



# WARD 6 NEWSLETTER

## Winter, 2018

### Councilman Bob Shimits

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### Greetings Ward 6 Residents

With this being my first newsletter, I would like to introduce myself to those I have not yet had the opportunity to meet. I have lived in Solon all my life and graduated from Solon High School in 1979. I have lived in Ward 6 on Liberty Road with my wife Mary, since 1985 (I'm the guy with the old fire trucks!). We have four children, four grandchildren, two Dalmatians (Ember and Arson) and two Siamese cats. After serving for 25 years as a Firefighter/Paramedic, I retired in 2016 from the Solon Fire Department. I have been President of the Solon Historical Society since 2008 and look forward to helping Solon celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020.

### Information/Notification

As your new Council Representative, my goal is to keep you informed of projects and news that could impact our residents. There has been much debate recently about information not being shared with residents when large projects are considered in the City. A request has been made to the Planning Commission to review current procedures for notification to neighboring residents in regard to variances being requested by adjacent property owners. I encourage every resident to take on some of the responsibility to be informed. Regular Council, Planning, and Committee meetings are video archived on the City website ([Solonohio.org](http://Solonohio.org)) along with the posting of

minutes and agendas. Everyone has access to the internet by phone, iPad or home computer. You can also get online for free at the library. The local paper is also a good source of information. Take advantage of these resources and be informed!

If you live in a neighborhood with a Homeowners Association, please remind the Board to notify the Council Office if there are any changes in contact information as the Council's Clerk provides weekly Council and Planning Commission agendas to the Homeowners Associations for their review to alert them to projects that may affect your neighborhood.

### May 8th Primary Voting Location Changes

In an effort to save time and money, City Hall was recently informed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections that several Solon Precincts, including Ward 6A and 6B, will be moved from City Hall to Grantwood Golf Course located at 38855 Aurora Road for the May 8<sup>th</sup> Primary. There is still some debate as to the late notice and if this is going to actually happen. Be sure to stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the Primary.

### Bike Paths/Rails to Trails Project

The City is currently working on developing several bike paths throughout the City. The Planning Department recently submitted an

application for a grant for the installation of a paved all-purpose trail on the former Chagrin Falls and Southern Railroad right-of-way. This 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.

### **Tree Planting Along Bainbridge Road**

City Council accepted the bid of Vizmeg Landscape for the Bainbridge Road Tree Planting Project slated to start in April. The project consists of planting 143 trees of eight varieties from SOM Center Road to the east corporation line at a cost of \$60,400.

### **Aurora Road Reconstruction Project**

Solon was awarded \$1.5 million in safety funding to add a two-way left turn lane on Aurora Road from the Burger King/Giant Eagle drives to Liberty Road. The project will include a complete reconstruction of Aurora Road including curbing, sidewalks, a multi-use path and a traffic signal at Portz Parkway. The engineering portion of this project will begin this year along with designs for a temporary traffic signal at Portz Parkway.

### **SOM Center/Aurora Roads Intersection Project**

The relocation of utility poles and utilities at the SOM Center/Aurora Roads intersection will be completed soon in anticipation of adding lanes at the intersection to eliminate the split phasing of the traffic signal, and allow the intersection to operate more efficiently but, you can expect delays at peak traffic hours. Please be patient and be safe driving through the construction zones.

### **SOM Center Road Bridge Project**

Starting in the spring, the SOM Center Road Beautification Project will see the retaining wall at the railroad bridge refaced with an attractive brick veneer and a decorative fence installed on the top.

### **Briarhill Drive Culvert Replacement**

Briarhill Drive residents will experience some minor delays as the Briarhill Drive culvert is replaced. Please be patient and contact me if you have any problems or questions.

### **Rezoning on the May Ballot**

OMNI Senior Living has been approved by the Planning Commission and Council for placement on the May 8, 2018 ballot to rezone several parcels in Ward 6 located near the corner of Bainbridge Road and Kruse Drive. If approved, zoning would be changed from the Historic District and Restrictive Commercial District to the Senior Citizen Residential District. The project is located on 5.38 acres and a senior community is proposed that would include a 4-story building with 90 independent living apartments, a 3-story building with 42 assisted living apartments and 18 memory care units. This issue must pass in Ward 6 and city-wide to become a reality. The Council and the Administration are in support of this project. I believe it will bring a much needed option for residents that wish to downsize but still remain in Solon.

### **Economic Development**

In talking with residents, a major concern that I have heard is the vacant store fronts and lots throughout the city. The former Sears building is tops on that list. When Sears closed that store, they were under a contract/lease that will finally expire in 2018. This will hopefully bring the property owners to the table to re-develop the plaza. With the proposed bike path almost adjoining the

plaza, the possibilities of some exciting ideas could come up.

There have been ongoing discussions with the architect and representatives for the owners of the former Panini's, in regard to developing a Chick-fil-A.

The following businesses are also scheduled to open in 2018: TownePlace Suites by Marriott on Enterprise Parkway, Primrose School (early education and child care) on Solon Road and First National Bank on Aurora Road.

### **Rubbish and Recycling**

The Public Works Committee received a request from the Director of City Services to revise the hours for placing refuse and recycling receptacles at the street line for pick-up. Currently, receptacles are to be ready for pick-up by 7:30 A.M. and he is requesting the time be changed to 7:00 A.M. to coincide with the Service Department's summer schedule. Before approving any changes, the Committee requested the Director seek input from the residents. Letters were sent to all Solon residents requesting participation in an online survey to express their opinions. Although there were limited responses, the overwhelming consensus was to change the time from 7:30 A.M. to 7:00 A.M.

Upon the recommendation from the Public Works Committee, the Council considered the issue at three meetings and approved the modification.

Please remember to place the receptacles on opposite sides of the driveway apron adjacent to the street.

### **Solon Community Center/Solon Center for the Arts**

The City has installed a new computer program at the Solon Community Center and Solon Center for the Arts so you can register for programs online. All present and new members will be required to set up an account to use the new program. If you have questions, please call the Solon Community Center at (440) 248-5747 or Solon Center for the Arts at (440) 337-1400.

### **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 (440) 248-3586 or email me at [bshimits@solonohio.org](mailto:bshimits@solonohio.org). You can also follow me on Facebook at *Bob Shimits Solon Ward 6*.

