



December 2025

Updates from the City Manager

As we close out 2025 and prepare for the year ahead, I want to recognize the collective effort of our staff, partners, and community members who continue to support the City's mission and long-term goals. This month reflects the culmination of several multi-year initiatives—from infrastructure and housing progress to intergovernmental collaboration, economic opportunity work, and organizational development.

We also begin transitioning into 2026, which includes continued attention to fiscal stewardship, strengthened community engagement, and forward-looking planning for major capital and service-related projects. I am grateful for the dedication shown across all departments, especially during a busy season marked by holiday events, year-end operations, emergency responses, and major organizational updates.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Geneva. I look forward to the important work we will continue together in the coming year.

Amie M. Hendrix

Goal 1: Ensure Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship of City Resources

Highlights: Hiring continues for key City positions · Winter recreation staffing underway · City Hall window replacement project has begun · Mandatory all-staff training scheduled for December 9.

Hiring Updates

The City is actively recruiting for a Finance Clerk II as well as additional Seasonal Winter Recreation Attendants. These roles are essential to ongoing operations, and staff are encouraged to share these openings within their networks. Interested applicants may apply through the Ontario County Employment Portal.

City Hall Window Replacement

The long-awaited replacement of all City Hall windows is now underway. This capital improvement project—budgeted in the current year—may temporarily disrupt parking and office locations within City Hall. Staff relocations will occur as needed to keep operations running smoothly. We appreciate everyone's patience as this work progresses.

Training

City Hall and City Administrative Offices will be closed on December 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for mandatory all-staff training. Employees will receive updates and hands-on instruction in AED use, CPR/First Aid, Narcan administration, fire

extinguisher safety, and other preparedness topics. The session will conclude with an end-of-year luncheon as we look ahead to 2026.

Goal 2: Promote Economic Development within the City

Highlights: ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity program work continues · Staff attending the second learning cohort convening · Progress updates on several major housing projects · Multiple business openings and ribbon cuttings · Lakeview Health Services bringing 75 jobs downtown.

Economic Mobility and Opportunity Work

The ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO) Program is a multi-faceted initiative by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to help local governments improve economic opportunities for their residents. It provides support through peer learning cohorts, mini-grants, and a specialized program to hire full-time "Special Assistants" to lead economic mobility efforts. This is made possible with support from the Gates Foundation and aims to increase understanding of economic barriers and support local leaders in implementing strategies that promote upward economic mobility.

The City of Geneva is part of the 2025 learning cohort and is a mini-grant recipient. Liz Toner and I will be attending the second convening for this grant December 10-12. Our mini-grant work is focused on the Comprehensive Plans' goal of Economic Advancement, and we have partnered with Geneva 2030 to use the funding to look at the establishment of an economic opportunity task force. This aligns with a recent convening of 2030 and Partnership for Geneva's Children that focused on creating a child savings account program similar to [R-Future Fund in Rochester](#) as well as other economic mobility focused programming such as rent reporting, which allows renters to establish credit by paying rent. To learn more about economic mobility and opportunity work of ICMA and others, [please visit this page](#).

Litheo Flats (595 S. Exchange)

The PIVOTAL team met with the planning board on Wednesday evening. A Public Hearing is set for the next meeting prior to a planning board vote on the project. The staff/council group that has been meeting biweekly will meet again in December to discuss any future involvement in this process. The property sales agreement between the City and Pivotal is in progress with our legal partners.

Other Housing Items

Crystal Street: The City previously sold 0.75 acres to Habitat for Humanity for the development of nine homes. Habitat has since acquired an additional lot through the Boys & Girls Club. Street infrastructure remains a primary barrier; City staff are exploring use of CHIPS reimbursements combined with Habitat contributions to support street construction. Projected timelines include street work in late 2026/early 2027 and home construction in 2027–2028. Habitat also purchased 18 Katherine Street during the 2024 foreclosure process and is partnering with BOCES to construct a home for delivery in spring 2026.

Middle & Hallenbeck: Cook Properties, who purchased this parcel in Spring 2025, has completed its Phase II Environmental Review. Additional assessments are required before the project can proceed.

Ribbon Cuttings and Business Openings

- Working Class Coffee marked their one-month anniversary on November 7 with a ribbon cutting hosted by the BID.
- Morgan Laurant opened on Castle Street that same evening in the former Rooted/BW Keyes location.
- Sweet Ki's celebrated its opening on November 15 with a BID-supported ribbon cutting.

