



Town Times

ISSUE

16 Quarter 4
2023

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings:

Town Board meets the second Tuesday of every month. Come from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm for an informal meet and greet with department heads and town board members.

Planning Board meets the third Tuesday of every month. The Planning Board meets if they have received an application. Meetings start at 6:00 pm.

Zoning Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month. The Zoning Board meets if they have received an application. Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

***Please check website and/or facebook for updates!**



this issue:

- Updates from Departments & Committees
- Landfill Alternatives
- Tax Information

From Supervisor Mark Venuti

Hello Town Residents, Business Owners and Friends,

I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and have a wonderful new year. We've been busy this last quarter and have a lot in the works for 2024.

We thank retiring board member Jeff Dunham for his service and wish him well, and welcome Gordy Baxter to the town board and Bob McCarthy for another term. They join myself and board members Kim Aliperti and Mitch Wilber. We are fortunate to have a talented and committed group that keeps the town moving in the right direction.

Two state grants will help us address flooding on parts of Carter Road and east into the city. One will allow us to install a large storm water retention basin on property of Jensen and Wallace west of Carter Road; we thank Tucker Kautz and other staff of the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District who made the application. The other, put together by Seneca Watershed Steward Ian Smith, will assist with the cost of design and engineering for a park on town-owned property behind the North Side Fire Company that will include a stormwater control and demonstration project; this area is part of the headwaters of Marsh Creek and will reduce flow that has caused flooding in the town and city. As long as we're talking stormwater control, Cornell is working on a couple of projects on its land that will reduce flows in storm events into the town and city; a stormwater contract project was completed this past fall at the Reed farm on the south side of the Town, west of Route 14; and a stormwater control project just north of Armstrong Road and west of Route 14 will be completed in 2024.

We have converted the lights at the town garages and buildings at 32 White Springs Road to LED with the help of a state grant and rebate program; the payback is a few years and the savings will be many thousands of dollars over many years. LED

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From Supervisor Mark Venuti (cont'd)

conversion occurred in town streetlights and at the town hall a few years ago; we continue to reduce our energy use and recommend everyone take what steps they can to reduce consumption and save money.

I and code enforcement officer Floyd Kofahl have been working with consultants for Ontario County to update the county and town's Hazard Mitigation Plan (last updated in 2018). Potential hazards, like flooding from extreme storms, have been identified along with actions to be taken to mitigate the hazard.

We will have our first meeting with representatives of Finger Lakes ReUse in January to start working on plans to establish a ReUse center and supporting facilities in the Geneva area. Anyone interested in participating in this initiative should let me know.

The town's speed trailer arrived in November, and the highway department had it up and running quickly. This is a sign that shows the posted speed limit and the speed of approaching vehicles with a warning to slow down if the posted speed is being exceeded. If you'd like the trailer on your road, let us know.

New electric vehicle chargers at the town hall are operational; we have both a level 3 fast charge station and a level 2 that will take some time. The initial prices have been set at 40 cents per kilowatt hour for the level 3 and 25 cents for the level 2. The cost of "fuel" for transportation by an electric vehicle is about half the cost of a gas-powered vehicle.

The town's application for a grant from the Department of Environmental Conservation for food waste diversion, in partnership with the City of Geneva and BluePrint Geneva, was successful. We've been awarded \$50,000.00, complementing the USDA grant received earlier this year for the same purpose. The DEC grant will allow us to offer free pick-up of food waste at apartment complexes in the town, offer city senior citizens free pick up (like we have for town seniors with the USDA grant), and support food waste diversion at Geneva High School, working with the high school Green Club, and Geneva Head Start.

Did you know the Town contracts with the Ontario County Office of Sheriff for additional patrol in the Town? We pay \$20,000.00 per year for this service, and that's why you'll see a patrol car around town and a deputy assisting at the Town Justice Court.

Stay Informed!

Email users, give us your email address and we'll include you on periodic messages about important town and area events. Send an email to supervisor@townofgeneva.com to sign up! Your email address will never be shared with others, and you can be removed from the list at any time by hitting the unsubscribe button at the bottom of town messages.

Changes to Dog Licenses

FEE CHANGES

Beginning January 1, 2024, the cost of a dog license in the Town of Geneva will be \$25.00 for spayed and neutered dogs, and \$30.00 for un-spayed and un-neutered dogs.

Water & Sewer Department

- From Howard Bailey, Water and Sewer Superintendent

The Town of Geneva Kashong water plant project is moving along. The building over the new well #4 is almost complete. The new well pump & motor will be installed in the upcoming weeks. The electrical upgrades at the Kashong Pump house are being done right now with the new pumps and motors being installed at the end of December or early January. The project will hopefully be completed by early spring.

The water department will begin a water meter replacement program starting in January. The town has over 1100 meters that will need to be replaced over the next 3 to 5 years. Plans are to start with the oldest ones first. We will be sending letters out around the first of the year to notify the customers and to set up appointments to make the meter replacements.

The water & sewer department has completed the flushing and exercising of the water system's main line valves and hydrants and is currently exercising and repairing the water valves to each customer's property. This should be completed in the spring.

