



The Solebury Messenger

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Fall Issue

October 2020

Solebury Awarded Grant for 202 Trail

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has awarded a \$400,000 grant to Solebury Township to develop a trail along the PECO high-tension right of way, between Sугan Road and Kitchens Lane at state Route 179. This is the first of three grants the Township is seeking for this trail section.

The project includes the creation of the trail, accessibility for people with disabilities, storm water management systems and traffic signal improvements. The Township holds a lease with PECO for the trail section. In the planning and engineering stage for more than a decade, the grant award will allow the Township to move forward on the project as soon as next year.

...continued on page 2

Trick-or-Treat Tips for a COVID-Aware Halloween

The Bucks County Health Department and Emergency Management are sharing COVID-19 guidance and other general precautions for a safe and fun Halloween.

- Trick-or-treaters should stay outside at all times, as it is a lower risk for transmission.
- Trick-or-treaters should wear reflective clothing and use a flashlight to remain easily visible to traffic and other groups.
- Trick-or-treat in small groups, making it easier to social distance as much as possible. Face coverings should be worn if not able to remain 6 feet apart. Most Halloween masks will not suffice as protective face covering.
- Avoid being within 6 feet of those who live outside your household for more than 15 consecutive minutes.
- Anyone handing out candy should wear a face covering and remain outside throughout the event if possible.
- Both trick-or-treaters and those giving out candy should sanitize their hands regularly.
- Avoid costume parties and other large indoor social gatherings, especially with alcohol present.



New Polling Place Location

The polling place previously located in the Township Building main entrance has been moved to the Public Works Building in the same complex. This affects voters in the Middle District of Solebury Township, and there will be signs directing you to the new location, which is a few yards away.

Supervisors Review Police Practices

The national outcry for racial justice, sparked this summer by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, has prompted municipalities across the country to re-examine their police procedures, and Solebury Township is no exception.

Beginning in June, Solebury's Board of Supervisors began a review of the Township's policing

practices. Board members said that they recognized that the underlying root cause of the cycle of violent police action and resultant street violence is structural and societal, and affirmed their continued support for justice and fair treatment for all.

So far, the Board has found that the Solebury Township Police Department is following

...continued on page 3

Solebury Awarded Grant for 202 Trail Section

...continued from page 1

Solebury is seeking additional grants for the trail from the Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and the Township hopes to secure approval of that funding early in 2021.

The approved \$400,000 grant will cover one-third of the estimated \$1.2 million project, with the additional grants covering roughly an additional third and the Township paying \$400,000. All told, for every dollar Solebury spends, the Township expects to receive two additional dollars from state and regional grants.



The portion of the Route 202 Trail, highlighted in purple, runs along the PECO Energy high-tension lines right-of-way.

'Tis the Season to Eradicate the Spotted Lanternfly

The Spotted Lanternfly starts laying its eggs in the fall, and it's our duty to destroy them.

An existential threat to grape vines and stonefruit trees, as well as hardwoods and hops, the Spotted Lanternfly sucks the sap from trees and vines, killing them. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture says that the bug threatens \$18 billion worth of state agricultural production.

The greatest impact that individuals can have against this bug is now, in the fall egg-laying season, by seeking out, scraping and destroying its egg casings.

Egg Scraping

Identifying and eliminating egg casings can be a bit tricky. The pest lays its eggs on just about any hard surface it can find, including tree bark, cement blocks, or vehicle undercarriages. Some egg masses might be laid at the tops of trees. The eggs resemble smeared putty or bubble gum.

The eggs can be readily scraped off with a plastic card or putty knife, but be sure to scrape them into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer to

kill them. Smashing and burning the eggs can also be effective.

Every destroyed egg mass gets rid of 30 to 60 insects that would otherwise hatch out next spring, according to the Pa. Department of Agriculture.

While many efforts are under way to control the pest — scientists at Delaware Valley University are testing a trap; researchers at Cornell University are studying two fungi that have proven fatal to the bug — egg scraping remains, for the moment, the most effective and efficient way to reduce the Spotted Lanternfly population.

Host Eradication

The most common host plant is the Tree of Heaven. This invasive species thrives in our climate, grows rapidly and is especially difficult to control and eradicate. It is commonly found along roadsides and is occasionally used in landscaping. You can learn more about Tree of Heaven at the Penn State Extension Service website, extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven, where they have compiled extensive information on identifying and eliminating this plant.

Any shrub or tree that is hosting Spotted Lanternflies must be killed through herbicide applications and removed.

