

## The 50 year vision

by Scott Lebin

PHOTO COURTESY GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No parking problems in Geneva...our cars drive themselves into Geneva and drop us off and then drive themselves to a remote parking area to wait for us to push the button on our personal chip to come pick us up...welcome to Geneva in 2066. Our personal servant and guide, Iris, is with us floating just above our heads. I say, "Let's go to the Little Traveler," and my guide leads the way. There is no need for maps or directions; Iris is all knowing and totally dedicated to serving me. I pass Cocoon, a century-old store, and see some yard art I want to purchase. My hand is scanned from the chip implanted when I was born and immediately deducts the price of my purchase from my account sent to the cloud address that was assigned to me on birth. My purchase is placed in a transfer chamber and will already be in my home when I return.

In fifty years, the Fox River running through Geneva has become a center point of recreation and along with the quaint Third St. shopping and entertainment area that has become a vibrant activity center of the Geneva community. Anytime from May through September, you can return to a historic time when Geneva was first founded, a time when the outdoors was a center of activity. Canoeing on the Fox River, zip line activities on Island Park and band shell concerts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons provide an opportunity for guests and the community to share in a simple life void of electronics and all the modern communications that have taken over the everyday life.

On Island Park, you can enjoy folk music from earlier centuries. Stories that parallel the peaceful solitude enjoyed along the Fox River. Blankets on the lawn with families enjoying a picnic remind one of the painting still hanging in the Art Institute "Sunday In The Park With George." The serene nature of this community on the bank of the Fox River has captured the ambiance of the natural beauty that was for a long time taken for granted.

This same quality has turned other parts of the Geneva community into a true destination city. Settler's Hill, now fully developed by Kane County and the city, produces additional recreation activities. It has sporting events all year long. In the winter, there are ski and sledding events. In the summer, there are running events along with tennis, drone competitions, and other opportunities for recreation. All of these events and other opportunities surround the Kane County Lodge and Convention Center, which has become a center point for the property.

The area provides a place where the residents don't have to travel miles to enjoy a tremendous variety of activities. This land was developed in such a way that the natural beauty of trails and wild life habitats were preserved. The park, surrounded by ice skating, baseball, tennis, and basketball arenas has become a vibrant part of the Fox Valley and made this community only 40 miles from downtown Chicago a destination place for travelers from all over the United States.

The many small businesses in Geneva have adapted over the years

to provide a unique experience that adds to the joy of shopping. Online shopping has become a necessity for society but Geneva has continued to provide a personal and unique experience that can't be achieved online. Because of the excellent water quality, the Geneva breweries have become known throughout the world for the quality of the beverages they produce. The eclectic nature of Geneva is combined with the historic nature of its four major festivals which have adapted to continue in a tradition of the "Best of Class" events. Not many communities can attest to the fact that their events have been in continuous operation for over a century. Rather than become static and outdated, the festivals and events have continued to adapt and develop new aspects while still capturing the need people have to come together in joint play. The active community continues its special quality of neighbors sharing and volunteering for community work with people taking pride in the city call "home."

Many changes will emerge in the next fifty years but there is no doubt that the quality of our current personal values, the family fabric of our neighborhoods, and the neighborly ambiance we share with each other will remain the key attribute associated with living in Geneva. ●

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