

# THE CURRENT SCENE

*Celebrating the people, places, and events of Geneseo*



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# GENESEO FOOD PANTRY

## *more than a food pantry*

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry has been helping people in need for more than 40-years. Many people have come to associate the Pantry as a place that distributes food and clothing. We most certainly do distribute food and clothing to a lot of people! Over the past 12-months we have distributed over 11,000 pounds of food to 3,770 households. Over the same period, we have distributed almost 23,000 pounds of clothing to over 3,800 households.

But Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry strives to do so much more than distribute food and clothing. As our mission statement explains:

*“We aim to serve the whole person, striving to positively impact our guests’ total sense of wellness – economic, education, health, environment, and community – with the ambition of empowering our guests to live more functional, effective, and healthy lives.”*

As a result, over the past several years we have been working to integrate a number of programs and opportunities within our Pantry to help our Pantry Guests achieve “more functional, effective, and healthy lives.” To this end we have integrated: monthly nutritious cooking classes (in conjunction with the dieticians at Hammond Henry Hospital); we have monthly foot care clinics provided by area nurses; we provide coaching services through our Five Loaves program helping people identify, set, and reach goals in their lives; we have worked closely with the University of Illinois Extension service to provide classes on container gardening, preserving foods, and emergency preparedness; with the assistance of the American Heart Association we have installed a new blood pressure monitoring station; and most recently, with the help of an area Girl Scout, we are installing a community garden to increase access to fresh produce. (Many of these

programs are open to the general public.) We have also been instrumental in forming the River-to-River Food Pantry Coalition which strives to improve the pantry services provided in a nine-county region (includes over 50 food pantries). If we’re truly going to “fight hunger” then we cannot do so in isolation. We need to work together so we can be more successful in our fight. It would be easier to just distribute food and clothing and not worry about serving the “whole person.” But food insecurity is really a community problem! Food insecurity is also merely a symptom of a much larger problem! As a result, we are always striving to do whatever we can do to help our Pantry Guests to live “more functional, effective, and healthy lives.” But we cannot do this on our own. We need the assistance of our wonderful community!

At times we feel like we are fighting an uphill battle. In less than 4-years, we have experienced an almost 7-fold increase in the number of families we serve each month. (From 47 families per month in 2021 to 314 families per month currently.) As food prices continue to rise and as various Federal assistance programs are reduced, we are anticipating additional demand for our services. On the supply-side, a number of program changes have already diminished our ability to obtain food. While this sounds dire, we are convinced if we work together as a community, we will be able to effectively meet the challenges faced in the coming months.

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry has been successful for more than 40-years because of the incredible support it has received from the community. As we continue to “fight hunger” we will continue to look for ways to involve the entire community. Together we can overcome all the challenges which may be before us!





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# HOW GENESEO ARE YOU?

Take our 10-question hometown history quiz and find out where you fall—  
*from Scenic Wanderer to full-blown Geneseo Royalty!*

**1. Geneseo was founded in 1836 by abolitionists from \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. Pennsylvania
- b. New York
- c. Delaware
- d. Georgia

**2. The current site of Geneseo Home Furnishings used to be \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. an opera house
- b. a movie theater
- c. an apothecary
- d. the city hall

**3. The name "Geneseo" is derived from an Iroquois word meaning \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. maple city
- b. home of the sunrise
- c. village beyond the trees
- d. beautiful valley

**4. What major railway was completed through Geneseo in 1854 \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. Burlington Northern
- b. Chicago and North Western
- c. Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad
- d. Illinois Central Railroad

**5. The time capsule was buried at Geneseo City Park in \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. 1986
- b. 1999
- c. 2008
- d. 2020

**6. Geneseo's founders intentionally design the community lay-out to resemble \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. a grid based on British townships
- b. a circular layout around a church square
- c. a traditional New England village style
- d. a wagon-wheel hub with radiating farms

**7. The site of the old Township High School is now \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. Geneseo Middle School
- b. the public library
- c. the city park and green space
- d. the community center

**8. The town of Geneseo was once known as "The \_\_\_\_\_ City."**

- a. Elm
- b. Maple
- c. Willow
- d. Birch

**9. The first Hammond Henry Hospital building \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. was originally a boarding school
- b. was built in a former college dormitory
- c. was named after a school principal
- d. shared a campus with Geneseo High School

**10. Geneseo is especially known for \_\_\_\_\_ architecture.**

- a. Colonial
- b. Prairie
- c. Victorian
- d. Tudor

ANSWERS: 1. B • 2. A • 3. D • 4. C • 5. A • 6. C • 7. C • 8. B • 9. B • 10. C

0-2

**Scenic Wanderer**

You might've seen a road sign once—or maybe you stopped for Casey's pizza on your way to Iowa. No shame! But it's time to brush up on your local lore. Start with a walk down State Street and maybe visit the museum for a little crash course.

3-5

**Familiar Face**

You know Geneseo exists. You might even know where Richmond Hill is. But you're still calling Music Fest "that thing with the tents downtown." It's okay—we're a charming mystery. Stick with us and you'll be talking Green Machine stats in no time.

6-8

**Hometown Heart**

Whether you grew up here or just call it home now, your Geneseo knowledge runs strong. You've walked these streets, cheered at games, and maybe even volunteered at a school carnival or city cleanup. You don't need a quiz to prove your local love—but hey, you did pretty well!

9-10

**Geneseo Royalty**

You're the living heartbeat of Geneseo—the kind of person who remembers the smell of fresh popcorn at Music Fest, the way the band sounds echo down State Street, and the pride that comes with calling this place home. You're not just from Geneseo—you are Geneseo.

