

# **SOLON TOWNSHIP – WINTER 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**

The Township Planning Commission is in the process of updating the Township Comprehensive Plan to serve as a general guide to growth and development in the Township. The Comprehensive Plan should reflect the goals and vision of the community, so it is very important that we have as much input from the community as possible. A questionnaire has been prepared as a way of obtaining your input. It is available at the township website "[solontwp.org](http://solontwp.org)". ***Please visit the site as soon as possible and respond to the 30 questions.*** The link to the questionnaire is on our website as "MASTER PLAN SURVEY". You may respond to the questionnaire on-line or print the questionnaire and return it to Solon Township, 15185 Algoma Ave. Cedar Springs, MI 49319. If you are unable to access and print the survey, copies may be obtained at the Township Hall on Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM or please call us at 616-696-1718 and we will mail a copy to you for your response. Please complete the survey ASAP.

### **Property Taxes**

The winter taxes are due upon receipt with an additional penalty and interest being charged if not paid by February 14, 2017. They may be paid by mail or in person at the township hall Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We do not accept post marks as the date received. There is an after-hours mail slot at the entry doors of the township hall. You may also pay online by going to [www.solontwp.org](http://www.solontwp.org), then PROPERTY TAXES and using the link to OFFICIAL PAYMENTS.com. (There is a 3% convenience fee charged by OFFICIAL PAYMENTS). We do not accept credit card payments at the office.

### **Fire Department**

**WE NEED YOU!!!!** 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](mailto:fire@solontwp.org).

## **Parks & Recreation**

The Solon Park committee has been actively working on fund-raising for the new Velzy Park. We are excited that the North Country National Scenic Trail, part of the National Park System has mapped a plan to run through Cedar Springs and Velzy Park on its way northwest.

Several events have taken place and some new ones are on the drawing board to enable us to proceed with Phase 1 of the park concept, which includes a walking trail, restroom facilities, and parking area.

During the past year, enough funds have been raised to begin construction of the walking path this Spring. Our next drive is to collect donations for memorial benches and trees. The final Phase 1 fund-raising goal is to build restroom facilities. Grant opportunities are currently being researched.

Letters sent to local businesses have returned favorable responses and donations from: Premiere Auto, Bliss-Witters & Pike, Cedar Springs Graphix, Myles Excavating, and Meijer. Please join us in thanking them for their generosity.

On February 11, the committee will host its Valentine-themed "2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner" with dessert auction. Details can be found on our website. Ideas for the Summer of 2017 include a Car Bash involving rival schools, golf outing, scarecrow making, Frisbee golf, Painting Party, and concerts.

Please join us in accomplishing these goals by contributing in any of various ways, including volunteering to work at events, monetary contribution, or purchase of an "I Support Velzy Park" T-shirt for only \$10 – see a picture on our website [www.solontwp.org](http://www.solontwp.org). All checks are to be made out to "Solon Township – Velzy Park" and are tax deductible.

The Park Committee meetings are held at 4:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month and all are welcome to attend.

## **Assessor's Office**

Property values are on the increase again this year due to a continuing strong market in West Michigan. Homes are selling in days and many times over the listing price with multiple offers. Based on the County sales studies the Residential increase is around 5% on average for 2017 assessments. The official Consumers Price Index (CPI) for 2017 is .9%. The CPI is used to determine the increase in taxable value and dictate tax increases. The taxable value will increase more than the CPI in cases where there has been a transfer of ownership or new construction (new home, porch, addition, pole building, etc.). Assessment notices are scheduled to go out in mid February followed by the March Board of Review starting week of March 13, 2017.