



Solebury Messenger

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Solebury 2035: Comprehensive Plan Nears Completion

Every 10 years, townships throughout the Commonwealth are required to complete a Comprehensive Plan that addresses essential planning and zoning issues for the next decade.

Solebury Township began working on its newest Comprehensive Plan, **Solebury 2035**, in 2024. Over the course of the last two years, a volunteer committee of township residents has been working in collaboration with staff, consultants from the

Bucks County Planning Commission, and Tom Comitta Associates to conduct a community-wide survey, hold public workshops and meetings, and host monthly public meetings to craft a 10-year strategy document that is responsive to the community's hopes and aspirations.

When **Solebury 2035** is completed later this year, it will articulate a set of guiding principles and values to help the

township administration and planning officials ensure Solebury retains its rural character, honors its historical and cultural resources, and deeply roots any new growth or development in principles of sustainability.

To learn more about the final stages of the Solebury Comprehensive Plan process, or to participate in any upcoming public discussions, please visit <https://connects.buckscounty.gov/solebury>.

Solebury Township Awarded PennDOT Grant

Nearly \$1.5 Million to Support Construction of Solebury Green Trail Connection

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has awarded Solebury Township a Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) grant in the amount of \$1,497,400 to support construction of a new multimodal trail in conjunction with the first phase of the future Solebury Green park.

The grant will fund the construction of approximately 1,320 feet of shared-use path and 280 feet of boardwalk along the south side of Lower York Road between Reeder Road and Shire Drive. The project is designed to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, safety, and accessibility while helping to connect gaps in an already established trail and multimodal network throughout the Township.

The pathway project represents a significant milestone in the development of Solebury Green, the Township's planned approximately 13-acre community park property acquired in 2020. The trail system will provide safe access for residents and visitors while linking existing and future pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the Lower York Road corridor. Concept plans for the project include a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail, boardwalk sections through environmentally

sensitive areas, ADA-accessible improvements, and future trail connections within the park system.

With the grant now formally awarded, the Township will begin the administration phase of the project, including final engineering design, environmental review, and permitting.

The Township thanks its consultants, project partners, State Sen. Steve Santarsiero, State Rep. Tim Brennan and residents who have supported the vision for Solebury Green and the continued expansion of multimodal infrastructure within the community.



Why You May Want to Test Your Well Water for PFAS

By Jim Searing

Most Solebury residents rely on private wells for their drinking water. While most wells provide clean water, conditions can change, and the Pennsylvania DEP recommends annual testing for bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH. Another test worth considering is for PFAS, sometimes called “forever chemicals.”

What Are PFAS?

PFAS are industrial chemicals used since the 1940s in products like nonstick cookware, stain resistant fabrics, and fire-fighting foam. Two of the most common types—PFOA and PFOS—break down very slowly and can build up in the environment and in our bodies.

Why It Matters

Higher exposure to PFAS has been linked to health concerns

such as elevated cholesterol, thyroid issues, changes in liver enzymes, reduced vaccine response in children, and increased risk of certain cancers.

Although much of the known PFAS contamination in Bucks County has been concentrated around Warminster, Horsham, and parts of Doylestown, PFAS can travel long distances through groundwater. Testing is the only way to know what’s in your well.

Current Standards

Pennsylvania has set Maximum Contaminant Levels of:

- 18 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS
- 14 ppt for PFOA

These apply to both public systems and private wells.

Testing Options

EPA approved methods (533

and 537.1) are used by certified labs. Local options include:

- Criterion Labs (Bensalem) – EPA certified
- Analytical Laboratories (Telford) – partners with an EPA certified lab

If Your Levels Are High

Effective treatment options include:

- Water filter pitchers designed for PFAS
- Faucet mounted or under sink filters
- Whole house systems

Be sure to replace filters as recommended.

Learn More

Consumer Reports: [How to Get PFAS Out of Your Drinking Water](#)

Penn State Extension: [PFAS Drinking Water Standards, Testing and Treatment](#)

LPC Completes Conservation Easement for Nakashima Tracts

The Solebury Land Preservation Committee recently completed a Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants on three tracts of land owned by Mira Nakashima-Yarnall along scenic Aquetong Road.

