

### TRUSTEE REPORT: A Sea of Change

Connie M. Goodman, Trustee

As I write this, I am struck by how much change we have experienced in just the last year. We saw the passage of Genoa Township's first bond levy and now we see the progress the passage of the levy has provided in the construction of our new police station. We have said "goodbye" to Fire Chief Gary Honeycutt, who after many years of service to our Township, starts a new phase of life. We wish him well in his retirement. In turn, we welcome Joe Ponzi to his new role as Fire Chief. After many years of service, starting as a volunteer fireman, he has risen to this well-deserved role.

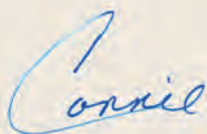
Our biggest change, of course, is the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone is affected by this in some way. Stores hours are varied, supplies of some items remain in short supply, and seeing people in masks is a common occurrence. "Social Distancing" is a new term. As a Township, we have moved to Facebook Live and Webex for virtual meetings. Administrative offices remain closed, but work has not stopped – just moved away from in-person contact.

One constant in this sea of change is road work. In addition to our scheduled repaving, we secured a grant to resurface Highland Lakes Avenue. Please remember keep a safe distance between you and workers.

I have witnessed many families out biking, fishing, gardening, and generally spending time together. While many businesses are closed, outdoor recreation areas remain open. We are fortunate to have such beautiful amenities. Speaking of our parks and trails, another change is the first-ever Parks Levy that will be on the November 3rd ballot. This levy is .6 mills and when combined with the slightly reduced levies for police and fire, will result in no tax millage increase and no reduced safety services to residents. It will, however, provide a dedicated funding source for our parks and preserve our General Fund, allowing it to cover more, including unforeseen costs.

Although change may be inevitable and may be challenging at times, it is part of life. I prefer to embrace the opportunities change brings.

Have a safe and healthy fall.



### THREE LEVIES AWAIT VOTERS

In addition to deciding who will become the President of the United States, voters will see three important local issues on their ballots this fall.

An operating levy is considered for the Police and Fire Departments every five-years. Each department has performed well financially over the previous period and are therefore reducing millage.

Operating funds are used to pay the salaries of department

staff, purchase equipment, vehicles and supplies.

The third levy would support park improvements and operations. The levy is new, but would not increase overall millage due to the combined equal decrease from the police and fire levies. The dollar cost would increase by \$4.15 annually per \$100,000 valuation as a result of a 10% State of Ohio tax "rollback" police and fire levies receive that the parks levy would not.

**Continued on page 2**



### IMPORTANT DATES

[www.GenoaTwp.com/Election2020](http://www.GenoaTwp.com/Election2020)

- **Voter registration deadline:** Monday, October 5, 2020
- **Early voting begins:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020
- **Request absentee ballot:** Now-Saturday, October 24 at noon
- **Absentee ballot submission:** Postmarked November 2, 2020 (if by mail) - or - Tuesday, November 3, 2020 until 7:30 p.m. (delivered)
- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020

### TO TRICK-or-TREAT...OR NOT?

The established date and time for neighborhood trick-or-treating is Saturday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The activity is not an official, Township sponsored event. Participants must exercise their best judgment in determining whether conditions are safe.

Additionally, the State of Ohio may provide guidance that

was not available at the time of publication. Any new information will be posted to the Township's website.

The Township's popular event, Trick or Treat Village has been canceled. Canceling is always a difficult decision. Staff is hopeful that events can be reinstated safely in 2021.



FOLLOW



LIKE



SUBSCRIBE



COMMENT



SHARE



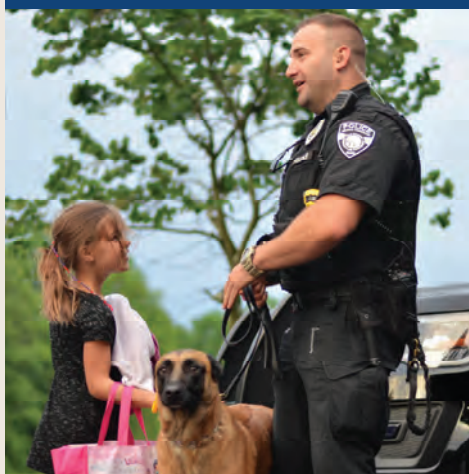
**POLICE**

Reduced regular 5-year renewal (4.2 mills)



**- .4 mills**

Cost savings related to Township-funded medical insurance premiums and reduced workers' compensation expenses have resulted in budget carryover. Chief Gammill presented several budget options to the Board of Trustees who chose one capable of continuing the present, high level of service.



**FIRE and EMS**

Reduced regular 5-year renewal (5.3 mills)



**- .2 mills**

The Fire Department operated efficiently and implemented an innovative billing program to capture revenue from insurance companies for medical transportation services. These efforts have made it possible to maintain all existing resident services with a reduction in the regular operating levy.



**PARKS and RECREATION**

New (transferred savings) 3-year (.6 mills)

**= NEW +.6 mills**

Park funding is not presently guaranteed in the General Fund. This proposed levy uses the savings from police and fire to dedicate consistent investment in parks. A new "Parks & Trails Master Plan" has been adopted to guide improvements should voters approve this measure.



