
Solway Section Lines

Volume 15 Issue 1

January 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Solway Town Board wishes each of you and yours a blessed and prosperous New Year! May you enjoy the support of friends, love of family and an abundance of good health.

2008 Accomplishments

Looking to 2009, your Township Board reviews the accomplishments of 2008. Some of them are listed below:

- Streetlights installed at Jeffrey and Maple Grove Road intersection and the Caribou Lake Road and Highway #194 intersection
- WLSSD grant was awarded to our Recycling shed
- Scheduled road improvements, dust control and inspections completed
- New web site in operation – solwaytownship-mn.gov
- New blacktop overlay on our basketball/tennis courts
- Crack sealed all blacktopped surfaces at the townsite
- Metal roofing installed on dugouts
- Timberline shingles installed on warming shed
- Surveys, exhibits/drawings, completed and legal descriptions clarified for all township roads and filed with St. Louis County Auditors office
- Completed fire hall time agreement with Solway Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Completed contract for fire protection and First Response Medical Care with Solway Volunteer Fire Department (includes stipend pay)

If you have suggestions for improvements you would like the Town Board to pursue, give us a call or bring your ideas to a board meeting.

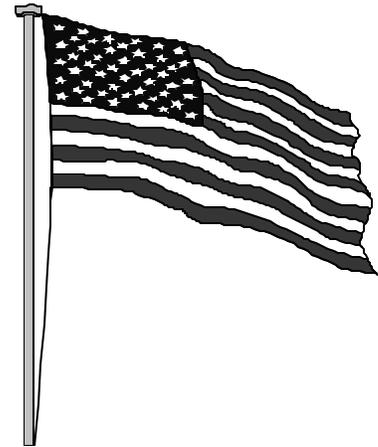
Citizen of the Year Award Criteria

Each year we welcome nominations for the Solway Citizen of the Year Award. Criteria for the award include the nominee being a township resident, 18 years of age or older and has donated considerable time and talent to the betterment of our community as a volunteer.

The winner of the award is honored for his/her contributions at the Township Annual Meeting in March. The recipient receives a personal plaque of recognition. In addition, the winner's name is added to the hall of fame plaque at the town hall which honors all previous winners of the award. Please submit your nominations to the town office by the first of March.

Election Filings

Township elections are fast approaching. Any qualified voter of Solway Township may file for town office beginning Dec. 30, 2008 and running until Jan. 13, 2009 at 5:00 pm. Affidavits of candidacy are filed with the town clerk at the town hall at 4029 Munger Shaw Road. You may call the clerk at 729-5134 to arrange a filing. The cost to file is \$2.00. The office to be filled at the March 2009 Annual Election is one supervisor, three-year term.



SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairman: Clare R. Stromlund

Supervisors: Ron Gajewski
and Scott Welsh

Clerk: Regena Merritt

Treasurer: Cindy Moe

Town Office:

4029 Munger Shaw Road

Cloquet, MN 55720

Phone: (218) 729-5134

Fax: (218) 729-5651

E-Mail: solwayclerk@hotmail.com

Office Hours: T, W, Th 9-3

For Hall Rentals

**Call 729-5134 leave name,
number and date wanted**

Township website:

solwaytownship-MN.gov

Annual Township Meeting & Election

The Township Annual Meeting and Election of Township Officers will be held Tuesday March 10, 2009. Polls will be open from noon to 8:00 p.m. with the Annual Meeting to begin at 8:30 pm.

Thanks Maple Grove 4-H

We wish to thank the Maple Grove 4-H club members for putting up and decorating the Christmas tree at the town hall. The tree and other decorations help put us all in the holiday spirit!

These youth also contribute to the success of our Halloween Carnival by helping decorate, running the cakewalk and helping cleanup. Thanks for all your contributions to our community.

Skating Fun

Plans are made for getting our skating rink flooded and the ice readied for another winter of skating fun. When the rink is opened it will be posted on the township sign. Feel free to use the rink anytime at your family's convenience. The rink is lighted from dusk to 10:00 pm everyday.

