



The Solebury Messenger

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Fall Issue

October 2021

PennDOT Readies Extensive Repairs This Fall

The state Department of Transportation is undertaking major repairs on Solebury roads in the aftermath of storm damage from Hurricane Ida on Sept. 1.

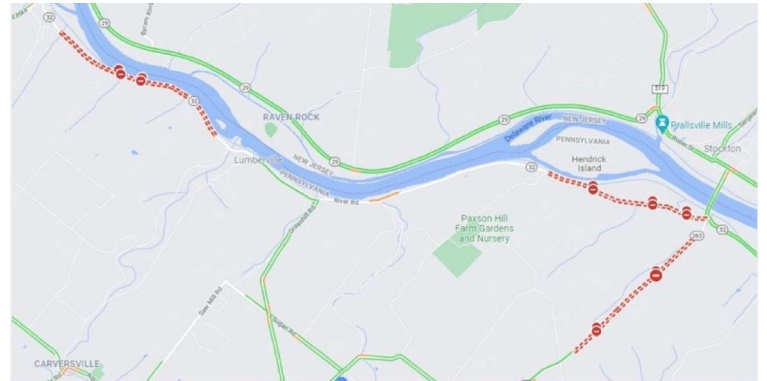
Stretches of River Road sustained significant damage. Demolition has begun on the road just north of Route 263 to prepare for construction of a new bridge, while initial repairs have been completed on the bridge on River Road just north of Fleecy Dale Road, with a full bridge replacement likely in late spring or early summer. Repairs are set to begin Nov. 1 on River Road north of Fleecy Dale and south of Old Ferry Road.

Route 263 from River Road to Center Bridge Road remains closed in preparation for a road replacement project. Center Bridge Road remains open for local traffic.

Beginning Nov. 1, Fleecy Dale Road will be closed between Old Carversville Road and River Road for road repairs due to storm damage. This project is expected to be completed in late December.

The map below shows closures in place on and near River Road.

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PECO Plans Infrastructure Upgrades in Solebury During 2022

PECO is gearing up to spend much of 2022 upgrading the electrical infrastructure in Solebury Township. The effort is part of the utility's Reliability & Resiliency Plan, which is focused on improvements that will help prevent outages, modernize the electric grid, and reduce damage caused by severe weather.

In the Township, PECO will be upgrading and installing new poles and tree-resistant aerial wires, and adding devices that can stop the flow of electricity on the line if a problem occurs and automatically restore electricity where possible.

As part of this work, the utility will begin an enhanced vegetation management program, which includes tree trimming and tree removals.

The tree trimming work will begin in early 2022, with the wire line and pole replacement projects slated to begin once the tree management program is complete. All work should be completed by the end of 2022.

PECO will be notifying its Solebury customers of these projects in the coming weeks, and will alert homeowners well in advance of any tree work that might be necessary on their properties. Much of the work will occur along Green

Hill, River, Phillips Mill, Stoney Hill, Aquetong, Lower Mountain, Street, Windy Bush, Mechanicsville and Sugaun roads.

Crews may need to temporarily interrupt electric service to safely complete some of this work. PECO will work with customers to ensure they are informed in advance of their activities and any planned interruptions. To ensure you receive all outage updates, please confirm that your phone number is accurate in PECO's system, through the MyAccount page on the utility's website at peco.com/myaccount, or by calling PECO at 1-800-494-4000.

Ribbon Cutting for Aquetong Spring Park Marks Official Opening

Solebury Township hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Aquetong Spring Park on Sept. 24 to mark the official opening of its new 48-acre park. With most of the major construction now completed, the park is now open for public use. Solebury's vision for the space includes a recreational, interpretive and educational resource in a passive setting that emphasizes its environmentally-sensitive location and surroundings.

Many natural trails wind their way throughout the park, in addition to the paved trail connector that parallels Route 202. Directional signs are located along the pathways, along with benches and overlook areas. A trail and site map can be downloaded

from the Solebury Township website. Water from the spring cascades over a waterfall, then meanders through the twists and turns of the stream as it makes its way to the Delaware River.

