

Photo credit: Bret Watson, Worthington Road Community Garden

### TRUSTEE REPORT: REFLECTING

Connie M. Goodman, Trustee

As I reflect upon my five years serving as a Genoa Township Trustee, I find the most common question I get is, "What is a Trustee?" The answer is not as easy as one may think. Duties of a township trustee can vary depending upon the population of the township. Genoa Township's population affords us many options not available to smaller townships, such as our own Police and Fire/EMS department, a human resources department, and an administrator. These allow trustees to delegate some responsibilities to the administrator and department heads. Regardless of township size, there are three trustees, each elected to a four-year term.

But let's get back to the question. Trustees are responsible for maintaining roads, parks, and cemeteries. They also establish and maintain Police and Fire/EMS services, often by placing levies on the ballot. Trustees must also be familiar with Human Resources policies and zoning regulations. Establishing and following a budget is a critical duty of trustees.

Trustees are required to attend Board meetings that by state law must be open to the public, with only a few exceptions allowed. Additionally, all actions are subject to public records requests. Individual trustee's votes constitute a board decision. Votes are based on the interests of their community, subject to applicable state laws and standards that trustees must follow. Although trustees are bonded, actions and decisions that are outside the scope of their authority or the law can result in personal liability.

This is a long answer to a short question. Honestly, I usually say we are responsible for all aspects of running the township including budgets, personnel, and resident safety.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of your trustees. We are all available to residents.

Enjoy fall's beauty and I hope to see you soon!



### GUEST ARTICLE:

Delaware County Prosecutor,  
Melissa Schiffel

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe it's already August. This year is flying by. It seems like just yesterday that I attended the grand opening of the new Genoa Township Police Station. What an exciting day that was. I was so happy to be invited, and very eager to see the fantastic addition to Delaware County.

You may be surprised to know that our office had a hand in getting the new police headquarters up and running. We helped with the bidding process and offered contractual advice as the project continued.

Another familiar example of our work deals with garbage – yes, garbage. We aided in drafting the bid package to negotiate waste-hauling throughout the entire township.

Though not widely known, these types of duties are all part of our day-to-day operations. In fact, the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office is statutory legal counsel to every township in the county. This means we're in regular contact with Genoa Township staff providing legal advice in many different arenas, including general township business, human



Melissa Schiffel

resources, police, fire, and zoning.

Don't get me wrong, there may be times when private legal counsel is retained. For example, if there is a conflict with another agency that is also our statutory client, like the Board of Commissioners. Generally speaking, however, as legal counsel, it's our role to provide the law to the Board of Trustees (or zoning, or police department, etc.) to enable the Board to make the most legally sound and best decision for the township and its residents.

Genoa Township is just one of many wonderful townships in Delaware County. It's always a joy to visit. If you haven't yet had the chance to check out the new police headquarters, I highly recommend it. And if you're interested in learning more about our office, you can find us on Facebook and on the web at: [prosecutor.co.delaware.oh.us](http://prosecutor.co.delaware.oh.us).

### ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2

**Voter Registration Deadline is October 4**  
Early Vote Center opens October 5.

Read page 3 for a list of what to expect on the ballot.



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## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Bret Watson

Bret Watson, the newly retired fleet vehicle manager for Sprint/T-Mobile, can't wait to get another drone. He has completed 32 years managing a \$40,000,000 budget that covers everything in Sprint's vehicle fleet from engineering and design to acquisitions to financing to maintenance. Now he is a commercial drone pilot and photographer.

As a volunteer drone videographer for Genoa Township, Watson awaits only the expected new drone rules from the Federal Aviation Agency before buying a bigger, better drone. You can see his work on the township's web site showing time-lapse videos made during construction of the new police station. But that's not all he's done for the community.

His aerial photography and videography have helped document Township roads that need to be resurfaced, showing expansion for Parks and Recreation, the fire department's traditional push of a new engine into the garage, bike trail improvements, the Easter Egg Hunt and the McNamara Park Barn.

These volunteer opportunities gave him experience with his drone flying skills and recently he earned his commercial license. "This has been a combination of several interests," he said. "First, I have always been interested in aviation. I passed ground school when I was 13.

