



# Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

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Summer Issue

July 2025

## Solebury Township Acquires 166-Acre Former Quarry Property Through Innovative Partnership

Solebury Township has formally acquired the 166-acre former New Hope Crushed Stone & Lime Co. quarry located at 6970 Phillips Mill Road. This significant property acquisition secures one of the largest undeveloped tracts in the Township, including a pristine 60-acre lake and over 3,000 linear feet of stream corridor along the Primrose Creek.

Originally appraised at \$3.66 million, the property was secured through a revised agreement of sale approved in May for \$3.25 million. However, through a strategic partnership with Solebury School, the Township successfully negotiated a non-exclusive easement agreement that allows the school to access a portion of the property and water features for educational and recreational purposes. In return, the school contributed toward the acquisition, reducing the Township's net cost to \$1.6 million.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity," said Board Chair Mark Baum Baicker. "Through creativity, persistence, and collaboration, we were able to reduce the financial impact on taxpayers while preserving an extraordinary environmental and community asset."

The site has much potential. It contains a warehouse-type structure suitable for repurposing as a Public Works storage facility, eliminating the need to construct a new building previously budgeted at \$350,000. Additional buildings on site may serve as future office space or housing. The Township has also received inquiries from local fire and emergency service providers interested in using the lake for firefighting access and water rescue training.

Solebury Township took ownership of the property on May 22 and has already submitted a grant application to the ...continued on page two.

## P&R Director Dudley Rice Inducted Into New Hope-Solebury School District Hall of Fame

Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice is among this year's inductees to the NHSD Hall of Fame, honored for a lifetime of service to the residents of our local community with a strong commitment to supporting youth.

In his 28 years leading Parks & Recreation, Dudley has helped foster exceptional youth sports programs, organized countless family-

friendly community events, and provided logistical and fundraising support for a wide range of initiatives.

His leadership has been instrumental in expanding parks, trails, and fields, launching an outdoor children's summer camp, ensuring ADA-accessible playgrounds, and overseeing a community-wide CPR/AED training program for staff, community coaches, and area residents. His efforts have earned him recognition for excellence from the PA Recreation and Park Society.



**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 Township Acquires 166-Acre Former Quarry Property Through Innovative Partnership***

*...continued from page one.*

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for up to \$1.2 million. The Township also intends to apply for additional grant funding in the upcoming DCNR grant round and the Highlands Conservation Act program, further reducing taxpayer contributions.

“This property will become a cornerstone of our park system for generations to come,” added Supervisor Kevin Morrissey, who has championed this ac-

quisition for over 15 years. “Its recreational, environmental, and public safety benefits make this an outstanding investment in Solebury’s future.”

The Board of Supervisors has begun the process of securing and assessing the property for future recreational use. A long-term master plan will be developed with community input and will depend on a combination of grant funding and outside resources. Currently there is no public access to the property. Exact details of usage by

Solebury School is to be determined.

Over the next few years the Township will start by finalizing remaining remediation measures then move to site evaluation and data gathering before preparing to commence a master planning process.

The Township would like to again remind the public that this property is the site of a formal industrial use and until it is secured and developed it could pose a hazard to trespassers and emergency responders.

## **Know What’s Below Call 811 Before You Dig**

Contractors and homeowners are reminded to place a PA One Call at least three days before any digging or excavation project. This can be done by dialing 8-1-1, which will connect the caller with the local One-Call center.

By following this important step, individuals can ensure facility owners and operators accurately locate and mark underground lines, reducing the risk of accidental damage.



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.  
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**



# **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP AND NEW  
HOPE BOROUGH POLICE**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 6PM-8:30PM**

**LAUREL PARK (BEHIND POLICE STATION)  
3092 SUGAN RD, SOLEBURY PA 18938**

**FREE FOOD, GAMES, POLICE AND TRUCK  
DISPLAYS, AND MUCH MORE!**

# Solebury Police Department Unveils Bucks County’s First Electric Police Vehicle

The Solebury Township Police Department has made history as one of the first law enforcement agencies in Bucks County to integrate an electric vehicle into its patrol fleet—marking a bold step toward sustainability and the modernization of community policing.

The Department’s new electric vehicle (EV), a fully equipped Chevrolet Blazer, is now on active duty, offering a quieter, more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional gas-powered cruisers. Outfitted with all the necessary law enforcement technology, the EV is

designed to meet the rigorous demands of police work while reducing the department’s carbon footprint.

