

The Genoa Township NEWSLETTER

"A Nice Place to Live"

November - December 2015

From the Trustees

Election Day

November 3rd is an important day for the residents of Genoa Township with several issues at the state level and one of special interest to our Township. On the ballot, is an issue to allow the Township Trustees to negotiate lower electric and natural gas rates for most of our households and small businesses. Valuable information was provided in our previous newsletter, and also at an open house, and through mailings provided by the broker assisting us in the process. A township is a very effective form of government because it is closest to the voters and allows significant participation. Remember to exercise that privilege this election day.

2015 in Review

2015 has been a successful event filled year for the Township.

- In spite of uncooperative weather, many very popular family activities were held including the Easter egg hunt, Movie nights, National Night Out, Family Fishing Day and most recently the Halloween Trick or Treat Village.
- The Township continues to be in good fiscal shape with a balanced budget, a small rainy day fund and debt free.
- The trustees, staff and our fiscal committee volunteers continue to find ways to keep costs down such as the reduction of employee health insurance costs by 7.5% in July.
- The Police and Fire levies were passed in May, and even with the small millage increase, we remain one of the lowest cost jurisdictions in central Ohio.
- The Township's portion of the Maxtown road widening project was completed by our roads and maintenance department.
- A cooperative effort with ODOT, Delaware County and Berkshire Township will soon

result in an improvement to the safety of the Plumb Rd/St Rt. 3 interchange with a traffic light and turn lanes.

- Several Township roads were repaired or resurfaced as part of the long term road maintenance schedule.
- Finally, new playground equipment and improvements at Freeman Rd Park were completed, greatly enhancing its safety and functionality.

Looking forward to 2016

The coming year will be a milestone in the history of Genoa Township.

We expect to continue to add trails, playground and park improvements.

Updates to the Comprehensive Plan should be completed to provide guidance to chart our future as we see some of the remaining areas of the Township get developed.

Most notable will be the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Genoa Township. Linda Greco will be coordinating the celebration as we look back at 200 years and forward to the next 100 years. I was recently privileged to speak with one of our residents who is 102 years old. She attended school in the one room school house on Sunbury Rd. and has seen enormous changes in those years. I hope we can gather stories and pictures to help celebrate 200 years of being a "Great Place To Live."

Of course none of this would be possible without the many volunteers who have provided generous amounts of time, energy, expertise and leadership to bring us this far. Members of the Fiscal, Parks, Police and Fire Advisory Committees, appointees on the BZA and Zoning Commission, and the volunteers who organize and run the many family events, all deserve our thanks and appreciation for providing immeasurable value to Genoa Township.

Leo Wilhelm
Trustee



Our Police Department welcomes new full-time Police Officer Kathleen Antolocy.



Fouse Elementary School students learning about fire safety from Fire Marshall Craig Skeel.

The following are the General Election ballot issues for Genoa Township:

- Delaware County Municipal Court Judge
- Township of Genoa
Genoa Township Trustee
Genoa Township Fiscal Officer
- Big Walnut Local School District Board Members
- Olentangy Local School District Board Members
- Westerville City School District Board Members

- **Issue One:** Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts
- **Issue Two:** Anti-monopoly amendment; protects the initiative process from being used for personal economic benefit
- **Issue Three:** Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes
- **Proposed Resolution Electric Aggregation Genoa Township**
- **Proposed Resolution Natural Gas Aggregation Genoa Township**

Precinct Information

Genoa Township Precincts
6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. • Tuesday, Nov. 3

Genoa A
Life Giving Church
395 Sunbury Rd

Genoa B, C, G, H, J, K, L, P, S
Genoa Baptist Church
7562 Lewis Center Rd.

Genoa D, I, M, N, O, Q
Heritage Christian Church
7413 Maxtown Rd.

Genoa E, R
Genoa Township Community Hall
5111 So. Old 3C Hwy

Genoa F
Galena United Methodist Church
2777 Sunbury Rd.

For more information, contact the Delaware County Board of Elections at (740) 833-2080.