The Aquetong Spring property was purchased by Solebury Township in 2009 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The site contains one of the largest cold-water limestone springs in the state, a substantial waterfall, several historic structures and buildings, and a large area of woodlands, natural growth, animal habitats and abundant wildlife.

In addition to being a valuable natural resource, the spring has a rich historical and cultural heritage. The water flow from the spring was a primary source for the hydro-power that facilitated the many downstream flour, saw and paper mills which ushered in the

industrial development of the area. Remains of some of these old buildings, mills, and a kiln with twin ovens can be found downstream from the spring.

Early records indicate that Aquetong Spring was a favorite resort and camp ground for various Native American Indian tribes. The Leni-Lenape Native Americans of the Delaware Tribe have a historic presence at the site dating back to the early 1600s.



At left, the ribbon is cut, officially opening Aquetong Spring Park. Right: Lenape Chief Chuck Gentlemoon DeMund offers a traditional prayer near the site of the Tribe's 1640s-era village. Photos by Carol Ross, courtesy of Bridget Wingert and the Bucks County Herald.



PennDOT Readies Extensive Repairs This Fall

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Many of the roads in Solebury Township are state roads, maintained by PennDOT. The Department provides a website with real-time updates of current and upcoming closures and repairs, where you can check the status of the state roads in the Township. Point your browser to www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-6/Pages/Philly-Regional-Traffic-Bulletin.aspx to visit the site and scroll down to

using your web browser's "find" function to quickly step through each listing.

State Roads in Solebury:

*Aquetong Road ~ Carversville Road
Fleecydale Road ~ Green Hill Road
Lower York Road ~ Mechanicsville Road
Phillips Mill Road ~ River Road ~ Stoney Hill Road
Sugan Road (Paxson Road to Upper York Road)
Upper York Road ~ Windy Bush Road*

What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."

Bucks County, or search for "Solebury"

Parks & Recreation Has Begun Installing Memorial Benches

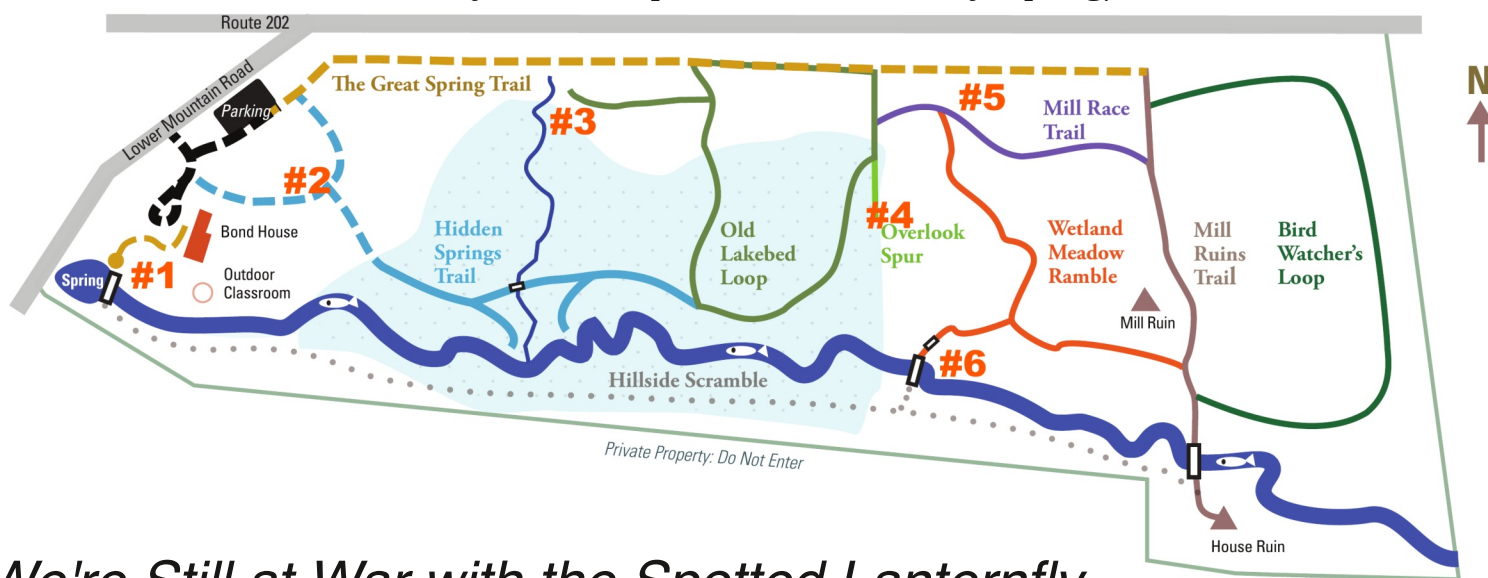
Six memorial benches have now been installed at Aquetong Spring Park and their locations added to the map below. The Memorial Bench Program allows residents to buy a bench in honor of a loved one. Memorial benches are 6-foot long, made of recycled materials, and installed "in-ground." A plaque is also included which is mounted on the top backrest.

