



The Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 27, No. 2

Spring Issue

May 2021

Aquetong Spring Park closes for major improvement projects

Aquetong Spring Park will be undergoing a significant improvement project this spring and summer, with new parking, walkways and trail crossings throughout the site.

Due to the construction activity, the park will be closed to the public from April 26 until work is completed in September.

The project will create about 2,000 feet of paved, multi-use trail throughout Aquetong Spring Park, including stream crossings, a walkway to the Aquetong Spring area, and a new access path to the Judy House. A new, paved parking lot and entrance area will be constructed, along with an advanced, environmentally-friendly stormwater management system.

The new trail section will provide a safe and continuous connection for pedestrians and bicyclists between the Judy House driveway at the west end of the park and the existing gravel driveway to the east end. This trail project adds a critical missing trail segment of the Route 202 corridor between the already-established D&L National Heritage Trail, and the Route 202 Parkway Trail.

For the safety of all involved, the park will remain closed to the public while crews clear land, excavate, and begin construction. The Township hopes to unveil the new and improved Aquetong Spring Park before autumn.



Before the construction begins, a blessing of the trees

This tree replaced a decayed cedar that had been planted by Barbara Bluejay Michalski's grandfather, Chief Whippoorwill, Bill Thompson, three decades before. The cedar and a sugar maple were special additions to fulfill a request by the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania for use in tribal ceremonial practices. Aquetong Spring, a site of Lenape activity for centuries, continues to play an important role in tribal ceremonies. Ms. Michalski, who is a liaison between the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania and the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee, blessed the trees on April 19.



What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."

Volunteers sought for Township boards and committees

Much of the important work of identifying problems, researching solutions, and recommending policies for the Township is conducted by the scores of dedicated volunteers who serve on Solebury's many boards and committees. Many of the articles in this newsletter are the result of their hard work.

Do you have an interest in promoting land preservation?

Sustainable storm water practices around the home

Solebury is one of the few municipalities in the region where all of its water resources — spring heads, watersheds, outlets — lie completely within its boundaries. This gives the Township a unique ability to manage and protect our watersheds and wetlands, and stormwater management is an area where we can all help keep our water clean.

During a storm, asphalt parking lots, concrete pavements and ordinary grass lawns allow rain water to move quickly, eroding soil and hardscaping as it rushes to the river. Stormwater runoff carries oil, litter, chemicals and debris into our waterways, and is the source of many problems for homeowners, like lawn ponding and basement flooding.

Dry wells are covered, porous containers buried underground to capture runoff so it can be slowly absorbed into the ground.

Vegetated swales are open, shallow channels with natural plantings along the sides and bottom that collect stormwater, help filter it, and channel the runoff slowly to a discharge point.

Rain barrels capture the water from roof gutters and save it for watering your lawn, garden and indoor plants.

Permeable pavement is a good choice if you're designing a new driveway, walkway or garden path. Consider using hardscaping materials that allow rain water to be

To help plan, improve and maintain Township parks? Are you an architect who cares about the aesthetic values of the Solebury community and our two historic districts? The Township has committee vacancies that might just be a perfect fit.

The Board of Supervisors is seeking volunteers for two openings on the Township's Land Preservation Committee,

a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Board, and an architect to serve on the Historical Architectural Review Board.

Anyone interested in applying for this vacancy should forward a letter of interest and/or resume to the attention of the Township Manager, or email to soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org.

Practice these healthy household habits:

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and only when necessary
- Do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street or inlets
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down paved areas
- Compost or recycle yard waste
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved area
- Service your car regularly to prevent leaks onto paved areas
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated collection locations
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products whenever possible

absorbed and filtered back into the ground.

You can read much more about these at the US Environmental Protection Agency website, www.epa.gov/soakuptherain.

All residents are urged to contact Solebury Township to report any stormwater runoff or other pollution issues, whether from construction sites, businesses, or other locations throughout the Township.

Volunteering with your local watershed association is a good way to help the environment. Watershed associations help organize neighborhood pollution watches, stream and creek cleanups, and plant trees along waterways. In Solebury, there are watershed associations for Aquetong Creek, Pidcock Creek, Pannacussing Creek, and Primrose Creek.

