

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2020

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.

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## 2020 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 February.

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 Bush 2000, Jim Miller 2001, Betty Everett 2002, Karen and Rick Flesvig 2003, Isabelle Callahan 2006, Wayne Sullin 2008, John Childers 2009, Joan Gajewski 2010, Larry Shelton 2011, Jeff Nelson 2013, Darlene Miller 2014, Kareen Nelson 2015, Shirley Nylund 2016, Marcie Keppers 2017, Bonnie Siiro in 2018 and Jeff Keppers in 2019. Congratulations to all of them!

## Annual Meeting & Township Elections March 10, 2020

The Election poll 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:

- 2020 Citizen of the Year
- Report of the 2019 Receipts and Disbursements
- Review of Town Hall rental fees and regulations
- Review of Cemetery regulations
- Fire Department Report
- Proposed Budget and Levy for 2021

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 Township Supervisor position will be held for a two week period beginning December 31, 2019. Filing will close on January 14, 2020 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 at another time.

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## SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

**Chairperson:** Scott Welsh  
**Supervisors:** Clare Stromlund and Ron Gajewski  
**Clerk:** Autumn Marquardt  
**Deputy 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](http://solwaytownship-MN.gov)

**Email:**  
[solwayclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:solwayclerk@hotmail.com)

## 2019 Accomplishments

Looking to 2020, your Township Board reviews the accomplishments of 2019. Some of them are listed below:

- WLSSD grant in the amount of \$7,724.75 received for our recycling shed operations.
- Completed scheduled road improvements, grading, dust control, roadside mowing, culvert replacement, ditching and brushing.
- 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. 308 events were scheduled in 2019.
- Hired a new Clerk—previous Clerk appointed as Deputy Clerk.
- Reevaluated Township buildings and properties to reflect replacement cost and adjusted insurance coverage accordingly.
- Hired a hall cleaning service and two maintenance and recycling shed personnel following the retirement of previous employees.
- ADA compatible playground equipment installation was completed along a new paved trail in the lower playground area funded through a Community Development Block Grant.
- The Warming house and storage building was replaced with a multi purpose building using school referendum funds.

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.

### New Solway Residents?

If you have new neighbors in the Township that aren't getting the Solway Section Lines Newsletter, please let them know to call the town office at 218-729-5134 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 town office at 218-729-5134 to report it. Thanks for helping with this.

## Winter Fun Day: "Free for all"

Our winter fun day is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 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.

A Special Events Committee Meeting is being held Monday, 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.

## Country Music 1st Saturday of Each Month

Bill Pelto and his entourage of singers and musicians continue their country music shows at the town hall. First quarter dates of 2020 are Jan 4th, Feb 1st and March 2nd. The music starts at 6:00PM and runs till about 9:15 PM. A potluck (bring a food dish to share) starts at 5:00 PM 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.

## US Postal Alert

There have been some recent mail thefts in our area. Both outgoing and incoming mail is being targeted. They attempt to get personal or financial information through which they can direct mail to another address, negotiate checks, alter outgoing checks, counterfeit checks and open financial accounts. Your financial institutions can determine if fraudulent activity has occurred and provide information on how to protect your accounts.

The Postal Services recommend mailing from their blue collection boxes, your work place, or your local post office; pick up your mail from your mail box right after delivery and especially if you're expecting packages.

Reporting any fraudulent activity that could help in their investigation would be appreciated. Egs: compromised bank accounts, credit card fraud, identity and financial theft. The Postal Service provides a free service called informed delivery that allows you to see what mail is coming before it arrives. Sign up through [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). US Postal contact # 877-876-2455.

## Community Club News...

### Solway Senior Citizens

Any Senior Citizens from the surrounding areas are welcome to join us. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 1:00 PM. The next meeting is Jan. 16, 2020.

### Maple Grove 4-H

We meet once a month at the Solway Town Hall. New members are welcome at any time. If interested in joining, contact Amy Johnson at 218-729-0503.

