



City Manager Updates February 2025

Goal 1: Ensure Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship of City Resources

City Staff Vacancies

The two cost savings vacancies that are currently in place as part of the 2025 budget process are a police officer and sergeant vacancy. To assist in reducing the total 2025 budget a rolling vacancy of at least two positions must be kept until ~\$200,000 of cost savings is achieved.

Celebrating our Employees

We welcomed a new Heavy Equipment Operator at the Department of Public Works. Brenden Dauber joined the team on February 24, 2025.

Officer Jenn Lowry, who currently serves as one of our two School Resource Officers, graduated the DARE officer training program.

Department of Public Works employee Nick Sharman just completed his CDL B training and will soon move to a Motor Equipment Operator. This is the fourth successful completion of the CDL B training as part of our Laborer to Motor Equipment Operator program. This program has increased our ability to recruit members to our Public Works team.

We will be welcoming two new Police Officers who will begin their academy journey with the Police Department on Monday, March 10. Brandon Vanacore and Francesca Clements will take their oaths of office on Friday, March 7 as they prepare for academy.

Hiring for Seasonal Labor

We are hiring seasonal laborers and recreation attendants. Please spread the word about these temporary positions at the Department of Public Works and Recreation Center. Applications are now open: <https://ontario-portal.mycivilservice.com/>

Grant Opportunities from DOS and DEC

The NYS [Department of State \(DOS\)](#) and [Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\)](#) are now accepting applications for three programs funded through the State's Clean Energy, Clean Water & Green Jobs Bond Act. Coastal Rehabilitation and Resilience Projects Program, Inland Flooding and Local Waterfront Revitalization Implementation Projects Program, and Resilient Watersheds Grant Program.

Staff are reviewing the grant criteria and our current project scoping to see what opportunities we may be eligible for.

Budget 2026

The Comptroller and I officially began the 2026 budget process. We will be adding additional meetings and information sessions to this process to ensure council and community members have as much information as possible to better understand city budgeting and to make informed decisions. We will kick off this process with a special council work session on the budget process on Monday, March 24, 2025.

Winter Weather

DPW staff continue to monitor weather conditions and are prepared to respond with all available resources.

Salt stockpiles and deliveries statewide have become limited, which impacted our February responses. Our salt vendor worked closely with our teams, but the lead time has increased, as such Director Venuti communicated with other suppliers and neighboring towns. We received materials from Town of Geneva.

Exemption Reminder for Homeowners

The deadline to file exemptions either new or renewal for low-income seniors is May 1st. New STAR Enhanced applications must be filed by May 1st. If you have been receiving the STAR Enhanced exemption there is no need to reapply. If you are a veteran and are not receiving the exemption, please apply with a copy of your DD214 by May 1st. If you have questions on any exemptions, please reach out to the Assessor prior to May 1st by calling 315-484-0313 or 315-828-6552. The assessment office public hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-4pm. Other times are available by appointment, please call ahead.

Goal 2: Promote Economic Development within the City

Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park (Tech Park)

Liquid Orchard will be the first tenant at the newest building at the Tech Farm 2 building. The company, who council approved to apply for CDBG funding, has officially signed their lease and will move into the new building this Spring.

Business Improvement District

The Business Improvement District will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, March 13 at 5:00pm at the Buzzato Center. Tickets are available here: <https://givebutter.com/zn0ABv>

There have recently been a few questions about the City funding to the BID. The City funding related to the BID can be found on page 22 of the budget book:

<https://cityofgenevany.com/DocumentCenter/View/2132/2025-Adopted-Budget-FINAL>

In 2024, the BID received \$115,000 of city levy funding, \$39,711 of PILOT funding, and \$118,309 of Assessment District funding for a total allocation from City/PILOT/Assessment of \$263,020.

In 2025, we have budgeted \$92,600 in city levy funding, \$37,901 of PILOT funding, and \$140,509 of Assessment District funding for a total allocation of \$271,010.

2025 Special Event Applications

2025 Special Event Applications are now open. If any organization is planning to host an event at the Lakefront, Recreation Complex, or other City venue they can work with our Special Events Coordinator Liz Toner (etoner@geneva.ny.us).

There is a City Application that can be found here:

<https://cityofgenevany.com/DocumentCenter/View/2151/2025-City-Event-Application>

Staff have been working on a events ordinance to memorialize the practices related to special events. This ordinance is currently in review with legal. Once the draft is available council will be provided a copy to discuss at an upcoming council meeting.

All events, including city sponsored events, must complete the applications and participate in the logistics meetings to ensure the safety of the attendees. Non-City sponsored events, are also responsible for paying event fees. While the event fees do not cover the cost of the events, they are imposed to ensure compliance with the events regulations, provide funds for replacement and repair costs due to the event activities, and provide minimal support for future events.

The following have been considered City Sponsored Events

- Martin Luther King Day Jr. March
- Earth Day Event (Mission Zero) @ Rec Center
- Memorial Day Parade
- The Annual Firefighter's Parade
- Summer Concert Series at the Lakefront
- Touch-A-Truck
- Halloween Costume Parade
- The Mayor's Tree Lighting
- All Neighborhood Events such as the Annual Pumpkin Roll, Etc.
- School graduations, parades, etc.

