



**WARD 1 NEWSLETTER**  
**October, 2022**  
**Councilman Macke Bentley**  
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Hello, Ward 1 Residents!

Solon continues to grow. Therefore, we have gained more neighbors in Ward 1! Our new ward family includes the east side of Liberty Road from Pettibone north and Liberty Road east of Liberty. We have also added the families in the Woodlands subdivision! Welcome to all!

For your convenience, my phone number is 440-589-8599, and my email address is [mbentley@solonohio.org](mailto:mbentley@solonohio.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

My intention with the newsletter is to inform you of any projects, concerns, or initiatives in our ward and to highlight conversations I am having with the ward constituents.

- Over the past several months, we have repaved Thornapple Lane. Southside Park Drive will be repaved, and the tree lawn area will be revamped.
- Many new homes are being constructed throughout Ward 1.
- We resolved a dangerous situation at the end of Rollingbrook Trail, where vehicular traffic was driving on the golf/pedestrian path.

**City-Wide Topics**

**Fire Department News**

Late summer and fall activities at Solon Fire and Rescue:

In preparation for the new school year, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducts a final

inspection of all the school buildings. The inspection includes fire alarms, exit doors, fire suppression systems, and emergency lighting, reviewing emergency operations plans, and assisting with conducting fire drills. Additionally, our Public Education Officer conducts CPR/AED training for teachers and provides Stop the Bleed training for school employees. This ensures that schools are safe places for children and staff.

In late August, our Firefighters/ Paramedics conducted joint training sessions with Solon Police to prepare for an Active Shooter Incident. Our collective emergency services had the opportunity to train together. Where they engaged actors to create a real-life situation, this experience helps ensure our teams are always prepared for a situation we hope never occurs.

In September and October, fire hydrants are flushed to ensure they are working properly and drained before winter. Due to the line flushing process, residents near the work may experience temporary water discoloration. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes.

The dates and the affected streets are updated daily at:

<https://www.solonohio.org/573/Hydrant-Flushing>

In October, many firefighters will travel to Cuyahoga Community College Western

Campus for a day of live fire training. This day of extinguishing live fires in the "burn building" helps them develop tactics and keeps their skills sharp. They practice search and rescue, hose advancement, ladder operations, coordinated fire attacks, and incident command. They hope that you will never need them, but if you do, they will be there to help.

Thank you to Fire Chief Mark Vedder for providing this information.

### **Department of Senior Services**

Most people over 65 prefer to remain in their homes and community as they age, also known as aging in place. Solon prides itself on being an age-friendly city. The Department of Senior Services developed and work with the CARE program, Communities Assisting Residential Elders. The CARE program provides non-complicated home project assistance using supervised volunteers. Membership in the CARE program provides a limited number of services per year. Sliding scale memberships are available. For more information, contact the Solon Senior Center or careneo.org.

To learn more, visit the Active Adults and Senior Services page on the City of Solon website or call the Senior Center. The phone number is 440-349-6363.

Thank you to the Director of Senior Services, Jill Frankel, for providing this information.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging**

The City of Solon wants to be viewed as a community that provides opportunities for every citizen to grow, thrive, and contribute in ways that benefit us all. To achieve this mission, we must embrace and promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Solon encourages diversity, equity, and feelings of inclusion and belonging for our workforce, residents, and the people who come to work in Solon. Some of the first steps have included educating our workforce, forming a Community Relations Committee

comprised of residents and employees of local businesses, and gathering information from staff.

By utilizing the information received thus far, we have put together a Community Inclusion Survey which will allow you and the people who work in Solon to tell us about experiences in Solon and visions of Solon's future. This information and information gathered thus far will guide the City in its vision to become a diverse, equitable, inclusive community where residents and visitors feel they belong. Solon will continue to be a desired community to live in and locate businesses. Lend your voice to make measurable change. As part of the campaign theme of #YouBelongInSolon and for our sponsorship of Global Cleveland's Welcome Week, Solon has this 55-second video - [#YouBelongInSolon](#). You may recognize a few faces.

### **Solon Center for the Arts**

Solon Center for the Arts FALL PROGRAMMING is just around the corner. Registration is currently open for Art, Dance, Music, and Theater classes, lessons, and performances. Watch for expanding adult art classes with the opening of the Solon Bull House. Auditions for youth theater are held twice a year for the fall and spring shows. Check the Solon Center for the Arts website for more information. Registration is going quickly for private music lessons; limited spaces are available in piano, guitar, violin/viola, saxophone, clarinet, and voice. A wide variety of dance classes are available for preschool through adults at SCA Dance Studios on Station Street. Workshops and pop-up classes are back. Updates are posted on Facebook@SolonArtCenter. Registration is available online at [www.solonarts.org](http://www.solonarts.org). The phone number is 440-337-1400 at Solon Center for the Arts.