“This is an exciting milestone for our Department and our community,” said Chief Kelley Warner. “By integrating electric vehicles into our fleet, we’re not only enhancing our operational capabilities but also taking meaningful action to reduce our environmental impact.”

The transition to electric vehicles is part of a broader effort by Solebury Township to embrace green technologies and reduce municipal emissions. The Department

plans to monitor the performance and cost-effectiveness of the EV closely, with the potential to expand the electric fleet in the future.

The move has been met with enthusiasm from residents and local officials alike, who see it as a forward-thinking investment in the Township’s future.



## Like, Share... And Be Safe!

“Mondays with Murrin” is an initiative by the Solebury Township Police Department featuring Officer Sean Murrin.

Every Monday, Officer Murrin (pictured below) hosts a segment on the department’s social media, Solebury Township Police Facebook and Instagram, where he shares safety tips, community updates, or lighthearted content to connect with our residents. The initiative aims to foster positive relationships between the police and the Solebury Township community while promoting public safety.




# FILL A FIRST RESPONDER VEHICLE FOOD DRIVE

## July 26, 2025, 10am-1pm

### Logan Square Giant

Join Giant Food Stores, Solebury Township PD, New Hope Eagle FD and Central Bucks EMS to help our Community By filling a First Responder Car with non-perishable foods!



All non-perishable food donations will be taken to the Bucks County Housing Group

**Suggested Items**  
Canned goods, boxed rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter, baby food and supplies

# 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 cell-phone, 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](http://www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx)

**Verizon** 1-800-837-4966 or [www.verizon.com/support/check-network-status](http://www.verizon.com/support/check-network-status)

**XFINITY** (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or [www.xfinity.com/support/status](http://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.

## Do You Really Know How Deep the Water is?

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.

**WHEN FLOODED  
TURN AROUND  
DON'T  
DROWN**

## Stay Vigilant, Solebury! Crime Prevention Tips from Township Police

The Solebury Township Police Department is sharing tips to help keep our community safe. Here is how YOU can help prevent vehicle thefts and report suspicious activity:

### Spot Suspicious Activity? Report It!

- **Stay Observant:** Notice unusual behavior, people, or vehicles in your neighborhood.
- **Solicitors:** If a solicitor is in your neighborhood, knocking or just walking around, call our non-emergency line 215-328-8511 with a description of the person(s) and vehicle(s).
- **Trust Your Instincts:** If something feels off, call us. No report is too small!
- **Details Matter:**
  - **People:** Height, weight, clothing, tattoos, direction of travel.
  - **Vehicles:** Make, model, color, license plate, unique features (damage, stickers).
  - **Activity:** What, where, and when it happened.
- **Non-Emergency Line:** 215-328-8511 for non-urgent reports. Call 911 for emergencies only.
- **Stay Safe:** Don't confront suspects. Observe from a distance.
- **Take Notes/Photos Safely:** Jot down details or snap discreet photos/videos.
- **Report Promptly:** Timely reports help us act fast.

### Preventing Theft FROM Vehicles

- **Lock Up:** Always lock doors and close windows, even for quick stops.
- **Hide Valuables:** Remove purses, electronics, or bags—or store them in the trunk before parking.

## Solebury Township Police Publish Inaugural Comprehensive Annual Report

The Solebury Township Police Department has published its first Annual Report, for the year 2024. Chief Kelley Warner says the comprehensive report highlights the Department's accomplishments and ongoing commitment to serving and protecting the Solebury community.

The report focuses on issues related to traffic, neighborhood disputes, and overall community well-being.

Partnerships with other Township stakeholders, such as the D.A.R.E. school program, are highlighted, along with the Department's continued professional development, specialized training, and ongoing accreditation.

You can read the report at <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/7c830da596.html>

- **Conceal Accessories:** Stow phone chargers, GPS mounts, or cables out of sight.
- **Use Anti-Theft Tools:** Steering wheel locks or alarms deter thieves.
- **No Keys Inside:** Never leave spare keys or fobs in the car.
- **Secure Garage Remotes:** Hide or remove them to protect your home.

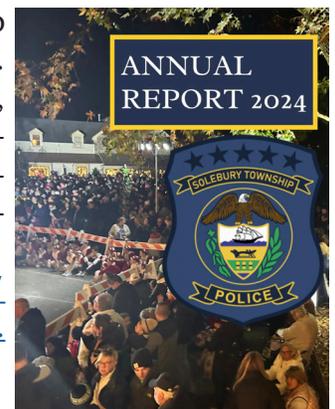
### Preventing Vehicle Theft

- **Store Fobs Safely:** Keep key fobs away from doors/windows at home.
- **Park Smart:** Use a locked garage or driveway with motion-sensor lights.
- **Add Tracking:** Install GPS trackers (e.g., AirTag) for recovery.
- **Update Software:** Patch vulnerabilities in modern cars.
- **Double-Check Locks:** Confirm doors are locked—thieves may use signal jammers.

