

# The Genoa Township NEWSLETTER

“A Nice Place to Live”

March - April 2015

## From the Trustees

Perhaps the most frequent compliment we hear from residents across Genoa Township regards our exceptional Police and Fire/EMS services. When I review monthly reports from each of these departments, I am reminded of the fact that their typical workdays often consist of a series of our bad days. Our safety forces are at their best when we're at our most vulnerable state. Whether it's happening upon an unresponsive family member or observing suspicious neighborhood activity, in circumstances such as these it's imperative to have quality personnel nearby who can immediately respond. Much like having insurance, too often we take these services for granted until actually needed.

We are approaching the end of the current five-year levy cycles for both our Police and Fire/EMS departments. These levies last went before the voters in May of 2010, and will once again be on the ballot this coming May 5th.

Last August, we convened a volunteer committee of a dozen residents from across the township with assorted professional backgrounds. Over several months, they analyzed the operations and expenditures of both departments for the past five years. Each department then constructed ten-year financial forecasts, which were then thoroughly scrutinized line-item by line-item and revised multiple times by the panel.

By the conclusion of this process, the committee had vetted detailed budgets that would maintain reasonable levels of service over the next decade. These residents then identified appropriate millages for the next five years, and then voted unanimously to recommend these funding levels to our Board of Trustees for the May ballot.

Upon receiving these recommendations, our Board of Trustees studied numerous spreadsheets and individually met with department heads and assorted committee members. After a considerable amount of homework and discussion, our Board voted unanimously at our January 15th meeting to place the following five-year measures on the May ballot:

- **For the Genoa Township Police Department:** A renewal of the existing 3.8 mills and an increase of .8 mills (4.6 total mills). If approved, the new annual cost per \$100,000 of value would be \$142.32, representing a \$28.00 increase over the current cost.

- **For the Genoa Township Fire/EMS Department:** A renewal of the existing 4.7 mills and an increase of .8 mills (5.5 total mills). If approved, the new annual cost per \$100,000 of value will be \$169.39, representing a \$28.00 increase over the current cost.

It is important to emphasize that neither our Police nor our Fire/EMS departments function with a blank check from the taxpayers. We have a responsibility to ensure public safety, but we also take our fiduciary duty to the public very seriously. Just as we take pride in the performance and versatility of our staff, we likewise demand accountability and transparency in their operations.

I would also like to note that our Board purposefully delayed action on this vote until we could revise our levy projections with year-end figures from the County Auditor's office. We wanted our vote – and thus, your vote - based upon the most precise and current financial data.

The two proposed levies on the May ballot have been carefully calibrated to maintain the existing levels of operations for the next five years – no more, no less. Vehicles will be replaced and equipment will be purchased only upon evidence of necessity, same as today. While we intend to fill current staffing holes over time, there will be **no expansions of personnel** for either department over the next five years.

It is worth mentioning that Genoa's safety services continue to be one of the better values around. In a September 14, 2014 article, the *Columbus Dispatch* offered a breakdown of police forces and taxpayer costs in 53 Central Ohio jurisdictions. Genoa Township's Police Department, despite serving the 12th highest population, was ranked 11th lowest in the amount of spending per resident.

As for Genoa's Fire/EMS Department, here are both the voted millages and effective rates (the effective rate is the actual millage collected from property owners) of other fulltime Fire/EMS departments: Concord Township (7.4/5.85), Washington Township (14.95/9.6), Westerville (16.85/9.98), Harlem Township (7.5/7.5), Liberty Township (5.6/5.6), and Orange Township (7.5/7.47). Keep in mind that Genoa's current Fire/EMS levy millage is 4.7, collected at the full 4.7. Not only are we

## 2015 Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28



the lowest among our peers, but if the May levy is approved we will remain the lowest.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I am deeply grateful to the resident volunteers who served on our levy committee and helped guide our decision making. As for our Police and Fire/EMS departments, we should all take great comfort in the outstanding men and women watching over the well-being of our families and our properties. Not only is each department staffed by highly trained and dedicated individuals, but both are managed in a professional manner rivaling any successful business.

In the coming months, you will be hearing more about our safety forces and these ballot issues. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, I encourage you to contact us at [trustees@genoatwp.com](mailto:trustees@genoatwp.com). You can also reach Police Chief Steve Gammill at [sgammill@genoatwp.com](mailto:sgammill@genoatwp.com) and Fire Chief Gary Honeycutt at [ghoneycutt@genoatwp.com](mailto:ghoneycutt@genoatwp.com).

Wishing you all a wonderful spring,

**Rick Carfagna**  
Trustee

## Administrator's Update

Paul Wise  
Administrator

### Welcome Leo Wilhelm!



On January 8th, Leo M. Wilhelm was sworn in as our newest Township trustee. Mr. Wilhelm was appointed by trustees Carfagna and Gebhardt to fill the last year of the term previously held by County Commissioner Barbara Lewis.

Leo is a Certified Public Accountant, and is currently a Finance Manager for the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. He has served on the Township's Zoning Commission since 2006, including five years as the commission's chair. Prior to joining the Zoning Commission, Leo was a member of the Township's Board of Zoning Appeals from 1999 through 2006, having chaired that panel from 2003 until 2006. Throughout his tenure serving the Township, he also directly participated in multiple updates of the Comprehensive Plan.

