

Mayor Negri to welcome Italian sister city to Corning

Three-day visit starts today

By Jeff Murray

jdmurray@gannett.com

Staff Writer

A delegation from Corning's sister city in Italy will arrive in town today for a three-day visit.

The mayor of San Giovanni Valdarno, his wife and son, and three other municipal officials will meet with Corning Mayor Rich Negri and other city officials, and will take in area activities during their stay.

Members of the group are expected to arrive early this afternoon. Their first official function will be a document-signing ceremony at 4 p.m. at Corning City Hall.



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"It's just a very general agreement, nothing binding, but it's done in Italian and English," Negri said.

"Both will be signed to commemorate that we are sister cities and mutually agreeing on getting together and exploring our mutual benefits, like the glass industry, one of the things common between us."

Corning forged a sister city relationship with San Giovanni Valdarno about six years ago, based in part on many similarities between the two communities.

The Italian city has about 12,000 residents, a glass factory and a river that runs through town.

Corning also has sister cities in Japan and Ukraine.

While in town, the San Giovanni Valdarno delegation will visit some local schools, tour the Corning Museum of Glass and meet with Corning Inc. officials, Negri said.

The group left Wednesday open and might travel to other points of interest in the region, he said. They will leave early Thursday.

During this week's visit, officials from the two cities will discuss the next trip by Corning residents to the Italian town.

"We have been over there and I wasn't involved in setting it up. We're open to doing it again, maybe sending some of our students over there," Negri said.

"I haven't been yet. We'll be talking about that the next few days."