

# Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2023

## In Recognition...

October is fire prevention month. It's a time to become aware of fire hazards that may lurk around our homes and to do something about correcting them. It's a time to teach our children how to get out of the house and where the family should gather outside in case a fire should occur. It's a time to check our fire alarms and fire extinguishers to ensure they're functioning properly. It's a time to be grateful for the men and women who daily serve the Solway community as firefighters and medical first responders.

These volunteers stand ready 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to come to our aid in medical or fire tragedies. They not only respond to fires, accidents or medical emergencies, but also put in hours for maintenance of equipment, planning/business meetings, and training opportunities, to acquire needed skills and to maintain certifications.

Being a firefighter is a family commitment as well. Family members wait at home to hear from their loved one that may be in "harm's way." Helping others takes time away from family members at home.

Solway Township is fortunate to have men and women willing to give of themselves and have the support of their families in providing these services to our families and community. Nationally, statewide, and even more locally, communities are in crisis because as firefighters retire or for some reason resign from service, new recruits are not available to continue in their places. Consequently, families, homes, businesses and forest resources are more endangered and fire insurance rates are escalating.

Let's not take our good fortune for granted, but be sure to thank our firefighters for their continued service. Our current firefighters are:

Brandon Porter—Chief	Devin Bodenner	Kyle Mullen
Adam Ross—Asst. Chief	John Foster	Cassandra Barter
Amber Porter—Captain	Chas Hanna	Shane Urban
Leroy Hanson—Captain	Kyle Kulaszewicz	Curtis Myers
Anthony Boesflug	Dale Pearson	Brenda Tario

Solway Township's facilities are the busiest in the county. Currently, there is seldom a weekend or weekday evening where cars aren't parked at the town hall for some event.

People continue to compliment the clerk or other board members on how beautiful and well cared for our town hall, grounds, facilities, and cemetery are kept. This doesn't just happen, but is due to the conscientiousness and ownership values of your township employees.

Leon Forstrom currently coordinates and takes care of our groundskeeping and building maintenance with the help of Butch Lund, Horst Blumerich and Paul Dunaiski. Butch Lund also handles our roadside mowing. Horst and Illona Blumerich supervise the recycling shed operation. We appreciate their consistent good work. Let them know you recognize and appreciate their good work as well.

## Recognition Dinner Scheduled

This year's recognition dinner is scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd, with social hour at 5:30 PM, and dinner at 6:00 PM. Invited guests are current/retired firefighters, current/retired Flamettes, and our employees, along with spouses/guests. All of these individuals deserve our thanks and recognition for a job well done in service to the Solway community.

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## SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

### Chairperson:

Ron Gajewski

### Supervisors:

Scott Welsh

Jeff Keppers

### Clerk:

Tami McGregor

### Deputy Clerk:

Regena Merritt

### Treasurer:

Cindy Moe

### Office Hours:

Tues & Wed 9AM–3PM

Thursday 7AM–1PM

### For Hall Rentals, please call

**(218) 729-5134, and 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)

## ARPA Funds Usage Update

As reported in the July issue of Section Lines, the Federal American Rescue Plan Act was initiated to bring funds into communities to stimulate the economy left dormant, at best, from the COVID-19 pandemic. Communities received funding based on their resident populations.

Solway received \$200,000 plus. These funds must be used prior to the end of 2024 or they have to be reimbursed. These funds have made it possible to make improvements to our town hall, facilities and roads.

Completed expenditures:

- Installation of two three-ton mini splits to air condition/heat the upstairs of the hall
- Installation of a small mini split to air condition/heat the office
- An air exchanger that brings fresh air into the upstairs and downstairs of the hall
- Refinishing of the upstairs hardwood maple flooring in the hall
- New upstairs kitchen and office flooring
- Installation of a Think Sign electronic message center along Highway 2
- Reclaiming and shaping of the Jeffrey Road's deteriorated asphalt surface
- Asphalt overlay of tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Asphalt repairs to recycling shed parking area
- Rebuilding a section of Jerry Road, including raising the surface level, installing a cross culvert and entrance culvert

In process expenditures:

- Audio/visual conferencing systems (installation beginning date of 09/20/23)
- Total installation of new double-hung windows in the hall, not replacement inserts (installation beginning date is the first week of October)
- Kubota commercial zero-turn lawn mower was purchased and is being utilized
- New streetlight on Hwy. 2 entrance of townsite (to be completed during 2024 reconstruction of Munger Shaw Road and Hwy. 2 intersection)

The board decided not to have an ice skating rink. The weather has not cooperated over the past few years, making it impossible to maintain a useable ice surface. Two pickleball courts have been added to the new blacktopped courts area. Moveable nets have been ordered and will be available in the spring.

