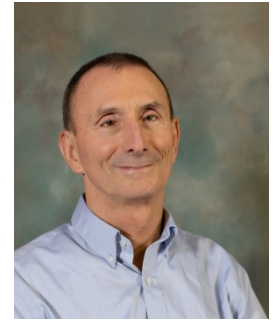




**WARD 7 NEWSLETTER**  
**Summer, 2022**  
**Councilman Bill Russo**  
**Phone: (440) 349-4980**  
**E-mail: [wrusso@solonohio.org](mailto:wrusso@solonohio.org)**



As we approach the half way point of 2022, there continues to be good things happening in Solon. While change may be difficult for some people, it is inevitable and is happening at an increasing rate throughout the world. Solon is not immune to change. Hopefully, this newsletter will help bring you up to speed with things that have changed and what is to come in the months and years ahead.

**Economic Development** - To help address workforce shortage issues, the City and the Solon Chamber of Commerce hosted a Job Fair in the Park on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Solon Community Park. Over 70 local businesses participated in the event and there was a steady flow of job seekers. The job fair is an annual event.

Sixteen new businesses have moved into Solon so far in 2022: Empire Window Company, Argus Risk Advisors, DMH USA, Susan Elliott Blashka, LPCC, PulForce, Euro Look Medical Spa, CrossCountry Mortgage, Fastest Labs Solon, RePlay for Kids, Commercial Moving Solutions, Three Rings Midwifery, Western Reserve Lightning Rod Co., Premier Pools & Spas, Northeast Ohio Family Law & Mediation and VIA Arts Solon. City Barbeque on SOM Center Road opened its smokehouse restaurant, patio and drive-thru on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Blume Nails Spa, previously on SOM Center Road has moved into a new location at 33355 Station Street. This gives them over 3,000 square feet of space for manicures, pedicures and other nail enhancements. The grand opening was on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Solon ranks first in the nation in a 2022 list of the Top 100 Affordable Cities with Top Schools by Dwellics. Dwellics compiled the list by analyzing financial and educational data on more than 50,000 U.S. cities.

Bird Technologies, headquartered in Solon on Aurora Road, celebrated its 80th anniversary this

month with help from the Solon Chamber of Commerce. They have been a leader in radio frequency measurements and network coverage enhancement equipment since 1942 and have recently expanded RF technology and calibration improvements for semiconductor industry customers.

Solon Mayor, Eddy Kraus was proud and honored to participate in the celebration of Stouffer's 100 Years in Foodservice event that was held at The Arcade Cleveland on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The event marked an important milestone reached by Stouffer's unending commitment to innovation, flexibility and fortitude — key traits that have made the brand what it is today. Stouffer's and Nestlé USA have helped shaped the City of Solon and have been tremendous partners to our City.

**Planning Department** - As the warmer season approaches, some of you may be gearing up to do home improvement projects like building patios, decks, swimming pools, sheds, fences, fire pits, AC units, and roof replacements. But, did you know all those home improvement projects require a building permit? The City of Solon requires a building permit for most home improvement projects, both exterior and interior work. To apply for a building permit you need a City of Solon permit application, scope of work, site plan, and a city registered contractor. If it is a DIY project, then you must sign a homeowners' affidavit for liability purposes. After you submit your permit application, the average approval time is 7 to 10 days. If you have questions about the permitting process please call (440) 349-6737. The Planning Department is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (excluding holidays). They are there to assist and be a resource to you so please contact them. Let's have a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Senior Center** - Most people over the age of 65 prefer to remain in their home and community as they age, also known as aging in place. This

explains why each year, greater numbers of people over the age of 65 live in the same place they did the year before. To be an age-friendly City, the Department of Senior Services developed and works with the CARE program, Communities Assisting Residential Elders. The CARE program provides non-complicated home project assistance in the categories of yard care (not mowing), home exterior projects, home organizing and handy person projects with the assistance of supervised volunteers. Membership in the CARE program provides a limited number of services per year. Sliding scale memberships are available. For more information, contact the Solon Senior Center or careneo.org.

**Solon Center for the Arts** - Solon Center for the Arts is in full swing with summer activities. SCA Summer Camps are offered in all four disciplines; art, dance, music and theater, and will continue through the beginning of August. Campers are enjoying themselves as they make new friends and explore their creative sides.

Session 2 of classes begins on July 11<sup>th</sup> for art, dance and theater. Limited spaces are still available. The SCA is partnering with the Solon Senior Center to offer our first Adult Summer Camp! For the week of July 11 – July 15, adults will have the opportunity to participate in crafts, snacks, games and more!

