



# Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

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Spring Issue

April 2025

## Solebury to Buy Quarry Site, Last Chapter in Environmental Saga

The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the purchase of the site of the former New Hope Crushed Stone quarry, now 166 reclaimed acres of land with a 75-acre lake.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Township will pay \$2.424 million for the property, which it expects to offset with outside funding. The sale will only be final after environmental testing shows, to the Township's satisfaction, that there are no significant defects.

"The Board has diligently pursued potential sources of funds that could significantly defray the final cost to the Township," said Board Chair Mark Baum Baicker.

By purchasing the land, the Township will determine the future of this important site, while preserving the ecology of the recently-reclaimed lake, surrounding land and the restored Primrose Creek environment.

In addition, the property includes a structure that could serve as a storage ...continued on page two.

## Drought Watch Persists Please Conserve Water

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection declared a drought watch for Bucks County in November, and drought conditions have persisted through the winter. Since most of Solebury gets its water from groundwater wells, we are asking residents to take steps to conserve water.

Here are some tips from PA-DEP on how you can conserve water:

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine less often, and only with full loads.
- Don't let the faucet run while brushing your teeth or shaving. Take shorter showers. For example, consider not washing your hair daily.

...continued on page two.

## Comprehensive Plan Issue Forums

Solebury Township updates its Comprehensive Plan every ten years in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code. The plan outlines our long-range priorities for growth, land use, community amenities, sustainability and preservation.

**Solebury 2035** will present practical, actionable recommendations focused on key areas identified by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and from feedback from the community-wide survey conducted in 2024.

To gather input on important issues, the Comprehensive Plan Committee will hold a series of Issue Forums. These sessions will bring together Township committees, outside advisors, the Bucks County Planning Commission, subject matter experts, and the public to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our community.

These forums are designed to collect ideas and perspectives to go into the plan—not to resolve issues during the meeting.

### **The sessions start at 7:15 p.m. at the Township Building:**

- **May 21 – Preserving Solebury's Rural Character**
- **June 18 – Environmental Stewardship**
- **July 16 – Future of the Route 202 Corridor**
- **Date to be Announced – Managing Our Water Resources**

All meetings are open to the public and will also be available via Zoom. We invite everyone who is interested in helping shape the future of Solebury Township to join us.

Residents who would like to attend virtually should send an email to [soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org](mailto:soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org) and request the Zoom login information. Please indicate the committee's name and meeting date in your email, along with your name, email address and phone number, and we'll promptly reply with the login information. Be sure to register before 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. If you are unable to email us, call the Township at 215-297-5656 and we will provide you with the information. A Zoom account is required to attend virtually.

### What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) and click "Email Sign-Ups."

## Solebury to Buy Quarry Site, Last Chapter in Environmental Saga

...continued from page one.

facility for the Township Public Works Department. By acquiring the building along with the land, the Township would no longer need to build a new shed, saving approximately \$350,000.

“I think this is a rare opportunity, a rare moment, that will have an historical significance for Solebury Township and the surrounding community,” said Supervisor Kevin Morrissey. Morrissey and Supervisor John Francis, through their long involvement in Primrose Creek Watershed Association and as

members of the Board, have long been involved in the efforts to restore this habitat.

New Hope Crushed Stone ceased operating in 2019, after decades of formal environmental complaints and litigation resulted in a final determination that the quarry was a public nuisance, responsible for dangerous sinkholes, watershed depletion and dried-up wells, and the near eradication of

Primrose Creek. State regulators supervised the reclamation of the land and restoration of the waterway, which is now a large lake surrounded by native plants.



The present-day reclaimed quarry site is shown upper right. The depletion of the land over the years can be seen in the aerial photographs below, with the property outlined in red and the creeks in blue. Note the drastic expansion of the pit and eradication of Primrose Creek over the last few decades.



## Drought Watch Persists, Please Conserve Water

...continued from page one.

- Water your lawn only if necessary. Avoid watering on windy and hot days. Watering grass lightly and efficiently will encourage healthier, deeper grass roots. Overwatering is wasteful, encourages fungal growth and disease, and results in shallow, compacted root systems that are more susceptible to drought.
- When mowing your lawn, set the blades 2-3 inches high. Longer grass shades the soil, improving moisture retention.
- Water your garden less often. If necessary, water only in the cooler evening or morning hours, and direct the water to the

ground at the base of the plant. Focus on new plantings, which have shallow root systems. Older plants may endure dry conditions longer.