### Criminals use tools like:

- **Signal Amplifiers:** Steal key fob signals for keyless cars.
- **Jammers/Code Grabbers:** Block locks or copy remote signals.
- **Lock Picks/Slim Jims:** Force entry on older vehicles.
- **Hacking Tools:** Exploit software in high-end cars.
- **Cloned Keys:** Duplicate keys from stolen data.

Together, we can keep Solebury safe! Share these tips, stay alert, and report anything suspicious. Contact STPD at 215-328-8511 or 911 for emergencies. Anonymous tips: <https://bucks.crimewatchpa.com/soleburytwppd>.



## Community Comes Together for Riparian Buffer Planting to Protect Local Waterways

Volunteers gathered this spring along the banks of Aquetong Creek to plant a new riparian buffer, a vital step in protecting water quality, preventing erosion, and enhancing wildlife habitat in the region.

Led by the Aquetong Watershed Association, the riparian buffer planting included over 50 native trees and shrubs installed along a stretch of streambank in Aquetong Spring Park, as well as live staking willow trees. Riparian buffers, or vegetated areas along waterways, play a crucial role in improving water quality, stabilizing streambanks, and providing habitat for birds, pollinators, and aquatic species like native brook trout.

“Healthy streams start with healthy buffers,” said Michael Zolkewitz, Director of the Aquetong Watershed Association. “By planting native species here today, we’re investing in clean water and a more resilient local ecosystem.”

Some of the plants included Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), and Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*).

The event was made possible through support from a mini-grant from Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic, and attracted participation from local schools, residents, and environmental professionals.

For more information about the riparian buffer planting or how to get involved to protect the Aquetong Watershed, visit [www.AquetongWatershed.org](http://www.AquetongWatershed.org).



### Pickleball Courts Reopened!

The pickleball courts at Laurel Park have reopened for play!

Repairs and court resurfacing have been completed and they look fantastic.

The hours of operation are posted at the entrance to each court and can also be found in the image on the right.

Thank you for your patience while this work was being completed.



### Pickleball Court Hours



#### March 1 – April 30

Monday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM  
Sunday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

#### May 1 – August 31

Monday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
Sunday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

#### September 1 – October 31

Monday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM  
Sunday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

#### November 1 – February 29

Monday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Sunday 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

# 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.

## 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:

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

### HARB Administrator Zachary Zubris:

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

### Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:

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

### Right-To-Know Officers

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

## Board of Supervisors

**Chair Mark Baum Baicker** [mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org](mailto:mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org) | **Vice-Chair Hanna Howe** [hhowe@soleburytpw.org](mailto:hhowe@soleburytpw.org)

**Supervisor Christy Cheever** [ccheever@soleburytpw.org](mailto:ccheever@soleburytpw.org) | **Supervisor John Francis** [jfrancis@soleburytpw.org](mailto:jfrancis@soleburytpw.org)

**Supervisor Kevin Morrissey**  
[kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org](mailto:kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org)

## Township Calendar

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

### July

7/15 Board of Supervisors  
7/16 Comprehensive Plan Committee  
7/17 Land Preservation Committee  
7/21 Sustainability Subcommittee  
7/28 Planning Commission  
7/29 Solebury Farm Committee

### August

8/4 Historical Architectural Review Board  
8/7 Human Relations Commission (as needed)  
8/11 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee  
8/13 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)  
8/18 Sustainability Subcommittee  
8/19 Board of Supervisors  
8/20 Comprehensive Plan Committee  
8/21 Land Preservation Committee  
8/25 Planning Commission  
8/26 Solebury Farm Committee

### September

9/2 Board of Supervisors - Budget Session  
9/3 Historical Architectural Review Board  
9/4 Human Relations Commission (as needed)  
9/8 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee  
9/9 Environmental Advisory Council  
9/10 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)  
9/15 Sustainability Subcommittee  
9/16 Board of Supervisors  
9/17 Comprehensive Plan Committee  
9/18 Land Preservation Committee  
9/22 Planning Commission  
9/25 Parks & Recreation Board  
9/30 Solebury Farm Committee

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!  
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