

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

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.

2014 Citizen of the Year Award Nomination

Each year we welcome nominations for the Solway Citizen of the Year Award. Criteria for the award include the nominee being a township resident/property owner, 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.

Past recipients of the award are: Axel Carlson 1992, Valeria Witte 1993, Katherine Miller 1994, Kenneth Hayes 1995, Walt Carlson 1996, Winifred Freed 1997, Centennial Committee 1998, Arnie Whiting 1999, Mary Busch 2000, Jim Miller 2001, Betty Everett 2002, Karen and Rick Flesvig 2003, Isabelle Callahan 2006, Wayne Suliin 2008, John Childers 2009, Joan Gajewski 2010, Larry Shelton 2011 and Jeff Nelson 2012. Congratulations to all of them.

Annual Meeting & Township Elections, March 11, 2014

The Election polls will be open from NOON to 8:00 PM to elect one supervisor for a three-year term. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:30 PM to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

Some of the agenda items to be discussed at the Annual Meeting are as follows:

- 2014 Citizen of the Year
- Report of the 2013 Receipts and Disbursements
- Review of Town Hall rental fees
- Review of Cemetery regulations
- Fire Department Report
- Proposed Budget and Levy for 2015

In case of bad weather, the Annual Town Meeting and Election will be held at the same time and place on the third Tuesday of March.

Filing for Township Election

Filing for Town Office will be held for a two week period beginning December 31, 2013. Filing will close on January 14, 2014 at 5:00 PM. The filing fee is \$2.00. Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at Solway Town Hall, 4029 Munger Shaw Road, Cloquet, MN during this period of time. Township office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM. To file, come to the town office during office hours or contact the Town Clerk at 729-5134 to set an appointment. Office to be filled at the March Annual Election is: 1 Supervisor (three-year term).

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson:

Scott Welsh

Supervisors:

Clare Stromlund and Ron Gajewski

Clerk: Regena Merritt

Treasurer: Cindy Moe

Office Hours: M, T, Th 9-3

For Hall Rentals call 729-5134, leave your name, number and date wanted.

Phone: 218-729-5134

Fax: 218-729-5651

**Township website:
solwaytownship-mn.gov**

Email:

solwayclerk@hotmail.com

2013 Accomplishments

Looking to 2014, your Township Board reviews the accomplishments of 2013. Some of them are listed below:

- WLSSD grant in the amount of \$6,265.00 received for our recycling shed operations
- Completed scheduled road improvements, dust control, roadside mowing, ditching and brushing
- Hosted Bill Pelto's monthly Country Music Shows
- Recycling roof shingles replaced
- U-8 Soccer field setup and utilized
- Handicapped accessibility door opener installed on town hall handicapped ramp door
- Solway Volunteer Fire Department tanker updated with a previously driven chassis and refurbished tank and storage compartments
- Crack filling and seal coating of hall parking lot, tennis and basketball courts.
- Hosted Great Northern Transmission Line informational meeting
- New ceiling lighting in our maintenance/equipment storage garage, and finished siding around overhead doors on the garage
- Hosted recognition dinner for current and former firefighters and Flamettes
- Hosted a WLSSD Electronics Collection Day
- Special Events Committee: Winter Fun Day, Halloween Carnival, National Night Out
- Continued maintenance of town hall and facilities for residents use. 224 events scheduled in 2013.

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.

Winter Fun Day: "Free For All"

Our winter fun day is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 1:00 to 6:00 PM. This FREE event is sponsored by Solway Township's Special Events Committee for all township residents/property owners so remind your friends and neighbors.

Activities planned at the writing of this article include hayrides, skating, sliding, bonfire, bingo and free food: coffee, hot chocolate, hot dogs, chips, cookies and bars. Food is served all afternoon so come for lunch and stay for supper. The Special Events Committee is picking up the tab with proceeds earned from our Halloween Carnival.

Free bingo will run 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Each player may play up to four free cards at a time to vie for a \$10 winner's pot. If an individual wants to play more than the four free cards they may do so for 25 cents per extra card. The extra money will be added to the pot.

