

# Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 20, No. 1

BUDGET ISSUE

JANUARY 2014

## Township Holds Property Tax Flat

**S**olebury departments have kept their operating budgets at largely the same levels as prior years, allowing the Township to once again produce a 2014 budget that requires no property tax increase.

### Police Dept.

Police Chief Dominic Bellizzie's budget continues to set money aside each year for officer training and the scheduled replacement of equipment.

Planned purchases to be made in 2014 with a combination of reserved and newly budgeted funds include two vehicles with extended warranties (\$75,000); a new server (\$8,000); radios (\$143,000); accident diagramming equipment (\$23,000); three wireless notebooks (\$3,500); and five Generation 5 tasers (\$5,500).

In addition, the department will spend \$15,000 toward accreditation by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This rigorous, independent, standards-based review helps police departments evaluate and improve their performance and ultimately vali-

dates that local departments are operating effectively and professionally.

### Parks & Recreation Dept.

The Township will apply \$26,000 from the Parks & Recreation Capital Fund toward building, fencing, and other planned improvements of Township playing fields in 2014, which represents expenditures of \$10,000 at Laurel Park, \$10,000 at Pat Livezey Park, and \$6,000 at Canal Park.

In addition, \$20,000 from the same fund will be used for the maintenance of the Judy House at Ingham Spring. The structure's electrical system will be replaced and a heating system will be installed in the new year.

Solebury continues to reserve roughly \$800,000 in the Land Preservation Fund for work that must be done at Ingham Spring. Once the state grants permission for the repairs, the Township will remove the dam and lake and restore the creeks to their natural state.

The 2014 Parks & Recreation Dept. operating budget is less than 1% of the overall

( continued on page 6 )

## It's Tax Season

*EIT/LST Filing Reminder*

**S**olebury residents now file and pay the 1% Earned Income Tax (EIT) and the \$52 Local Services Tax (LST) through the Bucks County-wide tax collection firm, Keystone Collections Group.

The 1% EIT is assessed by Solebury Township (0.5%) and the New Hope-Solebury School District (0.5%) on the earned income of Solebury residents as well as that of individuals who live outside the Township but work in Solebury.

Earned income and net profits from all sources for a specific calendar year that total less than \$5,000 are exempt from the EIT.

E-filing of both taxes is available on the Keystone website.

For more information on all matters related to the EIT, contact Keystone:

www.keystonecollects.com  
Bucks County Office  
1243 Easton Road, Suite 101  
Warrington, PA 18976  
Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-4 PM  
866-539-1100

### 2010 Taxes and Earlier

Any returns that remain to be filed or paid for 2010 and earlier are to be submitted to former Township EIT collector H.A. Berkheimer: [www.hab-inc.com](http://www.hab-inc.com)



### SOLEBURY POLICE

participated in the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's sixth national drug collection event October 26. At left, Detective Roy Ferrari hosts a shift at the Giant Food Store. He is standing with Barbara Gross, Community Outreach Coordinator for New Hope-Solebury Cares. According to Chief Dominick Bellizzie, Bucks County police departments together collected nearly 3.5 tons of medications for proper disposal during this event. About half of this amount was deposited in the county's growing number of permanent collection boxes.

## What's Inside?



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Dear Taxpayer:

Through the **Solebury Messenger**, the Township gives you, the taxpayer, firsthand information about Township matters. In these pages, you will read about what is being done to preserve and improve the quality of life as you know it, as well as how your hard-earned tax dollars are being spent.

The **Solebury Messenger** is created by Kay Hayes and Marie Collins, of School Window Publications; the newsletter celebrated its 15-year anniversary with the publication of the Nov. 2010 issue.

This bimonthly periodical is primarily ad-sponsored—a method which allows the Township to provide taxpayers with six professional newsletters each year for a fraction of the actual cost. To place an advertisement supporting this periodical, contact Kay (609-397-8483 or [ads.schoolwindow@gmail.com](mailto:ads.schoolwindow@gmail.com)).

If you live in the Township, but are not currently receiving a copy of the **Solebury Messenger** through the mail, please contact Kay so that she can add your name and address to our mailing list.

Other correspondence should be directed to the appropriate Township official. For more information, see the Township directory on page 7.

