

Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 21, No. 2

LATE WINTER ISSUE

MARCH 2015

Solebury Awarded \$1.7 Million in Grants for Recreational Trail

proved grants to the Township totaling \$1,647,000, providing most of the funds needed to connect the Solebury Trail to Canal Park, Township Manager Dennis Carney announced.

"Our goal was to fund the project using the least possible amount of Township funds," Dennis explained, "so we applied for multiple grants, hoping to use one grant to serve as the matching funds needed for another grant."

The strategy was successful. The Township obtained \$1,647,000 for a project estimated at \$1,787,000, requiring Solebury to raise only \$140,000 to complete the trail. "And we've applied for more grants in the hopes of raising even that," Dennis said.

Currently, the Solebury Trail runs south from the Eagle Fire Company firehouse, then follows Lower York Road to River Road.

The new segment will extend the Solebury Trail about a third of a mile south along River Road, where it will connect with Canal Park and the 60-mile Delaware Canal State Park towpath.

Completing the trail is expected to benefit residents several ways, Dennis noted. "It will

hree different agencies recently apallow our residents to bike or walk from Eagle Fire Company firehouse to the towpath and then anywhere they want to go without ever being on a road," he said.

In addition, a "bioswale"—a grassy, lowlying strip of land—will separate the new portion of the trail from the road, providing additional safety, an opportunity for beautification, and a means of allowing stormwater flowing along River Road to percolate through the soil rather than contribute to flooding.

Finally, as a requirement of committing nearly \$1 million to the project, PennDOT will manage construction of the new trail segment-from bidding to oversight to inspection—leaving the Township to manage only the engineering.

the project go fairly smoothly," Dennis said.

PennDOT is providing the funds to Solebury by way of a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant. The remaining funds will come from a Pa. Dept. of Community and Economic Development "Greenways" grant and a Pa. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources Trail grant.

It's Tax Season

EIT/LST Filing Reminder

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 "Hopefully, that will make completing related to the EIT or LST, contact Keystone:

www.keystonecollects.com 724-978-0300

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.

www.hab-inc.com



MAGICIAN RAN'D SHINE

entertains children with slight-of-hand during the 2015 Winter Festival Pancake Breakfast. The magician was one of several children's activities sponsored by Solebury Parks and Recreation, which are always a big hit with local kids.

What's 🍇

•	Township Calendar2	2
•	Vacation Safety	3
Þ	Identity Theft Scam Alert	}
•	Prescription Drug Take-Back	}
•	"Green Up" Your Property	ļ
•	Revised Comprehensive	
	Plan Adopted	ļ
Þ	Beech Tree Farm Preserved	ļ
Þ	Township Road Repairs	;
Þ	Supervisors Reorganize Volunteers6	;
Þ	Township Directory	,
•	Parks & Recreation Events	7



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).

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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Publication of advertisements in the Solebury Messenger does not represent endorsement by the Township or its officers of any products, services, businesses, or ideas mentioned.

Also, no political advertisements will be accepted.



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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.

March

3/1	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
3/3	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
3/9	Planning Commission, 7 pm
3/10	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
3/19	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
3/17	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
3/26	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

April

4/3	TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
4/6	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
4/7	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
4/13	Planning Commission, 7 pm
4/14	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
4/16	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
4/21	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
4/23	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



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Planning a Winter Getaway?

Police Dept. Warns of Vacation Safety Issues

www.

hile you may think of the summer as vacation prime time, criminals also see winter getaways—especially those that take place on lengthy school breaks—as opportunities for burglaries.

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie urges residents to "make your home look livedin when you go away."

Before you leave:

- Let friends, neighbors, and police know when you will be away, but don't discuss going away on social networking websites.
- Leave emergency contact numbers with police and a trusted neighbor.
- Put a hold on mail and newspaper deliveries, and have someone check your house periodically for packages and flyers left by the front door.
- If you are leaving a car at home, ask someone to move it each day.
- Lock all doors and windows, set any alarms, and be sure the alarm company knows how to reach you.
- Don't leave trash or recycling cans at the roadside for pickup—ask a neighbor to move the cans for you at the appropriate times.
- Set timers to turn lights, radios, and TVs on and off intermittently.
 (Don't leave the porch light—or other outside light—on all day and night.)
- If you use a service, continue to have your landscaping maintained while you are away.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight.

For help with any non-emergency home safety concerns, contact Township Police at 215-297-8201 during business hours.



The Solebury Police Dept. warns residents to be wary of identity theft scams.

Reports of con artists trying to obtain personal information about residents through phone calls and email inquiries, then using that information to make illegal purchases, are high.

In some cases, these requests may look or sound very official. For example, by phone, the con artist may pretend to be checking on a purchase "for security reasons." But once they obtain your account information, they may use it to make purchases of their own.

