

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2016

Happy New Year

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

2016 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, Jeff Nelson 2013, Darlene Miller 2014, and Kareen Nelson 2015. Congratulations to all of them.

Annual Meeting & Township Elections, March 8, 2016

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 as prescribed by law.

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

- 2016 Citizen of the Year
- Report of the 2015 Receipts and Disbursements
- Review of Town Hall rental fees
- Review of Cemetery regulations
- Fire Department Report
- Proposed Budget and Levy for 2017

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 29, 2015. Filing will close on January 12, 2016 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Winter Fun Day	2
2015 Review	2
Club News	3
Bookmobile	3
Scholarship Program	4
Solway Firefighters	5

SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson:
Ron Gajewski

Supervisors: Scott Welsh
& Clare R. Stromlund

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

2015 Accomplishments

Looking to 2016, your Township Board reviews the accomplishments of 2015. Some of them are listed below:

- New septic system completed for hall.
- WLSSD grant in the amount of \$7,952.00 received for our recycling shed operations.
- Completed scheduled road improvements, dust control, roadside mowing, ditching and brushing.
- New roof vents installed on hall roof.
- Hall rain gutters re-leveled and caulked; replaced a damaged gutter.
- New maintenance sink installed in maintenance room.
- Hosted recognition dinner for current and former firefighters, Flamettes and employees.
- Special Events Committee: Winter Fun Day, Halloween Carnival, National Night Out.
- Hosted Bill Pelto's monthly Country Music Show.
- Continued maintenance of town hall and facilities for residents use. 270 events were scheduled in 2015.
- Started construction of Witte hiking trails.

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 30th, 1:00 to 5:00 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, bars and smores. 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 6th 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, plans are made for getting our rink flooded. Our 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 2016

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 9th, February 13th and March 12th. 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 Saturday, March 26th at 6:00 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.

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.

Community Club News...

Solway Seniors

In October, we had speakers from the Whole Foods Co-op. Samples and various vegetables were demonstrated. Literature was passed out.

In December, Jerry Allan, singer was the entertainment. A catered meal was served. Bingo rounded out the meeting. It was a very enjoyable day!

There will be no meeting in January.

Any Senior Citizens from the surrounding area are welcome to join us. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 1:00. The next meeting is Feb 18th.

Munger Goodfellowship Club

We met at the Solway Town hall for the Area Homemakers Holiday Fest. We donated to, and attended the Halloween Carnival. We made a decoration for Christmas in November. We had a Christmas party at Black Bear for our December meeting and exchanged gifts.

We wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season & Happy New Year!

Flamettes

The Bingo was a huge success! We cleared over \$900.00 for the firemen. Thank you for buying raffle tickets and food items. See you for the Easter Bingo. We meet the 1st Monday of each month (except Dec, Jan, June and July) at 7:00 PM at the town hall. Anyone is welcome to join.

Monday Bunch

Thanks to all who supported the craft sale in October. Our next sale will be Saturday May 7, 2016 9:00 AM–1:00 PM. Call 729-8382 for tables. No rummage at the sale. We meet every Monday at 12:30 PM–4:00 PM. Come join us and bring you crafts and conversation.

South St. Louis County Fair Board

We have our Country Fair Convention in mid-January. Our Fair dates will be July 6-10, for 2016, with July 5th for the entry date. We have booked "The Whitesides Band" and Alf's Robotic Puppets are coming back. There will be more information in the next newsletter. Thanks for you support!

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

The Lakehead Harvest Reunion meets the last Monday of each month at Solway Town Hall at 7:30 PM. We meet in the basement of the town hall.

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 January 7 & 28; February 18; March 10 & 31.

2015 Halloween Carnival – Review

Ninja Turtles, pirates, princesses, haunted maze – we had all this and more at the Carnival held October 23rd. 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 2015 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 6 PM. 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.

