



Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 30, No. 3

Summer Issue

June 2024

Start Preparing for a Very Busy Hurricane Season

Atlantic Hurricane Season officially kicked-off on June 1, and forecasters say it's likely to be more severe than we've seen in years. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration last month issued what it called its most aggressive hurricane outlook ever, predicting 17 to 25 tropical storms with eight to 13 of them likely to become hurricanes. Academic and commercial forecasts are generally aligned with NOAA's expectations.

By way of comparison, in 2005—the year of Hurricane Katrina—there were 28 named storms and seven major hurricanes. NOAA says conditions are ripe to outpace that record year.

Steadily warming temperatures due to climate change, together with this year's transition from an El Niño winter to a La Niña summer, are creating conditions in the Atlantic Ocean perfectly primed for numerous major storms, the forecasters say.

The historic peak of hurricane season is usually mid-September, but this year is running hotter, with longer stretches of

sustained high temperatures in the air and the ocean. That's why the National Weather Service started sounding the proverbial alarm last month, urging communities in the eastern half of the U.S. to start preparing for extraordinary storms.

In this issue of the Messenger, we've assembled preparedness tips gathered from federal and state emergency management, NOAA, and local utility providers to help you be better prepared for hurricane season. You'll find advice on packing your go bag, generator safety tips, and what steps to take before and during a heavy storm.

The most universal advice we hear is to have three days of food and water always on hand for each member of your household, including pets. For food, that means meals and snacks that can be prepared even if there's no power to heat it up. For water, figure one gallon per person per day.

Be sure to check in with your neighbors, to keep each other safe and to share advice. Between Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Ian, there's a lot of lived experience here.

Time's Running Out to Sign Up for Summer Camp

Get ready for an unforgettable summer experience! Our highly anticipated summer camp kicks off July 8, and we can't wait to welcome all our campers.

Don't miss out on the fun! Register now to secure your spot and embark on a summer filled with excitement, learning, and adventure.

The Parks and Recreation Summer Camp operates Monday to Friday for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Weekly sessions run for 4 weeks from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning July 8 and ending on Aug. 2. Parents can sign up their child for single weeks or multiple weeks. 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.

Solebury Parks & Recreation Summer Camp begins in just a few weeks so now is the time to sign up your camper for some great adventures! Detailed information and online registration is on the Township website at SoleburyTwp.org/Camp.

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."

Summer Safety Tips from the Solebury Township Police Department

Lock up!

- Never leave your unattended vehicle with its windows down or doors unlocked.
- Make sure to always lock up your house, garage, and shed if you have one.
- Bring valuables inside.

Practice safe bike riding.

- Check your bike to make sure the tires are inflated, and the brakes are working.
- Always wear a helmet and pads for protection.
- If you ride on the street, keep to the right and follow all traffic signs.
- Be on the lookout for traffic, yield to vehicles, and signal when turning.
- Use the crosswalks and yield to pedestrians. If you must cross at an intersection, look both ways and walk your bike to the other side.

Be prepared before you leave on vacation.

- If you are going out of town, ask a family member or trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your house and retrieve any mail or packages that arrive.
- Make sure your home is locked up and secure.

- Set a light on a timer inside of your home to create the appearance of activity inside.
- Consider installing exterior motion sensor lighting. This can help deter crime.
- Keep your valuables out of plain sight and place them in a safe if possible.
- Do not post your vacation plans on social media.

Summer Safety Tips for Dogs

- Your dog should ALWAYS have access to fresh drinking water and shade.
- Never, ever, EVER leave your dog in a hot car.

Owners cannot lock pets in hot cars. If law enforcement sees a pet locked in a hot car, they are not liable for any damage to the motor vehicle or the contents of the vehicle during their rescue of the animal. If you think the law is being violated, contact the police before acting. Those who violate these laws can suffer penalties that range from fines to jail time.

- Keep your dog's paws cool.
- Know the signs of heat-related illness or heat stroke.
- If there's no fence, keep your dog on a leash.