Business Spotlight:

# hometown *collective.*

Hometown Collective is a community-focused retail space located at 104 S. State Street in downtown Geneseo, Illinois. Established in September 2024, the store was founded by Rachelle Buckwalter with the mission of supporting and showcasing local small businesses. It serves as a collaborative marketplace, featuring products from over 25 local vendors, including boutique clothing, skincare items, art, and graphic apparel. Each product represents a small business, often with a unique story and family behind it.

The store operates as a one-stop shop for locally made goods, providing opportunities for small businesses that might not have their own retail space. Buckwalter emphasizes the importance of community support and the collective effort in promoting hometown pride.

Hometown Collective is open from 11:00 PM to 5:00 PM Tuesday-Friday and 10-3 PM on Saturdays, offering a range of products such as gold-filled jewelry and trendy clothing.



# Watermelon Feta Salad

A light and refreshing summer dish that's sweet, salty, and perfect for BBQs or picnics!

## Ingredients:

4 cups seedless watermelon, cubed  
1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled  
1/4 cup fresh mint leaves, chopped  
1/4 cup red onion, thinly sliced  
2 tbsp balsamic glaze or balsamic vinegar  
1 tbsp olive oil  
Salt & pepper to taste

## Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, combine watermelon, feta, mint, and red onion.
  2. Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic glaze.
  3. Gently toss everything together.
  4. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper if desired.
  5. Serve chilled and enjoy this sweet-savory summer delight!
- Tip: Add sliced cucumber or toasted almonds for extra crunch!



# GRILLED LEMON HERB CHICKEN WITH SUMMER VEGGIES

This light and flavorful dish is perfect for summer grilling and takes under 30 minutes to make!

## Ingredients:

### For the Chicken:

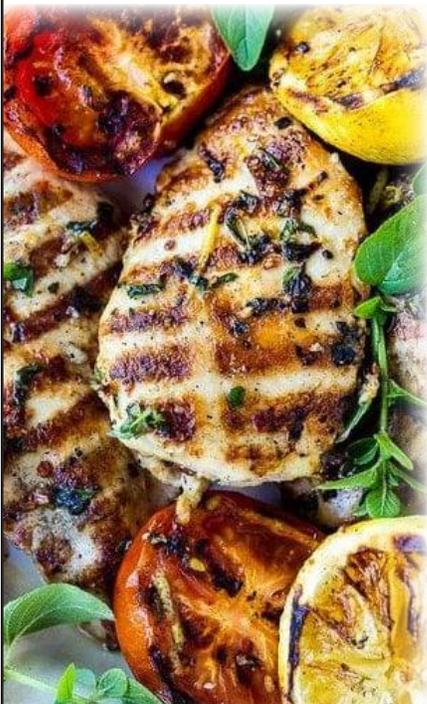
2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1/4 cup olive oil  
Juice of 1 lemon  
1 tsp lemon zest  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tsp dried oregano  
1 tsp dried thyme  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp black pepper

### For the Veggies:

1 zucchini, sliced  
1 yellow squash, sliced  
1 red bell pepper, cut into strips  
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved  
1 tbsp olive oil  
Salt & pepper to taste

## Instructions:

1. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, zest, garlic, oregano, thyme, salt, and pepper.
2. Place chicken in a zip-top bag or bowl and pour marinade over it. Let marinate for at least 30 minutes (or overnight for best flavor).
3. Preheat grill to medium-high heat.
4. Toss sliced veggies with olive oil, salt, and pepper in a bowl.
5. Grill chicken for 5-6 minutes per side until fully cooked (internal temp of 165°F).
6. While chicken cooks, grill veggies for 3-4 minutes per side, until slightly charred. Use a BBQ plate or skewers, if you'd prefer.
7. Serve grilled chicken with veggies on the side. Enjoy!



# Caramel Apple Dip

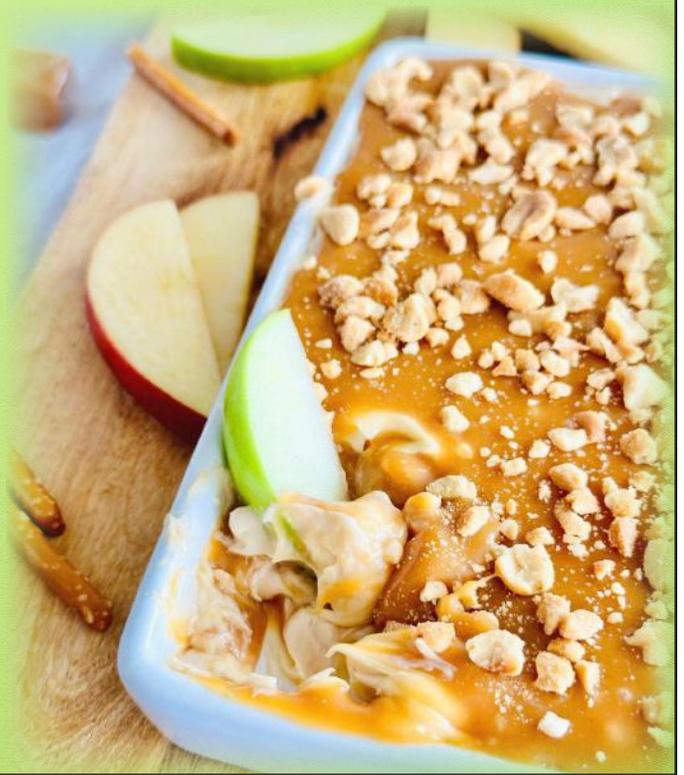
A sweet and creamy treat perfect for fall gatherings, after-school snacks, or game nights!

