



WARD 7 NEWSLETTER

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I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you enjoyed the holidays.

The information provided in this newsletter is accurate as of the time it was written. I would like to thank the City Directors for the information that they provided to keep you updated.

SENIOR CENTER

As we enter the winter season, weather can impact the safety of senior adults. The City of Solon offers supportive services such as snow removal and rubbish collection at the door to assist our senior adults so they remain safe and independent in the community. Both services are available to qualified residents and applications are available at the Senior Center or on the [Active Adults and Senior Services](#) link on the City of Solon website at www.solonohio.org.

Whether it is you who might benefit from these services, or a neighbor who could use assistance, please take the time to inquire about these and other available services. These services include: transportation, social work consultations, support groups, nutrition and support programs, friendly visiting, life alert units and more.

You can find out more about the programs offered on the City of Solon website, www.solonohio.org or reach out to the Department of Senior Services at 440-349-6363 for more information.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Solon Center for the Arts begins its Winter Session of Art & Theater classes and

programs in early January. Classes in pottery, drawing, acting and much more are available. There are a limited number of spaces available in private music lessons and group dance classes, as both of these disciplines run longer sessions that began in September and will conclude in May. The Winter Activity Guide is available on the Solon Center for the Arts (SCA) website at www.solonarts.org, where you can also preview the summer camp schedule and see a listing of the upcoming special events.

The 2023 Community Event Schedule has been announced. New in 2023 is the addition of a Lunar New Year's Celebration on February 11th at Solon Center for the Arts. Returning in 2023, will be the Movies in the Park, Farmers Markets, Home Days activities and much more. Solon Parks & Recreation and Solon Center for the Arts encourage you to review the schedule online at www.solonohio.org.

COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN

The Community Park Master Plan was presented to the Council in December. While the plan was approved, construction is not anticipated to start until 2024. We will be hiring a design build firm to do the engineering and layout. The process of hiring and receiving these services will take up the majority of 2023. We don't want to rush the process and want to do things the right way to make sure we end up with the desired results. The construction process will take several years to fully implement the plan. The first projects will include redoing the parking lot (some required maintenance will be done in 2023), a new playground,

pickle ball courts, maintenance building and replacing the stands and dugouts on Field 3.

RECREATION CENTER

Wellness Programs – In partnership with University Hospitals-Ahuja Medical Center there will be free blood pressure screening on the second Thursday of each month from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Free biometric health screenings will be held on Saturday, January 21st from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. All will be held at the Community Center.

Monthly blood drives with the American Red Cross will be held on January 7th, February 4th, and March 4th. Please register at www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

There will be a free series of Health, Wellness & Disease Seminars featuring Dr. Gary Hoffman at the Community Center from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Some of the lectures offered are:

January 9th – How heart and blood vessels keep you going

February 13th – How your gastrointestinal system works

March 27th – Diabetes – is it the same in children and adults?

A complete list of lectures can be found listed in the Winter Citywide Activity Guide posted on the City of Solon website, www.solonohio.org under Recreation Department.

Daddy Daughter Dance - Hey dads, grab that special young lady and join us for an evening to remember as you dance the night away. No time for a siesta, we are throwing a fiesta. This dance is for K through 4th grade girls on Saturday, February 4th from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at the Solon Community Center. Please register at www.solonohio.org.

Aquatics – The Solon Recreation Department is looking to hire lifeguards (15 years and older) and pool attendants (14 years and older) at the Community Center and all outdoor pools in the summer. Applications can be found on line at www.solonohio.org.

The cost of fitness classes are now included in your Community Center membership.

GRANTWOOD

Join us for a 3-week golf clinic for juniors, adults and seniors this winter. Classes will be held at the driving range with heated stalls that are covered. Equipment and hot chocolate will be provided if needed. The fee is \$75 per golfer. Register online today at www.grantwoodgolf.net.

JUNIOR CLINICS: Ages 8-16, Wednesdays 5:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M., February 22–March 8

ADULT CLINICS: Ages 17 and up, Tuesdays 5:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M., February 21–March 7

Grantwood is a perfect gathering spot for showers, graduation parties and many other events. Dates are still available at the Banquet Hall and the Pavilion for the 2023 season. To view the facilities or for more information, call 440-248-4646.

Grantwood will begin hiring for the 2023 season in February for all seasonal and part-time positions. Call Stephanie Koval or Nick Treat for more information at 440-248-4646.

The 2023 TeeSheet for all golf play will open January 2023. Don't forget to call and make your reservations for large groups or standing tee times after New Year's!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Too often, we are not aware of the actual work our firefighters perform and what they have accomplished. Here are some examples and some helpful tips.

Solon firefighters recently used the City's new UTV (utility task vehicle) to fight a two acre brush fire on a windy day on Pettibone Road. The UTV worked well and helped to quickly bring the fire under control. Please do not burn leaves or other yard waste in Solon. The fire damaged a house and an out- building.