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Tues. and Wed. 9AM-3PM**  
**Thursday 7AM-1PM**

## Highway 2/Munger Shaw Road Intersection Reconstruction

During the 2024 construction season, the Hwy. 2 and Munger Shaw Road intersection will be updated to allow for left and right turn lanes. There will be new and enhanced lighting of the intersection. The Old Hwy. 2 entrance off Hwy. 2 will be closed.

The original design also involved the closing of the township's parking lot entrance on Hwy. 2. Due to its proximity to the intersection, the state felt a left-hand turn into the lot would be confusing if it were incorporated into its planned Munger Shaw Road left turn lane coming from the west.

After several months of negotiation and additional designs to have all the traffic arrive and leave via Munger Shaw Road exits, a compromise was reached whereby our Hwy. 2 exit will be modified allowing for only right turns in, and only right turns out from our parking lot. This will result in a reduced use of the entrance, but is better than the complete closure.

This intersection construction is a joint effort of state and county to increase safety at the intersection. The construction is being funded by state and county funds, bringing some of our tax dollars back to our community.

In order to make our lot entrance off Hwy. 2 more visible at night, a new streetlight will be installed along the widened driveway. This not being in their design, the light will be purchased by the township, but installed and maintained by Minnesota Power. It will cost the township up to \$40 per month for power and maintenance contract costs. It's anticipated the purchase cost may be around \$5,000. This cost will be paid with Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Until the project is complete, it's probably subject to change. This article is an attempt to give you a "heads up" as to what's coming.

## Cemetery Reminder

Township Cemetery regulations require that all flowers and plants allowed in our cemetery must be removed by Sept. 30th. Beginning Oct. 10th, township personnel will remove all flowers and plants from the individual grave sites and assemble them inside the cemetery fence north of the Van Gassler Road entrance where they will stay until Oct. 24th. After Oct. 24th, all unclaimed flower pots, holders, etc., will be disposed of by township personnel. The town board, as recommended by the electorate, allows solar lights at gravesites year-round. Please claim all other items by Oct. 24th. Our cemetery American Flag will be retired for the winter months to be re-flown next spring.

## Community Club News...

### Monday Bunch

Craft & Collectables Sale/Lunch  
 Saturday, September 30th from 9AM -1PM  
 Solway Town Hall  
 4029 Munger Shaw Road, Cloquet  
 Call (218) 729-8382 for tables

We meet every Monday at the town hall from 12:30 PM—4:00 PM. Come for coffee and conversation. Bring your craft and share your talents! Next sale on April 27, 2024.

### Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We had a great show this year. We made a lot of changes this year, some at the Kids Corral. We are now getting ready for hay rides in December.

#### Hayrides:

Friday, Dec. 1st: 6-8:30PM  
 Saturday, Dec. 2nd: 2-8:30PM  
 Sunday, Dec. 3rd: 2-8:30PM  
 Friday, Dec. 8th: 6-8:30PM  
 Saturday, Dec. 9th: 2-8:30PM  
 Sunday, Dec. 10th: 2-8:30 PM  
 Friday, Dec. 15th: 6-8:30 PM  
 Saturday, Dec. 16th: 2-8:30 PM  
 Sunday, Dec. 17th: 2-8:30PM

Address: 70 St. Louis River Road East, Cloquet  
Website: [www.lakeheadharvestshow.com](http://www.lakeheadharvestshow.com)

### South St. Louis County Fair-Proctor

[www.proctorduluthfair.com](http://www.proctorduluthfair.com)

The Annual Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 17th at the Sports Complex at the fairgrounds. Social at 6PM; meeting at 7PM to elect directors.

### The Flamettes

The Flamettes are an auxiliary for the Solway Volunteer Fire Department. We hold several events throughout the year to raise money to help purchase equipment needed by these volunteers to ensure their safety, and also to provide supplies needed to help the members of our township and surrounding townships. These family-friendly events bring our township together as a community. So go ahead and step outside your door for our next event! You'll be able to talk to neighbors, catch up with old friends and perhaps meet new people!

Our members consist of four officers: Lori Johnson, President; Clare Stromlund, Vice President; Stacy Stuber, Secretary; and Stacie Oakland, Treasurer.

Other members include Mary Busch, Karen Hildre, Barbara Mattson, Shirley Nylund, Bonnie Siilo, Sharen VanDenHeuvel and April Vogel.

We meet on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, with a few exceptions throughout the year. A spaghetti dinner will be held on October 14th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Our next Bingo is Saturday, November 11th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

## Halloween Carnival

Our Halloween Carnival will be held Friday, Oct. 27th, 6PM to 9PM. Our Special Events Committee members will be gathering to begin planning for the carnival on Monday, 9/25 at 6:30 PM and on 10/23 at 6:30 PM.