Administrator's Update

Paul Wise
Administrator

Beware of Bogus Email Using Township Format!

Recently, a resident shared an email that was sent to them concerning ongoing efforts to update the Township's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This email was not from the Township! An anonymous person or group is resending a legitimate email that Genoa Township previously sent out to our listserv. Our "official email" was unofficially edited with potentially misleading information, and then forwarded to a number of our residents by the person/group who for some reason wants to remain anonymous. Residents immediately called us about this. Unless you had the original Township email sent out to our listserv, you wouldn't have known this "shadow group" had manipulated the message. They used the same type style that we used and made it appear like an official Genoa Township message. If you receive an email that appears to be from Genoa Township, but was forwarded from another user, consider its contents to be questionable.

Retaining What Is Important To You!

For over a decade, I have been honored to serve the residents of Genoa Township as your Administrator. My position is unique; it involves being the liaison between the public, the trustees and the staff. In some local governments there is a disconnection between the three parties mentioned above. When you have a problem with one of the three, you have a breakdown in government. Projects, legislation and services come to a screeching halt. Genoa Township has become a showcase of how local government should operate. We offer excellent services from the police, fire, and maintenance departments. We have an educated and highly competent fiscal office, zoning office and administrative staff. We have a group of dedicated resident volunteers who are committed to serve on the Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Parks Advisory Board, and numerous other committees. Other townships do not have what we have. Our system works. According to statistics from the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission, our population has just passed the 25,000 mark. There are roughly 8,390 households in this Township. Our three trustees do an excellent job of working together for the betterment of the community. While they may not always agree on an issue, they listen to the residents' concerns and work with them to provide a solution that is best for the Township. Our 6 department heads have over 166 years' experience serving the public. We are on the front line providing you with the safety and services that you have grown to expect. The system in Genoa Township works, and I am committed to retaining the professional services and trust that keep you and your family living happily here.

Police Department

Stephen Gammill
Police Chief

Programs to Keep Our Schools Safe

One of our top priorities is the safety of our schools and school children, and as we view incidents around the country we continue to explore ways to increase our presence in and around the schools. This year we have added another layer of protection to our school resource officers located at Westerville Central High School and Genoa Middle School.

We have started an officer liaison program for our elementary schools and have assigned first shift patrol officers to be responsible for Alcott, Fouse, and Walnut Creek. These officers are charged with stopping by the school, when time permits, to patrol the hallways and talk to teachers and students. This not only increases our visibility around the schools, but also gives our younger students an opportunity to meet police officers, reinforcing that officers are their friends who are there to help them if needed.

The feedback from the principals on this new program has been positive and we look forward to continuing it. We also instruct our officers, if they have paperwork to complete on the cruiser's computer, to park in a school parking lot. This again increases the visibility around the schools and adds an extra layer of safety.

We continue to work closely with school administration to respond swiftly to any concerns or issues that may arise, and our officers, along with Genoa Fire, participate in training school staff to respond to any emergency that may occur. We thank you for your continued support!

Development and Zoning

Joe Shafer
Director

Planning for Tomorrow, Today

Did you know that Genoa Township has a comprehensive land use plan? If you just answered, "No.", don't worry, you are not alone. I have found it is not exactly a common topic of conversation around most people's dinner tables. There has been a lot of discussion and activity around this topic as of late and in order to clear up some misconceptions, below is a quick primer on the subject.

A comprehensive plan is an all-inclusive document that is adopted by local officials in order to determine a vision for the future of the community over the next several decades. In order to achieve this vision, the plan establishes goals and creates policies based upon studies, data analysis, public input, and observations. These policies serve as guidelines for officials to consider so that they may make well-informed decisions in regards to land use, zoning, and future growth. Comprehensive plans also contain recommendations typically consisting of actions that should be taken to respond to strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, or threats in the community. The legal authority

for township's to undertake comprehensive planning and the manner in which the document is to be adopted is derived from, and dictated by, state law (the Ohio Revised Code) and has been supported via numerous Supreme Court cases at both the state and federal levels.

