



Solebury Messenger

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October 2024

Community is Key:

Township Committees Chart Solebury's Next Decade

Every 10 years, Pennsylvania's local governments are tasked with revising their Comprehensive Plan. This document sets the guidelines that govern land use, environmental protection, and many other areas that directly affect our community's quality of life. In addition, the Township is in the process of updating the Park, Recreation, Open Space, Trail and Greenway Plan.

The plan begins with extensive community input. Your voice is essential to help the committees discover the priorities, goals and aspirations of Solebury residents. This is a consensus-based process: You and your neighbors decide which issues are most important, how best to move forward, and build the local capacity to put the plans into action.

The Township Comprehensive Plan process began this January and is spearheaded by a nine-member committee composed of Solebury Township residents. Working alongside the Bucks County Planning Commission, the Comprehensive Plan Committee developed a survey that was open to the community from August to

October. The Committee held the first of many community workshops on Sept. 25. As the process progresses, the Committee will host additional workshops in the coming months. The Committee hopes to complete the plan revision by early 2026.

The Comprehensive Park, Recreation, Open Space, Trail and Greenway Plan Committee began its work in September

and is in the process of selecting a consultant to help guide the project.

Both committees meet monthly, and you can find more information about them on their respective pages on the Township website.

The Township Comprehensive Plan process, dubbed Solebury 2035, has its own website at connects.buckscounty.gov/Solebury to keep track of community workshops and other events.

Increased Funding Sought for Fire/EMS

Solebury's first responders — the volunteer fire and ambulance services that serve our community — have seen the cost of equipment rise and the number of volunteers fall, while training requirements increase. This has put a tremendous strain on their resources, and the Solebury Board of Supervisors is weighing how best to support these critical services.

The draft budget proposal for 2025 would help fund a new stipend payment for volunteer fire fighters and assist fire companies and EMS units with future capital funding for apparatus and equipment. This would require raising fire tax 0.75 mills and EMS tax 0.35 mills, for a 1.1 mill total increase to the Township's overall Property Taxes. No other tax

increases are proposed for 2025. You can read the **Draft Proposed Budget Summary** on the Township website at SoleburyTwp.org/25BudDraft.

The Township's contribution to fire and EMS services is made from segregated funds with dedicated taxes. The EMS fund and associated taxes were overwhelmingly approved in a public referendum in November 2017, winning more than 73 percent support from Solebury voters.

In the past five years, the revenue for the fire and EMS funds has increased at an average rate of just over 2 percent per year, significantly less than the growth in costs faced by our volunteer fire and ambulance companies.

The Board of Supervisors' final Budget Session is scheduled for Nov. 7.

What's in Your Inbox?

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

Another Beautiful Property Preserved in Solebury

By Elaine Crooks

Chair, Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee

The Solebury Land Preservation Committee continues to actively pursue conservation easements on some of the township's most significant properties. We are pleased to announce the completion of an easement on 13+ acres on Phillips Mill Road. Adjacent to other preserved land, this property brings the total acreage preserved along scenic Phillips Mill Road to about 120 acres.

The owner of this property, Margaret Dietterich, has lived there for over 40 years. "It's so important to me to preserve this part of Solebury's history," said Dietterich. The property has a large agricultural field, dense woodlands and a meandering stream.

The Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee would like to thank all of the individuals who have participated in

conserving the natural beauty and rural landscape of our special township.

If you would like information about preserving your property, please contact Jean Weiss at 215-297-5656.



PA Service Offers Habitat Advice

Surfacing a Property for the Private Landowner Assistance Program

As part of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Private Landowner Assistance Program (including private and municipal land such as township parks), Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist Dan Mummert has offered to visit any property of at least 25 acres within the 12 counties that he covers in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

This program is intended for those who are interested in learning how to enhance their property for a greater diversity of wildlife with emphasis on our rare and declining species of greatest conservation need which includes birds such as; kestrel, meadowlark, chimney swift, purple martin, prairie warbler, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, and Louisiana

waterthrush.

During the visit, Dan will provide recommendations on wildlife habitat enhancement strategies that may include recommendations about invasive species control, enhancing grassland fields for wildlife, planting native trees and shrubs, or pointing out suitable locations for different types of



The American Kestrel

nest boxes.

These consultations are a free service.

Any Bird Town leader interested in having Dan visit a property that meets the criteria described above, can email him to schedule a site visit at dmummert@pa.gov. Please also copy Heidi at pabirdtown@gmail.com.

Pickleball Courts Reopen

The Pickleball Courts at Laurel Park in Solebury Township reopened on Tuesday, Oct. 1! Thank you for your patience while the Township worked to finish this project. The courts will be available for open play each day according to the following schedule:

November 1 to March 31

Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun., noon to 4 p.m.

April 1 to October 31

Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sun., noon to 6 p.m.

The courts are located behind the Municipal building, between the football field and new multi-purpose field. Ample parking is available near the courts. Bring your paddles and enjoy the fun!

Permits and Zoning and Maps: Online!