We will need many adult and student volunteers to help set up for and run games at the carnival. We will meet Thursday, 10/26 at 6:00 PM to set up games and decorations. Volunteers will then run the games at the carnival on Friday, followed by clean-up.

If you'd like to help, come to the meetings or call the office at (218) 729-5134, and leave your name and number so we can get in touch with you.

## Current Community Ed Class Offered at Solway Town Hall

Martial Arts—American Tae Kwon Do  
 Classes held at 5-6PM & 6-7PM on Mon. and Wed.  
 Ongoing sign ups available  
 Contact Proctor Hermantown Community Ed at [www.ceconnects.com](http://www.ceconnects.com) or (218) 628-6293

Martial Arts is designed to teach focus, concentration, muscle development, balance and gross motor coordination. The instructor uses a traditional and contemporary approach to training in Tae Kwon Do, Kickboxing, and some Kung Fu.

Proctor Hermantown Community Education offers many classes at other area locations. If you have not received their Fall 2023 Community Education brochure, please contact them to request one at (218) 729-9313.

## Country Music Show 10/7, 11/4 and 12/2

Keith and Sharon Olson continue the Country Music Show. Still the first Saturday of each month, the hours are 2 to 5PM allowing the audience participants to get home earlier in the evening. There is no meal, but beverages and snacks are available. Thanks Keith and Sharon for continuing the show for our enjoyment. We wish you and the show continued success.

## **"MONDAY BUNCH"** **CRAFT AND COLLECTABLES SALE**

Saturday September 30th 9AM—1PM  
 Lunch  
 Solway Town Hall  
 Hwy #2 and Munger Shaw Road

## National Night Out

Our Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 1st. We had good weather and a great turnout of people. Individuals, couples and families enjoyed fellowship while eating hot dogs, listening to live music, and visiting the attractions available for adults and kids alike. Life Link III was able to fly in so residents could check it out before it moved onto another Night Out.

Of those who registered for our gift certificate door prizes, the following were the lucky winners:

Tami McGregor—Saginaw Union Station  
Linda Dunaiski—Stokke's Meat Market  
Elaine Lindquist—Arnold's Café  
John Rogalla—Frosty Ridge Alpacas  
Jeremy & Jody Karg—Munger Tavern

Thanks for coming! Your presence made the evening a grand success. We especially thank those that provided or arranged for the attractions.

## Bookmobile Service

When you can't come to the library, your library on wheels will come to you. The Bookmobile stops every three weeks at Solway Town Hall from 3:15-4:15 PM on Thursdays. During the fourth quarter, visits will be on October 12th, November 2nd, and December 14th.

The Bookmobile offers print books, cookbooks, large print books, DVDs, audiobooks and video games. In addition, you can renew your library card, update your library account information, learn how to use library services, and participate in special programs. Learn more about what your library can offer you at our website, [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info).

For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768, (218) 741-3840, see us on Facebook or check our website at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info).

## ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Damage

Many of us enjoy the fun and excitement associated with driving our recreational vehicles. However, it's important that we operate them safely and in such a manner as to not cause damages to our neighbors or public property. Trails are available and more are being developed to provide safe corridors to drive on.

This past summer, spin-outs occurred on several roads in the township. When these occur on gravel surfaces, ruts are left that everyone using the road has to contend with. Damage was so severe on one county road that the Sheriff's Office stepped in to apprehend those responsible.

Let's enjoy our vehicles, but operate them safely and responsibly. Let's also remind our family members and friends to do the same.

## Snow Removal for 2023-2024

St. Louis County will be providing snowplowing on our Township roads again this year. Paved roads are plowed as snow accumulates, but dirt roads won't be plowed unless at least four inches accumulate. It's very difficult to remove snow in early winter and early spring when gravel road surfaces are not frozen.

County plow operators try to leave as little snow as possible across driveways. County removal of this windrow is not feasible and is the property owners responsibility. A suggestion is that when you plow your driveway, also plow the road driving lane closest to your property about 25 feet or so in the direction from which the plow comes. As the plow approaches and hits the plowed area, the plow's snow load will empty leaving very little to go across your driveway. We are reminded that it is unlawful to plow or blow snow onto roads. Solway Township is not responsible for any property damage or clean up due to snowplowing.

St. Louis County has newer and larger snowplowing trucks with belly plows and side wings that require bigger turnaround areas on our dead end township roads. We thank our residents at the end of these roads for allowing St. Louis County and township road maintenance vehicles to spill over from our turnarounds onto their driveways and property when turning around.