Reviewing and updating the plan, as needed, every five to ten years (or sooner if necessary) to reflect ongoing changes in the community and region, is considered to be best practice. As such, the Township's Trustees recently requested the Zoning Commission begin the process of reviewing and recommending changes to the 2009 plan with the goal of having an updated plan in place by the end of summer 2016. The commission began reviewing the current plan this past August and has held eight public meetings/open houses to date in which residents have had the opportunity to voice their ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Future meetings will be held. All meeting dates and subject matter are posted on the Township's website.

As the current process of reviewing and updating Genoa's Comprehensive Plan

continues to roll forward, it is important to remember that while the Comprehensive Plan is a legal document; its primary focus is on the long-term big picture. The Plan is not intended to serve as a technical document or as a tool to legislate "day-to-day" zoning matters. Specific rules in regards to building setbacks, fence heights, and other such matters are controlled and regulated by the Township's Zoning Resolution which is also a legal, enforceable document built upon the foundation of the principles, guidelines, and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. It is vital that the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Resolution remain consistent with one another in order for each document to be truly effective in achieving their purposes. This is yet another reason why, from time to time, amendments to one or both documents, like those currently being considered, are needed.

Should you have any questions about comprehensive planning, zoning, or any other development matters within the Township, or are unable to attend a meeting but would like to voice your opinion, please contact me at jshafer@genoatwp.com or (614) 899-0725.

Safety Tips for The Holidays

With the holiday season coming up we would like to offer some holiday fire prevention tips.

Live Christmas Trees - As they dry out they become very susceptible to fire and burn very fast and hot if ignited. To reduce your risk if using a live tree, make sure to purchase a tree recently cut, always have the cut end of the trunk in water, and remove the tree from your home shortly after Christmas

Safe Christmas Tree Lighting - All electric decorations should be tested for safety by a qualified facility. Some imported lighting and decorations do not pass these safety tests. Make sure that any electric decoration you use is UL (Underwriters Laboratory) listed.

Never Leave Candles Unattended - Candles, unlike electrical decorations, are not required to meet any safety standards. Candles should be self-supporting or in a holder designed to prevent tipping over. Candles should be placed away from combustibles and out of the reach of children. Candle fires more than double on Christmas day.

Children Playing with Matches - While the number of fires from children playing with matches goes down on Christmas day, there is a significant increase of fires from children playing with matches on New Year's Eve. Keep lighters and matches out of reach of smaller children, and instruct older children on the safe use of matches. Remember to keep children supervised.

A fire during the holidays can be especially devastating. In addition to taking precautions against these holiday fire hazards, check your fire alarms to make sure they are functional and be sure to have a fire escape plan that all family members know about. Being aware of the increased fire hazards during the winter season will help ensure that your family will have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

We hope to see all of you at the Firefighters for Families Food and Toy Drive. This drive helps local families in need.



Firefighters For Families Food and Toy Drive

Join us for a visit from Santa and festive singing by local high school and church children's choirs!

December 6th
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Community tree lighting at 4:30 p.m.

McNamara Park
7049 Big Walnut Road,
Galena, Ohio 43021 (Behind the Fire Station)

The Genoa Township Fire Department and the Genoa Township Professional Firefighter's Local 4307 annual food and toy drive will begin now through December 31st. Items can be dropped off at Genoa Township Fire Department – 7049 Big Walnut Road, Galena OH 43021

We appreciate your contributions and look forward to seeing you!

We are collecting new unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, gift cards and monetary donations. Collected goods will be distributed to local families identified through the schools, churches, and The Big Walnut Friends Who Share. Checks made payable to: Genoa Township Firefighters

More info at: www.facebook.com/GTFDFirefightersForFamilies

Maintenance

Bob Mathews
Director of Roads

The Maintenance Department would like to remind residents that beginning November 1st and continuing throughout the month of November, we will have roll-off containers located at the Safety Service Complex for self-serve leaf and yard waste drop off. Please keep in mind that this waste is going to a compost facility; therefore, it must be clean from debris, trash and plastic bags. Paper yard waste bags are acceptable. These bags are available for purchase at neighborhood grocery and do-it-yourself stores.

