

# The Genoa Township NEWSLETTER

“A Nice Place to Live”

January - February 2015

## From the Trustees

### HAPPY NEW YEAR GENOA TOWNSHIP!!

Although I am still working on that 1998 resolution to lose 10 lbs., your trustees would like to share with you some of our resolutions for the new year in Genoa Township.

**1. We resolve that if we need to spend your tax dollars, we will do it in a judicious and meaningful way, and for the benefit of you, the residents.**

In the business world, Genoa Township would be a good sized business with an annual operating budget of 13 million dollars. About five years ago, we established a citizen finance and audit committee to provide “another set of eyes” on the Township’s spending and fiscal operations. This has been a great benefit to the trustees and our fiscal officer, and ultimately, the Township. We look forward to keeping our financial management and expenditures transparent with adherence to the highest standards of fiscal management.

**2. We resolve to continue high quality emergency response services through our police and fire departments.**

The trustees and chiefs are constantly looking for ways to be more responsive to our residents, in the most cost effective manner. With both our fire and police five-year operating levies expiring this year, the Township will need to consider both issues on the spring ballot. Over the past year, a citizens advisory group has been studying operations and budget forecasts for both departments and the trustees are in the process of evaluating their research. We will strive to achieve a balance between service expectations and financial reality.

**3. We resolve to finalize the Township’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan**

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Comp. Plan) serves as our road-map for development in the Township. Our current Comp. Plan needs updating. Last year, some of the most contentious issues in the Township were related to development, and some of that resulted from the fact our existing plan didn’t address the type or location where development was proposed. Finding that proper balance between private property rights, the good of the community, and new market demands will be tricky, but it is achievable and needs to be reflected in the Comp Plan.

**4. We resolve to put those new road levy dollars to work on improving our Township’s roads and bridges.**

First, a big thank you for your support of the road and bridge levy in November. Many of our roads are the same age due to the large amount of growth that took place in the last decade. While patching and resurfacing can help, there comes a time when major repairs are necessary. This spring, we will begin necessary improvements to our roads, our Township’s most important infrastructure.

**5. And finally, we, the Trustees, resolve to continue to operate in a decisive manner that represents integrity, fiscal responsibility, and transparency with a focus on what is best for the Township.**

Along with our dedicated staff, we wish you and yours a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2015!

Cordially,  
**Karl R. Gebhardt**  
Trustee

## Firefighters for Families Food & Toy Drive



Joy choral members from Sunbury United Methodist



Caydee Weekly and Santa



The Ryba Family



## Sherri Schechinger Receives Outstanding Service Award

Resident Sherri Schechinger was recently recognized by the Township for her many contributions as a volunteer.

Sherri has served tirelessly as a member of the Parks Advisory Board and Events Committee, and along with her husband Joe, and daughter, Claire, has helped with numerous park improvements, the addition of amenities, and has helped create successful community events. Her enthusiasm and planning efforts have helped to shape our community vision for Genoa Township.

The combined efforts of Sherri and her family have made Genoa Township truly “A Nice Place to Live.”

## Administrator's Update

Paul Wise  
Administrator

### Farewell Mrs. Lewis



In November 2007, I had the opportunity to meet Barbara Lewis for the first time. She had just been elected to begin her first term as Genoa Township Trustee. The Township was at a crossroads. There was instability in the Fiscal Office, and there was turmoil at the trustee meetings. Some employees, me included, were considering leaving Genoa Township for other employment opportunities. Before Mrs. Lewis began her term in office, she stopped by my office, closed the door, and asked me about the problems in the Township. She took the time to listen and learn. When our meeting was complete, she assured me that things would change for the better. Two months later, after being sworn in, positive things were happening. The problems in the Fiscal Office, and the chaos occurring at the trustee meetings had ended. Barb demanded change, and change happened. Barb is a strong advocate for transparency in government. She wanted the public to be informed on the actions of local government, and she wanted there to be trust from the public concerning those actions. Every year, all Township department heads meet with the trustees and Fiscal Officer to go over the appropriations budget. Barb expected each department head to give justification for any capital expenditure being planned for the following year. She felt accountable for every penny being spent by tax payer funds. Barb's commitment to excellence improved the appearance and reputation of the Township. She worked closely with Trustees Carfagna and Gebhardt, and together they were a unified and highly educated board. We will all miss working with Barb when she takes her new position as Delaware County Commissioner. She is leaving Genoa Township in a much better place than when she started. She has truly been a respected leader and friend, and we wish her good luck serving the residents of Delaware County.

### Damage to Items in the Road Right-of-Way

In December, a resident approached the Township asking to be reimbursed for landscaping stones and decorative lighting that were damaged by our snow plow. The items were placed along a cul-de-sac on the edge of the road within the road right-of-way. Our trustees turned down their request to be reimbursed. Genoa Township currently has close to 90 miles of public streets to maintain. The area in and surrounding the road is reserved for public use. This area may contain some several feet of a homeowner's front yard. Sprinkler systems, electronic dog fences, landscaping and other items have been placed in the road right-of-way without the permission of the Township. These items, with the exception of mailboxes, will not be replaced or repaired if damaged by the Township. If you are considering doing any work in the Township right-of-way, you must first obtain and be granted a permit prior to commencement of the work. Please contact the Genoa Township Maintenance Department for more information.

