

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2017

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 14, 2017 as posted and published. Scott Welsh ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Thirty-three residents voted for Scott. Congratulations Scott on your re-election!

The 2018 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$348,400 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$100,500	Hall	\$30,000	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$102,500	Park	\$13,800	General	\$100,100

The Board approved \$62,155 of aggregate revenue to be used toward the budget. The proposed levy of \$286,245 was unanimously approved by the electorate present. This is the ninth consecutive year without a levy increase.

St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Jeff Karkkainen reported on "calls" to Solway Township during the past year. There is little change in calls from last year. Deputy Karkkainen feels that we are fortunate to live in a safe community. He stressed thefts and burglaries are usually associated with individuals looking for money to purchase drugs. It's important to be watchful for cars and individuals that are unusual for your neighborhood. Be sure to keep your cars and homes locked.

Proctor School Board member Larry Shelton reported the new construction on the sports complex has been awarded to Johnson Wilson Constructors. Larry thought Township monies from the referendum would be available this summer. He thanked residents for their support. Our total school enrollment continues to grow.

All Seniors and Grandparents can pick up pass cards to attend home school athletic events free of charge. One can be obtained by calling the Township or School District offices.

Other agenda items discussed during the meeting were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations – no changes in regulations or rates.
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed—no changes.
- The electorate again approved \$1,000 toward hosting a National Night Out held the first Tuesday evening in August, and \$1,000 for an appreciation dinner for current and retired firefighters, Flamettes and township employees.
- The electorate also approved \$100 donations to the South St. Louis County Fair, Jedlicka Jr. High Washington D.C. trip, and Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party.
- Publishing of township notices will continue in the Duluth News-Tribune, Proctor Journal, Hermantown Star and Cloquet Pine Knot.
- Posting sites continue at the town hall, recycling shed, Saginaw Post Office and Saginaw Union Station.

Next year's Annual Meeting and Election will be held March 13, 2018.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson:

Clare R. Stromlund

Supervisors: Ron Gajewski and Scott Welsh

Clerk: Regena Merritt

Deputy Clerk: Terri Jensen

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

Marcie Keppers – Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 14th, Marcie Keppers was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2017. Marcie's nomination recognizes her volunteer contributions to the Solway community. She generously shares her time and talents for the betterment of others.

Excerpts from Marcie's nomination letter are as follows:

"Marcie moved into Solway Township in 2003, and got involved with the 4H group in 2004 when she enrolled both of her girls. Her husband Jeff became a firefighter in 2004. Marcie became active with the Special Events Committee the same year planning and working at the Halloween Carnival, Winter Fun Day and National Night Out. She is the type of person that is a behind the scenes helper, always ready to help no matter what needs to be done."

We wish to congratulate you Marcie on receiving this award. Thank you for your many contributions to our community. They are deeply appreciated.

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting for Solway Township will be held at Solway Town Hall on Tuesday May 2nd at 5:00 pm. Property valuations and classifications determined by the assessor for this year's assessment, which will be the basis of taxes payable next year, shall be reviewed by the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization. The Board shall make such changes and corrections in valuations and classifications as it shall deem proper to achieve equalization within the jurisdiction. Property owners may appear in person, by representative, or send a letter to this meeting requesting a review of the assessment. The local board shall consider the appeal and take appropriate action.

The law requires that property owners shall first appear before the local board, after which the owner may appeal the property valuation or classification to the County Board of Appeal & Equalization if not satisfied by the decision of the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization.

Property Tax Refund

To qualify for a Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund, you must be a full or part year resident of Minnesota for the year, and can't be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. Eligibility is also based on your household income and property taxes paid on your principal residence in Minnesota, as outlined below.

RENTERS:

Your household income for 2016 must be less than \$58,880. The maximum refund is \$2,060.

HOMEOWNERS:

You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2016 and Jan 2, 2017. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund

(for Homeowners) 2016 household income must be less than \$108,660. The maximum refund is \$2,660.

For Special Homestead Credit Refund (for homeowners) there is no income limit, but the net property tax on your homestead property must have increased by more than 12% from 2016 to 2017. The increase must be at least \$100.

For more information go to the Minnesota Revenue site: www.revenue.state.mn.us.

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.

Home Fire Detection Campaign

Each year, the Red Cross responds to nearly 66,000 disasters, the vast majority of which are home fires. So the Red Cross set a goal to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries in the US by 25% by 2020. By working in partnership with organizations like the Solway First Responders, we can make a difference.

