



The Solebury Messenger

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July 2019

Update on Verizon Services in Solebury

The Board of Supervisors has long sought to work with utilities to provide additional Internet and TV offerings in Solebury to increase choices and lower prices for the community. With that in mind, supervisors Kevin Morrissey and Mark Baum Baicker met with two Verizon directors of external affairs on July 1. The agenda focused on three topics: The possibility of making FIOS television and Internet services available in Solebury; the timetable for the introduction of "5G," the next generation of cellular/broadband communication; and the possibility of improving Verizon's existing cellular service in the Township.

Supervisors have discussed FIOS service with Verizon representatives for over a year. In previous meetings, the company said that its current policy does not anticipate expanding FIOS into areas that are currently without it. Morrissey has repeatedly pressed Verizon about the possibility of making an exception, since Solebury is one of the few municipalities without FIOS service surrounded by neighboring townships that have it. At the July 1 meeting, Verizon's representatives said that they have decided that FIOS expansion is not possible due to the multi-million dollar cost.

The rollout of "5G" technology is the next big step for wireless communication companies, including Verizon. The Verizon representatives said it is likely to take a number of years to reach Solebury as the system builds out from Philadelphia. Unlike current broadband service, the new system will rely on small, less intrusive cellular transmitter boxes strategically placed in a community.

The Verizon representatives also reviewed their cellular signal strength map in the Township. Baum Baicker and Morrissey pointed out that there are certain areas with very low or no signal strength. With the assistance of Assistant Township Manager Michele Blood and Solebury Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie, a map of weak cellular signal areas was provided to Verizon. The Verizon representatives have made a commitment to work with their engineers to significantly

improve signal strength in those weak signal areas. While the company brought up the possibility of additional signal towers, neither Baum Baicker nor Morrissey believe that is a viable alternative.

The Verizon representatives committed to providing an update on efforts to improve signal strength over the next several weeks. Morrissey and Baum Baicker both said that they would follow up to ensure that this cellular service improvement is initiated as soon as possible. Additionally, Morrissey indicated he would check with Verizon occasionally on the progress of "5G" in Solebury.

As other communication vendors become available, the Township is prepared to meet with them and determine if they can provide competitive services, both in quality and cost, to Solebury residents.

Baseball Champs: 10-Year-Old Spiders

Our 10-year-old Solebury Spiders boys baseball team won its Championship game against powerhouse Levittown by a score of 4-0, with Chase Winsor pitching a complete game shutout. The team finished with an 8-3 regular season record, including winning their last 6 games.



What's in Your Inbox?

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

Help Support a K9 Officer in Solebury

The Solebury Township Police Department is soliciting donations to support a police trained K-9.

The dog will be trained to help Officers locate missing persons, suspects, evidence and handle related patrol functions.

This program will be fully funded by private donations and police department fundraising. The funds will support the future purchase and training for the K-9. This includes: cost of food, boarding, veterinary services, vehicle modification, equipment and maintenance.

Solebury Police are grateful for any assistance provided as we embark on this fundraising effort to ensure we maintain the safety of the community. Any donation will be much appreciated.

Interested Business/Corporate sponsors can email pdsupervisors@soleburypd.org for more information.

You can send a donation payable to Solebury Township to: Solebury Township, 3092 Sугan Road, PO Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963, C/O Police K-9.

River League Champions



In girls softball, Solebury Team A (the "Blue Brigade") won the 10-year-old River League Championship after completing a fantastic 17-3 regular season, and then an upset, doubleheader sweep of top-seeded Plumstead Township to secure the title.

Township Directory

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 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@soleburypd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org **Vice-Chair John Francis** jfrancis@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Noel Barrett nbarrett@soleburytpw.org **Supervisor Robert A. McEwan** rmcewan@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Kevin Morrissey
kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org

Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

July

7/16 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
7/18 Land Preservation Committee
7/29 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

August

8/5 Historical Architectural Review Board
8/12 Planning Commission
8/13 Environmental Advisory Council
8/14 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
8/15 Land Preservation Committee
8/20 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
8/26 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee
8/27 Solebury Farm Committee

September

9/3 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
9/9 Historical Architectural Review Board
9/9 Planning Commission
9/10 Environmental Advisory Council
9/11 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
9/17 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
9/19 Land Preservation Committee
9/26 Parks & Recreation Board
9/30 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

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

Finding Community Consensus on Route 202 Concepts

There is near-universal agreement that Route 202 is already at the point of maximum capacity. This is the primary reason the Board felt that we needed to study the alternatives for dealing with the inevitability of additional building along 202 while not increasing the burden on the roadway itself. The Board's overriding goal is to improve traffic flow on 202, both currently and into the future.

