



WARD 6 NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2019

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Greetings Ward 6 Residents

Happy 2019 everyone! As your City Council representative it is my job to keep the residents of Ward 6 informed of anything that may impact your daily lives. 2019 will be full of such things.

Information/Notification

The most difficult part of making sure our residents are informed is trying to encourage every resident to take on some of the responsibility to become informed. I can send out a newsletter but I cannot make you read it. 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 once 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 recently 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.

Bike Paths/Rails-to-Trails Project

I'm sure you have all heard about the plan to develop several bike paths throughout the City. This paved all-purpose trail on the former Chagrin Falls and Southern Railroad right-of-way passes immediately north of Carter Lumber and runs approximately two miles to the Village of Bentleyville border. The trail would eventually continue into Chagrin Falls. The other path being considered would use the Norfolk and Southern Railroad line that runs through the center of Solon and could connect to trails already established in Portage County.

After much debate and concerns from residents that about the trail, the Council tabled (put on hold) an engineering study that would clarify the cost of the proposed trail. This has given Mayor Kraus the opportunity to have meetings with several of the neighborhoods and seek input directly from those residents. Among the concerns that have been brought up are privacy, cost, security, maintenance, wetlands, and mostly screening. The City must work with the residents most affected and come to an agreeable solution.

The first trail does not run through Ward 6 but the second one will. This second trail is still a long way off but it doesn't hurt us to get all the information we can from issues that arise from the initial project. All the work being done by the Administration will help when phase two comes up for debate.

SOM Center/Aurora Road Intersection Improvement Project

After three attempts, the City awarded the contract for the SOM Center/Aurora Road Intersection Improvement Project to Catts Construction. Construction will begin in March and hopefully 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.

Briarhill Drive Culvert Replacement

The Briarhill Drive culvert was delayed last year but will be replaced this year. Residents will experience some minor delays as the culvert is replaced. Please be patient and contact me if you have any problems or questions.

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 State Route 422. The City hopes to award the project and 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 that we would try prohibiting right turns on red from southbound Liberty Road to westbound Aurora Road. Hopefully, between the new traffic light at Portz Parkway and Aurora Road and prohibiting right turns at Liberty Road, we can generate a short gap in the traffic at Ayleshire. The results will be

analyzed to determine if there is any improvement.

Economic Development

The City will be buzzing with new construction and new business in 2019. The owners of the former Sears site have finally agreed to remodel the building and parking lot in anticipation of the new **Hobby Lobby and ALDI**. Construction will begin soon and should be completed by fall.

Omni Senior Living has already cleared the property on Bainbridge Road and Kruse Drive for their new facility and will soon clear the former Poly-Carb, Inc. property for the OMNI Corporate Headquarters building. Welcome to Solon!

Yours Truly is coming to Solon! The Shibley Family plans to open their 10th restaurant in the former Donatos/Dave's Cosmic Subs building on Kruse Drive. No official opening date has been announced. Stay tuned.

Chick-fil-A hopes to finalize the building site and engineering issues and begin construction in April with an opening in September.

The new **Mobil** gas station on the corner of Aurora Road and Solon Boulevard has received all approvals and should break ground in March.

Wendy's has submitted plans to build a new restaurant on what will be the "former" Pizza Hut site. Administrative work sessions will be starting shortly.

There have been administrative work sessions in regard to a proposed 7,000 sq ft dental office building on Bainbridge Road behind Walgreens. The doctor is hoping to close on the property and commence construction in June.

Swagelok has continued to hold work sessions with the City Public Works

Commissioner and the Engineering Department in regard to their new World Headquarters Project and the company hopes to break ground in October.

Carrington Court

The City and Gross Builders conducted a work session for a proposed new 36 unit, four-story apartment building immediately to the east of the eastern most apartment building on the site. As part of the project, all proposed streets would be installed including another access point to Aurora Road. Unfortunately, Gross Builders is not willing to install a pedestrian connection to the Giant Eagle Plaza but will provide an easement should the City determine to move forward with it. Gross Builders was also unwilling to install the City's planned connection to Portz Parkway which would provide Carrington residents a safe and easy way in and out. Gross Builders did agree to construct the road and stub it at their west property line to enable a future City connection that I will personally try my best to push through as soon as possible.

Center of Town Amphitheater Project

The Master Plan recommends that an amphitheater and community gathering space be provided on Bainbridge Road on the City owned property surrounded by the Historical Society, the Solon Center for the Arts and City Hall. This area is intended to provide space for summer concerts, lectures, art shows, plays and reenactments. These plans will be developed further and discussed at the March Safety and Public Properties Committee meeting.

Citywide Activity Guide

By now, every resident should have received the Citywide Activity Guide in the mail. This guide is a wealth of information to Spring and Summer activities, classes and events that are offered by the City. Everything from

Summer Camp, Safety Town, boys and girls sports, preschool activities, aquatics, Police Academy, adult programs, after school programs, Grantwood Golf Course, Art Center programs and much more. Be sure to keep it handy for more information.

AT&T work on Bainbridge Road and Woodbury Drive

Since the first call I received from residents about their yards being destroyed without warning from AT&T contractors, I have been trying to get answers about the scope of the project and how it will impact the residents in this area. Our Public Works Commissioner, Bill Drsek, was finally able to reach an AT&T representative who told him that all the excavating is complete and there should be no more damage. Their contractors will begin to restore all the yard damage once the weather allows. If you have any problems or concerns during this project, please contact me.

Contact Me

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

