



Town Times

Issue 27 - Quarter 3 2026

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From Supervisor Mark Venuti:

Hello Town Residents and Friends,

Happy Fall! A beautiful time in the Finger Lakes. Leaves turning and our farms and vineyards in harvest. We hope it is bountiful.

The NYS Comptroller's review of the town's financial report for 2025 concluded the town is in good shape with no cause for concern.

The 2027 town budget has been prepared and is on its way to approval by the town board. The town remains in solid shape and continues to grow. The only substantial change may be in the sewer budget. The City of Geneva has concluded a rate study and intends to raise water and sewer rates. Town properties on city water will see an increase, and town properties on sewer may see a significant increase to cover the costs passed on by the city.

Construction has begun on the Rolling Hills single family home development on Carter Road. These will be single story homes on small

(continued on next page)

lots that we expect to be offered for sale in the \$150,000-\$250,000 range, depending on size and extras. As part of the project, a sidewalk is being constructed on Carter Road from Gambee Road to Angelo Street, providing a safe walk to school and a safe place for adults seeking to stretch their legs and walk their dogs. Also in store for Carter Road is development of a park with trails and other amenities on the town's 20-acre parcel behind North Side's firehouse. The park is in the design phase and will likely be constructed in 2028.

The town is also growing on the south side with houses under construction in Phase 3 of the Glass Factory Bay Heights development.

The City of Geneva has received a grant that will help Reuse Systems establish itself in a facility over the next three years. The town will receive some of the grant to expand services at the town's White Springs Road Recycling & Disposal Station and at the city's Doran Avenue resource recovery park.

The town held another successful Free Stuff Day and Fix-It Clinic on October 3, keeping hundreds of items in circulation instead of in the trash. Check out the town's web site to find the many ways the town can assist you in reducing trash and saving money. There is also useful information to be found at ontariocountyrecycles.org.

Water & Sewer Department

- From Howard Bailey, Water & Sewer Superintendent

During the summer months the water and sewer department has been busy performing maintenance on its water and sewer system and other facilities in the town. The maintenance includes exercising water main valves and hydrants, as well as cameraing and flushing sewer mains. All this is done to ensure everything is working as it should and to prevent issues from happening in the future. A checklist is made of any issues and repairs will be made as soon as possible.

The State Route 14 sewer station project is completed. The station was upgraded with new, larger pumps, new grinders, all new electrical components, and a new generator. These improvements should allow for future growth in the town and help us handle the heavy rain events that have overwhelmed the station in years past.

The town water department routinely samples its wells and water distribution system. These samples are sent to an independent laboratory to be tested for various contaminants to ensure quality drinking water. All tests performed in the past year have met all current state and federal drinking water standards.

In closing, we would like to wish Steve Augustine, who retired from the town on September 1st after working for 23 years with the water/sewer departments, a long and healthy retirement.

Highway Department

The town's road work is pretty much completed for the year. We chip sealed Carter Road, Dwyer Drive, Slosson Lane, Orchard Park Drive, Blossom Lane, Parkway Street, Washington Street, and Hastings Road. For the most part, all the roads in the Town of Geneva are in good condition.



With winter soon approaching, I want to remind everyone to please check the condition of your mailboxes. They need to be sturdy enough so that when the snow comes off the plow, they can withstand it. As a reminder, the Town of Geneva is not responsible for damage to mailboxes caused by snow coming off the plow.

Have a great fall!
Bernie Peck, Highway Superintendent

Building Department

- From Kyle Bunce, Code Enforcement Officer



It is Autumn and the leaves are beginning to change. This also means people will begin to heat their homes and businesses again as the temperature drops. Please ensure that your system is clean and in good working order. This may be cleaning filters, ducts, vents, chimneys, stoves, fireplaces, or other aspects of your system. This is also a good time to check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms as well. Taking care of some necessary maintenance now can help prevent unexpected problems or potential fires as we move into the colder months. A little bit of time and care now can help ensure your family stays warm, comfortable, and most importantly safe.

As always, if anybody has any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office at any time.