## Ingredients:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup caramel sauce (store-bought or homemade)
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon (optional)
- 1/2 cup crushed toffee bits or chopped pecans (optional)
- 4 apples, sliced (Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, or Gala)

## Instructions:

1. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, brown sugar, powdered sugar, and vanilla until smooth and creamy.
  2. Spread mixture into a serving dish.
  3. Drizzle caramel sauce over the top.
  4. Sprinkle with toffee bits or chopped pecans, if preferred.
  5. Serve with sliced apples for dipping!
- Tip: To prevent apples from browning, toss them in a little lemon juice before serving.



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# COLD & FLU SEASON PREP



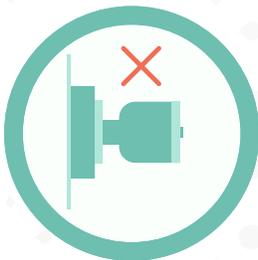
## Cold & Flu Season Prep Checklist

As fall approaches, so does cold and flu season! Being prepared can help protect your family and minimize the impact of seasonal illnesses. Here's how to get ready:



### STOCK UP ON ESSENTIALS

- Over-the-counter meds – Pain relievers, fever reducers, cough syrup, and decongestants
- Tissues & Hand Sanitizer – Keep them handy at home, work, and in your car
- Thermometer – Ensure you have a working thermometer for accurate temperature checks
- Electrolyte Drinks & Broths – Hydration is key when fighting illness
- Honey & Herbal Teas – Natural remedies to soothe sore throats and coughs



### PREP YOUR HOME

- Disinfect High-Touch Surfaces – Wipe down doorknobs, light switches, and remotes regularly
- Humidifier Check – Dry air can worsen symptoms; clean and maintain your humidifier
- Stock Freezer Meals – Have easy-to-make soups and comfort meals ready for sick days
- Wash Bedding & Blankets – Keep linens fresh to minimize germs
- Strengthen Your Defenses
- Prioritize Sleep – A well-rested immune system is better at fighting infections
- Eat Immune-Boosting Foods – Load up on fruits, veggies, and vitamin-rich foods
- Take Vitamins if Needed – Especially Vitamin C, D, and Zinc for immune support
- Get a Flu Shot – Reduce your risk and protect those around you



### PLAN AHEAD

- Have a Sick Day Plan – Know what to do if a family member needs to stay home
- Notify Schools & Workplaces – Check absence policies in case of illness
- Identify Nearby Clinics – Know where to go for urgent care or flu testing

By taking simple precautions, you can help keep yourself and your loved ones healthy and prepared this cold and flu season!

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- o 5x7 Unit: \$55/mo
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## Commercial Space

2-year lease required. Renter pays electric & gas; water included. Extra parking available along east fence – ideal for trucks/trailers.

o Double Bay (40x50): \$1,500/mo – Includes garage door openers, bathroom, water, heat, loft w/ potential office space

o Single Bay (30x50): \$1,000/mo – Includes garage door opener, bathroom, water, heat



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# Hazelwood Homes: Building Dreams in Geneseo, IL

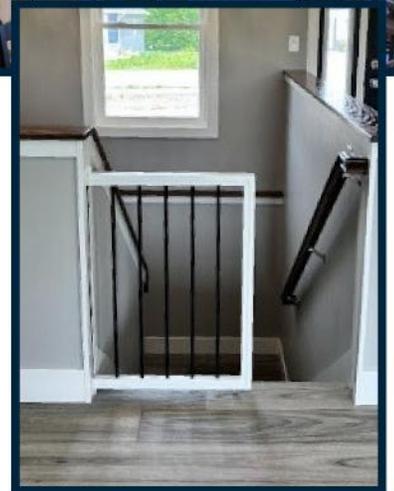
Hazelwood Homes is a custom home builder based in Geneseo, Illinois, with a legacy spanning over 50 years. Founded in 1971 by Bob Pettit Jr. and named after his mother, Hazel, the company grew from a small family business to a respected builder in the region. While Bob Sr. focused on developing the land, it was Bob Jr. who took the family name and started the homebuilding business that became Hazelwood Homes. What began with a single development has grown into a business serving Geneseo and surrounding communities. Today, Hazelwood Homes is proudly led by second-generation President Jay Pettit, continuing a tradition of craftsmanship and care.

What sets Hazelwood Homes apart from other builders is their commitment to truly personalized service. “We provide more than just a product,” says Casey Elder, Vice President of Design Services. “We feel like building a new home is a huge investment, and people bundle all their hopes and dreams into this. So we try very hard to focus on that more than on sticks and wood or roofs and windows.” Hazelwood Homes specializes in Universal Design, ensuring that every home is built with future needs in mind. This approach means no-step entries, wide doorways, and



other features that make homes adaptable to any stage of life—without sacrificing beauty or style. Their team takes the time to understand each client’s lifestyle and budget, transforming ideas into dream homes. “It’s like working a puzzle,” Elder says, “I get to put all their ideas together into their dream home.”