"Secondly, I do a lot of charity rides on my Harley Davidson—to raise money for charities. At one of these events, I saw a friend with a drone taking pictures. I was fascinated. I followed him around as he controlled his drone," he said.

"Third I have an interest in government and so attended as many Township Trustee meetings as I could." The convergence of those three interests, aviation, community volunteering and government led him to the Township.

His drone is loaded with safety equipment. "It tells me everything. How high it is, how fast it's going, where, exactly, it is."

"Next year every commercially used drone must have a transponder so the government can know who owns it," he said. These changing requirements are what has caused him to wait before buying a new one. "I want to make certain that I am fully compliant with the new rules."

But his three-year-old drone has many features. He can launch it from anywhere and if it loses contact with his controller, it will return to within two inches of the launch point. It has a "follow me" mode which permits the drone to follow a person wherever he or she travels. Flight time is limited to about 30 minutes depending on wind speed and flight mode. It can travel 40 miles per hour but if it is in a mode to avoid all obstacles, it will go just 20 miles per hour. It is permitted to go 400 feet above ground level or 400 feet above any structure.

He and his wife, Gail, a fleet manager for Nationwide Insurance, live in Westerville Reserve.

So, if you see him around the Township, say hi to the droning volunteer and then look skyward to see what he's up to.



Bret Watson, FAA licensed drone pilot

## Fiscal Report

Fund Name	01/01/2021 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 7/31/2021
General	\$3,386,319	\$1,098,808	\$872,499	\$3,612,628
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$21,228	\$21,950	\$20,000	\$23,178
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$63,084	\$129,625	\$16,239	\$176,470
Gasoline Tax	\$63,557	\$203,719	\$235,736	\$31,540
Road and Bridge	\$1,292,434	\$1,547,050	\$2,352,503	\$486,982
Road & Bridge Capital Projects	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
TIF Fund	\$1,070,800	\$626,824	\$675,825	\$1,021,799
Cemetery	\$32,082	\$3,100	\$0	\$35,182
Parks	\$0	\$346,649	\$143,008	\$203,641
Police	\$7,961,391	\$2,245,143	\$2,652,335	\$7,554,199
Police Capital Projects	\$117,968	\$0	\$33,606	\$84,362
Police Station-Capital Projects	\$338,123	\$806	\$173,295	\$165,633
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,387	\$0	\$0	\$1,387
Enforcement and Education	\$6,559	\$415	\$0	\$6,974
Law Enforcement Trust	\$44,758	\$0	\$0	\$44,758
Bond - Police Station	\$500,178	\$418,662	\$134,204	\$784,636
Fire	\$6,700,776	\$2,672,373	\$2,953,830	\$6,419,320
Fire Capital Projects	\$1,726,287	\$0	\$0	\$1,726,287
Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS	\$415,052	\$118,672	\$78,129	\$455,594
Self-Ins. Fund-Medical Insurance	\$0	\$834,937	\$750,758	\$84,179
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$161,459	\$373	\$58,176	\$103,656
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,003,442</b>	<b>\$10,269,107</b>	<b>\$11,150,144</b>	<b>\$23,122,405</b>

Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar. For additional information on Township finances visit [www.OhioCheckbook.com](http://www.OhioCheckbook.com)



## ZONING & DEVELOPMENT

Joe Shafer, 614.899.0725

While the Zoning Department does not have the authority to regulate public utilities, Columbia Gas of Ohio, as a courtesy, has provided the following information regarding its projects within Genoa Township.

### Pigging Station

Team Fishel, a contractor working on behalf of Columbia Gas, is constructing an in-line inspection, or "pigging", station near Harlem Road and Sunbury Road. This station is being built as part of compliance with federal safety mandates. Columbia Gas is committed to system safety and reliability, and investing in facilities like this pigging station to protect our pipeline's system integrity. A "pig", which stands for pipeline inspection gadget, is a pipeline tool that inspects and cleans underground natural gas pipelines. It is required to perform pipeline inspections on a regular basis and this facility will serve as the launch point for this inspection. Project plans call for greenery on the east, west and possibly north side of the site. The facility will not house any employees but will have parking inside the property to ensure minimal traffic and parking impacts when employees do visit.