Similarly, identity thieves send emails to individuals on the pretense that the security of their login information has been breached. The emails, which mimic the logos and formats of credit card companies and other websites, ask users to "click here" to re-enter your login information, including user names, passwords, and credit card information, which they then use to make purchases.

If you receive phone or email inquiries about a purchase, a credit card account, or your login information for a particular website, do not respond!

Tell such callers you will call your credit card company directly, and delete such email inquiries.

Then, call the relevant company or log in to its website to see if the message was legitimate.

Several residents in the Township have been victims of identity theft and have confirmed that they previously received such phone or email inquires about credit card purchases or other accounts.

Bucks County Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative

Safely surrender expired, unwanted, or unused prescription medicines, including controlled substances and other drugs, for destruction by law enforcement.

Saturday, April 25



The Solebury Police Dept. will host the collection event in two locations.

(1) Solebury Police Dept., Township Hall(2) Giant Food Store, Logan Square

Residents may also dispose of medications Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 3:30PM in the Police Dept's. MedReturn box at Township Hall.

For more information, visit: SoleburyTwp.org

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Know How It Flows, Then "Green Up" Your Property

s rain and melting snow drain off the land, the runoff picks up pollutants, which are carried into storm drains or directly into local waterways.

How does stormwater flow on your property? Find out by walking around your property—ideally when it's raining—and watching how the water flows.

Pollutants to watch for:

Dog waste Engine fluids Fertilizers Herbicides Loose dirt Motor oil Pesticides Road grit Litter Road salt

- How many "green" or unused open spaces are on your property? How big are they? Are they located on low areas on your property?
- How much of your property is taken up by impervious areas like driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, and buildings? Are there trees near these impervious areas? Where does rainwater drain from the them? Where does rainwater drain from roof downspouts?
- Are there any areas with standing water?
 Is there always water in that area or just for a few days after it rains?
- Are there any storm drains on your property? If not, where are the nearest drains?

Knowing how your property handles rainwater can be helpful when considering options for reducing the flow of stormwater, such as these simple ways to "green up" your property:

- Create areas that encourage water to soak into the ground, such as by planting small rain gardens or creating larger retaining basins with flow-slowing, raised earthen berms and water-loving plants.
- Use rain barrels and cisterns to "harvest" rainwater for watering plants and other purposes.
- Create planters that capture and use water from your downspouts to keep flowers healthy and happy.
- Use water-absorbing paver blocks or porous concrete and asphalt alternatives where hard surfaces are needed.
- When ground is exposed during construction projects or landscaping, use mulch, silt fencing, or erosion control fabric to temporarily keep loose soil in place.
- Prevent erosion by planting loose-dirt areas with grasses, trees, and shrubs. The natural root systems will hold soil in place, soak up water, slow the flow of stormwater, and filter pollutants.

Adapted from the *Clean Water Partners* by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.

Revised Comprehensive Plan Adopted

The final, revised Solebury Township Comprehensive Plan was adopted Dec. 16 and is available on the Township website.

The Pa. Municipalities Planning Code requires such a revision every 10 years.

The plan documents the community's vision of itself and serves as a blueprint for preserving and enhancing that vision.

To view Solebury's plan on SoleburyTwp.org: Click Documents & Forms, click the green arrow next to "Solebury Township Comp Plan Dec. 2014," and click the Download button.

View the document on screen or use the PDF toolbar to download it to your device.

Beech Tree Farm Preserved

he Board of Supervisors announced in November that the Township would purchase a conservation easement to preserve the roughly 34.28-acre Beech Tree Farm, on Stoney Hill Road, at a cost of \$113,120.

Thanks to the dedication of landowners Philip and Joy Johnson, as well as action taken by Solebury's Land Preservation Committee and the Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, settlement took place in January.

Two easements protect the property: An agricultural conservation easement and an easement held jointly by the Township and Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy.

They protect the entire property, which consists mainly of actively farmed agricultural fields. The highest protection area consists of approximately 7.7 acres of forest surrounding two unnamed tributaries to Pidcock Creek.

"We are so pleased that the Johnson's 34.28 acres of scenic viewscape and farm fields are now protected," Land Preservation Committee Chair Ralph O'Banion said on behalf of the Township.

Preservation Update

To date, the total amount of open space protected through the Township's Land Preservation Program is 3,285.66 acres, and the total area preserved in Solebury—including lands owned or conserved through the Township program as well as using county and state funds—is 6,367.28 acres.

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Township Targets Roads for Repairs

orking in his role as Roadmaster, Township Manager Dennis Carney recently inspected all Township roads to develop a new five-year plan that estimates which roads are likely to require repaving between 2015-2019.

At the beginning of each year of the plan, Dennis reviews the roads targeted for that year. Depending on road conditions, he pushes back the repaying of those that fared better than expected and moves up those that deteriorated faster than expected.

This year's list includes roads that will be repaved using a typical asphalt overlay as well as roads that will be repaved using a tar-and-chip treatment.