For your comfort the warming house will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. During this time a township staff member will be available to sell hot chocolate and assorted goodies. Staff will be manning the counter and not be in a position to provide supervision on the rink so it's important if your children are of an age needing supervision that you or another adult will be present. Needless to say if we have bad weather on the weekend the warming house will be closed, as skaters won't be expected to be out. Enjoy!

2010 Census

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. It is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The census takes less than 10 minutes to complete and Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. Census data is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, and state government. As Minnesota is close to losing one of its Congressional seats, it is most important that you fill out and return your census information so everyone is counted!

Our Community . . .

The Solway Township Community is fortunate to have so many residents that are willing to give of themselves to help us all. They belong to organizations, groups and committees that provide everything from essential services, to support and recreational opportunities. They include: Solway Volunteer Fire Department, Solway First Responders, Flamettes Auxiliary, Senior Citizens Group, Monday Bunch, Maple Grove Homemakers, Munger Goodfellowship Club, Maple Grove 4-H Club, Alliance of City, Townships and Schools, Soccer Fields Committee, Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association, Girl Scout Brownie Troop, Lakehead Harvest Reunion, St. Louis County Fair Board, Alcoholics Anonymous, Special Events Committee, Proctor Safe Schools Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning and Zoning Committee, Fields Coordinators, Proctor Area Youth Softball Association, Country Music Show organizers and entertainers. These individuals, organizations, groups and committees, help provide the quality of life we enjoy in Solway Township. Each of you deserve our thanks for your contributions of time and talent to our community.

Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is awarding \$1,000 scholarships to up to six juniors currently attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial high school or a home study program that plan to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school.

Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with a written essay discussing this year's topic: **What is the one issue that is always voted on at every annual township meeting in Minnesota; and why does this issue make townships distinctly different than any other units of local government?**

- ◆ Essays must be between 450 and 500 words, and must be typed with double spacing.
- ◆ Applicants should not name themselves, their school, their town or city, or their local officials in the essay.
- ◆ Each essay will be judged by an independent panel based upon originality, knowledge of subject matter in relationship to the title, and supporting statements, as well as correct spelling and punctuation. The judging will be completed by October 1, 2009.

Along with the completed application and written essay, students just submit:

- ◆ A current high school transcript
- ◆ A letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or counselor
- ◆ All items must be submitted in one envelope and mailed to: Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 53376, postmarked by May 1, 2009. Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after May 1, 2009 will not be accepted.

Winners will be notified in writing by October 15, 2009 and will be invited to attend the MAT annual meeting to be held on November 19-21, 2009 in Rochester. Scholarship awards will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon receipt of verification of enrollment at a college, university, or technical school.

A copy of the application is available on the MAT website www.mntownships.org. For more information and research tips, call your township office at 729-5134.

**Town of Solway
St. Louis County
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720**

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2008 leader of the year Ron Gajewski

Winter Fun Day Jan 31st 1-6 pm

Citizen of the Year nominations open

Township Election & Annual Meeting March 10th

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The past year on the fire department has been one of the busiest years in the 50-plus year history of the department – Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Received another FEMA Grant for approximately \$50,000 to purchase new turnout gear, thermal imaging camera, and other equipment. In the past 3 years the township has received approximately \$160,000 to update department equipment.
- Received a grant from St. Mary's Hospital to purchase 3 complete medical bags. These bags will go to first responders living the farthest distance from the fire hall. This will allow them to respond directly to the scene decreasing initial response time.
- Responded to over 80 medical and fire calls. This is the highest total ever in the history of the department.
- Initiated a stipend pay program for firefighters and first responders.
- Updated department training standards to meet federal and state safety requirements.

Our focus for 2009 is going to be recruiting new firefighters to join the department. We currently have 16 members on the department and are in need of more members. The department would like to grow to 25 members by the end of 2009.

We would also like to thank everyone for the support given this past year and wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Maple Grove 4-H Meetings

The Maple Grove 4-H Club has had a great year and has re-enrolled for 2009. Our meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at the Solway Town Hall at 6:00 pm.