Land owner participation is key to deer management success

Solebury's White-Tailed Deer Management Hunting Program, under the direction of the USDA's Nate Spence, matches land owners with carefully screened hunters, who must meet Solebury's standards of safe and ethical hunting, as well as accurate reporting of deer harvests to aid in data collection.

Hunters receive a "Red Tag" permit, operating under Pennsylvania's Agricultural Deer Control Program, which allows them to take antlerless deer from February through the end of September.

Program Director Spence has been contacting farmers whose yields have been affected by deer damage, and encouraging them to apply for an agricultural damage depredation permit through

the state Game Commission. As farmers join the program in 2021, this will provide an additional layer of assistance beyond traditional sport hunting.

As the white-tailed deer population continues to grow, so will the damages, and the success of this program pivots on the participation of property owners in Solebury Township.

Since Spence began managing the Solebury program in September 2019, 21 new properties signed up, exceeding the Township's average of nine properties per year

from when the program began in 2008.

To schedule a site visit or for information regarding program enrollment please feel free to contact Program Director Nate Spence at 215.297.5656 ext. 135 or by email at nspence@soleburytwp.org.



Registration open for 2021 Summer Camp

The Parks and Recreation Summer Camp operates Monday to Friday for children in 1st through 6th grade. Weekly sessions run for 4 weeks from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning July 5th and ending on July 30th. Camp activities are based at Pat Livezey Park and include

sports, theme days, arts & crafts, music, science programs, water programs (weather permitting), karate instruction, balloon sculpting, magic shows, and other special events and activities designed for young children.

To learn more and sign up, visit the 2021 Summer Camp page on the Township website, at www.soleburytwp.org/2021camp.



Solebury sounds warning on coal tar-based driveway sealants

Homeowners associations in the Township will soon be receiving a letter from the Environmental Advisory Council, outlining the dangers posed by driveway sealants that are made from coal tar. The Board of Supervisors signed off on the letter April 20.

Pavement sealants — the black, shiny substance sprayed or painted over asphalt — are manufactured from a variety of materials, many of which cause little harm to the environment. The exception is sealants made from coal tar, which can introduce dangerous

chemicals into the water supply.

Coal-based sealant is a source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that are toxic to aquatic life and can potentially affect human development. Coal tar-based sealants are banned in several states and many counties, but efforts to ban them in Pennsylvania have so far failed.

Over time, the sealant begins to degrade, and enters the water supply through storm water runoff. The constant abrasion from tires, snow plows, and general wear-and-tear turns the material

into a fine dust, rich in PAHs, which spreads through the air and is deposited into streams and ponds every time it rains.

There are many alternative products available that are just as effective. In fact, most chain retailers, like Home Depot and Ace Hardware, have banned the sale of coal tar-based sealants.

You can find a presentation from the Environmental Advisory Council to the Board of Supervisors on this subject, as well as a recent study on coal tar-based sealants, on the Township website. Just enter "coal tar" in the search bar at the very top of the site.

Household Waste Recycling Bucks County Summer 2021 Schedule

Bucks County is hosting three no-contact household hazardous waste recycling events this summer, in Warrington, Bristol, and Richland townships.

Advance registration is required for each event at www.buckshhw.eventbrite.com.

These are "no contact" events and masks must be worn.

Pesticides, paints, weed killer—toxic chemicals are found in many household products, and when they are no longer needed they need to be disposed of safely. Every year the county sponsors recycling events for residents to responsibly discard these hazardous materials.

June 26, 2021

Central Bucks

Central Bucks South High School

1100 Folly Road, Warrington

Warrington Township

August 14, 2021

Lower Bucks

Bucks County Technical High School

610 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills

Bristol Township

October 30, 2021

Upper Bucks

Strayer Middle School

1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown

Richland Township

Please note that no electronics, including televisions and computers, will be accepted this year due to a change in state law. This program is available to residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.

Keep a storm kit at the ready

Whether its a late-season hurricane or a gusty nor'easter, keeping your household prepared can be the difference between an event and an emergency. Having a few simple items in a "go bag" is an important part of being prepared for severe weather.

Flashlights, a battery-powered radio and clock, car chargers for your phone, first aid supplies, cash and copies of critical information should be at the ready before a storm hits. Extra batteries and a three-day backup of medications should also be in your kit.