The National Weather Service and the Farmers' Almanac are at odds with each other when it comes to predicting this winter. Personally, we hope the National Weather Service is correct and we have warmer weather with less precipitation than past years, but regardless of what Old Man Winter has in mind for us, the maintenance crew will be ready for snow and ice removal. Major arteries or streets having dangerous hills or curves are plowed first and will continue to be plowed as long as blowing snow or freezing road surfaces warrants attention. Secondary streets are through streets which intersect primary streets and are plowed next, followed by residential streets. Cul-de-sacs are the last streets to be treated.

We hope you have a happy Thanksgiving and holiday season!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 614-568-2080.

Fiscal Report

Patrick Myers
Fiscal Officer

Fund Name	01/01/2015 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 9/30/2015
General	\$2,806,756.41	\$1,596,003.36	\$1,385,290.12	\$3,017,469.65
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$228,614.85	\$25,526.10	\$237,940.00	\$16,200.95
Gasoline Tax	\$26,104.87	\$131,782.27	\$142,033.76	\$15,853.38
Road and Bridge	\$182,102.58	\$1,642,749.00	\$1,280,604.20	\$544,247.38
Cemetery	\$40,932.67	\$2,067.50	\$1,240.30	\$41,759.87
Police	\$2,213,751.90	\$3,613,525.81	\$2,332,046.89	\$3,495,230.82
Fire	\$3,355,447.35	\$4,371,436.21	\$3,091,153.49	\$4,635,730.07
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$222,770.17	\$151,283.61	\$283,391.37	\$90,662.41
Law Enforcement Trust	\$64,098.63	\$-	\$85.00	\$64,013.63
Enforcement and Education	\$6,308.70	\$488.00	\$3,058.00	\$3,738.70
TIF Fund	\$1,133,347.92	\$430,636.70	\$96,937.76	\$1,467,046.86
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,386.69	\$-	\$-	\$1,386.69
Police Capital Projects	\$933,146.49	\$-	\$98,161.77	\$834,984.72
Fire Capital Projects	\$1,572,416.73	\$252,750.00	\$-	\$1,825,166.73
Big Walnut/Worth Rd Improvements	\$104,847.91	\$583.62	\$-	\$105,431.53
	\$12,892,033.87	\$12,218,832.18	\$8,951,942.66	\$16,158,923.39

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



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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

Director of Development & Zoning
 Joe Shafer
 jshafer@genoatwp.com

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

Genoa Township Community Calendar

November 2015			December 2015		
Nov. 3	Election	6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Dec. 2	Parks Advisory Board	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Parks Advisory Board	7:00 p.m.	Dec. 3	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 5	Board of Trustees	7:00 p.m.	Dec. 6	Santa / Toy Drive (McNamara Park)	2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.			
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Offices Closed	Dec. 10	Seniors	noon
Nov. 11	Citizens' Police Advisory Board (Fire Department)	7:00 p.m.	Dec. 14	State Representative Ruhl (Administration Office)	2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Nov. 12	Seniors	noon	Dec. 14	Zoning Commission	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 17	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.	Dec. 15	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Health Clinic	1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Dec. 16	Health Clinic	1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Nov. 26 & 27	Thanksgiving	Offices Closed	Dec. 24 & 25	Christmas Offices	Closed
Nov. 28	Rumpke holiday trash pick up		Dec. 26	Rumpke holiday trash pick up	

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.

Annual Leaf and Yard Waste Drop Off
When: November 1 – November 30
Where: Safety Service Complex, 7049 Big Walnut Rd.
 (corner of State Rte. 3/Big Walnut Rd.)

Roll-off containers for all yard waste, including tree branches and shrubbery, will be available to residents on a self-serve basis. All yard and leaf waste will be taken to a compost facility. For this reason, leaves and yard waste cannot contain trash, plastic bags or general debris. Leaves and yard waste can be placed in yard waste paper bags and disposed of in the roll-off containers.

For more information, please contact Rene Evans at 614-568-2080 or revans@genoatwp.com.