Hazelwood Homes also prides itself on giving back to the Geneseo community. They support local sports teams and community programs, often donating time, expertise, and funds to help where it’s needed most. “We donate not just our money but our time and our expertise on projects for local not-for-profit groups,” Elder notes. “They don’t have a lot of extra money to spend on these kinds of things, but those buildings need repairs and upkeep, and we are happy to give back.” Hazelwood Homes also prioritizes



buying from local subcontractors and suppliers, ensuring that every home they build supports the Geneseo economy. With over five decades of experience, Hazelwood Homes stands out as a company that cares deeply about its clients and community. Their commitment to quality craftsmanship, personalized design, and hometown pride is why so many families choose them to bring their dreams to life. As Elder puts it best, “We offer a really unique experience from start to finish. From design to picking out materials with the customer, to finalizing their build and handing over the keys—we are there every step of the way to support our people.”

# Meet the Future:

## Young Entrepreneurs Making Waves in Geneseo

In an era where most teens are just beginning to think about part-time jobs or hobbies, a few exceptional youth in our community are already running their own businesses. Driven by passion, creativity, and a surprising amount of grit, these young entrepreneurs are proving that age is just a number when it comes to making dreams a reality.

These young entrepreneurs are more than just kids with hobbies — they're business owners, creators, and community contributors. They remind us that entrepreneurship doesn't wait for adulthood. Sometimes, all it takes is an idea, a little courage, and a lot of heart.

### Scarlett, 12

**Business:** Scarlett's Wristwonders  
**Products:** Handmade bracelets and keychains

It all started with a single bracelet. Scarlett was making jewelry when a friend expressed interest in buying one of her creations. That simple spark ignited a business that continues to grow with each colorful, custom-crafted piece. Scarlett pours her personality into every bracelet and keychain, sharing her creativity one wrist at a time.





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## Wyatt, 16

**Business: Midwest Mowing & More**  
**Services: Lawn care and landscaping**

Wyatt began mowing lawns at 14 with nothing more than a push mower and a handful of clients. Now, just two years later, he's built a reputable lawn care business, providing reliable service to homes and businesses around the area. With every trimmed edge and freshly cut yard, Wyatt proves that a strong work ethic and dedication can grow into something remarkable.



## AvaLynn, 16

**Business: Avy's Treats**

**Products: Cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, chocolate treats, and more**

AvaLynn's love for baking began in a home daycare, where her earliest memories include mixing bowls and cookie sheets. Since then, her passion has flourished into a business that satisfies sweet cravings across town. Whether it's a custom cake or a batch of cookies, everything AvaLynn bakes carries a homemade charm and undeniable talent that speaks for itself.



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Our Chronic Care Management (CCM) program offers personalized care, no matter the need. CCM patients receive **monthly care** from a care manager who helps coordinate care, manage medications, and more. Our customer care plan includes health goal-setting, coordination with trusted doctors, and assistance with transportation. Our goal is simple: **you should never feel alone.**

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We provide round-the-clock access to a **qualified provider** – including **24/7 phone check-ins** from a dedicated specialist for consultations, and ensure timely follow-up visits. Your care includes physical, emotional wellness, coordination with other providers, and transitions between healthcare settings. **Don't navigate your health alone.**



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[hammondhenry.com](http://hammondhenry.com)



## Come See Us at the Senior Expo!

August 22, 2025 | Geneseo Park District

Join us at the **Senior Expo**, a free community event connecting seniors, families, and caregivers with valuable local resources for aging well. Stop by the **Hammond-Henry booth** to meet our team, learn about our services, and pick up helpful resources and giveaways.





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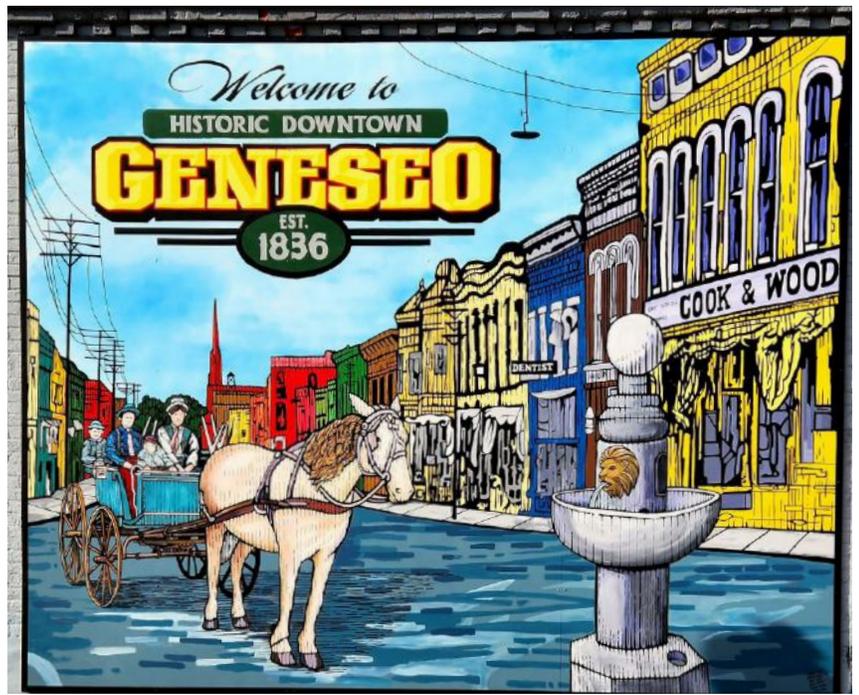
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# Summerfest

Allure of Geneseo  
704 S. Illinois St. Geneseo, IL  
**FREE Family Fun Day!**  
Fri. July 25 \* 3 to 6 pm

KONA Ice Truck  
Water Slide  
Obstacle Course  
FREE Hot Dogs & Popcorn  
Music & More



*The Geneseo Mural Project is a community-driven public art initiative launched in 2022 by the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce. Its mission is to celebrate the town’s rich history, culture, and people through large-scale murals that enhance the visual landscape of our hometown. These vibrant artworks aim to attract visitors, provide engaging photo opportunities, and foster local pride.*

## **MURALS COMPLETED SO FAR**

***Historic Downtown Geneseo*** (September 2022)  
 Located on the south side of 134 S. State Street, this mural captures the essence of Geneseo’s downtown heritage. It was painted by Michael Clark of the Walldogs community.