### Worthington Road Park/Genoa Baptist

Columbia Gas will be upgrading system facilities off of Worthington Road Park. A Columbia Gas contractor will be building a new access road back to the site, along with performing construction work about 800 feet off of the main road at the site. This work will take place in August and September, and will have minimal impact outside of right-of-way or acquired easements. Additionally, Columbia Gas will be performing system maintenance work near Africa Road in September, and also near Talavera Drive, in November.

With all of this work, we hope to minimize digging to only where needed, and minimize any traffic impacts. This work is a part of our continued commitment to system safety and reliability.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES



**SEPTEMBER 18  
HILMAR PARK**

[GenoaTwp.com/FishingDay](http://GenoaTwp.com/FishingDay)

## MAINTENANCE

Bob Mathews, 614.568.2080

Take home a free fishing pole compliments of a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources when you register and attend the annual Fishing Day event at Hilmar Park on September 18 (while supplies last).

Join in the fun anytime between 9:00 a.m. and noon for the catch and

release event. Bait will be provided to help you reel in a prize for catching the biggest and smallest fish of the day. Reservations aren't required to attend but will make sure your new fishing pole is ready and waiting for you. Register at [GenoaTwp.com/FishingDay](http://GenoaTwp.com/FishingDay)

Park management, including Fishing Day, is a service of the Maintenance Department supported by the Parks Advisory Committee.



### POLICE

Chief Stephen Gammill  
614.568.2060

The police department would like to remind everyone to lock their vehicles and ensure that no valuables or keys are left inside. Over the past several months we have had numerous vehicles stolen in the area, all of which have had the keys left in the vehicle. We can work together to make it harder for the thieves to commit these crimes. As a reminder, please contact us if you see anything suspicious, as most of these crimes are taking place during the overnight hours.

In more pleasant news, the Genoa Township Police Department will be partnering with People in Need in October for another "Cram the Cruiser" event to be held at Kroger. We invite everyone to come say hi and participate in this worthy cause.



### FIRE/EMS/RESCUE

Chief Joseph Ponzi  
614.568.2040

Each year before students return to the classroom the Fire Department inspects each school building. Fire Marshal Tony Caito is trained to identify fire hazards, plan emergency egress, and ensure fire detection and suppression systems are in working order.

After school begins, the fire department returns to facilitate six fire drills per building each year to ensure all the teachers and students are prepared should an emergency take place.

Chief Ponzi and Battalion Chief Johnson also help school officials plan for their Covid response as it pertains to any potential need for care provided by our medics with EMS transportation to the hospital.

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT:

- Genoa Township Trustee (select two)
- Members of the Board of Education (all districts)
- Delaware-Morrow Mental Health levy (renewal and increase)
- Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities (renewal and decrease)
- Delaware County Preservation Parks levy (renewal and increase)

*Ballot issues vary based on home address. To view a sample ballot specific to your address visit [lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/delaware/ballotlist.aspx](http://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/delaware/ballotlist.aspx)*

## NEWS & INFORMATION

September | October 2021

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

**Labor Day** | September 6

Township administration office closed.

Rumpke service delayed to September 11.

**Fishing Day** | September 18 | 9:00 a.m. - noon

Free fishing pole (if registered), bait, prizes, and snacks! Story inside.

**Columbus Day** | October 11

Township administration office closed. No delay to Rumpke service.

**Voter Registration** | October 4 deadline

Early Vote Center opens October 5. Election Day is November 2.

**Trick or Treat** | October 31 | 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Participants must determine whether conditions are safe.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Board of Trustees** | September 2 & October 7 | 6:30 p.m.

**Zoning Commission** | September 13 & October 12 | 7:00 p.m.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** | September 28 & October 26 | 7:00 p.m.

*Note: Communications, Finance, Fire, Investment, Parks, and Police Advisory Committee meetings not shown.*

View the full calendar at [www.GenoaTwp.com](http://www.GenoaTwp.com).

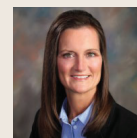


**Karl R. Gebhardt**

Trustee

614.568.2025

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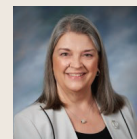


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Fiscal Officer

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ELECTED OFFICIALS