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie Retires in July

Dominick Bellizzie, Chief of Solebury Township Police Department, will be retiring in July 2024. He has served as the leader of STPD for 18 years with a total of almost 50 years in law enforcement.

Chief Bellizzie is undoubtedly one of the most forward-thinking and progressive law enforcement officials to serve the Solebury community. His knowledge, acuity, and progressive thinking have benefited the STPD and law enforcement community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Chief Bellizzie for his unwavering dedication and years of service to not only his fellow officers, but Solebury Township as a whole.

Chief Bellizzie leads by example. His calm, pragmatic, reliable presence in times of critical incidents was felt far beyond the police department. The Chief showed that he really cared and that he was supportive of the officers

and staff but also to all community members.

Chief Bellizzie will be missed, but we're very grateful for his leadership and the work he performed for our department and for the community and what he has done for so many people.



During the End of Year Assembly, Principal Bloom, teachers, and staff with the "Little Lions" at New Hope Lower Elementary School gave Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie a happy retirement send off.

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.

Did you know...

Land Preservation Provides Solebury With a Myriad of Benefits

By Elaine Crooks, Chair, Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee

Nearly all residents of Solebury Township get water from underground aquifers. This is just one reason that the land preservation program is important to you. Fields and forests absorb rainwater that replenishes the aquifers; pavement does not.

Much of the land preserved through the land preservation program remains in agriculture, giving residents the opportunity to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, even meats, just "down the road." Forested land helps minimize air pollution. An acre of trees provides enough oxygen for 100 people for a year. It also, of course, provides habitat for our wildlife. Preservation also keeps our taxes lower, as the cost of preserving land is far less than the cost of the school system, police, fire and other municipal services.

Solebury Township is unique, having more open space preserved than any other municipality in Bucks County. For over 25 years, dedicated township residents have worked to keep Solebury the beautiful place

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.

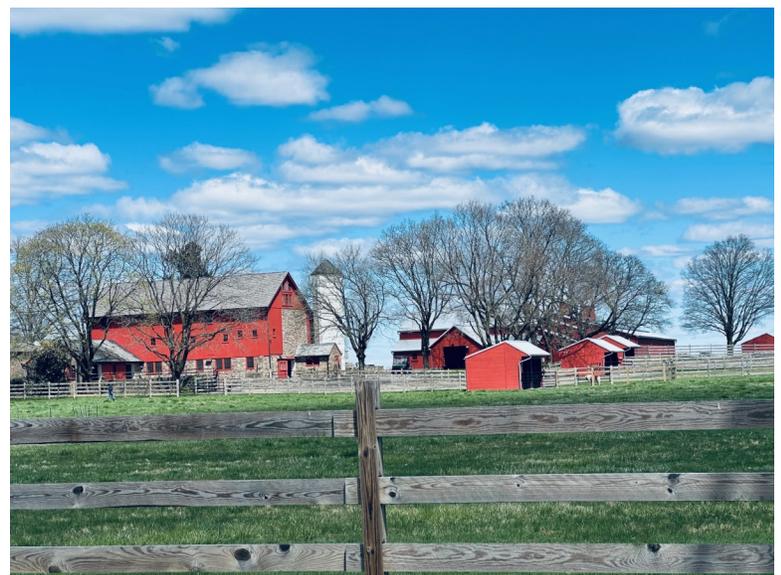
- **Tools and Safety Items.** Small items like matches, flashlights, a multi-purpose tool, and a whistle come in handy in a pinch.

- **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. Don't assume you will have power to heat food or boil water, and don't forget a manual can opener.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation.** Sanitizer, wet wipes, paper towels, and personal hygiene items like a toothbrush and toothpaste for everyone in the family.

- **Gear for the Weather.** A change of clothes, blankets and towels; don't forget protective rain gear and footwear, too.

- **Comfort & Priceless Items.** Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially children and pets.





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/check-network-status

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



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.