Build your supplies over time, adding a few items each week or month, and be sure to check and replace any items that go bad over time.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests

that your storm kit provides for these basic needs:

- **Emergency Communication.**

Make sure you have everything you'll need to get in touch with your family either through cellular phones or email.

- **Medical Needs.**

Be equipped to tend to any current or unexpected medical conditions your family may have.

- **Critical Documents.**

Place any important documents in a waterproof container to help keep them dry and easily accessible.

- **Tools and Safety Items.**

Small items like matches, flashlights, a multi-purpose tool, and a whistle can make a huge difference for your family while weathering the storm.

- **Food/Supplies.**

Have at least a three-day supply of



non-perishable food and water for your family. Remember to pack anything specific to your family's needs.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation.**

Sanitizer, wet wipes, paper towels.

- **Gear for the Weather.**

Protect yourself by packing warm clothes and blankets; don't forget protective footwear and gloves, too.

- **Comfort & Priceless Items.**

Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially your children, and toys for the pets.

Pantry provisions: what to have on hand

Emergency preparedness guidelines recommend that we all keep three days of food and water on hand for each member of the family (pets, too) to weather a severe storm or other major event. But what constitutes emergency food, anyway?

Can you cook if the power goes out? A fireplace, outdoor grill or camp stove will meet your needs, along with a sturdy pot and skillet (non-stick cookware isn't meant for fireplace cooking, but cast iron is). Make sure your storm supplies match your equipment: Think instant rice, not risotto.

Water: One gallon per person per day. But water can get boring quickly, so cold-brew tea bags and powdered drink mix can liven things up.

Buy canned and jarred food that can be finished in one meal. Without a working refrigerator, leftovers are off the menu. Canned beans, potted meat, seafood and chili are good protein sources; a variety of jarred veggies will help balance the meal. Keep a manual can opener handy.

Root vegetables and long-lasting fruit, like oranges and melons, are good to have on hand if purchased right before a storm hits.

For packaged food, stick with high protein items that are filling. Instant oatmeal, single-serving packages of cereal, peanut butter and nut butters are good staples. If you can boil water, you can make pasta with a small jar of store-bought sauce.

Snacks help fend off cabin fever. Candy, cookies, pudding cups; crackers, seeds and nuts, as long as

they're low in salt to prevent thirstiness; granola and trail mix all have long shelf-life.



Storm Outage Contacts

PECO 1-800-841-4141 or www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx

Verizon 1-800-837-4966 or www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage

XFINITY (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or www.xfinity.com/support/status

Manoff Market Gardens joins Land Preservation Program

Solebury Township has acquired a land conservation easement on The Manoff Market Gardens located at 3157 Comfort Road, preserving another working farm for future generations.

"This land is a microcosm of the type of fertile agricultural areas in the Township and is a very welcome addition to the preservation program," said Phil Johnson, Land Preservation Committee Vice-Chair.

Owners Gary and Amy Manoff originally leased the 35 acres from The Heritage Conservancy, where they built their successful fruit business. When they first moved to the property, it was in need of nurturing, and over the next three decades the family turned it into the model orchard it is today.

Through environmentally sustainable practices such as soil conservation and improved waterways and terracing, the Manoffs succeeded in creating a fertile stretch of land that was an ideal candidate for the Land Preservation Program. When the lease with The Heritage Conservancy was up, the Solebury Township Land



Preservation Committee was eager to help the Manoff family buy the land from the Heritage Conservancy and preserve it.

The preservation of the property is a boon for Solebury for a myriad of reasons. It ensures that farmers who are dedicated to the land and community are able to continue to do what they do, and the easement ensures that the land, which is enhanced with remarkably rich soil, can continue to be farmed.

A principal goal of the Land Preservation Program is to allow people who are dedicated to the land to remain on their properties. Through this easement, the Land Preservation Fund fulfills that commitment to the Manoff family.

If you or someone you know is interested in preserving a property, please contact Jean Weiss, Land Preservation Committee Administrator, at 215-297-5656.

