



WARD 4 NEWSLETTER
March, 2018
Councilman Marc R. Kotora
Phone: (440) 394-8273
E-mail: kotoraward4@gmail.com



WELCOME NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYOR KRAUS

There are some new faces at City Hall since my last newsletter. I am pleased to welcome Jeremy Zelwin as the new councilman for Ward 3 and Bob Shimits as the new councilman for Ward 6. I wish both gentlemen much success and I look forward to working with them. Congratulations to Mayor Kraus on his election. I look forward to being a part of "Team Solon" and working with Mayor Kraus to achieve some great things for the City of Solon.

CITY FINANCES

The City of Solon Finance Department received the "Auditor of State Award with Distinction" from Auditor of State Dave Yost's office for the City's 2016 annual financial report. The Auditor of State Award is the highest recognition presented to local governments and school districts based on submittal of a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, timely and accurate record keeping and a clean audit report.

2017 revenue exceeded expectations while 2017 expenditures were less than what was budgeted. As we enter 2018, we do so on firm financial footing. Our General Fund balance is \$17.5 million, and our Budget Stabilization Fund holds over \$7 million. With these fund balances we are well positioned to handle any potential or unexpected economic downturn.

COMMUNITY LIFE PROGRAM REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The City of Solon has implemented a new Community Life Program Registration System, which will enable residents to register for Recreation Center and Center for the Arts programs online. To utilize the online registration system you will need to create an account by going to <http://solonrec.maxgalaxy.net/home.aspx> and click on the "CREATE AN ACCOUNT" button. The available Center for the Arts programs can be found at <http://solonarts.maxgalaxy.net> and the available Recreation Center offerings are at <http://solonrec.maxgalaxy.net>.

NEW CODE ENFORCEMENT, PERMITTING AND LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

City Council has approved an agreement with Tyler Technologies for a software package that will allow for streamlined operations between the Building, Engineering, Planning and Fire Departments. The IT Department will begin to implement this system over the next year, and it will ultimately enable mobile inspections, internet-submitted permit applications and credit card payments for all departments.

RAILS TO TRAILS

Mayor Kraus will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on April 23, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Solon Center for the Arts theater to discuss

the possibility of constructing a multi-use path on the former Chagrin Falls and Southern Railroad right-of-way. This right-of-way is approximately two miles long and travels from Carter Lumber to the Solon/Bentleyville border. The initial cost estimate for the project is nearly one million dollars. City Council has applied for a Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant that could provide as much as \$500,000 for the project. City Council approved applying for this grant after changing the legislative language to not allow for an open-ended commitment for funding without knowing the total cost. We do not expect to learn the results of our grant application before October of this year. While we wait to hear the results of our grant application, the City did learn that the State of Ohio's capital budget includes \$300,000 for the proposed project.

The Mayor's Town Hall Meeting presents an opportunity to engage the public and have discussions on the effect of the trail on homeowners along the proposed route as well as the requirements for our safety forces, in addition to ongoing maintenance requirements and costs.

SOM CENTER ROAD/AURORA ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This project will add an additional lane on SOM Center Road to eliminate the split phasing of the traffic signal which will allow the intersection to operate more efficiently. The split phasing will be eliminated by an additional southbound lane on SOM Center Road to separate the shared left-through lane. The addition of a westbound right turn lane on Aurora Road to northbound SOM Center Road will allow for the full use of the two westbound through lanes while maintaining a westbound right-turn lane. There will also be the replacement of some storm and sanitary sewers in the project area. ODOT just signed off on our final plans and construction

is expected to begin very soon. It is anticipated that motorists could experience delays in excess of ten minutes during rush hours.

DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION

A \$475,000 project to beautify State Route 91 from Bainbridge to Aurora Roads should begin this Spring. The retaining walls on State Route 91 will be refaced with a thin brick veneer, and the fence along the top of the walls will be replaced. This project is the latest phase of the City's long-term Master Plan project to beautify the center of town, with the Fire Station and Veteran's Memorial Park having been completed several years ago.

2018 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Derby Downs Drive

Derby Downs Drive was part of the Fox Run Sanitary System Investigation the City performed because of the storm event of June 9, 2004. The recommendation of the study was to focus on storm water management.

The project will include replacing the existing concrete street with concrete curbs and gutters with asphalt and replacing the storm sewer to the discharge point on the east side of Liberty Road. The sanitary sewer will also be evaluated and rehabilitated as needed.

The Engineering Department is finalizing the design with the consultant. The project will be constructed this year.

Sherwood Drive Culvert Replacement

This project will replace an existing culvert on the eastern leg of Sherwood Drive just south of Cannon Road. The Engineering Department acquired the necessary easement for the project. Construction is anticipated for Summer 2018.