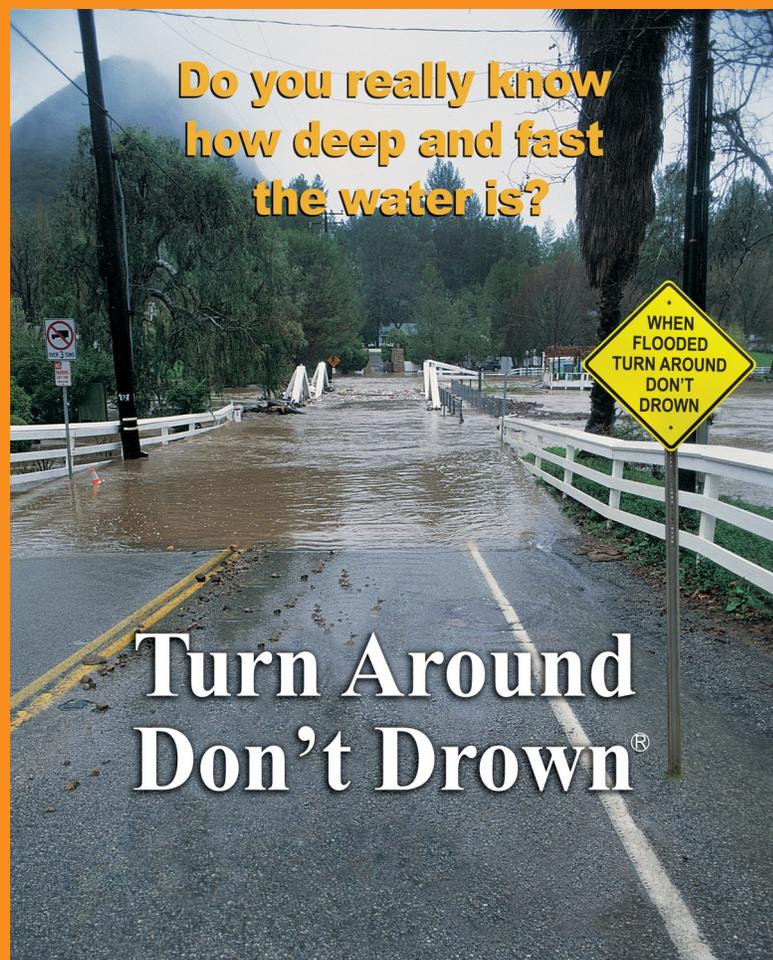
🔌 **Don't overload it:** Always operate generators in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator permits.

🔌 **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.



For important, life-saving information please visit weather.gov/tadd



National Weather Service



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators



FLASH
www.flash.org

Baseball and Softball Opening Day



Check out the scene from Opening Day for Solebury Baseball and Softball at Laurel Park on Saturday, April 20. It was a fantastic event, complete with the parade of teams that were led to the fields by the New Hope Eagle Fire Company.

The park was packed and the sunshine cooperated to make this a fun filled day, with baseball and softball games, activities for kids and parents, and food at the snack stand. There was lots to do and see!

A special thanks to all of the sponsors, many who were in attendance, and to everyone who planned, worked and helped to make this a very memorable day in the park. And of course to NHS High School Varsity Baseball Coach Tony Vlahovic for throwing out the "first pitch" to Play Ball!

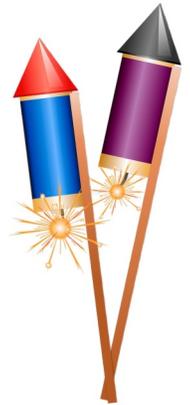


Reminder: Display Fireworks are Prohibited Without a Permit

With the July 4 holiday approaching, Solebury Township Police Department reminds all residents and visitors that it is unlawful to use display fireworks without a permit. It shall be unlawful for any person, persons, firms or corporations, amusement parks, fair associations or other organizations or groups of individuals, to use and/or hold public displays of display fireworks within the limits of the Township of Solebury, unless a

permit therefor is first granted by Solebury Township.

