



WARD 2 NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2017

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

New Jobs and Businesses

Solon has entered into several job creation grants and other agreements with new businesses. In 2003, the Job Creation Grant Program was approved by City Council, and we have brought many new companies to Solon via this program. We currently have 21 active agreements that have generated \$3,069,107 in new payroll taxes. In 2016 this program resulted in 1,849 new jobs to Solon and retained 763 jobs that may have gone elsewhere.

There are many new projects and new businesses that are going forward and will commence construction shortly. These projects will begin to complete a significant portion of the recommendations of our City Master Plan and will serve to fill in vacant spaces in our central business district.

New Construction in Business District

Chase Bank has started construction on the former Sunoco site at SOM Center and Aurora Roads. This project will bring a new branch and several full time employees. Across the street at the former Dairy Queen site, more redevelopment will break ground in the next few weeks. The former Dino's Restaurant site is set to be redeveloped in the very near future, which most likely will involve demolition of the structure and more new construction. The former McDonald's site has generated a lot of interest and hopefully, will have a new development plan submitted to the city in the near future. A new Marriott hotel is being built on

Enterprise Parkway, and a new restaurant has opened next to the movie theater. Several restaurants are expressing interest in the former Paco's Tacos and Panini's spaces.

Nestlé Expansion

City Council has supported Nestlé in many capacities over the past few years. The city has been rewarded with the new \$50,000,000 Product Technology Center building on Cannon Road as well as other expansions to Solon operations that have brought many jobs and tax revenue to the city. Nestlé is now bringing over 300 new jobs to their Solon campus as part of their corporate restructuring. The new jobs are part of a partnership reached with the City of Solon and Nestlé. Nestlé will now employ over 2,200 people in Solon with an annual payroll of approximately \$84,500,000. This is in addition to the approximately 334 jobs created in Solon during their last expansion. We hope for Nestlé to have continued success and it is a credit to our economic development team, City Council and the administration that this has come to fruition. Nestlé is currently modifying their space at their Harper Road facility to accommodate the new employees coming to Solon. This is in addition to the company's purchase of the former Keithley Electronics building on Bainbridge Road.

Primrose Daycare and Preschool

A new school is being built on a vacant parcel in front of the St. Vincent Medical Building on Solon Road. The owners are making a substantial investment in this

13,280 square foot building and the design has been approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. All aspects of this building are compliant with the Master Plan and it will match many of the new buildings that will be constructed in the spring.

Former Bob Evans Site

The land where the Bob Evans was located is owned by BMW Cleveland. The former restaurant was removed to make way for a new state-of-the-art BMW facility. The Planning Commission and Council have been working with this company on this development. The lot consolidation of the parcels has been approved and the plans are in the process of review. When everything is finalized and submitted, the Planning Commission and Council will approve the plans as soon as possible so that construction can start.

SOM Center and Aurora Roads Widening

The land acquisition and planning for the intersection widening has been approved by the Public Works Committee and City Council. The project is moving forward and I will update residents as timelines for construction are released.

In a separate project, the city is committing to a beautification effort for the retaining wall located on SOM Center Road under the former railroad bridge. The existing cement will be refaced with brick and a new fence will be installed on the top of the wall. This component will help beautify this area.

The Planning Commission and City Council will also work with the businesses on the east side of SOM Center Road to improve their landscaping once the road project is completed.

Recycling and Service Department Update

Many questions have been asked regarding the procedures for solid waste and recycling pickup. Our pickup day is Tuesday and carts

must be on the curb before 7:30 AM. Please do not place your cart on the curb before 7:00 PM the night before pickup. Please have your cart at a minimum of three feet from your mailbox or any utility pole, as the truck has difficulty picking up the cart if it is too close to an obstruction. After trash has been picked up, please return your cart to your garage by 7:00 PM on the day of collection. The Service Department also asks that yard waste bags be placed on the curb pursuant to the same time requirements as the solid waste and recycling carts. If you have a contractor performing work at your home, the contractor is responsible for removing any debris from your property. In addition, landscapers are required to remove any and all yard waste.

I have also received a few questions regarding Simple Recycling. All residents should have received a welcome package from Simple Recycling. The city entered into a contract with this company at no cost. The city is paid by the company based on the total rate of recycling they receive from residents. A list of all soft recyclable items can be found on the city webpage (www.solonohio.org) and includes clothing, books, small appliances and other items. This program not only generates a positive return for the city, it also saves tax dollars by not having to place these recyclable items in a landfill. To date, the launch of this program is doing well, and we anticipate this to be a positive addition to our current recycling program. If you need more bags, please contact 866-835-5068 or visit www.simplerecycling.com.

Sidewalk Repair

The City of Solon has an annual concrete and sidewalk repair program. So far, approximately 4,459 square feet of sidewalk has been replaced. I notified affected residents in several formats when the sidewalk repair program started. Additional repairs are underway and I will keep everyone notified as to the status and progress of this project.

Recreation Department

The Citywide Activity Guide for Summer/Fall of 2017 has been mailed and contains many new and familiar programs for all residents. In addition to programs for children, there are also many activities for adults of all ability levels. From basketball to book discussions, there is something for every resident. Information is also posted at <http://www.solonohio.org>.

Solon Home Days

Solon Home Days is scheduled for July 28, 29, and 30 at the Solon Community Park. The theme this year is "Ocean Adventure". The event will have rides for children and adults and a variety of food and entertainment options. A complete listing of all events was included in the brochure you received in the mail and is available on the city web page at www.solonohio.org.

Building Department

Every year, I receive calls regarding issues that residents have with contractors. The city requires permits for many types of construction. Please call the city if you think you need a permit, and someone will advise you of the process. The city also maintains a list of licensed and bonded contractors who are registered in the city. This list is provided as a service, but please make sure the contractor you use registers with the city and obtains a permit for their work. This procedure protects your safety as well as ensures that the contractor is properly licensed and insured to perform work at your home.

Senior Transportation

The City of Solon Department of Senior Services provides van transportation within the City of Solon Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 3:40 PM. The transportation is available to all Solon Seniors and any disabled resident 21 years or older. All transportation is wheelchair accessible.

Storm Water Management

For the past ten years, the city has administered an extensive storm water management program. During this time, the city has designed, built and maintained many new structures, culverts, detention basins and sewer systems to control storm water. The city has programs for testing, cleaning and maintaining all of our storm and sanitary sewer lines and systems. New and expanding businesses are also required to comply with our storm water management program and are required to follow our rules and procedures for maintaining storm water on their properties.

The city has also been very active in making improvements at our Water Reclamation facility. These improvements have been approved by City Council, and did not result in any increase to your sewer bill. The Water Reclamation Department hosts open houses and community events to explain what they do and how it benefits the residents of Solon. The department will be on hand at Solon Home Days to answer questions and provide information on their operations.

Contacting Your Councilman

I thank you for your telephone calls and emails offering input on all types of city issues. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any part of our city government, please feel free to contact me at (440) 519-1717 or via email at pelunis@hotmail.com. I am available to meet with residents individually or in groups to discuss any issue. I can also be reached via Facebook, Nextdoor and Twitter.

