



WARD 6 NEWSLETTER
Summer, 2019
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Happy Summer Ward 6!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful and safe Summer. With our area having one of the wettest Junes on record and some nasty heat waves it has been an interesting summer so far. The new school year is also right around the corner.

Ward 6 Construction Central!

I don't have to tell any of you that Ward 6 is where all the construction is happening. Projects that are currently under way include the Chick-fil-A, Yours Truly on Kruse Drive, the Omni Senior Living and Omni Corporate Headquarters on Bainbridge Road, ALDI and Hobby Lobby, the Mobil Convenience Center at Aurora Road and Solon Boulevard and the demolition of the Pizza Hut building will make room for a new Wendy's.

Information/Notification

With most of us connected to the internet and able to receive information at our fingertips anytime we so choose, I challenge you to go to our City website twice a month to review the Council agenda to make sure there isn't something that will impact you. Regular Council, Planning, and Committee meetings are video archived on the City website (Solonohio.org) along with the posting of minutes and agendas. Take advantage of these resources and be informed!

Voting Location Changes

City Hall was informed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections that Solon Precincts, **Ward 6A and 6B, will be moved from Grantwood back to City Hall.** This is great news for our Ward 6 residents after the congestion that was encountered during the last election.

November Ballot Issues

1. Planned Unit Development

On July 15th City Council voted to place an issue on the November ballot to create a Mixed-Use Planning District. This would rezone the area bounded by Aurora Road, Solon Road, Station Street and Melbury Avenue to allow for a mix of commercial, office space and residential housing, which could include townhouses and/or apartments. This block of properties includes the Solon Motel, the vacant FirstMerit Bank building, the vacant Liberty Ford site, Burgers 2 Beer, Solon Ace Hardware, VFW and other vacant properties. This area is prime for redevelopment and the City is being approached by developers hoping to make a proposal if the rezoning is passed. The maximum number of housing units on the property would be 200 units and limited to 33% of the development. Any existing businesses will have the option to participate or remain as they are. In order for this planned unit development to be enacted on this block of properties, the issue would

need to pass Citywide as well as pass in our Ward 6!

The Mayor and Administration have been in discussion with the Solon Schools on the size and scope of the residential component to reach an agreement on the number of units that would be acceptable for the school district.

Since the property has been for sale under the current zoning, there has been little to no interest by any developer to purchase the property.

Any and all site plans will have to be approved by the Planning Commission as well as City Council. As part of the Planning Commission review, there will be formal reviews of parking plans, safety, traffic, as well as engineering and design studies.

This is a great opportunity for the City to finally redevelop an older portion of the City into a vibrant and desirable location that we can be proud of.

2. Rezoning of the Former Fountains of Solon Property

This property is located between Sedlak Interiors and nVent off of Solon Road. The current property owner of the former proposed "Fountains of Solon" has requested the City change the zoning from "C-3" Commercial back to the original "I-2" Industrial Zoning which is consistent with the area and which would allow light manufacturing and office space on the property. The broker for the property has indicated there has been interest in developing the site if the property is rezoned to the "I-2" Zoning District. The City would benefit with this zoning by the increase in additional income taxes earned from employees on the site.

3. City Charter Updates

City Council hired an outside attorney to assist in drafting language to update the City's Charter to close some open items that were exposed as part of Issue 110 (Kerem Lake Rezoning) from last year. You may recall, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that our Charter was vague and did not require three readings prior to placing the Initiative Petition on the ballot. This Charter Amendment would approve the recommendations from the City's outside attorney and clarify the Charter language to require that any rezoning issue placed on the ballot by Initiative Petition will require three readings. You can view a copy of the updated language on the City's website at www.solonohio.org.

SOM Center/Aurora Road Intersection Improvement Project

The SOM Center/Aurora Road Intersection Improvement Project is well underway. Catts Construction has finished the sewer replacement on Aurora Road west of SOM Center Road and is now working on restoring sidewalks and landscaping in that area. Hopefully, the whole project will be completed by November. Expect delays at peak traffic hours and night-time closures and detours. Please be patient and be safe driving through the construction zones. I would suggest avoiding the area as much as possible once it begins.

SOM Center Road Resurfacing

The City received \$711,000 in grant money to resurface SOM Center Road from the railroad bridge south of Bainbridge Road, north to US Route 422. The City did award the project and will have it completed by the end of 2019. Work would be scheduled at night to limit impact.

Liberty Road/Aurora Road Changes

The City Traffic Engineer, myself and the Administration met with a representative of the Ayleshire Homeowners Association to try to reach a solution to help those residents access Aurora Road in a safe and timely manner. Everyone agreed to try an experiment prohibiting right turns on red from southbound Liberty Road to westbound Aurora Road. After analyzing the data it was determined that it had little impact and the sign would be removed. Neither I nor the Ayleshire representative were consulted regarding this decision. After reviewing the report from the Traffic Engineer it was determined that restricting the times from Monday through Friday 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. would be a good compromise. The Council voted to reverse the total removal of the signage and replace it with signage indicating the restricted hours.

Connectivity Grant

The City was recently awarded a grant by Cuyahoga County to assist in the review of the connectivity plan for Solon. I have heard many residents say they want to have more options to safely walk around town. This study will review the current sidewalks, paths and bikeways in the City as well as make recommendations on how to improve our connectivity.

Recycling Update

There have been many questions from residents resulting from recent news reports and articles in the Solon Times regarding the changes in the recycling industry. I spoke with our Public Works Director Bill Drsek about this and was told that the City website has been updated with a link to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District website (Cuyahogarecycles.org) Please check it out if you have any questions.

Solon Home Days 2019

In my opinion Solon Home Days 2019 was a huge success! I was there ALL weekend from start to finish. This was a grand experiment by the Mayor to change the event to a more block party like festival. The elimination of the shoddy rides and rigged games of chance were replaced by a \$5.00 wristband that the kids could use to play all day if they wanted. They will use this years' experience to make needed adjustments to improve food and entertainment choices for next year's event. If you have any suggestions please let me know and I will forward them to the committee.

Pop-Up In The Park

Pop-Up in the Park will return by popular demand on Saturday, August 24th from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 PM at the Community Park. Last year was the first for this event and an expanded version is expected.

Citizens Police Academy

The Solon Police Department is accepting applications for its Citizens Academy Fall session. The 9-week course is scheduled for September 9th. Contact Sargeant Jim Cabot at jcabot@solonohio.org if interested. For more information log onto www.solonohio.org/966/citizens-police-academy

Contact Me

I am honored to be your Ward 6 Representative to the City. If you have any questions, concerns or problems, please contact me at bshimits@solonohio.org or 440-248-3586. You can also follow me on Facebook at *Bob Shimits Solon Ward 6*.

