

# Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 22, No. 3

SPRING ISSUE

MAY 2016

## Supervisors Set Township Priorities

In order to make an impact on what matters most, the supervisors spent the beginning of the year culling priorities from a lengthy to-do list derived largely from Solebury's Comprehensive Plan.

"Much of what the board does involves overseeing the day-to-day activities of the government," Supervisor Chair Helen Tai explained. "For example, we make sure the bills are paid, the roads are paved and plowed, and our parks are maintained."

"Identifying priorities allows us to proactively make the best possible use of the rest of our time," with a goal of "making the Township an even better place to live," she said.

While many local initiatives are always in process (e.g., restoration of Aquetong Spring Park; additions to the Solebury Trail; updates to HARB guidelines; installation of smart traffic lights on Route 202), the priorities that follow require the Township to be forward-thinking to prevent potentially negative consequences.

Future articles in the *Solebury Messenger* and on the Township website will explore these topics in greater depth.

### Land Preservation

**Farmland and Farming:** Agriculture is Solebury's heritage, but as farmland passes from one generation to the next, the threat of development grows more imminent. To encourage the viability of farming, the Township will focus its land preservation efforts on farmland and will work toward making local ordinances and policies more farm-friendly.

### Environment/Public Safety

**Quarrying Impacts:** Solebury would like to work with the appropriate governmental entities and New Hope Crushed Stone to ensure that future uses of the quarry property are consistent with the Township's conservation and development objectives.

**Fracking Impacts:** Because a moratorium against fracking in the Delaware River Basin expires in 2018 and may not be renewed,

(continued on page 6)

## 2016 Summer Adventure Camp

Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for Solebury's six-week 2016 Summer Adventure Camp, which will be held at New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School in New Hope.

The Parks and Recreation day camp starts at 9 AM July 5 and ends at 3 PM August 12. Spaces are limited and fill quickly.

Parents can register children in grades K-6 for any number of weeks, and discounts are available to those who sign up before June 1.

Forms and information are available as downloads from [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) (click the photo of the Canal Park footbridge at mid-page, then click Documents and Forms), as well as at Township Hall.

This year's camp adventures will include "Mad Science" workshops and demonstrations, magic shows, karate instruction, arts and crafts, and special events and activities that vary from week to week. Returning is a fitness and obstacle course featuring unique tunnels and crawl-through tubes.

Many fitness and sports activities are held outdoors, while basketball, floor hockey, and quick start tennis programs are held in the school gym.

Solebury's day camp is a Pa. Recreation and Park Society award winner for both its excellent programming and its focus on health, fitness, and wellness.

## What's Inside?



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**SOLEBURY'S SUPERVISORS:** As part of an initiative to enhance communication with citizens, the board has created official email addresses for each supervisor (*I. to r.*): Supervisor Kevin Morrissey ([kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org](mailto:kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org)), Supervisor Vice Chair James Searing ([jsearing@soleburytwp.org](mailto:jsearing@soleburytwp.org)), Supervisor Chair Helen Tai ([htai@soleburytwp.org](mailto:htai@soleburytwp.org)), Supervisor Noel Barrett ([nbarrett@soleburytwp.org](mailto:nbarrett@soleburytwp.org)), and Supervisor Paul Cosdon ([pcosdon@soleburytwp.org](mailto:pcosdon@soleburytwp.org)). The addresses may also be found in the Township Directory (p. 7) and on the Township website ([SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org)).



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 20-year anniversary with the publication of the Nov. 2015 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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#### A NOTE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

*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.*

## 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.*

### May

- 5/2 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
- 5/3 Board of Supervisors, 7pm
- 5/9 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 5/10 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 5/17 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 5/19 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 5/26 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm
- 5/30 HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

### June

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



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

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# SUMMER CAMP

2016

July 5 - Aug. 12

New Hope-Solebury  
Upper Elementary School



## Supervisors Get New Emails

As part of a board initiative to enhance communication with citizens, each Solebury supervisor now has an official Township email address:

**Supervisor Chair Helen Tai**  
htai@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Vice-Chair James Searing**  
jsearing@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Noel Barrett**  
nbarrett@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Paul Cosdon**  
pcosdon@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Kevin Morrissey**  
kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org

The addresses may also be found in the Township Directory (p. 7) and on the Township website (SoleburyTwp.org).