On December 7, 2022, Solon firefighters conducted a "Stuff the Squad" event at Marc's to collect and donate non-perishable food items for the Greater Cleveland Hunger Network. Thank you to all the residents and community partners who helped to make this a success.

Solon Fire and Rescue offers assistance with installation of smoke detectors and/or carbon monoxide detectors. Call them for additional information if you need assistance.

In September, Solon paramedics completed a full day of EMS continuing education presented by University Hospitals. The training, which was held at the Solon Community Center, included emergency childbirth and obstetrical emergencies, sepsis, pediatric assessment and immobilization, geriatric trauma and hands on skill stations.

The City's Fire and EMS incidents are up about twelve percent over last year, as firefighters average about eleven emergencies per day. About 20% of the time they are handling two or more emergencies at the same time. Each emergency incident lasts about 90 to 120 minutes.

In October, firefighters and officers practiced their firefighting, rescue and teamwork skills at the annual "Burn Day" training held at Cuyahoga Community College. This live fire training in a burn building allows Solon firefighters to practice hose advancement, laddering, search and rescue, fire extinguishment, radio communications, coordinated fire attack, incident command and many other skills. This high risk training in a controlled environment allows them to keep their skills sharp.

Did you know that the Solon Fire Prevention Bureau inspects more than 900 businesses per year? These fire safety inspections verify that emergency exits are unobstructed and properly marked, that sprinklers, fire alarms and fire extinguishers are in good working order and that fire code violations are corrected to ensure your safety in public buildings and the work place.

Don't forget to "Close Before you Doze." A working smoke detector and a closed bedroom door are your best bets for surviving a house fire. Even a veneer door can protect you from smoke and heat for several additional minutes during a house fire. Always "Close Before you Doze."

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to the City's two newest hires, Officers Perry and Shiavoni, who recently completed their Field Training and Evaluation Program and were assigned to solo patrol.

During the month of November, the Police Department participated in the "No Shave No Trim Wishvember" to raise money for kids who are experiencing life threatening illnesses. In addition, officers are permitted to maintain their beards during the month of December to raise money for the Patrolman Association Fund.

On December 10th, the Police Department hosted the "Shop with a Cop" event for underprivileged kids. Officers accompanied children to Walmart to purchase gifts followed by a pizza party at the Solon Community Center.

After an exhaustive vetting process, FTO Art Milner has been selected to be the new K9 handler. He will be traveling to Shallow Creek Kennels in Pennsylvania for a 6-week training course.

Please be aware of a new scam being perpetrated: check washing fraud is on the rise. This happens when you mail a check and a thief steals it. The thief then uses a chemical to wash off the ink and make the

check out to him or herself or an accomplice, usually for a larger amount. Here are a few tips to prevent this:

1. Avoid sending checks in the mail. If you must mail a check, mail it from the inside of a post office, rather than a typical outdoor mail box.
2. Write the check using a pen that uses anti-fraud ink. While we are unable to endorse a particular product, if you search for "fraud prevention ink," you will find some for about \$2 each.
3. Consider using automatic drafts or online bill pay for your regular payments or make payments over the phone or computer using a bank card.
4. Do not write checks to persons or businesses you don't know well. If your account information is copied from the check, fraudulent checks may be created using your account information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Longstanding businesses continue to celebrate anniversaries and new businesses are eager to locate here, 35 so far this year.

Preparations are already taking place for the Annual Job Fair with the Solon Chamber of Commerce that is set for May 4, 2023 from noon to 5:00 P.M. at the Solon Community Center. Whether you are a business in need of additional employees or a job seeker looking for a new opportunity, this will be the place to be.

There are some new housing developments in the works with groundbreakings scheduled in 2023.

Hawthorne Golf Estates will be a 50 and over residential community. Construction on the new housing development, which will include 102 single family homes, is projected to start in 2023. A proposal was approved by Solon voters in November of 2020 which rezoned the former Hawthorne Golf Course

property to an R-2-A zoning district (one and two-family residential senior citizen) for those over 50 years old. The developers have been working with the Cleveland Metroparks to keep a large amount of the greenspace on the 85-acre property.

Solon Community Living is an organization whose mission is to provide a quality, community-accessible, sustainable housing option for adults with developmental disabilities. Their plan received final building approval from the City of Solon. Construction will begin in spring of 2023 in a unique pocket neighborhood plan along Clearwater Court off of Portz Parkway, just steps away from the Solon Recreation Center.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A portion of the 2022 infrastructure projects were not started or were delayed until 2023. Major projects within the City that have been budgeted in 2023 include the Aurora Road Widening Project, the Miles Road Waterline Replacement Project and the Solon Road Reconstruction from Aurora Road to Bainbridge Road Project. It is also expected that the Solon to Chagrin Falls Trail and the Library Innovation Center will begin in 2023.

Projects within Ward 7 will include the Fox Hill Sanitary and Storm Sewer Replacement Project and the Tree Replacement on Forest Glen Avenue Project. There will be additional streets that will be included in the Annual Concrete Repair Program. Residents will be informed before any work begins.

CLOSING

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the City of Solon. I wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous 2023.

