I hope everyone had a nice holiday season and is having a good start to the New Year.

I want to thank Ward 3 residents for re-electing me to represent all of you for another four years. I greatly appreciate all the support that has been shown to me and promise to continue to communicate with the residents during my new term.

Macke Bentley was elected to represent Ward 1, Nancy Meany was re-elected to Ward 5 and Bill Russo won, unopposed, in Ward 7.

Both rezoning items also passed at the November election. The former Liberty Ford property was rezoned to a Mixed Use Development and a parcel of land on Solon Road near nVent and Sedlak Interiors was rezoned to industrial manufacturing.

**Senior Center Update**

The Department of Senior Services is pleased to announce an additional service option for out of town transportation. For those who qualify, in addition to Senior Transportation Connection, the City of Solon now offers out of town transportation service through the Uber Health network. In an effort to determine Uber Health’s abilities for service provision, they recently completed a trial with a select group of riders. Findings concluded that those who were able to utilize Uber Health found the service to meet or exceed their expectations.

Riders who are able to enter and exit a car, as well as have a mobile phone that accepts text messages, may be eligible to utilize the service. As with Senior Transportation Connection, riders receive curb to curb transportation at the cost of $4 per ride.

Participants who are interested in the option of utilizing Uber Health for out of town transportation may schedule a transportation consultation with our Social Worker, Yvette Hasan. Once approved, riders have their option of service provider(s) each and every time they ride. All trips through the Uber Health service are scheduled and monitored by the Solon Senior Center. Riders can also utilize flexible on-demand ride scheduling, initiated by the rider, through the new Uber Health service. Trip costs for Uber Health riders will be billed by the City of Solon on a monthly basis.

Contact the Solon Senior Center at 440-349-6363 with any questions or to enroll as an Uber Health rider.

**Finance Update**

The City ended 2019 with a surplus of approximately $1.9 million, or 4.0%. The resources in excess of general operating expenditures were used to prefund the 2020 capital plan, economic development for the City and directed into the City’s “rainy day fund”.

WARD 3 NEWSLETTER
Winter 2020
Councilman Jeremy Zelwin
Phone: (440) 476-3739
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The 2020 general capital budget will be $4.9 million and most of these funds will go to improvements of City owned buildings. When selecting capital projects, the City prioritizes safety, security and wellness before the “nice to have” projects. As such, there are some HVAC and roofing projects that are being prioritized at the Service Department. Additionally, there are projects at the Rec Center which include improvements to the gym floor, banquet rooms and electrical and lighting. In 2020, the City will also update its fleet of vehicles by replacing several Police, Fire and Service Department vehicles. These are typical requests that come in the capital budget.

In addition to this, there is around $20 million in road and other infrastructure projects that will be considered for approval. The largest project on the list is the reconstruction of Solon Road near the Bainbridge Road intersection to Aurora Road. This will include repaving the road and potentially removing the railroad crossing.

Other street reconstruction projects on the list include Brookland Avenue, Cochran Road resurfacing, Creekside Trail rehabilitation, Briar Hill culvert replacement and the Miles Road retaining wall rehabilitation. The City’s Engineering Department reviews the state of the City’s roads every year to prioritize projects. They develop a 5 year plan to help budget and map out projects for a given year.

I have included a picture of the City’s infrastructure map at the end of this newsletter.

Over the last 12 to 18 months, residents in the Fox Run/Hunters Ridge area have experienced sporadic power outages. The City has worked with First Energy to replace the underground electrical wires. This work was completed late December. I am hopeful that this new underground cable will solve these power issues. Final landscape restoration will begin this spring when the weather starts to improve.

**Solon Bicentennial**

This year marks the 200th birthday of the City of Solon. We will celebrate our Bicentennial with several community events, starting with Winterfest, which was held in early January. The calendar currently is as follows:

**Upcoming Celebration Events**

- **Economic Forecast Luncheon** – A Time To Build – February 11
- **200 Projects for 200 Years** – A Time to Serve – March 12
- **Passport to Solon Launch** – A Time to Explore – April 2
- **Home Town Heroes** – A Time to Honor – May 25
- **Time Capsule Opening** – A Time to Remember – June 14
- **Solon Home Days** – A Time to Cherish – July 24-26
- **Bicentennial Ball** – A Time to Celebrate – September 26
- **Fall Festival** – A Time to Embrace – October 17
- **Holiday Tree Lighting** – A Time to Shine – November 25
- **Video & Book Release** – A Time for Legacy – December 15

More details to come. For more information, visit solonohio.org, our Facebook page, or contact us at 440-337-1520.

A Time To Serve – 200 Services for 200 Years will launch 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. It will be simple. A Volunteer page will be posted on the City of Solon website which will provide you with a link to opportunities both within the Solon and the Greater Cleveland Metropolitan area. You will be asked to complete a brief registration and from that point forward will be able to select opportunities of interest to you.
The Rotary Club of Solon is providing support for this new initiative. If you have questions or need assistance getting the information in a different format other than the website, contact our Human Services Specialist, Sally Goodwin at the Solon Senior Center.

**Solon Community Living Project**

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

This zoning is specifically designed to permit developments that accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. As such, the Ordinance specifies that persons residing within “R-3-C” zoned areas 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 (also as defined within the Ordinance).