Benches can also be installed in any one of Solebury's parks and the purchaser can select the park. The exact location of the bench within the park will be determined by Solebury Township.

The cost of a memorial bench is \$1,000 and includes the recognition plaque and installation. Contact Solebury Township at



soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org or call 215-297-5702 for more information. The bench order form and information can be downloaded from the Township website at www.soleburytwp.org/bench.



We're Still at War with 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.

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.



Keep a storm kit at the ready

Whether its a late-season hurricane or a gusty nor'easter, keeping your household prepared can be the difference between an event and an emergency. Having a few simple items in a "go bag" is an important part of being prepared for severe weather.

Flashlights, a battery-powered radio and clock, car chargers for your phone, first aid supplies, cash and copies of critical information should be at the ready before a storm hits. Extra batteries and a three-day backup of medications should also be in your kit.

Build your supplies over time, adding a few items each week or month, and be sure to check and replace any items that go bad over time.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests

that your storm kit provides for these basic needs:

- **Emergency Communication.**

Make sure you have everything you'll need to get in touch with your family either through cellular phones or email.

- **Medical Needs.**

Be equipped to tend to any current or unexpected medical conditions your family may have.

- **Critical Documents.**

Place any important documents in a waterproof container to help keep them dry and easily accessible.

- **Tools and Safety Items.**

Small items like matches, flashlights, a multi-purpose tool, and a whistle can make a huge difference for your family while weathering the storm.

- **Food/Supplies.**

Have at least a three-day supply of



non-perishable food and water for your family. Remember to pack anything specific to your family's needs.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation.**

Sanitizer, wet wipes, paper towels.

- **Gear for the Weather.**

Protect yourself by packing warm clothes and blankets; don't forget protective footwear and gloves, too.

- **Comfort & Priceless Items.**

Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially your children, and toys for the pets.

Pantry provisions: what to have on hand

Emergency preparedness guidelines recommend that we all keep three days of food and water on hand for each member of the family (pets, too) to weather a severe storm or other major event. But what constitutes emergency food, anyway?

Can you cook if the power goes out? A fireplace, outdoor grill or camp stove will meet your needs, along with a sturdy pot and skillet (non-stick cookware isn't meant for fireplace cooking, but cast iron is). Make sure your storm supplies match your equipment: Think instant rice, not risotto.

Water: One gallon per person per day. But water can get boring quickly, so cold-brew tea bags and powdered drink mix can liven things up.

Buy canned and jarred food that can be finished in one meal. Without a working

refrigerator, leftovers are off the menu. Canned beans, potted meat, seafood and chili are good protein sources; a variety of jarred veggies will help balance the meal. Keep a manual can opener handy.

Root vegetables and long-lasting fruit, like oranges and melons, are good to have on hand if purchased right before a storm hits.

For packaged food, stick with high protein items that are filling. Instant oatmeal, single-serving packages of cereal, peanut butter and nut butters are good staples. If you can boil water, you can make pasta with a small jar of store-bought sauce.

Snacks help fend off cabin fever. Candy, cookies, pudding cups; crackers, seeds and nuts, as long as they're low in salt to prevent thirstiness; granola and trail mix all have long shelf-life.

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

Autumn Leaves: Do's and Don'ts for the Environment

The fall season means falling leaves, the last mow of the lawn, and a pile of trimmings and clippings in preparation for winter. Whether you've contracted with a landscaping company or prefer to tend to the yard yourself, here are a few considerations to keep in mind to protect our environment, respect our neighbors and keep our roadways safe.