- Skip the car washing. If you have to wash your car, it's better environmentally to go to a drive-through car wash that recycles the water.
- Sweep your sidewalk, deck, or driveway, instead of hosing it off.
- Check for and repair household leaks. For example, a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water daily.
- Set up a rain barrel to be ready to repurpose rain when it does fall. [For help-](#)

[ful information, see this Penn State Extension guide.](#) Or just set out a bucket to capture water in the event of rain, and reuse it to water plants or the bird bath.

Residents can contact their respective water authorities to get answers on the water table and methods to conserve water ([BCWSA's website is here](#), and [NWWA's is here](#)). There will not be monitoring data provided for private wells.

For more tips for residents as well as fact sheets on how businesses such as lawn care services, landscapers, hotels, and restaurants can reduce water use, see the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Drought and WaterSense web page](#).

# Spring is the Season to Tend to Roadside Trees

Recent storms have shown us just how vulnerable we are to power outages and closed roads due to toppled trees and broken limbs. Now that spring is on the way and healthy trees are about to bud, we all need to keep a sharp eye out for the ones that show no sign of the season — especially dead and dying trees along the roadside.

Damaged trees can become a major hazard when limbs fall into the road, posing a threat to cars, bicycles and pedestrians

alike. If they fall across a power line, you and your neighbors can expect to be in the dark for many hours.

It's the responsibility of individual homeowners to care for and maintain the health of trees along Township roads, even those trees located within the right-of-way. Residents in developments are responsible for trimming trees that overhang sidewalks to keep a safe and clear path for pedestrians.

Make a habit of checking on

the trees that front your property, tending to any snapped or dangling limbs, and removing any dead or dying trees before they become a danger to others. Your commitment to simple preventative maintenance helps keep us all safe.



## PECO Crews to Tackle Trees, Upgrade Equipment

### From Windy Bush to Carversville, Contractors Will Be Busy

PECO contractors will be busy all over the Township this spring and summer, performing vegetation management, upgrading equipment and trimming or removing several trees that pose a hazard to the power lines.

Asplundh will begin work in Solebury in late April, with a vegetation management project in the lower end of the Township below Windy Bush Road (see map at right). Work will continue



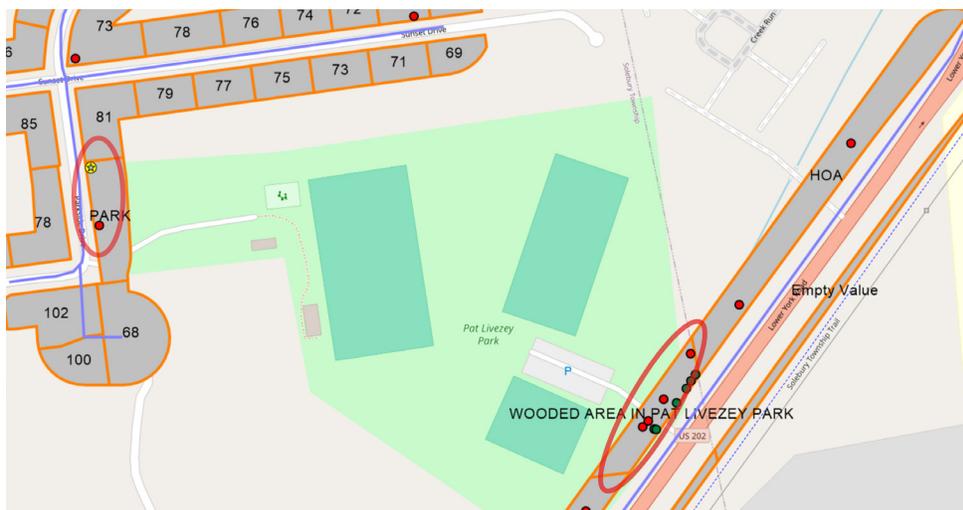
throughout the Spring. Asplundh will be contacting customers where work is being performed, and will remove any vegetation debris created by this work.

PECO is contacting customers in the Carversville area about upcoming work to improve the local electric distribution system. The work will involve upgrading and installing more modern equipment, including new poles and tree-resistant aerial wires.

Tree removal and tree trimming will likely be required in the work area, which runs along Carversville Road, Old Carversville Road, Fleecydale Road, Aquetong Road, River Road and Sugan Road. If there is required tree work on private property, PECO will first contact the homeowner to review the plan in-person.

