

## GENOA

## Newsletter

Fall 2017

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Residents,

I would first like to thank you for re-electing me as your Mayor. I am deeply honored and humbled at the confidence you have shown in me and pledge to always put you, our residents, and the City of Genoa first and foremost.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

BRUSH PICKUP ENDS	10/9
HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS	10/28
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	11/5
WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHRISTMAS	11/12
LEAF PICKUP ENDS	11/27 OR 11/28
CELEBRATE THE SEASON	12/1

And just like that summer is over! I hope you and your family had a happy and safe summer break. We had a very successful summer in the City! We kicked off with Genoa Days, followed by the Canoe the Kish event which attracted upwards of 300 people taking advantage of a beautiful lazy day on the river. Numerous farmers markets, movies on Main Street, and our best car show ever! Our Cruisin' to Genoa event attracted over 150 vehicles including motorcycles and our first annual tractor show.

Since becoming Mayor, I have made it a goal to make Genoa a destination for families and businesses. Some of the ways we are achieving our goals are events such as the events listed above, Volksfest, Pioneer Days, and the Jingle Bell Parade. We have also recently focused on projects such as making the riverfront into a family friendly area by adding walking paths and trails.

We have also worked with local business expansions and new businesses by utilizing fiscal tools and incentives. I am hopeful that in the next few months we will have a couple more exciting announcements.


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[twitter.com/CityofGenoa](https://twitter.com/CityofGenoa)
**Now, for something much more serious . . . .**

During this past late spring and early summer we were once again hit with significant storms, some carrying tornadic activity. We are aware that our outdoor warning system (Tornado Sirens) might be difficult to hear depending on where you are located within the City. To solve this issue, we are in the process of procuring additional sirens and we will keep you updated on the process. We also would like to provide some further clarification to the outdoor warning siren system, purpose and procedures:

- The "Outdoor Warning System" otherwise known as Tornado Sirens are not designed or intended to be heard indoors. The purpose is to alert residents who are outdoors to seek shelter immediately, if you can hear the siren while indoors that is a bonus but the intent is for outdoor notification.
- The City receives notification via the National Weather Service (NWS) as to when a tornado warning is issued. We do not take the decision to set off the sirens lightly. Staff and I call an emergency meeting and identify if there is a need to sound the sirens. We focus on the NWS information and its applicability to Northern Illinois specifically North East DeKalb County.
- From this point, sirens are activated to warn residents. In addition, a CodeRED notification is sent out to residents. Please sign up to CodeRED to receive alerts if you have not already.
- The siren will sound when a tornado warning has been issued and will sound for several minutes to alert residents. The tornado siren **will not** sound again to notify that the warning is over! If the tornado siren goes off again, it means that a new warning has been issued.

(continued on page 3)

Visit our website at  
[www.genoa-il.com](http://www.genoa-il.com) for  
 permits, the Municipal  
 Code, events, and  
 residential information.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS****NEW SQUAD CARS**

The Police Department has purchased two new squad cars. Following equipment installation, residents can expect to see the new squads around town this fall. The vehicles will both be 2017 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles. The Police Department traded in two older vehicles from the fleet and in doing so will reduce maintenance costs for at least the next two years. Additionally, the newer vehicles will provide the Department with 4 wheel drive, better storage capabilities and a new video system.

Visit the Police Department's website at [www.genoapd.com](http://www.genoapd.com)

**SERGEANT EDWARDS APPOINTED**

Sergeant Greg Edwards is a twenty year veteran of the Genoa Police Department. Sergeant Edwards was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was sworn in at the May 16th Council meeting with colleagues, family, friends, and residents in attendance. He currently oversees the Patrol operations of the Department and works closely with the Chief of Police Robert Smith. Sergeant Edwards has held a wide variety of positions with the Department including Detective and Patrol Officer. The Sergeant position became available following Chief Robert Smith's promotion from Sergeant after Ty Lynch's retirement in 2015. Sergeant Edwards looks forward to serving the City and its residents in his new position as Sergeant.

**OFFICER RYAN BAXA**

Officer Ryan Baxa recently accepted a full-time position with the Genoa Police Department upon another full-time officer stepping down to part-time. Officer Baxa was sworn in at the July 24th Council meeting amongst staff, elected officials, friends and family. Officer Baxa previously worked as a full-time Police Officer for the Village of Kingston and part-time for the Genoa Police Department. He enjoys community involvement and engaging with youth, especially when a friendly game of basketball is involved.