With the grant support from Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, SCA proudly offers Adaptive Programming. Adult theater classes, dance classes, art classes, private music lessons and special events are all up and running. New programs and events will continually be released. Follow SCA on Facebook for updates (@SolonArtCenter).

Mark your calendars for July 18<sup>th</sup>!!! FALL REGISTRATION starts on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. Registration for all art classes, dance classes, music private lessons, and theater classes for fall will open that day! Information is available online at [www.solonarts.org](http://www.solonarts.org).

Solon Center for the Arts and Solon Parks and Recreation have another fun-filled summer planned for you. Stroll through the Farmers Markets every other Wednesday at Bicentennial Park. Eggs, produce, meat, honey, bakery, snacks, food trucks, live music and more! The next farmers market is July 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Events continue into August with Shakespeare in the Park on August 6, 7, 13 & 14 in conjunction with Chagrin Arts. The final Movie in the Park is "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The artisan and crafter market Pop-Up in the Park is on August 27<sup>th</sup> and Farmers Markets are continuing until September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Recreation & Community Park** - Two upcoming events at the Community Park will be held in July. The **City fireworks display will be held on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and Home Days will be held July 29-31**. Home Days will feature activities for all ages; including, inflatables, food trucks, face painters, beer tent, artisans and crafters and so much more. The headliners for the weekend are Movie in the Park, featuring "Jungle Cruise" on Friday at 8:30 PM, saxophonist Andre Cavor on Saturday at 7:00 PM and The Backtraxx Band on Sunday at 6:00 PM.

Beginning July 16<sup>th</sup>, residents will be able to register for Flag Football, Volleyball and Fall Soccer.

The Community Center and Grantwood banquet spaces are available for rent and in high demand due to rental options being limited the last few years. Interested parties are encouraged to call David Peleg or Steph Koval to make reservations.

The Community Center is fully open and has expanded their hours in response to member feedback. Hours are Monday-Thursday 5:30 AM - 9:00 PM, Friday from 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

**Community Park Master Plan** - We have finally started committee work on the Community Park Master Plan. The facilities have served the Community well over the past 5 decades. However, the park is outdated and in need of a complete makeover. The first step in getting feedback from residents is a survey that you can complete by going to: <https://bit.ly/solonparks>

Please take the time to go to the above link to provide your input. Once we get a sufficient number of responses, there will be an event at the Community Center where participants will receive \$1,000 in play money. These dollars will be applied to show the priority of the park upgrades or additions identified in the survey. This will give us an idea of what our residents are looking for at our Community Park.

The plan is to have enough information so that no later than October we can have items and costs to include in the 2023 budget. Not everything that is recommended will be done in 2023. It is only the starting point. While the price tag will be substantial, we will be soliciting donations from Solon businesses. My wife and I are ready to commit an additional donation to Cisar Field to renovate the dugouts and stands once the Master Plan is completed.

**Infrastructure** - Infrastructure accomplishments in Ward 7 for 2021 include the reconstruction of Solon Industrial Parkway and the reconstruction of Brookland Avenue. Brookland Avenue is substantially complete. The streetlights and tree lawn trees have been installed. The final topsoil & seeding will be completed in the summer.

Infrastructure improvements planned in Ward 7 for 2022 include the reconstruction of Forest Glen Avenue from Inwood Road to Orchard Road. Portions of Orchard Road will also be replaced. Some portions of Orchard Road have already been replaced. The portion of Orchard Road between Solon Boulevard and Duneden Avenue will not be replaced as part of the work in 2022. There is utility work on this section of Orchard Road that needs to be replaced as part of the Duneden Avenue project and this section of Orchard Road will be replaced as part of that project.

The Engineering Department had also anticipated replacing the balance of Fox Hill Drive to complete the Hunt Club subdivision. Unfortunately, issues were found with the sanitary and the storm sewer between Arlesford Drive and Arthur Road that need to be addressed in 2022. The replacement of these sewers was not part of the City's 2022 infrastructure budget since the issues were just recently identified. Discussions regarding the cost of the project with the Finance Department will be necessary once an estimate of the work is prepared.

The Solon Road Reconstruction Project, west of Cochran Road, awarded to CATTs Construction has begun.

**City of Solon Cellular Connectivity Survey**  
Cellular service can vary from one location to another throughout the City of Solon. There are many factors that can impact cellular service such as distance from a cell tower, obstructions, network bandwidth, and others like weather. Areas that have very limited or no service at all are referred to as a dead zone.

