



WARD 3 NEWSLETTER
Fall 2020
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I hope you were able to enjoy the summer as much as possible. It has definitely been a unique summer with COVID-19 and all the changes it has brought to our lives and the City.

I didn't send out a newsletter this summer due to budget uncertainty and the ever-changing environment. I encourage all residents to follow the guidelines of the Governor, wear masks in public and do our best to social distance when in public.

Starting October 5th students in Solon will start to go back to school. It is important for all residents to follow the guidelines because our children being able to stay in school depends on the success of the whole community in fighting the virus.

Election Season

The fall election will take place on Tuesday, November 3rd. The Ward 3 polling location will again be at the Solon Community Center. If you need any assistance to get to the polling location, please contact me and I will assist you.

For your convenience, I have provided a calendar of early voting hours for Cuyahoga County. You can vote at the Board of Elections, located at 2925 Euclid Avenue in downtown Cleveland. You can also drop off your absentee ballots at the drop box in the parking lot behind the building.

Early In-Person Voting Hours
November 3, 2020 General Election



Weekdays	October 6 - October 16	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Weekdays	October 19 - October 23	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday	October 24	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday	October 25	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Weekdays	October 26 - October 30	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday	October 31	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday	November 1	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday	November 2	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2925 EUCLID AVENUE | CLEVELAND, OH | 44115 216-443-VOTE (8683) | www.443vote.us

In addition to the Presidential election, there are several local races that are also on the ballot. This year, we will also have the opportunity to vote for our State Representative and State Senator. It is important to do your research on these positions as they have an impact on important issues in the City, such as school funding, State budget allocations and representing us at the Statehouse.

Issue 46: Hawthorne Golf Estates

Located between Richmond Road and Hawthorn Parkway, the former Hawthorne Valley Country Club was forced to close its doors creating an uncertain future for one of Solon's largest areas of green space. The owners approached City leaders for guidance in developing a plan for a new future for the former club. The resulting plan helps meet

many of our community's needs, while bringing a new quality neighborhood to Solon.

Empty Nester Gap: Our Master Plan calls for quality housing options to help residents stay in our community as their needs change. While we have excellent options for families and seniors, residents whose kids have grown are finding a significant gap in homes to fit their needs. Hawthorne Golf Estates (Issue 46) creates a neighborhood of just over 100 homes for 50-year and older residents looking for low-maintenance, quality homes in Solon. Aimed at professionals nearing retirement, the neighborhood strengthens our housing portfolio, without burdening our schools.

Green space: As part of the plan, owners of the former country club have put a binding agreement in place, so that with the passage of Issue 46 the entire 149-acre former golf course will be protected from development in perpetuity. While protection is contingent upon voter approval, discussions have begun with groups like the Cleveland Metroparks for its possible use as a community park.

Revenues: Once completed, Hawthorne Golf Estates is expected to generate roughly \$1 million each year in property and income tax revenues for our community. **It is estimated that \$800k will go to the school district with \$200k to the City as part of our income tax collections.**

Cost to the city: The City is not providing any financial incentives to make this \$42 million project possible. The neighborhood will pay for their own road repairs, landscaping, snow and trash removal. With the exception of usual safety services, Hawthorne Golf Estates is expected to have little to no cost to the community.

Police Department

The men and women of the Solon Police Department are honored to serve this community. They deeply appreciate the support and confidence that has been extended to them by Mayor Kraus, elected officials, and the residents of this City. The Police Department view themselves as your police; they view you, each resident and visitor, as part of the community. To this end, they strive to structure service delivery systems in a manner that embody their goal of proudly serving the residents of Solon.

The mission of the Police Department is to provide the highest quality professional police services through a community policing model that is predicated on establishing trust and cooperation with the community. It is not a program or a dedicated person or division – community policing is an organizational philosophy that must be embraced from the top-down and the bottom-up. It is a true understanding that the police cannot do it alone and must build partnerships with the community to solve community problems. The end goal of prevention and community policing is an improved quality of life for the community. This means the end goal for the Department should be improving the quality of life for those who live in, visit, or own a business in the community. Public trust can be improved or restored and crime reduced through this collaborative approach to policing.

A key component of maintaining community trust is ensuring that the best qualified applicants get into the law enforcement profession. City officials are committed to hiring the most qualified officers and then ensuring they receive continual training in the areas of Community Relations, Bias-Free

Policing, and Use of Force. The City is equally dedicated to holding officers accountable for any actions that are inconsistent with maintaining the highest professional standards of policing.

Community Life Update

Senior Center: During the pandemic, the Senior Center has continued to provide residents programming and services, which have included meals and transportation to those in need.

The Department is currently in the process of reviewing reopening guidelines provided by the State. They are eager to welcome residents back to the Senior Center, but it is important for them to do so in a safe manner. It has been very nice they have been able to provide some in-person outdoor programming in addition to the video and telephone virtual programming that has been offered since the pandemic started.

Solon Community Center: The Solon Community Center has reopened to residents to come and exercise. The indoor pool has also opened up for lap swimming, please reserve a lane online at: <https://solonrec.maxgalaxy.net/Home.aspx>.

In addition to the Community Center reopening, the Recreation Department has continued to offer different programming for residents. They have been providing instructional sports activities for children, as well as continuing to offer tennis and pickleball at the courts located at the Community Park.

The Recreation Department will be hosting a Fall Market at the Community Park on Saturday, October 10th from 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. This will feature a variety of local artisans, crafters, delicious eats, and farmers

market type vendors all wrapped up in a family-friendly event.

