

Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 22, No. 6 AUTUMN ISSUE **NOVEMBER 2016**

Township's Second "Solebury Day" a Spectacular Success

dults and children packed Laurel Park Sept. 17 for the Township's 2nd annual Solebury Day, Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice reported.

The event was a tremendous success thanks to both great planning and spectacular weather—and it lived up to its mission to celebrate "all that is Solebury" by fostering community pride, promoting local programs, and encouraging volunteerism, he said.

Festivities kicked off with the cake and pie baking contest, judged by Solebury Supervisor Paul Cosdon, who awarded first place to Sean Kielty for his key lime pie.

Next was the pet parade and dress-up contest sponsored by New Hope Pet Center. Norah and Noah Issac won with their pet puppy, Mi-Ki the Biker Dog.

Children lined up all day at the dunk tank manned by Parks and Recreation Board chair Kevin Campbell, waiting to "dunk and be dunked" while raising money for department programs.

Children also eagerly crowded into the Dinosaur Moon Bounce, sat for Caricatures by Courtney, had their faces painted by Trinity Day School, received glitter arm tattoos from Charmaine Jacquelin of Charmed Face Painting, and completed arts-and-crafts activ-

"Dave, the Balloon Guy" crafted animals, swords, and elaborate hats for attendees while walking the grounds.

Twenty-five local vendors and community groups lined the area with tents, offering information as well as items for sale. Manoff Market Gardens' fruit and garden stand helped raise funds for Solebury Parks and Recreation.

Musical performances under the "big top" included the local rock group of 12-year-olds known as Useless Information; the New Hope-Solebury Jazz Band; and bluegrass and Celtic music performed by guitarist

> and vocalist John Danaher, fiddler Billy Dominick, and base player Dave Hanneman.

Soccer and football games drew spectators, and hungry diners kept the park snack stand, Bitter Bob's mobile barbecue tent, and Nina's Waffle and Ice-Cream truck busy dishing up tasty treats throughout the day.

"We've already started planning for Solebury Day 2017," Dudley said. "See you next vear!"

Get event news by following Solebook.



TRENDSETTERS. Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice helped set the fashion trend for Solebury Day by wearing his bury Day on Faceballoon hat by made by David Pollock of "The Balloon Guys."

Call for Volunteers

Attention Solebury Residents

The Board of Supervisors is currently accepting applications for appointments to advisory boards and commissions for the new year.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, submit your résumé and a brief letter of interest using a method listed below.

In your letter, describe an interest or an area of expertise you would like to share, and note whether you would prefer to serve on a specific committee or to be appointed to a role by the Township.

Mail

Solebury Township, P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963 Attention: Gretchen Rice

E-mail

soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org grice@soleburytwp.org

Hand delivery

Township Hall, 3092 Sugan Road

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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 hardearned 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.

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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.

November

11/1	Board of Supervisors, BUDGET SESSION, 7pm
11/7	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
11/14	Planning Commission, 7 pm
11/15	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
11/15	Board of Supervisors, 7pm
11/17	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm
11/17	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
11/24	HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

December

12/5	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
12/12	Planning Commission, 7 pm
12/13	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
12/13	Board of Supervisors, 7pm
12/15	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
12/15	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts! Visit: SoleburyTwp.org Click "Solebury Email Alerts" and enter your email address.





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Maintaining Driveway Pipes & Swales

The Public Works Dept. reminds residents that the Township is not responsible for cleaning pipes and swales at the ends of driveways and ditch lines. Residents must monitor these pipes and drains regularly and keep them free of debris—such as leaves, sticks, grass, trash, and silt—to ensure the smooth flow of stormwater from homes, roads, and driveways.

Also, when mowing grass or blowing leaves, please do not blow the waste into streets or ditch lines, where it can clog storm inlets and pipes and where airborne seeds may germinate in cracks or at curb lines.

The Township does maintain and repair inlets, cross pipes, and culverts. Public Works strives to keep these clear, but if you discover one that is excessively clogged, please report it by calling 215-297-5656.

By working together, we can help prevent future maintenance problems.



Keep Storm Drains Clear

Please do not blow leaves and grass clippings onto Township roads. Organic waste can clog storm drains and impede the flow of stormwater from homes, roads, and driveways. In addition, if the waste is carried by storm drains to local waterways, it can cause pollution by (1) increasing the amount of organic waste in streams, and (2) carrying fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides to the water supply.

Bamboo: The supervisors are considering an ordinance restricting the planting of invasive, nonnative bamboo in the Township, with the goals of preventing damage from its spread (including damage to indigenous plants) and maintaining the general welfare of residents. Learn more at soleburytwp.org, or call 215-297-5656.





