects were made possible with the help of Town forces, Ontario County forces and equipment, technicians with the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Town's engineers, MRB Group.

Water & Sewer Department

During the winter months the Town of Geneva Water and Sewer Department spends its time servicing and preparing its equipment for use in the upcoming year. Heavy equipment and machinery is brought in to the shop to be serviced, cleaned and any repairs made.

The water plant, wells and sewer facilities are cleaned and painted as needed. Maintenance of equipment is performed and an evaluation of each is done to make sure we continue to provide as much uninterrupted service to our customers as possible.

The Water and Sewer Department also helps to keep the town facilities clear of snow and ice during the winter months and assists the highway department as needed with plowing.

The Water and Sewer Department repairs its water and sewer main breaks and clears blockages on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis.

Water facts and advice:

- There are an estimated 700 water breaks per day on average in the United States. 30% of pipes in systems that deliver water to more than 100,000 people are between 40 and 80 years old.
- Less than 2% of the earth's water supply is fresh water.
- The average American uses 100 gallons of water per day.
- Public water suppliers process 38 billion gallons of water per day for domestic and public use.
- Repair any toilet and faucet leaks promptly and you'll save resources and money.
- Use water conserving devices such as low flow shower heads, and high efficiency toilets, washing machines and dishwashers.

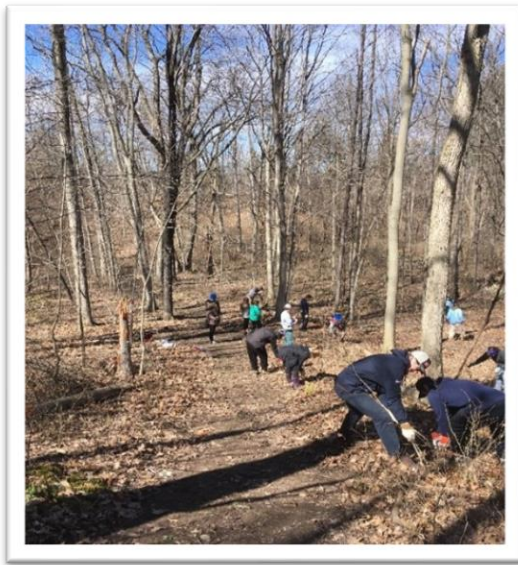
Kashong Conservation Area Committee

This spring, the trails at the Kashong Conservation Area (KCA) will alter slightly as a result of growth, weathering and hiker preferences. The Committee, along with volunteers, will work on clearing the trails. The KCA brochure and web site will be updated to reflect the changes. The KCA Committee is also working on plans for a small pavilion so that classes from local schools can utilize the site as an educational resource. Over the last few years, several Hobart & William Smith classes have used the site for projects and studies, such as the Emerald Ash Borer's affect on the local environment.

Hikers at the site, as hikers anywhere in Upstate New York, need to be mindful of ticks. The Ontario County website has lots of good information <https://www.co.ontario.ny.us/864/Ticks>

Diseases caused by ticks can be avoided. Follow these tips to prevent exposure to ticks and the diseases they carry:

- Walk on cleared trails (avoid brush, tall grass and leaf litter)
- Minimize exposed skin (tuck in pant legs to socks)
- Wear light colored clothing (easier to see dark ticks)
- Check yourself, your loved ones, and your pets for ticks after being outdoors
- Shower soon after being outdoors
- Wear tick repellent



HWS students work on trails at the Kashong Conservation Area

Also, for those who are familiar with the KCA, a few more footbridges in low spots will help make your hike a bit easier. So as the days warm up, and you are looking for a great place to walk in peaceful contemplation, come visit the KCA.

REMINDER:

Please respond to the CENSUS as soon as possible. A lot of funding is based on population. Go to 2020census.gov

Assessment Department

The Assessment Department is currently working on valuing new construction in the town. The change notices will be sent out the first week in May. Grievance Day will be on May 26th.

If you have any questions for the Assessment Department, please call 315-789-3922.

Recycling & Composting Available!

Do you know about the town's Recycling and Disposal Station at 32 White Springs Road? Many recycling and composting options are available to town residents at very reasonable costs. Check the town's website for more information, and let us know if you have ideas for how we can expand our offerings or serve you better. If you'd like to get involved, the town's Sustainability Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.

Educational Opportunity!

The Town Sustainability Committee, in partnership with the City of Geneva Green Committee, is beginning a series of educational events on Lake Friendly Living. Topics will include: Eco lawn care, composting, rain barrels, and others as requested. The first program will be on "How to have an Eco-Property" and was scheduled for April 15th at 7pm at the Town Hall. Participants will learn tips on making their yards more environmentally compatible, capturing water and reducing runoff, and alternatives to pesticides. They can also vote for topics for future sessions. Please check online for a new date or online presentation!