Solebury Township has made two big changes to modernize and improve your zoning and permit experience. Our new Permit Portal accepts applications electronically, eliminating the wasteful and cumbersome paper process, and our MapLink™ web service allows you to discover all the information needed to start a new project on your property. Both services are available on the Township website.

Beginning in January 2025, in an effort to minimize paper waste and maximize efficiency, Solebury Township will accept zoning and building permit applications exclusively through the Permit Portal, which is available on the Township website under the **Planning, Code Enforcement, and Permits** page, or just visit SoleburyTwp.org/PermitPortal.

The new MapLink web service links the

Township Zoning Code with an interactive zoning map that lets you find the property information you need quickly and easily. It's as easy as using the maps app on your phone.

You can view essential zoning elements, zoom in on individual parcels, discover the forms or permits you'll need, and help determine if you'll need a variance or HARB approval before you get to work. You can find it on the "Maps" page under the "Resources" tab on the Township website, or visit SoleburyTwp.org/MapLink.

While we hope these new web services will greatly improve your zoning and permit experience, you should always double-check with the Township Zoning Office before proceeding with your plans to be extra-sure that everything's in full compliance.

Deer Management Program in Solebury Township

Since 2020, Solebury Township has recognized and responded to the increasing discussion of deer management solutions across Southeast Pennsylvania. Historically, deer populations have been directly managed through various methods of sport hunting by local hunters, and indirectly by factors such as vehicle collisions, disease and malnutrition. Often these influences leave deer populations unaffected and growing.

Drastic increases in deer populations come with a myriad of associated issues. Various native plant species within local forest understories disappear, leaving voids for invasive growth, habitat loss for small mammals and birds, and devastating damage to local crops and residential plantings. Increased incidents of deer-vehicle collisions occur

because of natural deer movement in search of new food sources and during breeding cycles.

Solebury Township decided to take a dynamic approach to managing the rise in the deer population and the associated damage. The Township entered into a cooperative service agreement with USDA Wildlife Services to oversee the success of the sport hunting program while also providing supplemental targeted deer removal by the agency following the hunting season.

The combined efforts from both sides of this program have produced over 2,000 deer harvests in a few short years while providing local charitable food outlets with

over 40,000 pounds of venison. Average deer densities across the Township have been decreased by 45 percent and deer-vehicle collisions have dropped by 60 percent annually since the peak of this data.

Solebury Township has committed to fund the continuation of this relationship with the USDA and the success of the program. Much of the credit for the program's success goes to all the participating hunters and property owners involved and to all future participants who would like assistance with deer damage related issues on their property. USDA Wildlife Services can also assist with other various wildlife damage solutions for residents of Solebury Township.

For more information, contact Nate Spence, USDA Wildlife Services, at nathan.e.spence@usda.gov or 215.589.0991.



Nate Spence
USDA Wildlife Services

Solebury Celebrates 'Police and Community Together' Night

A severe thunderstorm forced the cancellation of National Night Out this summer, but that didn't stop Solebury Police from quickly assembling Police and Community Together night on Sept. 12.

The Solebury Township Police Department was joined by their colleagues at New Hope Borough Police to get to know the community and introduce Solebury's new Police Chief, Kelley Warner, and Kevin Edwards, the new Chief in New Hope, a longtime officer in Solebury Township.

Both chiefs have a strong commitment to community policing, and this free and family-friendly annual event is a big part of those efforts.



Solebury's Public Works Department showcased some of their equipment and discussed their important work, with PW Director Chris Clewell (at left in the picture) and Township Manager Chris Garges (right).

New Hope Eagle Fire and Midway Volunteer Fire Company demonstrated some of their new apparatus, and chatted with Chief Warner (below).

The event featured plenty of food and games, informative tabling from the Parks & Recreation Department, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and other Township and Borough committees and non-profit organizations.

Held in Laurel Park, behind the Township Building, the main field was reserved for several public safety demonstrations, including Solebury's K-9 Blitz showing off his skills.

Temple MedFlight capped off the evening, making a dramatic twilight entrance (below).



Always a popular occasion, next year's event will take place as part of National Night Out (weather permitting), usually held on the first Tuesday in August.



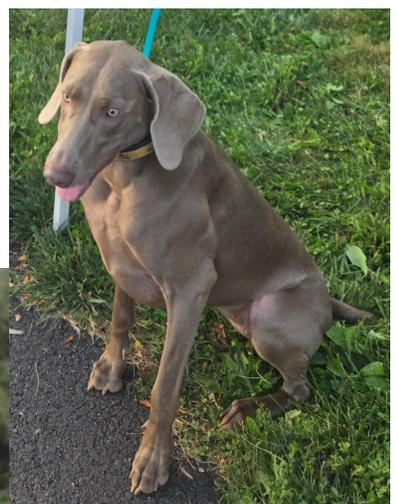
Police and Community... and Dogs, Too!

While Solebury Police K-9 Blitz is used to being the star of the show — here he is below center showing off his policing skills — he wasn't the lone dog at the event.

ChesCo Search, a non-profit search-and-rescue dog

service, was on hand with a team and handlers to discuss their important work.

Local residents brought along their doggos, too, like the youngster at right considering a career in law enforcement.



