Welcome to Geneva

Recruitment Profile

Thank you for considering employment with the City of Geneva. The City of Geneva, Illinois is a place rich in history and community values. Established in 1835, Geneva was selected as the Kane County seat. Geneva is located in the Fox River Valley, 43 miles west of Chicago. Geneva is a welcoming community where residents are proud to call home with excellent schools, parks, restaurants, businesses, and neighborhoods.

This recruitment profile provides background information on the City of Geneva and outlines qualification and experience requirements as identified in the position applied for. This profile will be used as a guide in the recruitment process, providing specific criteria by which applications will be screened. Individuals will then be selected for final interviews and employment consideration.

All inquiries relating to the recruitment and selection process are to be directed to the attention of:

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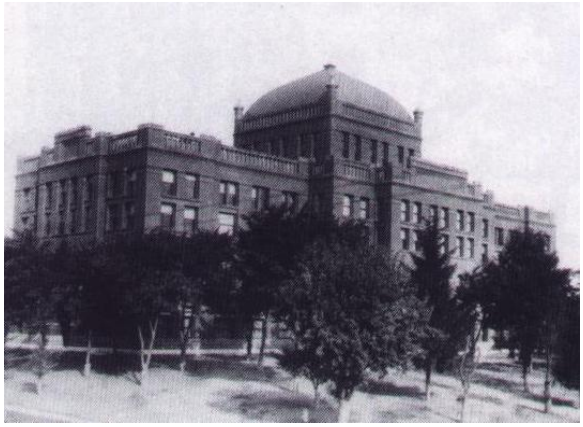
History of Geneva

Selected as the Kane County seat in 1835, Geneva is located in the Fox River Valley, 43 miles west of Chicago. The first settlers to arrive came in 1834 and opened a trading post at the mouth of Mill Creek to trade with the Pottawatomi Indians and settlers. James and Charity Herrington arrived in Geneva in 1835. The Herrington's are often considered the founders of Geneva. They remained in the community and contributed significantly to Geneva's growth and success.

In 1835, the first courthouse and jail were built. By 1838, growth in Geneva took off. Geneva was laid out quite differently from nearby St. Charles. Geneva was developed with wide streets that would accommodate trade. Even today a careful observer will note that the main roads in Geneva are considerably wider than those in neighboring communities.

In 1844, a second courthouse was built in Geneva. U.S. Representative Abraham Lincoln dedicated the building. He and his political rival Stephen Douglas both spoke on the building's steps. The courthouse on Third and James Street, still in existence today, was built in 1892.



In 1850, the arrival of the railroad came to Geneva and population hit a new high of 827. The arrival of the railroad dramatically changed Geneva. With the railroad came a large influx of Swedish and Irish immigrants. By the turn of the century, one out of every two Genevans immigrated from overseas.

In 1906, architect Frank Lloyd Wright began the first of three projects in Geneva. His projects included the Hoyt House at 318 South Fifth Street, an addition to the Fox River Country Club, and redesigned portions of the Fabyan Villa.

In 1913, the Lincoln Highway became the nation's first coast-to-coast highway. It ran through Geneva along portions of State Street, Illinois 31 and later Third Street.

In 1924, Kate Rafferty opened the Little Traveler on Third Street. A remarkable business woman, Rafferty's efforts led to the formation of the Third Street Shopping District. Today, the Little Traveler is one of the most popular shops on Third Street.

In 1942, Burgess-Norton received the Army-Navy E for Excellence. During the war, Burgess Norton produced tank tread links and munitions. With many men fighting

overseas, Geneva's women began working in local factories.

In 2001, parts of the movie Road to Perdition were filmed in Geneva. That year, Geneva's population reached 19,000, more than doubling since 1970.

In 2012, the City of Geneva celebrated the 100th anniversary of City Hall.

Geneva Today

Geneva has grown over the years into a prosperous suburban community while maintaining its strong historical characteristics. The City continues to be a top-notch community with distinguished schools, beautiful parks, excellent businesses, welcoming neighborhoods, diverse industries, and a thriving downtown district. Residents assume active roles in sustaining and improving the quality of life in Geneva. Key to Geneva's livelihood is its economic development efforts which include special downtown initiatives, local partnerships, special events, and festivals.

Citizen Engagement

Geneva citizens are actively involved in local decision making through a range of civic organizations. Particularly, there are a number of partnerships aimed at maintaining and improving Geneva's business climate. Geneva has a strong relationship between the City's Economic Development Department, Cultural Arts Commission, Economic Development Commission, Chamber of Commerce, business owners, and property owners.

Special Events

Geneva is rich in cultural arts and has several events and festivals throughout the year. Geneva's most popular event is Swedish Days, a six day festival held in June that attracts thousands of visitors. The Geneva Art's Fair is held in July and is a nationally recognized juried Art Show. Festival of the Vine, held the first weekend of September, features wine tasting, food vendors, grape stomping, a flower market, and musical entertainment.

The annual Christmas Walk and House Tour is held the first weekend of December.
The traditional Christmas Walk begins Friday evening as Santa makes his appearance to light the "Great Tree" and open his Gingerbread House for the season.

City Government

Geneva is a community of 21,495 residents as of the 2010 census. The City of Geneva is a non-home rule community with a mayor-council form of government. The Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer are elected at-large and serve four year terms. The ten council members are elected by ward (two aldermen per ward) and serve four year terms. The Mayor and Council appoint the City Administrator as well as several other positions within the City. The City currently employs approximately 143 full time and 62 part time or seasonal employees. The seven departments of the City include the City Administrator's Office, Administrative Services (including Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technologies), Community Development, Economic Development, Fire, Police, and Public Works (including Engineering, Streets and Fleets, Electric, and Water/Wastewater).

Mission Statement

The City of Geneva, through its elected and appointed officials, employees and volunteers, provides quality public services and promotes the health, safety, and welfare of our residents, businesses and visitors in the most cost-effective manner. In doing so, the City will respect the past, respond to current concerns and plan for the future, while keeping with the historical character and heritage of the community.

Vision Statement

The City of Geneva's vision is to maintain and enhance the downtown business district, implement a long term plan for open space restoration, and maintain and expand the City's infrastructure to support existing and future development. The City will also continue to provide high level services to maintain and enhance the historic integrity of the community.