### Monday Bunch

We meet every Monday at 12:30 PM-4:00PM. We share ideas in crafts, knit and crochet. We have two craft sales a year. The last Saturday in April and the last Saturday in September from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There is a \$10 charge for a table. Call Bonnie at 218-729-8382 to reserve a spot. We do crafts in the spring, and crafts and rummage in the fall. The money we get from tables is used for kitchen supplies in the town hall, special events at the town hall, Proctor Food Shelf, flowers at the town hall and advertising our sales. We divide up money at the end of the year for these projects.

### Lakehead Harvest Reunion

During the winter months of Nov–April, the Lakehead Harvest Reunion meets the first Monday at the Solway Town Hall at 7:00 PM. During summer months we meet at the show grounds. Our annual meeting for election of officers and potluck will be held Feb. 15, 2020 in the downstairs of the town hall.

### South St. Louis County Fair-Proctor

The website is [proctorduluthfair.com](http://proctorduluthfair.com). Our fair dates will be July 29th thru Aug 2nd for 2020. Tuesday July 28th from 1:00 PM to 7:30 PM is entry day! For Industrial Building/Creative Arts and 4-H go to the website for premium list.

In case you are a new exhibitor, the prices listed next to the exhibit is your prize NOT an entry fee. So start getting your exhibits ready and we will see you in July!

We will have more information in the April Newsletter. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Mary Korich at 218-348-1453 or Frank Siiro at 218-591-6274.

### Flamettes

Thank you to all who came out to the SVFD's Bingo at Thanksgiving. We did very well. The next one will be Saturday, March 28, 2020. Hope to see you then!

We will also be having the pancake breakfast on Sunday April 26th 8:00 AM to Noon.

Come join us. We meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the town hall. Thank you again for your support.

## 2019 Halloween Carnival—Review

Super heroes, pirates, princesses, 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 successful 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 2019 Munger Halloween Carnival. Without their support the event would not be possible.

## Bookmobile Schedule

The Bookmobile comes every three weeks on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 PM. They're in the parking lot 45 minutes before moving on to their next location. The next scheduled visits are January 16; February 6 and 27; March 19.

## Skating Fun

Our new multi purpose building is complete. During the winter it serves as a warming house for skaters with direct access to the ice rink. Its serving kitchen area provides space for food preparation making the building ideal for resident skating parties.

Once the rink is flooded the building will be open on Saturdays and Sundays 1PM to 6PM for open skating. A staff person will monitor the building but parents will need to provide supervision to their children. The rink is open all the time for skating and is lighted daily from 5PM to 10PM.

If you wish to have a private skating party for a special occasion contact the office to reserve the building through our regular rental agreement process.

## Century Link Internet

This past summer, Century Link has been installing internet pods at corners of road intersections. Internet access is then available to your home through existing telephone lines. While these are copper connections rather than fiber, the service is immensely better than the dial ups, antenna, and satellite installations I've tried at my home.

This article is not intended to be an advertisement or endorsement for Century Link but a point of information you may wish to pursue if interested in inquiring if this service is now available to your home.

## Emergency Vehicle Access

In the rural setting of Solway Township where residents enjoy several acres for home sites, the tendency is to build back on the site to allow a buffer area between their house and the frontage road.

Long driveways provide privacy but can also be a safety hazard if they are not able to be accessed by emergency vehicles. We have had fire trucks stuck in driveways and not able to get to the fires.

In order for a driveway to be accessible it must be a minimum of 10 feet wide and free of trees and other obstacles to a minimum height of 12 feet. Fire trucks are large vehicles and need turn around areas in your yards or circular driveways so as not to necessitate trying to back the truck down a long and perhaps winding driveway. Entrance posts, arches, fencing, and other decorative installations along driveways can also be a barrier preventing access.

If you feel you have a problem and would like some suggestions on how to correct it, contact the office and arrangements can be made for a Fire Fighter to meet with you at your home.

