

Brood X cicadas emerge in Genoa Township. Photo by resident Erin Francoeur

### TRUSTEE REPORT: Guardrails

Karl R. Gebhardt, Trustee

When we think of guardrails, we usually picture a metal barrier along the road keeping cars from careening into danger. They are usually placed in the trickiest areas where it is easy to make a mistake.

There are guardrails in public service as well and their purpose is the same - to keep elected officials and staff from avoiding mistakes. For elected officials, the metaphorical guardrail on one side of the road is the law and the constitution and on the other are personal integrity and ethics.

One of the most difficult challenges elected officials face is staying between the guardrails while meeting the expectations of constituents; especially when the two appear to be in conflict. Constituents should, without a doubt, be deeply involved in establishing policy through their input and public debate while knowing other considerations must be factored into a decision.

Making the best decision for the good of the community as a whole requires a listening ear to those on all sides of a debate, understanding the law and the official's authority, getting direction from legal counsel and others familiar with the issues, and the foresight to consider the possible consequences of a decision.

Issues arise from time-to-time where it may appear as though the public's outcry is not being heard or that a decision was made in advance. However, in reality, a guardrail most likely had influenced the outcome.

Following the law, while not always easy or popular, has kept Genoa Township from careening off the roadway and into dangerous territory.

Sincerely,



### ADDING ACREAGE: Char-Mar Ridge Park Expansion

Beth McCollam, Preservation Parks, Marketing & Communications Manager

Genoa Township is home to Char-Mar Ridge Park, one of nine park locations in the growing Preservation Parks of Delaware County park district. In 2020, Char-Mar saw its highest visitation ever while people discovered the benefits of parks close to home.

The park is named in honor of two women, Charlotte and Maria, and opened in 2007.

Fourteen years after its opening, the park is growing to accommodate its growing popularity with additional paved parking spaces and new park acreage.

The parking lot expansion and paving project is anticipated to be completed by the end of June, weather permitting. This project includes 38 new parking spaces.

In 2020, the park district purchased 21.5 acres on Lewis Center Road. The new property borders the Ohio to Erie Trail to

the east along SR 3 and is located to the south of Lewis Center Road, across from the park's main entrance.

This former agricultural field will be transformed to a wooded parkland. This past winter, Preservation Parks' staff seeded a woodland edge seed mix. This year, 10,000 seedling trees were planted, and soon, a few hundred larger trees and shrubs will be planted. A few small wetlands areas are forming as well.

Conceptual planning for the expansion includes a gravel loop trail, connection to the Ohio-to-Erie Trail/Genoa Trail, and a small, primitive campground, sans campfires, for through-riders on the 326-mile bikeway. No date is set for the opening of this new section.

More information about the park may be found at [preservationparks.com/parks](https://preservationparks.com/parks)



Photo credit: Bret Watson, FAA licensed drone pilot

The 'X' identifies the location of Preservation Park's existing Char-Mar Ridge parking lot while it was being enlarged. Looking south across Lewis Center Road, the star marks the location of the 21.5 acre expansion of the park.



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## AGGREGATION ISSUE EXPLAINED

In November of 2015, Genoa Township voters approved a plan that combined their purchasing power into gas and electric rates lower than they would likely pay as individuals. The first electricity contract under this aggregation expired on June 20, 2021. As the contract neared its end, the Township sought bids and determined that proposed rates from Energy Harbor (formerly First Energy Solutions) were the most competitive. Energy Harbor was chosen to become the electricity provider to residents on June 24 who were included in the plan. A resident was automatically included unless he or she opted out. The Energy Harbor power would continue to be delivered over the distribution wires of AEP Ohio.

The new rate for residents and small businesses is 4.74 cents per kilowatt hour. (If you burn a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours, you have used one kilowatt hour.) The previous rate from Constellation New Energy had been 5.36 cents per kilowatt hour. The savings are more than six-tenths a cent per kilowatt hour.

Utility law requires the new power provider to send letters to all those who used the previous provider notifying them of the change. The Energy Harbor letter also included an opportunity for those customers to opt out of the aggregation, if they so chose. The law also requires AEP Ohio to communicate with those residents who receive aggregated power to let them know there is a new power supplier on their distribution wires. An email included an opportunity to opt out of the provider's service but made no mention of Genoa's aggregation.