Restrictions on all fireworks - The use of fireworks, whether consumer fireworks, display fireworks or other types of fireworks, shall be strictly prohibited at any location within 200 feet of any structure, property line, vehicle, or roadway unless prior written permission is received from all property owners within the two-hundred-foot area and prior approval by the Township.



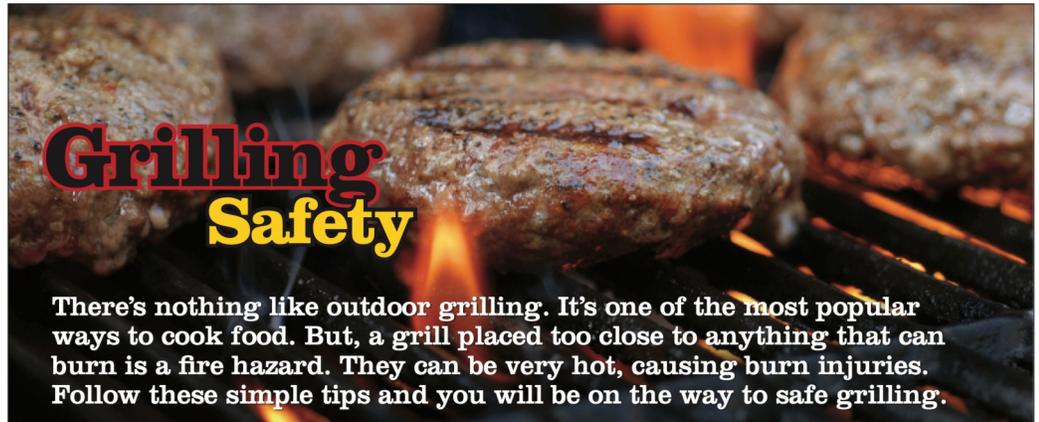
Celebration Tree Program

The Celebration Tree Program allows residents to buy a tree, which will be planted in a Township park, to commemorate a significant life event. You can pick from among six varieties of trees, sized at 2-3 inches caliber trunk diameter.

Participants will receive a certificate which identifies the life event that the tree commemorates, the park where it has been planted and its geolocation. No permanent plaque or marker is allowed on or around the tree.

Once participants select a planting season, Township staff will contact them to make arrangements for tree location and planting. Solebury Township will provide the necessary care for the tree to ensure the best chance of optimal establishment and growth.

For more information, visit the Township website at SoleburyTwp.org/Tree or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org.



SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

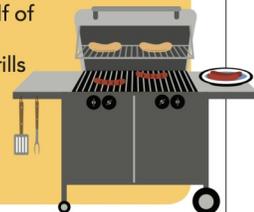
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Visit NFA.org/Grilling

Bucks County Household Waste Recycling Events for 2024

Bucks County is hosting several household hazardous waste recycling events this year.

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 29, 2024

Central Bucks

Central Bucks South High School

1100 Folly Road, Warrington

Warrington Township

August 10, 2024

Lower Bucks

Bensalem High School

4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem

Bensalem Township

October 26, 2024

Upper Bucks

Strayer Middle School

1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown

Richland Township

Please note that 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 Dominick Bellizzie,
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.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

June

6/24 Sustainability Subcommittee
6/24 Planning Commission
6/25 Solebury Farm Committee
6/26 Comprehensive Plan Committee
6/27 Parks & Recreation Board

July

7/3 6 p.m. Human Relations Commission (as needed)
7/8 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
7/9 Environmental Advisory Council
7/10 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
5/14 Environmental Advisory Commission
7/15 Sustainability Subcommittee
7/16 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
7/17 Comprehensive Plan Committee
7/18 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
7/22 Planning Commission
7/30 Solebury Farm Committee

August

8/1 6 p.m. Human Relations Commission (as needed)
8/5 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
8/13 Environmental Advisory Council
8/14 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
8/15 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
8/20 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
8/21 Comprehensive Plan Committee
8/26 Planning Commission
8/27 Solebury Farm Committee

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