- Lakeview Health Services closed at 24 Seneca Street for its new headquarters, bringing ~75 employees to downtown. Renovations will begin soon, with full relocation planned through 2026.

Goal 3: Increase and Sustain Intergovernmental Relations with City Partners

Highlights: Green Committee partners with City on Resource Recovery Park · Expanded food waste and recycling services underway · Fire service leaders continue shared services discussions · Review of major multi-department emergency response.

Green Committee/Resource Recovery Park

The Green Committee continues to support the City and Town in advancing the Resource Recovery Park. Committee member Jim Stiles brings significant expertise in composting and recovery systems and will advise on improving program effectiveness.

The Park—jointly operated by the City and Town—has resumed proper composting through grant-funded operations after a lapse in production in 2023. The facility now accepts food waste, yard debris, and offers garbage and recycling drop-off options. Expanded access includes compost availability for seniors and more robust diversion efforts.

Operations run Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30–4:30 p.m. and are staffed by a Town employee with DPW support. Trash and Recycling permit can be purchased at City Hall.

Fire Shared Services

Leaderships from Border City, West Lake Road, White Springs, and Northside Fire Departments met with City and County officials to continue discussions on enhanced shared services.

The group reviewed the coordinated response to the St. Stephen's Fire, which required six apparatus and personnel from multiple departments, including evacuation of adjacent residences.

Next steps include evaluating 2025 call volume and response data at a follow-up meeting in early 2026. The shared goal is improved communication, expanded regional cooperation, and joint applications for training and equipment.

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

Highlights: City Manager appeared on Finger Lakes Radio · Ongoing Community Conversations continue to provide direct engagement opportunities · Program evaluation underway for 2026.

Radio

The City Manager joined Finger Lakes Radio Group on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:50 am to talk about the upcoming council meeting, transitions for 2026 and the Mayors' Tree Lighting.

Community Conversation

The Human Resources Director and City Manager met with residents as part of the November Community Conversation. Since May, roughly 50 residents have participated in these sessions.

These meetings create space for candid questions, public feedback, and deeper understanding of City operations. No December session will be held as staff evaluate opportunities to enhance the program in 2026.

Goal 5: Enhance the Quality of Life for City Residents

Highlights: Structural issues at 555 S. Exchange Street required an emergency vacate order · DPW completed seasonal décor changeover and advanced Castle Street infrastructure work · Marina project permitting and funding alignment progressing with strong interdepartmental coordination · Loomis Woods Public Hearing · Police Department released October statistics reflecting service demand and public safety trends · Staff continue enforcement and signage review related to tractor trailers on non-truck routes.

555 S. Exchange Street – the Former Holiday

During an operating permit inspection, staff observed structural issues on the front-side units of the building. Because tenants in rear units must use front entrances, the owner was required to provide an engineer's certification of safety. The owner did not supply acceptable documentation, and the building was ordered vacated. Relocation services have been offered to tenants. The property has been sectioned off for safety.

DPW Updates

- Fall décor removal and winter decoration installation are complete in collaboration with the BID.
- Castle Street Reconstruction: 53 sewer laterals have been installed; water main work is now underway.
- Water Maintenance responded to three main water breaks on Thanksgiving Day.

Memorial Bench Program

Staff have completed a review of the City's Memorial Bench Program and prepared a detailed memorandum outlining a recommended path forward. This item is expected to appear on the January Council agenda.

There are currently 24 available bench locations across City parks, with cost estimates prepared for each. The Lakefront area remains at capacity with 34 installed benches, and its long-closed portion of the program will be a focal point of upcoming Council discussions.

Marina (Long Pier Stabilization and Dock Replacement Project)

Bi-weekly meetings with grant partners continue. Updated permits have been submitted, and pending approval, staff will initiate a professional services agreement, a change that avoids a full bid process.

However, due to MWBE requirements and prior bidding, staff plan to request quotes from firms that previously submitted proposals. Once quotes are received, staff will finalize the distribution of grant vs. bonded funding, prepare required project amendments, and advance the rescoped project.

A special acknowledgment goes to Joe Venuti, Jennifer Sutton, and Taylor Youngs for maintaining project momentum and ensuring compliance with funder obligations.