## Recycling Information

### The Truth About Styrofoam

Styrofoam: In order for a product to be recycled, there has to be a buyer on the other end that wants to make something out of that product. Unfortunately, there is no market for Styrofoam. This means that Styrofoam has to go in the trash. Your best option is to avoid it in the first place whenever possible. Use your own coffee mug, choose reusable plates, and pack items in newspaper instead of packing peanuts whenever possible.

### Film plastics

Our recycling shed has special containers for plastics which **ARE** now accepted:

- Clean and dry film
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper, bread and produce bags
- Paper product packing wrap
- Pallet and case wrap

Still **NOT** accepted:

- Black plastic bags and bubble wrap

### Solway Township Recycling Shed

Location: 4029 Munger Shaw Road

Hours: Wed. 3:00PM—6:00PM

Sat. 8:00AM—1:00PM

Questions?? Call WLSSD Hotline 218-722-0761

## 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 \$2,000 scholarships to five 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:

The second Tuesday in March is Township Day. Every year each township holds their Annual Meeting. This meeting is often described as the 'people's meeting.' There are rights and authorities given to the electors at that meeting, but those rights and authorities are limited: **So, if you were an elector, how would you proceed with getting an action to happen and which one or more of the rights and authorities would you use and why?**

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, 2020.

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, 2020. Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after May 1, 2020 will not be accepted.**

Winners will be notified in writing by October 1, 2020 and will be invited to attend the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting to be held November 20, 2020 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Scholarships awards will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon receipt of verification of enrollment at a college, university or technical school. Applications can be obtained at the MAT website: [www.mntownships.org](http://www.mntownships.org).

## Census Day April 1, 2020

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs—impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. They are also used to redraw the boundaries of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 2020 Census is important for you and your community. The results help you understand how demographics—including income and education levels—and population size are changing in your area. Businesses, researchers, and policymakers depend on the high quality data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau to make important decisions such as:

- Where to build schools, roads, and hospitals.
- Where to open new stores and expand operations.
- What products and services to sell.
- What new policies and public programs will be most helpful in your community.

The census is a valuable tool for improving communities across the country. If your community members don't respond, your community may not receive the funding it needs.

### Letter invitation to respond

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire on or between March 13th–20th.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.
- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.
- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

### Federal dollars from 2010 Census data

For example: in fiscal year 2016, Minnesota received \$15,459,175,947.

\$2,796 per Minnesotan per year was received which amounted to \$27,960 per Minnesotan per decade.

The money was allocated to the following:

- \$6,660,375,000—the Medical Assistance Program
- \$3,043,012,113—Federal Direct Student Loans
- \$602,563,639—Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP)
- \$113,774,946—Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- \$659,896,484—Highway Planning and Construction

Consequently the counting of every person is most important.

### Census Confidentiality

Your responses to the 2020 census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—**they cannot be used against you in any way.** By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.

Under Title 13 of the U.S. code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

The Law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.

### Be A Census Taker

Apply Online [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs). 2020 Census jobs pay up to \$24/hr!

Apply if you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, are a U.S. citizen, have a valid email address, are registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption.

If offered a job you must pass a criminal background check and review of criminal records (including fingerprinting). You must be available to work flexible hours, including days, evenings, and weekends.

**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 4 .....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 PM  
Jan 6.....Special Events Committee Meeting 6:30PM  
Jan 14 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
Jan 16.....Bookmobile 3:00-3:45PM  
Jan 25..... Winter Fun Day 1:00—5:00 PM  
Feb 1.....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 PM  
Feb 6.....Bookmobile 3:00-3:45PM  
Feb 11 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
Feb 27..... Bookmobile 3:00-3:45PM  
Mar 7 .....Country Music Show and Potluck 5:00 PM  
Mar 10.....Township Elections noon to 8:00PM  
Mar 10..... Annual Meeting 8:30 PM  
Mar 17 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
Mar 19.....Bookmobile 3:00-3:45PM  
Mar 28.....SVFD Bingo 6:00 PM  
April 25 .....Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00AM-1:00 PM  
April 26.....Pancake Breakfast 8AM—Noon