Halloween Carnival Review

On Oct. 24 your town hall was over run by ghosts and goblins of every shape, size and age. Youngsters were decked out in costume finery eager to try their skills on a game, win a cake or some other treat. Many with some apprehension went through the haunted trail at the pavilion. Lucky picking of purchased chances made some participants winners in the raffle at the end of the evening. Hopefully fun and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

The Solway Special Events Committee would like to thank the following businesses, individuals and organizations for their contributions to the 2005 Annual Munger Halloween Carnival: Shelton Excavation, Solway Senior Citizens, Proctor Federal Credit Union, Dry Dock Restaurant, Blackwoods Restaurant, Skyline Party & Game Zone, McDonalds Restaurant, Cub Foods, Hermantown Wal-Mart, West Duluth Menards, Larry & Betty Everett, Munger Goodfellowship Club, Lakehead Harvest Reunion, Maple Grove Homemakers, Frank & Bonnie Siiro, Munger Tavern, Cloquet Wal-Mart, Leon & Mary Forstrom, Todd Signs, Valeria Witte, Mary Busch, Starvin Marvins, The Coffee Shop. Without their support, the event would not be possible. Please consider returning the favor to our donors. Thank you!

RECYCLING REMINDER

Please flatten your cardboard boxes before bringing them to the recycling shed. Also, please take care to separate the corrugated cardboard from the mixed paper and rinse out your food and beverage containers.

Recycling Shed Hours

Wednesday 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 7:00 am—12:00 noon

If schools or businesses are closed because of bad weather, the Recycling shed will also be closed.

Solway Township Supervisor Ron Gajewski named Minnesota Association of Townships 2008 Leader of the Year.

Ron Gajewski has served as a Solway Township Supervisor, St. Louis County, since December of 1996. His willingness to take on difficult projects and see them to successful completion brings added revenues and additional community services to the township.

One such project on which Ron worked was the implementation of the Aggregate Tax for Solway Township. Because Ron did not give up, this tax brings revenues of approximately twenty-five to thirty thousand yearly to the township. These dollars are used as property tax relief for township residents.

Ron is the chief organizer of the Solway Special Events Committee which holds an annual Halloween Carnival attended by two hundred fifty to three hundred area children each fall. The funds raised from the Carnival are used to sponsor a Winter Fun Day that is free of charge to the community.

The Winter Fun Day event has grown with one hundred fifty children and adults attending each year. This past year was the first year the Committee sponsored a Fall Fun Day that was held in conjunction with the Fire Department open house which included fire safety and First Responder demonstrations by the Solway Volunteer Fire Department.

Ron was instrumental in the purchase of a new fire truck for the Solway Volunteer Fire Department. A presentation made by Ron at the annual meeting helped to secure a unanimous vote approving both the purchase of the truck and the proposed levy. His attention to detail also caught an error saving the township about twenty-five thousand dollars.

Because of his work, the town hall grounds now have a volleyball court, tennis courts, horseshoe pits and basketball courts. In the summer Ron can be seen marking the lines on the soccer fields or volleyball court or whatever is needed to keep the grounds in top shape. The town's clerk has received many calls from townships residents expressing how much they appreciate these facilities.

His commitment to the service of others was evident as a St. Louis County Social Worker and his dedication to the community continues with his work for Solway Township.

The Minnesota Association of Townships congratulates him as Leader of the Year winner, category Population 400 and Over.

Winter Fun Day Sat., Jan. 31

Solway Township will have its annual Winter Fun Day on Saturday, January 31 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Mark this date on your calendars! A meeting will be held Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm to plan the event. If you'd like to be involved in planning the day, please come to the meeting. We're always looking for new faces and new ideas.

Some of the activities for the day will be skating, sliding, bingo, bonfire, and free food for all township residents. Watch for "flyers" that will be posted and distributed as the day approaches with the day's schedule. It's a fun and free family activity. Hope to see you there!