Tree work began in mid-April and work on electrical equipment, including poles and wires, will start once tree work is complete. The project is expected to be completed by mid-June.

PECO contractors have also identified several trees along Parkside Drive and Lower York Road that pose a hazard to power lines in the area of Pat Livezey Park. Crews will be in the area (see map below) in June and July to work on these trees. The utility may need to temporarily interrupt electric service to safely complete some of this work.



# Kate Robeson-Grubb Honored with Distinguished Achievement Award



Solebury’s Sustainability Specialist, Kate Robeson-Grubb, is the 2025 recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award in Energy and Sustainability Policy and Renewable Energy and Sustainability Systems, presented by the faculty of Penn State University. The award recognizes alumni for their leadership and professionalism in all matters connected with the energy sustainability field.

Kate joined the Township after graduating in 2022, and works to implement the sustainability initiatives outlined in Solebury’s Energy Transition Plan. As the administrator of our Environmental Advisory Council and its Sustainability Subcommittee, she coordinates and executes projects within the community that will forward the ETP goals, promote public education and engagement, and cultivate a culture of sustainability.

# Bucks County Seeks Input on Road Safety

Bucks County is working with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission on a “Regional Vision Zero” plan to make roadways safer for all users, and they want to hear from you.



DVRPC has created an [online mapping tool](#) to allow residents to report traffic safety concerns, including poor bicycle conditions, poor visibility or road conditions, dangerous sidewalk or crossing conditions, lack of ADA facilities, poor signage, and other issues. Comments gathered will help inform the RVZ plan by raising awareness of the public’s traffic safety concerns. Data will be collected through May 16.

If there are roadway conditions you would like to bring to their attention, [visit the online map](#), click the button labeled “Submit a Traffic Safety Concern,” and follow the directions. You can also scroll through the map and see the issues other residents have already reported.

Please note that this is an information-gathering effort for future planning. For immediate issues, contact the local road authority (city, county, or state) directly.

**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!**



**FREE ENTRY**

**SUSTAINABILITY FORUM**

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025**  
**6PM-8PM**

**NEWS** 🌻 **NEIGHBORS** 🌻 **LOCAL.ORGs**

**NEW HOPE SOLEBURY - HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

180 W Bridge St New Hope, PA



# It's Pothole Season: Know Who to Call

Spring has sprung, and that means potholes are bound to pop up along with the daffodils. To help our road crew fix these potholes quickly, we need your help in reporting them as soon as they appear.

PennDOT is responsible for the state roads in the Township. Call 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623) or file an electronic report on the web at [PennDOT's Customer Care Center](#).