Thank you to the Director of Community and Cultural Development, Tracy Sullivan, for providing this information.

### **Solon Police Department**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The **988** dialing code is available to everyone across the United States and has been effective since July 16, 2022.

Residents are reminded to Lock It To Stop It! Another car was stolen in Solon that was left unlocked with the key fob inside. This is an easy crime to prevent. Please remove valuables, take your keys or fobs, and lock your vehicles!

The Solon Police Department recently hired two new patrol officers. Brian Perry and Christopher Schiavoni were sworn in on July 18, 2022, and are currently in the Field Training & Evaluation Program.

**Scams:** The Scam Squad has a new public web hub. The new web hub is – [cuyahogacounty.us/scamsquad](http://cuyahogacounty.us/scamsquad) – this can be used to help Cuyahoga County residents report and recover from scams. The new site has current scam alerts and downloadable materials, including Stopping Scam Payments, Robocalls, and Romance Scam tipsheets. Reach Scam Squad at 216-443-SCAM (7226).

### **School Safety Update**

The Police Department wants to remind everyone about school bus safety. Now that school has begun, it is an excellent time to remind drivers when to stop for a school bus boarding or to discharge children. On roads with less than 4 lanes, traffic must stop in both directions. On roads with 4 lanes or more, traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. Opposite traffic may proceed with caution. Our buses have cameras, and citations will be issued based on video and statements from bus drivers. Please help keep the children safe.

School zone speed reminder – now that school is back in session. Please pay attention to school buses loading and unloading students. Remember to be mindful and control your speed inside school zones.

Ohio Revised Code 4511.21 says drivers need to slow down to 20 mph in school zones when children are going to or leaving campus during the start and end of the school day. Although school zones have a sign indicating the start of a zone, the sign is not required to have flashing lights. Therefore, just because you don't see lights activated doesn't mean you are not required to slow down. So please drive safely!!

Thank you to Police Chief Rick Tonelli for providing this information.

### **Solon Engineering Department**

The Engineering Department is responsible for preparing plans and specifications, construction, administration, inspection, and supervision of all infrastructure projects within the City. These projects include but are not limited to sanitary sewers, storm sewers, waterlines, roadways, traffic signals, and sidewalks on City right-of-way and City-owned properties.

The Engineering Department also reviews, approves, and inspects all streets and improvements installed by residents, commercial property owners, and developers. This work includes new houses and buildings, sewers, waterlines, driveways, grading, drainage, and stormwater management associated with each project.

Some Ward 1 projects anticipated in the next few years include:

- SOM/Pettibone widening to add westbound left turn lane on Pettibone Road to southbound SOM Center Road.
- Signature of Solon pump station force main separation.
- Pettibone/Liberty intersection to improve intersection alignment and Liberty Road multi-purpose trail.
- Aurora Road Reconstruction Phase II – further out than a few years.
- Various maintenance programs. This would include the resurfacing of Liberty Road south of Pettibone Road, if the City successfully receives grant money for NOACA.

Thank you to City Engineer John Busch for providing this information.

### **Solon Recreation Department**

The Solon Recreation Department, in conjunction with Dr. Gary Hoffman, is offering a series of 10 Health, Wellness, and Disease seminars. The first seminars will take place on October 24, November 7, and December 12 at the Solon Community Center. These seminars are **FREE**, and pre-registration is required.

The Solon Recreation Department continues offering various health and wellness programs to our members and residents. Please join the Solon Recreation Department and University Hospitals – Ahuja Medical Center for **FREE** blood pressure screenings on the third Monday of each month (October 17, November 21, and December 19) from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. in the Solon Community Center Lobby.

The Solon Recreation Department is offering its Youth Basketball Program. There are separate leagues for boys (grades 3-8) and girls (grades 2-8), along with instructional programs such as Pee Wee Basketball (boys grades 1 and 2) and K-1 Basketball Instruction (girls grade K-1). For additional information, please get in touch with the Recreation Department. Registration is available online or in person.

The Solon Recreation Department, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, hosts monthly blood drives. Upcoming blood drives are scheduled for October 1, November 12, and December 3. If you would like to register for the blood drive, **please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) OR visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).**

“Open Public Swim” is returning to the Solon Community Center Indoor Pool starting in October. For specific dates and times, contact the Solon Recreation Department at (440) 248-5747.