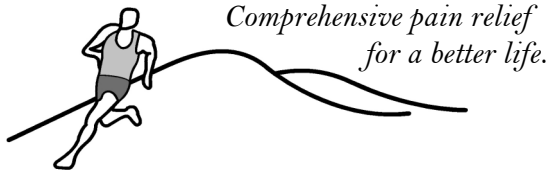
*Kay and Marie*



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## Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to last-minute changes.  
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.  
All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.*

### January

1/1	HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
1/6	Board of Supervisors—Reorganization, 7 pm
1/6	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
1/13	Planning Commission, 7 pm
1/14	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
1/16	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
1/21	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
1/30	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

### February

2/3	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
2/4	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
2/10	Planning Commission, 7 pm
2/11	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
2/17	HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
2/18	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
2/20	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
2/27	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!*

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# Winter Festival Concert Headliner: Grammy-Winner Jimmy Webb

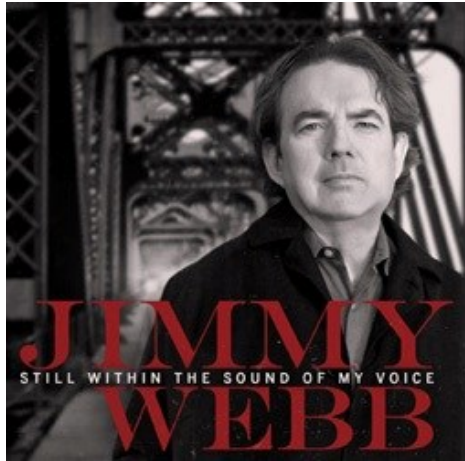
On the Web: [winterfestival.net](http://winterfestival.net)

Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Jimmy Webb will headline the Winter Festival concert Friday, January 24.

Webb is well known for many platinum-selling classics, including "Up, Up and Away," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston," "The Worst That Could Happen," "All I Know," and "MacArthur Park."

His songs have been performed by The Supremes, The 5th Dimension, Art Garfunkel, Linda Ronstadt, Glen Campbell, and others, and he is the only artist to ever receive Grammys for music, lyrics, and orchestration.

Webb continues to write carefully crafted, magical music. He recently released a new CD, "Still Within the Sound of My Voice," and is currently touring Europe and the U. S.



**JIMMY WEBB**

Grammy winning singer / songwriter

Local musician and producer John Danaher will open the concert as a Special Guest, accompanied by Eric Aceto and Doug Robinson, who have performed with John worldwide for 35 years.

An award-winning singer-songwriter, John has toured with many well known musicians; was awarded "Best Rock Song for a Documentary Film" by the Garden State Film Festival in 2010 for his song "Give it Time," and is the current producer of the Winter Festival Concert Series.

In addition to regular concert tickets, Winter Festival 2014 offers a V.I.P. ticket option that includes a "meet and greet" with the artists and more. Additional information is provided below and on the Winter Festival website ([www.winterfestival.net](http://www.winterfestival.net)). 📱

## 2014 Winter Festival Highlights — Jan. 18 to 26

### FIRE AND ICE BALL

Sat., Jan. 18, 7-11 PM

New Hope Eagle Fire House

Presented by New Hope Chamber of Commerce  
TICKETS: \$20/\$25 (advance/door)

### TASTE OF WINTER FEST

Thurs., Jan. 23, 7-9 PM

New Hope Eagle Fire House

A savory evening of fine food and beverages from great local restaurants.  
TICKETS: \$40 Adults

### WINTER FESTIVAL CONCERT

#### JIMMY WEBB

With Opener: Special Guest John Danaher  
Fri., Jan. 24, 8 PM, Steven J. Buck Theater,  
New Hope-Solebury High School

Presented by

First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown  
TICKETS: \$45/\$50/\$85 (advance/door/VIP)

**VIP at Logan Inn:** "Meet & greet" the artists, light hors d'oeuvres, ride to concert.

### A TRIBUTE TO JIM HAMILTON

Sat., Jan. 25, 6-10 PM

L-NH Amb. & Rescue Squad Banquet Hall  
Presented by New Hope Parks & Recreation  
A sit-down dinner, cocktails, laughs, and memories in honor of a local volunteer.

TICKETS: \$75

### MUSIC & THEATER PERFORMANCES

Sat., Jan. 25, 10 AM-3 PM, St. John's School  
A full schedule of family-friendly events!  
Featuring the SHR PTSO Café in basement.  
TICKETS: FREE!

