

TRUSTEE REPORT: Resilience

Karl Gebhardt, Trustee

"Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that's good." - Elizabeth Edwards

The first sentence in this quote summarizes the beginning half of 2020, but it is now time to focus on the second sentence – moving forward.

Our staff has done a very good job in continuing to provide services and work for the residents. We are proud of them all. Not that adjustments haven't been made, but the work of the township has continued. We want to thank the residents for being patient and understanding. Our committees have been frustrated about cancelled meetings and video streaming of the trustee and zoning meetings isn't ideal, but it has gotten the job done.

As we look ahead for that "something good" the trustees will be working on some very important issues. Soon we will have a new Fire Chief. Chief Gary Honeycutt has served this community well. His professionalism and community focus will be two important traits we will require of our new Chief. Thank you, Gary, for your friendship and service.

The trustees are finalizing the regular five-year police and fire levies for the November ballot. As of this writing the trustees are also looking at an innovative way to provide dedicated funding for our parks and trails program, which may be on the November ballot as well. If approved by the residents in November, three of our most important services and programs will have dedicated funding – with NO TAX INCREASE. You will be hearing more on these initiatives in the months to come.

In closing, the goal of the township will be to continue putting together something that is good for you, the residents, in the best manner possible and under the circumstances at hand. Stay well, stay safe and enjoy a good summer in Genoa Township.



SPEAKING OUT AGAINST MISCONDUCT

"Shocked, horrified, and disgusted" are the words Genoa Police Chief Stephen Gammill used to describe his reaction to the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers.

After servings as an officer for more than 40 years, Chief Gammill believes the majority of police officers around the country are hardworking, dedicated public servants who strive to

build trust and credibility within their communities. "Incidents of misconduct destroy the work of good officers, making the job more difficult" Chief Gammill went on to say in a message dated May 28.

Chief Gammill finished by imploring officers who believe in what the profession stands for to speak out against police misconduct whenever they see it.

RETIREMENT: Chief Honeycutt

When Gary Honeycutt arrived as fire chief in 2005, Genoa Township had 11,000 residents and had recently converted from a volunteer fire department just four years earlier.

When he serves his last day on August 3, Genoa Township will have a bit more than 26,000 residents and 30 full-time, well-trained, professional firefighters.

"It's been a good ride," said the Fire Chief reflecting on his 15 years here. "I've always felt the fire service should provide a WOW factor. We're always trying to do the best for the community and the employees. I always tell new employees 'I don't hire firefighters, I hire public servants.'" That's why you'll see department members replacing batteries in smoke alarms, administering free blood pressure checks, attending block parties, and doing things

above and beyond when they make a house call.

Honeycutt is proud of the negotiated physical fitness program. It's unique in Ohio and perhaps the country. "Each one of our individuals is required to do 30 minutes of cardio and 15 minutes of weights every day. It's contractual. That assures the people that their firefighters can do the job they were hired for," he said.

Another accomplishment was the passage of the 2010 fire levy. "That raised our manpower to the standards of the National Fire Protection Association—our bible."

Soon you may see Honeycutt and his wife driving their motor home to visit their children in Illinois, Michigan, where he started firefighting, North Carolina or Oxford, Ohio.

Happy Retirement, Chief.



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WINNING WITH GRACE: Meet Your Neighbor

In October 2019, no one had heard of Covid-19 but DeSales student Grace Vance was thinking hard about Dr. John Snow, the father of epidemiology.

"I had been trying to figure out a topic in medical history or even the history of disease. He caught my eye. His was an experiment and a detective story combined," Vance said of Dr. Snow. A Victorian physician, Snow found the source of cholera just five minutes from his London house, studied the well water problem, battled opposition who thought him daft, solved the mystery and halted an epidemic.

Grace, a sophomore in

DeSales history club, agreed to submit an entry in National History Day. "Our club advisor, Colleen Mascarini (also a township resident), supports everyone in the club. We call her 'The Legend.'"

The combination of Vance, "The Legend," diligent work, a thoughtful exhibit, Dr. Snow and perfect timing created a winning formula. After winning one of the eight regional rounds, she won the Ohio History State Competition.

Regional judging was held in February. But the April state competition was virtual because of the pandemic. By that time everyone knew what



epidemiology meant to public health. The timeliness of Vance's thesis was obvious.

"The timing may have been relevant," the Eagle Trace resident said "but no one

knew that back in October." It was anything but timing alone. As one judge said, "You did an excellent job of putting a historical figure and event into context." Vance intends to defend her title next year.