Please continue to watch for additional programming provided by the Recreation Department in the fall and winter.

Solon Center for the Arts: Solon Center for the Arts opened its doors on June 8th by welcoming back campers participating in Art, Dance & Theater Summer Camp. They are continuing to offer creative programming in the City such as music lessons, art classes and after school programming. Registration for these programs is available online at <https://solonarts.maxgalaxy.net>.

Recently, some art classes, dance lessons, and theater classes returned to in-person classes with virtual options for residents. Music lessons will continue virtually and registration is open online, with limited spaces.

In addition, you can like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SolonArtCenter to get up-to-date information about all of our camps, classes, lessons and community events

Finance Update

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an adverse effect on the City's budget. In the spring the City cut its operating budget by \$2.5 million and has deferred some lower priority capital projects to future years. The City is currently forecasting a \$2.5 million deficit and some of the budget cuts and hiring freezes instituted in 2020 will continue into 2021 in order to ensure we continue to keep the City in good financial standing.

Solon Bicentennial

2020 marked the 200th birthday of the City of Solon. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic

many of the great programming events we had planned had to be cancelled. The City embraced the celebration and had a great response to the first event in January. Everything after that event was cancelled.

U.S. Route 422 Sound Barriers

The City has met with ODOT about the possibility of having sound barriers installed along Route 422. We were told that a petition signed by the residents that live along Route 422 would have to be submitted if the project was to be considered. Once again, COVID-19 is an issue and it wouldn't be recommended to go door-to-door to get the petitions signed. The City is working on putting together a virtual petition that the residents can sign electronically. Look for this in the near future.

Clearwater Court Extension to Portz Parkway (Carrington Court)

Great news for our residents that live in the Carrington Court apartments and homes. After many calls from residents concerned about their safety when entering and exiting Carrington Court from Aurora Road, the property owners and the City have agreed on a solution by extending Clearwater Court all the way to Portz Parkway. This will give residents the option to head west on Portz Parkway to SOM Center Road or north on Portz Parkway to the light at Aurora Road. The City is negotiating with the Park East Apartment owners to purchase property that is in the proposed route. This will also define the borders of the City-owned property that was recently rezoned for the proposed special needs community.

You may have noticed construction on Aurora Road. This is the next phase of the Carrington Court project with another street off of Aurora Road.

Economic Development

The City has been buzzing with new construction and new business in 2020. The new construction on Bainbridge Road behind Walgreens will be the new orthodontic offices of Dr. Bomeli, DDS. The new construction on Aurora Road just past the Giant Eagle plaza will be the new dental offices of Dr. Butriy, DDS. Vitalia by Omni Senior Living recently opened and welcomed their first residents to its new facility located at 33095 Bainbridge Road. They also recently opened their headquarters right next door. Solon is very happy to have them in the City.

Fire Department

The Fire Department continues to take numerous precautions to protect employees and patients. However, no one should be afraid to call if you are having a medical emergency. The department will take appropriate precautions to protect you and your family while providing medical care.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has started carrying out limited fire inspection activities to help insure your safety as businesses begin to open. They have recently been working with restaurants, day care centers, barber shops and hair salons.

They have also been using the Stay at Home time to complete the annual Emergency Vehicle Operations Course. Each firefighter must maneuver large fire trucks and ambulances through several traffic cones obstacle courses. It's a challenge, but a necessary skill test to operate safely. Additionally, the Fire Department recently finished the Hazardous Material Operations training and completed the Fire Hydrant Flushing Program. This program is necessary to make sure fire hydrants are maintained and ready for action.

Halloween Update

The long-standing tradition of celebrating Halloween on October 31st from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. continues this year. Considering ongoing health concerns due to COVID-19, The City of Solon will be encouraging families to celebrate safely and take proper precautions.

It is understandable that some may not be comfortable participating in trick-or-treating this year. The City requests homeowners use the porch or front light to signal their intentions. It is asked that residents respect those that keep the light off and ask children not to ring those doorbells.

While promoting a spooky and safe experience, walkers and individuals passing out candy are urged to keep these guidelines in mind:

- Do not participate in trick-or-treat if you or a member of your household is not feeling well; if you have recently returned from a hotspot state; if you are waiting for COVID-19 test results or know that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Face coverings should be worn by all participants over the age of two, including individuals passing out treats.
- Trick-or-Treat as a household, avoiding groups of others.
- Frequently use hand sanitizer and sanitize high touch points such as a doorbell. When possible, use a motion activated decoration to announce trick-or-treaters.
- Consider individually packaged treat bags rather than a communal candy bowl.
- Maintain at least 6 ft distance between groups.
- Instead of waiting at the doorway for trick-or-treaters, use a lawn area or driveway to maintain safe distances.
- Do not distribute homemade treats or fresh fruits.

Information Technology Update

The City will be launching a new agenda management software which will document every step that a piece of legislation takes as it comes before Council. This will also make it easier for the history and meeting minutes to be available to the community. The software will allow the Council packets to be distributed electronically to Council members where they can review it on a mobile device.

The City also recently launched a new website which will eventually interface to our recorded meetings that will index the agenda and the video together. You will be able to go online and click on specific agenda items and jump to that time in the recorded video where the discussion took place. Keep an eye out for this update.

Thank you for taking time to read my newsletter. If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please reach out to me directly via phone at 440-476-3739 or via email at JZelwin@solonohio.org.

Thank you,