***The Fabric of Geneseo*** (May 2023)  
 Adorning the south side of 100 E. Main Street, this colorful mural symbolizes the threads that weave together the Geneseo community. It was created by MuralSoup, LLC.

***Bring On The Band!*** (June 2023)  
 Situated on the north side of 112 N. State Street, this mural celebrates Geneseo’s musical legacy, from the Maple City Band to the Geneseo High School Marching Band. Muralist Scott “Cornbread” Lindley and his team brought this piece to life.

***Harold E. Neumann – Aviation Pioneer*** (June 2024)  
 Painted on the north side of 119 N. State Street, this mural honors Geneseo native Harold Neumann, a renowned aerobatic pilot and air racer. Scott “Cornbread” Lindley and his team also created this tribute.

## **UPCOMING AND ONGOING PROJECTS**

The city plans to add a new mural each year through at least 2029. The next installation is scheduled for summer 2025 at Richmond Hill Park. These murals not only beautify the city but also serve as attractions that draw tourists and art enthusiasts to Geneseo.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Geneseo Mural Project is a collaborative effort supported by local businesses, organizations, and individuals. Sponsors include the Geneseo Foundation, Central Bank Illinois, Rotary Club of Geneseo, and many others. Their contributions have been instrumental in bringing these murals to fruition.

## **EXPERIENCE THE ART**

Visitors and residents are encouraged to explore the murals throughout downtown Geneseo. Each piece offers a unique glimpse into the town’s history and community spirit, making them perfect spots for photos and reflection.



# Morning Routine

*Mornings during the school year can feel like a whirlwind—rushing to get dressed, pack lunches, and get out the door on time. But with a little preparation and a few simple strategies, you can streamline your mornings and start each school day stress-free. Here's how:*



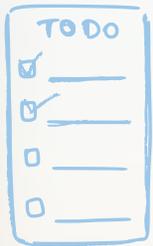
## *Prep Everything the Night Before*

- Lay out clothes, pack backpacks, and place them near the door.
- Pre-pack lunches or prep ingredients to make mornings easier.
- Set out breakfast items (cereal bowls, toaster, fruit) to speed up the process.



## *Stick to a Consistent Sleep Schedule*

- Establish a set bedtime and wake-up time (yes, even on weekends!).
- Avoid screens 30-60 minutes before bed to help kids wind down.
- Create a calming bedtime routine—reading, soft music, or stretching.



## *Create a Morning Checklist*

- A simple visual checklist for younger kids can encourage independence (e.g., Brush teeth, Get dressed, Pack lunch).
- Use a dry-erase board or printable chart to keep everyone on track.



## *Use Timers to Stay on Schedule*

- Set a morning playlist with fun, upbeat songs to keep things moving.
- Use a kitchen timer or smart speaker alarms as time cues (e.g., "5 minutes until shoes on!").

# Hacks

## for a stress-free school year



### *Keep Breakfast Quick + Easy*

- Stock up on grab-and-go options like yogurt, granola bars, or pre-made muffins.
- Overnight oats, smoothies, and breakfast sandwiches can be prepped ahead.
- Set up a self-serve breakfast station so kids can help themselves.



### *Get Kids Involved in the Routine*

- Assign age-appropriate responsibilities:
- Little kids: Pick out clothes, put shoes on.
- Older kids: Make their own breakfast, pack lunch, double-check backpacks.
- A little independence helps kids feel more in control and less resistant to the morning rush.



### *Have a Designated "Out-the-Door" Spot*

- Create a drop zone near the door for backpacks, shoes, and jackets.
- A family command center with a calendar, reminders, and hooks for bags can help keep things organized.
- By making small adjustments and setting up simple systems, your school mornings can go from chaotic to calm—and everyone gets out the door on time!

# Throwback Ads from 1964: A Peek Into Geneseo's Past



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<b>GOOD FRONT QUARTERS</b>	<b>35<sup>c</sup></b> lb.	Hinds <b>49<sup>c</sup></b> lb.	Sides <b>41<sup>c</sup></b> lb.
<b>CHOICE FRONT QUARTERS</b>	<b>35<sup>c</sup></b> lb.	Hinds <b>51<sup>c</sup></b> lb.	Sides <b>42<sup>c</sup></b> lb.

Dubuque Fully Cooked Smoked Hams 14-16 lbs.	<b>52<sup>c</sup></b> lb.	Dubuque Carnation sliced Smoked Bacon 3 lb. Box	<b>89<sup>c</sup></b>
Pork Loins Trimmed close 12-16 lbs.	<b>42<sup>c</sup></b> lb.	Economy Beef Bundles Assortment Roast - Steaks - Ground Beef 55c lb. net weight	

