

SOLON TOWNSHIP – SUMMER 2016

NEWSLETTER

Solon Township, Kent County, 15185 Algoma Ave NE,
Cedar Springs, MI 49319-9642
Office Hours Mon. – Wed. 9am – 5pm 616-696-1718

Township Master Plan

Would you like to share your ideas about the future of Solon Township? The Planning Commission has formally begun the process of updating the Township's Master Plan. The planning process is expected to take approximately 12 to 18 months to complete and will offer multiple opportunities for citizen engagement throughout the process. It is the Planning Commission's intention to make the process both interesting and informative for residents and property owners. It is expected that in the next couple of months, a questionnaire will be available on the Township website – www.solontwp.org. Your participation is encouraged and will be welcomed. Meetings, schedules, reports and other citizen engagement opportunities will be available on the website. Please visit the site often to find out about upcoming meetings and events.

The Master Plan will be used to guide development of the township and establish zones where certain types of structures and uses can or cannot be located. One of the goals of a Master Plan might be to prioritize the Township's road improvements and determine where sidewalk systems or walking trails could eventually be located. When the final draft is completed, the Planning Commission will recommend the updated plan to the Township Board for approval. Ultimately, the township may change its zoning ordinance to conform to the new Master Plan.

Questions or comments on the Master Plan update process can be directed to Township Planner Robert Toland, at tolandrtc@ameritech.net, or at 616-785-3747.

Elections

Receive information on upcoming elections at www.michigan.gov/vote & www.accesskent.com. Registered Voters who wish to vote by Absentee Ballot and qualify to do so can obtain an Absent Voter Ballot Application at www.michigan.gov/vote or at the Township Hall. Applicants must qualify under one of the following reasons: 1) age 60 years old or older; 2) unable to vote without assistance at the polls; 3) expect to be out of town on election day; 4) in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; 5) unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons; 6) appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence. A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates unless they are an overseas voter, voter who is disabled, or voter who is 60 years of age or older.

Property Taxes

The summer taxes are due by September 14, 2016 and may be paid by mail or at the new township hall in person Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

There is an afterhours mail slot at the entry doors of the township hall. You may also pay online by going to www.solontwp.org, then PROPERTY TAXES and using the link to OFFICIAL PAYMENTS.com. We do not accept post marks as the date received. Summer tax deferments are eligible for certain parcels but must be filed annually and must meet the state established criteria. Please contact the township for details.

Township Community Room Rental

The Township's Community Room, available for residents to rent, is a popular local venue for private parties. The rental fee is \$50 with a refundable security deposit of \$150 required to cover potential damage or cleaning fees. Kitchen facilities and tables and chairs are included. Check the township website for availability and call the office to reserve a date for your next party.

Farmer's Market and Parks & Recreation

Greetings from Solon Market!! Our Opening Day took place on June 11th with a Community Sale and Petting Zoo in conjunction with Velzy Park's Perimeter Walk. A big thank you to all who attended!!

A brief reminder—in order to provide a more fulfilling experience, your Market committee has elected to open the Market once a month only—on the second Saturday of each month. We have obtained the Community Room for this purpose. This will give us the opportunity to provide better entertainment as well as purchase fruits and vegetables in season for resale. The Market will be coordinating with the Velzy Park Committee to help provide for this much needed recreational facility. To provide for the park, you may see fundraising activities as well as our free Market events. Hours remain 9AM until 1PM. Like us on Facebook for updates or call the Township at 616-696-1718. We are looking for volunteers to assist in our events. Interested? Please call Shelly at 616-696-1848.

We look forward to seeing each of you as we celebrate an exciting new season. Upcoming events are as follows:

Christmas in July—July 9, 2016

Dog Days Pet Expo and Popular Pet Show—August 13, 2016

Giveaways with a fundraiser Car Bash—September 10, 2016

Bootacular—October 8, 2016

See you at the Market!

Fire Department

Make a difference in your community!!!! Join the Solon Township Fire Department as a paid on-call Fire Fighter or Medical 1st Responder or both. You must be at least 18 years of age, reside within 3 miles of Solon Township and hold a valid driver's license. Contact Chief Jeff Drake (616) 696-0020 or fire@solontwp.org.