Thank you to Director of Recreation Rich Parker for providing this information.

### **Economic Development Department**

The City continues to raise awareness, partnerships, and funds for the proposed trail along the Norfolk Southern Rail line from Harper Road in Solon to Treat Road in Aurora. The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, City of Solon, and the Village of Chagrin Falls hosted a bus tour in August featuring the trails and connectivity they will provide to Solon’s Central Retail District. Several elected officials, media, and professionals from surrounding communities were in attendance. The Solon-Chagrin Falls Trail is being designed and developed by the Cleveland Metroparks and could be in place by next summer.

**24 new** businesses have come to the City of Solon this year. Please help us welcome, and support: Northeast Ohio Family Law & Mediation, Premier Pools & Spas, Western Reserve Lightning Rod Co., Three Rings Midwifery, Commercial Moving Solutions, RePlay for Kids, Fastest Labs Solon, Cross Country Mortgage, Euro Look Medical Spa, Pulforce, Susan Elliot Blashka LPCC, DMH USA, Argus Risk Advisors, Empire Window Company, Locus Management, Via Arts Solon, Renegade Brands, Kichler Lighting, City Barbeque, Lori Mason Photography, HighBrow LLC, Tool Time Tool Supply, CarePatrol of NE Ohio, and Jersey Mike’s Subs. Crumbl Cookie, Charley’s Cheesesteaks, and Yi Hotpot & Sushi will be coming soon.

Thank you to Economic Development Director Angee Shaker for providing this information.

### **Solon Service Department**

Leaf collection will begin October 17<sup>th</sup> and run until December 9<sup>th</sup>. This is

weather permitting, as the trucks we use for leaves are also used for snow

operations. Residents can visit the City website for the locations the Service Department is currently working in and to see where they will be for pickup. As always,

residents are welcome to call the garage (440-248-5834) to ask questions regarding the program. Mulch and compost sales will end Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Residents can still stop in and self-load mulch and compost during regular business hours.

The upcoming holiday rubbish collection schedule is on the City website. Residents are also able to check for collection delays.

Thank you to Service Director Mark Hawley for providing this information.

### **Water Reclamation Department**

Below is a list of Capital projects for the Water Reclamation Department:

#### 2021

Aerial Sewer Replacement – Cost of \$625,000. Project scope – replacing approximately 250 linear feet of deteriorated steel pipe on the 30" aerial sewer that delivers approximately 2.25 million gallons of sanitary flow daily to the plant. This project was funded through the City Infrastructure Fund and completed in December 2021.

#### 2022

Clarifier Painting Project – Cost of \$185,000. Project scope – sandblast and paint all metal surfaces of 6 clarifiers. This project was funded by the Sewer Plant R&I Fund and completed in August 2022.

Preventative Maintenance Service for High Voltage Switch Gear – Cost of \$15,000. Project scope – preventative maintenance service for the high voltage switchgear used to switch power sources and backup generator power during power outages. This project was funded by the Sewer Plant R&I Fund and completed in August 2022.

Concrete Replacement Project – Cost of \$3.6 million. Project Scope – replacing deteriorated concrete floors in the Solids and Tertiary buildings and miscellaneous concrete repairs throughout the plant. This project was funded by the Sewer Plant R&I Fund and is currently under construction and will take approximately two years to complete.

All projects other than the Aerial Sewer Project have been funded from the Sewer Revenue Accounts without any loan or sewer rate increases. The last sewer rate increase was in 2012.

Thank you to Water Reclamation Director Paul Solanics for providing this information.

### **Emergency Alerts**

How to access Emergency Alert Information – Residents can sign up by going to the City's website.

Emergency Alerts/Road Closure E-Notifications

- An Emergency Alert banner will display at the top of the pages
- E-notifications will be sent to all subscribers.

This is just one more way the City will keep you informed.

Did you know that the Solon Community Center can be activated as an emergency shelter for Solon residents in emergencies? Keep this in mind if a storm causes power outages for extended periods. If you are a Solon resident needing shelter, you can call the Community Center at 440-248-5747 to see if this has occurred or the Solon Emergency Dispatch Center at 440-248-1234 if you have other critical needs during this weather emergency.

Please remember, when snow accumulates more than 2", a City-wide parking ban will be enforced on City streets.

Solon has a new and improved website. Please take a few minutes to check it out. There is quite a bit of beneficial information on the website and it is much easier to navigate. The website address is [www.solonohio.org](http://www.solonohio.org).

Thank you, and make it a great day,



Macke Bentley,  
Ward 1 Councilman