## Fiscal Report

Patrick Myers  
Fiscal Officer

Fund Name	01/01/2014 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 11/30/2014
General	\$3,031,821.55	\$1,615,216.55	\$1,624,947.36	\$3,022,090.74
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$298,236.36	\$31,385.81	\$103,314.00	\$226,308.17
Gasoline Tax	\$170,313.02	\$160,986.13	\$295,918.52	\$35,380.63
Road and Bridge	\$530,030.04	\$1,196,383.45	\$1,405,833.26	\$320,580.23
Cemetery	\$38,971.97	\$2,903.00	\$1,516.60	\$40,358.37
Police - Grants	\$5,377.35	\$-	\$-	\$5,377.35
Police	\$2,035,023.61	\$3,554,342.49	\$3,039,903.73	\$2,549,462.37
Fire	\$3,816,840.55	\$4,307,711.52	\$4,299,619.42	\$3,824,932.65
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$537,564.07	\$181,483.66	\$510,149.93	\$208,897.80
Law Enforcement Trust	\$68,072.02	\$67.28	\$4,040.67	\$64,098.63
Enforcement and Education	\$5,670.70	\$638.00	\$-	\$6,308.70
Parks	\$1,187.92	\$-	\$-	\$1,187.92
TIF Fund	\$883,789.29	\$439,392.56	\$189,833.93	\$1,133,347.92
FEMA	\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$0.00
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,386.69	\$-	\$-	\$1,386.69
Police Capital Projects	\$1,030,653.14	\$-	\$97,506.65	\$933,146.49
Fire Capital Projects	\$878,416.73	\$694,000.00	\$-	\$1,572,416.73
Big Walnut/Worth Rd Improvements	\$104,216.03	\$569.59	\$-	\$104,785.62
	<b>\$13,437,571.04</b>	<b>\$12,185,080.04</b>	<b>\$11,572,584.07</b>	<b>\$14,050,067.01</b>

## Maintenance

Bob Mathews  
Director of Roads

Happy New Year! The Maintenance and Buildings and Grounds Departments would like to wish you a healthy and happy 2015.

### Salt Shortage

This winter has been forecasted as being harsher than last winter. That being said, North America is currently experiencing a critical shortage of road salt, and because of this, our strategy for keeping our roads passable has dramatically been impacted. In a typical winter, we use 1,600 tons of salt. Last winter we used 2,500 tons. We had a surplus of 500 tons of salt that we carried over from last winter; however, we were granted only 285 tons from the salt co-op program available to us. We have secured salt from other entities, but at a premium price.

We will be treating all Township streets with a brine solution prior to each snow event. Main streets will be plowed and salted. All secondary roads and cul-de-sacs will be plowed. We are asking all of our residents to use caution and allow yourselves extra time while driving this winter.



### Keep Streets Clear For Snowplows

To optimize our plowing efforts, please do not park your vehicles in the street during snow emergencies. If you are shoveling your driveway, when looking at your driveway from the street, pile the snow by the curb to the left side of your driveway. This will keep the snow from being pushed back across your driveway when the plows go down your street. Keep an eye on the curb drain for your sump pump. Sprinkling salt at the curb will help eliminate the possibility of the drain pipe freezing and plugging.

Our department will be working diligently to keep our roads in the best condition we can, but not having the resources available to us as in past years, we are all going to need to make adjustments traveling throughout the Township this winter. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please don't hesitate to contact the office at 614-568-2080 if you have any questions or concerns.

## Improved Fire Insurance Rating for Genoa Township

The ISO (Insurance Services Organization) has recently completed a re-analysis of Genoa Township's fire suppression delivery system. The results of the evaluation showed a marked improvement.

The ISO, an independent company, provides information about a community's fire risk to insurance companies. ISO rates and evaluates over 48,000 communities across the United States.

The ISO utilizes a rating scale of 1 to 10, with a 1 being the best rating. The rating is determined by data collected and reviewed regarding emergency communications, water supply, and the fire department. The improved rating places Genoa Township in the top 7% of fire departments in the country.

## What Does This Mean For Our Residents?

Insurance companies utilize these classifications in determining commercial and homeowner's premiums. In general, the cost of fire insurance in a community with a low classification is lower than a community with a higher one, assuming all factors are equal.

Genoa Township's rating reduced from a 5:9 to a 3:3X. The 1st number applies to properties within 5 road miles of a fire station and 1,000 feet of a hydrant. The 2nd number is the class that applies to properties within 5 road miles of a fire station but beyond 1,000 feet of a hydrant.