Leo is a Central Ohio native and has resided in the Township for 25 years. Along with his wife, Lisa, he has three sons and a stepdaughter.

He is a graduate of Upper Arlington High School and has a BS in Accounting from Franklin University. In addition to his Township experience, he has also served as a Scoutmaster and youth softball coach. In his spare time, Leo enjoys woodworking and doing landscaping and yard work on his property. The Trustees, Fiscal Officer and staff welcome Leo, and look forward to working with him.

## Fiscal Report

Patrick Myers  
Fiscal Officer

Fund Name	01/01/2015 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 01/31/2015
General	\$2,806,756.41	\$9,959.47	\$143,080.27	\$2,673,635.61
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$228,614.85	\$2,516.95	\$-	\$231,131.80
Gasoline Tax	\$26,104.87	\$14,729.86	\$2,455.07	\$38,379.66
Road and Bridge	\$182,102.58	\$1,475.00	\$113,489.83	\$70,087.75
Cemetery	\$40,932.67	\$-	\$-	\$40,932.67
Police - Grants	\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$0.00
Police	\$2,213,751.90	\$2,978.75	\$302,400.29	\$1,914,330.36
Fire	\$3,355,447.35	\$541.65	\$338,944.60	\$3,017,044.40
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$222,770.17	\$14,660.12	\$-	\$237,430.29
Law Enforcement Trust	\$64,098.63	\$-	\$-	\$64,098.63
Enforcement and Education	\$6,308.70	\$50.00	\$-	\$6,358.70
Parks	\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$0.00
TIF Fund	\$1,133,347.92	\$-	\$-	\$1,133,347.92
FEMA	\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$0.00
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,386.69	\$-	\$-	\$1,386.69
Police Capital Projects	\$933,146.49	\$-	\$-	\$933,146.49
Fire Capital Projects	\$1,572,416.73	\$-	\$-	\$1,572,416.73
Big Walnut/Worth Rd Improvements	\$104,847.91	\$31.49	\$-	\$104,879.40
	<b>\$12,892,033.87</b>	<b>\$46,943.29</b>	<b>\$900,370.06</b>	<b>\$12,038,607.10</b>

## Maintenance

Bob Mathews  
Director of Roads

### Winter Conditions and Snow Removal

Your Maintenance Department continually strives to bring you quality snow removal using the most efficient modalities at hand. At the present time, we brine, plow and salt Township roads to keep you safe. As of today's date, we have been able to stretch our limited supply of salt this winter, but according to Punxsutawney Phil, we still have a considerable amount of winter left! With that in mind, we thought it prudent to share this with you:

Conditions warrant how all Township roads will be plowed and salted regarding our curb-to-curb snow removal policy. Major arteries or streets with dangerous hills or curves are plowed first. These are considered "Primary Roads." Through streets intersecting with Primary Roads are considered "Secondary Streets." These streets will be plowed and salted once primary streets have received treatment. Following Secondary Streets are "Residential Streets," which are plowed and salted next. "Cul-de-sacs" are plowed and salted last.

As residents, there are several things you can do to help us maintain the high quality of service that we desire to provide. Please pile shoveled driveway snow to the left of your driveway (while looking at your residence from the street). Stay as far away as possible from snowplows. Make sure your children understand that plows are dangerous pieces of machinery and cannot stop quickly. Parked cars on your streets are oftentimes "plowed in." We do the best job plowing when we don't have to keep cutting out and in around parked cars. Please don't attempt to pass a snow plow as you drive throughout the Township, and use extra caution during snow and icy conditions. The best rule of thumb is "half the posted speed limit or less, depending on the conditions." Accidents cause delays in snow and ice removal.

As always, please call our office at 614-568-2080 if you have any questions or concerns!



## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Westerville Central HS (Mt. Royal and Tussic St.)  
Activities begin at 10:00 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11:00 a.m.



Families will enjoy a morning filled with activities, prizes, refreshments, Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny, and there will be 15,000 Easter eggs waiting to be scooped up by Township children ages 1-10!

Four color coded areas will be roped off for children by age. One adult (only) will be allowed to help children ages 1-2. Adults and older children will not be allowed in the other areas.

We always need lots of volunteers to help the day of the event...spreading out the 15,000 eggs, and working the activities and bounce houses. If you can help with this fun family event, please contact Human Resource Director Linda Greco at lgreco@genoatwp.com or (614) 568-2022.

## Hydrant Checks

Firefighters will be initiating the biannual hydrant checks the first part of April. If you are aware of any issues regarding a hydrant in your area, please contact Fire Marshal Craig Skeel at 614-568-2040.

## Spring Cleaning Injuries

Spring is right around the corner, and after a long winter everyone is ready to get some fresh air and a head start on spring cleaning. Along with spring cleaning comes a heightened risk of home injury from lifting, climbing, trimming and chemicals. Each year more than 21 million people visit the emergency room as a result of home injuries.