The easement covers 21.73 acres of mature woodlands with understory boulders, streams and wet meadows that support a diversity of animals, birds, insects, and other fauna. It is located within the Delaware River Watershed and will help safeguard recharge of the groundwater aquifer.

The easement complements the adjacent Nakashima Foundation for Peace, a National Historic Landmark, located across the street that contains the original homestead, workshops, and structures that were built by George Nakashima. Additionally, the three preserved tracts are connected to another eased property creating over 42 total acres of contiguous protected land.

This preservation reflects and honors the Nakashima family’s history and connection with nature. The LPC extends profound gratitude to Mira Nakashima-Yarnall and family.



*“There must be a union between
the spirit in wood and the spirit in man.”*

~ George Nakashima

E-Bike Safety in Solebury Township: Know the Rules Before You Ride

Electric bicycles (e-bikes) are becoming a common sight on Solebury Township's roads and shared-use paths. Whether you're commuting, enjoying our scenic backroads, or exploring local trails, e-bikes offer a convenient and environmentally friendly way to get around.

As their popularity grows, it's important for residents to understand both safe riding practices and Pennsylvania's e-bike laws.

What Is Considered a Legal E-Bike?

In Pennsylvania, an e-bike is legally defined as a "pedalcycle with electric assist." To qualify, the bike must:

- Have working pedals
- Use a motor of 750 watts or less
- Travel no faster than 20 mph on motor power alone
- Weigh 100 pounds or less

E-bikes that exceed these limits may be classified differently and could be subject to motor vehicle laws.



E-BIKE SAFETY RULES

- Solebury Township Police -

-  • Must be 16 years or older to ride
-  • Helmet strongly recommended for all riders
-  • Obey all traffic laws
-  • Use lights at night
-  • Yield to pedestrians
-  • Max 20 mph on motor power
-  • No riding under the influence

Ride Safe • Pennsylvania Law • Solebury Township Police

Licensing, Registration, and Age Requirements

One of the benefits of compliant e-bikes is that:

- No driver's license, registration, or insurance is required
- Riders must be at least 16 years old

Helmet Use

- Helmets are required for riders under 12
- While not required for older riders, helmet use is strongly encouraged for all ages

Where You Can Ride in Solebury

E-bikes are generally allowed anywhere traditional bicycles are permitted, including:

- Township roads
- Bike lanes
- Many shared-use paths and trails

However, local rules and park regulations may vary, especially on certain trails or preserved lands. Be sure to observe posted signage and respect any restrictions.

A Note on E-Bike "Classes"

You may hear terms like Class 1, 2, or 3 e-bikes. While used in other states, Pennsylvania does not officially recognize this classification system. Instead, the state uses the single definition described above.

Safety Tips for Our Community

Solebury's mix of winding rural roads, narrow shoulders, and shared spaces makes safe riding especially important:

- Wear a helmet every ride
- Follow traffic laws—e-bikes must obey the same rules as bicycles
- Use lights and reflectors, especially at dusk or dawn
- Ride at a safe speed, particularly on multi-use paths
- Be visible and predictable—use hand signals and make eye contact with drivers
- Stay alert on rural roads, where visibility and shoulder space may be limited

Sharing the Road

E-bikes are a great addition to our transportation options, but safety depends on everyone—riders, drivers, and pedestrians—working together. Please ride courteously, yield when appropriate, and help keep Solebury's roads and trails safe for all.

Questions?

Visit PennDOT's bicycle safety resources or check with township offices for local guidance.

