

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

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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## 2021 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, There was no nomination in 2020. Congratulations to all of them!

## Annual Meeting & Township Elections March 9, 2021

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:

- 2021 Citizen of the Year
- Report of the 2020 Receipts and Disbursements
- Review of Town Hall rental fees and regulations
- Review of Cemetery regulations
- Fire Department Report
- Proposed Budget and Levy for 2022

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 the Township Supervisor position will be held for a two week period beginning December 29, 2020. Filing will close on January 12, 2021 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 contact the Town Clerk at 729-5134 to set an appointment.

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### SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

**Chairperson:** Clare Stromlund  
**Supervisors:** Ron Gajewski and Scott Welsh  
**Clerk:** Autumn Marquardt  
**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)**

## 2020 Accomplishments

Looking to 2021, your Township Board reviews the accomplishments of 2020. Some of them are listed below:

- WLSSD grant in the amount of \$7,619.79 received for our recycling shed operations.
- Completed scheduled road improvements, grading, dust control, roadside mowing, culvert replacement, ditching and brushing.
- Special Events Committee: Sponsored Winter Fun Day.
- Hosted Bill Pelto's monthly Country Music Show initially but then cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Continued maintenance of town hall and facilities for residents use. 69 events were held in 2020. Hall use was limited or cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Rehired or reassigned maintenance and recycling shed personnel following the retirement or resignation of personnel.
- Installed new tire swing and supports for handicapped accessible swings.
- Repaired and resided recycling shed.
- Repairs made to Fire Hall eaves and Town hall rain gutters.

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.

### Recognition Dinner Cancelled in 2020

The Solway Electorate at the Annual Meeting in March authorized the Town Board to host a recognition dinner for our firefighters and their spouse/guest; retired firefighters and their spouse/guest; current and retired Flamettes and their spouse/guest and our employees and their spouse/guest. All of these individuals deserve our thanks and recognition for a job well done in service to the Solway Community.

Your Township Board in response to Federal and State Regulations regarding social gatherings determined it was impossible to hold this event prior to the end of the calendar year.

### Winter Fun Day: "Free for all" Cancelled

Our winter fun day normally scheduled for the last Saturday in January is cancelled due to the continued Covid-19 outbreaks. We're looking forward to having this event next year.

### Country Music Update

Our monthly Country Music Show remains hostage to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It's hard to social distance while enjoying a meal with friends or kicking up your heels on the dance floor. While Keith and Sharon Olson are ready and willing to reconvene the monthly show we must wait for social interaction protocols to allow us to do so.

Hopefully we'll have encouraging information in the April Section Lines as to when the show can be re-instated. Any changes before then will be put on the Township sign and website.

### Skating Fun

Once the weather cooperates with consistent below freezing temperatures the Solway Firefighters will flood the basketball courts for our annual skating rink. This will provide an outdoor activity for your family that should be Covid safe.

The warming house will not be open as social distancing would be difficult at best or non-existent at all. The rink is lighted from dusk to 10:00PM daily. Access to the rink is the walkway along the south side of the warming shed building.

### U.S. 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 # 1-877-876-2455.

## Community Club News...

### Solway Senior Citizens

Any Senior Citizens from the surrounding areas are welcome to join us. You don't need to be a Solway resident. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 1:00 PM at the Solway Town Hall. We will schedule meetings again once Covid restrictions are lifted.

### Maple Grove 4-H

Currently there's no 4-H Club in Solway Township as former members grew up and out of the program. If you have a child that would like to be involved in the 4-H experience contact the County 4-H Program coordinated by Tim Canines at 218-733-2873 for place and times.

### Monday Bunch

We meet Mondays at 12:30 PM-4:00PM at the Town Hall when allowed by Covid-19 protocols. We share ideas in crafts, knit and crochet. We have two craft sales a year in April and September. The April Sale will be Saturday the 24th 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 when Covid restrictions are lifted and we're able to do so safely.

### South St. Louis County Fair-Proctor

The website is [proctorduluthfair.com](http://proctorduluthfair.com). Our fair dates will be July 28th thru Aug 1st for 2021. Currently it's hoped the show will "go on" while plans are being made. They are tentative depending on the status of the pandemic.

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

The Flamettes will not be having an Easter Bingo in March of 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. We are tentatively scheduling our pancake breakfast for April 25th 8:00AM to Noon. By the time the April Section Lines is printed we should have a better idea if it can be held or cancelled. Thank you for your past support in attending our events.

## 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.

## Bookmobile Schedule

The Bookmobile is still coming every three weeks on Thursday afternoons between 3:15 and 4:15PM. They're in the parking lot for 1 hour before moving on to their next location. Dates for the 1st quarter of 2021 are January 7th and 28th, February 18th, March 11th and April 1st and 22nd.

## Teleconferencing Solway's Board Meetings

With the Covid Pandemic rampant we're following protocols demanded by the State and common sense to get the Town's Business done while keeping staff safe.

