



The Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

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Summer Issue

September 2021

Remnants of Hurricane Ida Wreak Havoc

Remnants of Hurricane Ida dumped as much as 10 inches of rain on our area Sept. 1, triggering flash floods, washing out roads and raising the Delaware River above flood stage for several hours.

Solebury Township declared an emergency that evening, beginning the eligibility process for emergency funds, if and when state and federal officials make them available.

Check the Township website frequently and sign up for email updates to keep up-to-date on this developing situation.



The following roads have suffered significant structural damage and are closed:

- Route 263: Centerbridge Road to Route 32
- Paxson Road: Comfort Road to Route 32
- Fleecydale Road: Carversville Road to Route 32
- Armitage Road: Sugan Road to River Road
- Atkinson Road at Pidcock Creek Bridge
- Route 32: Ely Road to Fleecydale Road

Pictured, top to bottom: Center Bridge, Cuttalossa Road, and Paxson Road.

HARB Help From the Storm

If you live in the Historic Districts of Carversville or Phillips Mill and have encountered any storm damage to your property which requires you to make repairs, please consider using the new Repair or Replacement in Kind (RRIK) application for speedier permit approval for the work.

The Historical Architectural Review Board is waiving certain fees and expediting deadlines. Visit the Township website for details.



As Delta Variant Spreads, Boards and Committees Look to Hybrid and Virtual Meetings

Beginning with its Sept. 9 Budget Session, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors will allow some of its members, staff, presenters and members of the public to participate in the meeting remotely, via Zoom. A quorum of three supervisors will be present in the Township Building, and residents are welcome to attend in person so long as they follow masking and social-distancing guidelines.

The shift to a hybrid format comes as the Delta Variant of COVID-19 remains a significant health concern in the region. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classifies Bucks County as having a high level of community transmission for the virus during the past month.

"With the increased risk of infection, some of our advisory committee chairs have expressed concerns about attending an in-person meeting with perhaps 20 or more people present," said Board of Supervisors Chair Mark Baum Baicker. "And some of our committees have not been able to meet their quorum requirement for the same reason and thus had to cancel meetings. Holding in-person meetings in this environment is inhibiting our ability to efficiently and effectively conduct business on behalf of our residents."

Committees that make decisions directly affecting Township business, such as the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board, have the option to switch to the hybrid format. Other

committees, which act in a general advisory capacity, may choose to conduct their meetings virtually.

The Township will post Zoom login information for all hybrid and virtual meetings on the Township website; allow for public questions and comments via email, Zoom or in person, and post meeting videos on the website after the meeting.

"We have held many meetings via Zoom during the pandemic and found that those were very effective and often better-attended than our in-person meetings. If the COVID-19 situation does not improve we will give serious consideration to holding future meetings virtually until it is safer to resume in person," said Baum Baicker.

Deer Survey Shows Need for Additional Steps to Reduce Overpopulation

The Board of Supervisors is pursuing a four-point plan to tackle deer overpopulation in the Township, after receiving the results of an aerial drone survey that showed Solebury is host to 76 deer per square mile on average, an unacceptably high number that is much more dense in many areas of the Township.

The survey was conducted at the end of winter by the Center for Environmental Studies at Raritan Valley Community College. Using infrared imaging, the drones spotted 2,054 deer in Solebury, with some local

densities exceeding 230 deer per square mile. A density at or under 10 deer per square mile is considered environmentally sustainable.

As a first step, the Township has asked for proposals from licensed, Pennsylvania-certified sharpshooters; these proposals were sought by the Board to better understand the costs associated with a professional herd reduction program, and serve as a basis of comparison for other deer control methods.

Additionally, the Board agreed to conduct annual deer surveys using the infrared drones, and continue to support the ongoing deer management program managed by the US

Department of Agriculture in Solebury.

The Township is also exploring cooperative opportunities with neighboring townships that are also confronting deer overpopulation. Solebury's Environmental Advisory Council will be participating in a regional meeting on the deer problem this fall. The EAC is also reviewing other approaches to managed hunting aside from hired sharpshooters.

Deer overpopulation takes a toll on the community, with increased auto accidents, crop damage and environmental destruction, and increased occurrence of Lyme disease.

What's in Your Inbox?