The result of the two communications was confusing to some residents who didn't know why they were getting a different letter on similar topics from two different companies with both offering the opportunity to opt out at different times. The problem was caused by Energy Harbor needing to know how much energy to transmit to cover all its customers on June 24. AEP Ohio needed to know which addresses to bill and distribute the power to on June 24. But both were legally required to offer an opt out opportunity and each did so but on different dates. A resident who did nothing remained in the aggregation program.

Now that the transition has been made and the right amount of electricity is getting to the right addresses, residents will again be able to exercise their ongoing right to opt out, if they so choose. Call Energy Harbor at 1-866-636-3749 to exercise that option.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Two year-old Nate Morse's Christmas present was a combat infantryman's uniform. Soon the Genoa Township resident will be putting on authentic fatigues and attending infantry basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Morse, a new graduate of Westerville North, is following a family tradition of military service. "All the men in my family served" he said and he can trace one side of his family back to service in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Morse, 18, wants to continue that tradition and has enlisted with the intention of becoming a Ranger after finishing his basic and advanced infantry training.

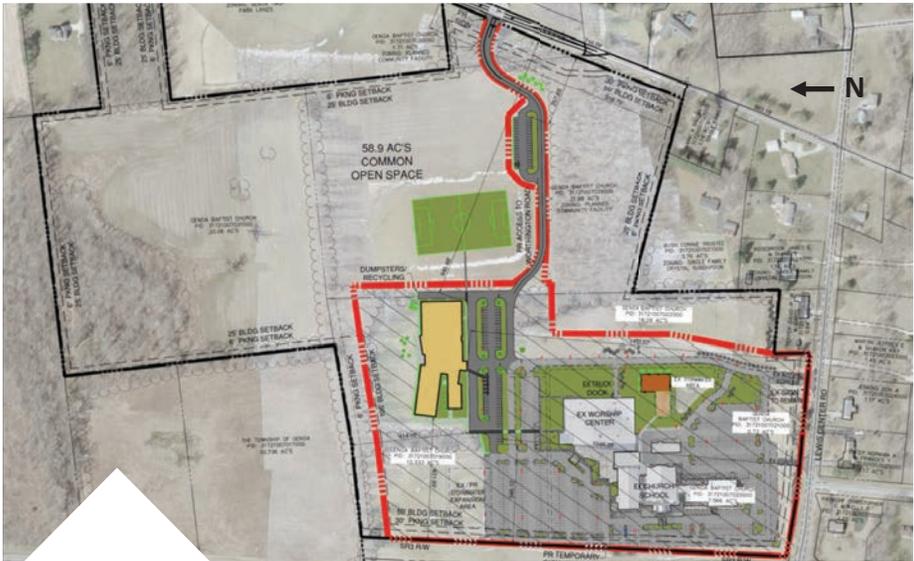
With his high school wrestling career behind him, Nate has turned to Martial Arts and won his first match against a man nearly twice his age. Before leaving in late summer, he intends to have another bout, go on a mission trip to Guatemala City, Guatemala and then a family vacation in Cancun, Mexico.



## Fiscal Report

Fund Name	01/01/2021 Fund Balance	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenditures	Ending Balance 5/31/2021
General	\$3,386,319	\$1,026,388	\$640,669	\$3,772,038
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$21,228	\$15,115	\$9,260	\$27,084
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$63,084	\$90,512	\$16,239	\$137,357
Gasoline Tax	\$63,557	\$141,771	\$190,607	\$14,721
Road and Bridge	\$1,292,434	\$1,544,697	\$1,335,993	\$1,501,139
Road & Bridge Capital Projects	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
TIF Fund	\$1,070,800	\$626,824	\$614,211	\$1,083,414
Cemetery	\$32,082	\$800	\$0	\$32,882
Parks	\$0	\$345,644	\$60,327	\$285,317
Police	\$7,961,391	\$2,244,728	\$1,700,791	\$8,505,328
Police Capital Projects	\$117,968	\$0	\$23,626	\$94,342
Police Station-Capital Projects	\$338,123	\$608	\$173,295	\$165,436
General (bond) (note) Retirement	\$1,387	\$0	\$0	\$1,387
Enforcement and Education	\$6,559	\$290	\$0	\$6,849
Law Enforcement Trust	\$44,758	\$0	\$0	\$44,758
Bond - Police Station	\$500,178	\$417,727	\$134,204	\$783,701
Fire	\$6,700,776	\$2,672,308	\$2,166,414	\$7,206,670
Fire Capital Projects	\$1,726,287	\$0	\$0	\$1,726,287
Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS	\$415,052	\$81,374	\$30,100	\$466,326
Self-Ins. Fund-Medical Insurance	\$0	\$434,170	\$434,170	\$0
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$161,459	\$250	\$58,176	\$103,532
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,003,442</b>	<b>\$9,643,207</b>	<b>\$7,588,081</b>	<b>\$26,058,569</b>

Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar. For additional information on Township finances visit [www.OhioCheckbook.com](http://www.OhioCheckbook.com)



ZONING & DEVELOPMENT

Joe Shafer, 614.899.0725

On May 3, a majority of the Board of Trustees voted to approve a new, nearly 66,000 square foot building to be operated by Genoa Baptist Church under the name Genoa Christian Academy on the church's approximately 88-acre property, southwest of the current worship center expansion.

The two-story structure will contain classrooms, instructional space,

cafeteria, and gymnasium for middle school and high school students. The existing parking lot will be expanded and a new driveway out to Worthington Road will be provided to improve access and assist with traffic circulation. If all required approvals from Delaware County are secured, construction is expected to begin this fall.



MAINTENANCE

Bob Mathews, 614.568.2080

As the road crew milled the deteriorated road surface on Dunaway Lane in preparation for a fresh coat of asphalt, clay heaved upward where gravel should have been (pictured); turning a two-day project into a weeklong unscheduled closure.

Staff raced on to prepare four remaining roads to be resurfaced before a contractor arrived to put the finish layer of asphalt on all the

roads mid-June. Even with the setback, road resurfacing was completed faster than it has been in more than 20 years.

Our staff took one noteworthy diversion from roadwork to install 145 American flags at veteran headstones in each of the four Township-owned cemeteries, honoring veterans dating back to the Revolutionary War.



POLICE

Chief Stephen Gammill  
614.568.2060

Noise is unavoidable when living among neighbors in a growing community. However, there are established limits that make living side by side easier.

Whether it's a dog barking incessantly, loud music, or the hum of construction vehicles working after dark, the Police Department is responsible for enforcing the Township's Noise Resolution. An officer must witness noise violations firsthand to intervene.

Sound traveling from construction projects or as a result of regular home and yard maintenance must conclude no later than 9:00 p.m. and begin no earlier than 7:00 a.m. daily.

Call non-emergency dispatch at 740-833-2800 to determine whether the noise ordinance is being violated.



FIRE/EMS/RESCUE

Chief Joseph Ponzi  
614.568.2040

The department recently administered its annual agility test. Every firefighter passed the rigorous assessment of job related fitness to ensure physical readiness for the challenges expected in the profession. Test elements include:

- 100 foot aerial ladder climb
- Forcible entry
- Ladder carry and raise
- Fire hose pull
- Pike Pole event (simulating tearing down drywall ceilings)
- Equipment carry of two saws
- Victim rescue (moving a 165 pound dummy 75 feet)

Each task is completed while wearing a 50 pound vest, firefighting helmet and gloves.

To maintain fitness throughout the year, 45 minutes of exercise is mandated each work day.



## NEWS & INFORMATION

July | August 2021

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

**Independence Day** | July 4

Township administration office closed July 5.  
No scheduled delay to Rumpke service.

**Movies at McNamara** | July 10 & August 14 | Dusk  
Reserve your viewing area at [GenoaTwp.com/MovieNight](http://GenoaTwp.com/MovieNight)

**National Night Out** | August 3 | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Activities, vehicles at McNamara Park



#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Board of Trustees** | July 1 & August 5 | 6:30 p.m.

**Zoning Commission** | July 12 & August 9 | 7:00 p.m.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** | July 27 & August 24 | 7:00 p.m.

*Note: Communications, Fire, Finance, Investment, Parks, and Police Advisory Committee meetings not shown.*

View the full calendar at [www.GenoaTwp.com](http://www.GenoaTwp.com).



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ELECTED OFFICIALS