Happy 200th Birthday Solon!

Happy 2020 everyone! Welcome to our Bicentennial Year. As your City Council representative, it is my job to keep you, the residents of Ward 6, informed of anything that may impact your daily lives. 2020 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. City Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. I challenge you to go to our City website before each meeting 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). Take advantage of these resources and be informed!

March 17th is Election Day

March 17, 2020 is Election Day. Ward 6A and 6B will be voting at City Hall again this election. The polls are open from 6:30 A.M. until 7:30 P.M.

Solon Community Living Project Issue 19

City Council recently approved new zoning language to be on the March 17th ballot as Issue 19. This zoning is for the Solon Community Living Project. It will create an "R-3-C" (Multi Family Residential Special Needs) District for the City, which will be located at the corner of Aurora Road and Portz Parkway.

This zoning is specifically designed to permit developments that accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. The Ordinance specifies that persons residing within the "R-3-C" zoned area must either qualify under the ADA based definition of "disability" that is incorporated in the Ordinance, or, must qualify as a "Support Provider" for such persons. This is located in Our Ward 6 and must pass in Our Ward as well as City wide. I fully support this issue and encourage passage.

Expansion of Restaurant Uses in the C-2 and C-6 Commercial Zoning Districts Issue 18

This Issue would expand the permitted uses in the C-2 (Restricted Commercial) and the C-6 (General Commercial) zoning districts to include Fast Food
Restaurants, Casual Restaurants and Sit Down Restaurants. These areas include the Marc’s Plaza and the Uptown Solon Plaza area. Both of these areas are in our Ward 6 and would open up those areas to more dining options, if passed. I see it as an opportunity to add more flexibility to the area. I am in support of this Issue.

**SOM Center/Aurora Road Intersection Improvement Project**

After a long and very frustrating construction season, the SOM/Aurora Road project is nearly completed. Some final work that is left includes replacement of the street light masts, sidewalk concrete work and final landscaping. All this will be ongoing until spring as weather permits. There may be some necessary lane closures during this time so please be patient.

**Solon Bicentennial Celebration**

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Bull and Robbins families’ arrival as the first permanent settlers coming to Solon in 1820 from Wethersfield, Connecticut.

We will celebrate the Bicentennial with community events that kicked off in January with Winterfest.

**March 12th:** A Time to Serve - 200 Projects for 200 Years.

**April 2nd:** A Time to Explore - Passport to Solon Launch.

**May 25th:** A Time to Honor - Home Town Heroes.

**June 14th:** A Time to Remember - Time Capsule Opening.

**July 24th-26th:** A Time to Cherish - Solon Home Days.

**September 26th:** A Time to Celebrate - Bicentennial Ball.

**October 17th:** A Time to Embrace - Fall Festival.

**November 25th:** A Time to Shine - Holiday Tree Lighting.

**December 15th:** A Time for Legacy - Video & Book Release.

For more information visit solonohio.org, the City Facebook page or call 440-337-1520.

A Time to Serve - 200 Projects for 200 Years launches on March 12th. Residents will have the opportunity to help others and the City of Solon celebrate our Bicentennial by contributing to our volunteer efforts. A volunteer page will be posted on the City website which will provide you a link to opportunities both within the City of Solon and the Greater Cleveland area. You will be asked to complete a brief registration and then be able to select opportunities that interest you. If you have questions or need assistance getting information, you can contact our Human Services Specialist, Sally Goodwin, at the Senior Center at 440-349-6363.

**Economic Development**

Solon welcomed 47 new businesses in 2019; with more on the way for 2020!

We welcomed reconstruction of the plaza and new tenants **Hobby Lobby** and **ALDI**.
Omni Senior Living has already cleared the property on Bainbridge Road and Kruse Drive for their new Vitalia Senior Living facility and the OMNI Corporate Headquarters building next door. Welcome to Solon!

Welcome to Yours Truly! The Shibley Family has done a wonderful job at rehabbing their building on Kruse Drive.

The new Mobil gas station at the corner of Aurora Road and Solon Boulevard has opened and is ready for business.

Wendy's is hoping to open its new restaurant on Aurora Road by the end of February. The new fresh look with outdoor seating will be a nice addition to Solon. Welcome!

Groundbreaking is expected in the spring on a 7,000 sq ft dental office building on Bainbridge Road behind Walgreens. Another dental office is also expected to break ground on Aurora Road between Carrington Court and the Market District Shopping Plaza.

Swagelok has broken ground and started construction on their new World Headquarters and Global Innovation Center Project at Solon Road and Cochran Road. The new building will be 130,000 square feet and employ 250 Swagelok associates with room for expansion. This project is expected to be completed in 2021.

Brennan Industries expanded, by almost doubling in size and started building their new World Headquarters on Cochran Road. The project is expected to be completed in the spring.

O'Reilly Auto Parts has submitted plans for a new store on the former McDonald’s property on Aurora Road.

Briarhill Drive Culvert Replacement

The Briarhill Drive culvert was delayed last year but will hopefully be replaced this year. Residents will be notified when construction is scheduled.

Carrington Court

The City and Gross Builders are still working on a proposed new 36 unit, four-story apartment building immediately adjacent to the eastern most apartment building on the site. The City's planned connection to Portz Parkway which would provide Carrington residents a safe and easy way in and out is very much on track to move forward when this building is constructed.

2020 Census

In March, you will receive an invitation to respond online for the Census. If you would like assistance or need computer access to complete your Census, attend one of the Census Cafe sessions being held through the Senior Center or contact them at 440-349-6363 for individual assistance and/or computer lab access.

If no response is received from your first Census invitation, you will receive a letter. If you do not respond to the letter, a U.S. Census worker, with an identification badge including their photograph, will come to your home to gather your information.

If you are concerned about the knock on the door, you should call the Police. If you want to avoid the visit, respond to
the Census on your own. The Census is very important to everyone as the results are used to:

1. Determine distribution of money (for every person not counted, Ohio loses $1,814);
2. Determine emergency response needs;
3. Plan Health & Wellness programs;
4. Influence business decisions; and
5. Divide seats in the U.S. Congress, State Legislature and more.

**Lynch House**

There has been much activity regarding the century old Lynch House located on Bainbridge Road across from the Solon Center for the Arts building. The Historical Society and the City have been negotiating a lease agreement for the past year that was signed and agreed to in January. Unfortunately, two Council members had to recuse themselves from voting on the issue due to conflicts of interest issues, and the remaining Council members voted 3 for and 2 against approving the lease. The motion failed because a majority of the total Council members (seven) is required. Therefore, four votes were required for approval. Council members Russo and Bentley voted against the ordinance.

The Historical Society and the City will work together to make a positive impact from this loss by helping to create Bicentennial Park in its place. Plans are coming together and will be discussed further in the near future.

**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.