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

### 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 to Upper York Road)
- Upper York Road ~ Windy Bush Road

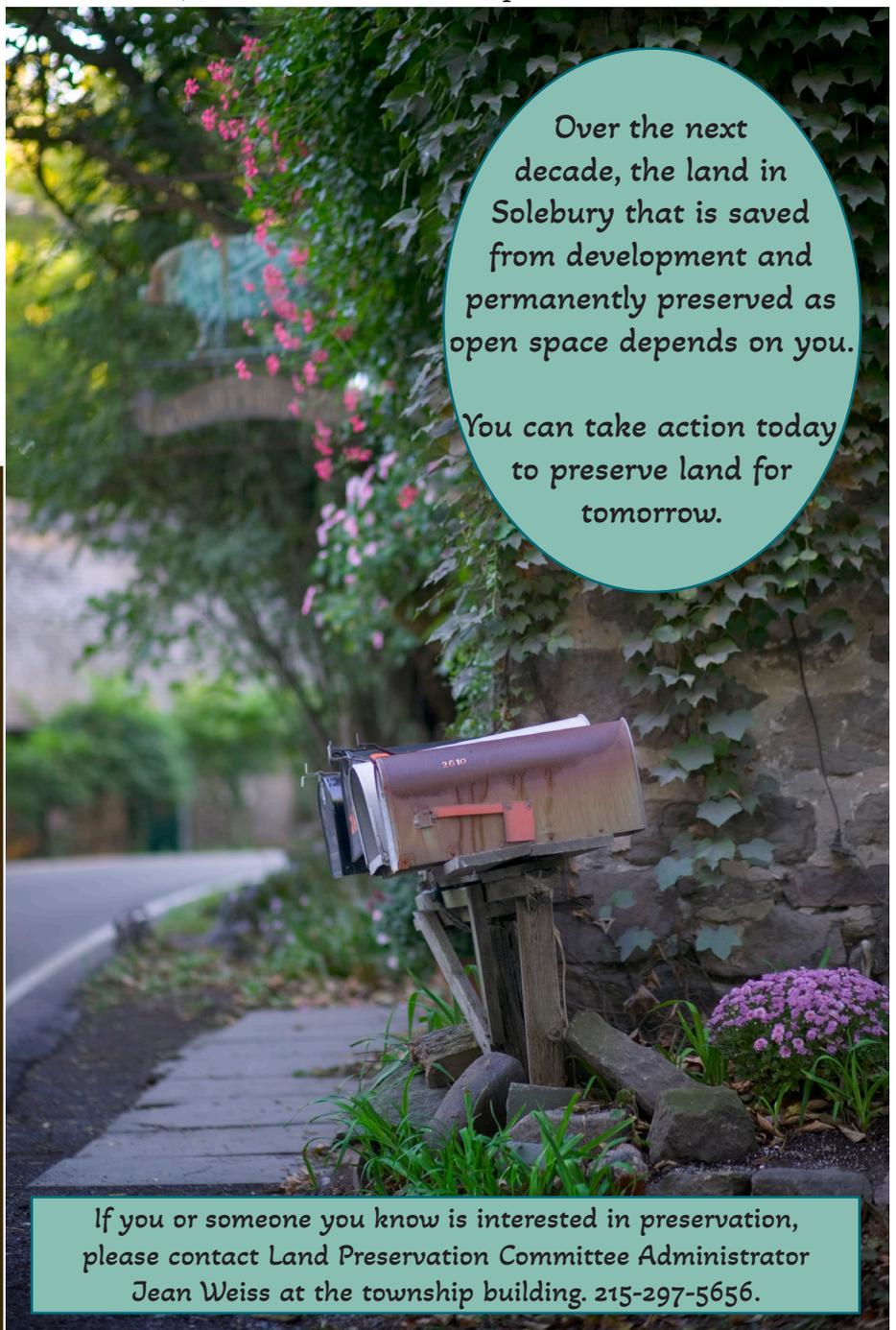
# New Fire Code Ordinance Will Require Commercial Property Inspections

On Feb. 18, 2025, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors authorized the adoption of the 2018 International Fire Code. Beginning this summer, commercial properties will be required to apply for an annual fire life safety inspection. The Township is currently creating a website portal option for businesses to apply and pay for the fire inspection online. Fees associated with the inspection can be found in **Part K** of the **Solebury Township 2025 Fee Schedule**, which can be found on the Township website.

The adoption of the 2018 International Fire Code also requires compliance with Emergency Key Box installations (e.g. Knox Box Rapid Access System) for new commercial construction projects and any gate installations. For more information, contact the Township at 215-297-5656.

**Coffee**  
WITH A COP

**Tuesday May 6th 9am-11am**  
*Giant Food Store*  
Logan Square Shopping Center  
6542 Route 202 Solebury  
**Solebury Township Police Department**



Over the next decade, the land in Solebury that is saved from development and permanently preserved as open space depends on you.

You can take action today to preserve land for tomorrow.

If you or someone you know is interested in preservation, please contact Land Preservation Committee Administrator Jean Weiss at the township building. 215-297-5656.

# Pennsylvania Nutrient Management—Spring Greening

## *Fertilizer Tips and Regulatory Reminders from the PA Department of Agriculture*

Selecting and implementing an appropriate lawn care management program to promote healthy and aesthetically pleasing lawns is not only important to homeowners, but is also essential to protecting our waterways.

### **Know What's Best. Soil Test!**

The first step to understanding what your lawn really needs to be lush, healthy, and green is to know what your soil needs. It is important to conduct regular soil tests to determine nutrient deficiencies that should guide fertilizer selection and application. Soil test kits can be purchased for a nominal fee from your local Penn State Extension office.

Following soil test recommendations, reading fertilizer label instructions, and using a properly calibrated spreader will ensure the right amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are applied, while reducing nutrient loss and fertilizer cost.

### **Soil Health. It's the bottom line.**

Maintaining a happy, healthy soil is imperative to your lawn's success. Soil is the foundation for your lawn and is home to a multitude of microorganisms that are essential for plant growth. Take the time to support your soil by incorporating some simple practices into your lawn care program. Your lawn and wallet will thank you.