## Board Appoints New LPC Members

Solebury welcomes the two latest additions to the Land Preservation Committee (LPC):

- Eva Caputo
- Tamara Lesh



**BASKETBALL CHAMPS:** Solebury's 7th-grade girls' travel team won the Inter-County Basketball Association championship in March by defeating neighboring rival, Doylestown, 25-21, in the last minute of the fourth quarter. They ended the season with a 14-1 record. The team includes (*back, l. to r.*) Head Coach Greg Cathcart, players Gabriella Vitelli and Grace Hanly, Assistant Coach Gary Saxton, and (*front, l. to r.*) players Kendall Cathcart, Kate Dougherty, Juliana Covino, Rachel Saxton, and Samantha Kruopas. (Assistant Coach Mike Dougherty is missing from the photo.)

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# Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee Releases Preliminary Report

The Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee—appointed by the Board of Supervisors late last year to formulate recommendations for the development of Aquetong Spring Park for passive recreation and environmental education—released a preliminary report in March recommending that, prior to the Township making improvements to the site, the board engage a professional to assess the stability of the stream created last summer when the Township simultaneously breached the 1870 dam and drained the 15-acre lake the aging dam supported.

The steps taken last summer were part of a Township plan to restore the park's significant coldwater creek system to its natural state, and as expected, a new stream fed by the spring has since cut across the former lakebed (*see photos at right*) and connected downstream with an existing portion of Aquetong Creek, Township Manager and Public Works Director Dennis Carney said.

Since the preservation of local water quality and the ecological integrity of all components involved in the restoration project are high priorities for the Township, the advisory committee recommends that a licensed restoration expert assess whether the stages and pace of this largely natural process are progressing as expected.



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At issue, the advisory committee asserts, is the stability of the new stream's path and banks, and the potential impact of what is known as "legacy sediment," the soft top layers of soil that once served as lakebed.

"High sediment loading into Aquetong Creek and stream bank instability on the former lakebed" could hinder the success of the restoration, the report states.

Lake sediment was collected with the aid of a filtering and trapping mechanism during the breaching and draining process, Dennis said, and "hundreds of truckloads of sediment were removed from the site."

However, he noted, the stream banks are composed of the former lakebed, and he and the advisory committee have observed the sloughing of the banks into the stream as the waterway finds its course.

A professional may be able to say whether this is an acceptable part of a natural process or a potential concern, he added, and may be able to suggest steps that should be taken to support the stream's development, to halt any degradation, or to divert sediment.

"It is essential to correctly identify the causes of degradation and eliminate or remediate them," the advisory committee's report states. "Understanding a stream's evolutionary trajectory is crucial to correctly diagnosing the problem, as well as to developing restoration approaches that are likely to be sustainable."

The supervisors are considering the recommended approach, and the committee has resumed work evaluating potential recreational and educational improvements for the park.

The Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee is comprised of the following volunteers:

- Barry Fetterolf (Environmental Advisory Committee)
- Frank Nassetta (Trout Unlimited)
- Michael Richardson (Realtor/Landscape Architect)
- Dan Dupont (Parks & Recreation Board)
- Michael Zolkewitz, Chair (Aquetong Watershed Association)

To read the advisory committee's preliminary report in full:

1. Go to [soleburytwp.org](http://soleburytwp.org) > News > Archived News Articles.
2. Scroll to the headline, *Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee Report*.
3. Click the last sentence to open the report. 📄

## Township Receives Tree Grant



The Bucks County Conservation District recently awarded Solebury a \$5,739.90 TreeVitalize Watershed Grant to support the planting of trees at Aquetong Spring Park.

When combined with the Township's \$3,217 matching contribution, the \$8,956.90 project will enable the planting a variety of young native-Pennsylvania trees (1) to help stabilize the new stream's riparian buffer and meadow, and (2) to increase the canopy around the former lakebed.

Planting will begin along existing tree lines and work inward toward the riparian buffer. 🌳

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## Seasons of Aquetong Spring Park



**LAKEBED STABILIZATION:** A few weeks after the dam was breached to drain the manmade lake fed by Aquetong Spring, the lakebed was sewn with a native seed mix of wildflowers, oats, and grasses to help stabilize the soil. The photos above show how the resulting meadow was progressing about two months after planting (*left*) and in late autumn (*right*). The one at left looks north toward the Judy house from mid-meadow, with the new creek now flowing from Aquetong Spring visible in the upper-left quadrant, while the other looks south across the meadow, with the Judy house to the viewer's back and the top ledge of what remains of the earthen dam visible in the upper-left quadrant.