At the June 18 meeting, we presented a visual depiction of a possible approach to tackling two recognized issues along 202: Improving the flow on 202 in anticipation of increased traffic due to private land development, and the land development itself. The study, which was conducted over the last few months, focused on the area around Logan Square designated in the township's Comprehensive Plan as the "Traditional Neighborhood Commercial" (TNC) district.

In the course of conducting the study, we sought input from many people in the

community, and our traffic consultant provided input as to how any growth could be handled by making changes to road design in the area. At this meeting, our consultants presented visual imagery of a possible approach. We must clarify that the presentation was **not** meant in any way to be an "endorsement" of that or any other approach. Our concept was to view the consultants' presentation, invite resident comments, and then hold a series of open community meetings at which any and all in attendance could provide their input. The thought was that this would put us in the best position to evaluate forthcoming proposals from private property owners along Route 202.

We have already received a great deal of feedback. While some of it has been positive, significant concerns have been expressed about the specific images shown, their scope and scale, their appropriateness for Solebury, and the potential impact on our water resources. It is now

clear to the Board that while the effort to "get out in front of" further development on Route 202 was—and is—the correct approach, the June 18 presentation was not effective in getting that across, as it led to a focus on a specific vision of structures—not the 202 corridor itself. We therefore believe that a "reset" is now appropriate, as we move forward with continued community input and seek consensus.

A number of those who have responded already have opined that while they are not happy with the current situation along 202, they would prefer the status quo to the vision reviewed on June 18. As indicated, we believe that we are on the verge of receiving multiple proposals for new construction in the 202 corridor. That would mean that "doing nothing" is not an option.

The first in a series of community meetings will be held on **Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 7-9 p.m.**, immediately following the regularly-scheduled 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors meeting. Our next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16 at 6 p.m. Due to limited time availability for public comment at that meeting, we are requesting that you **hold your 202 comments** until the dedicated August meeting. If you cannot attend that meeting, please send your comments by email

(robert4solebury@gmail.com) or USPS (Solebury Township, P.O. Box 139, Solebury PA 18963).

Overall League Champion 9-Year-Olds



The 9-year-old Solebury Spiders boys baseball team went 11-1 during the regular season to win the overall League Championship. The team followed that by going 3-0 to win the Branchburg Blast Tournament.

Remembering Malcolm Crooks

There is little about the natural beauty of Solebury today that was not tended with great care, for many decades, by Malcolm Crooks. A founding member and tireless volunteer for land preservation and watershed protection, Malcolm lived his creed: Walk gently on the earth.

He served on the Township's first planning commission. He helped found both the Honey Hollow and Aquetong watershed associations. He provided invaluable guidance to the Bucks County Audubon Society, Bucks County Conservation District, Heritage Conservancy preservation program, Bucks County Planning Commission and several organizations. And he pioneered Solebury's land preservation program. Malcolm's devotion to stewardship of our environment inspired many and helped guide the mission of the township.

A lifelong Solebury Resident, Malcolm grew up on Tuckamony Farm, which has been operated by the Crooks family since 1929. For over four decades his professional career focused on wildlife management and land conservation in West Virginia and New Jersey, serving 20 years as a regional representative at the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Malcolm served on Solebury's first Planning Commission from 1956 to 1963, and was the first landowner in the township to permanently preserve his 70-acre farm. After retirement, he focused his skills full-time on maintaining a sustainable community in Solebury.

"I was very intent on working with the township to get planning established," he said in a 2010 oral history interview with the Solebury Township Historical Society. "The objective of this was to preserve as much good agricultural land and



Malcolm Crooks, Conservationist.
Photo by Bob Krist.

critical areas as possible for environmental improvement. Wholesale development is not in the cards because of our land preservation program."

Asked if he had a message for

future generations of Solebury residents, Malcolm Crooks, a longtime fixture at Board of Supervisors and committee meetings, pointed to the critical role of citizens to remain engaged in local civic affairs.

"It's so important that the citizens of Solebury Township stay current with what is happening at the township government level. A lot of things go on that affect you directly, either in the short term or the long term. And the voice of the citizens is extremely important," he said.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Solebury Friends Meeting, 2680 Sugan Road, on Saturday, July 13, at 11 a.m.

The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors will honor Malcolm Crook's legacy during its Aug. 20 meeting at 6 p.m. in the Township Building.

Donations in his memory can be made to Solebury Friends Meeting, PO Box 263, Solebury PA 18963 or the Malcolm P. Crooks Scholarship Fund, Aquetong Watershed Association, PO Box 504, New Hope, PA 18938.