The water & sewer department will also assist in the snow removal at the town facilities and around fire hydrants during the winter months. If there is a fire hydrant near your property and you have the ability to keep it clear during the winter months, it would be appreciated if you did so.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 315-789-6727 or my cell at 315-945-2120.

Highway Department

Without much snow around we have been keeping busy cutting trees and brush around town, servicing roadside mowers for spring, and installing plow equipment on trucks. Speaking of plows, be sure your mailboxes are in good condition. Even the snow off the wing could knock them down if they have a rotten or cracked post. Other than that, I would just like to wish a Happy & Healthy New Year to everyone.

- Bernie Peck, Highway Superintendent

From the Assessor's Office: Understanding the Equalization Rate

Low-Income Senior citizens exemption

You may be eligible if, you are 65 years of age or older, your property is occupied as your primary residence and meet income limitations.

Local Income Limits: -School max income \$21,199.99
 -Town/County max income \$21,201.00

If you feel you meet the eligibility requirement, contact the Town of Geneva assessor.

STAR Exemption vs STAR Credit

The STAR Exemption program removes the burden of tax where the STAR credit check reimburses the property owner for the tax burden. You can no longer apply for the STAR Exemption program, this program is only for the property owners that applied and owned a home prior to 2015.

The amount of the STAR credit can differ from the STAR exemption savings because, by law, the STAR credit can increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase.

2022-2023 STAR \$ Enhanced Amounts (Geneva City School District)

Exemption \$ Amount	Credit \$ Amount	Difference
\$1,409.00	\$1,475.00	\$66.00

2023-2024 STAR \$ Enhanced Amounts (Geneva City School District)

Exemption \$ Amount	Credit \$ Amount	Difference
\$1,409.00	\$1,505.00	\$94.00

2023-2024 Basic STAR Income Eligibility Limits

Basic STAR Exemption
\$250,000 Income

Basic STAR Credit
\$500,000 income

Giving up a STAR exemption

Property owners with STAR exemptions may wish to stop receiving the exemption for various reasons. They should bear in mind, however, that the decision to give up a STAR exemption is irreversible. This includes property owners who switch to the STAR credit; they cannot switch back to the exemption at a later date.

Switching to the STAR credit

Property owners who wish to switch to the STAR credit from the STAR exemption can do so by registering for the STAR credit by calling the STAR Credit Line at 518-457-2036.

From the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

2024 TOWN OF GENEVA/COUNTY TAX INFORMATION

Pay at Geneva Town Hall, 3750 County Road 6, Geneva, NY

TOWN OF GENEVA COUNTY TAX- Starting January 2, 2024

SEND ENTIRE BILL DO NOT RIP APART!- Phone # on all Checks!!!

PAYMENTS with check- Pay to "Lorrie S. Naegele/Tax Collector"

CHECK MEMO: **Put Phone number & Tax bill # on the check!**

PAYMENT DATES: starting Tuesday, January 2nd

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30pm; Sat. 8-12 **January ONLY**

February 1st-29th (1%interest) and March 1st -April 1st (2%interest)

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30pm

WHERE TO PAY: In person payments can be made at the town Hall, 3750 County Road 6

OR

DROP BOX by the flagpole until **APRIL 1st at 3pm**. **After 3pm on April 1st** take tax payment to the Post Office to be date stamped.

After April 1st all CHECKS have to be made out to Ontario County Treasurer and mailed to Canandaigua.

2024 TAX INFORMATION

News from the Kashong Conservation Area

Mitch Wilber, Chairman of the Kashong Conservation Area Committee

Thanks to the graphic design work of Dr. Kristen Brubaker, the craftsmanship of sign maker Peter Miller, and the talents of Town employee Jeff Ilacqua, five "You Are Here" signs have been posted at various trail junctions. Hopefully the maps will inspire hikers to explore the other pathways about them and perhaps answer an occasional "which way back to my car?" question.



Don't like landfill odor? Don't put food in the trash.

Through grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, Town residents are able to take advantage of several FREE options to reduce their trash bills while also helping to divert food waste and other biodegradables from the landfill:

Senior citizens in the Town (65+) may sign up for free curbside pickup of food waste courtesy of our partners, Growing Cycle (a project of BluePrint Geneva, Inc.). Call the Town Hall to sign up!

All residents can bring food waste to the Town Recycling and Disposal Station at 32 White Springs Road and deposit it in the marked toters at no charge. This does not require using the trash punch card, but does require having a recycling sticker on your car, available from the town clerk. Free buckets for holding food waste in your kitchen are available at the Station – just ask the attendant. Please, no plastic bags in the food waste toters.

For residents interested in backyard composting, we have free backyard composting tubs available while supplies last. These allow you to layer food waste with other biodegradable materials (yard debris, cardboard, paper towels, napkins, or other paper that does not have a plastic lining), keep critters out, and produce compost for your plants and shrubs. Call the Town Hall, 315-789-3922, if you'd like a compost tub. We'll deliver and provide instructions on how to use it.

If you're interested in volunteering for community efforts to keep food waste out of our landfills, including an exciting new food recovery program in conjunction with Hobart and William Smith Colleges, call the Town Hall and we'll put you in contact with Sustainability Coordinator Jacob Fox and BluePrint Geneva.



