



The Solebury Messenger

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Solebury Welcomes New Township Manager, Christopher Garges

Bucks County native Christopher Garges will be Solebury Township's next Township Manager beginning on June 27, bringing 17 years of municipal government service to the role as he replaces the retiring Dennis H. Carney.

Garges spent the last four years as manager of Hanover Township and North Whitehall Township in Lehigh County. He has extensive experience in land use and development issues, having served for 13 years as Zoning Officer for Lower Saucon Township and several years in the private

sector managing civil construction projects and civil engineering design.

Garges, 47, lives in Coopersburg with his wife, two children and a rescue dog. An avid runner, he has finished the Boston Marathon 17 times with an active streak of 13 years in a row.

Garges says he was attracted to this opportunity in Solebury by the Township's long-standing commitment to protecting its natural beauty, its renowned land preservation program, and the Township's commitment to all forms of active and passive recreation.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Township staff and I look

forward to serving the Board of Supervisors as well as the residents and businesses of Solebury Township," he said. "My door (or inbox) is always open. Feel free to reach out to me and introduce yourself."



Incoming Township Manager Christopher Garges. Photo by Carol Ross, courtesy of the Bucks County Herald.

A Nose for Trouble



K9 Law & Order Summit 2022: Solebury Township Police K9 Blitz and his handler, Officer Matthew Rice, were presented the Top Detector Award by Carol Skaziak of the Throw Away Dogs Project. K9 Blitz worked along with 80 other police K9's through a three day training summit and won the top prize for scent and scent scenario work.

What's in Your Inbox?

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

Solebury Officers Awarded Commendations

Chief Dominick Bellizzie presented several awards to officers of the department earlier this spring in recognition of their police work.

Officer Gina Ferzetti was issued a Commendatory Citation for her outstanding police investigation involving the arrest of an individual who was in possession of an unregistered firearm and narcotics.

Corporal Aaron Soldavin, Officer James Boone and Officer Brendan Murphy were

all presented with an official Commendation of Heroism. These officers were working during the height of tropical storm Ida when they responded to an emergency call of a driver who was swept away from his vehicle. These officers responded in an expeditious manner and located the driver, who was clinging to a tree branch with water above his chest on the verge of losing his life. Soldavin, Boone and Murphy conducted a rescue operation and brought the man to safety.

Dennis H. Carney Honored as He Retires after Decades of Service

After 16 years at Solebury Township, the last dozen as its Township Manager, Dennis H. Carney will take his retirement at the end of June.

In his years here, Carney guided the creation of Aquetong Spring Park, from the draining of the lake and removal of the old earthen dam to the restoration of the original stream bed, construction of trout habitats, and the design and landscaping of what is now the Township's premier passive recreation space.



Dennis H. Carney receives a State Senate proclamation honoring his 25-plus years of public service, presented by Shannon Stickler from state Sen. Steve Santarsiero's staff.

He instituted prudent fiscal management policies, increased reserve funds, and carefully managed Township expenditures, all of which led to upgrades to Solebury's bond rating and shoring-up the Township's financial position for many years to come.

Carney began his long career of public service as a Philadelphia firefighter. After a decade posted to that city's busiest fire station, he turned his career toward public works, first as a manager with a growing state and municipal contractor, then as the Director of Public Works for Towamencin Township and its Infrastructure Authority, arriving as Solebury's Public Works Director and Roadmaster in 2006.

Members of the Board of Supervisors that hired Carney as Township Manager in 2010 worked to honor his service recently, convincing PennDOT to name the bridge over Pidcock Creek as the Dennis H. Carney Bridge.

The current Board of Supervisors is commemorating his service by dedicating a



Supervisor Robert McEwan presents the dedication certificate for Carney's Overlook and its commemorative bench.

bench in his honor at Aquetong Spring Park, at a location to be known as Carney's Overlook.

Pennsylvania Sen. Steve Santarsiero recognized Carney's more than quarter-century of public service to the Commonwealth with a proclamation.

Fittingly, these awards and other accolades from Township officers and staff were recently presented to Carney at Aquetong Spring Park.

Township Ready to Accept Your Trimmings

Solebury Township's recycling program for tree branch and brush trimmings is open for collection.

Township residents can drop off their trimmings every Wednesday between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Solebury Public Works Building located at 3092 Sugas Road. Orange traffic cones will mark off the drop-off area in front of the salt storage building.