2018 Concrete Repair Program

The contract is currently out for bid. The streets in the City where work is scheduled to take place are as follows:

1. Coachman Lane
2. Naiman Parkway
3. Ramblewood Court
4. Outley Park Drive
5. Roundhead Place
6. North Oval
7. Tandem Court
8. Stony Brook Lane
9. Police Station front entrance
10. Arthur Road pool

Multiple sidewalk repairs and small street repairs not listed above will also be completed.

Briarhill Drive Culvert Replacement

This project will replace the culvert under Briarhill Drive where it discharges into Briar Lake. The culvert will be removed and replaced with a small bridge due to poor soil conditions. The project is anticipated to start after Labor Day.

Woodsdale Lane Sanitary Sewer Replacement

This project will replace approximately 105 feet of existing sanitary sewer in front of 31820, 31855 and 31880 Woodsdale Lane. This project was identified through the City's preventative maintenance cleaning schedule.

Bainbridge Road Tree Planting Project – SOM Center Road to East Corporation Line

The project has been bid and awarded. The City will be working with the contractor to select the trees for the project. The completion date for the tree planting is April 15, 2018.

Sharondale Drive Storm Sewer Replacement

This project will replace the existing 21" storm sewer with a 30" storm sewer within the City's storm sewer easement.

City Hall Entry Plaza Improvements

This project will reconstruct the existing entry plaza in front of City Hall. The existing landscaped island in the center of the cul-de-sac will be enlarged and the existing seating and bollards will be eliminated. The existing brick pavers, bollard lighting and light poles will also be replaced.

2018 Asphalt Repair Program

Several streets will be improved as part of the 2018 program. Some of the streets currently identified for 2018 are:

1. Glenallen Avenue from Inwood Road to Aurora Road
2. Lake Vista Drive
3. Woodall Road from Neptune Drive to Lake Vista Drive
4. North Hill Subdivision – Burlwood Drive and Woodsdale Lane

PRO-BUILT HOMES - CORNER OF SOM CENTER ROAD AND MILES ROAD

I was recently informed that on February 27, 2018, building permit applications were submitted for the two remaining Pro-Built Homes duplex structures to be constructed at the southeast corner of SOM Center and Miles Roads. The plans will now be under review for compliance with the Ohio Building Code, storm water run-off provisions, and the Planning Commission/Council approval conditions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Primrose School located on Solon Road has opened. Primrose School is an early education and care school serving

infants through kindergarteners along with after-schoolers.

Channel Products, Inc. received a Job Creation Grant to bring 60 jobs to 30700 Solon Industrial Parkway. The company is a manufacturer and supplier of electronic ignition components and systems, safety controls, and piezo-ceramic elements.

King Nut Company is building a 19,500 square foot addition to its building at 6401 Davis Industrial Parkway to accommodate a new product line. This expansion is expected to bring new jobs to Solon.

United Stones International, a company specializing in the sale of granite, marble and quartz, celebrated the grand opening of the company's new headquarters at 32333 Aurora Road.

Bryant and Stratton College has confirmed that it plans to enter into a lease agreement with the owners of the St. Vincent's Hospital medical building on Solon Road. Their intent is to occupy 18,000 square feet and provide educational programs as a replacement for their Eastlake facility.

It is anticipated that the TownePlace Suites by Marriott on Enterprise Parkway and the First National Bank on Aurora Road will be opening for business in 2018.

LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES

Rezoning Request - The May ballot will contain a proposal presented by Omni Senior Living to rezone 5.38 acres from the C-1 Historic Business District and C-2 Restricted Commercial Zoning District to the R-3-A Senior Residential Zoning District. The proposed project, Vitalia Senior Residences, would include a 105,000 square foot 4-story building with 90 independent living apartments and a 45,000 square foot 3-story building with 42 assisted living apartments and 18 memory care units.

School Levy - The Solon Board of Education will seek approval of an 8.5 mill operating levy. After reduction of 1.6 mills due to decreases in a bond retirement fund, the net increase for property owners beginning in 2020 will be 6.9 mills or \$241.50 per \$100,000 of property value. School funding and educational issues are vital to our community but, they fall outside of the jurisdiction of City Council. Any questions regarding Solon Schools related issues should be directed to the Solon Board of Education at (440) 248-1600 or visit <https://www.solonschools.org/domain/468>.

IN CLOSING

This newsletter contains many different City topics and projects. If you have any questions/comments about any information contained in this newsletter or any other City issue, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I would also encourage the use of the City's social media platform sites to stay in touch with what is going on around town.

Facebook:

<https://fb.me/CityofSolonOH>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/CityofSolon>

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/solonohiogovchannel>

My wife Lisa and I wish everyone a happy and healthy Spring.

Sincerely,



Marc R. Kotora
Ward 4 Councilman