Deer Management Permits in the Town of Geneva

The DEC has recognized the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) surrounding the Town of Geneva as overpopulated with deer and has removed the quota on the harvest of antlerless deer using DMPs (deer management permits). This means hunters may harvest as many antlerless deer in open seasons as they wish, although they still must apply for DMPs. This can be done during the annual lottery (Aug 1-Oct 1) or during the First Come First Serve period starting Nov 1. After registering your antlerless deer, the DEC will issue another "bonus" tag at no cost. "Bonus" antlerless tags are sent directly to the HuntFish NY application and emailed to the hunter's provided email account. More information can be found at <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/deer-bear/deer-management-permits>

2026 Lake Friendly Farms

- From Mitch Wilber, Town Board Member



On the left above John & Keley Karszes with Heifer Haven Farms and on the right Don and Donnie Jensen with Lawnhurst Farms

The Town of Geneva is fortunate to have farm operations working in the Seneca Lake watershed that use management practices which promote environmental stewardship. Started in 2017, the Town's Lake Friendly Farm program has recognized DeFelice Farm, Hansen Farms, Pedersen Farms, Red Jacket Orchards, Reed's Farm and Vince DeBoover Farms for their contributions to maintaining the viability of our agricultural community in concert with the health of Seneca Lake. On August 13 the Town recognized Heifer Haven Farms, LLC and Lawnhurst Farms, LLC for their commitment to environmentally responsible farming.

Heifer Haven and Lawnhurst are two of the major crop and livestock operations in Ontario County. Their animal numbers compel them to have comprehensive nutrient management plans designed to keep soil applied manure and other inputs on site and not in runoff. Both farms have invested in systems and practices from the simple to the complex to accomplish this goal. The public was invited to learn about their farms' focus on the environment and being good neighbors. In addition to that discussion, speakers from the Cornell University Pro Dairy program and the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District provided other insights on the opportunities and challenges of farming in the Finger Lakes.

Assessor's Office

- Vincent Fischer

Exemptions

Veterans Exemption 458-a seriously disabled veterans exemption update:

New property tax exemption for veterans with a permanent and total disability. Recent legislation allows municipalities the option to offer a new property tax exemption for eligible veterans who are considered by the Department of Veterans Affairs to have a permanent and total disability as a result of military service.

STAR (School Tax Assessment Relief)

If you are eligible and enrolled in the STAR program, you'll receive your benefit each year in one of two ways:

STAR credit

If you are registered for the STAR credit, the Tax Department will issue your STAR benefit via check or direct deposit. You can use your STAR benefit to pay your school taxes. You can receive the STAR credit if you own your home and it's your primary residence and the combined income of the owners and the owners' spouses is \$500,000 or less.

STAR exemption

A reduction on your school tax bill. If you've been receiving the STAR exemption since 2015, you can continue to receive it for the same primary residence. As long as you remain eligible, you'll see a reduction on your school tax bill for the amount of your STAR exemption. Note: The STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners.

Whether you are registered for the STAR credit or exemption, you could receive one of two different benefit levels:

Basic STAR – available to all eligible STAR recipients.

Enhanced STAR – an increased benefit for eligible senior citizens (aged 65 and older) max adjusted gross income \$110,750 (2026) \$113,550 (2027)

From the Town Clerk's Office

2027 Recycling Stickers Now Available!

The 2027 recycling stickers are yellow and now available at town hall for \$30.



Reminders from the Highway Department

Community Corner

THAT'S NOT WHERE THAT BELONGS!

GRASS CLIPPINGS

It is a violation of **New York State Vehicle and Traffic Safety Law, Section 1220** to mow grass clippings and/or rake leaves into the road.

Grass clippings in the roadway can create a slippery surface, especially when wet, increasing the risk of losing control and crashing. Clippings can also wash into storm drains, causing blockages that lead to localized flooding.

SNOW

It is a violation of **New York State Vehicle and Traffic Safety Law, Section 1219** to place obstructions in the roadway. This includes pushing snow removed from driveways, sidewalks, etc. back into the road. Snow pushed into the road can cause hazards not only for the public but for snowplows.