- **Keep it open.** Routine soil aeration can help reduce soil compaction. Good soil structure is essential for proper root growth, healthy microbe communities, and the movement and exchange of water, air, and nutrients.

- **Raise it up.** Maintain a taller lawn by only cutting 1/3 of the grass blade with each mowing. Taller lawns slow runoff and promote deeper roots, which reduces lawn stress and improves soil.

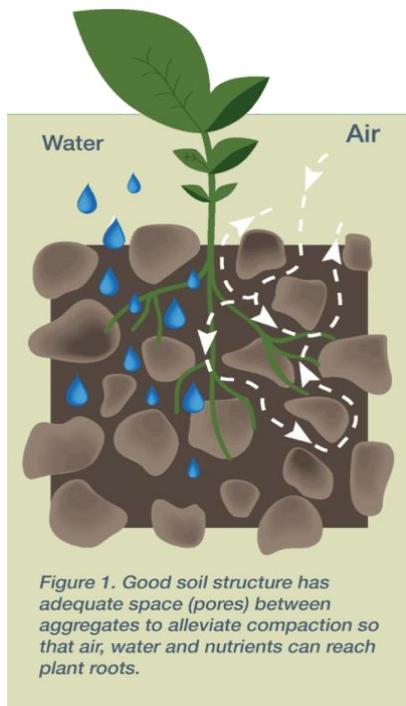


Figure 1. Good soil structure has adequate space (pores) between aggregates to alleviate compaction so that air, water and nutrients can reach plant roots.

- **Put it back.** Return nutrients and organic matter back to the soil by mulching your leaves and grass clippings.

For more soil management strategies, contact your local county conservation district or Penn State Extension office.

### **Green Lawns – Clean Streams**

Pennsylvania's 2022 Fertilizer Law amendments were developed to protect Pennsylvania waterways and the waterways downstream. As a bonus, following the limitations in the law will boost your bottom line by ensuring that your investment doesn't wash away. The 2022 law established the following nitrogen and phosphorus limits for turf fertilizer applications.

Good soil structure has adequate pore space between soil particles to allow for the movement of air, water, and nutrients into the root zone.

- Nitrogen is limited to 0.9 pounds of total nitrogen and 0.7 pounds of available nitrogen per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per application.
- No phosphorus can be applied unless establishing or repairing turf.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be adjusted based on soil test recommendations and/or if using an enhanced-efficiency fertilizer.

In addition to the nutrient limitations, the law also established application parameters to prevent direct movement of fertilizer nutrients into our streams:

- Do not apply fertilizer if a heavy rain event is expected.
- Keep fertilizer away from drainage ditches, storm drains, or water.
- Maintain a 15-foot buffer from the banks of all waterways.
- Remove fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces (driveways, sidewalks, roads, parking lots).

### **Working Together for Clean Water**

With ever growing acres of managed turf in Pennsylvania, controlling what goes into PA waterways is ALL of our responsibility. Help protect Pennsylvania's waterways by being wise when you fertilize!

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law, visit the Department of Agriculture's website at [agriculture.pa.gov/fertilizer](https://agriculture.pa.gov/fertilizer) or contact Denise Uzupis at [duzupis@pa.gov](mailto:duzupis@pa.gov).

# Solebury & Bucks County Tackle Mosquitoes this Spring

Solebury is working with Bucks County this spring to help control mosquitoes and reduce the spread of West Nile Virus. The County Health Department will be inspecting and treating Township-owned properties for mosquitoes, and there are some steps you can take at home to help.

Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to help eliminate mosquito habitat by getting rid of standing and stagnant water where mosquitoes lay eggs. Common places water can accumulate are outdoor features like potted plants and birdbaths, yard debris, storage bins, kids' toys (including kiddie pools), rain gutters, and even corrugated downspouts.

- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. Stagnant water in a wading pool becomes a place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water-holding containers that have collected on your property.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths. Both provide breeding habitats for domestic mosquitoes.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens can become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use. Mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on pool covers.
- Pay special attention to discarded tires. Stagnant water in tires is an excellent

habitat for mosquitoes to thrive.

- Eliminating tires from urban environments is critical to reducing mosquito populations associated with transmitting diseases from mosquitoes.

To avoid mosquito bites, wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are most active. The pests are most active at dusk and dawn, al-

though the invasive Asian tiger is known to bite predominately during daylight hours.

Consider the use of mosquito repellent, according to directions, when it is necessary to be outdoors. Wash all treated skin and clothing when returning indoors.