Asphalt overlay is required for roads that experience a high volume of traffic, while tar-and-chip treatment—which involves laying a coating of tar, embedding the tar with stone chips, and using a driveway-type sealer to create a smooth surface—is typically used on roads that experience lower traffic volumes.

The following roads will be resurfaced as needed in 2015:

- Ingham Road
- Lower Mountain Road between Rt. 202 & Aquetong Road
- Lower Mountain Road between Aquetong & Street Roads
- Atkinson Road
- Upper Mountain Road between Aquetong & Street Roads
- Solebury Mountain Road
- · High Road
- Middle Road
- Low Road
- Sawmill Road between Aquetong & Sugan Roads
- Hillcrest Avenue
- Crestview Avenue
- Squire Lane



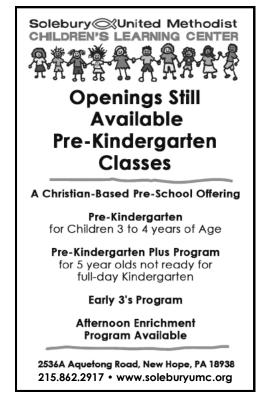
PARKS & RECREATION Director Dudley Rice (right) stands with Triumph Brewing Company General Manager Paul Foglia and Sales Manager Kellie Davall after awarding the firm two trophies in the Winter Festival Chili Cook-Off—one for third place in the Judge's Choice category and one for second place in the People's Choice category.

Planning an Addition or Renovation?

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Supervisors Appreciate Volunteers

The 2015 Board of Supervisors is pleased to present the Solebury residents who volunteered to staff the Township's advisory boards and committees this year.

"As a Board, our success largely depends upon our volunteer residents through the boards and commissions on which they serve," said Supervisor Chair Paul Cosdon.

"Many communities struggle to find volunteers," he noted. "Not in Solebury. These members contribute considerable knowledge, skill, and time to these boards. We thank them for this valuable service."

Please join the supervisors in thanking your neighbors for volunteering.

2015 Board of Supervisors

Paul Cosdon, Chair James Searing, Vice-Chair Robert Heath, Jr. Edward McGahan, Jr. Helen Tai

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, as needed, at 7 PM (unless otherwise noted)

2015 Advisory Boards and Committees

For changes in meeting dates & times, visit soleburytwp.org or sign up for email alerts (see page 2).

Environmental Advisory Committee Supervisor Liaison: James Searing Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7 PM	Eric Allen David Benner Hope Blaythorne Michael Farbotnik Barry Fetterolf Roger Riedley	Parks & Recreation Board Supervisor Liaison: Helen Tai Meetings: 4th Thursday, 7 PM	Kevin Campbell Greg Cathcart Dan DuPont Lori High Andy Kelly Martin Leyland James Trammell Jane Wilson Kim Wilson
Historical Architectural Review Board Supervisor Liaison: Edward McGahan, Jr. Meetings: 1st Monday, 7 PM	John Colton Moira McClintock Betsy Muzina Margaret Newman Laurence Peseski Nancy Ruddle	Planning Commission Supervisor Liaison: Robert Heath, Jr. Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM	Christopher Caputo Keith Deussing Jack Durkin Dan Fest Kevin Morrissey Laura Sachs Diane Sarti
Land Preservation Committee Supervisor Liaison: Paul Cosdon Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 PM	Malcolm Crooks Christine Hafner Phil Johnson Stanley A. Marcus Ralph O'Banion Karl Pettit Charlotte Zanidakis	Zoning Hearing Board Meetings: When needed	Lisa Lori Daniel E. Moser Joseph Pignitor Arthur Rosenberg Steven M. Segal John Fuhrmeister, Alternate Eric Stephens, Alternate Michael Warden, Alternate

To learn more about Township advisory bodies, visit: SoleburyTwp.org

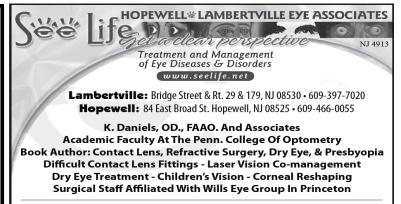


The next issue of the **Solebury Messenger** will mail on April 30. Deadline for advertisers is April 9.



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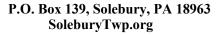
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Township Directory



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



Annual Easter Egg Hunt
April 4, 10 AM, rain or shine, Pat Livezey Park

Children 8 and under. Arrive early to make sure your children do not miss the start of the hunt. Parking is available at the upper entrance of the park at the corner of Hagan and Parkside Drives. In the event of rain, prizes will be distributed at the snack stand until supplies are exhausted.



Summer Adventure Camp 2014
July 6 - Aug. 14, NH-S Upper Elementary School,
180 West Bridge St., New Hope

For more information and registration form, visit: http://www.soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:
SoleburyTwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)
www.soleburybaseball.org (baseball)
www.soleburybasketball.org (basketball)
www.nhsfcc.com (football)
www.soleburylacrosse.com (lacrosse)
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