Family Reading Kits

Family Reading Kits from Geneva Reads are available at the Town Hall for people to borrow, enjoy and return. The 2020 theme is water, and the kits include two copies of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, one copy of *A Long Walk to Water* (for young readers), and one copy of the children's book *W is for Waterfall* (an Alphabet of the Finger Lakes).

Highway Department

"Have you used a lot of salt this year?" "How much salt do you use each year?" "How many times have you salted this year?"

The Highway Department hears these questions countless times in the winter. From year to year it averages out to be very similar. Every time the Highway Department salts, the whole town is covered, from the Yates County Line south to the Phelps Town Line north. Three trucks, each carrying 2-4 tons of salt are used, for a total of 9-12 tons of salt used for each round of salting. This winter, the Highway has been out salting 42 times so far.

"How much do you spend on salt each year?"

From year to year, the amount of salt used is about the same. This is the breakdown for the past 4 winters:

2016-17: 1035.45 tons of salt @ \$63.60 a ton for a total of \$65,854.62
2017-18: 1054.45 tons of salt @ \$67.30 a ton for a total of \$70,964.49
2018-19: 1041.88 tons of salt @ \$65.45 a ton for a total of \$68,228.12
2019-20: 1218.90 tons of salt @ \$68.43 a ton for a total of \$83,369.46

At the end of February, the Highway Department had 400-500 tons stored in the barn, which hopefully will get us through the end of March and then some. This has been an unusual winter, not a lot of snow, but often, just enough to make the roads slippery.

Remember, please slow down when the roads are bad! And, for those traveling County Road 6, try going down and using State Route 14 on those windy, blustery days. You will be amazed with the difference: less drifting and less wind.

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.

Sustainability Committee

2020 is going to be a busy one for the Town of Geneva Sustainability Committee. We recently had a joint meeting with the City of Geneva Green Committee to look at opportunities for Geneva-wide sustainability initiatives, and look forward to working with our city partners.

We continue the quest of diverting waste from the Ontario County landfill, and will have our next Fix-It Clinic on Saturday, April 25, from 9 to noon at the Highway Department garage at 32 White Springs Road. Bring us your broken lamps, furniture, appliances, clothing needing mending and the like, and volunteers will do their best to give it new life. You can also bring items before April 25 to the shed behind the Recycling and Disposal Station, tag them with your name and number, and we'll do our best to have them ready by the 25th or will let you know differently. If you'd like to join our happy band of fixers that morning, let us know. Like all events during the pandemic, check first to make sure that it has not been postponed.

Seneca Lake needs our help. We are re-launching the *Lake Friendly Home* program we started in late 2019. We all have a role to play in watershed health. This program recognizes homeowners who take steps to keep storm-water and soil on their property and ensure what leaves is not carrying harmful chemicals. To find out more about this and other sustainability programs, check out the town's web site or contact the town's Climate Smart Coordinator, Jacob Fox, at foxjacob@mac.com.

Building Department

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 the 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 a 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 on 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.

Economic Development Committee

The Town's Economic Development Committee is currently engaged in several projects. Among them are the potential extension of a NYSEG gas line down Rt 14 to serve businesses on the north side of town, the compilation (in cooperation with Code Enforcement Officer Floyd Kofahl) of an inventory of available commercial properties in the Town, and the continued cooperation with the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce in promoting local businesses. The Committee continues to fine tune its Economic Comprehensive Plan. Several visits to Town businesses in conjunction with the Ontario County Economic Development Office are planned in the coming months. And starting with the next Town Times, a local business will be highlighted in each issue. Please contact Chairman Bob McCarthy if you have ideas or projects that could be of help to the Committee.

Agricultural Enhancement Committee

The Town Agricultural Enhancement Committee is involved in discussions on the environmental contribution of our farms to carbon management, practices that promote soil health, and the possibility of the Town facilitating the securing of resources that could support our landowners in advancing such objectives. Planning is underway for an August event to recognize the next recipients of the Town's Lake Friendly Farm awards. The Committee is reviewing input from a number of sources that bring forward thoughtful ideas on how the Town can help our agricultural producers both succeed and contribute to the stewardship of a healthy Seneca Lake.

Communications Committee

The Town Communications Committee has been working on making the town website more user-friendly. Our next move is to populate the website with photographs that showcase the various aspects of life in the Town of Geneva. We continue to gather information for the quarterly newsletter and get it into as many hands as possible. One of our goals for 2020 is to increase our email list of town residents, so if you haven't already, please send your email to Supervisor Venuti at supervisor@townofgeneva.com. You can also sign up for town updates anytime you stop into Town Hall. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table in the foyer. Your email address will only be used to keep you informed of Town of Geneva news and information and we never share our list with any other organizations. You can help us out by telling your friends and sharing this newsletter with them directly.

We continue to meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Feel free to join us for a meeting. For more information, contact committee chair, Kim Aliperti at kimaliperti@townofgeneva.com

Contact Us

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