

**Please DON'T  
Flush It! Toss It!**

• The sewer plant operator has informed us that just because sanitary wipes say "FLUSHABLE", they're not. They WILL clog the sewer system, ending in expensive repairs and overflows. Please throw them in the garbage.

**Buying a Season Golf Pass?**

**Save \$100!**

Golf Course Manager Stephen Smith wants to remind everyone that if you buy your 2014 Season Pass by December 31, you get the early bird special and get \$100 off!

**Go Green!  
Sign up for  
electronic delivery of our newsletters!**

• Help save valuable resources and receive our quarterly newsletter electronically via Email.

• Just Email Administrative Assistant Alicia Boothe at [mayor-scourt@windstre.am.net](mailto:mayor-scourt@windstre.am.net).

• Please include your name and address and your preferred email to have it sent. We won't share your email.

# Village Views

News from the Village of Geneva-on-the-Lake. Published quarterly. 4929 S. Warner Dr, Geneva-on-the-Lake, OH 44041

**Winter  
2013-2014**

**Dave Nelson, Mayor  
Edited by  
Councilor Don  
Woodward**

## **New Golf Course Manager Takes The Reigns**



New Golf Course Manager Stephen Smith

Geneva-on-the-Lake recently hired Stephen Smith as the new golf course manager. Stephen's experience includes Inverness Country Club in Toledo, TPC facilities across Florida for 14 years, and Golf Instructor at the IMG Academies.

Locally, Stephen also aided in the construction of Thunderhill Golf Course;

though he would say we are dating him with that reference. Stephen has a lifetime of golf industry experience including maintenance, construction, professional play, golf instruction, and most importantly, general management.

Stephen has already brought a lot of new energy to the course. He is busy making plans for the opening of the 2014 Season. His emphasis will be improvements to game play and course conditions.

"I believe the golf course has a great core," stated Stephen. It has a nice layout that is challenging for a seasoned golfer, yet not impossible for the novice."

Stephen adds "we need to focus on improving the appearance of the course overall: by tightening up the fairways, dealing with some drainage issues, improving fairways, tees and traps, and some updates inside the clubhouse."

He states that he hopes golfers see improvements immediately in the overall maintenance and management of the course. These improvements are only part of the long range plan to get the golf course in top shape.

## **3 Councilors Return; New Councilor Elected**

• The General Election on Tuesday, November 5th returned 3 residents to village council and elected newcomer Ed Salata. The four elected will begin their four year term on January 1st.

• Long time resident and business owner P.J. Macchia narrowly lost his reelection bid, losing to Ed Salata by six votes. At the Geneva Area

Candidates Night, Ed stated that he "liked where Geneva-on-the-Lake was going and wanted to be a part of the growth".

• Vote counts, now certified by the board of elections, are as follows: Susan Cook-Sharpe, 161; Steve Cervas, 160; Don Woodward, 158; Ed Salata 125, and P.J. Macchia, 119. The four councilors join Ron Colby and Mike Baker, both whose terms expire on Dec 31, 2015.

## Geneva Township Park Tax Renewal Passes; Grant Considered



The Swings Date Back to the Early 1970's

The Geneva Township Park's .28 mill renewal of the existing park levy on the ballot in the November election passed easily. The official vote has 1238 with a YES vote, while 915 voted NO. The greater Geneva Area DOES support this park, as evidenced by the overwhelming YES vote.

The levy will generate approximately \$21,489 per year for the park, located within the village of Geneva-on-the-Lake. The park is directly on the Lake Erie shore at the intersection of Austin and Lake Road.

The original intent when the levy was first passed in the mid-1980s was to create matching funds for grants. For the past few years, the funds have been primarily used for park operations.

However, there has been discussion of late by the three member Geneva Township Park Commission to replace the outdated playground equipment with a parks grant from the State of Ohio. The current playground does not comply with standards set forth by the Federal ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Nor does it comply with the safety standards as set forth by ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials). To be fair, neither standard existed when the original equipment was installed.

Numerous other concerns and suggestions have been brought to the three members of the Geneva Township Park commission over the years, such as removal of the 50 year old chain link fence, updating of the main pavilion, keeping the park open year round, new playground equipment, repairing the erosion damage and restoring a bathing beach.