A Special Events Committee meeting is being held Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 PM to complete planning for the day. New faces and ideas are always welcome so if you'd like to help, come to this meeting at the Town Hall.

Recycling Shed Hours

Wednesday 3:30 to 6:30 PM
Saturday 7:00 AM to 12:00 noon

If schools or businesses are closed because of bad weather or the temperature is -10 degrees or colder, the recycling shed will also be closed.

Skating Fun

At the writing of this newsletter, our rink is already being flooded. Our volunteer firefighters will continue working to get usable ice laid. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. When the rink is ready to open, 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!

Country Music Continues in 2014

Bill Pelto and his entourage of singers and musicians continue their country music shows at the town hall. The show is the second Saturday of each month. First quarter dates are January 11th, February 8th and March 8th. The music starts at 6:00 PM and runs till about 9:15 PM. A potluck (bring a food dish to share) starts at 5:00 PM prior to the music show for those wishing to participate.

None of the performers are paid as they volunteer their time and talent. A free will offering is appreciated to cover show production expenses. Let's all support the show so we can keep live music performances at the town hall. Bring your dancing shoes and be sure to thank Bill and the other entertainers.

Firefighters Easter Bingo

The Solway Volunteer Fire Department's Easter Bingo will be held Friday, April 11th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to enjoy a fun evening while supporting your firefighters. Proceeds are used for the purchase of needed firefighting gear and equipment.

Community Club News...

Solway Seniors

This fall we were entertained at one meeting by "The Downbeats".

We had election of officers and Joan Grau was elected President and Darlene Lind as Secretary for two years. Ken Lindemood is our Vice-President and Barb Mattson will fill in as Treasurer until fall to replace Jan Lindemood who died suddenly.

We had a catered meal for Christmas and played Bingo and had music by Loren Lindevig.

Coming up we hope to have more speakers and entertainment or play bingo after lunch.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Munger Goodfellowship Club

We attended a Holiday Fest in October in Floodwood with other area Homemakers Clubs. We served lunch at the craft show in Solway. Thanks to all those who stopped by for lunch or coffee and bars. Our group donated to and attended the Halloween Carnival.

We had an auction at our November meeting and went out for our Christmas party and exchanged secret pal gifts.

January we are going to the Pantry and have our meeting and play bingo. In February we always have our reveling of our secret pal for the past year and draw new names.

Best Wishes for the New Year.

Flamettes

Thank you for your support at the Firemen's Bingo. We cleared close to \$1,000 for the firemen.

Our next events will be the Easter Bingo Friday April 11th, and our Pancake Breakfast will be April 27th. .

We have January off, but will meet the first Monday of February at 7PM.

Monday Bunch

We are meeting every Monday at 12:30 PM to 4PM. Bring a craft and join us. Our next craft sale will be May 3, 2014; call Bonnie at 729-8382 for tables.

South St. Louis County Fair Board

Our convention is coming up in January; we hope to get a big share of our agenda figured out by then. The Fair will be July 9th—13th with the 8th being entry day in the industrial building. Start working on your entries. We are going to open up the industrial building for vendors when the all city rummage sale is going on. Watch the Journal for information or go to the WEB site www.proctorduluth.com for the price of tables/spaces.

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We are holding our annual meeting, election of officers and pot luck dinner Saturday February 22nd. Meeting starts at 5:00Pm downstairs at the town hall followed by a pot luck supper upstairs.

2013 Halloween Carnival – Review

Ghosts, pirates, princesses, haunted maze – we had all this and more at the Carnival held October 25th. People of all ages – kids to seniors – enjoyed the fun and excitement of skill games, cake walk, bingo and winning raffle prizes. There was good food, conversations and fellowship for all who came. It was your coming that made the carnival such a huge success once again.

Nothing just happens and it took dozens of individuals – adults and students alike – to organize, prepare and work the carnival. We thank each and everyone of you for sharing your time and talents. The Solway Special Events Committee would like to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed to the 2013 Munger Halloween Carnival. Without their support the event would not be possible.