This is a residential recycling program — contractor or landscaper waste will not be accepted.

The Township is unable to accept branches thicker than 5 inches in diameter, including stumps and logs.

No trash or leaves should be dropped off at this location.

Solebury Updates Water Issues and Information Web Pages

Water is a crucial resource in Solebury, and to better reflect its importance the Township has created a special section on its website to serve as an information clearinghouse for water issues and information.

Click on the "Water Issues & Information" button on the front page of the website to explore.

A Land Preservation Story: Beech Tree Farm

Philip Johnson has served on the Land Preservation Committee of Solebury Township for over ten years, as both chair and vice chair. He and his wife have made Beech Tree Farm their home for forty-two years.

Today, he and his son, David, farm over three hundred acres in Upper Makefield, Buckingham and Solebury. His farm has been in the County Act 319 program (also known as Clean and Green) since the 1960s. Taxes saved each year in this program can be considerable. Much of the preserved and open land in our township is conserved under Act 319. In 2016, Beech Tree Farm was also conserved by the township, offering further advantages.

Philip believes that farming

would not exist in Solebury if there were no land preservation program. Many newer residents do not fully understand the importance of preservation, both for the community and individual landowners. First and foremost, in the long term, preservation saves every taxpayer municipal and school taxes. Second, preservation of open space provides for cleaner water, air and reduced surface erosion. Third, preservation maintains the natural beauty of our township.

Preserved land is still individually owned and continues to provide tax revenue. For the individual, there are other advantages as well. Landowners with smaller acreage (under 10 acres) can donate their development

rights and receive federal, state and local tax benefits. Even though the land is preserved, the landowner still retains ownership and the use of the land. We are all concerned about our “carbon footprint”, and preserved land significantly helps to reduce the impact of pollution.

When we travel through our township and see its beauty, many times we may not realize what a precious gift we all enjoy here because of the land preservation program which began 35 years ago. Your Land Preservation Committee consists of all volunteers who are more than willing to discuss the program with you. To learn more about the program, please contact Jean Weiss, Administrator, at jweiss@soleburytpw.org or call 215-297-5656.

Household Waste Recycling Bucks County Summer Schedule

Bucks County is hosting three household hazardous waste recycling events this summer, in Warrington, Bensalem and Warrington townships.

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 25, 2022

Central Bucks
Central Bucks South High School
1100 Folly Road
Warrington Township

August 13, 2022

Lower Bucks
Bensalem High School
4319 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem Township

October 8, 2022

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 Bucks County residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.



It's Hurricane Season!

Be Prepared for Stormy Weather

What to do before the storm...

- ☁ Fill your car with gas (and fill an appropriately sized gas can if using a generator).
- ☁ Withdraw cash in case ATMs are not working after the storm.
- ☁ Fill any prescriptions you may need if you are running low.
- ☁ Plug in a standard non-cordless phone to receive and make emergency calls. Charge your cellphone, smart phone, and/or tablet and locate your car chargers.
- ☁ Place flashlights or battery-operated lanterns, plus fresh batteries, on each floor of your home.
- ☁ Store water for cooking and cleaning. Fill bathtubs with water for flushing.
- ☁ Set up a battery-powered clock and radio.
- ☁ Locate your supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods, including pet food.
- ☁ Protect sensitive electronic appliances, like microwave ovens, TVs, and computers with surge suppressors, which can prevent damage from surges related to lightning, fallen poles, and other accidents. Alternatively, unplug them before a storm.
- ☁ Freeze and refrigerate bottles of water to occupy more space. (A partially full freezer can keep meat frozen for up to 24 hours - completely full, up to 48 hours.)
- ☁ Place your "go" bags and pet supplies in the car, and pet carriers near the door.
- ☁ If you plan to use a generator, set it up outside, close windows to prevent exhaust entering your home, and test any battery-operated CO detectors you installed.
- ☁ Secure lawn furniture, trash cans, and other light objects in case of high winds.

During the storm...