Highlights from the Sustainability Committee

- Jennifer Grant, Chairman of the Sustainability Committee

Geneva ReUse Center

The Town continues to work towards opening a ReUse Center in Geneva that will help local items be reused rather than going to the landfill. It would also help supply reasonably priced items to people in need in our area. We have secured a grant from the County for \$8,640 to work with Diane Cohen, CEO of the Finger Lakes ReUse Center, to further develop plans for a local facility. The County funded us above the typical \$5,000 cap because a Geneva facility should serve as a pilot for County efforts. Note that a news article incorrectly reported that the grant was for \$86,040.

Mission Zero

The City of Geneva Green Committee, partnering with the Town of Geneva Sustainability Committee and others, organizes an event called Mission Zero focusing on sustainability that will be held for the third year on April 27, 2024 in the Geneva Ice/Turf Rec complex. The event features ways to save energy, and electric car display, ReUse vendors, a tree seedling give away, bike displays and many other demonstrations and educational opportunities. Mark your calendars!

Building Department

-From Floyd Kofahl, Code Enforcement Officer

It's Winter Time! With winter comes several concerns that need to be addressed.

- First, for all property owners that have sidewalks in front of their property, remember that you are required to keep these sidewalks clear of snow and ice. The sidewalks are to be maintained within 24 hours of snow fall. This also includes after plow trucks go by and throw snow on to the sidewalks. This is a safety issue for the residents of the Town.

- Second, if you are thinking of doing any construction with a concrete element involved, be aware that during cold temperatures there are specific requirements to protect the concrete applications.

Please remember, if you are looking to do any type of construction, or you are unsure if you need a permit, you can call the Building Department and ask questions prior to designing your project.

My email address is codeenforcement1@townofgeneva.com and the phone number is 315-789-3922 x 303, if you have any questions or concerns you would like to have addressed.

I look forward to working with you on all your future endeavors.

Communications Committee

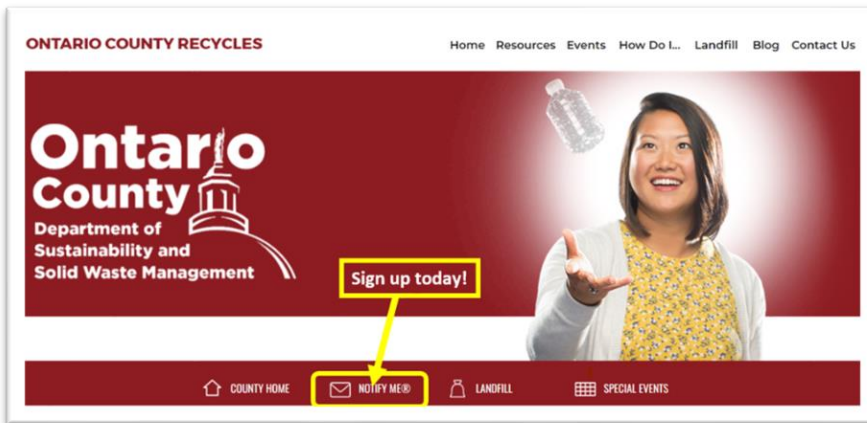
- From Kim Aliperti, Committee Chair

The Town Communications Committee is seeking one or two new members to join our team. If you have thoughts about beneficial programming for our community, better communicating town happenings, or simply want to get involved in the town, email Kim Aliperti at kimaliperti@townofgeneva.com. We meet bi-monthly as needed.

Sign up for emails from Ontario County Recycles!

A common misconception is that one person's actions don't make a difference. All of the small decisions that you make every day add up. Whether you are choosing to reduce waste, finding ways to reuse materials, or looking for recycling information. When you are feeling overwhelmed, frustrated, or confused about recycling it's easy to become apathetic- but what you do matters! Keep choosing to do the right thing and learn where to find resources and information. We've all stood at the recycling bin with an item in our hand and wondered- what do I do with this? We're here to answer those questions and more. Visit OntarioCountyRecycles.org for resources and information- whether it's your everyday recycling, paint, batteries, lightbulbs, or scrap metal (and more). We even host special collection events that are free and open to all Ontario County residents. You can bring household hazardous waste, electronics, tires, paper to be shredded, mattresses, and pumpkins to be properly disposed of/recycled/composted.

The best way to stay up to date on what events are happening and get registration information is to sign up for our "Special Collection Events" email list. Visit OntarioCountyRecycles.org and click "Notify Me" at the bottom of the page (See the image below). You can also email us at the address above for assistance signing up to receive emails.



You may also choose to sign up for our "Are you a Sorta?" email list as well. You can get tips, projects, and ideas to help you reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink waste disposal right to your inbox. These articles not only help you to be a better environmental steward, they also can help you save money.

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions! We look forward to hearing from you.

Ontario County Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste Management
OntarioCountyRecycles.org | Phone: (585) 393-3090 | Email: recycle@ontariocountyny.gov

Contact Us

Town of Geneva
3750 County Road 6
Geneva, NY 14456
315-789-3922
townofgeneva.com