## CITY NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR CON'T

(continued from page 1)

Please protect you and your family by signing up to CodeRED to receive our weather alerts. Additional resources can be utilized such as weather radios, weather apps and alerts from notification systems, such as the Red Cross, that can provide warning of approaching hazardous weather.

In closing, I want to encourage residents to visit community events and to shop local this Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark Vicary

### NEW WARD 2 ALDERMAN DENNIS DI GUIDO

Alderman Dennis Di Guido was elected Ward 2 Alderman in April of 2017. Dennis and his family have lived in Genoa for six years. Dennis previously served as City Clerk for two and a half years. He aided in updating the City's website and also implemented an electronic minute taking system that will be helpful for the Council for years to come.



### NEW CITY CLERK KIM WINKER



City Clerk Kim Winker was elected in April of 2017. Kim and her two children have lived in Genoa for three years. She enjoys spending time with her family and watching her kids play sports. Kim is currently a full-time employee of the City of Genoa as the Utility Billing Clerk. Since becoming an employee of the City, she has developed an interest in getting more involved in the community. City Clerk Kim Winker states, "I am thankful for the opportunity to be the City of Genoa's City Clerk and I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Genoa".

### NEW WARD 3 ALDERMAN COURTNEY WINTER

Alderman Courtney Winter was elected Ward 3 Alderman in April of 2017. Alderman Winter grew up in Genoa and both she and her husband just recently moved across from Davenport School, where both she and her husband went to Kindergarten. Courtney owns her own wedding coordinating business as well as a photography business. In her free time, Courtney enjoys home improvement projects, taking Krav Maga self defense classes, blogging and leading a group of high schoolers at her church youth group for the fourth year in a row. Courtney and her husband both love the community of Genoa. It was this passion for the community that drove her to running for a City Council position. Courtney looks forward to helping business grow in Genoa and becoming more involved in the community.



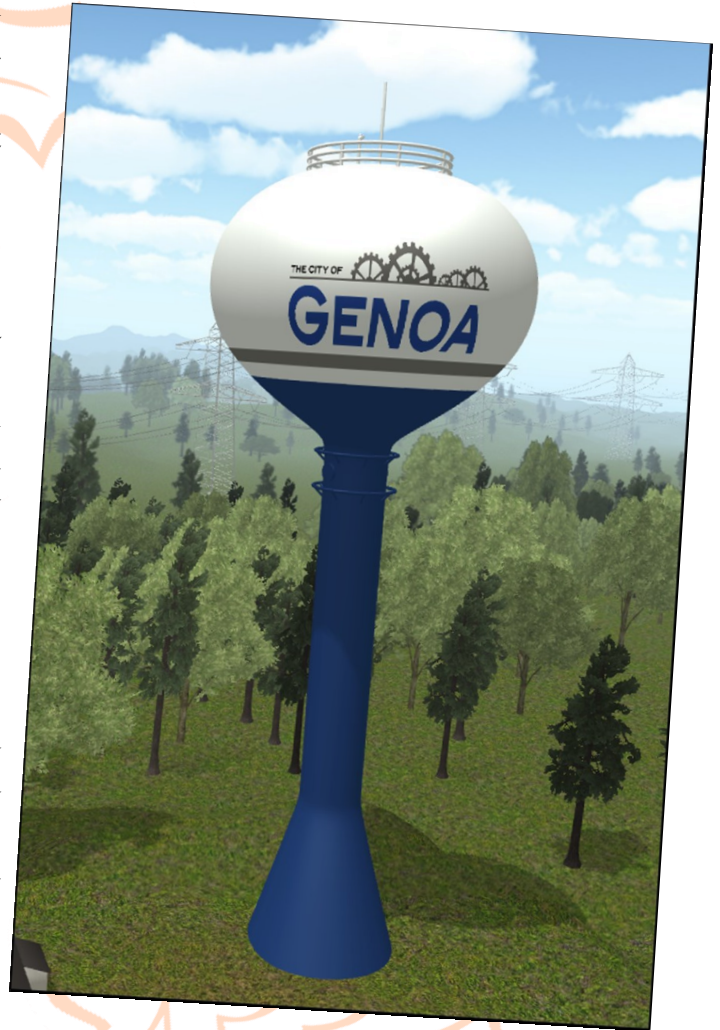


**PUBLIC WORKS NEWS****WATER TOWER REPAINTING LOAN AND GRANT**

The South Water Tower, located on Cherry Road, south of Walnut Street, is currently being repainted. After a recent inspection by the City's consulting engineers, the tower's exterior showed substantial paint failure and it was recommended that the tower be repainted. This tower has been in service for nearly 20 years.