Maple Grove 4-H

4-H is for kids who love to learn by doing and want to explore something new!

4-H welcomes all kids from all backgrounds—city, town, or country. The 4-H learning by doing approach uses fun projects to teach life skills. Projects include photography, plants, art, robotics, food, animals, and much more. In 4-H kids have fun learning with the help of parents, volunteers, and older youth 4-H members. There are many active clubs in our area with kids of all ages. Members have opportunities to participate in 4-H events throughout the year.

The Maple Grove 4-H Club meets at the Solway Town Hall the third Monday of the month at 6PM. We would love to invite new members to join our club! Contact Amy Johnson at 218-729-0503 for more information.

Questions about 4-H? Contact Valerie Coit, 4-H Coordinator at 218-733-2873 or vcoit@umn.edu.

Notary Service

Your town clerk is a State Licensed Notary. If you have documents that need your signature notarized call the town office at 729-5134 and arrange a time to meet. This service is free of charge.

Protect Our Environment

Toady, many recreationists are aware of aquatic invasive species and their negative impact on our water resources. And while aquatic species, such as the zebra mussel, have been hot in the news, relatively few people know about the equally devastating impact terrestrial invasive species can have on our treasured forest, wetland and prairie resources.

Terrestrial invasive species are currently killing trees, displacing native plant and animal species, altering soil and water chemistry, and changing fire and other natural disturbance patterns. In the process, terrestrial invasive species can impact human health, make recreation difficult and destroy the natural beauty we all value.

Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Forest Service, PlayCleanGo is an education and outreach campaign developed to encourage outdoor recreation while protecting valuable natural resources. It is designed to give outdoor recreationists a clear call to action. It urges them to be informed, attentive and accountable for stopping the spread of terrestrial invasive species

PlayCleanGo works to stop the spread of terrestrial invasive species by changing the behaviors associated with pathways of spread for terrestrial invasive species. By engaging folks in simple measures to prevent the spread of terrestrial invasive species, the campaign creates a new social norm and teaches our kids the right thing to do:

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants and Animals:

- Arrive with clean gear
- Burn local or certified firewood
- Use local or weed-free hay
- Stay on designated trails
- Before leaving, remove mud and seeds from your shoes and gear

Check out the website and social media pages. www.playcleango.org

Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship

The Minnesota Association of Townships is a nonprofit corporation representing Minnesota townships while being a voice for its roughly 9,000 officers. It regularly conducts research and educational programs designed to foster efficient and economical town governmental services and acts as a liaison between state government officials to encourage sustained cooperation.

The Minnesota Association of Townships is awarding \$1,000 scholarships to up to four 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:

Why is it important to you to feel like a part of your community? And, what steps can townships take to develop or foster a feeling of community in today's youth?

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, 2014.**

Along with the completed application and written essay, students must submit a current high school transcript and 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 55376*, postmarked by **May 1, 2014**. Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after May 1, 2014 will not be accepted.

Winners will be notified in writing by October 15, 2014 and will be invited to attend the Minnesota Association of Townships Educational Conference & Annual Meeting to be held on November 20-22, 2014 at the DECC in Duluth, Minnesota. Scholarship awards will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon receipt of verification of enrollment at a college, university, or technical school.

Harbor Square Dancers

Come and join Harbor Squares for a fun afternoon at our ABC Square Dance, January 18th, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. No experience necessary. No partner needed. Singles, couples, and families, ages 8 to 98, are all welcome! It's not only a great way to meet new people, but it's fun, it's good for your body, and it's free! If you can walk, you can square dance!

Solway's Firefighters.....

It is hard to believe that 2013 is coming to an end already. Looking back at the year it has been a very busy and productive year. At this point, since January 1st the fire department has responded to 92 calls for assistance with both fire and medical emergencies.