### WINTER FESTIVAL PARADE

Sat., Jan. 25, Noon to 1 PM

Bridge Street, New Hope & Lambertville

### ROTARY BEEF 'N BREW

Sat., Jan. 25, 1-4 PM, Triumph Brewing Co.  
Presented by Lambertville-New Hope Rotary  
Hot roast beef sandwiches & Triumph brews.  
TICKETS: \$40 Adults

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sun., Jan. 26, 8-11:30 AM

NH-S High School cafeteria

Presented by the NH-S Girls Soccer Team  
With children's activities hosted by  
Solebury Parks & Recreation in the gyms.  
TICKETS: *All You Can Eat!* \$6.50 Adults  
\$5 Seniors / \$3.50 Children 3-12



### 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Sun., Jan. 26, 1-4 PM

New Hope Eagle Fire House

Presented by Triumph Brewing Company  
Chili prepared by area restaurants,  
with award-winning Triumph beers.  
\$50 Adults / \$45 Under 21 or No Alcohol  
(includes commemorative pint glass)

**PURCHASE TICKETS, FIND MORE EVENTS, AND GET OTHER EVENT DETAILS AT: [WWW.WINTERFESTIVAL.NET](http://WWW.WINTERFESTIVAL.NET)**



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**Hopewell:** 84 East Broad St. Hopewell, NJ 08525 • 609-466-0055

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# Are You Ready for Winter?

## Time to Think About De-Icing Solutions

**W**inter is rapidly approaching, and forecasters say it could be a snowy one. It's time to place a snow shovel and stiff-bristled broom where you can readily access them.

While you're at it, take a moment to consider the differences among the ice-melting products that are available for your use. Using these products judiciously can help you avoid injuries and protect the environment.

Unfortunately, no ice-melting solution is completely benign. The best advice for an area that tends to get icy is to apply a thin layer of a de-icer before snow falls.

### Salt-Based Products

- Rock salt, or sodium chloride, the traditional ice melter, works when the temperature is above 15 degrees. It is easy to use, easy to store, and relatively inexpensive.
- Other salts, such as calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, are often present in commercial ice-melt products that work at lower temperatures.

#### Potential Impacts:

- They are extremely caustic and can burn skin on contact. Children, with their sensitive skin and eyes, must be especially careful. They can even cause a pet's skin to blister.
- They can cause severe discomfort, even death, if ingested (e.g., if a pet licks some off its paws or fur).
- They may harm plants and disturb soil composition.
- They can damage wood, concrete, pavers, bricks, and other surfaces.
- They can attract wildlife in search of salt, who lick road surfaces, increasing the chance of collision.
- Runoff that picks up these products can carry large amounts of chloride to the water supply, increasing the corrosive effects of the water.

### Nitrogen-Based Products

- Urea, a nitrogen-based fertilizer, is a less caustic ice-melter and thus poses less threat to the skin and various surfaces.
- Several commercial ice-melting products marketed as safe for the environment and pets also contain nitrogen (and tend to be expensive).

#### Potential Impacts:

- When applied in the quantity necessary to melt ice, the large amount of nitrogen left behind can inhibit flowering, damage roots, and eventually kill plants.
- Runoff that picks up this product can carry large amounts of nitrogen to waterways, causing algae blooms that cloud water, decrease oxygen supply, and promote mosquito growth.

### Other Products

- Sand, kitty litter, and gravel provide traction on ice, hopefully making it less slippery.

#### Potential Impacts:

- Runoff that picks up these products can carry them to waterways, causing an accumulation of silt.
- Runoff that picks up these products can clog drains and storm sewers. 🐾

## Solebury Emergency Notifications

### ReadyNotifyPA.org

Use this website to ensure you receive Weather Warnings issued by the Township; these warnings are issued only for true emergencies.

You can specify how you want to be notified, and whether you choose additional notification options is up to you.

### Solebury Email Alerts

Township email alerts announce road closings, Police Dept. warnings, changes in meeting times and locations, articles posted on the Township website, and more.

To sign up, visit SoleburyTwp.org, click the News tab, then click the words "Email Alerts."

Enter your email address to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time.