Preventing injuries during spring cleaning begins with preparation. Make realistic plans and don't over exert yourself. Many injuries occur when individuals try to take short cuts or complete projects they should not attempt alone. Before you begin a task gather all of your materials. Be sure to carefully read and follow safety recommendations on materials, including chemical cleaners, bug sprays and other home improvement products. Additionally, do not mix products together. The chemicals in many common products can become very dangerous when mixed.

## Injury Prevention

As you work on indoor home improvement projects keep these tips in mind:

- Tuck away cords and wires from electronics to prevent tripping.
- Keep stairs, steps, landings and all floors clear of clutter.
- When vacuuming, use long, steady strokes to avoid putting strain on your back.
- To prevent yourself from falling, carry loads you can see over and keep one hand free to hold banisters and railings when taking the stairs.

As with indoor projects, outdoor home improvement projects can become quite dangerous if proper precautions are not taken:

- Always use a ladder or stepladder instead of climbing on other objects, and never stand on the top rung. Place the ladder on a flat, solid surface away from unlocked doors.
- Regularly apply sunscreen, even if it is a cloudy day, to protect your skin.
- Wear proper attire for the task you are working on. Gloves will protect your hands from blistering and proper shoes will help to prevent slipping when working on wet surfaces.
- When gardening, pull weeds using leg and abdominal muscles to avoid placing strain on your back.
- Use extreme caution when using a lawnmower. More than 70,000 injuries occur each year due to lawnmower accidents. Keep away from the moving blade and always wear closed toe shoes while mowing.

By following these simple tips, spring cleaning will be a breeze. Just remember to use caution and to take well deserved breaks to enjoy the springtime!

We look forward to serving you this coming year.



The following is a breakdown of fire department incidents and activity for 2014.

## INCIDENTS

Fire .....	57
Rescue .....	131
Auto Accident .....	61
HazMat .....	6
EMS .....	1,010
Other .....	387
<b>Total Incidents .....</b>	<b>1,652</b>

## TRAINING HOURS OF PERSONNEL

Fire Suppression .....	1,258
Rescue .....	767
EMS .....	1,109
Safety .....	759
HazMat .....	302
Leadership .....	516
Physical Fitness .....	2,039
<b>Total Training Hours .....</b>	<b>6,750</b>

## FIRE PREVENTION

Inspections .....	236
CSST Inspections .....	5
Home Inspections .....	19
School Presentations .....	17
Civic Presentations .....	8
Building Plan Review .....	34
<b>Total Prevention .....</b>	<b>319</b>

# Police Department

## Drug Drop-Off Box Available

The time has come for us to start spring cleaning of our homes in anticipation of all the fun summer time activities. I would like to take this opportunity to talk with you about another location that probably could use a little spring cleaning of itself, though it is often overlooked, and that is your medicine cabinet.

Currently, many unwanted or expired household and prescription medications are improperly disposed of by flushing the drugs

down toilets or putting them into the garbage. Both of these methods have damaging effects on our environment and contaminate our water supply. According to the State of Ohio between 2000 and 2012 drug overdoses rose 366%. On average five people a day in Ohio pass away from prescription drug abuse.

The police department installed a drug drop-off box in our lobby in 2013 in an effort to provide a convenient location for anyone who wants to safely and anonymously dispose of prescription drugs, and to stem the growing

national trend of people, especially minors, abusing pharmaceuticals. We did this to provide an easy, secure, and safe way for anyone to anonymously drop off any unused, unwanted or expired medications. The drop-off box is accessible 24 hours a day, but we can accept only medication that is in pill or patch form. Please do not drop off liquids, syringes, or needles in the box.

Please consider utilizing this free service and together we will keep Genoa Township "A Nice Place to Live."

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



**Vice-Chairperson**  
 Leo M. Wilhelm  
 (614) 568-2026



**Trustee**  
 Rick Carfagna  
 (614) 568-2024  
 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>March 2015</b>			<b>April 2015</b>		
March 3	TIF	9:00 a.m.	April 1	Parks Advisory Board	7:00 p.m.
March 4	Parks Advisory Board	7:00 p.m.	April 2	Opening of Garden (Worthington Road Park)	6:00 p.m.
March 5	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.	April 2	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.
March 9	State Representative Ruhl (Administration Office)	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	April 6	Easter Monday	Offices Closed
March 9	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.	April 9	Seniors	noon
March 11	Citizens' Police Advisory Board (Fire Department)	7:00 p.m.	April 13	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.
March 12	Seniors	noon	April 15	Health Clinic	1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
March 18	Health Clinic	1:30 – 4:00 p.m.	April 16	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.
March 19	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.	April 28	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
March 24	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.	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.		
March 28	Easter Egg Hunt (Westerville Central High School)	10:00 a.m. – noon			



**Ducks for Sale!**

*The Great Duck Race will be held once again at the Center Green Festival, May 17th!*

Ducks will be on sale for \$1 at the Easter Egg Hunt and at the Administration Office, 5111 S. Old 3C Hwy. Stop by to pick out your winning duck! This is a 50/50 race with the owner of the winning duck receiving half the proceeds and the other half going to the Parks Improvement Fund.

*Good luck!*