Chemical Control

Home remedies, often found online, will not be effective and can cause harm to people, pets and plants alike. Penn State Extension strongly recommends against any concoction made from items in your pantry or under the kitchen sink.

Pesticides are most effective against Spotted Lanternfly when applied in spring and early summer. Some direct sprays might be effective in the fall for individual plants and trees; contact a tree care professional to determine if chemical control would be an effective solution for your particular yard or garden.

More Information

The Solebury Township website has a page dedicated to keeping track of these pests at soleburytwp.org/pests. The web page offers links to information from agriculture departments and extension services, and other information gathered by the Township's Environmental Advisory Council.

Supervisors Review Police Practices

...continued from page 1

the best practices in law enforcement for training, experience and certification of its officers. A review of STPD data on arrests and traffic stops did not indicate incidence of racial bias by Solebury Police.

Special Department Accreditation. The Solebury Police Department carries special accreditation by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This accreditation has only been awarded to about 10 percent of the police departments in Pennsylvania.

None of the police departments for our surrounding communities carry this accreditation, which includes in its rules of community engagement procedures addressing de-escalation of stressful situations and sensitivity training. This training also includes cultural and ethnic bias awareness. The Department is audited by the Association every three years to assure ongoing compliance.

STPD Chief Dominick Bellizzie has been actively researching additional sources for anti-bias training and other areas outside the realm of "traditional policing" for Solebury's officers and announced at a Supervisors meeting in October that training of his force will include a diversity program through Pearl S. Buck International.

Use of Force. The Solebury Police Department has banned the use of "neck restraint

control techniques" since 2014, a ban which, by definition, includes choke holds. Given the events of this summer, Chief Bellizzie has updated the department's directive to specifically add the term "choke holds" as a prohibited police action.

There has not been an on-duty discharge of a weapon by a member of the Solebury Police Department — other than a "mercy" shooting of a critically injured animal or a shooting of a rabid animal — in at least 14 years, the entire tenure of the current Solebury police chief. Records are not available to indicate when a firearm was last discharged prior to this time.

Oversight, Transparency, and Cooperation. The Board of Supervisors reviews staffing and budget issues with Chief Bellizzie every September as part of the annual budget process. The Chief will continue to confer regularly with the Board to make appropriate changes.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved funding of body cameras for all Solebury officers. Every Police Department vehicle is already outfitted with a dashboard camera to record traffic stops.

In July, STPD compiled and posted to the Township website incident reports for the past three years. These reports will be updated at least annually, and will be available on the website for all to review.

A proposal for the creation of a citizens committee to review police procedures and

funding was submitted to the Board in June. After careful review, Board members do not currently see the need for a citizens committee. However, should new information arise or circumstances change, the Supervisors are prepared to quickly review this decision.

Racial Bias Statistics. the Board of Supervisors reviewed incident reports compiled by the Police Department for the period between Jan. 1, 2014, and Aug. 10, 2020. These reports did not offer any indication of racial bias, specifically:

- Of the 7,637 individuals receiving traffic citations in this timeframe, fewer than 2 percent were given to Black drivers, while White drivers received more than 90 percent, less than 1 percent to Asian drivers, and a little over six percent to those of unknown race;

- During the same period, of the 2,111 traffic stops not resulting in citations, 3 percent were Black drivers, 91 percent were White drivers, and less than six percent were of unknown race;

- The STPD made a total of 112 DUI arrests in this period. Three (2.7 percent) were Black and 109 (97.3 percent) were White; total arrests during this time totaled 357, 25 (7 percent) were Black, 329 (92.2 percent) were White, and 3 (0.8 percent) were of unknown race;

- The overwhelming majority of those arrested were not residents of Solebury Township or the immediate area.

Succesful Summer Camp a Safe, Fun Experience

The Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Summer Camp ended a very successful four week program with its final themed week, "Halloween Nights," that included a special magic show and guest gorilla! Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice changed into the gorilla costume during lunch to surprise and delight all, and get a few screams along the way.

face mask or face covering and individual hand sanitizers. Those who forgot, or lost one, were supplied replacements by the Township Camp Staff.

Each week involved a specific theme - Pirates, Cowboys and Indians, Christmas in July and Halloween Nights. Parents and campers alike were very excited and enthusiastic about the total commitment to

positive relationship with them.

Throughout the week, campers became creative with numerous arts and crafts projects, and enjoyed the newly renovated playground and a variety of sports activities on the athletic fields. "Pizza and Game Day" happened every Friday afternoon, with all participants winning prizes that they each selected from the "prize box."