As discussed in recent City publications, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is currently offering a low interest loan program with a 50% loan forgiveness grant. After submitting required documentation through the formal application process, the City received notification that it had been approved for the low interest loan and 50% forgiveness program. The total loan for the project is \$483,632.76, however, with the 50% forgiveness, the loan was reduced to \$241,817 with a 1.64% interest rate to be paid back over 20 years.

The project began on August 15th, which has required the South tower be drained so that necessary repairs and cleaning could be done inside the tower. Following the inside repairs, the exterior tower will be repainted, and finally the logo placed on the exterior of the tower. The completion date is expected between mid to late October of 2017.

**SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL**

The Department of Public Works will begin applying salt to roadways when either snow or ice begins to accumulate and causes unsafe traveling conditions. Whenever two inches of snow or more has accumulated and snow continues to fall, the crews will begin snowplowing. Arterial roads and snow routes are typically plowed first and then residential side streets, cul-de-sacs, alleys and dead ends are cleared. Please keep in mind the difficulty with clearing all snow due to less space in parkways because of driveways, mailboxes, street lights and fire hydrants. Public Works Department crews will make every effort when clearing the roads to push the snow to the curb, although residents should keep in mind that it is the homeowner's responsibility to clear enough snow from in front of the mailbox to allow for mail service. Also, trash cans are prohibited from being placed in the street during curbside pickup days.

## PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

### DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

The City of Genoa is proud to announce that it has received a Community Economic Development Grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation. The City of Genoa, through the SOARing Project, underwent economic development planning in 2014 in which several goals were identified such as enhancing the riverfront and ensuring the success of community events. The City has witnessed increased popularity of the riverfront use, in which additional parking has been needed. The riverfront is also an economic development strength in the community, providing space for events and recreational activities that attract not only Genoa residents but also residents from several surrounding communities.

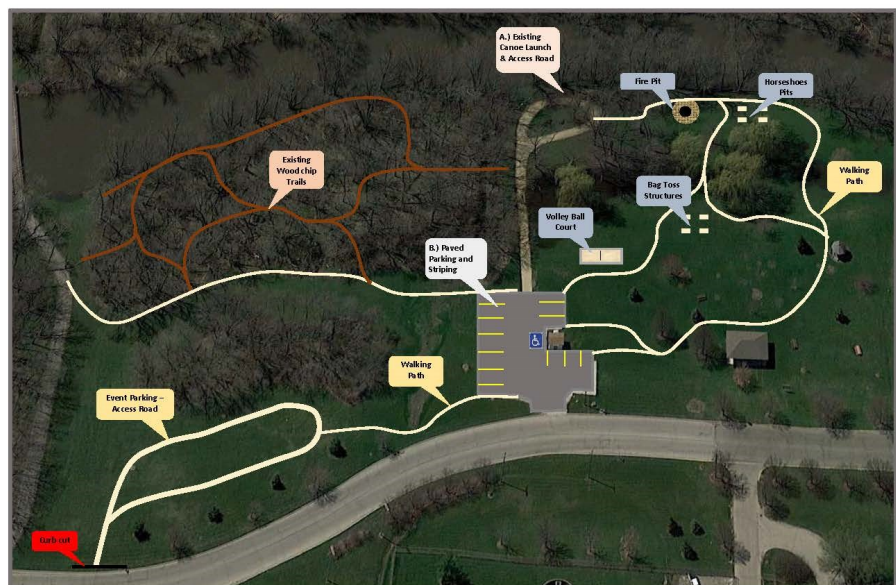
Since these goals were identified, the City of Genoa has installed a canoe launch, an access path and a gravel parking lot, making it easier for residents to access the riverfront. Although the City was able to start the project, the access path for the canoe launch and the parking lot are still gravel due to the high cost of paving.

In applying for the DeKalb County Community Foundation Grant, the objective for the City's Riverfront Enhancement Project is threefold. In order to both enhance the riverfront and ensure the success of future community events, through the grant funds provided by the Foundation, the City will be paving the canoe access road, the parking lot off of Madison Street, and providing the Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce with funds for staff time supporting community events. The paving of the canoe access road and parking lot are tentatively scheduled to begin Spring 2018.

The City of Genoa would like to thank the DeKalb County Community Foundation for granting the City funds to continue enhancement of the riverfront.

### RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

Along with the Riverfront Enhancement Project that will be completed with funds in part from the DeKalb County Community Foundation, the City has also created a tentative concept for future development along the Kishwaukee River and Citizens Park, funds permitting. The map to the right shows the tentative enhancements.



## CITY NEWS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### CITY LAUNCHES NEW APP



As part of the City's communications initiative, the City has implemented CodeRED, increased its social media presence, undergone a website update, and just recently, launched its first app now available on the Google Play Store and soon the Apple App Store. The app provides quick links to the official City of Genoa website with an easy to use and clean design. The City's app has further simplified finding information for residents who access our website from a mobile device. The simplified design allows easy access to links to online bill pay, the City Calendar, City Government information, and more. We encourage residents to use this additional means of communication to stay up to date on City information and community events.

### CUSTOM ALUMINUM

Custom Aluminum has recently begun a 16,000 square foot expansion to build three new storage buildings. The business has also been ramping up employment. Last year, the business completed a 46,000 square foot expansion to build storage buildings for their extrusion operations on the east side of their property. Custom Aluminum's ongoing expansions are due to the increased fabricating capabilities of the business. We look forward to Custom Aluminum's future growth and opportunity in the City of Genoa!

**Interested in business  
assistance in Genoa?  
Please contact Joe  
Misurelli by phone at  
784-2327 (ext. 223) or by  
email at  
[jmisurelli@genoa-il.com](mailto:jmisurelli@genoa-il.com)**

### HONORARY "ROGER WATSON WAY" NAMED



Honorary "Roger Watson Way" was designated August 19th at the Cruisin' to Genoa Car Show and the 1st Annual Roger Watson Tractor Show. Roger Watson was a beloved community member who extraordinarily served the community and residents for over 40 years, making him a perfect fit for the City's first honorary street designation.



## ***CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PROJECTS***

### **PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING**

An equipment storage building is in the process of being built at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to properly park and store equipment in a structure that provides protection from adverse weather conditions. Furthermore, with the large trucks used by the Public Works Department, it is difficult to safely and adequately store the equipment due to the confined available space at the Plant. For these reasons, Staff proposed building a vehicle/equipment storage building to store snow plowing equipment, trucks, portable generators and pumps, and lawn equipment. The structure will be a pole barn located to the south of the sludge dewatering building along the service road connecting to Madison Street. The building is scheduled to be completed late fall 2017.

### **SOUTH SYCAMORE STREET COMPLETED**



The City received federal funding through the State of Illinois to make road improvements, including minor curb repairs and road resurfacing, of South Sycamore Street from Route 72 to Hill Street. South Sycamore Street from Hill Street to the railroad was also improved using the City's motor fuel tax funds. Sycamore Street is a major North/South artery in town and is vital in rerouting traffic during events when Route 72 is closed.

### **WWTP DIGESTER CLEANING AND REPAIRS**

The Waste Water Treatment Plant's digester tank has recently undergone cleaning and repairs. The digester tank performs the critical component of breaking down biodegradable material within the waste water treatment plant process. The breaking down of biodegradable materials using microorganisms is essential in this waste water treatment process to separate biosolids and the water that will be treated at the plant. Breaking down of the biosolids creates methane gas which then provides fuel to the boiler that maintains the temperature of the digester. It is necessary to maintain the temperature within the digester to increase the metabolic rate of the microorganisms breaking down the biodegradable materials. Following the draining and cleaning of this critical component of wastewater treatment, Staff was able to gain access to the inside of the digester and assess any repairs that are needed to pipes that provide methane to the boiler.



## Your Elected Officials

Contact us at: City Hall (815) 784-2327 or by email:

Mayor Mark Vicary	<a href="mailto:mvicary@genoa-il.com">mvicary@genoa-il.com</a>
City Clerk Kim Winker	<a href="mailto:cityclerk@genoa-il.com">cityclerk@genoa-il.com</a>
<u>Alderman for Ward 1:</u>	
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Pam Wesner	<a href="mailto:pwesner@genoa-il.com">pwesner@genoa-il.com</a>
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<u>Alderman for Ward 4:</u>	
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Katie Lang	<a href="mailto:klang@genoa-il.com">klang@genoa-il.com</a>

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.GENOA-IL.COM](http://WWW.GENOA-IL.COM)

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION!

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONCERN OR SUGGESTION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP THIS FORM OFF AT CITY HALL OR IN THE MAIL TO:

CITY OF GENOA  
ATTENTION: NEWSLETTER  
333 EAST FIRST STREET  
GENOA, IL 60135

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Please provide us with your name, address, and phone number so we can get back to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_