**2019 Economic Department Re-cap**

In 2019 there were several new restaurants that came to Solon. These include Chick-fil-A, Yours Truly and most recently King’s Tandoor and Bar.

Including the three restaurants above, the City welcomed 47 new businesses in 2019. There are now more than 900 active businesses in the City. These businesses help provide the City a stable tax base to help fund the majority of our budget.

Swagelok announced they would build their new World Headquarters and Global Innovation Center in Solon. The new building will be 130,000 square feet and will house 250 Swagelok associates with room for workforce expansion as the business continues to grow. This project is expected to be complete in spring 2021.

Brennan Industries expanded, by almost doubling in size and building their new World Headquarters, which is due to be complete in the spring of this year.

Omni Senior Living is building their Corporate Headquarters on Bainbridge Road, which is located next to their new Vitalia Senior Living Development, and is expected to open in the summer 2020.

In addition to all the new businesses that have come to town, the City has done a great job working with these companies to help fill their employment needs. The City hosted a job fair in November, where more than 60 Solon companies were present. More than 200 prospective employees attended the job fair and this will now be an annual event.

**2020 Census**

Shape Your Future. START HERE! The 2020 Census can shape the future for you, as well as future generations, as results are used to:

- Divvy up seats in the U.S. Congress, State Legislature and more;
- Determine the distribution of money (for every person not counted in Ohio, Ohio loses ~ $1,814);
- Forecast Social Security payouts;
- Determine emergency response needs;
- Plan Health & Wellness programs;
- Influence Business Decisions.

The first census was taken in 1790 and as the years have progressed, the procedures have too. This year, you will be able and asked to respond online.

In March, you will receive an invitation to respond online. If you would like assistance or need computer access to complete your census, attend one of the Census Café sessions being held through the Senior Center.
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 with a phone or laptop, plus a bag with a Census Bureau logo to gather your information. If you are concerned about the knock on your door, call the Solon Police Department or call 800-932-8282. Better yet, respond on your own in order to avoid a visit.

You do not need to be concerned about confidentiality. Federal law mandates that individual data is sealed for 72 years or in this case, until 2092.

**Fire Department Update**

As spring approaches, we want to get into the yard and do some cleanup. How can we dispose of all the sticks and branches that fell during the winter? Burn them? NO!! The Solon Service Department has an excellent brush collection program. Simply place the yard waste at the curb and they will pick it up and dispose of it properly. If you have any questions, please call the Service Department at 440-248-5834.

In 2019, the Solon Fire Department had the most calls for service in the history of the department – 3,324 calls. This was a 6.5% increase from 2018. The department also improved their ISO rating from 4 to 3 and received the Silver Plus Award from the American Heart Association for their care of cardiac patients.

**Recreation Department**

Residents should keep a lookout for the Summer Citywide Activity Guide to hit all mailboxes the last week of February. This Activity Guide will include information for activities and events that will occur late spring and summer.

Rec Department accomplishments for 2019 include the installation of artificial turf on Community Park Field #3 (Varsity field), which was made possible through Ward 7 Councilman Bill Russo and his wife, Mary. In addition to this, the City purchased a 30’ x 60’ synthetic ice rink and recently completed upgrades to the women’s lockers at the Community Center.

The results of the Recreation Department Strategic Plan and Executive Summary can be found on the City’s website at [https://www.solonohio.org](https://www.solonohio.org). This master plan provides results of the City-wide survey, focus groups and provides an approach on how to improve the services the Recreation Department provides residents.

The Solon Spins Bike Loan Program will resume mid-April. This program is available at the Recreation Department and provides residents with access to rent all different types of bicycles.

Lastly, the dog park (located at Timberlake Park) will open late spring 2020. There was a delay in late 2019 with some permitting delays with Bainbridge.

**IT Department Update**

In the first quarter of 2020, IT will be working on two large Resident facing projects. The first will be the launch of the new EnerGov system, scheduled to go live the first week of March. We are launching the first update to the Building, Engineering, and Planning software in over 10 years. The new software will help streamline the workflow between the departments through mobile electronic inspections, electronic plan review, and an online portal for Residents and Businesses.
Also, IT, Business Development, and the Mayor’s office have begun the website redesign project to give the City website a much needed facelift. We will be updating it to adhere to our new branding guidelines and rework the site map to make the site easier to navigate and to bring some of the more modern tools like social media platforms to the forefront.

After EnerGov launches, we will begin the process of implementing iCompass, an agenda management package that will allow directors to submit requests for legislation electronically into a workflow process. This will document every step that a piece of legislation takes as it comes before the Council and makes that history available to the community. It will allow the Council packets to be distributed electronically to Council members where they can review it on a mobile device. The community will also get a new web interface to our recorded meetings that will index the agenda and the video together. You will be able to go online and click on specific agenda items and jump to that time in the recorded video where the discussion took place. A similar system is in place for the City of Hudson’s Council meetings for anyone who would like to see what it looks like live. (Although their interface is provided by another vendor, it’s identical in concept).

Solon made a lot of great progress in 2019 and I look forward to helping the City continue down this path in 2020.

Thank you for taking time to read my newsletter. If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please reach out to me directly via phone at 440-476-3739 or via email at JZelwin@solonohio.org.

Thank you,