## 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, family 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."

The hall is available to each family once per year free of charge unless you serve alcohol. If you have a gathering where alcoholic beverages are served, a security officer is hired by the township at \$60 per hour, paid by the renter, plus a \$100 non-refundable clean up charge. There is also a \$600 damage deposit that is refunded if the hall is left in good condition. A \$25 reservation fee is necessary to reserve the hall for all rentals, but refundable after the event. For reservations, call the town hall at (218) 729-5134.

If you're having an outdoor party or gathering and would like an indoor space to serve food from or retreat to in case of bad weather, think about renting our all-purpose building. This space is especially useful for children's parties as it's adjacent to the playgrounds, basketball courts, etc. Just make a reservation with our clerk the same way as with a town hall rental.

**Chimney and Fire Safety**

*By Brandon Porter, Solway Fire Chief*

As we welcome the upcoming heating season in Solway Township, it's crucial to prioritize chimney and fire safety. While the idea of warming up by the fire is inviting, neglecting safety measures can lead to dangerous consequences.

Chimney fires are a real threat. Creosote, a flammable substance created when wood burns, can accumulate in your chimney. Regular chimney inspections and cleaning can prevent this buildup and the potential for fires. Proper use of fireplaces and stoves is essential. Burn only dry, seasoned wood, use a fireplace screen, and never leave a fire unattended.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be produced by fuel-burning appliances. Improperly vented chimneys can cause CO to enter your home, posing a serious health risk. Install carbon monoxide detectors and replace their batteries regularly to protect your family.

Remember to consider general fire safety practices:

- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.
- Create and practice a fire escape plan with your family.
- Install smoke alarms and test them monthly.
- Keep flammable materials away from heat sources.

Dispose of ashes safely after ensuring they're cool. The Solway Volunteer Fire Department is here to assist. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out. Together, we can make this heating season safe and enjoyable for all. Stay warm and safe.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

A Spaghetti Dinner will benefit the Solway Volunteer Fire Department  
 October 14th 4-7 PM  
 Adults \$10  
 Big Kids \$5  
 6 & under Free

**FIRE DEPARTMENT TURKEY BINGO**

Nov 11th at 6:00 PM

**FIRE NUMBERS**

**We cannot find you if we cannot see your fire number!**

Please remove obstructions blocking your number: tree branches, brush, weeds, etc. If your number is faded, damaged, or missing, call 911 to order a new one.  
 Thank you, SVFD Firefighters/First Responders!

**Recycling Shed News**

**HOURS:** Wednesdays 3PM-6PM; Saturdays 8AM-1PM

**Recycling Drop Off Sites:**

**MIXED PAPER**

- \* Paper of any color
- \* Pressboard boxes
- \* Junk mail
- \* Magazines
- \* Newspapers and advertisements
- \* Shredded paper (Must be contained in a paper bag)

**CORRUGATED CARDBOARD**

- \* Cardboard with a wavy layer between two pieces of thick paper
- \* No waxed cardboard

**MIXED CONTAINERS**

- \* Rinse all food containers
- \* Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, jars, and lids
- \* Glass bottles and jars
- \* Steel and aluminum cans
- \* No film or foam, including Styrofoam and plastic bags
- \* No plastic cups, plates, or utensils
- \* No buckets
- \* No motor oil or antifreeze containers
- \* No take-out, deli, or clamshell containers
- \* No window glass, ceramics, or drinking glasses
- \* No scrap metal

**FILM PLASTICS**

- \* Film must be clean and dry
- \* Grocery and retail bags
- \* Newspaper bags
- \* Bread bags
- \* Produce bags
- \* Paper product packaging wrap
- \* Pallet and case wrap
- \* Bubble wrap
- \* No black plastic bags

Western Lake Superior Sanitary District  
 Questions? Call WLSSD at (218) 722-0761/wlssd.com

**Town Office**  
4029 Munger Shaw Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720

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

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday and Wednesday 9-3PM  
Thursday 7AM-1PM

## **Solway Section Lines**

### **SIGN FOR SALE**

The township is selling its old message center and letters as it was replaced with a new ThinkSign Electronic Message Center. If you're interested in purchasing the sign for your business or other personal use, call the town office at (218) 729-5134 and make an offer.

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 492  
Duluth, MN

## **TOWNSHIP EVENTS CALENDAR**

September 30 ..... Craft and Collectables Sale 9-1PM  
October 7 ..... Country Music Show 2-5PM  
October 10 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
October 12 ..... Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
October 14 ..... SVFD Spaghetti Dinner 4-7PM  
October 27 ..... Halloween Carnival 6-9PM  
November 2 ..... Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM  
November 4 ..... Country Music Show 2-5PM  
November 11 ..... SVFD Turkey Bingo 6PM  
November 14 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
December 2 ..... Country Music Show 2-5PM  
December 12 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30PM  
December 14 ..... Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM