

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3

JULY 2024

Minnesota Primary Election

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, August 13 (7AM-8PM)
 Vote by mail or in person June 28 through August 12
 Register in advance by July 23 to save time on Election Day

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election. For example, five candidates from one political party might run for governor. Only one candidate can be on the ballot in November. The winner of the August primary election will represent their party on the November election ballot. There may be two kinds of offices on your primary ballot: partisan offices and nonpartisan offices.

Partisan offices will list a political party next to a candidate's name on the ballot. All state and federal offices—such as U.S. representative or Minnesota senator—are partisan offices. Partisan candidates will be listed in multiple columns on the primary ballot. Each column will list the candidates for one major party. You can only vote for candidates from one political party. If you vote for candidates from more than one political party, your votes will not count. You decide when you vote which one of the parties you will vote for—Minnesota does not have political party registration.

Nonpartisan offices will not list a political party next to a candidate's name on the ballot. For example, county, city, township and school board offices are nonpartisan. Nonpartisan offices will be listed on the back side of the primary ballot. You can vote for any candidate. The candidates who get the most votes will be on the November general election ballot.

Road Maintenance/Reminders for 2024

After our “never ending winter” of 2022-23, whoever could have anticipated the mild winter of 2023-24? It's hard to believe we were grading roads in northern Minnesota during March, rather than plowing snow.

With the snow gone early this spring, we were able to schedule our road inspection earlier, on April 26th. Grading, culvert replacement, ditching, sign replacement, roadside brushing, and mowing were planned beginning in May.

- Gravel amounts were determined for application to various roads.
- Calcium chloride will be applied to roads in late May.
- Roadside mowing will take place over the summer months as needed.
- Brushing, tree removal, and trimming, will be done as needed to remove obstructions and improve visibility, including better visibility of traffic signs.
- The following road projects are being addressed:
 - Entrance culvert replacement on Jerry Road (west)
 - Ditching on Hanson Road (south) and Jerry Road
 - Cul de sac improvement on Cedarway Road

Remember, if you are developing property in the township and need to put in a culvert for access, it is necessary to get an entrance permit from the county if your property is on a county road, or from the township if your property is on a township road.

If you are planning on blacktopping your driveway, do not extend the blacktop into the road right-of-way as snowplows and graders can chip, break or scratch the surface.

If you have a particular problem on your road, please call the township office at (218) 729-5134 so it can be addressed. Thanks for your help with this.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chalrperson:

Ron Gajewski

Supervisors:

Scott Welsh

Jeff Keppers

Clerk:

Tami McGregor

Deputy Clerk:

Regena Merritt

Treasurer:

Cindy Moe

Deputy Treasurer:

Pete Hildre

Office Hours:

Tues & Wed 9AM-3 PM

Thursdays 7AM-1PM

For Hall Rentals call (218)729-5134. Leave your name, phone number and date requested.

Phone: (218)729-5134

Fax: (218)729-5651

Township website:

solwaytownship-MN.gov

Email:

solwayclerk@hotmail.com

Munger Shaw/Hwy. #2 Intersection

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in collaboration with St. Louis County Public Works, is revamping the Hwy. #2 and Munger Shaw Road intersection. The improvements will be similar to the Hwy. #2 and Canosia Road improvements.

The Hwy. #2 right-of-way will be expanded to accommodate a left-turn lane for traffic from Hwy. #2 turning onto Munger Shaw Road as you approach the intersection from the east or from the west. New right-turn lanes from Hwy. #2 onto Munger Shaw Road will also accommodate traffic from the east and west.

With the new design of the intersection, MnDOT wanted our parking lot entrance/exit on Hwy. #2 closed. They felt that its proximity to the intersection would add confusion when making left-hand turns from the west into the parking lot. A couple of proposed designs to have two entrances into our parking lots from Munger Shaw Road were not accepted by the Town Board. It was then agreed that we keep our Hwy. #2 entrance open, but with reduced usage. Right-hand entrance turns from Hwy. #2 and right-hand exit turns onto Hwy. #2 will be allowed. Our Munger Shaw Road entrance will accommodate traffic entering the lot from the west.

In order to simplify traffic to the south of the intersection, the portion of Old Hwy. #2 along the Canadian National Railroad tracks to the east of Munger Shaw Road and exiting onto Hwy. #2 west of the railroad overpass, will be vacated. This means it will no longer be a public roadway and the land will revert back to the bordering property owners. Vacating a road requires a public hearing to allow the public to have input on the proposed action by St. Louis County. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, July 29th at 10:30AM at the town hall.

During construction, Hwy. #2 will be closed for up to 42 days, with traffic detoured onto the Maple Grove Road. It is anticipated construction will begin the end of July or early August. Its re-opening will be after school is back in session.

National Night Out 2024

This year the National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6th from 5-8PM, with food being served until 7PM. This event "has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in the fight for a safer nation."

Furthermore, the "National Night Out is an annual event designed to strengthen our communities by encouraging neighborhoods to engage in stronger relationships with each other and with their local law enforcement partners." It's also the perfect opportunity to get to know your neighbors even better.

In past years, free food consisting of hot dogs, chips, beverages and bars were enjoyed by all. Ice cream was distributed by fire fighters during the Fire Department Open House. Kids enjoyed handling the fire hoses, face painting, and Butch Hanson's train rides. Frosty Ridge had their alpacas on display, Rocky Run Stables exhibited their miniature horse therapy program, and St. Louis County Deputy Sheriffs were on hand with the K-9 Unit. Antique and collectable cars were displayed by residents, and there was much more.

Come and have supper with us. Hopefully the above mentioned attractions will be available this year. We will continue sponsoring the National Night Out and will start planning for this event. Special Event members will meet Wednesday, July 10th at 6:30PM. Any Solway resident is invited to join us at this meeting. We need the help of the entire Solway community, so please call the town office at (218)729-5134 to volunteer or offer ideas.

In previous years, personal notices have been sent to your homes inviting you to the National Night Out, so be watching for those in your mail.

ARPA Funds Usage

The Federal American Rescue Plan Act was initiated to bring funds into communities to stimulate the economy left dormant, at best, from the Covid pandemic. Communities received funding based on their resident populations.

Solway received \$213,865.34. These funds needed to be designated for use prior to the end of 2024 or they would need to be reimbursed. Accordingly, the funds were spent during the required time period. These funds have made it possible to make improvements to our town hall, facilities and roads.

The following are expenditures made:

- 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
- Reclaiming and shaping of the Jeffrey Road asphalt
- Audio/visual conferencing systems
- Total installation of new double-hung windows in the hall (not replacement inserts)
- Purchase of a Kubota zero-turn lawn mower
- New asphalt on tennis/basketball courts
- Establish new Pickleball courts
- Installation of new heating boiler in the town hall
- Installation of new hot water heater in the town hall

Many residents have commented favorably on the improvements.

Community Club News...

Flamettes

We would like to thank everyone who supported us this past year. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 5:30 p.m. Additional meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The Flamettes raise money for the Solway Volunteer Fire Department through events such as a Pancake Breakfast, helping with the Easter and Thanksgiving Bingos by serving food and bars as well as having grocery and food basket raffles at these events. We are always looking for other fundraising ideas!

Monday Bunch

We meet every Monday from 12:30-4PM in the town hall. We welcome new people, so come join us when you can!

Our next sale will be on Saturday, September 28th from 9AM to 1PM. Call Bonnie at (218) 729-8382 for a table (\$10 each).

This sale would be a great start to your Christmas shopping, and there is nothing like a homemade gift! We have crafters up and downstairs.

Thank you

The Solway Town Board would like to thank our maintenance personnel for the fine work they do in keeping our town properties well groomed and attractive looking. We receive many compliments from residents and visitors alike that our facilities, buildings and grounds are always well cared for and make our townsite the finest in the area. Thanks Leon, Butch and Horst!

Halloween Carnival

This year's Halloween Carnival is scheduled for Friday Oct. 25th, beginning at 6PM, with raffle drawings held at 8PM. Special Events Committee members will gather, Mon, Sept. 30th at 6:30 PM to begin planning for the event. Watch the October newsletter for any additional meeting dates and planning information.

Thanks for the flowers!

Shirley Nylund and Mary Forstrom have again taken the initiative to plant and care for geraniums at the town hall between our front and handicapped entrances. Thanks to Shirley's grandson, Nick, for planting, and to Shirley and Mary for watering and ongoing care. The flowers add so much beauty to our hall and we hear many compliments on how nice they look!

Country Music Show

Saturdays from 2-5PM

July 6th, August 3rd & September 7th

Lakehead Harvest Show

The 63rd annual show will be August 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2024, and exhibitors are welcome. The handicap accessible show grounds are located at 70 East St. Louis River Road. Admissions are \$10.00 daily or \$20.00 for a weekend pass. Children 11 years and under are FREE. Credit/debit cards accepted. The grounds are open daily from 9AM to 5PM. Parade and displays are subject to weather conditions.

