

Local government helps our Geneva community

by Scott Lebin

The advantage of working with local government and local elected officials is that they are more accessible and will give their Geneva constituents more time and be more responsive to solving local issues than state or federal office holders. I personally know that the support the chamber receives in putting on events to benefit the whole community couldn't be achieved without the mutual help and respect of city, park district, school district, and county officials. Geneva governmental entities have a long history of trying to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all of its residents.

Our residents have a plethora of talents and expertise that have benefited the city. This sharing of information and expertise whether on formal city commissions or through independent clubs and organizations has made Geneva a desirable community in which to live.

Zoning ordinances, permitting requirements, police and fire services, public works projects and clean water are just some the governmental processes or services that help make our community a better place in which to live. Yes, there is a place for government and without it chaos and anarchy could easily be reflected on our streets.

During the lighting of the Great Tree in Geneva a month ago, the streets were packed with residents. I can say without a doubt that there was no Christmas tree anywhere

more beautiful than that tree on the courthouse lawn. What a great job the public works department did on decorating the town and filling the tree with ornaments and lights. I wonder if visitors from other communities realize that all the lights, wreaths, and trees that decorate State St. are provided by the Geneva Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Geneva Public Works department who hangs the lights and the greens. Those decorations and the wonderful shop windows help create the winter Geneva "Picture Postcard."

The first week of this last December the Chamber of Commerce House Walk was in full swing and Grahams Fine Chocolates had a procession down the center of Third St. to deliver the first candy cane of the season to the mayor. Those gathered for the event consumed 200 lbs. of chestnuts. People in a huge gathering, having fun, celebrating the season, shopping, attending restaurants, and young children being exposed to memories that will last a life time were all a result of our local chamber of commerce and our governmental officials being able to provide services to make the evening safe, enjoyable, and economically productive for local businesses. The local business added to the festivities by providing animated windows, bagpipers, and various carolers singing holiday songs. An active downtown

helps create a sense of a thriving community.

We are fortunate in Geneva that we know our local police because they are always a part of our festivals and our daily activities. They are here to protect our community but they are also respected members of our community. Our fire department helps us in the same manner by setting guidelines and helping make sure that our traffic patterns and activities are safe.

There is always a cost to provide the benefits and yes we sometimes forget that taxes are needed to help provide for many of the services we want and take for granted. When we evaluate the great attributes we have in our town and the access we have to local officials to make Geneva an ideal community, we should be thankful that this is our home. If this last December is a barometer of our experience, we can honestly say, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Clause!" ●

Scott Lebin is an Investment Advisor Representative with and Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc. member FINRA, SIPC and a Registered Investment Advisor. Non Securities products and services are not offered through Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc.

LD051906-12/14