

The Star Beacon; Ashtabula, Ohio

November 11, 2010

Donations needed for relocation of Geneva's war monument

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Star Beacon

GENEVA — Their bronze faces frozen for eternity, the soldier and sailor statues on Geneva's war memorial will soon stare at a different horizon, City Manager Jim Pearson said.

The relocation of the city's Civil War "soldiers and sailors" monument is moving forward, even if the monument itself won't budge an inch until next year, Pearson said.

"Right now we are making progress," Pearson said. "We are trying to get through the relocation of the tenant."

The owner of Atomic Window Tint and Detail has 90 days to relocate the business, Pearson said, and then city workers will clear the property on South Broadway, install the electrical infrastructure and prepare footers for the monument.

With the acceptance of a \$394,600 Ohio block grant for the \$1.3 million downtown revitalization project, the city must comply with the Uniform Relocation Act, Pearson said.

Pearson hopes to have the land cleared by the end of the year and the monument moved by summer.

"We will work around the weather and try to get the site cleaned up and ready for spring," he said. "The street crews will do as much of the work as they can, and then the city will hire an engineering firm to get monument moved."

Pearson said the actual monument move will be done by professional structure movers.

"The move will go out to bid because this is such a historic structure," he said. "We want the right company to handle this monument."

The monument's journey from just outside the old Geneva Elementary School on Park Street to the property on South Broadway will include some restoration, Pearson said, to make the scene more historically accurate.

Donations toward the historic move can be made by calling Geneva City Hall at 466-4675. The monument committee, Geneva Fraternal Order of Eagles and Geneva Veterans of Foreign Wars have contributed substantially to the effort, Pearson said.