



WARD 5 NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2020

Councilwoman Nancy Meany

Phone: (440) 248-1575
E-Mail: nmeany@solonohio.org



Greetings to my Ward 5 residents! I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy. Although our world has turned upside down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has continued to move forward during these trying times. I have always felt the backbone of our City is our employees and this could not be truer in how they have dealt with our new normal.

The Engineering Department kept street repairs moving forward with a number of those repairs taking place in Ward 5, either through our concrete or asphalt replacement programs. The department has continued to meet with ODOT about the possibility of sound barriers on U.S. Route 422. We were told by ODOT that a petition signed by residents that live along 422 should be submitted for this project to be considered. Obviously going door-to-door was not possible so these residents will be receiving a postcard from the City with instructions on how to fill out an online survey.

Our Planning and Economic Development Departments have been busy with new construction and businesses. The new construction on Aurora Road just past the Market District plaza will be the new dental offices of Dr. Butriy, DDS. The new construction on Bainbridge Road behind Walgreens will be the new

orthodontic offices of Dr. Bomeli, DDS. The Omni Senior Living project on Bainbridge Road has opened to residents and, by the way, it is beautiful. Even during these crazy times, there continues to be interest in development in the City.

The Planning Department continues to work with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission on the connectivity project. The County has completed their study and thanks to the residents who participated, the City is looking at the best way to connect our walking and biking trails throughout the City.

The City is moving forward with the Harper Road Reconstruction Project. In 2019, Solon City Council authorized the Engineering Department to hire a consultant to design the Harper Road Reconstruction Project. This project will include re-grading of Harper Road to reduce the line of site issues, storm sewer replacement, catch basin replacement, installation of curbs and gutters, new sidewalks, bike lane and shared use path.

The consultant has completed the survey work and two road cross-section options were presented to the Public Works Committee on October 7, 2020. The Committee's consensus was to move forward with the design option to have a

five foot sidewalk and bike lane with a seven foot tree lawn on the west side and a ten foot shared use path with a seven foot tree lawn on the east side of Harper Road.

This project is still in the design phase and is expected to be advertised for bid for construction in 2022.

I want to give a huge shout-out to our Recreation, Arts and Senior Centers who, due to the pandemic, have done an amazing job thinking outside the box. The Community Center opened the fitness area and indoor pool and will be starting some in-person fitness classes soon.

The Recreation Department also opened the city dog park located in Timberlake Park on Root Road. Root Road can be accessed off of Pettibone Road behind Grantwood Golf Course. If you have never been to this park, I highly suggest you pay a visit; I'm sure your dog will thank you!

Rich Parker, our new Director of Recreation has done a wonderful job of coordinating with the Governor's office and County Board of Health to keep us all safe.

Tracy Sullivan, Director of Arts and Culture, and Jill Frankel, Director of Senior Services have worked tirelessly to provide programs for our youth and seniors. Through the technology of Zoom, which I'm sure many of us had never used; many programs have continued to be held virtually. This has been a wonderful lifeline for so many in our community.

I can't thank Jim Gibbs, Director of IT enough for the great job his department has done implementing Zoom as a part of our daily lives. His department also launched a new City of Solon website which allows you to view and register for available programs. I encourage you to take a look at the programming available at www.solonohio.org.

We were all concerned about what would happen to the City finances when the shutdown happened back in March. The Administration and Council took a proactive approach and made cuts to the operating budget by \$2.5 million. The administration also implemented a hiring freeze for non-critical vacancies, restricted the use of overtime for non-public safety purposes, and postponed capital projects that are not essential. Income tax collections have proven to be more resilient than anticipated and we hope this continues. We recently received over \$1 million in CARES Act money through the State. I would like to thank our State Representative Phil Robinson and Senator Matt Dolan for all of their help in making this happen.

The Service Department will begin leaf pick up on October 19th and weather permitting, will run through December 19th. I want to thank all of our Service Department employees for their hard work during this difficult time.

To our front line workers, police, fire, and EMS, who are putting their lives on the line every day to keep us safe, a world of gratitude.

The City will be celebrating Halloween on Sunday, October 31st from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. We understand that some may not be comfortable in participating in trick-or-treat this year and request the use of the porch light to signal your intentions. Please respect those that keep the light off and ask children not to ring their doorbells.

The fall election will take place on Tuesday, November 3rd and the Ward 5 polling location will continue to be Advent Lutheran Church located on the corner of Cannon Road and Harper Road. The polls are open from 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.

There is one City rezoning issue on the ballot which is occurring in Ward 5. Namely, Issue 46: Hawthorne Golf Estates. This property is the former Hawthorne Valley Country Club located on Richmond Road and Aurora Road, which closed a few years ago. The property owner approached the City for guidance in development of a plan for use of this land. The owner has placed on the ballot a request that voters rezone a 32.6 acre parcel of that land for the purpose of constructing a private senior housing and empty-nester development comprising of up to 105 single family homes. The property is currently zoned R-1-D (Single Family Residential). As part of the review process, the Planning Director drafted a new zoning classification, R-2-A (One and Two-Family Residential-Senior Citizen) for persons 50 and older. If approved by voters, this new zoning

classification would be placed upon the 32.6 acre parcel.

As part of the plan, the owners of the property have put a binding agreement in place with the City so that with the passage of Issue 46, the entire 149 acre former golf course will be protected from development in perpetuity.

The City is not providing any financial incentives to make this \$42 million project possible. The neighborhood will pay for their own road repair, landscaping, snow and trash removal. With the exception of usual safety services, Hawthorne Golf Estates is expected to have little to no cost to the community.

Even in these difficult times, the City will continue to provide the services that you are accustomed to. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 440-248-1575 or nmeany@solonohio.org.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy E Meany". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.