You can read more about how Pennsylvania is working to reduce the spread of West Nile Virus on the [PA Department of Environmental Protection website](#).



## Anything with a Plug™

# Recycling Day!

**Scan Me to Register**








**MAY 10th, 2025**

**NHS High School - East Lot**  
**180 W Bridge St, New Hope, PA 18938**  
**9:00am - 12:00pm**

**BRING YOUR E-WASTE!**

Solebury Township is proud to offer the opportunity to responsibly recycle obsolete electronics. Electronics will be recycled by **eForce Compliance**, Philadelphia's first Certified Responsible Recycler!

**ACCEPTED WITH FEE**

**\$10 per microwave**

**\$30 per TV/computer monitor\***

**\$100 per wooden console/projection TV**

\*Coupon of equal or greater value provided for all TVs or monitors charged

**ALTERNATIVELY**

**Recycle FOR FREE with**  
**Bucks Habitat ReStore!**

**FREE TO RECYCLE**

- Air conditioners/humidifiers
- Laptops/Computers
- Peripherals
- Computer Mice
- Typewriters/Keyboards
- Small Appliances
- Telephones/Cell Phones
- Fax Machines
- Cameras
- Printers
- Calculators

**NO SMOKE DETECTORS**

**NO LARGE APPLIANCES**

**All Data Media Will Be Destroyed or Wiped!**

# Bucks County Household Waste Recycling Events for 2025

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 should be disposed of safely. Every year the county sponsors recycling events for residents to responsibly discard these hazardous materials.

## May 31, 2025

### Upper Bucks

Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School  
3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie  
Bedminster Township

## June 28, 2025

### Central Bucks

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

## August 9, 2025

### Lower Bucks

Bucks County Technical High School  
610 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills  
Bristol Township

## Oct. 25, 2025

### 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](mailto:Police2@soleburytpd.org)

### Administration:

Township Number: 215-297-5656  
General Inquiries: [soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org)

### Township Manager Christopher Garges:

[soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org)

### EAC Administrator Kate Robeson-Grubb:

[krobeson-grubb@soleburytpw.org](mailto:krobeson-grubb@soleburytpw.org)

### HARB Administrator Zachary Zubris:

[zzubris@soleburytpw.org](mailto:zzubris@soleburytpw.org)

### LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator

Jean Weiss: [jweiss@soleburytpw.org](mailto:jweiss@soleburytpw.org)

### Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:

[soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org)

### Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,  
[soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org)  
Police Records: Police Chief Kelley D. Warner,  
[police@soleburytpd.org](mailto:police@soleburytpd.org)

## Board of Supervisors

<b>Chair Mark Baum Baicker</b> <a href="mailto:mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org">mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org</a>	<b>Vice-Chair Hanna Howe</b> <a href="mailto:hhowe@soleburytpw.org">hhowe@soleburytpw.org</a>
<b>Supervisor Christy Cheever</b> <a href="mailto:ccheever@soleburytpw.org">ccheever@soleburytpw.org</a>	<b>Supervisor John Francis</b> <a href="mailto:jfrancis@soleburytpw.org">jfrancis@soleburytpw.org</a>
<b>Supervisor Kevin Morrissey</b> <a href="mailto:kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org">kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org</a>	

## Township Calendar

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

### April

4/23 Sustainability Subcommittee  
4/24 Parks & Recreation Board  
4/28 Planning Commission  
4/29 Solebury Farm Committee

### May

5/1 Human Relations Commission (as needed)  
5/5 Historical Architectural Review Board  
5/6 Board of Supervisors  
5/7 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)  
5/12 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee  
5/13 Environmental Advisory Council  
5/15 Land Preservation Committee  
5/19 Sustainability Subcommittee  
5/21 Comprehensive Plan Committee  
5/22 Board of Supervisors  
5/22 Parks & Recreation Board  
5/27 Solebury Farm Committee  
5/29 Planning Commission

### June

6/2 Historical Architectural Review Board  
6/5 Human Relations Commission (as needed)  
6/9 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee  
6/10 Environmental Advisory Council  
6/11 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)  
6/16 Sustainability Subcommittee  
6/17 Board of Supervisors  
6/18 Comprehensive Plan Committee  
6/19 Land Preservation Committee  
6/23 Planning Commission  
6/24 Solebury Farm Committee  
6/26 Parks & Recreation Board

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!  
Visit: [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) & click "Email Sign-Ups"*