Fiscal Report

Fund Name	01/01/2020 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 5/31/2020
General	\$2,949,486	\$1,054,097	\$678,595	\$3,324,988
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$27,320	\$11,844	\$19,351	\$19,813
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$71,567	\$80,249	\$36,870	\$114,946
Gasoline Tax	\$144,481	\$146,200	\$225,250	\$65,432
Road and Bridge	\$784,174	\$1,517,751	\$1,078,537	\$1,223,388
TIF Fund	\$1,052,176	\$476,190	\$17,225	\$1,511,142
Cemetery	\$30,110	\$1,150	\$1,394	\$29,866
Police	\$6,678,035	\$2,418,798	\$1,554,077	\$7,542,757
Police Capital Projects	\$320,450	\$0	\$25,468	\$294,982
Police Station-Capital Projects	\$6,128,108	\$34,341	\$2,014,224	\$4,148,225
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,387	\$0	\$0	\$1,387
Enforcement and Education	\$5,676	\$355		\$6,031
Law Enforcement Trust	\$62,493	\$0	\$0	\$62,493
Bond - Police Station	\$754,803	\$389,245	\$151,731	\$992,317
Fire	\$5,750,145	\$2,790,920	\$1,971,812	\$6,569,253
Fire Capital Projects	\$2,346,167		\$0	\$2,346,167
Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS	\$553,668	\$99,341	\$337,229	\$315,781
Self-Ins. Fund-Medical Insurance	\$32,437	\$458,134	\$490,571	\$0
Total	\$27,692,684	\$9,478,614	\$8,602,332	\$28,568,967

**Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar*

For additional information on Township finances visit www.OhioCheckbook.com

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

MAINTENANCE, Bob Mathews, 614.568.2080

Roads on the published 2020 resurfacing list have been prepared for a final coat of asphalt. Three additional roads: Margaret Drive, Damson Place, and Monica Court were also included. The finish layer of asphalt will be applied later this summer by Delaware County Engineer's paving contractors.

Highland Lakes Avenue had been scheduled for resurfacing this summer through a separate Ohio Public Works grant funded project. Unfortunately, the funding is no longer available

as originally planned due to budget uncertainty at the state level. These and other area road projects are mapped online at www.GenoaTwp.com/Roads.

If the Ohio Department of Health lifts restrictions on gatherings of greater than ten people, the Township will host the annual summer event Movie Night at McNamara Park featuring *Toy Story 4* on July 11 and *A Beautiful Day* on August 8. Visit the Township website at www.GenoaTwp.com/MovieNight for updates.



Police station construction progress on May 22, 2020
Photo credit: Bret Watson



POLICE, Chief Gammill, 614.568.2060

We continue to navigate our way through the ripple effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly with our community events. We have received recommendations to move National Night Out from August to October and we are hopeful that we will be able to hold this fun event this year. As of this writing we have not received any specifics on local

Fourth of July celebrations or parades but Red, White, and Boom has been cancelled.

We will continue to post updates on our township events on our social media platforms as we receive them from the Boards of Health. We appreciate everyone following the guidelines and taking the steps to keep your family and your neighbors safe.



FIRE/RESCUE/EMS

Chief Honeycutt, 614.568.2040

This will be my last newsletter! After 37 years in the fire service it is time to move on to the next chapter in life. It has been an honor to serve the residents of Genoa Township over the last 15 years as your chief. I have met a lot of wonderful people and have appreciated the support you have shown me and the members of the department over these years.

In the last newsletter I stated that we could see up to 25 Covid-19 cases per day. Good news. Although initially there was a rise in EMS transports, in May we had a 25% decrease in overall incidents. This is a testament to residents in how

well they are adhering to the Governor's stay at home orders. With all family members at home and minimal contact with the outside world there have been fewer vehicle accidents, fires, and rescues needed. With the reopening of the state we expect an increase in incidents as things return to normal.

Most commercially supported fireworks have been canceled or postponed this year due to the Covid-19 virus. As such, this is just a reminder that possessing fireworks is illegal in the State of Ohio as is setting off fireworks. Please be safe and leave it to the professionals.

Summer FAN DRIVE

Donations of new box fans are requested to help give Delaware County residents relief from summer heat.

Drop-off

Now through September 15, 2020
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Genoa Township Fire Department
7049 Big Walnut Road
Galena, Ohio 43021

To maintain a safe distance, leave donations inside the front door vestibule. A staff member will bring the donations inside.

Donations will be transferred to People In Need, Inc., of Delaware County in partnership with Delaware County Emergency Management.

NEWS & INFORMATION

July / August 2020

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Given uncertainty surrounding the ability to safely gather, most spring events have been canceled. Please visit www.GenoaTwp.com to confirm whether meetings will be canceled, postponed, or held virtually online.

HOLIDAYS

Independence Day | July 4
No Rumpke service disruption

PUBLIC MEETINGS

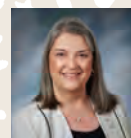
Board of Trustees Meeting | July 2 & August 6 | 6:30 p.m.
First Thursday of every month with additional meetings scheduled as needed.

Zoning Commission | July 13 & August 10 | 7:00 p.m.

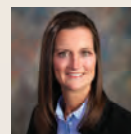
Board of Zoning Appeals | July 28 & August 25 | 7:00 p.m.

Note: Audit, Communications, Fire, Finance, Investment, and Police Advisory Committee meetings not shown. View the full calendar at www.GenoaTwp.com.

ELECTED OFFICIALS



Connie M. Goodman
Trustee
614.568.2024
CGoodman@GenoaTwp.com



Renee Vaughan
Trustee
614.568.2026
RVaughan@GenoaTwp.com



Karl R. Gebhardt
Trustee
614.568.2025
KGebhardt@GenoaTwp.com



Patrick Myers
Fiscal Officer
614-568.2023
PMyers@GenoaTwp.com