



WARD 6 NEWSLETTER
Fall, 2020
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Greetings Ward 6 Residents

Greetings Ward 6! With 2020 being such a trying year, I hope everyone is safe and healthy. I realize that you have not received a newsletter in quite a while. Every time I wanted to send a newsletter, things I wanted to report about would change. Our whole world has been changed with the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This was supposed to be a year of celebration, our Bicentennial year. The City embraced the celebration and had a great response to the first event in January. Everything after that event was cancelled.

I hope all of you with school age children are getting along okay with the remote learning that has been put in place for you. I'm sure it is working on everyone's patience.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge all residents to be compassionate of the feelings of our fellow residents. Wear your mask in public and observe social distancing as directed. We are in this together and we will, as a community, beat this.

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 choose to, I challenge you to go to our City website at least once a month to review the Council agenda to make sure there isn't something that will impact you. Regular Council, Planning Commission 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

The November 3rd election will be extra challenging this year due to the COVID-19 virus. Social distancing and masks will be on everyone's minds if they choose to go to the polls in person. The voting location for Solon Precincts, Wards 6A and 6B, will be at City Hall. If you are in a position that could compromise your health by voting in person, please request an absentee ballot. I will be happy to personally pick up your ballot and deliver it to the post office if you are unable to do so. There will be one rezoning issue on the ballot this year. The owner of a portion of the Hawthorne Valley Country Club located on the west side of Solon on Aurora Road is looking to build a community for 50 years of age or older. This will be Issue 46 on the ballot and it looks to be a win-win for the City. This new project will preserve a huge amount of green space that may potentially be enjoyed by our residents in the near future.

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.

Aurora Road Reconstruction/Phase 1

Some residents along Aurora Road from SOM Center Road to Liberty Road may receive notices regarding the right-of-way acquisition. Hopefully, this project will be started in 2022.

Briarhill Drive Culvert Replacement

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

U.S. Route 422 Sound Barriers

The City has met with ODOT about the possibility of having sound barriers installed along Route 422. We were told that a petition signed by the residents that live along Route 422 would have to be submitted if the project was to be considered. Once again, COVID-19 is an issue and it wouldn't be recommended to go door-to-door to get the petitions signed. The City is working on putting together a virtual petition that the residents can sign electronically. Look for this in the near future.

Clearwater Court Extension to Portz Parkway (Carrington Court)

Great news for our residents that live in the Carrington Court apartments and homes. After many calls from residents concerned about their safety when entering and exiting Carrington Court from Aurora Road, the property owners and the City have agreed on a solution by extending Clearwater Court all the way to Portz Parkway. This will give residents the option to head west on Portz Parkway to SOM Center Road or north on Portz Parkway to the light at Aurora Road. The City is negotiating with the Park East Apartment owners to purchase property that is in the proposed route. This will also define the borders of the City-owned property that was recently rezoned for the proposed special needs community.

You may have noticed construction on Aurora Road. This is the next phase of the Carrington Court project with another street off of Aurora Road.

Economic Development

The City has been buzzing with new construction and new business in 2020. The new construction on Bainbridge Road behind Walgreens will be the new orthodontic offices of **Dr. Bomeli, DDS**. The new construction on Aurora Road just past the Giant Eagle plaza will be the new dental offices of **Dr. Butriy, DDS**.

Vitalia by Omni Senior Living is ready to welcome their first residents to its new facility located at 33095 Bainbridge Road. Their temporary sales office is located at 6025 Kruse Drive, Suite #153.

Yours Truly, Chick-fil-A, Wendy's and **Exxon/Mobil** have all become part of the Solon community this year. Swagelok's World Headquarters project is moving ahead at the corner of Solon Road and Cochran Road.

Bull Home Renovation Project

The Master Plan recommended that a 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. With the removal of the Lynch Home, the City committed to repurposing the Bull Home for use by the Solon Center for the Arts. The 1835 home will be completely updated and ADA compliant. Though not restored to historical correctness, recommendations were taken by the City from the Solon Historical Society to at least attempt to make it look historically correct. The exterior of the home is mostly completed at this time with interior work budgeted for 2021. Planning for a new Bicentennial Park will be in the works for this area.

Route 422/Harper Road Diverging Diamond Interchange

The City received three million dollars in Safety Federal Funding. The design for a Diverging Diamond Interchange will help eliminate the congestion northbound on Harper Road at the Route 422 interchange. The design for the project has been approved.

Saturday Rubbish Drop Off at the Service Department

The Saturday Rubbish Drop Off Program has been a huge success this year with everyone cleaning out garages, attics and basements. You have until the middle of October to get your cleaning done before the program is closed for the year.

Leaf Collection Starts Soon

I know it is just September, but for those that like to plan ahead, the first day of leaf collection is scheduled for October 19th.

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 Councilman*.