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

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

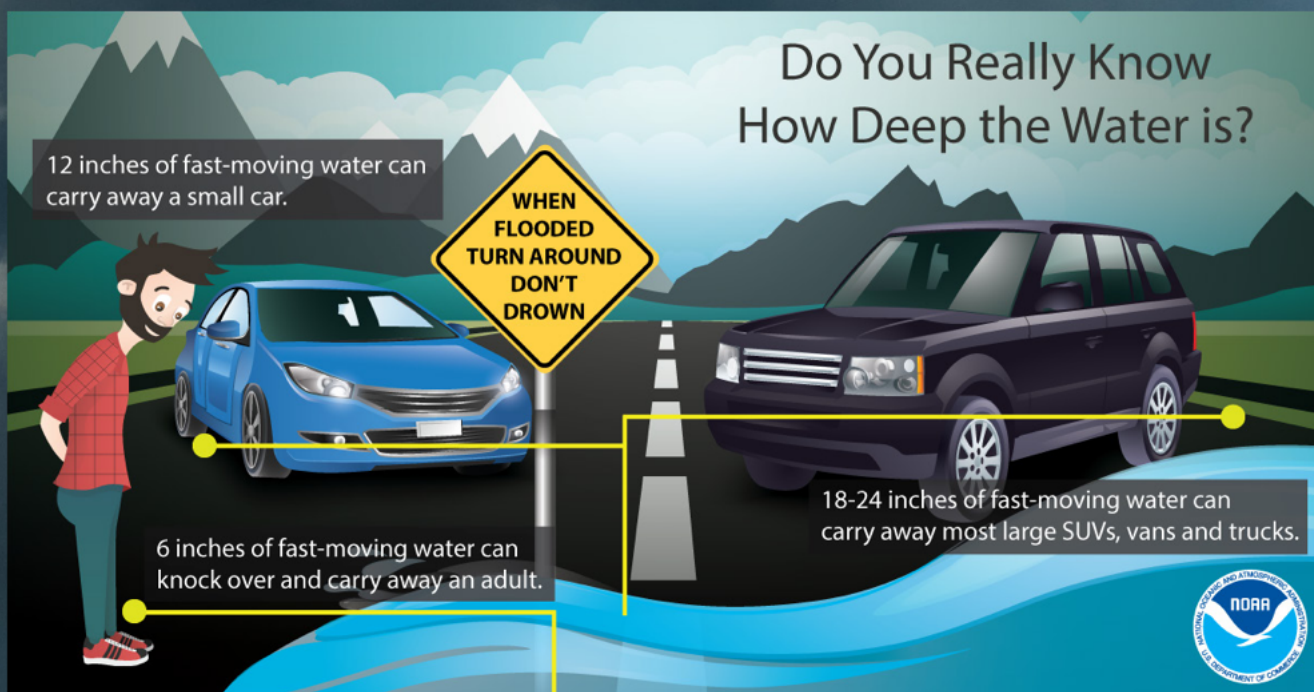


Generator Safety Tips

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.



Hurricane Preparedness Message From Solebury Township Emergency Management

While direct hits from hurricanes are uncommon in Bucks County, the remnants of tropical systems frequently bring heavy rainfall, flash flooding, strong winds, and extended power outages to our region—especially in low-lying areas and near the Delaware River.

Prepare Now

Before the Storm

- **Build an Emergency Kit:** Assemble supplies for at least 3 days, including non-perishable food, one gallon of water per person per day, prescription medications, a first aid kit, flashlights, batteries, cash, chargers, and pet supplies. Store important documents in a waterproof container.
- **Know Your Risks:** Review your property's flood risk using FEMA flood maps or the [Township's GIS Maplink](#). Residents near waterways should stay alert for rising water levels.
- **Secure Your Property:** Clean gutters and downspouts, trim overhanging tree limbs, secure or store outdoor furniture and equipment, and inspect your roof and siding. Confirm that your flood insurance is current; standard homeowner's policies do not cover flooding.
- **Create a Family Plan:** Establish a communication plan, identify evacuation routes to higher ground, and locate the nearest emergency shelter. Plan for pets and individuals with special needs.
- **Stay Informed:** [Sign up for ReadyBucks emergen-](#)

[cy alerts](#) and monitor local news, NOAA Weather Radio, and the National Hurricane Center.

During a Watch or Warning

- Heed official instructions and prepare to act quickly.
- Avoid unnecessary travel. Turn Around, Don't Drown — never drive or walk through flooded roads.
- Charge all devices and have backup power ready; use generators outdoors only.
- If an evacuation is ordered, leave immediately.

After the Storm

- Stay clear of downed power lines and flooded areas.
- Report life-threatening emergencies by calling 911.
- For non-emergency assistance, contact the Township at 215-328-8511.

Your preparedness helps keep our entire community safer. Acting now can significantly reduce risk and stress during a storm. Additional resources are available on the Solebury Township website and through Bucks County Emergency Management.

PRE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Meet your local heroes at our Pre-National Night Out Celebration!

August 3rd
Monday

5:00-8:00pm

Logan Square
Giant Parking Lot

Join Solebury & New Hope Police, local Volunteer Fire Companies, Central Bucks Special Response Team, and more!