### Social Media

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/SoleburyPolice](https://facebook.com/SoleburyPolice)

Twitter:  
[@soleburypolice](https://twitter.com/soleburypolice)

### Solebury United Methodist CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER



## Openings Still Available Pre-Kindergarten Classes

### A Christian-Based Pre-School Offering

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215.862.2917 • [www.soleburyumc.org](http://www.soleburyumc.org)

## Trinity Day School

6587 Upper York Rd., Solebury, Pa.

215-297-5510

[cbove@trinitysolebury.org](mailto:cbove@trinitysolebury.org)

[www.trinitysolebury.org/tds](http://www.trinitysolebury.org/tds)

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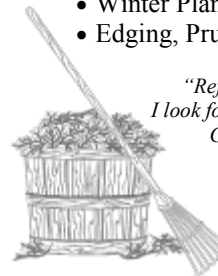
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# Stormwater Pollution: Everyone's Problem

## Part 2: Reducing Pollutants

Whether you manage hundreds of acres or a small lot, you can do a great deal to improve the quality of the water that recharges local wells and waterways.

One thing each of us can do is reduce the non-point source pollutants stormwater can pick up as it runs across the land, ultimately washing into streams at many different locations.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "non-point source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems."

Non-point source stormwater pollutants include litter (e.g., cigarette butts, cans, tires, plastics), chemicals (e.g., soaps, oil, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, car fluids), organic waste (e.g., grass clippings, yard waste, pet waste, compost, bacteria from septic system leaks), and sediment (e.g., soil from bare earth, eroded stream banks, and construction sites).

Yard waste and fertilizers, especially when used heavily or just before a storm, increase the nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen, in our waterways, which can disrupt the balance of aquatic habitats and cause unnaturally large amounts of algae growth. When that algae dies, its decomposition uses a lot of oxygen from the stream, which can create a "dead zone" where few things can live.

Sediment can muddy water, preventing fish from spawning and generally destroying stream habitats.

A good rule of thumb to increase awareness of non-point source pollutants is, *What we do to the land, we do to the water.*

By disposing of trash, yard waste, and household chemicals properly, using fertilizer sparingly, and picking up after our pets, we can greatly reduce the pollution on our land that stormwater can pick up.

Washing a car outside allows soap and pollutants to enter storm drains and thus our streams. We can prevent this by washing our cars at a carwash, where the water is recycled, and washing other things indoors at a sink.

Other tips include:

- Never dump anything into storm drains or streams.
- Check your vehicles for leaks and have them fixed.
- Prevent litter or lawn clippings from washing into roads with storm drains.
- Use fertilizers and other chemicals sparingly, but never before it rains.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly.
- Make sure your septic system works properly.
- Pick up after your pets.

Next issue: **Stormwater Pollution: Everyone's Problem, Part 3: Reducing Runoff** (Adapted from articles by Krista Scheirer, Conservation Coordinator at the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.)

## Planning an Addition or Renovation?



Be smart: Talk to the Township first. We can help you navigate the Township's forms, approval process, codes, and zoning regulations. Getting it right the first time could save you time and money.



## Do You Have an Idea You Would Like to Offer to the Township?

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## Budget (continued from page 1)

Township budget and is offset by Summer Adventure Camp revenues as well as numerous fundraising activities run by volunteers.

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice reported that community volunteers and local partnerships contributed to the department's success in 2013.

Key partners include the NH-S School District, which provided facilities for the Township's 2013 Summer Adventure Camp; the Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival, which supports several local organizations in addition to Solebury Parks and Recreation; and individual sports organizations.

Summer camp and Winter Festival funds allow the department to provide the community with free programs, like AED/CPR certification and Halloween Safety Awareness, while individual sports organizations are a source of volunteers and raise money to support their teams and park facilities—all of which are vital to the health of the Township athletic program.

More than 800 children participate in parks and recreation activities each year.

In addition, adults participate in basketball, soccer, and softball programs.

### Public Works Dept.

Public Works Director Dennis Carney—also the Township Manager—completed a Road Maintenance Program for 2014, which lays out a new five-year maintenance plan for Township infrastructure.

In 2014, the Township Roads & Bridges Fund will finance maintenance and repairs identified in year one of the plan.