County Infrastructure Grant Program

New York State has provided Counties with funding for one county infrastructure program. Ontario County has released this as an infrastructure grant program. Director West is completed an application for this grant program, which was due on February 18. The grant must directly or indirectly support economic development, the creation of housing, placemaking, and/or encourage tourism. Our request tied in necessary infrastructure for development of housing within the City to support the costs related to our ATAD expansion.

Madias Property (Oak/Castle Street) Update

There are many variables related to the timing of the demolition of this property which are outside of the City control. The property owner submitted a demolition plan that City staff are continuing to review.

Because the site is so complex, additional review and engineering work is required before a demo permit can be issued. The owner and his consultants have been making progress with Code and DPW staff to obtain this permit and is compliant. In addition to our permits, permits from the DEC for working above the creek are required. This is in process and could take some time depending on DEC workload.

If the owner doesn't stay on schedule, staff will notify City Council and City Council could decide to pay for demo later this year at the taxpayers' expense. Doing that as the city will cost more than it would cost the owner and still requires engineering and DEC permitting.

Geneva Ironman

The National IRONMAN organization just had their annual operations conference and during this gathering, the events in North America were ranked and rated based on NPS (Net Promoter Score) and Overall Satisfaction scores from our athlete surveys. The 2024 IRONMAN 70.3 Musselman, held in Geneva, NY, was the highest rated 70.3 globally in satisfaction score! This is incredible news and a true testament to our team on delivering an amazing experience in Geneva. We were the second-best event globally of all IRONMAN events, and the only event in the US within the top 8.

Goal 3: Increase and Sustain Intergovernmental Relations with City Partners

NYCOM Legislative Day

Mayor Valentino and I participated in the NYCOM legislative day on March 4 in Albany. During our time in Albany we met with the Cornell Legislative Affairs Director, Senator Helming, Assembly Member Gallahan, and attended the NYCOM press session.

Quarterly HWS Staff and City Leadership Team Meeting

Chief Parrotta, Chief Eveland, Director West and I met with President Gearan and AVP Corbett to discuss current events at the colleges and city. These quarterly meetings allow the teams to continue dialogue to improve our working relationships and better serve the City.

Congressionally Directed Spending Meeting with Representative Tenney

On February 27, the office of Representative Tenney held a meeting on Community Project Funding that City Staff attended. This funding must be tied to existing federal programming and is allocated by members of congress. Staff are reviewing places where this funding (which would arrive for Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026) could be applied.

Resource Recovery Park Launch

The Department of Public Works as well as the City Clerk are continuing to work with the Town to coordinate the opening of the City Resource Recovery Park on Doran Avenue. The park will be able to expand hours of operations and to take recycling and waste in addition to the food scraps and debris that are currently allowed. Our goal is to launch the opening of this facility at the Mission Zero event on April 26. Mailers will be sent to all residents to announce the program.

Goal 4: Develop and Implement Strategies to Create and Continue Dynamic Communications Regarding City Actions

Weather Event Communications

Please continue to share the notify me program with your networks. This service allows people to receive text and/or email communications: <https://cityofgenevany.com/list.aspx>

As a reminder the parking limitation is from 2:00am – 6:00am during a weather event.

Community Conversations

We will kick off community conversations with the City Manager and a Department Head each month on March 12 at 3:45pm. These conversations will occur on a monthly basis at various locations around the City. They will be opportunities for members of the public to ask questions of the public servants that serve the city. Community members can drop in at any time during the session.

Goal 5: Enhance the Quality of Life for City Residents

Fire Department Annual Meeting

The Fire Department held their annual meeting on 2/18/2025.

This year was the first year that awards were provided in the honor of previous chiefs.

- Chief Kevin Powers Lifetime Achievement Award: Micheal McCormack
- Chief Bruce Moore Spirit of Kindness Award: Gary Baxter
- Chief Ralph DeBolt Standards & Excellence Award: Robert Patnesky
- Chief Carlton Naegele Officer of the Year Award: John Wright Jr.
- Chief Louis McGuigan Firefighter of the Year Award: Brandon Wayne

2024 Statistics from the Department

- Total Runs: 2,759
- Fires: 53
- Rescues/EMS: 449
- Code Enforcement: 669
- Fire Prevention Details: 160
- Mutual Aid Responses: 36
- Mutual Aid Received: 15

Police Department January 2025 Statistics

- Calls for Service: 3,500
- Mental Health Calls: 22
- Domestic Incidents: 44
- Overdoses: 4
- Property Checks: 1,895
- Parking Tickets Issued: 149
- Traffic Tickets Issued: 186
- Overtime Hours: 75.5 hours

Office of Cannabis Management

The Office of Cannabis Management has launched the [Trade Practices Bureau \(TPB\)](#)—a dedicated unit focused on safeguarding fairness in the regulated cannabis market. TPB was established to protect New York's cannabis industry from unfair practices that threaten small businesses, social equity licensees, and consumers.