## Village Joins Multi-Community 534 Development Group

The 534 Corridor Study, commissioned in 2008, has energized the affected communities along 534 to form a Community Improvement Association (CIC) to carry out the recommendations of the ODOT study.

The Study identified the unique attributes of each entity, but also outlined common goals. Since 534 goes through so many communities, no one entity has the legal authority to fund and aid in economic development. After much deliberations, the representatives of the various communities on an "ad hoc" committee settled on the legal vehicle of a CIC to carry out the goals.

The committee is now moving ahead with all the legal matters nec-

essary to form the CIC, to be known as "The 534 Community Improvement Corporation" (aka The 534 CIC).

The annual funding agents for the CIC include Harpersfield Township, Geneva Township, JEDD I, JEDD II, Geneva City Chamber of Commerce, Geneva on the Lake Visitors Bureau, City of Geneva, and the Village of Geneva on the Lake. Each will contribute a like amount of money annually to fund the operations. While we need to ensure the villages OWN economic future, no outside entity is going to do that for us. This is simply another "tool" to assist in economic development.

## Village Passes 2014 Budget; Includes 3% Employee Raises

At the village council meeting on December 2, the 2014, village appropriations were passed unanimously. Appropriations is the governmental term for what the rest of us call a "budget". The full year appropriations show \$2,184,961.08 in expenditures. Councilor Steve Cervas commented on how easy Fiscal Officer Kim McKinley has made council's job in regards to passing appropriations; Woodward echoed the same, and stated "this is the earliest we've been able to pass a full year appropriations".

Before an appropriations can be completed, the various departments provide their input and financial needs for the coming year. Of course, those requests are tempered by the actual dollars available. This year most employees will see a modest 3% increase in their wages, roughly the cost of living.

Throughout the course of the year the "budget" is continually evolving, reflecting both changes in revenue and unexpected expenses. Council must approve any changes by statute by passing a change to the appropriations.



Good Management has Allowed For 2 New Cruisers Every 2 Years

## Runner up “Most Fun”; Garbage Rate Increase Small



• Always a bridesmaid, never a bride. For the second year running, the village was a finalist for the Rand McNally’s “Most Fun Town in the US”. Last year we lost out to Delray Beach, Florida, and this year it was Corning, NY. Perhaps our third try in 2014 will

be the charm. Watch for the ballots in your emails.

The 2014 garbage increases were very modest. (2) 40 gallon cans went up \$1 per quarter (\$4 per year). The (4) 40 gallon cans went up \$2 per quarter (\$8 per year). The one time use “blue bags” went from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per bag. This is the first increase in several years for residents since we contracted with Penn Ohio.

## New Canine Officer “Bella” Hits the Ground Running

As astute readers may remember, our last newsletter reported that Police Chief Bruckman lost K-9 Officer Pacho to illness in the summer. Pacho was a K-9 “work dog” who was instrumental in numerous criminal cases, mostly dealing with drugs.

Chief Bruckman has obtained a new K-9 officer by the name of Bella. The community has responded by providing over \$4000 in donations for training and equipment. Chief Bruckman has been training with Bella, who has been entering into active service.



Police Chief Bruckman & K-9 Bella

Stated Chief Bruckman, “To buy one K9 would be in excess of \$11,000 for training and equipment.”

“The K9 units in the last three months have had nine drug finds, two article searches and three assists of other agencies. Additionally, they assisted in the arrest of two individuals with felony warrants. And this is during our ‘slow time,’” Chief Bruckman added.

“Her first drug find was when our officers were checking on a suspicious vehicle and person. She found a gram of marijuana sealed in a canning jar. The 18 year old suspect stated that he thought the canning jar would hinder the dog from smelling the marijuana,” Bruckman concluded.

## Major Changes In Street & Sewer Departments

The Village of Geneva-on-the-Lake has made some substantial changes in the street and sewer departments. Vic Quinones, our loyal Wastewater superintendent, has retired to spend time with his wife and family. Even after his official retirement last summer, Vic has continued to be involved with the Village in the design of our new wastewater facility. Vic has spent forty-five years in the wastewater field, the last nine with the village.