Tractor Trailers on Residential Streets

City Ordinance §335-28 outlines designated truck routes throughout Geneva. Trucks are permitted to utilize local streets only when making local deliveries.

Staff are reviewing signage across truck routes to enhance visibility for drivers. The Police Department has implemented a zero-tolerance policy for 18-wheelers traveling off authorized routes and will stop these vehicles.

A challenge remains with GPS navigation systems, which often direct drivers onto restricted streets. Staff will continue to outreach to mapping providers and work with local industries to ensure their drivers understand the ordinance.

Loomis Woods Public Hearing

Council has scheduled a public hearing for January 7 at 7:00 p.m. to gather feedback on the potential sale of Loomis Woods for future housing development. Because this consideration represents a change in use for the property—as defined under [Chapter 247 of the City Code: Parks and Recreation](#)—Council is seeking community input before taking any further action.

This hearing will help Council to decide if they would like to advance to reviewing any sales offers or initiate the formal park alienation process, which is a detailed and lengthy state-required procedure. Community perspectives will play an important role in determining whether the City proceeds with any next steps regarding the future of Loomis Woods.

Middle Street Parcel Sale

The City of Geneva completed a tax foreclosure process some time ago that gives the City ownership rights to 32 Middle Street. After reviewing the property, the City has determined that it is not needed for any public use and can be considered surplus property.

The City's Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee has recommended that the property be sold. Before the City Council can make any decision on a sale, a public hearing is required. The sale would include that the new owner would demolish the existing structure.

The hearing will give residents the chance to share their thoughts before Council moves forward on this sale. This public hearing will also be held on January 7th at 7pm.

Police Department – October 2025 Statistics

- Calls for Service: 3,342 | Year-to-Date: 30,945
- Mental Health Calls: 14 | Year-to-Date: 171
- Domestic Incidents: 48 | Year-to-Date: 450
- Overdoses: 11 | Year-to-Date: 75
- Property Checks: 1,740 | Year-to-Date: 14,942
- Parking Tickets Issued: 166 | Year-to-Date: 1,474
- Traffic Tickets Issued: 61 | Year-to-Date: 1,280
- Motor Vehicle Accidents: 33 | Year-to-Date: 300
- Overtime Hours: 208.75 | Year-to-Date: 2,186.25

December Monthly Data for the City of Geneva, NY

Item	Amount	Source
Population	12,573	2023 – 5-Year ACS
Number of Households	4,878	2023 – 5-Year ACS
Households with children	898	2023 – 5-Year ACS
Number of students who attend college in Geneva	1,744	2023 – Data USA
Poverty rate	18.3% or 1,870 people	2023 – 5-Year ACS
Number of owner-occupied homes	49.2% or ~2,399 homes	2023 – 5-Year ACS
Number of commercial properties	714	Assessment Department
Number of rental units in the City	50.8% or ~2,476 units	2023 – 5-Year ACS
Number of homes sold in October 2025	10	Realty Trac
Number of Active Listings for Residential Sale as of 8/31/2025	33	RealtyTrac
Number of Active Listings for Commercial Sale as of 8/31/2025	8	LoopNet
Short Term Rentals as of 11/24/2025	95	Rentalscape
Active Short-Term Rental Permits as of 11/24/2025	92 total (64 complete, 28 in process)	Rentalscape
Number of STR not in compliance as of 11/24/2025	3	Rentalscape
2025 Total Assessed Value	\$729,466,885	Assessor's Office
2025 Tax Rate	\$12.16	2025 City Budget
2025 City of Geneva General Budget	\$20,898,780	2025 City Budget
General Fund – Fund Balance as of 10/31/2025	\$5,319,895	Finance Department
2025 City of Geneva Water Budget	\$3,316,999	2025 City Budget
Water Fund – Fund Balance as of 10/31/2025	\$1,665,667	Finance Department
2025 City of Geneva Sewer Budget	\$5,534,798	2025 City Budget
Sewer Fund – Fund Balance as of 10/31/2025	\$2,428,784	Finance Department
2025 Overtime Budget (All Departments)	\$452,100	2025 City Budget
Overtime Expended as of 10/31/2025	\$336,654	Finance Department
Total Cash (All Accounts) as of 10/31/2025	\$ 27,747,20	Finance Department
Sales Tax Revenue Received as of 10/31/2025	\$3,861,028	Finance Department