TPB investigates and takes action against trade practice violations that undermine market integrity and New York's social equity objectives, including:

- Undue influence and hidden ownership
- True Party of Interest (TPI) violations
- Importation or use of out of state product in the legal market (inversion)
- Fraudulent business practices

Operating within OCM's Office of General Counsel, TPB will be equipped with experienced investigative attorneys, inspectors, and data analysts to uphold compliance and market integrity. With the authority to issue subpoenas and take formal action, TPB is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent industry for all licensees.

TPB Complaint form: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7641785/Incident-Reporting>

Sidewalk Complaints and Enforcement

To date we have sent out over 80 Snow/Ice sidewalk letters to property owners.

We have sent out corrections/cleaning on 11 of those that have received letters and were not corrected by the owner.

Intersection of Castle & 5&20 Lights

The 2016 Awarded Downtown Revitalization Initiative Streetscape and Rte. 5&20 Corridor Reconstruction project were designed with “traffic calming” features as developed as part of this award program. The traffic signal timings and phasing that control the Rte. 5&20 intersections with both Castle and Lake Street are programmed as directed by the NYSDOT. The NYSDOT team of traffic and safety engineers, determined split phasing sequences which were programmed into the new controllers. The timing of vehicle detection and then clearing are concepts that are used for traffic signal design along with geometry of the intersection, traffic counts, approaching speed, etc.

Director Venuti has asked NYSDOT to perform a site visit to monitor the signals to see if any tweaks or modifications can be applied due to concerns expressed from community members.

Avian Influenza

There has been continued reports about deceased waterfowl along the lakefront and throughout the City. DPW team members work to safely remove and properly dispose of any birds found on city property. Each bird is documented to NYSDEC. We have been in contact with NYSDEC throughout the past several weeks and while they are very aware of the situation, the DEC will not manage the local situation or test each bird. If there is a mass quantity in one location the DEC will assist further. We have not hit that threshold in one location at this time.

Residents that experience dead waterfowl at their property are encouraged to contact NYSDEC Reg 8 Wildlife offices in Avon NY at 585-226-5380. Anyone coming into contact with deceased birds should wear protective equipment such as Nitrile or Latex gloves when handling deceased fowl and use trash bags to dispose of any carcass in your trash receptacle. Please note, people rarely get bird flu, but when they do, it's most often through direct unprotected contact (not wearing recommended personal protective equipment with infected birds).

Additional information and case reporting instructions can be found at the following links:

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/wildlife-health/animal-diseases>

<https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/about>

Department Of Public Works Operations in January and February

Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Staff at the WWTP continue to work on and complete annual DEC/EPA reports. Staff also completed annual equipment service on all Gulvin Park equipment. This equipment is used to effectively run the Actiflo Flash Treatment Facility during storm events.

Sewer Maintenance

Our team completed sewer lateral repair work on Exchange Street. We have investigated 6 sewer complaints, jetted 5 sewer mains, and cleaned/inspected 25 catch basins in known flood zones.

Water Treatment Plant

Staff at the Water Treatment Plant continue to work on and complete annual DOH/EPA reports. Staff repaired/replaced circulator pumps on the chlorine room boiler.

Water Maintenance

The water maintenance staff have repaired 6 water breaks and verified 60 Lead/Copper service line materials. Members of this division also assist with snowplowing.

For Daybook Service Calls we had a total of 116 calls in January and February.

Highway

Staff ran 19 de-icing and 5 plow trips in 2025. Staff have been treating potholes, removing storm debris trees and limbs, and repairing/maintaining snowplow equipment.

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Staff members from Buildings and Grounds completed enforcement snow removal cleaning following the various storm. B&G team members assist in snow plowing throughout the City. They have also performed burials and assisted BID during winter events.

Electric Repairs

The City continues to battle failing drivers in the LED lights. These drivers are failing at an alarming rate. We are working closely with the vendor to utilize the warranty where possible. Please email complaints@geneva.ny.us or the report a streetlight outage form on city web page to report outages.

Engineering

- Processed 54 UDIG tickets (28 in January and 26 in February)

- Request for Proposals were posted on February 26 for the 2025 Water and Sewer Fee and Rate Study, proposals are due on March 13, 2025. We plan to have an initial framework completed in July so this can tie into the water and sewer fund budget discussions.

Upcoming City Meetings and Events

- ✓ March 10: Work Session Presentation from Lakeview Health (7PM at City Hall)
- ✓ March 12: Geneva Community Conversations with the City Manager and Special Guest Fire Chief Del Parrotta (3:45PM at the Welcome Center)
- ✓ March 24: Work Session on Municipal Budgeting for the City of Geneva (5:30PM at City Hall)
- ✓ Additional Work Sessions in March:
 - Comprehensive Plan Meeting with Staff
- ✓ April 2: City Council Meeting (7PM at City Hall)
- ✓ April 5: Wards 4,5,6 Town Hall with Special Guest DPW Director Joe Venuti (9AM at the Public Library)
- ✓ April Work Sessions:
 - Department Head and Council Budget Work Session – Week of April 14 and 21