Support the Land Preservation Program with the purchase of scenic Solebury cards

"Having lived here for three-quarters of a century, I am delighted that the farm will stay like this. It has worked out extremely well for my family because we were able to achieve our dream of having the land stay as a farm and we have the assurance that our dreams are going to carry on and on." ~ Malcolm P. Crooks, "Love of the Land"

Express yourself naturally with a set of note cards, featuring exquisite images of the preserved lands of Solebury Township. These beautiful images, photographed by Mark Ludak, are scenes from around Solebury and are available as a boxed set of notecards. Each box contains eight cards (two prints of each photograph), and net proceeds benefit the Solebury Township Land Preservation Fund.

Show your commitment to the Land Preservation efforts with a box of cards, available exclusively at the Solebury Township Building. At \$8.00 per box or two boxes for \$15.00, with proceeds benefiting the Land Preservation Fund.

THESE FOUR BEAUTIFUL IMAGES, PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK LUDAK, ARE SCENES FROM SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP IN BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.



"Along Aquetong"



"Delaware River Winter"



"Centre Bridge Canal"



"Misty Hills"

NET PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE CARDS GOES TO THE SOLEBURY LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

Know who to call to report potholes and help speed road repairs

Spring in the mid-Atlantic is a see-saw season, and the freeze-thaw-rain-sun cycle usually leads to a busy pothole season.

To help our road crews fix these potholes quickly, we need your help in reporting them as soon as they pop up.

PennDOT is responsible for the state roads in the township. To report potholes and other maintenance issues to PennDOT, call 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623) or file an electronic report at www.customercare.penndot.gov.

State Roads in Solebury:

Aquetong Road ~ Carversville Road

Fleecydale Road ~ Green Hill Road

Lower York Road ~ Mechanicsville Road

Phillips Mill Road ~ River Road ~ Stoney Hill Road

Sugan Road (Paxson Road to Upper York Road)

Upper York Road ~ Windy Bush Road

To report a pothole on any other road in Solebury, call the township at 215-297-5656 or use the "Contact Us" button on the township website.



BEE PREPARED ...and save the date!

The Community Spelling Bee, a fundraiser for the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury, is planned for Friday, Oct. 1, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Look for further details in late summer/early fall.

Questions? Contact flnhsbee@gmail.com.

A Fundraiser for
The Free Library of New Hope & Solebury



Memorial benches can be purchased in Solebury parks

The Memorial Bench Program allows residents to buy a bench in honor of a loved one. The 6-foot-long benches are made of recycled materials and installed in-ground, with a commemorative plaque mounted on the top backrest.

Benches will be installed in the Solebury park of the purchaser's choice; the exact location of the bench within the park will be determined by the Township.

The cost of a memorial bench is \$1,000 and includes the recognition plaque and installation. Contact Solebury Township at soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org or call 215-297-5656 for more information, or visit the Township website at www.soleburytwp.org/bench.



Township Directory

Police:

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-8201.
General Inquiries: Police2@soleburypd.org

Administration:

Township Number: 215-297-5656
General Inquiries: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org

Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Nicole Slack: nslack@soleburytwp.org

LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator
Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytwp.org

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org
Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,
police@soleburypd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org | **Vice-Chair Kevin Morrissey** kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Noel Barrett nbarrett@soleburytwp.org | **Supervisor John Francis** jfrancis@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Robert A. McEwan
rmcewan@soleburytwp.org

Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
Instructions on virtual meetings are posted on the Township website.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

May

- 5/10 Solebury Township Planning Commission
- 5/11 Environmental Advisory Council
- 5/12 Zoning Hearing Board
- 5/20 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
- 5/20 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
- 5/25 Solebury Farm Committee
- 5/25 Parks & Recreation Board
- 5/26 Zoning Hearing Board—Carversville Inn Application
- 5/27 Parks & Recreation Board

June

- 6/7 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
- 6/8 Environmental Advisory Council
- 6/9 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
- 6/14 Solebury Township Planning Commission
- 6/15 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
- 6/17 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
- 6/24 Parks & Recreation Board
- 6/29 Solebury Farm Committee

July

- 7/8 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
- 7/12 Solebury Township Planning Commission
- 7/13 Environmental Advisory Council
- 7/14 Zoning Hearing Board (As Needed)
- 7/15 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
- 7/20 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
- 7/26 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee
- 7/27 Solebury Farm Committee

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."*