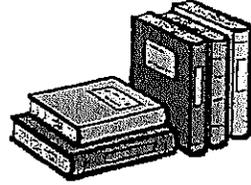


# THE GENOA VILLAGER



READ ALL ABOUT IT  
FROM THE DESK OF

**MAYOR KEN HARSANJE SR.**

**Hello Village of Genoa Citizens,**

I would like to say "THANK-YOU" to the *Genoa Homecoming Committee*, *Genoa Administrator* and *Public Works crew*, *Village Administrative staff*, *Police Chief and Officers*, *Council Members*, and the many other volunteers who assisted to make the 2016 Homecoming a great success.

I want to commend the *Genoa Garden Club* and *Girl Scouts* for their hard work to help beautify the North Entrance into *Genoa*, the *Village Walk thru*, and the planters along *Main Street*. This added beautification to the *Village of Genoa* along with the *Forever Benches* certainly added a warm "Welcome to the *Village of Genoa*" while residents and visitors stop by to reflect. Also, I am asking all village citizens to be "Good Neighbors" and please keep your lawns mowed, and your yard area picked up and organized. I really appreciate all citizens that work hard to keep your property maintained. For those that do not, the village has, and will continue to issue notices asking each owner to comply per Section 531.06 of the *Village of Genoa's Codified Ordinances*. The village has and will cite each property owner who does not keep their property cleaned up.

At the May 16, 2016 Council meeting, the Council passed Ordinance #14-2016 to amend Section 181.08 Titled *Credit Tax* paid to another municipality. The  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a percent (.75%) *Tax Credit* for income taxes paid to another municipality was repealed. This would take effect on January 1, 2017. This was a difficult decision for the Council, but a vote that was required as the *Ohio Governor* and *State Legislature* branch cut the monies that went to schools and municipalities to balance their budgets therefore affecting ours. Like so many other Villages and Cities we are struggling to maintain our budget while building a reserve for our *General Fund*.

The Village this year has trimmed our budget by 25% or more. We still want to provide all our citizens with Police protection and Public Works services that you all expect and deserve. The Village has been and will continue to do their part in our cost savings effort. The Village use to have a Village Administrator, Public Works Director and a Zoning Inspector but now, all three (3) positions is being performed by one (1) person, Kevin Gladden. For many years an assistant Park Director was needed, but as of this year, that position was eliminated, so now, Park Director, Mike Thomas handles all the day to day operations of our very special Veteran's Park & Quarry. Fiscal Officer, Julie Van Nest and Utility Billing Manager, Leeann Dufendock have been working to send out notices and collecting past due taxes and utility bills. A new Ordinance is coming forward soon to hold landlords of rental properties responsible for any delinquent utility bills for their rentals. Police Chief, Brad Weis, and Sergeant, Todd Mocniak has been doing a good job providing our village 24/7 protection while maintaining overtime to a minimum. At the present time, our Police Department is the lowest paid in the area. The Public Works and Administrative employees have not had a raise for two (2) years.

There has been a petition by some citizens to place a referendum that has been certified to be on the November ballot to repeal the  $\frac{3}{4}\%$  Income Tax Ordinance. If this referendum passes to repeal Ordinance #14-2016, the Village will have to consider cuts in Police protection, Public Works services, streets and sidewalks maintenance to name a few. As Mayor, I know for a fact that the Village Administration since I have been in office has done a great job in an attempt to collect past due accounts from before I was elected. We went through the budget and trimmed it like I mentioned earlier across the board 25% or more. We will continue to review where we can make cuts if necessary each budget year. The Village needs the  $\frac{3}{4}\%$  income taxes so that you the citizens can receive the protection and services you are accustomed to and deserve without us having to make critical cuts. Honestly, when you look at all the Village provides to each and every one of you, this is the best way to maintain what we all have now. Before the November election, I will send out my fourth quarterly newsletter early so everyone is aware of the possible cuts in the areas we will consider to be trimmed. This is certainly not something any of us wants, but it may be necessary to maintain what we have.

Sincerely but Regretfully,  
Mayor Kenneth L. Harsanje Sr.  
Mayor, Kenneth L. Harsanje, Sr.