Give some time for the data to be entered into the systems and then you are encouraged to contact your carrier to seek a reduction in premium. Again, not all, but most carriers utilize ISO classifications.

For the full report please visit <http://genoatwp.com/fire>

## Service Above Self Award



We would like to congratulate Fire Marshal Craig Skeel as the winner of the Westerville Sunrise Rotary Club, "Service Above Self Award." The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals living and working in the Westerville community who demonstrate exemplary service, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others.

As Human Resource Director Linda Greco stated, "I think one of the things I admire most about

Craig is that he is tireless when it comes to fire safety and children. He'll start with an idea, and then follow it through every stage: planning, building, organizing, and practicing so he can teach safety to our most vulnerable citizens in a fun and entertaining way that they will remember."

We are proud to have him on our team.

## Citizens Fire Academy

Sign up for the Genoa Township Citizens Fire Academy. The Academy meets once a week for 2 hours for a 12 week period from March – June of each year. Participants will learn and take part in multiple fire department disciplines. This is a participative academy for all adults. Participants will pull hoses, crawl in smoke, mitigate a Haz Mat incident, learn CPR, drive a fire truck, and much, much more.

The purpose of the Citizens Fire Academy is to inform and educate, through practical participation, the responsibilities and operations of the Fire Department. Citizens will discover how the Fire Department prepares for and responds to emergencies as well as learn how to survive in emergencies. It is not intended to make citizens into firefighters. It will be educational, fun, and at times challenging.

You may sign up on the website at <http://genoatwp.com/fire/citizen/default.aspx>

## Citizens' Police Academy

Have you ever wanted to learn what the police do and what law enforcement is all about? Now is your opportunity. Beginning in March, the Genoa Township Police Department will host a Citizens' Police Academy; a ten week program meeting two hours per week.

The Citizens' Police Academy is designed to provide participants with a greater understanding of the Genoa Township Police Department and the overall profession of law enforcement through class lectures as well as hands-on experiences. It is our goal to make the program an informative and enjoyable experience for all of those involved. It is also an opportunity for the police department to learn from participants through discussion and interaction with instructors and classmates. The overall objective is to further a partnership in making Genoa Township a great place to live, work, and raise families.

Some of the covered topics include:

- Patrol Procedure
- Use of Force/Taser
- Tactical Operations (Delaware Tactical Unit)
- A.D.A./O.V.I. Testing
- Firearms (live fire)
- Narcotics
- Community Policing
- Delaware County Jail Tour
- Canine Unit Information and Demo

Interested candidates for the Citizens' Police Academy must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum age of 18 years
- No misdemeanor arrest within three years of application
- No felony arrest or convictions within ten years of application

If you are interested, please contact Lieutenant Russ Ciballi at [rciballi@genoatwp.com](mailto:rciballi@genoatwp.com) or 614-568-2060 or you can apply online at: <http://genoatwp.com/police/documents/Citizens%20Academy%20Application.pdf>



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



PRSRT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 COLUMBUS, OH  
 PERMIT NO 704

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



**Chairperson**  
 Rick Carfagna  
 (614) 568-2024



**Vice-Chairperson**  
 Karl R. Gebhardt  
 (614) 568-2025



**Trustee**  
 Barbara Lewis  
 (614) 568-2026  
 Email: trustees@genoatwp.com



**Fiscal Officer**  
 Patrick Myers  
 pmyers@genoatwp.com

**Fiscal Assistant**  
 Donna Batten  
 dbatten@genoatwp.com

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Administrator**  
 Paul F Wise  
 pwise@genoatwp.com

**Director of Human Resources/  
 Community Relations**  
 Linda Greco  
 lgreco@genoatwp.com

**DEVELOPMENT & ZONING**

Development and Zoning Office  
 (614) 899-0725

**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

<b>Genoa Township Community Calendar</b>					
<b>January 2015</b>			<b>February 2015</b>		
January 1	New Year's Day	Office Closed	February 4	Parks Advisory Board	7:00 p.m.
January 3	Rumpke holiday trash pick up		February 5	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.
January 7	Parks Advisory Board	7:00 p.m.	February 9	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.
January 8	Seniors	noon	February 12	Seniors	noon
January 8	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.	February 16	Presidents' Day	Offices Closed
	Reorganization		February 18	Health Clinic	1:30-4:00 p.m.
January 12	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.	February 19	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.
January 15	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.	February 24	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Offices Closed	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.		
January 21	Health Clinic	1:30-4:00 p.m.			
January 22	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.			
January 27	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.			

**Happy New Year!**

**Rumpke 2015  
 Holiday Schedule**



- **New Year's Day**  
 Moved to Saturday 01/03/15
- **Memorial Day**  
 Moved to Saturday 05/30/15
- **Independence Day**  
 No change. Collection will occur as scheduled
- **Labor Day**  
 Moved to Saturday 09/12/15
- **Thanksgiving**  
 Moved to Saturday 11/28/15
- **Christmas**  
 Moved to Saturday 12/26/15