OTHER OBJECTS OFTEN PLACED IN THE ROW

Free-standing basketball nets, garbage cans and other objects placed near or on the road pose safety risks, including traffic hazards, instability (especially in high winds), and potential injury from tipping over.

Garbage cans are allowed to be placed in their **designated pick-up areas on pick-up days only**. Once garbage and/or recycling have been picked up, all cans and bins must be removed from the ROW and/or roadway ASAP.

Basketball nets can obstruct snow removal and maintenance, create liability concerns, and encourage unsafe play near roads.

NYS Highway Law Section 319

Anything placed within the ROW can be considered an obstruction, including but not limited to basketball hoops, as they impede the department's ability to properly and efficiently maintain the ROW and/or roadway.



Department of Transportation
Local Technical Assistance Program

 Cornell Local
Roads Program
New York State LTAP Center



How Our Town Boards Work Together



- From Kim Aliperti, Town Board Member

At a recent meeting, a resident expressed frustration regarding a neighboring development project and a perceived lack of transparency among our local boards. This is a common concern. There is often a misconception that the Town Board single-handedly approves all projects and holds all the data. In reality, local government relies on a coordinated network of independent bodies.

While it is difficult to communicate every update to every resident individually, we want to improve transparency by clarifying how the **Town Board**, **Planning Board**, and **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** collaborate to manage our community. We can begin by clarifying each of these roles.

Town Board (The Legislative Body): Focuses on policy and governance. It adopts local laws, approves the town budget, updates the zoning map, and appoints members to the other local boards.

Planning Board (The Growth & Design Authority): Focuses on community development. It maintains the town's comprehensive plan and reviews specific site proposals and subdivisions to ensure they align with community standards. This is where the projects are approved, denied, or sent back for further revision. If everything fits within the Town's zoning regulations then the process ends here and a project can begin. Not every project fits exactly within the town's zoning and when that happens, there is the option to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Zoning Board of Appeals (The Relief Valve): Focuses on zoning exceptions. It reviews appeals from property owners seeking a variance (a legal exception) or an interpretation of zoning rules due to unique property hardships.

Sometimes, a developer proposes a project that falls outside standard zoning laws. In these cases, they may request a **Planned Unit Development (PUD)** from the Town Board.

A PUD is a specialized zoning tool that offers flexibility that standard zoning cannot. Instead of strictly separating land into distinct residential or commercial zones, a PUD allows a mix of uses—such as blending housing with small business spaces—and adjusts standard property density rules.

The Town Board evaluates PUD proposals based on whether the project benefits the community and aligns with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. However, an approved PUD is **not a final green light**. It simply moves the developer to the next stage of planning:

Step 1: The Town Board grants the conceptual PUD zone, establishing the baseline framework.

Step 2: The Planning and Zoning Boards then conduct detailed reviews. This is where the vast majority of project specifics, environmental impacts, and designs are actually evaluated and resolved.

Public confusion often arises when residents mistake the initial PUD approval for final project approval. We encourage community involvement throughout this entire timeline. All Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board meetings are open to the public, and schedules are regularly updated on the **Town's website**.



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@townofgenevany.gov or visit https://www.townofgenevany.gov/about_the_town/contact_us_subscribe.php 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.

REMINDER! UPCOMING RECYCLING EVENTS

Registration is open for the following recycling events:

Electronic Waste Recycling Event - Landfill Site/ Casella Recycling Facility - October 10, 2026

- Registration required- open 9/14-10/7, or until full.
- Open and free to all Ontario County residents.
- For full details, see the [event flyer](#).
- See the full list of accepted materials [here](#).
- [Register here](#).
- Please call [\(585\) 393-3090](tel:(585)393-3090) with any questions.



Confidential Paper Shredding Event - County Transportation Center - October 17, 2026

- Registration required - open 9/28-10/14, or until full.
- Open and free to all Ontario County residents.
- For full details, see the [event flyer](#).
- Limit of 5 legal sized (24" x 15" x 10") boxes per household.
- Only personal household waste accepted, no business documents.
- [Register here](#).
- Please call [\(585\) 393-3090](tel:(585)393-3090) with any questions.

Contact Us

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