Demonstrations include sawmilling, threshing, blacksmithing, wood shingle making, antique rock crushing, steam and gas plowing, and daily parades of tractors and vehicles at 4PM. Other attractions: Food concessions and 3-Day Cafe, petting barn, kids' activities, steam and gas model engines, tractors, vintage craft activities and flea market.

Kids pedal tractor pull daily at 2:30PM. Parade daily at 4PM. Antique tractor pull on Saturday following parade. Stock garden tractor pulling contest at 1PM on Sunday. Tractor raffle drawing following parade on Sunday.

Bring the family. This is a valuable educational opportunity for our youth. For further information, see www.lakeheadharvestshow.com or brochures. Tractor raffle tickets are available in advance from members.

Regular meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7PM at the Harvest show grounds.

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6th
5:00-8:00 PM

South St. Louis County Fair—Proctor

This will be our 103rd Annual Fair Celebration. Free Cornhole each day. Carnival, petting zoo, pony rides and New Toddler Land starting at noon on 7/4, 7/5 & 7/6. Carnival wrist bands: \$25; 6-10PM on 7/4, 7/5 & 7/6 and also from 12-4PM on 7/6.

Tues, 7/2 is entry day for 4-H building (1-7:30PM), and all barns (starting at 10AM).

Wed. 7/3 is judging for the 4-H building at 8:30AM and poultry and rabbits in the barns at 10AM.

Thurs. 7/4 is Senior Day, with cupcakes and punch at 1PM. Bull and Barrels Rodeo at 6PM. Todd Eckhart at 1PM; full band at 7PM.

Fri, 7/5: Balloon Lady starting at 2PM. Robotic demo in Turf Bldg., and RC Racing on hill and in Turf Bldg. Bulls & Barrels Rodeo at 6PM. Centerville All Stars at 7PM.

Sat, 7/6: "Kids Day" (Free gift bag & t-shirt for 1st 100 kids). Horse show starts at 8AM. Large animal livestock show at 10AM in barns. Balloon Lady 2-6PM. Coin toss at 3:30 PM in Turf Bldg. After Shock Band 7-11PM.

State Fire Wardens for Solway

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

Dennis Essig, 6365 Morris Thomas Road, Cloquet, MN, (218) 940-1966

George Hughes, 6995 Morris Thomas Road, Cloquet, MN, (218) 391-0705

Donald Gimpel, 4387 Midway Road, Hermantown, MN, (218) 349-2380

Permits may also be obtained online at www.dnr.mn.us, with a \$5 charge per calendar year for the online service.

Solway Fire Chief's Safety Tips

As summer approaches and outdoor activities become more frequent, it's crucial to prioritize fire safety. Whether you're enjoying a backyard barbecue, roasting marshmallows around a campfire, or celebrating with fireworks, taking precautions can prevent accidents and ensure a safe summer for everyone.

Grilling Safety Tips:

- **Location, Location, Location:** Place your grill in an open area away from your home, deck railings, and overhanging branches. A safe distance of at least ten feet is recommended.
- **Preparation Matters:** Clean your grill before each use to remove grease buildup that can ignite and cause flare-ups.
- **Supervision is Key:** Never leave a lit grill unattended, especially when children or pets are nearby. Keep a close eye on the grill at all times.

Campfire Safety Tips:

- **Choose the Right Spot:** If permitted, build campfires in designated fire pits or clear, open areas away from tents, dry grass, and overhanging branches.
- **Keep it Contained:** Keep campfires small and manageable. Use rocks or a fire ring to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading.
- **Extinguish Properly:** When you're done, pour water over the fire, dousing all embers until the hissing sound stops. Stir the ashes to ensure everything is cold to the touch before leaving.

Fireworks Safety Tips:

- **Know the Law:** Familiarize yourself with local laws and regulations regarding fireworks. Follow them strictly to avoid fines and injuries.
- **Safety First:** Always have a bucket of water, hose, or fire extinguisher nearby when using fireworks. Be prepared to extinguish any mishaps quickly.
- **Keep Distance:** Designate a clear launching area away from buildings, trees, and flammable materials. Ensure spectators are at a safe distance.

By following these simple yet crucial safety tips, you can enjoy a fun-filled and safe summer season with friends and family. Remember, preventing fires is everyone's responsibility. Stay safe and enjoy the summer!

Firefighters Needed!

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, and other commitments can become overwhelming. But despite all this, we still have the need for additional firefighters to keep our families and community safe.