- ☁ Avoid using candles but if you do, never leave them unattended.
- ☁ Check the fuse or circuit breaker box to see if a fuse tripped inside the home.
- ☁ Check with the neighbors to see if their power is out, too.
- ☁ If you see downed lines and the ground is wet or has standing water, do not go outside. Keep children and pets away from the area.
- ☁ Call PECO at the number below and report the outage through their automated, interactive system. Outages can also be reported online. Ask to speak with a PECO customer service representative to report downed poles or wires, but don't approach or look for these. Energized power lines are extremely dangerous.
- ☁ Stay away from windows, where flying debris can cause injury.
- ☁ Do not use a landline phone or run water during lightning storms.
- ☁ Turn off and unplug appliances - including your furnace, water heater, and water pump - to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored, but keep a couple of lights turned on so you'll know when service is back.
- ☁ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Move meats, cheese, milk, and other perishables into the freezer compartment where it will stay colder longer.

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

Verizon Infrastructure Upgrade in Solebury Advances

Verizon crews have spent this winter replacing copper wire with fiber optic cable on the utility's poles throughout the Township. This summer, they'll focus their efforts on upgrading the branch lines and hubs that carry the signal to individual homes.

Expect to see these crews in the next few months, boring holes for the underground cable runs and occasionally

digging pits to bury the new connection hubs.

The utility says that the new fiber optic equipment, when fully replaced this summer, should offer faster and more reliable internet and telephone service for its customers.

Please note that this upgrade will not provide Verizon Fios service, which includes television, to Solebury.

Township supervisors and administration have met repeatedly with the utility over the last decade to encourage them to bring Fios to Solebury, but they have always declined, citing the cost of bringing a fiber optic cable into each individual home.

Verizon will be mailing residents when all is complete, so they can decide whether to order the improved service.



Generator Safety Tips

Many residents who lose power turn to portable emergency generators to ensure a continuous flow of electricity to refrigerators, freezers, lights, fans, and other appliances.

While generators are convenient, Solebury urges residents to exercise extreme caution when using them, as they can create hazards for homeowners and electric utility workers.

⚡ Use outdoors only: Never use generators indoors or in attached garages - you run the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Only operate outdoors in well-ventilated, dry areas, away from air intakes to the home.

⚡ Don't overload it: Always operate generators in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator permits.

⚡ Avoid shocks & electrocution: Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Wait for rain to stop before using a generator in an open area, or protect it with an open, canopy-like structure to keep it dry while in use. Dry your hands before touching the generator.

⚡ Prevent fires & burns: Allow at least 5 feet of clearance on all sides of the generator. Let it cool at least 2 minutes before removing the fuel cap. If gas spills while fueling, let it evaporate before restarting. Always use fresh gas in your generator, and store gas only in containers approved for that purpose.

⚡ Prevent back-feeding: Never try to power your house by plugging a generator into an ordinary wall outlet, a practice known as back-feeding (powering a house requires a whole-house transfer switch that works with your home circuit breaker). This feeds power back into the utility system and energizes the transformer serving the house, which can pose a serious threat to line, service, and tree crews working to restore power in the area, who may not know the line is energized.

⚡ Shut it down safely. Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down. If you don't plan to use the generator again within 30 days, add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank. Do not store the generator or gas indoors.

2022 Solebury Township Parks & Recreation Summer Camp

Registration is open now for Solebury Parks & Recreation's Summer Camp! Our program operates Monday to Friday for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

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.

The Parks and Recreation day camp starts on July 5 and runs through Aug. 5. There is no camp on the Fourth of July. Daily hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Spaces are limited and fill quickly. Parents can sign up their child for single weeks or multiple weeks.

Forms and information are available as downloads from the Township

website, www.soleburytwp.org (under the Residents tab, click on Parks & Recreation), as well as at the Township Building.

Solebury's summer camp is a PA Recreation and Park Society award winner for both its excellent programming and its focus on health, fitness, and wellness.



Township Directory

Police:

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

Administration:

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

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

EAC Administrator Debra McFadden:
dmcfadden@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator Emily Kopach:
ekopach@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@soleburytpd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker | **Vice-Chair John Francis**
mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org | jfrancis@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Hanna Howe | **Supervisor Robert A. McEwan**
hhowe@soleburytwp.org | rmcewan@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Kevin Morrissey
kmorrissey@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.*

June

6/13 Planning Commission
6/14 Environmental Advisory Council
6/21 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
6/23 Parks & Recreation Board
6/30 Land Preservation Committee

July

7/7 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
7/11 Solebury Township Planning Commission
7/12 Environmental Advisory Council
7/13 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
7/19 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
7/21 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
7/26 Solebury Farm Committee

August

8/1 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
8/8 Solebury Township Planning Commission
8/9 Environmental Advisory Council
8/10 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
8/16 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
8/18 Land Preservation Committee

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