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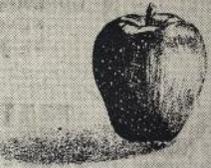
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<b>RAGGEDY ANN</b> Freestone Elberta <b>Peaches</b> 3 No. 2½ Cans <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	<b>GROUND BEEF</b> 2 Lbs. <b>89<sup>c</sup></b>
<b>RAGGEDY ANN</b> Pineapple - Grapefruit <b>Drink</b> 4 46 oz. Cans <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	MORRELL <b>DRIED BEEF</b> 4 3 Oz. Pkgs. <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>
<b>RAGGEDY ANN</b> <b>Salad Dressing</b> 39 <sup>c</sup> qt.	Country Maid <b>BACON</b> lb <b>35<sup>c</sup></b> 3 Lb. Dubuque - Pork Shoulder <b>PICNIC</b> <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b>
Chicken of the Sea <b>TUNA</b> 3 Family Size Cans <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	HEINZ <b>KETCHUP</b> 5 14 oz bottles <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>
<b>POTATOES</b> IDAHO RUSSETS 10 Pound Bag <b>49<sup>c</sup></b>	Butternut Blend Thomas J. Webb <b>COFFEE</b> 3 lb. Can <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b>
Florida White <b>Grapefruit</b> 10 for <b>59<sup>c</sup></b>	Large California Navel <b>Oranges</b> 88 size <b>59<sup>c</sup> doz</b>

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# A Brief History of the Geneseo Fish Hatchery:

*How a small town helped stock Illinois waters for generations*

By Steve Kastorff

Fishing has long been a favorite summer pastime around Geneseo, but few know just how much the state of Illinois has done to support healthy fish populations in local waterways. It all started back in 1885, when Illinois appointed its first three game wardens to regulate and protect the state's natural resources. Over time, these efforts expanded into the creation of laws, licenses, and eventually, fish hatcheries.

By 1911, Illinois required non-residents to purchase fishing licenses and hired its first official fish wardens to enforce these regulations. But the state's waterways were still being overfished—fish were being caught faster than they could reproduce. In response, Senator Lander of Northern Illinois led a push for the creation of fish hatcheries to rebuild the fish population. In 1913, the legislature approved \$5,000 to construct a hatchery in the northern part of the state. The first facility opened in Spring Grove in 1914, supplying fish to nearby waters. By 1915, shipments of hundreds of thousands of fish were being released in areas like Dixon.

That same year, the state began using specially designed railway cars to transport fish quickly and safely. These cars allowed hatcheries to send fish across Illinois more efficiently and helped expand the state's fish stocking programs. Soon after, Illinois created the Division of Fish and Game under the Department of Agriculture, and in the 1920s, residential fishing licenses were introduced to help fund additional hatchery development. By 1925, the newly formed Department of Conservation took over management and funding of the growing hatchery system.

In 1927, Geneseo was selected as the site of a new hatchery. Plans moved forward, and Superintendent William Statton visited to select a location. But construction quickly hit snags. A crucial 10-inch siphon used to draw fresh water from the canal was delayed, and when the ponds were finally filled in 1928, they leaked due to being built over beds of quicksand. Workers attempted to seal the ponds with clay, but by the end of the year, lack of funding and the removal of construction supervisor W.R. Teece brought the project to a halt.

Thanks to a renewed push by Geneseo business leaders, the project resumed in 1931. This time, the state expanded the plan to include six ponds instead of two. By 1932, the siphon was operational, and the hatchery was finally up and running. That same year, Tom Liken was appointed head of the facility. The following spring, 15,000 fish were released into Northern Illinois waters. During the Great Depression, the hatchery received federal support, allowing 20 young men to be hired to improve the grounds. Visitors were welcomed, and interest in the hatchery grew.

In 1934, Ed Maher became the new superintendent, and operations continued successfully into the 1940s. Fish were transported in milk cans and released throughout the region. In 1942 alone, the hatchery received 500 sunfish for breeding and distributed one million fish. Employees like Ed Pinks worked tirelessly—even rescuing fish from drought-stricken waters and relocating them. The hatchery even prepared exhibits, including ten large catfish showcased at the Illinois State Fair.

Ed Pinks became head of the hatchery in 1953

*"In 1942 alone, one million fish were distributed from Geneseo's hatchery into Illinois waterways."*

*- Illinois Department of Conservation Records*

after working there for over a decade. Under his leadership, Geneseo became the first Northern Illinois hatchery to successfully raise catfish, releasing 5,000 into the canal by 1958. The facility also cared for three large turtles, one weighing in at 130 pounds.

But by the mid-1950s, many Illinois hatcheries, like the one in Wyanet, were scaling back or closing. In 1956, Geneseo's hatchery reduced its operations to small batches of game fish and fish used in exhibits. Finally, in 1962, the ponds were closed when Ed Pinks retired and the canal required repairs.

From 1964 to 1965, the hatchery found new life when the owners of The Cellar Restaurant leased the property and used the ponds to raise catfish for their menu. When they later built their own pond, the Geneseo hatchery returned to limited use by the Department of Conservation. Only two of the six ponds remained in use during the 1970s, raising fish like largemouth bass and northern pike. But silt buildup and tree overgrowth made operations difficult.

In 1979, the Illinois Department of Conservation officially ended its use of the hatchery. A letter to the Geneseo Park District confirmed the facility's permanent closure. Today, only remnants remain: two brick entry posts, pieces of fencing, and outlines of the once-bustling ponds—quiet reminders of the hatchery that helped stock the region's lakes and rivers for nearly half a century.