Road Rally Kicks Off New Hope Automobile Show Weekend

A late-summer signature event in our region is the New Hope Automobile Show, which kicks off with the annual Road Rally, sponsored by Solebury Parks & Recreation.

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice (center, with sign) invites the owners of original or restored vintage and classic automobiles, or tricked-out cars of any kind, to show off their wheels, compete for trophies, and take a morning drive through our scenic

corner of Bucks County.

Visitors and car enthusiasts from across the country flock to the event, which grows in popularity every year. This

year, participants in the rally ended their journey with a picnic at Peace Valley Park, where results were tallied and the winners announced.





Hurricane or Winter Nor'easter 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/check-network-status

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

We Can't Stress This Enough: Never Drive Through Flood Water!

From the National Weather Service:

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters.

People underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in cars swept downstream. Many of these drownings are preventable.

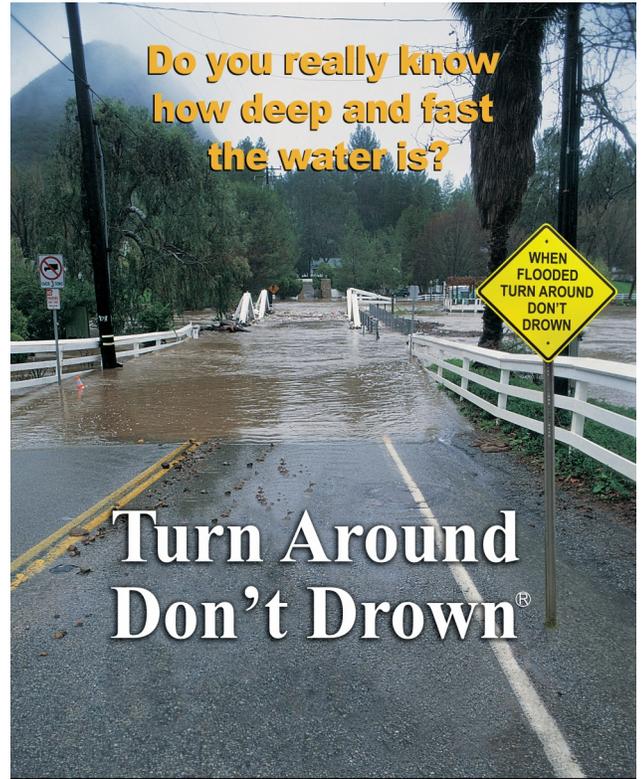
Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. The road may have collapsed under that water.

A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult.

It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks.

It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

Remember: When the road is flooded, Turn Around, Don't Drown.



For important, life-saving information please visit

weather.gov/tadd



Drive-Up Drop off

DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx}
TAKEBACK

Saturday,
October 26

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DEATakeBack.com



Solebury Twp. Police Dept.
3092 Sungan Road

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
HALLOWEEN NIGHT**

**OCTOBER 31
FROM 6 TO 8 PM**

STOP BY AND SEE US AT THE CORNER OF
NORWALK WAY & KITCHEN'S LANE
IN NORTH POINTE

**LIGHT UP THE
NIGHT**

We will be handing out
special lighted items to help
make our kids more visible.

**IT'S ALL FREE....
SEE YOU THERE!**

Last Bucks County Household Waste Recycling Event for 2024

Bucks County hosts several household hazardous waste recycling events every year, and the last one for 2024 is coming up.

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.

October 26, 2024

Upper Bucks

Strayer Middle School

1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown

Richland Township

Sorry, no electronics, including televisions and computers, can be accepted under state law. This program is available to Bucks County residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.

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@soleburytpw.org

Township Manager Christopher Garges:

soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org

EAC Administrator Kate Robeson-Grubb:

krobeson-grubb@soleburytpw.org

HARB Administrator Zachary Zubris:

zzubris@soleburytpw.org

LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator

Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytpw.org

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:

soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org

Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org

Police Records: Police Chief Kelley D. Warner,
police@soleburytpd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker

mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org

Vice-Chair Hanna Howe

hhowe@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Christy Cheever

ccheever@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor John Francis

jfrancis@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Kevin Morrissey

kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org

Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.*

October

10/24 Parks & Recreation Board
10/28 Planning Commission
10/29 Solebury Farm Committee

November

11/6 Human Relations Commission (as needed)
11/6 Parks & Recreation Board
11/7 Board of Supervisors ~ Budget Session
11/12 Environmental Advisory Council
11/13 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
11/14 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
11/18 Sustainability Subcommittee
11/19 Board of Supervisors
11/20 Comprehensive Plan Committee
11/21 Land Preservation Committee
11/25 Planning Commission
11/26 Solebury Farm Committee

December

12/2 Historical Architectural Review Board
12/5 Human Relations Commission (as needed)
12/9 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
12/10 Board of Supervisors
12/11 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
12/12 Parks & Recreation Board
12/16 Sustainability Subcommittee
12/17 Environmental Advisory Council
12/18 Comprehensive Plan Committee
12/19 Land Preservation Committee
12/23 Planning Commission

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