Smoke detectors should be in **each bedroom** and on **every level** of your home. Smoke detectors also have a limited life span. If yours are over 10 years old, they need to be replaced, even if it has fresh batteries and 'beeps' when you test it.

If your alarms are older than 10 years - replace them!

Manufacture date is on the back of detectors. If yours does not have a date, it is older than 1997.

If a fire starts in your home, you may have just two minutes to escape.

The American Red Cross and the Solway First Responders want to help you, your family and our community be safe. Remember to:

- Test your smoke alarms monthly
- Practice your fire escape plan
- Have a designated place to meet outside of the home if there is a fire

Thank you for your interest in having FREE smoke alarms installed in your home by Solway First Responders. To request the installation of smoke detectors go to:

www.getasmokealarm.org
or residents can call 612-460-3674

Community Club News...

Flamettes

Our Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday April 30th from 8AM to noon. We will be raffling off one mens and one womens basket of goods. All proceeds go to the Volunteer Fire Department. The cost for the breakfast is \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children and age 5 and under free.

We will be selling bars, hot dogs, nachos, coffee, pop and popcorn at the Volunteer Fire Department Bingo on Saturday April 8th. The Bingo starts at 6 PM. We will have door prizes and grocery bags to raffle off. These will be our last fundraisers until the fall.

Monday Bunch

Our Craft Sale will be on Saturday April 29th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Solway Senior Citizens will be selling lunch and bars. Tables are \$10.00 and there are a few left. Call Bonnie at 218-729- to reserve a table.

Come join us Monday afternoons from 12:30 PM to 4 PM to share your talents with other crafters, or learn what others are doing

Solway Senior Citizens

Come and join us for our meeting the third Thursday of each month at the town hall at 1PM. We have a short meeting, coffee & dessert and maybe bingo or some other entertainment. We are always looking for new members. Dues are only \$5.00 a year. We always have a catered meal for July and Christmas.

Munger Goodfellowship Club

Meet the second Thursday of the month. We are planning our yearly get together with area Homemakers in May at Solway! New members welcome. We lost one of our longtime members in Feb. Our sympathy to the Lorraine Weiler Family.

Maple Grove 4-H

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

- 4-H welcomes 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 meets the third Monday of the month at 6PM at the Solway Town Hall. Contact Amy at 729-0503 with any questions, or the 4-H Coordinator at 218-723-2873.

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We meet the first Monday of each month at 7 PM downstairs at the Solway Town Hall. Planting and spring work begins in April and May. New members are always welcome.

SLC Roundabout Construction

St Louis County is planning to be constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Maple Grove and Midway Roads in 2018. Even though the site is outside Solway Township, a considerable number of residents use Maple Grove for accessing the Mall area on the Highway #53 corridor. If you're interested in getting more information or would like the opportunity to give input in the planning of the roundabout, there is a Public Hearing scheduled for April 19th at the Hermantown Public Safety Building at 5:30 PM.

Annual Township Road Inspection April 28th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of township roads on Friday April 28th from 8 AM to noon.

The purpose of the inspection is to determine how much gravel should be applied, condition of the ditches and drainage, if brushing is needed, culvert and signage replacement and other repairs.

If you have a special concern on a township road you may report it to the township office at 729-5134 or call the office to arrange a meeting with the Board during the inspection.

Witte Memorial Trail

Many of you have already enjoyed hiking the Witte Trail last summer and fall. This spring twelve benches donated by residents will be installed along the trail route. There are plaques on the benches recognizing their memorial contributions.

Additionally six memorial directional signs will be installed at the entrances and intersections of the trails so hikers know their location.

As the trails are designed for walkers and hikers, motor vehicles such as ATV's or snowmobiles are not allowed.

2017 Bookmobile Schedule

The Arrowhead Library System continues to operate it's Bookmobile. The Bookmobile comes to Solway every three weeks on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 PM to 3:45PM. You're invited to check out books, DVD's, tapes, etc. They are due back at the time of the next Bookmobile visit.

The Bookmobile is scheduled to visit Solway Thursdays April 13; May 4, 25; June 15; July 6, 27; Aug. 17. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

Country Music Show News

Bill Pelto and his helpers can be found at the town hall the afternoon of the first Saturday of each month setting up the sound system for the evening music show that starts at 6:00 pm. Entertainers start arriving anytime after lunch to start practicing. They come from as far north as Mountain Iron, Aitkin to the West, our neighboring state of Wisconsin and from all around our area. Bill comes from Hibbing. All of these individuals and couples gather for the common purpose of providing an evening of entertainment for you and me. This takes a lot of dedication on their part.