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Emergency Vehicles | Bounce House | Face Painting
K-9 Demo | Dunk Tank | Games | Food Trucks
Carnival Concessions | and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

215-297-8201

Soleburytwp.org

Carversville Day a Huge Success

This year's Carversville Day was a beautiful day on the square, with a cookie baking contest, line dancing, a pet parade, and tons of other family-friendly activities.

The event, sponsored by the Historic Carversville Society, is both a community festival and a fundraiser. The funds are used for other community events, like Films in the Field, Sips in the Square, Pumpkin Carving, Christmas Caroling, and special events like road races, in addition to funding multiple scholarships each year to New Hope Solebury High School students.



Solebury Sustainability Specialist Featured in Penn State Newsletter

Kate Robeson-Grubb, sustainability specialist for Solebury Township, was recently interviewed about her work for the Penn State Sustainability Newsletter.

The article discusses how Robeson-Grubb's work highlights the many ways that local governments can drive meaningful sustainability progress at the community level.

You can read the interview online at <https://sustainability.psu.edu/kate-roberson-grubb-sustainability-specialist-solebury-township>



Keep the Environment in Mind When You Drain the Pool at the End of Summer

Remember that pool water can harm fish and streams if it's not drained properly. Here's how to do it safely:

Prepare the Water

- Turn off chlorine and let the water sit at least 2 weeks, or use a treatment to remove chlorine.
- Make sure the pH is between 6.0 and 9.0.

Pick the Right Spot

- Best option: slowly pump water into your sanitary sewer clean-out (never into a street manhole).
- If not available, spread water slowly over your lawn or a vegetated area so it soaks in.

Take It Slow – Drain at a low rate to avoid runoff, flooding, or erosion.

Never Do This

- Don't drain into storm drains, streams, or ditches.
- Don't dump onto a neighbor's property without permission.
- Don't release debris—remove leaves and dirt first.

Reminder: Hiring a pool service? Make sure they follow these rules, too! Draining improperly can lead to fines.

LPC Welcomes New Committee Member

Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee is pleased to announce a new member.

George Ashford Jr. has called Bucks County home for many years, and for the last 16, he and his family have been rooted in Solebury Township. He shares his life with his wife, Karin Ashford, and they are proud parents to two grown sons, George III and Henry. Their unique home is a converted Methodist church in the historic village of Lumberville.

The Ashford's appreciate the rural character of Solebury and enjoy the rich historical architecture and excellent dining that the nearby towns of New Hope and Lambertville have to offer.

Bucks County Household Waste Recycling Events for 2026

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 8, 2026

Lower Bucks

Bensalem High School
4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem
Bensalem Township

Oct. 24, 2026

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. Visit www.buckscounty.gov/recycling for more information.

Township Directory

Police:

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-328-8511
Police Administration: 215-297-8201
General Inquiries: police@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

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org

Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: John Ives,
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 Christy Cheever** ccheever@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor John Francis jfrancis@soleburytpw.org **Supervisor Kevin Morrissey** kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Rickie Yudin
ryudin@soleburytpw.org

Township Calendar

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

July

7/13 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
7/14 Environmental Advisory Council
7/16 Land Preservation Committee
7/20 Sustainability Subcommittee
7/21 Board of Supervisors
7/23 Comprehensive Plan Committee
7/27 Planning Commission
7/28 Solebury Farm Committee

August

8/3 Historical Architectural Review Board
8/6 Human Relations Commission (as needed)
8/10 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
8/11 Environmental Advisory Council
8/12 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
8/17 Sustainability Subcommittee
8/18 Board of Supervisors
8/19 Comprehensive Plan Committee
6/18 Land Preservation Committee
8/20 Planning Commission
8/25 Solebury Farm Committee

September

9/1 Board of Supervisors
9/3 Human Relations Commission (as needed)
9/8 Environmental Advisory Council
9/9 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
9/10 Historical Architectural Review Board
9/14 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
9/15 Board of Supervisors
9/16 Comprehensive Plan Committee
9/17 Land Preservation Committee
9/21 Sustainability Subcommittee
9/24 Parks & Recreation Board
9/28 Planning Commission
9/29 Solebury Farm Committee