**ANNUAL MEETING and
TOWN BOARD ELECTION
March 8th , 2016
Polls open: 12 noon–8:00 PM
Annual Meeting: 8:30 PM**

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 four juniors currently attending a Minnesota public, private or parochial high school, or 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:

Describe ways in which broadband Internet access improves the lives of rural residents. What challenges exist in providing broadband Internet in rural areas? And what policies should governments at all levels, (federal, state, and local) adopt to ensure that regardless of geographic location all Americans have equal access to broadband Internet?

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, 2015.**

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, 2016**. Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after May 1, 2016 will not be accepted.

Winners will be notified in writing by October 15, 2016 and will be invited to attend the Minnesota Association of Townships Educational Conference & Annual Meeting to be held on November 17-19, 2016 in St. Cloud, 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.

Visit the MAT website: www.mntownships.org or <http://blandinonbroadband.org/> for applications and research information.

Protect Our Environment

Today, 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 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

New Solway Residents?

If you have new neighbors in the Township that aren't getting the Solway Section Lines Newsletter please call the town office at 729-5134 to be put on the mailing list.

Street Lights.....

If you've noticed a street light at one of our intersections being out or going off and on at night, please call the office 729-5134 to report it. Thanks for helping with this.

Solway's Firefighters.....

It is hard to believe that 2015 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 122 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 or 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.

The Solway Fire Department is always looking for new members, if interested call the Department at 729-6304 or send an email to solwayvfd@hotmail.com.

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

Culvert permits

Access to private properties off township roads require a township permit for the installation of property entrance culverts. Obtaining a permit requires a \$100 fee of which \$50 is returned to the property owner after the final inspection and the culvert is found to be properly installed.

An initial inspection of the proposed site for installation of the culvert is done with the applicant. At the inspection the length and diameter of the culvert as well as grade and ditching requirements for the installation are determined. The applicant can make arrangements for the installation. After the completion of the installation a final inspection occurs prior to getting the \$50 returned. Please note our office hours when a permit can be picked up. The permit can be mailed as well after receiving the fee.

Winter Safety Concerns

Portable Heaters. They're often referred to as "space heaters" and, according to National Fire Protection Association statistics, account for about one third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths. Most of these fires are caused by owners not properly maintaining the portable heater, or the use of unsafe portable heaters. But rest assured there are several steps you can take to use portable heaters safely. Always keep the heater at least three feet from furniture, walls and anything that could ignite from the heat, and keep children and pets away from portable heaters at all times. Be sure to turn off portable heaters, unplug them if they plug into the wall and wait for them to cool before going to bed or leaving the room. You should also ensure portable heaters are positioned on a level surface, if they get knocked over easily, the heated part of the device could touch a flammable surface and spark an ignited fire (some portable heaters include sensors that cause the heater to shut off automatically if it tilts over). Finally, check electric portable heaters for cord damage, other damage and missing parts before use.

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes. Turn the affected faucets on to allow water to drain as it thaws. The running water will also help to melt the frozen water in the pipe more rapidly. This is why a trickle of running water is a good way to prevent frozen pipes.

Let heat gradually warm up the pipe to melt the ice. There are several safe heat sources that work well for this. An electric heating pad is a good option because it can be wrapped around the pipe to heat it evenly. A hair dryer or portable space heater are also good heat sources to use. Thaw frozen pipes gradually and evenly to prevent damage to the pipe.

Note: Never use a blowtorch or open flame of any sort as your heat source. A torch or flame can present a fire hazard and it can heat the water in the pipe too quickly causing it to rupture.

Town Office
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 665
Duluth, MN

Change Service Requested

Solway Section Lines

Township Events Calendar

Jan. 6.....Special Events Committee Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan. 7 & 28.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Jan. 9.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
Jan. 12Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan. 30Winter Fun Day 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Feb. 9Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Feb. 13.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
Feb. 18.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Mar. 8.....Township Elections noon to 8:00 pm
Mar. 8.....Annual Meeting 8:30 pm
Mar. 12Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
Mar. 15.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Mar. 10 & 31.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
Mar 26Easter Bingo 6:00 pm
April 9.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 pm
April 12.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 24Flamettes Pancake Breakfast 8AM to noon