Prior to the show those interested can bring a food dish and participate in the pot luck at 5:00. The cost is sharing your dish. At 6:00 the music starts for the first half with a break around 7:15-7:30. After a 15 minute intermission, the second half begins ending at 9:15-9:30. If you don't make the Pot Luck, you're welcome to come for any part of the evening. The show is free of an admission, but good will offerings are appreciated for covering the show expenses. None of those involved in putting on the show get any money for their efforts. We certainly appreciate their contributions.

Mark the first Saturday of each month on your calendar for attending this music event.

Winter Fun Day Wrap Up

A large number of Solway residents gathered for our annual winter fun day on January 28th. Free bingo was enjoyed by all and the more hardy made use of the ice rink and sliding hill.

Youngsters ran to the sliding hill to try their new sleds won at the free drawing. The hay rides were busy with kids and adults alike. The bonfire was a welcome source of warmth to those gathered around for conversation. Smores were made and enjoyed around the bon fire as well.

By the end of the day \$300 was given out in \$10 bingo pots; twenty-four sleds found proud owners; 200 hot dogs and trimmings were consumed plus a variety of snacks as well.

We thank the McGregor family for providing the tractor and hay rack for rides; the firefighters who not only flooded our ice rink but ran the bingo as well; the Special Events Committee for organizing the event and everyone else who made contributions to the success of the day.

We also thank those who attended our Halloween Carnival as profits from that event fund the other Special Events that are held throughout the year including the Winter Fun Day.

You Have a Place: Solway Town Hall

Did you know the town hall is available to residents/property owners of the township for your family events? The hall is used for weddings, receptions, funerals, luncheons, birthday parties, graduation parties, family reunions, family gatherings to celebrate Baptisms or Confirmations, rummage sales, craft sales, etc. If you have an upcoming event and your home is too small or you can't trust the weather for an outdoor gathering think "town hall". To make a reservations call the town office at 729-5134.

SWCD Tree/Shrub Sales

A variety of trees and shrubs at affordable prices are available through South St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District. Check online at www.southstlouisswcd.org for information about types and description or call the number listed below for more information. Order deadline is April 14, 2017. We now offer an opportunity to split an order with others. Go to our facebook page to find a Seedling Share buying partner at Facebook.com/southstlouisswcd or call SWCD (218)723-4867.

Stop Telemarketers From Calling You

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you the choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at your home or your cell phone.

Scammers have been making phone calls claiming to represent the National Do Not Call Registry. They claim to provide an opportunity to sign up for the Registry. Do not respond to these calls.

The Do Not Call Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines. **1-888-382-1222**. You must call from the phone number that you want to register. To register online donotcall.gov.

Telemarketers should not call your number once it's been on the registry for 31 days. If they do call you can file a complaint at: www.telemarketing.donotcall.gov.

Recycling Notes

Examples of what we **cannot** accept:

Plastic cups, plates, utensils	Tin foil
Clam-shell produce containers	Plastic wrap
Stryfoam in any form	Gift wrapping
Alkaline batteries	Dog/cat food bags
Food take home containers	Scrap metal

Examples of what we **can** accept:

Glass bottles	Shampoo bottles
Milk & Laundry jugs	Plastic tubs, jars & lids
Newspaper	Peanut butter jars
Tin cans	Cardboard
Yogurt, sour cream tubs	Office paper
Aluminum cans	Plastic bottles

Not all "recycling symbols" indicate the item is recyclable at our shed. Some numbers indicate what type of resin was used to make the plastic item. i.e. Stryfoam has a 6 surrounded by chasing arrows. The 6 indicates the Stryfoam is made from polystyrene; not that it is recyclable.

Use of Outdoor Facilities

With the promise of Spring we start looking to spend more free time out of doors. The township continues to maintain for your use and enjoyment a number of outdoor recreational facilities. They include our playgrounds, pavilion, hiking trails, basketball and tennis courts, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, baseball and soccer fields.

All of the facilities are free of charge and can be used on a first come first serve basis. Most of them can accommodate more than one group or party at a time. Just bring your personal sports equipment.

The baseball and soccer fields can be scheduled by teams for practices and games by contacting Terri Jensen 391-6289. Terri keeps scheduling calendars so all teams have reserved field times to avoid use conflicts. Groups can have pick up baseball, softball, basketball, football or soccer games anytime the fields are free from team practices or games.

Township personnel attempt to keep these facilities well maintained for your safety and convenience. If you have suggestions for improvements let us know. Please help us keep things clean by picking up and using garbage containers. If you bring a dog to the grounds, please make sure it doesn't bother others by keeping it leashed. Properly wrapped droppings can be put in garbage containers.

SVFD Annual Report -- 2016

Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 111 calls in 2016. These included 72 medical, 30 fire calls and 9 motor vehicle accidents.

With reduced members on fire departments there is an increase need to use mutual aid for fires and other emergency incidents.

We are always looking for new members, so if interested please contact our Fire Hall and leave a message at 218-729-6304.

State Fire Wardens-Solway Township

To obtain a burning permit please contact one of the fire wardens listed below:

John Rogalla— 3699 Sandberg Road,628-1429
Dennis Essig—6365 Morris Thomas Road,624-3832
George Hughes—6995 Morris Thomas Rd,879-2724
Duane Rands—4535 Caribou Lake Road, 729-8672

You may also get a burning permit at the Cloquet Area DNR Office by calling 879-0880, or online at www.dnr.mn.us. There is a \$5 charge per calendar year for the online service.

Cemetery Regulations

With spring we like to remember our deceased loved ones by visiting and decorating their gravesites. At Solway Cemetery baskets/flowers are allowed May 1st through September 30th. Baskets should be of

standard design not weighing more than 30 lbs. The care and maintenance of the baskets/flowers are the responsibility of the owner. Artificial flowers and decorations in moveable containers are also permitted. No trees, shrubs, plants or flowers are allowed to be planted at the cemetery.

One above ground monument and one ground level marker are allowed at each gravesite to help in maintenance and to create uniformity. Previously installed accessories are grandfathered in, but new ones will not be allowed.

Following the above helps personnel cutting grass and doing other maintenance work while still allowing our gravesites to be attractively decorated. If you would like a copy of the cemetery rules and regulations contact the Town Office.

Beware of Scams

Listed are half a dozen scams reported by the Sheriff that are common in our area.

- Sweepstakes—Lottery: you won big money but need to send money to them first to cover money transfer expenses.
- Overpayment—checks: you are due a rebate for an overpayment but the check was made out for too large an amount. You need to send the difference before they'll release the rebate check.
- Grandparents—emergency: supposed relative in emergency, car broke down, stranded, etc, please send money.
- Ransom—bail phone calls: relative in jail, please send bail.
- Computer repair: you get a notice your computer has a virus. They ask for passwords so they can "fix it". Then they get personal information off the computer. They may set up future breakdowns that you would need to pay again to fix.
- IRS phone calls: the IRS never initially calls you. If you have a problem they'll notify you by mail.

Memorial Day Observance

On May 29th, Memorial Day will be observed. Our memorial observance is traditionally held at the Solway Cemetery starting at noon. A non-denominational prayer service is held followed by ceremonies by the Proctor American Legion consisting of laying of a wreath at the Veterans Memorial Cross, 21 gun salute, and playing of taps to honor those who served in the United States military.

Flamettes Pancake Breakfast
Sunday April 30th 8:00 AM to noon
Adults \$5, Children \$3
5 and under free

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

Upcoming Summer Events

South St. Louis County Fair in Proctor:
Fair dates are Wed July 12th through
Sunday July 16th with Tuesday July 11th
as entry day in the Industrial Building.
www.proctorduluthfair.com

56th Annual Lakehead Harvest Show:
Friday August 25th to Sunday August 27,
2017. 70 East St. Louis River Road,
Esko, MN www.lakeheadharvest.org

Check out the July 2017 [Section Lines](#)
for costs and programming schedules for
the above events.

**Watch for the Community Education
Program brochure coming in the mail
on or about April 5th.**

Township Events Calendar

April 1.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
April 8.....Volunteer Fire Dept Bingo 6:00 pm
April 11.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 13.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 28.....Road Inspection 8:00 am to noon
April 29.....Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
April 30.....Flamettes/SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
May 2.....Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 5:00 pm
May 4.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
May 6.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
May 9.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
May 25.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
May 29.....Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery at noon
June 3.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
June 13.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
June 15.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
July 3.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
July 6.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
July 11.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
July 12-16.....South St. Louis County Fair