Currently we have one Supervisor and our Clerk and Treasurer present at the Town Hall while the other two Supervisors join the Board meeting through teleconferencing. Representatives of the Fire Department join the meeting the same way. Other staff have been attending wearing masks and social distancing. The flow of the meeting gets a bit ragged at times especially during discussions when trying to hear everyone's voice on an issue. But teleconferencing is allowing us to get the job done.

If you'd like to join a teleconferenced Board meeting from your home you can do so by Computer or Smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/330117509>. If you would like to join by phone you can dial in at 1-571-317-3122 and entering access code 330-117-509.

## Please help keep Solway clean

During the year considerable time and expenses are expended in picking up discarded trash from township roads and turnarounds at the end of dead end roads. Such refuse is not only unsightly but detracts from someone else's private property. We find anything from appliances, furniture, construction debris, to garbage and animal carcasses. My guess is much of the trash comes from outside the township and is discarded by non-Township residents. If you observe someone dumping take a picture of their license plate if you can do so safely and we'll report them to the authorities. When we're aware of the problem, we can be alert to recognize offenders.

## 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 in our area. This means that Styrofoam has to go in the trash. Your best option is to avoid it in the first place whenever possible. For example: 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 film plastics which **ARE** 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
- Plastic containers used to market many food products—these are especially clam shell in design and are often clear and perforated. They are NOT ACCEPTED at this time.
- **Please make sure all recyclables are clean as food scraps and dirt contaminate them.**

### 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:

Townships have a role in land use decisions including in part, agriculture, industry, housing, and landfills. As solar panels and wind turbine blades age, the industry faces challenges for end of life destination other than landfills. Increased promotion for solar panels and wind turbines has increased the need for 'decommissioning' policy requirements. **Questions: What are the environmental impacts that affect townships? What are your thoughts as to the sustainable solutions being considered to address this issue?**

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 September 1, 2021.

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, 2021. Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after May 1, 2021 will not be accepted.**

Winners will be notified in writing by September 1, 2021 and will be invited to attend the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting to be held September 9-11, 2021 at the Rivers Edge Convention Center 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).

## 2020 Census

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other services based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

It's also in the Constitution: Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census marked the 24th time that the country has counted its population; the first was in 1790.

The count is now complete, and the Census Bureau is currently processing the data, making sure that everyone is counted once, only once, and in the right place.

Minnesota is at a 99.9% response rate: this includes self response and follow-up responses.

Solway Township shows a 82% self response rate at this time. This number has increased from 80.5% in 2010!

Thank you to everyone who participated this year.

## Presidential Election update

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Solway voters saw changes in the polling place to allow for social distancing and safety. The polling place was arranged this year to allow for 6 ft. of distance between each voter and more voting areas were added to allow for sanitization in between voters without slowing the flow of traffic too much. Thank you to all for following social distancing protocols and wearing your masks while voting.

On the morning of the election Solway had 1,380 registered voters. With 86 new registrations on election day, the total number of votes in-person and absentee in Solway Township was 1,303.

Thank you to those of you who served as Election Judges. Because of you we were able to hold a safe and efficient election upholding the safe guards needed to keep electorate and poll judges safe. Again thanks to the judges who endured the "risk of Covid" to make sure our election could be held.

## Firefighters Needed!

The Board was informed at our December Board meeting that we had a potential candidate for becoming a firefighter. What good news to hear!

During the last several years it has become more difficult to recruit firefighters. This isn't just a Solway, County or State problem but actually a National problem. The demands of job, family, other commitments can become overwhelming. Now we have Covid to deal with on top of it all. But despite all this we still have the need for additional firefighters to keep our families and community safe.

We're asking anyone over 18 years of age to consider stepping up to help us with this task. Maybe it could be a New Years resolution to be a more active and contributing member of the Solway Community. We just need you to call the Fire Hall at 729-6304 or the Town Hall at 729-5134 to let us know you're interested; leave a message if staff aren't in and we'll get back to you. Check out what it all entails and see if you can fit into a Firefighters boots.

## Cub Scouts News

Cub Scout activities continue to be on hold due to the pandemic. We will again have our meetings and activities when regulations allow.

Again Cub Scouts are for boys and girls Kindergarten through 5th grade. New members are always welcome. Have fun while learning life skills and making new friends. You can still sign up now and be ready to go when we get the green light to resume our programming. Call Jenny at 218-380-8412 for more information and registration.

**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 7 .....Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
Jan 12 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
Jan 28.....Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
Feb 9 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
Feb 18..... Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
Mar 9.....Township Elections noon to 8:00PM  
Mar 9..... Annual Meeting 8:30 PM  
Mar 11 .....Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
Mar 16 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
April 1.....Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
April 22 .....Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
April 24 .....Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00AM-1:00 PM  
April 25 .....Tentative Pancake Breakfast 8:00AM–Noon