USABL Continental Central Division Champs



The 13-year-old Solebury Spiders tore through the USABL Continental Central Division going 8-1 during the regular season of play. The team then won all three playoff games including the championship game played at home, by a score of 11-1 over the Watchung Warriors.

It's Atlantic Hurricane Season

Prepare yourself, your family and your home for severe weather. While the long-term forecast calls for a fairly mild hurricane season, it only takes one big storm to ruin the whole summer.

What to do before the storm...

- ☁ Fill your car with gas (and fill an appropriately sized gas can if using a generator).
- ☁ Withdraw cash in case ATMs are not working after the storm.
- ☁ Fill any prescriptions you may need if you are running low.
- ☁ Plug in a standard non-cordless phone to receive and make emergency calls. Charge your cellphone, smart phone, and/or tablet and locate your car chargers.
- ☁ Place flashlights or battery-operated lanterns, plus fresh batteries, on each floor of your home.
- ☁ Store water for cooking and cleaning. Fill bathtubs with water for flushing.
- ☁ Set up a battery-powered clock and radio.
- ☁ Locate your supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods, including pet food.
- ☁ Protect sensitive electronic appliances, like microwave ovens, TVs, and computers with surge suppressors, which can prevent damage from surges related to lightning, fallen poles, and other accidents. Alternatively, unplug them before a storm.
- ☁ Freeze and refrigerate bottles of water to occupy more space. (A partially full freezer can keep meat frozen for up to 24 hours - completely full, up to 48 hours.)
- ☁ Place your "go" bags and pet supplies in the car, and pet carriers near the door.
- ☁ If you plan to use a generator, set it up outside, close windows to prevent exhaust entering your home, and test any battery-operated CO detectors you installed.
- ☁ Secure lawn furniture, trash cans, and other light objects in case of high winds.

Have a kit, make a plan, stay informed.

During the storm...

- ⚡ Avoid using candles but if you do, never leave them unattended.
- ⚡ Check the fuse or circuit breaker box to see if a fuse tripped inside the home.

Check with the neighbors to see if their power is out, too.
- ⚡ If you see downed lines and the ground is wet or has standing water, do not go outside. Keep children and pets away from the area.
- ⚡ Call PECO at the number above and report the outage through their automated, interactive system. Outages can also be reported online. Ask to speak with a PECO customer service representative to report downed poles or wires, but don't approach or look for these. Energized power lines are extremely dangerous.
- ⚡ Stay away from windows, where flying debris can cause injury.
- ⚡ Do not use a landline phone or run water during lightning storms.
- ⚡ Turn off and unplug appliances - including your furnace, water heater, and water pump - to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored, but keep a couple of lights turned on so you'll know when service is back.
- ⚡ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Move meats, cheese, milk, and other perishables into the freezer compartment where it will stay colder longer.

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

Community Spelling Bee: What's the Buzz?

The Community Spelling Bee, a fundraiser for The Free Library of New Hope & Solebury, returns for a second round of spellbinding competition on Friday, October 4th! Make a beeline to form your team now for the most buzz-worthy event of the season.

Here's what you need to know to join the swarm:

- Each team is comprised of **three adult spellers** (aged 16 and older). Form your team with friends, neighbors, family members, community business employees, sports team pals, book club buddies, and/or work colleagues.
- **Teams work together** to spell the word. No one spells alone!
- **Register your team and pay the registration fee.** Your team registration fee supports the mission of the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury. (Thank you!)
- **Get sponsors!** Ask everyone you know to support your team and the library with this FUNdraiser. Every dollar adds up. (Thank you again!)
- **Give your team a bee-dazzling name** like Bee-yonce or the Bee Bee Kings. Costumes really add to the fun, but are not necessary.
- **Deadline: September 1 (or until team slots are filled).**

Get a team registration form NOW at <https://www.nhslibrary.org/events/spelling-bee-2-2/>.

If you can't form a team, bee there or bee square! SAVE THE DATE, to cheer on your favorite Bee team or to watch the fun and spell along. The Bee will be held **Friday, October 4th at 7 p.m.** (doors open at 6 p.m.) at the New Hope-Solebury High School Auditorium, 182 W. Bridge Street, New Hope, PA 18938. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$5/students (18 and under) and can be purchased at <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/FreeLibraryofNewHopeSolebury/spellingbeetickets.html>. Questions? Contact flnhsbee@gmail.com.



Spelling Bee Teams from 2018 – photo credit: Louise Levy

Household Waste Recycling Bucks County Summer Schedule

Bucks County is hosting five household hazardous waste recycling events this summer, in Bristol and Richland townships.

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.

August 24, 2019

Lower Bucks

Bucks County Technical High School
610 Wistar Road
Bristol Township

September 21, 2019

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 residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.