## QUICK FACTS

**LOCATION CHOSEN:**  
1927

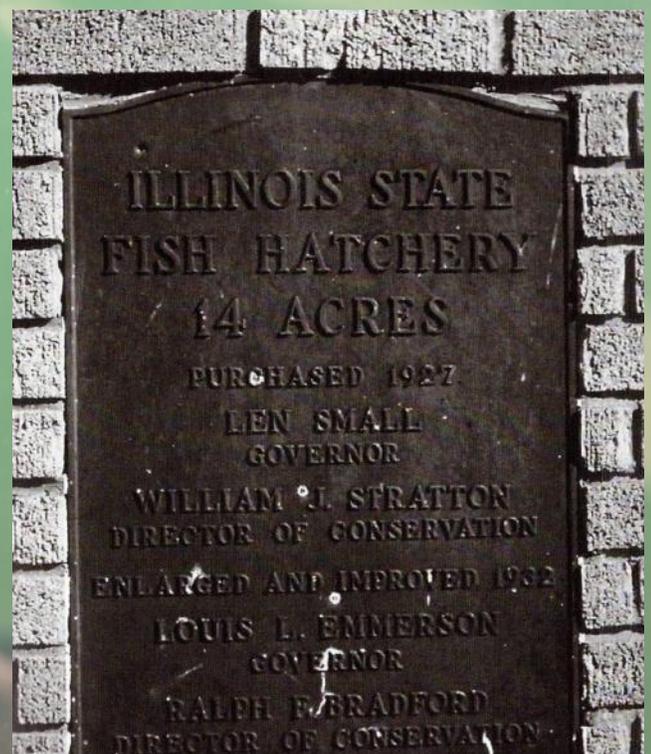
**CONSTRUCTION DELAYS:**  
Quicksand, missing siphon,  
funding gaps

**FIRST FISH RELEASED:**  
1933 (15,000 fish)

**FISH TRANSPORTED BY:**  
Milk cans and railway cars

**FINAL CLOSURE:**  
1979

**Total Fish Raised:**  
Over 10 million



# GENESEO RESTAURANT WEEK

September 8-14, 2025

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## Did You Know?

Long before Geneseo was known for green tractors and hometown pride, it played a secret role in American history. In the mid-1800s, several Geneseo homes were active stops on the Underground Railroad, helping enslaved people escape to freedom.

Local lore says there are still hidden compartments and tunnels beneath some of the oldest houses in town—though most are sealed now. One particularly famous stop? The current Geneseo Historical Museum which is said to have a false basement wall that hid travelers on their journey north.

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### Rooted in the Community

Our agency didn't come from a corporate boardroom—it started right here in Geneseo, with a simple idea: neighbors helping neighbors. We've grown since then, but we've never outgrown our commitment to the people who walk through our doors. Whether it's your first car, your dream home, or your family's protection plan, we take the time to understand your story—because you're not just a policy number, you're part of our community.

### Service That Sticks With You

Insurance isn't just about being there when something goes wrong. It's about being there all the time—before, during, and after. We answer our phones. We call you back. We show up when it matters, whether it's a flooded basement, a fender bender, or just a question about coverage. We've even been known to deliver coffee during claim inspections (true story).

### Local Faces, Lasting Relationships

When you work with Hanford Insurance, you're working with real people who live right here in town. We shop at the same grocery stores, cheer on the same Friday night football games, and care about the same things you do. That connection means something. It means we go the extra mile—not because we have to, but because we want to.

### Building Trust, One Family at a Time

Over the years, we've had the honor of serving generations of families. We've insured grandparents, their children, and now their grandkids. That's not just a testament to our longevity—it's a reflection of the trust we've built. And that trust is everything to us.

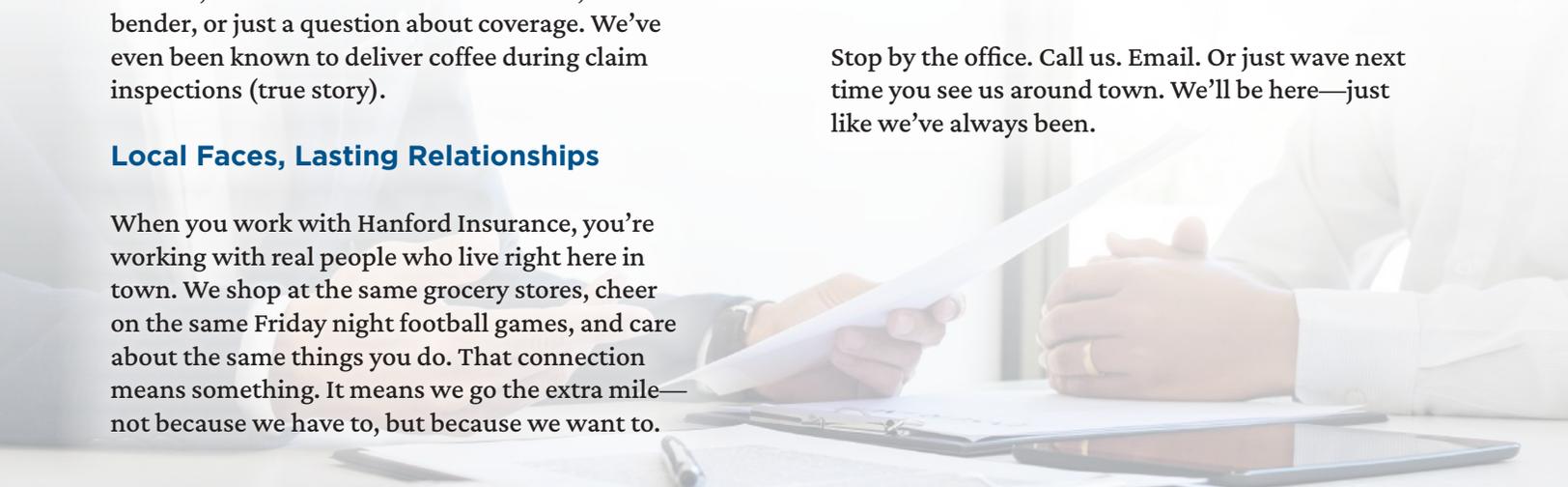
### Why Choose a Hometown Agency Like Ours?