A firefighter's job is never done and they're on call 24/7. Fire truck pumps need to be tested and certified annually. Firefighters themselves need annual endurance physicals and breathing testing to ensure they can sustain themselves when wearing a breathing apparatus that allows them entry to burning buildings or being around toxic fumes such as a car fire emits. That's in addition to the hours of training needed to meet Firefighter I and II requirements. Most of our current firefighters also carry Emergency Medical Technician Certifications.

What this means is that we have a professional team of firefighter's ready to respond to the needs of their friends and neighbors in the Solway Community. They're there to provide medical care prior to the arrival of an ambulance; they're the ones entering a burning home to save lives and property; they're at vehicle accidents ready to extract victims, provide medical care, curb fire danger and direct traffic; they're ready to help surrounding fire departments battle major structure of forest fires; ...and so much more.

During this Holiday season when time is taken to appreciate and enjoy family and friends at special gatherings, let us remember to thank those who so faithfully stand by to serve all of us.

The Fire Department members have reminded us of the following safety tips:

- If you are using a real Christmas tree, keep it watered so it doesn't dry out and become a fire hazard.
 - Inspect your lights for frayed wires, bare spots, cracked sockets, etc. before using. Replace the lights if they are worn.
 - Remember to not overload your electrical outlets
 - Do not leave your holiday lights on unattended.
 - Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace as it can throw off sparks and embers.
 - If you are using candles; make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they can't be easily knocked down.
 - Never put lit candles on a Christmas tree!
- Make sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms have fresh batteries and are functional by testing them.

Lastly, the members of the fire department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Septic System Management

** Information from the St. Louis County Environmental Services Department On-site Waste Water Division*

Septic systems protect human health and the environment by safely recycling wastewater and returning it to the natural environment. It is your job as the homeowner to be sure this happens effectively and safely. As with your car, regular maintenance and attention is needed to keep it operating efficiently in a cost effective manner.

Best Management practices:

- Maintain vegetative cover (turf, grass, native grasses, flower). Mow, but do not fertilize, burn or over-water.
- Keep all vehicles, bikes, snowmobiles, etc. off.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs near drain field.
- Inspect for cracked, missing inspection pipe covers.
- Follow practices to prevent freezing, including mulching the entire system if needed.

Inside your home:

- Repair all leaking faucets, toilets, fixtures.
- Change to low flow toilets, showerheads.
- Replace appliances with low water use models.
- Spread water uses evenly throughout the day and week.
- Re-route clean water sources: water softener, treatment unit recharge water, high efficiency furnace drip, sump pumps to separate drainage area.

Watch what goes down the drain:

- The toilet is not a garbage can—nothing should be flushed except human waste and toilet paper.
- Excess medications—return to pharmacy or land-fill.
- Limit or eliminate drain cleaner use.
- Do not use automatic toilet cleaners, disposable brushes.
- Do not use every-use or automatic shower cleaners.
- No hazardous waste, paints, solvents, chemicals.
- Eliminate or limit use of garbage disposal.
- No chlorine treated water such as from hot tubs.

Hopefully these tips will help keep your system in peak running condition.

Bookmobile Schedule

The Bookmobile comes every three weeks on Thursday afternoons at 3:00PM. They're in the parking lot 45 minutes before moving on to their next location. The next scheduled visits are Jan. 2, 23; Feb. 13; Mar. 6,27.

Town Office
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

Phone: 218-729-5134
Fax: 218-729-5651
Email: solwayclerk@hotmail.com

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Solway Section Lines

Township Events Calendar

Jan. 2.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Jan. 8.....Special Events Committee Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan. 11.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
Jan. 14.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan. 23.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Jan. 25.....Winter Fun Day 1:00 to 6:00 pm
Feb. 8.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
Feb. 11.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Feb. 13.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Mar. 6.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Mar. 8.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
Mar. 11.....Township Elections noon to 8:00 pm
Mar. 11.....Annual Meeting 8:30 pm
Mar. 13.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Mar. 27.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 8.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 11.....Easter Bingo 7:00 pm
April 12.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm