



# The Solebury Messenger

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## **B.Y.O.Bag:** *Township Bans Single-Use Plastics*

Solebury Township's ban on single-use plastics is now in effect, so be sure to have your reusable totes on hand when shopping in the Township.

Stores will still be allowed to use plastic bags to bundle produce, keep meat juices from leaking and to protect food from other non-food items like detergent, but when it comes time to check out, you'll need to pack things in your own reusable bag or purchase a recyclable bag from the store.

The ban comes after several years of review and discussion by the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee, which became increasingly concerned about single-use plastic bags and polystyrene containers polluting the environment and clogging drainage systems.

At a forum hosted by the Board of Supervisors three years ago, residential recycling providers explained that plastic bags pose significant problems for their equipment, clogging and damaging their sorting machines, requiring them to ban the bags from their bins.

And while some retail chain stores collect single-use plastic bags for recycling,

their efforts account for just a tiny percentage of all the shops, take-out restaurants, convenience stores and a myriad of other establishments that have made plastics their go-to packaging.

Like all of the Township's ordinances, the single-use plastics ban is a work in progress, subject to occasional amendments to tweak the law so that it best fulfills its purpose. Last month, for example, at the request of retail merchant associations, the language of the bill was changed to better accommodate the types of bags grocers use to wrap produce, which is an acceptable use under the ordinance.

In addition to produce bags, the new law also exempts dry cleaner bags, home delivery newspaper wrappers, and bags provided by the state-operated liquor stores.

### ***Climate and Energy Forum Set for October***

Solebury Township will hold a Climate and Energy Forum on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the New Hope Solebury High School Cafeteria, 182 West Bridge Street, New Hope, Pa. The public is encouraged to attend.

## **Aqua Scuttles Bid To Buy BCWSA Assets**

Aqua Pennsylvania withdrew its bid to purchase the wastewater assets of Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, after strong public opposition from many of the municipalities that would be affected by the sale and statements against the takeover by county commissioners.

The Solebury Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution in August opposing the sale. The resolution noted that Aqua Pennsylvania has a history of buying-out municipal wastewater operators and imposing steep rate hikes on their customers.

Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority is the largest single provider of water and sewer services in the County, serving over 100,000 customers. In Solebury, BCWSA provides sewer service to approximately 1,000 households.

The end of Aqua's takeover bid does not mean future rate hikes are off the table: BCWSA plans to issue \$210 million in ratepayer-supported bonds to fund repairs, which means sewer customers can expect to see a 4 to 5 percent increase in future bills.

#### **What's in Your Inbox?**

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) and click "Email Notices."

# There's No Better Time to Go Solar

## *Landmark Legislation Expands Credits for Alternative Home Energy*

With President Biden's signature on Aug. 16, the Inflation Reduction Act is now law, bringing with it several incentives to help Americans transition to more clean and sustainable sources of energy.

One of the biggest changes affecting homeowners who want to help the environment is the extension and expansion of the solar tax credit, more formally known as Residential Clean Energy credit on federal income tax. Originally set to be reduced this year and next before being eliminated, the Inflation Reduction Act increases this tax credit to 30 percent and extends it for another decade.

The new law also offers subsidies to homeowners who upgrade to more efficient appliances, including replacing older heating systems with heat pumps and switching to electric water heaters and kitchen stoves. These rebates could cover up to \$14,000 of each household's transition costs, and making the switch to efficient technologies can save homeowners as much as \$1,840 each year in reduced energy costs.

If you've been thinking about adding solar panels to your home but have been waiting for the right time to make the move, this might be the year. The benefits to the environment are abundant and the investment will pay off with a lower PECO bill.

Solar panels produce clean energy from a renewable

source, and each kilowatt-hour generated by solar panels substantially reduces the pollution caused by coal- and gas-burning electric generating stations.

The occasional cloudy sky is no problem for solar energy — our region's weather patterns provide for good-to-excellent amounts of sunlight for photovoltaic cells, which collect both direct and scattered light. Germany, which has a similar climate to ours, gets more than 8 percent of its power from solar, using everything from small rooftop systems to large utility-scale solar parks.

Residential solar installations are connected to the grid, so that when your system generates more power than you are using, the excess power is sold back to power companies, and when your home is drawing more power than the solar panels provide, you can use power from PECO just as you do now. PECO calls this "net metering," and you can read more about it on the utility's website at [www.peco.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPowerConnection/Pages/SolarforHomeBusiness.aspx](http://www.peco.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPowerConnection/Pages/SolarforHomeBusiness.aspx).

An investment in residential solar panels will likely boost your home's value, according to several studies compiled by the US Department of Energy on its website, [www.energy.gov/energysaver/benefits-residential-solar-electricity](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/benefits-residential-solar-electricity). Buyers are willing to pay a premium for

homes with solar installations, and one study shows that adding solar to a residence adds about \$15,000 on average to a home's sale value.

In Solebury, the permit process for installing solar panels is no more complicated than adding any other accessory structure to your property, according to Solebury Zoning Officer Zachary Zubris. Of course, if you live in the regulated historic districts of Carversville and Phillip's Mill, you will need to meet Historical Architectural Review Board design guidelines, just like any other project that affects the visual impact of the property.

A reputable installer should be able to manage the permit process for a new installation for you, process the paperwork involved in connecting to the electric grid with PECO Net Metering, and register for Solar Renewable Energy Credits, which can be cashed-in at once to help defray installation cost, sold on a contract over time or traded on the spot market. Visit [www.solarunitedneighbors.org/learn-the-issues/solar-incentives/solar-renewable-energy-credits-srecs/](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/learn-the-issues/solar-incentives/solar-renewable-energy-credits-srecs/) to learn more.

A federal income tax credit is available for solar installations. You can read more about the Solar ITC on the federal Energy Department website, [www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics](http://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics).

## Land Preservation Story: Elaine Crooks

My father-in-law, Forrest C. Crooks, told his family a story about an encounter he had on a trans-Atlantic cruise in the 1930s. While getting acquainted with a fellow passenger, he was asked where he lived in the United States. Apparently, he replied that he lived in a most beautiful place, with rolling hills, forests, farmland, creeks and historic buildings. His fellow passenger replied "Solebury?"

While things have changed a lot in the past 100 years, Solebury Township remains a lovely and charming area in which to live. That Solebury is an oasis in the middle of rampant development is due in no small part to the township's Land Preservation Program.

The Crooks family's decision to preserve our farm was made years before Solebury had a preservation program. Fifty-five of our 70 acre farm on Upper York Road was gifted over time to the Bucks County Conservancy (now Heritage Conservancy) beginning in the late 1970s. We were able to give percentages of the whole over a period of time, and during that period there were significant federal income tax advantages. The gift was totally completed just a few years ago. The Crooks family

continues to have the right to live on and farm our property. We recently put a township conservation easement on the property as an added layer of protection.

Since the late 1980s the township's preservation program has offered the chance to protect your property while still owning it. There also may be opportunities for tax advantages.

Tuckamony Farm has been in the Crooks family for nearly 100 years and growing and selling Christmas Trees for nearly 90 years. Some of the fourth generation now live on the property and help out at Christmas time. Our woods, pond and marsh are often used by neighboring Bucks County Audubon Society for their environmental education programs.

We are grateful that this lovely piece of Solebury will remain a beautiful and peaceful place for future generations.

For more information visit [soleburytwp.org](http://soleburytwp.org) or call Jean Weiss, administrator of the program, at 215-297-5656.

*Elaine Crooks has worked with the Township Land Preservation Program for many years and currently serves on the Land Preservation Committee.*

## Central Bucks EMS: Consider Subscribing

Did you know an ambulance bill can reach as much as \$2,000 or more? Unfortunately most insurance companies may only cover a small portion of that expense if any at all. The balance is billed to you, the responsible party.

Please consider membership to the Central Bucks Emergency Medical Services. Not only will you be supporting an invaluable service to our Community, a subscription can save you thousands of dollars in ambulance service fees.

By becoming a subscriber, the CBEMS will waive unpaid balances for medically necessary emergency services, after the health insurance company processes their bill. Your deductible may be larger than the cost of service, in which case you would only be responsible for half the bill as a subscriber.

\$75 per year Family Subscription covers all adults and any children under age 18 in residing in the household.

\$50 per year Individual Subscription covers an individual living by themselves OR a child over 18 still living with their parents.

To learn more about subscription coverages visit [www.CBEMS.org](http://www.CBEMS.org) or call 215-348-3343.

## DOs and DON'Ts When Closing Your Pool for the Season

Pool treatment chemicals are great for people but dangerous to fish. Know how to properly drain your pool this fall.

**Don't dump pool water down the storm sewer.** Storm sewers drain directly into our natural streams and creeks.

**Do drain the water into a sanitary sewage system.** Wastewater systems are designed to

neutralize any chemicals in the water, making them safe for the environment.

If a sewage system isn't an option, **slowly pump the water over a grassy area**, to allow for natural filtration into the ground. Take your time to prevent erosion.

**Never discharge pool water** directly into creeks or ponds.



## 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](http://www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx)

**Verizon** 1-800-837-4966 or [www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage](http://www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage)

**XFINITY** (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or [www.xfinity.com/support/status](http://www.xfinity.com/support/status)

# 2022 Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Arts & Crafts, Sports, Science and More!

A total of 53 campers enjoyed a very successful outdoor Summer Camp experience at Pat Livezey Park this summer. The Parks & Rec camp operated Mondays to Fridays for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for five "very warm" summer days. Camp activities included sports programs, theme days, arts & crafts, music, science programs, water programs to cool down during the summer heat wave, karate instruction, balloon sculpting, magic shows, and other special events and activities designed for young children.



2022 camp counselors, with Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice



Solebury's Police Department visited each week with various police vehicles and equipment, along with the K-9 unit and their dog, "Blitz".

Other special events included Mad Science of West New Jersey, Stuart the Magician, and Jarrett Adams karate instruction from Plumsteadville. Special arts & crafts projects engaged campers in making "pet rocks" and model magic clay artwork.



## Everybody's buzzing about the Community Spelling Bee!

Adult team competition on Fri., Oct. 7, 7pm at NH-S High School Theater  
Donation at door | "Tip" the honey pots of your favorite teams

The Bee is the grand finale of Buzzathon Week (Oct. 1-7). Bee involved by attending programs, buying tickets for our bee-dazzling raffle baskets or participating in our first-ever Bananagrams tournament.

Learn more at [nhslibrary.org/buzzathon-2022](http://nhslibrary.org/buzzathon-2022)

All proceeds support the library's operating expenses.



**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!**



## Last Household Waste Recycling Event for 2022

Bucks County is hosting the last of three household hazardous waste recycling events this year in Richland.

Pesticides, paints, weed killer—toxic chemicals are found in many household products, and when they are no longer needed they need to be disposed of safely. Every year the county sponsors recycling events for residents to responsibly discard these hazardous materials.

**October 8, 2022**

Upper Bucks  
Strayer Middle School  
1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown  
Richland Township

Please note that no electronics, including televisions and computers, will be accepted this year due to a change in state law. This program is available to Bucks County residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.

## Supervisors Revise Public Comment Time

The Board of Supervisors is scheduling all public comment for the end of its meetings, after the meeting's business has been completed. Please note that there will not be an early public comment period at the beginning of meetings. The sign-up procedure and time limits for public comment remain the same, only the order of when comments occur in the meeting has changed.

All Township boards and committees continue to hold hybrid meetings, both in person and using the Zoom video platform. Instructions for Zoom are posted on the Township website with each agenda in advance of the meeting.

### Township Directory

#### Police:

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-8201.  
General Inquiries: [Police2@soleburytpd.org](mailto:Police2@soleburytpd.org)

#### Administration:

Township Number: 215-297-5656  
General Inquiries: [soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org)

**Township Manager Christopher Garges:**  
[soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org)

**EAC Administrator Debra McFadden:**  
[dmcfadden@soleburytpw.org](mailto:dmcfadden@soleburytpw.org)

**HARB Administrator Zachary Zubris:**  
[zzubris@soleburytpw.org](mailto:zzubris@soleburytpw.org)

**LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator**  
**Jean Weiss:** [jweiss@soleburytpw.org](mailto:jweiss@soleburytpw.org)

**Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:**  
[soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org)

#### Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,  
[soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org)  
Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,  
[police@soleburytpd.org](mailto:police@soleburytpd.org)

### Board of Supervisors

**Chair Mark Baum Baicker** **Vice-Chair John Francis**  
[mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org](mailto:mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org) [jfrancis@soleburytpw.org](mailto:jfrancis@soleburytpw.org)

**Supervisor Hanna Howe** **Supervisor Robert A. McEwan**  
[hhowe@soleburytpw.org](mailto:hhowe@soleburytpw.org) [rmcewan@soleburytpw.org](mailto:rmcewan@soleburytpw.org)

**Supervisor Kevin Morrissey**  
[kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org](mailto:kmorrissey@soleburytpw.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.*

#### October

10/6 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session  
10/11 Environmental Advisory Council  
10/18 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors  
10/20 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee  
10/27 Parks & Recreation Board

#### November

11/1 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session  
11/7 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board  
11/9 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)  
11/10 Environmental Advisory Council  
11/14 Solebury Township Planning Commission  
11/15 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors  
11/16 Parks & Recreation Board  
11/17 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee  
11/29 Solebury Farm Committee

#### December

12/5 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board  
12/6 Environmental Advisory Commission  
12/12 Solebury Township Planning Commission  
12/13 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors  
12/14 Parks & Recreation Board  
12/15 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee

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