**TREE PLANTING & WINTERING:** In October, the Township planted young trees to extend the wooded area around the Judy house (*left*). Trees were also planted along the new stream buffer in the fall to aide bank stabilization over the winter, though these are not visible in the photo (*right*). Similarly, trees funded by the recent Bucks County Conservation District grant will be planted around the circumference of the new meadow, starting at the existing tree line and converging inward, as well as in some areas closer to the new stream.

Photos are courtesy of Don Schoenleber, who is helping to document the restoration of Aquetong Spring for the Solebury Historical Society. To view a breathtaking video of the draining of the lake that shows the gravel-and-bio-log filtration system used to contain sediment, visit [soleburyhistory.org](http://soleburyhistory.org) and click Research > Online-Exhibits > Aquetong Spring Park.

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## Planning an Addition or Renovation?

Be smart: Talk to the Township first.

We have a wealth of handouts in the office and on [soleburytp.org](http://soleburytp.org) (Resources > Documents & Forms > Permits) that provide guidance on different kinds of projects, and our staff can help you navigate the Township's forms, approval process, codes, and regulations. We're here to help! And getting it right the first time could save you time and money.



## Volunteers Needed for Solebury Day Subcommittee

Solebury Parks and Recreation is looking for community volunteers to serve on the Solebury Day 2016 subcommittee. If you are interested, please contact: [soleburyparks@soleburytp.org](mailto:soleburyparks@soleburytp.org)

## Township Priorities

(continued from page 1)

Solebury is conducting a study to determine which environmentally sensitive areas could be harmed by fracking and other forms of mining and drilling, as this could serve as a possible basis for developing regulations to protect residents from such impacts.

**Deer Management:** The deer population in Solebury (and Bucks County as a whole) continues to exceed a sustainable 40-50 animals per square mile, resulting in crop damage, understory destruction, diseased deer,

and vehicular accidents. Consequently, the Township must improve its deer management practices.

### Government Functioning

**Permitting:** While Solebury's ordinances and construction codes must be followed, the permitting process can be improved so it is fair and reasonably easy for homeowners to navigate.

**Openness & Transparency:** To better inform residents of the issues and decisions

the Township faces, Solebury is working on additional ways of communicating, such as recording, videotaping, or broadcasting meetings, and using email and social media more effectively.

**Public Works:** The board is contemplating the best possible use for the current Public Works building after the new one is completed this spring. The Township will also decide whether to construct a new salt storage facility and police locker rooms.

## 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Events (No E-Waste)

**May 28**

Harry S. Truman High School  
3001 Green Lane, Levittown

**June 25**

Upper Bucks County Area Vo-Tech School  
3115 Ridge Road, Bedminster

**July 23**

Central Bucks South High School  
1100 Folly Road, Warrington

**July 26**

Central Bucks South High School  
1100 Folly Road, Warrington

**August 6**

Quakertown Community High School  
600 Park Avenue (Rear Lot), Quakertown

**August 27**

Bucks County Technical High School  
610 Wistar Road, Bristol



These events are not open to business, industry, or institutions. Each event is held, rain or shine, from 9 AM-3 PM.

### To learn what you can and cannot bring:

- Visit: [www.buckscounty.org/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.org/recycling)
- Call the PA DEP Recycling Hotline: 1-800-346-4242
- Call the Bucks County Planning Commission: 215-345-3400

The next issue of the  
**Solebury Messenger**  
will mail on June 22.



Deadline for  
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## Township Directory

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-5656.

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

**Asst. Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer/Asst. Z.O. 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 Officers

Administrative Records: Asst. Twp. Manager Gretchen K. Rice,  
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,  
police@soleburypd.org

### Zoning Officer/Building Code Official

Matthew Wojacyk: mwojacyk@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Chair Helen Tai**  
htai@soleburytwp.org

**Sup. Vice-Chair James Searing**  
jsearing@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Noel Barrett**  
nbarrett@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Paul Cosdon**  
pcosdon@soleburytwp.org

**Supervisor Kevin Morrissey**  
kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org

Other Inquiries: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org  
P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963  
SoleburyTwp.org

## Parks and Recreation Dept.

### Upcoming Events



### Summer Adventure Camp 2016

July 5 - Aug. 12

NH-S Upper Elementary School  
180 West Bridge St., New Hope

For more information and registration form, visit:  
SoleburyTwp.org (click Canal Park footbridge at mid-page) OR Township Hall.



### Volunteers Needed for Solebury Day Subcommittee

soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

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)

www.soleburysoccer.com (soccer)

www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)

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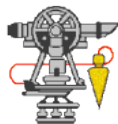


**Register Now!**

# SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP 2016

**July 5 - August 12**  
**New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School**  
(See pages 1 and 7 for details.)





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