



# WARD 1 NEWSLETTER

## Spring, 2017

### Councilman Doug Magill

Phone: (216) 536-1564  
E-mail: [dmagill@solonohio.org](mailto:dmagill@solonohio.org)



### Let the Orange Barrels Bloom

With the weather finally breaking (we hope) we will be seeing a number of construction projects and repairs beginning throughout the city. The Miles Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement has already begun, and that is a long and complex project which won't be completed until the beginning of October. We know that it is an inconvenience for everyone in that area, but we continually need to replace portions of our infrastructure that need attention.

Our annual concrete repair program has just been initiated, and we should be seeing repair crews out in different areas of the city over the entire summer. Street striping has begun as well and we will see improved directional indicators and lettering on many of our major streets, including SOM Center Road. We will soon receive bids on our asphalt repair program and that work will begin in the near future.

Repair work on Copley Avenue and Cochran Road is out for bid and should be under construction in the near future. We have received bids for a joint project with the Village of Oakwood on Richmond Road and work will commence there shortly. As this involves both paving and culvert replacement, there will be detours necessary for at least two weeks.

We have received bids for repair of a culvert underneath Harper and Bainbridge Roads which should not affect traffic, but will require using a portion of the Cleveland Clinic parking lot.

We are in the process of finalizing plans with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the work to expand the Aurora Road and SOM Center Road intersection. Once we receive ODOT approval,

we will advertise for bids on the work. In the meantime, we should see work being performed by the Illuminating Company later in the summer as they begin moving light poles in preparation for the work.

Many of last fall's projects will be completed soon as there are a few sections of refinishing and striping along with some seeding to be done, but those will not be disruptive to traffic.

### Water Reclamation Plant Upgrade

Director Paul Solanics and his team worked diligently through the winter to get plans and bids finalized for the \$10.05 million project to add an additional 1.7 million gallon equalization tank. As we have seen a lot of heavy rain this spring, we are reminded that it is important to have this improvement be completed as soon as possible. It will allow us to handle additional overflow and make sure it is properly treated before being released. This project is self-funded and requires no additional fees, taxes or loans to complete.

The first phase will begin in early July, and will involve all of the General and Mechanical work to clear land and install the tank and piping. The Electrical portion of the contract is out for bid and should be finalized soon.

### Tree Replacement

The city's tree replacement program ran into a delay last fall as the trees we wished to use became in short supply. We planted 54 trees last year and have already placed 73 this spring. We have more Ash trees to remove, mostly in the northern part of the city. We worked with ODNR and an arborist to review our options and are

planting several different varieties to help improve the look of our community.

In order to completely finish our work on Bainbridge Road, we will be preparing planting locations along the tree line, including compost. That will sit for a year to create the right organic environment before trees are planted next year. Our plans are to plant 147 trees there, all the way to the corporation line.

### **Chipping**

The Service Department has begun their chipping program, and our units are on a five to seven day rotation throughout the city. That will continue during the summer. Please make sure to follow the Service Department's guidelines on the length of branches to be processed.

### **Carpeting and Bedding**

We seem to see more internal home upgrades being performed in the spring. We will pick up mattresses and carpeting during regular trash days, but make sure carpets and padding are cut to four-foot lengths when rolled up.

### **School Funding**

At the beginning of May, the Ohio House of Representatives passed its version of the state's biennial budget. This is the second of five steps in the budget process. Next, the state Senate will conduct its own hearings and pass its version of the budget. Following that, there will be a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and the Senate before the budget can be presented to the Governor. By law, the budget must be passed by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The House bill did include an amendment relative to the phase-out of the Tangible Personal Property Tax and its funding of our schools. While it slowed the phase-out, it did not address the long term impact and does not provide a permanent fix for what will be a devastating cut in state funds for our schools. By phasing out the Tangible Personal Property Tax and not replacing it with funding from the Commercial Activity Tax as promised, this is, in effect, an income tax increase that was not voted for by the citizens of the state.

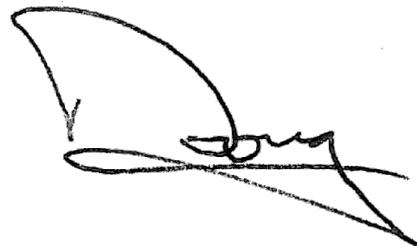
While I am in regular contact with our state legislators, it is vitally important that every citizen also let them know how they feel about this. We will be losing \$3.5 million in annual school funding on July 1, and a total of \$8.3 million at the end of the phase-out which will have an enormous impact on our schools and our ability to remain one of the best places to live in Ohio. As the budget is in the Senate's hands right now, please contact Senator Matt Dolan:

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-8056

You can email him by going to [OhioSenate.gov/Dolan](mailto:OhioSenate.gov/Dolan)

### **Logos, Fountains and Visions**

City Council recently rejected a \$42,300 funding request for an additional engineering study to incorporate a fountain and heated bricks to the turnaround in front of city hall, at an estimated cost of \$800,000 if the renovation project was completed in its entirety. We also terminated the contracts of a marketing consultant as well as that of a vendor hired to design a new city logo, as these matters were not brought before council and did not follow procedures that have been established in the past. In all three cases, the discussion centered around what our long term vision of the city should be and where to best use valuable taxpayer resources to make that a reality. We will be having further discussions about this over the next few months as we look to Solon's future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dolan', written over a horizontal line.