Planning an Addition or Renovation?

Be smart: Talk to the Township first.

We have a wealth of handouts at
Township Hall and on soleburytwp.org
(Resources > Documents & Forms > Permits)
that provide guidance on different kinds of projects.
Also our staff can help you navigate the Township's forms,
approval process, codes, and regulations.
We're here to help!

Getting it right the first time could save you time and money.

Safety First: Guidelines for Burning Yard Waste

Before burning yard waste on your property, please review the Township guidelines for open burning to minimize fire hazards and limit air pollution.

The two-page document is available on the Township website (SoleburyTwp.org). Find it using the steps below (or, if you are viewing the newsletter online, <u>click here</u>).

Directions:

- 1. Rest your cursor on the Government tab and select Township Administration: Ordinances.
- 2. Locate the file "burnguidelines121017.pdf"
- 3. Click the file name to open it.
- 4. Read, print, or download the file. To download, move your cursor across the bottom of the document to reveal the PDF toolbar and click the download icon (last icon on right).

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Solebury Resident



January 21-29 * On the Web: http://www.winterfestival.net

he 20th anniversary of Winter Festival, January 21-29, will provide an exciting mid-winter break for residents and visitors to our twin river communities, complete with fun-filled events and activities for all ages!

Triumph Brewing Company in New Hope will again be the location of the popular Chili Cook-Off (always early to sell out). The unique event will feature a live band, beverages, and a wide selection of chilis from local restaurants. You won't want to miss this one!

But there's more! Across nine days, Winter Festival offers something for everyone, including some special surprises in honor of the 20th anniversary of this spectacular event.

The schedule features free and ticketed events, including concerts, theatrical performances, food and wine tasting, family and children's activities, live ice sculpting, tours, arts and crafts, and more.

Check out the Winter Festival website (www.winterfestival.net) around mid-

November for event schedules, activity updates, concert news, and ticket information so you can plan your visit. All information about the festival is posted on the website as soon as it's finalized.

Solebury Parks and Recreation is a partner and sponsor of Winter Festival, and has been part of the annual event since its beginning, 20 years ago.

Proceeds from Winter Festival help support the parks and recreation departments of Solebury, New Hope, and Lambertville, as well as our local food bank Fisherman's Mark, school scholarship programs, fire and police services, the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury, and other community organizations.

Thanks to overwhelming community support of the event, Winter Festival 2016 raised and distributed \$32,152 to these local charities and organizations.

Keep in mind that many events require advance tickets; purchase them online early to avoid being left out in the cold: www.winterfestival.net



Historical Society Holds Annual New Year's Brunch

Come one, come all!

The Solebury Township Historical Society invites you to the 16th annual Solebury New Year's brunch on Sunday, January 1, from noon to 3 PM.

Join your neighbors and friends for a funfilled afternoon as we begin the New Year together!

The celebration will be held at Holly Hedge Estates, 6987 Upper York Road, in Solebury Township.

Social time begins at noon, featuring complimentary cider, a cash bar, and entertainment by Bob Egan.

A complete gourmet brunch follows, including meats, an omelet station, and poached salmon.

Honored Citizens of Solebury awards will be presented.

Seating is limited and advance paid reservations are required. Tickets are \$55 per person.

To make a reservation, send a check to STHS, Drawer 525, Solebury, PA 18963, or visit the historical society's website: soleburyhistory.org

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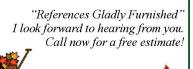
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Supervisors' Approve First Improvements to Permitting Process

Reduction in Fees That Previously Amounted to \$17,500 Annually

Pollowing up on a commitment made in January, in late spring the Board of Supervisors adopted the first round of improvements to the Township's permitting process, based on the recommendations of a team appointed to study the issue.

The goal of the ongoing changes, Supervisor Chair Helen Tai said, is to ensure the permitting process is fair and reasonably easy for homeowners to navigate, while also maintaining the integrity of Township ordinances.

Due to the breadth and complexity of the information involved—and the length of time it will likely take to analyze it all—the supervisors agreed to review changes that require adoption periodically, rather than upon the project's completion.

In May, the team—comprised of Helen, Gretchen Rice (former

Township zoning officer), Matt Wojaczyk (current Township zoning officer and building inspector), and residents Michael Graeff (licensed architect) and Patrick Pastella (builder)—issued its first recommendation for board approval: The reduction of four

fees on the Township fee schedule.

Based on the past two years of fee income, the changes that follow are expected to reduce annual Township revenue by about \$17,500, but the team felt strongly that the current permit fees for small projects—such as roof repairs or AC replacements—were excessive:

- Residential plan review: Elimination of \$25 fee
- Residential electrical plan review: Elimination of \$25 fee

Another change came as a result of clarification from the Bucks County Conservation District: The need to get a grading permit and undergo review by the county district for ground disturbances under 2,000 square feet has been eliminated.