“You cannot say enough nice things about Vic or place a value on his contribution to the Village over the years,” said Village Administrator Hockaday. Adding: “Vic left the wastewater system and the Village better than he found it.”

With that, we now welcome Dale Goebel to the Village ranks as Wastewater Superintendent to fill the void left by Vic. Dale has over 18 years of experience in wastewater and water treatment. He formerly was Maintenance Supervisor for Lucas County Sanitary Engineers, and has worked in facilities both large and small. A highly-experienced Wastewater Superintendent is imperative, especially when it comes to implementing the villages pending new wastewater facility. Dale is shared with Madison Wastewater under a unique “shared” contract.

The Village has also added a back-up wastewater operator in 2012, Matt Rueschling. Matt has a Class I Operator License and is currently working towards Class II Operator License. “We are very excited to have two operators capable of running our facility - it ensures we have coverage no matter what happens,” said Administrator Hockaday. Hockaday added, “the Ohio EPA Permit for our wastewater facility requires both an operator and back-up operator; with Dale and Matt on-board we now meet our state standards.”

Ken Snyder was promoted to Street Supervisor. Hockaday said “Ken is not new to the village, and has proven to be quite capable.”

With Ken and the addition of other part-time staff, we have been able to do more work “in-house”, thereby reducing costs. The village had previously melded the Street Department and Wastewater Departments into “Public Works”. At one point, however, the Village had as few as 3 employees for BOTH Departments.

“That was too few employees with too many tasks. We now have specific employees doing specific tasks,” Hockaday added. “It allows us to get more projects done in an efficient manner.”

Village of  
Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 9 AM - 5 PM

Closed all Federal Holidays

**Village Telephone Numbers:**

Emergency Police, Fire, Ambulance:  
911

Village Hall: 440-466-8197

Police, Non Emergency:  
440-466-8196

Fire Dept, Non-Emergency:  
466-8765

Visitors Bureau 440-466-8600

***RECURRING MEETING DATES-  
CLIP AND SAVE!***

Geneva-on-the-Lake Village Council Meetings, Village Hall	First & Third Mondays 7:30 PM
Council Finance & Ordinance Work Session Village Hall	Second Mondays 7:00 PM
Geneva-on-the-Lake Visitors Bureau Meetings, Village Hall	Third Wednesdays 9:00 AM
Geneva-on-the-Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc. Meetings (Fundraising Non-profit) Fire Hall	First Wednesdays 7:00 PM
Kiwanis Club of Geneva-on-the-Lake, Pickled Peppers	Tuesdays 6:30 PM

**ELECTED OFFICIALS CONTACT INFORMATION**

<u>ELECTED OFFICIAL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Mayor Dave Nelson	(440) 466-8197	440-415-1388 mayorgotl@windstream.net
Council President Mike Baker	(440) 466-9585	mibagotl@roadrunner.com
Councilor Steve Cervas	(440) 474-3441	stevegotl@roadrunner.com
Councilor Ron Colby	(440) 466-8364	ronnacolby@roadrunner.com
Councilor PJ Macchia	(440) 812-0600	pjmacchia5034@gmail.com
Councilor Susan Cook-Sharpe	(440) 466-3035	cooksharpe@windstream.net
Councilor Don "Woody" Woodward	(440) 466-2707	woodygotl@roadrunner.com
Councilor-Elect Ed Salata	(330) 507-3681	eds.gotlcouncil@gmail.com

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CONTACT INFORMATION**

<u>ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Administrator & Zoning Officer Jim Hockaday	(440) 466-8197	geneva2@windstream.net
Fire Chief Tim Mills	(440) 466-8765	
Police Chief Tim Bruckman	(440) 466-8197	
Fiscal Officer Kim McKinley	(440) 466-8197	fiscalofficer@windstream.net
Sewer Plant	(440) 466-8698	
Golf Course Club House	(440) 466-8797	
Mayors Court Clerk Alicia Boothe	(440) 466-8197	mayorscourt@windstream.net

**OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Geneva Township Park	(440) 466-3221	
Ashtabula County Water System	(440) 576-3722	
Ashtabula County Building Dept.	(440) 576-3737	
Ashtabula County Health Dept.	(440) 466-8197	ashtcohd@odh.ohio.gov