The City of Solon is looking for help from residents and City visitors to identify dead zones and weak cellular network coverage, by carrier, throughout the city. You can report cellular connectivity issues online by visiting: <https://www.solonohio.org/cellularsurvey> directly from your mobile device or from a computer or tablet.

Only carrier and location information is collected, **no personal information is collected** when submitting a report. Information collected will be compiled, analyzed and used to assist the City of Solon to communicate with telecommunication companies to better improve network connectivity throughout the City.

**Fireworks Safety** - The new fireworks law in Ohio takes effect July 1<sup>st</sup> and will allow the discharge of consumer grade fireworks on designated dates and only under very specific conditions.

Fireworks may only be discharged on: New Year's Eve and Day, Chinese New Year, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day Weekend, Juneteenth, July 3, 4 and 5 (and the weekends before and after), Labor Day weekend and Diwali. Although legally permitted on these dates, please remember that fireworks are still extremely dangerous. Fireworks should only be discharged by an adult, on your personal property and never under the influence of beer, liquor or other controlled substances.

Solon Fire Rescue offers the following safety guidelines:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- Never hold lit fireworks in your hands.
- Never light them indoors.
- Only use them away from people, houses, and flammable materials.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep water or a fire extinguisher nearby to fully douse fireworks that do not discharge or in case of a fire.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is at the City of Solon Fireworks Display on July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Community Park at dusk.

**Police Department** - Community Information: Several solicitor permits were issued to employees of Aptive Environmental.

They sell pest control services. They will be going door-to-door in Solon during the spring and summer.

Scams: Scam Squad has a new public web hub -- [cuyahogacounty.us/scamsquad](http://cuyahogacounty.us/scamsquad) -- that can be used to help Cuyahoga County residents report and recover from scams. The new site has current scam alerts and downloadable materials; including, Stopping Scam Payments, Robocalls and Romance Scam tip sheets. Police can click the law enforcement button to request print materials, including the tear-off scam referral pads through the site. There is no cost for the materials. We invite police departments looking for easy ways to engage older residents in conversations about scams to check out Scamo, a bingo-style game that makes learning about scams fun. The Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs is happy to come and play a game at your next event. Reach Scam Squad at 216-443-SCAM (7226).

The Solon Police Department reminds all residents to be conscious of pedestrians and bicyclists during the summer months; specifically Pedestrian Safety Reminders (SCO Chapter 416) & Bicycle Safety Reminders (SCO Chapter 474).

Distracted Driving – Avoid crashes and tickets - driving is already the ultimate divided attention task. Don't add more to it with other distractions. #DriveSafeOhio #JustDrive

Ohio winters are rough and take a toll on our outdoor property. As you are getting things ready for the spring and summer, remember to be sure that your house numbers are showing bold, bright and/or reflective on your mailbox and on the outside of your home. Every second counts in an emergency and we want to get there to help but we have to find you first. Thanks Solon for partnering with us to keep our community safe!

Crime Prevention Tips: Finally some nice weather is upon us. As you are getting your home summer-ready this week, please remember a few things: 1. Trim those trees, bushes and shrubberies down. Reduce places for prowlers to hide. 2. Check your exterior lighting and make sure it is working properly. Light up the night and expose anyone walking about your property. 3. If have any new

home security camera systems that you have been waiting to install or you just have not done so, please remember to register those devices with the Solon Police Department's Community Camera program. For details about this program and what it is, check the link below. <https://www.solonohio.org/1426/Community-Camera-Program>

PLEASE LOCK YOUR VEHICLES AND REMOVE YOUR KEY FOBS. Taking just a few minutes of intentional crime prevention action could save you days, weeks, and possibly months' worth of headaches and worry. LOCK IT TO STOP IT! Thanks Solon. Community Partnerships-STONGER TOGETHER!

**Ward Boundaries** - The Ward Boundary Committee has met and made recommended changes to the boundaries for each ward. Changes were made to try and have an equal number of voters in each ward. There will be minor changes to Ward 7. Residents on SOM Center Road from Hanover Woods to Arthur Road and on Arthur Road from SOM Center Road and Solon Boulevard will be moving to Ward 2. The southern section of Richmond Road will move to Ward 5 with the remainder of Richmond Road residents.

It has been a pleasure serving the residents that will now be moving to Wards 2 and 5.

**Closing** - Thank you to the directors for the information that they provided. Information is correct as of the day this newsletter was submitted for printing.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you. Wish you all good health in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Dunne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "D".