**Personalized coverage:** We don't believe in cookie-cutter policies. Your life is unique—your coverage should be, too. Fast, friendly service: Real people. Real answers. No robots.

**Claims support you can count on:** We're here to help, not just hand you off to someone else. Community commitment: We give back to the town that's given us so much, supporting local causes and events every chance we get.

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# APPS FOR PARENTS

Apps & Tools That Make School Easier for Parents  
Managing school schedules, assignments, and extracurricular activities can be overwhelming for parents. Luckily, these apps and tools can help streamline the chaos and keep everything organized:

## FOR KEEPING TRACK OF SCHEDULES & ASSIGNMENTS

### **Cozi Family Organizer** (Free/Paid)

A shared family calendar that helps parents coordinate school events, extracurriculars, and appointments.

### **Google Calendar** (Free)

Sync school schedules, add reminders for assignments, and share events with family members.

### **Bark** (Paid)

Monitors kids' devices for online safety, including social media and text messages.

## FOR HOMEWORK & LEARNING SUPPORT

### **Photomath** (Free/Paid)

Scan a math problem, and the app provides step-by-step solutions.

### **Brainly** (Free/Paid)

A homework help community where students (and parents!) can get answers and explanations from experts.

### **Khan Academy Kids** (Free)

Educational games and lessons for younger kids in subjects like math, reading, and problem-solving.

## FOR MEAL PLANNING & LUNCHBOX IDEAS

### **Mealime** (Free/Paid)

Quick, easy meal planning with recipes tailored to dietary needs.

### **LaLa Lunchbox** (Free)

Helps kids plan their lunches with a fun drag-and-drop interface, making healthy choices easier.

### **Instacart** (Free/Paid)

Simplifies grocery shopping with quick delivery options for busy school nights.

## FOR MANAGING HOUSEHOLD CHORES & ROUTINES

### **OurHome** (Free)

Assign chores, track rewards, and manage household tasks for kids and parents.

### **Home Routines** (Paid)

Creates a structured routine for mornings, after-school, and bedtime.

### **Trello** (Free/Paid)

A simple task manager for organizing school paperwork, parent-teacher meetings, and project deadlines.

## FOR COMMUNICATION & SCHOOL UPDATES

### **Remind** (Free)

Many schools use this app to send updates, homework reminders, and messages from teachers.

### **ClassDojo** (Free)

Stay in touch with teachers and track student behavior and achievements.

### **PowerSchool/Schoology** (Free/Paid)

Check grades, assignments, and attendance reports directly from the school's system.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>JULY 12</b>	Shoot the Loop 5-7:30
<b>AUGUST 13</b>	Back to School
<b>AUGUST 16</b>	Shoot the Loop 5-7:30
<b>AUGUST 22</b>	Senior Expo at Community Center
<b>SEPT 8-14</b>	Geneseo Restaurant Week
<b>OCT 4</b>	State Street Market

**EVERY SATURDAY** Farmer's Market  
8-12 on Pearl St. at the City Park

## CENTRAL BANK PAVILION

218 NORTH STATE STREET | GENESEO

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

- July 9 | Cats and Dragons 6-8PM
- July 16 | Pickled Beats 6-8PM
- July 23 | Paxton Sherbeyn and The Solid Gold Boys 6-8PM
- July 30 | 3 On the Tree 6-8PM



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music*

Friday, July 18th | 7-10PM

**IAN BEBON**

Saturday, August 16th | 7-10PM

**LYNN ALLEN** Sponsored by Hanford Insurance!

Saturday, August 30th | 7-9PM

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Friday, September 12th | 7-10PM

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[central-bank.com/about/central-bank-pavilion](http://central-bank.com/about/central-bank-pavilion)



# END OF SUMMER *bucket list*

Before summer fades into fall, make the most of the long days, warm nights, and outdoor adventures! Here's a fun & memorable end-of-summer bucket list:

## **OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

- Take one last beach or lake day
- Go on a sunset picnic in a local park
- Have a backyard camping night with s'mores
- Hike a scenic trail before the weather cools

## **FOOD & FUN**

- Host a grill-out or BBQ with friends
- Make homemade ice cream or popsicles
- Visit a local farmers' market before the season ends

## **PERSONAL & FEEL-GOOD GOALS**

- Finish that summer reading list
- Take one last mental health day before the fall rush
- Write down your favorite summer memories for next year's inspiration

## **LOCAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- Go to a county fair or summer festival
- Attend an outdoor concert or movie night
- Check out a baseball game or local sports event
- Visit a sunflower or lavender field for one last summer photo
- Take a mini road trip to a nearby small town

## **AT HOME SUMMER FUN**

- Have a DIY water balloon or sprinkler day
- Watch a summer-themed movie marathon
- Make a scrapbook or photo album of summer memories
- Have one last outdoor game night (cornhole, frisbee, volleyball)
- Plan a family game night or bonfire before back-to-school season

Summer may be ending, but there's still time to make the most of it!  
What will you check off your list?



**SENIOR &  
ACTIVE  
LIVING  
EXPO**

**Empowering Seniors.  
Supporting Families.**

A community event designed to connect seniors, their families, and caregivers with local businesses and resources that support aging well.



August 22



9:30am-2pm



Geneseo  
Community Center