A total of \$300,000 will be used for milling, paving, overlay, and tar-and-chip treatments of local roads, and \$80,000 will be used to complete a combination of planned bridge repairs and

repairs identified as necessary during annual bridge inspections.

In addition, the department will use \$150,000 from the Liquid Fuels Fund to replace a 2002 GMC Dump Truck in the new year, while \$65,000 will be taken from the Capital Equipment Fund to replace the roof of the Public Works pole barn (\$40,000) and to purchase a new milling head for the skid-steer apparatus the department uses to resurface roads (\$25,000).

In 2014, the Township will begin the longer-term project of building a new Public Works facility by contracting engineering and architectural services at an estimated cost of \$50,000, which will come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The new facility will be located on the two lots next to the Township Building; no additional property will be purchased for the project.

### Other

The Township Manager said the Natural Resource Protection Fund will support several items in the new year, including a \$5,000 watershed study, an \$8,000 sanitary sewage study (Act 537), and a \$22,000 stormwater study.

The fund will also finance continued stormwater improvements (\$15,000), ongoing tree planting (\$3,000), and the Township's membership in the Audubon Bird Town program (\$850).

Solebury will maintain its annual contribution to the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad at \$17,500 this year, while increasing its contribution to Central Bucks Ambulance from \$13,000 to \$82,500.

The Township will support other local nonprofits at 2013 levels, including the Bucks County SPCA (\$1,250), Central Bucks Senior Citizens (\$500), New Hope Senior Citizens (\$500), and Phillips Mill Community Association (\$375). 🐾

## EAC Offers Well and Septic Tips

While parts of Solebury are serviced by public water and sewer services, a large portion of the Township uses on-lot well-water and septic systems.

In effect, most residents operate their own personal utilities and need to perform regular maintenance to protect the water supply and preserve their septic systems.

Replacing a failed system can cost more than \$30,000 and can be very disruptive to a household.

According to the Solebury Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), owner maintenance is the most important factor in keeping septic systems operating properly.

The EAC offers the following top-10 actions to help residents safeguard the integrity of their septic systems and protect Township water quality:

1. Have your septic tank pumped every 2-3 years, regardless of whether your on-lot sewage system has problems.
2. Use less water—less water causes less stress on the system and prevents overload.
3. Have the tank regularly inspected by a professional, and keep records of all inspections, pumping, and other maintenance.
4. Do not flush coffee grounds, dental floss, disposal diapers, kitty litter, cigarette butts, bandages, or other materials that can damage your system.
5. Never pour harsh chemicals into your septic system (e.g., bleach, latex paint, drain cleaners, cooking oil).
6. If you have a garbage disposal, severely restrict its use.
7. Do not use chemical or biological enzyme additives.
8. Whenever possible give your septic system a break—for example, spread laundry machine use over a period of days instead of doing 5-6 loads in one day.
9. Know where your septic system is located and keep that area free of deep rooted plants and trees.
10. Never allow heavy construction equipment to be operated on the drainfield. 🐾

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## Township Directory

P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963  
soleburytwp.org

In an emergency, please dial: 9-1-1.  
For other matters, call: 215-297-5656

The following individuals can be reached by email:

**Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:**  
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

**Asst. Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer/Zoning Officer**  
**Gretchen Rice:** grice@soleburytwp.org

**HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary**  
**Christine Terranova:** cterranova@soleburytwp.org

**Admin. Asst., LPC Administrator, Planning Commission**  
**Administrator Jean Weiss:** jweiss@soleburytwp.org

**Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:**  
soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

**Right-To-Know Officer, Administrative Records**  
Asst. Twp. Manager Gretchen K. Rice  
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

**Right-To-Know Officer, Police Records**  
Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie  
police@soleburypd.org

Unsure where to direct your question?  
Email: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org  
You can direct your query to a specific individual  
or write a general query.

The appropriate individual will respond.



## Parks and Recreation Dept.

### Upcoming Events



**January 18-26**

**On the Web:** <http://www.winterfestival.net>



Baseball and softball online registration  
has started. Go to the baseball website,  
below, and click this link:

**SIGN UP NOW**

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:

[www.soleburytwp.org](http://www.soleburytwp.org) (Parks & Recreation tab)  
[www.soleburybaseball.org](http://www.soleburybaseball.org) (baseball)  
[www.soleburybasketball.org](http://www.soleburybasketball.org) (basketball)  
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