

LETTERS To The Editor

Dignity and common sense needed

To the Editor:

I read with interest the front-page article in the Jan. 21 edition of the *Times* regarding the mayor of Geneva seeking reelection, and how other current councilors may, or may not, seek reelection next November.

I won't rehash here in this letter all of the reasons why many city residents feel that this Council was dysfunctional during most of the past three years. Those that have been paying attention know that trying to bring national issues into the local realm will almost always cause the kind of division we've seen over these past three years. Leave those issues for our elected state and national representatives to solve as that is their job.

Our next Council, whether they are incumbents who are reelected or new councilors, need to focus on the local issues, the greatest of which is the high tax rate. This Council has taken some steps in that direction, and the next Council needs to keep going in that direction. Solving the high-tax issue alone will begin to alleviate the other problems such as more affordable housing, more businesses (such as a grocery store), and creating more recreational opportunities.

While the writer of that Jan. 21 article correctly states that Mayor Valentino and Councilor Noone have sided with council Republicans on several issues and may seem to have aligned themselves with their Republican counterparts, I believe a more accurate description would be to say that they both sided or aligned themselves on the side of dignity and common sense. People are tired of the grandstanding, rudeness and disrespect that have been on public display at Council meetings and beyond. I believe that dignity and common sense are what city residents truly want to see out of their next Council, and are what is needed for Geneva to reach its full potential.

TONY DiCOSTANZO
Geneva

Shocked to see size of landfill

To the Editor:

I grew up in Geneva and recently returned to be close to family and contribute to the community that meant so much to me in my earlier years. I was shocked to see the Seneca Meadows dump visible from the house I grew up in and disheartened by the fact that this amazing tourist area had also become the epicenter of garbage.

The Finger Lakes is a shiny gem among the great destinations of this country, and it's only getting started. It doesn't need the environmental risks and dubious recognition associated with New York's largest dump.

Despite the massive PR campaign and money this Texas-based company uses to buy their way into our community, we need to see the Finger Lakes for what it is, a unique area of the world that needs to foster and promote its natural resources, awesome beauty, and small-business economy.

The extension that the dump is coercing for must be stopped. We have to look to the future and ask ourselves: Who are we, and who are we to become in this region? The garbage industry mustn't usurp this area for unseen years ahead while we encourage people to come here and partake in one of the great natural wonders this country has to offer.

The trash chapter of the Finger Lakes must close by 2025, as originally planned.

MATT VENUTI
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