Composting is good for the environment. A well-maintained compost pile enriches the soil, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, gives a home to beneficial bacteria and lowers your carbon footprint. You should site your compost pile in a dry, shady spot near a water source and away from the road, and feed it a mix of untreated green and brown yard trimmings. For more information on composting, the US Department of Environmental Protection has an informational website at www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

Scattering grass clippings in the road is bad for the environment. Township equipment can't vacuum up grass clippings, and the next storm will wash them down the

catch basins, clogging inlets and choking streams. These cuttings themselves are not healthy for our water ecology, let alone any herbicides and pesticides that they may contain.

Wet leaves are a roadway hazard. Even when dry, leaves hide road obstacles and obscure pavement markings; when wet they are as slick as ice. The Township works diligently to remove leaves from our roads, primarily to keep drivers safe from slipping and skidding conditions. While Solebury has a single leaf collection truck to gather and distribute leaves to local farmers for mulch, large leaf piles left at the edge of the road are a safety concern — they block drivers' vision, reduce the size of the running lane and all too frequently blow out across the roadway.

Three things you can do to help. Get started with composting and mulching your clippings and leaves. Get involved with Solebury's Environmental Advisory Council, where the Township develops plans and programs for leaf management and other ecological concerns. Notify the Township about large leaf piles at the roadside or material blown into the street — the quicker our crews know about it, the faster we can collect it.

Block Communications

FOOD DRIVE



**HELP DONATE TO THOSE IN HUNGER!
ACCEPTING CANNED FOOD AND
NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS**

Oct 1-30 | **Solebury Police Dept.**
3092 Sugan Rd PA

Block Communications annual food drive. Support participating Police, Fire and EMS stations with thier food drive allows each resident to make a difference.
All food donations will go to Philabundance first week of November.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT 215-230-8840

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SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION HALLOWEEN NIGHT

OCTOBER 31 from 6 to 8 P.M.

**STOP BY AND SEE US AT THE CORNER OF
NORWALK WAY & KITCHEN'S LANE IN NORTH POINTE**

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT
*We will be handing out
special lighted items to help
make our kids more visible.*



***IT'S ALL FREE ...
SEE YOU THERE!***

Solebury Celebrates Land Preservation

On a lovely September afternoon, the Land Preservation Committee held an event to celebrate more than 25 years of successful efforts to preserve the natural beauty of Solebury Township. The event was held at the Berlinger farm on Saw Mill Road, a sprawling 60+ acre property that epitomizes the farming heritage of the township.

The more than 40 attendees included owners of properties with conservation easements and officials from the township and several conservancies.

Speaking to the group, LPC chairman Edric Mason outlined the accomplishments. "Over the past 25 years, voters

overwhelmingly approved five referenda to fund this popular program with up to \$56 million," Mason said. To date, nearly 40 percent of the

Township's land has been permanently preserved.

"We still have funds for this program and efforts will continue to protect more of Solebury's natural resources."

If you are interested in learning more about this

important program, contact Jean Weiss, program administrator, at 215-297-5656 or jweiss@soleburytwp.org.



Board of Supervisors Chair Mark Baum Baicker addresses the assembled group on the importance of the Land Preservation Program. Photo by Elaine Crooks.

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@soleburytwp.org

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

EAC Administrator Debra McFadden:
dmcfadden@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator Nicole Slack:
nslack@soleburytwp.org

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

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

Right-To-Know Officers

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

Board of Supervisors

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

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

Supervisor Robert A. McEwan
rmcewan@soleburytwp.org

Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
Instructions on virtual meetings are posted on the Township website.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

November

11/4 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session
11/8 Solebury Township Planning Commission
11/9 Environmental Advisory Council
11/10 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
11/16 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
11/17 Parks & Recreation Board
11/18 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
11/30 Solebury Farm Committee

December

12/6 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
12/7 Environmental Advisory Council
12/8 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
12/13 Solebury Township Planning Commission
12/14 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
12/15 Parks & Recreation Board
12/16 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
12/28 Solebury Farm Committee

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."*