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

The Community Spelling Bee Buzzes Back into Action October 1



After a year hiatus, the Community Spelling Bee, a fundraiser for The Free Library of New Hope & Solebury, returns for more spellbinding fun and friendly competition. Hosted by the library's Board of Trustees, the Bee, an adult team competition, will be held at the New Hope-Solebury High School Auditorium on Friday, October 1, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Each team is comprised of three spellers (ages 16 and older) who work together to spell the word. Teams compete in swarms with the winning team in each swarm vying in the final round. Team registration deadline is September 10, 2021. You're sure to see some familiar faces on stage, so be sure to support your favorite Bee teams with financial pledges and cheer them on that night.

Additionally, the alphabet is up for auction, and businesses and individuals can "buy" a letter for just \$50 apiece to support the library. All letters are first come, first served, and no letter will be sold twice.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students 18 and under and will be available online starting September 7, 2021. All proceeds from the Bee support the operating fund of The Free Library of New Hope & Solebury. It is the library's only fundraising event in 2021.

Visit www.nhslibrary.org to buy tickets and learn more "bee-tails" about supporting the event.



Pictured at the 2019 Spelling Bee are the Solebury BeeOS, Solebury Supervisors Mark Baum Baicker, Robert McEwan, and Kevin Morrissey. (Photo by Louise Levy)

Free Library of New Hope and Solebury Seeks Your Input

As the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury embarks on an update to its strategic plan, the Board of Trustees would greatly value and appreciate your input on a few brief questions. The Board wants to continue to ensure

that the library is a resource to everyone, helping to connect and strengthen the community. Please visit www.nhslibrary.org, click on the survey link and answer a few questions to share your thoughts and help the Free

Library plot a course for the future!





It's Hurricane Season!

Be Prepared for Stormy Weather

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.

During the storm...

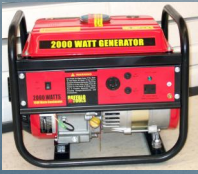
- ☁ Avoid using candles but if you do, never leave them unattended.
- ☁ Check the fuse or circuit breaker box to see if a fuse tripped inside the home.
- ☁ Check with the neighbors to see if their power is out, too.
- ☁ If you see downed lines and the ground is wet or has standing water, do not go outside. Keep children and pets away from the area.
- ☁ Call PECO at the number below 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



Generator Safety Tips

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.

Solebury Township Police Department Hosts National Night Out 2021

Officers and members of the Solebury Township Police Department would like to thank the many residents that came out and supported our National Night Out Event which was held on Aug. 3 at Laurel Park.

The event would not have been such a success without the help of everyone involved, Solebury Township Parks and Recreation, New Hope Eagle Fire Co. and all who had contributed, we thank you!

Solebury Township Police is looking forward to National Night Out 2022 with plans to make it an even bigger event for our community to enjoy!



Ribbon Cutting for Aquetong Spring Park Set for Sept. 24

Solebury Township will host a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at Aquetong Spring Park on Friday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. Most of the major construction is nearing completion, and the park will be open for public use. Trails wind their way throughout the park in a variety of directions, in addition to the paved trail connector that parallels Route 202. The actual spring water cascades over a waterfall, then meanders through the twists and turns of the stream as it makes its way to the Delaware River.



Solebury Adds Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Township Building

As part of Solebury Township's commitment to sustainability and determination to reduce our local carbon footprint, the Township has installed an electric vehicle charging station in the parking lot of the Township Building along Sугan Road. The charging station is open to the public and costs \$1.00 per hour, payable "at the pump" by credit card.

The Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council has developed an Energy Transition Plan for the Township, laying out short- and long-term goals for Solebury to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The EAC presented a status update on the plan to the Board of Supervisors at its March 16 meeting.

Purchase and installation of the new EV charging station was funded almost entirely through grants from the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection and PECO Energy. The EAC's energy plan anticipates additional charging stations in the Township in the coming years.



Township Directory

Police:

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

Administration:

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

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

EAC Administrator Debra McFadden:
dmcfadden@soleburytpw.org

HARB Administrator Nicole Slack:
nslack@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 **Vice-Chair Kevin Morrissey**
mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor Noel Barrett **Supervisor John Francis**
nbarrett@soleburytpw.org 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 virtual meetings are posted on the Township website.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

September

9/7 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
9/9 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session
9/13 Solebury Township Planning Commission
9/14 Environmental Advisory Council
9/16 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
9/21 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
9/22 & 9/23 Zoning Hearing Board - New Applications
9/28 Solebury Farm Committee
9/30 Parks & Recreation Board

October

10/4 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board
10/5 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session
10/11 Solebury Township Planning Commission
10/12 Environmental Advisory Council
10/13 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
10/19 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors
10/21 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee
10/25 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee
10/26 Solebury Farm Committee
10/28 Parks & Recreation Board

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