**DISCLAIMER:** This document is intended to provide factual information, not to support or endorse any position.

**Fiscal Report**

Fund Name	01/01/2020 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 7/31/2020
General	\$2,949,486	\$1,098,175	\$993,281	\$3,054,380
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$27,320	\$18,332	\$40,000	\$5,652
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$71,567	\$115,540	\$132,936	\$54,171
Gasoline Tax	\$144,481	\$195,747	\$309,857	\$30,371
Road and Bridge	\$784,174	\$1,519,030	\$1,797,757	\$505,447
TIF Fund	\$1,052,176	\$476,190	\$472,369	\$1,055,997
Cemetery	\$30,110	\$1,816	\$1,394	\$30,532
Police	\$6,678,035	\$2,435,523	\$2,431,828	\$6,681,730
Police Capital Projects	\$320,450	\$250,000	\$26,303	\$544,147
Police Station-Capital Projects	\$6,128,108	\$39,136	\$3,019,402	\$3,147,842
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,387	\$0	\$0	\$1,387
Enforcement and Education	\$5,676	\$505	\$0	\$6,181
Law Enforcement Trust	\$62,493	\$0	\$0	\$62,493
Bond - Police Station	\$754,803	\$390,667	\$151,731	\$993,739
Fire	\$5,750,145	\$2,790,986	\$2,889,689	\$5,651,442
Fire Capital Projects	\$2,346,167	\$0	\$0	\$2,346,167
Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS	\$553,668	\$125,412	\$342,787	\$336,292
Self-Ins. Fund-Medical Insurance	\$32,437	\$769,220	\$799,089	\$2,568
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,692,684</b>	<b>\$10,226,279</b>	<b>\$13,408,425</b>	<b>\$24,510,538</b>

\*Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar

For additional information on Township finances visit [www.OhioCheckbook.com](http://www.OhioCheckbook.com)

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES



### FIRE/RESCUE/EMS

Chief Joseph Ponzi, 614.568.2040



hired as one of the Township's first 11 full time firefighters in 2001. In 2002, he was promoted to Lieutenant and remained in that position until 2011 when he transitioned into the role of Deputy Chief. "I am honored to become the 7th Fire Chief for Genoa Township".

Joseph Ponzi was selected to succeed Gary Honeycutt as Fire Chief in July.

Chief Ponzi began his career with Genoa Township in 1993 as a volunteer firefighter and was then

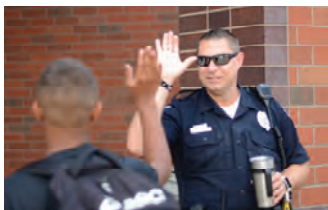
Chief Joseph Ponzi, who is more comfortable being called "Joe" is a Genoa Township resident. His wife and daughter assisted in pinning on his new badge during the swearing in ceremony on August 6th.



### POLICE, Chief Stephen Gammill, 614.568.2060

Whatever the school year looks like in these uncertain times, the Police Department is standing ready with two school resource officers, Officer Joe Graham at Westerville Central High School, and Officer Jason Berner at

Genoa Middle School. Both officers have nearly 20 years of experience with the Genoa Township Police Department. More than just enforcing laws, these officers build lasting relationships with students, actively mentoring and teaching classes.



## ZONING & DEVELOPMENT

Joe Shafer, 614.899-0725

Soon political signs will begin to sprout in greater numbers among the fallen leaves. The Development and Zoning department generally does not administer enforcement against political signs to avoid the appearance of favoritism for a candidate or issue. However, the Township

requests that signs remain on an individual's own private property, well outside of road right-of-ways. A best practice is to place signs ten or more feet back from any curbs, sidewalks, telephone poles, drainageways, and / or utility markers along the road.



## SEPTEMBER 4 -13

For youth ages 18 and under

- Go fishing anytime September 4 – 13 at either of Genoa Township's two catch and release ponds located at Hilmar Park and Center Green Park.
- Take a photo of yourself fishing and also take a photo of any fish you catch alongside of a measuring device.
- Submit your contact information and upload your photos to [www.GenoaTwp.com/FishingDay](http://www.GenoaTwp.com/FishingDay)
- Await results! Gift cards will be awarded to the winner in each category: participation, longest fish, and shortest fish. Prizes will be mailed to winners and their submitted photo displayed on the Township's website.

Participants must have a Genoa Township mailing address to win.

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

## MAINTENANCE, Bob Mathews, 614.568.2080

With so many activities closed this year, it was a relief to be permitted to reopen playgrounds and witness the high demand for our parks and trails throughout the summer. Fall kicks off with our annual Fishing Day, only this year it has been reimagined as a week-long tournament to fit the unique circumstances Covid-19 has presented.

The Maintenance Department's road crew worked in coordination with the Delaware County Engineer to resurface 24 roads this year. This marathon project is now complete until next year when we repeat the

process on a new set of streets.

As leaves begin to accumulate on lawns, please remember to collect them in bags or bins for Rumpke to haul to the landfill. Genoa Township does not vacuum leaves from gutters as is done in neighboring City of Westerville. Alternatively, leaf composting is available if material is dropped off directly at local companies such as Price Farms Organic or Ohio Mulch. To prevent flooding, never rake leaves into storm drains. This practice can come at a significant expense to the township when pipes must be cleared of debris.

## NEWS & INFORMATION

September / October 2020

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

**Fishing Sport Tournament** | September 4 – 13  
See page 3 for details

**Labor Day** | September 7  
Township administration office closed.  
Rumpke collection delayed until Saturday, September 12

**Columbus Day** | October 12  
Township administration office closed.  
Rumpke collection will not be effected.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

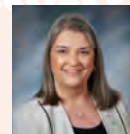
**Board of Trustees** | September 3 & October 1 | 6:30 p.m.

**Zoning Commission** | September 14 & October 13 | 7:00 p.m.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** | September 22 & October 27 | 7:00 p.m.

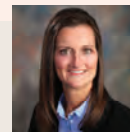
*Note: Audit, Communications, Fire, Finance, Investment, Parks and Police Advisory Committee meetings not shown.*

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



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ELECTED OFFICIALS