And over the summer, the team made two administrative improvements:

- Residents and contractors can now provide feedback on the permitting process using an online survey.
- 2. A notary signature is no longer required

on the Township's agent authorization form; instead, a witness signature will suffice.

"We are continuing to work on this project and have many other ideas we are pursuing," Helen said.

For example, the team—which meets monthly—plans to continue to gather input from residents, contractors, and

staff; assess the permitting timeline; review Township policies related to permitting; and confirm that permit requirements are in line with current federal, state, county, and local regulations, including Bucks County Conservation District requirements.



Take Our New Online Survey!

"We encourage anyone who has interacted with the permitting department since 2015 to take our new online survey," Supervisor Chair Helen Tai said on behalf of the board.

The Survey Monkey form is here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDNVPD9

Alternatively, (1) visit soleburytwp.org, (2) select "Planning, Code Enforcement, & Permits" from the Government tab, and (3) at the end of the fourth paragraph click "please take our survey here."

- Repair and replacement of existing residential mechanical components: Switch to flat \$75 fee
- Zoning permit: Elimination of fee if project includes building, mechanical, plumbing, or grading



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Farm Committee

The Board of Supervisors appointed the following people to the new Township Farm Committee:

- Kaitlin Farbotnik
- Tim Luccaro
- Ron Moule
- Graham Phillips
- Stephen Phillips
- Brian Smith
- Buz Teacher





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Getting Ready for Snow

ognizes that Solebury resi- snow removal operations. dents depend on their automobiles, the Public Works Dept. supplies of salt and sodium chlospends the fall getting everything ride (a melting compound) will be ready for the prompt and orderly in the ready, and Public Works removal of snow from Township Dept. employees will be reviewroads.

expected to slow, but not inhibit, ryone understands what to do the ability of residents to attend when snow falls and the removal work and school, stressed Township Manager and Public Works Director Dennis Carney.

Township vehicles-including one loader, a road grader, and five trucks that each hold nearly 10 tons of salt—are lined up now to Township roadway. be winterized, conditioned, and repaired, as needed.

ied.

In addition to relying on its feed into them. own vehicles and employees, the Township uses various subcon- the entire Township has been tractors (as well as their trucks cleared.

ecause the Township rec- and equipment) to better facilitate

By late November, ample ing plans and procedures with Winter weather conditions are subcontractors to ensure that eveprocess begins.

> In the event of snow or freezing rain, the department immediately dispatch its five largest vehicles, outfitted with spreaders, to lay salt on 60 miles of

When snow accumulates to a depth of two inches, plowing will Plows and spreaders are also begin. Trucks are assigned the scheduled to be checked and read- priority role of first clearing arterial roadways and the byways that

All trucks remain in use until

Snow Ordinance in Effect

The Solebury Township Police Department urges residents to be mindful of the Township's snow ordinance.

No parking is permitted on any road in the Township from the onset of a winter storm until 24 hours after the last snowflake falls and all roadways have been plowed from road bank to road bank.

Residents are required to have their sidewalks cleared of all snow within 24 hours after a storm has stopped.

Property owners and private plow operators who clean driveways must remove any snow they deposit on roadways. If snow is left in the road, homeowners may be liable in the event of an acci-

Disregard for the snow ordinance can result in fines, towed vehicles, or both.

The Township is not responsible for damage caused by snow moving equipment before, during, or after snowstorms—including damage to mailboxes.



Solebury needs landowners

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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 Wojaczyk: mwojaczyk@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Chair Helen Tai | Sup. Vice-Chair James Searing htai@soleburytwp.org

jsearing@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Noel Barrett

Supervisor Paul Cosdon nbarrett@soleburytwp.org | pcosdon@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Kevin Morrissey

kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org

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



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Parks & Recreation Dept.

Upcoming Events



January 21 - 29

On the Web: http://www.winterfestival.net

Solebury Parks and Recreation

To learn more about the Township's parks and recreation programs, visit the Solebury website (soleburytwp.org) and click on the Parks and Recreation link.

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit: 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)

Are you getting your copy of the

Solebury Messenger?

Upcoming 2017 mail dates: Jan. 5 • Mar. 1 • May 3

June 28 • Aug. 30 • Nov. 1

All Township residents should receive the newsletter within approximately one week after each mail date.

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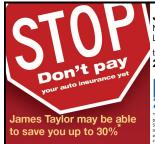


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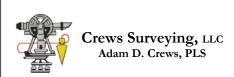
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