An excellent staff took great pride in making this an exciting experience for everyone. Camp Director Dylan Lynch was joined by staff counselors Liam Lund, Meredith Maguire, Alissa Childers, and Kallie Hynes. Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice was on site every day.

Despite the situation and effects of the coronavirus, 62 campers enjoyed a fun filled outdoor adventure for four weeks over the summer of 2020. Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Summer Camp has previously been named the Pa. State Award winner for Excellence in Programming by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.



On the final day, Stuart Rudnick of Magic by Stuart entertained campers with a special display of magic tricks and illusions that he then taught to everyone, providing each with a bag of the actual props and instructions so that they could take them home to trick Mom and Dad!

This year, the Summer Camp was held at Pat Livezey Park as an "outdoor health and fitness camp" due to COVID-19 and in compliance with Pa. State and Bucks County Department of Health guidelines. Upon arrival, all campers and counselors had a forehead temperature check (non-contact) each day. Everyone brought their own

the "outdoor" approach for the camp.

Visiting weekly programs took place in the open-air Pavilion and included Mad Science hands-on workshops with Radioactive Rick, balloon sculpting by "Charmed" owner Charmain Jacquelin, karate by Black Belt Instructor Jarret Adams, owner of The Karate School in Plumstead, and Magic by Stuart.

The Solebury Township Police Department participated by having a different officer each week visit the camp and interact with the campers, providing an opportunity for them to get to know their local police officers and establish a



Ready for Winter Storm Season?

Use Generators Safely...

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.

If It's Cold Outside...

- ✳ Keep a screen around fireplace fires. Never use gas or other flammable liquids to start or quicken a fire. Don't close the damper while ashes are hot.
- ✳ If the indoor temperature drops to 55 degrees Fahrenheit or below, prevent pipes from freezing by opening faucets slightly so that they drip constantly.
- ✳ Open blinds during the day to let the sun warm the space.
- ✳ Cover windows with drapes or blankets at night to minimize heat loss.
- ✳ Never use a gas range for room heating.
- ✳ Wear extra clothing and a hat to prevent the loss of body heat, or seek shelter at a warming center or the home of friends or family.

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/residential/service-outage

XFINITY (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or www.xfinity.com/support/status

Attending Virtual Committee Meetings: How to Zoom

With the Board of Supervisors and the Township's advisory committees holding meetings via video conference for the foreseeable future, public participation is also making the switch to digital. There are several ways to join in, none of them too complicated.

In advance of every meeting, participation instructions are posted on the Township website, along with the meeting agenda and relevant documents. Just click on the board or committee you're interested in under the Government tab and scroll down to Agendas.

To join the meeting on the Zoom platform, you can download the app for your iPhone or Android device, or go to zoom.us from any web browser. Using the meeting ID and password from the meeting notice, you can watch, listen, and participate in public comment sessions.

If you know your way around Zoom, the easiest way to make a comment is to use the "hands up" icon and wait for the meeting monitor to recognize you. Or you can sign up in advance with an email to soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org before the deadline listed in the notice.

If you don't want to Zoom, you can still send your comments. Either email them to the address above, or send them by USPS to Solebury Township Building, PO Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963. Your comments will be read into the record, either by the board or committee chair or by the meeting monitor.

Just like an in-person meeting, you'll need to give your name and address along with any comments submitted via Zoom or in writing.

Additional details, like any time limits and deadlines for comments, will be posted in the meeting notice on the Township website.

Township Directory

Police:

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-8201.
General Inquiries: Police2@soleburytpd.org

Administration:

Township Number: 215-297-5656
General Inquiries: soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org

Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org

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

LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator
Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytpw.org

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

Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org
Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,
police@soleburytpd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org **Vice-Chair Kevin Morrissey** kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Noel Barrett nbarrett@soleburytpw.org **Supervisor John Francis** jfrancis@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Robert A. McEwan
rmcewan@soleburytpw.org

Township Calendar

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

*Instructions on joining virtual meetings are
posted on the Township website.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

November

11/2 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
11/5 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session
11/9 Solebury Township Planning Commission
11/10 Environmental Advisory Council
11/17 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
11/19 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
11/19 Parks & Recreation Board
11/24 Solebury Farm Committee

December

12/7 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
12/8 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
12/8 Environmental Advisory Council
12/9 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
12/14 Solebury Township Planning Commission
12/17 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
12/17 Parks & Recreation Board
12/29 Solebury Farm Committee

January

1/4 9:30 a.m. Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: [SoleburyTwp.org](https://www.soleburytpw.org) and click "Email Notices."*