We're asking anyone 18 years of age or over to consider stepping up to help us with this task. Maybe it could be your decision to be a more active and contributing member of the Solway Community. We just need you to call the Fire Hall at (218) 729-6304 or the Town Hall at (218) 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 entails and see if you can fit into a firefighter's boots.

The Bookmobile Continues to Roll

The Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile stops at the Solway Town Hall every third Thursday from 3:15-4:15PM. This is a convenient way to provide library material for your family, especially the kids, during the summer months.

The ALS Bookmobile provides high quality library service to residents who live outside member library communities. A number of different types of materials and services are available through the ALS Bookmobile such as:

- Adult and Children's Books
- Large Print Books
- Cookbooks
- DVDs
- Audio Books
- Video Games
- Interlibrary Loans

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.

Upcoming scheduled stops in Solway for the Bookmobile are: July 11th; August 1st & 22nd; and September 12th, from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM.

Craft and Rummage Sale

Saturday September 28th 9AM-1PM

Solway Town Hall

Highway #2 & Munger Shaw Road

Need Tables or Chairs?

Any Solway resident in need of tables and chairs for an event may contact the Town Hall at (218) 729-5134. If no one is in, please leave a message with your name, phone number and date needed. Availability is limited so it is on a first come, first serve basis. This service is free of charge.

Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program

Safe at Home helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and others who fear for their safety by establishing a confidential mailing address. This program helps survivors go about their daily lives without the risk of their abusers discovering their actual address.

Contact Safe at Home at: 1-651-201-1399, toll-free 1-866-723-3035. Minnesota relay service: 711 or 1-800-627-3529. Go to www.sos.state.mn.us for a listing of all resources available locally.

Please Leash Your Pets

Solway residents take pride in the appearance of the buildings and grounds at the townsite, soccer fields and cemetery. We want your visits to be pleasurable and free of harassments. We ask pet owners to help out by keeping pets on leashes and bringing containers to pick up their droppings during your visits. Thanks for helping in this matter.

2023 Census Information for Solway

In June we received population and household estimates as of April 1, 2023 for Solway Township. The population declined from 2,001 in 2022, to 1,956 in 2023. The household estimate decreased from 778 in 2022 to 766 in 2023.

Country Music Show Up and Running

Keith and Sharon Olson produce the show the 1st 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 keeping the show going for our enjoyment. During the 3rd quarter of the year, shows are being held Saturdays, 7/6, 8/3 and 9/7. We wish Keith, Sharon and the show continued success.

Recycling Shed Hours

Wednesdays 3-6PM

Saturdays 8AM-1PM

WLSSD News

Residents need only sort recyclables into 4 categories:

Mixed Paper

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

Corrugated Cardboard (Flattened)

- 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 & lids
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel and aluminum cans
- NO film or foam (Inc. Styrofoam) & 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 (Place in designated container)

- Film must be clean and dry
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper bags & sleeves
- Dry cleaning bags
- Zip top bags
- Bread, ice and produce bags
- Paper product packaging wrap
- Pallet and case wrap
- Air pillows and bubble wrap
- Shipping envelopes
- Salt bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Winter window film
- NO black plastic bags

Safely dispose of unwanted and expired medications at a Take It to the Box drop box, located at participating law enforcement facilities in Duluth, Hermantown, and Proctor.

Take It to the Box Medication Disposals for Residents:

- Duluth PD/St. Louis County Sheriff Public Safety Building, 2030 Arlington Avenue, Duluth (M-F, 8AM-4PM)
- Hermantown Police Department, 5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown (M-F, 8AM-4:30PM)
- Proctor Police Department, 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor (M-F, 8AM-4:30 PM)
- West Duluth Police Substation, 5830 Grand Avenue, Duluth (M-F, 8AM-4PM)

Town Office
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

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

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Solway Section Lines

Township Events Calendar

July 6 Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM
July 9 Town Board Meeting 6:30 PM
July 10 Special Events Committee Meeting (National Night Out) 6:30 PM
July 11 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15 PM
July 29 Public Hearing Vacating Road 10:30 AM
August 1 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15 PM
August 3 Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM
August 6 National Night Out 5:00-8:00 PM
August 13 Primary Election Day 7:00 AM-8:00 PM
August 20 Town Board Meeting 6:30 PM
August 22 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15 PM
September 7 Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM
September 10 Town Board Meeting 6:30 PM
September 12 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15 PM
September 28 Craft and Rummage Sale 9:00 AM-1:00PM
September 30 Special Events Committee Meeting (Halloween) 6:30 PM
October 25 Halloween Carnival 6:00 PM