

Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 20, No. 5

LATE SUMMER ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2014

Supervisors Adopt Three Ordinances Related to Act 537 Plan

In June, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Township's final Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan and three related ordinances, bringing a lengthy state-directed revision process to a close.

Pennsylvania Act 537, first adopted in 1966, requires municipalities to plan for the sewage disposal needs of their residents—either by providing centralized sewer services or by enforcing state standards and regulations for the construction of multi-home and individual on-lot septic systems.

When the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently added a higher level of planning and governance to these requirements, it forced most municipalities to extensively revise earlier plans.

The goal of Solebury's revision was to meet these new requirements as well as to embrace the vision of sustainability outlined in the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

Since the conservation and protection of the Township's water supply are central to that vision, the new plan strives to prevent any treated or discharged sewage from diminishing local water quality and potentially harming residents' health.

Approval Process

A draft of the Township's revised Act 537 plan was approved by the Board in August of 2012, after a 30-day public comment period. Afterward, the plan underwent review by Solebury's Planning Board, the Bucks County

Planning Commission, and the Bucks County Dept. of Health.

When recommended changes from all local and county agencies were in hand, the final draft was fine-tuned by the Township's appointed engineer, C. Robert Wynn.

The final plan was then submitted for DEP review and approval, which enabled the Township to begin revising its ordinances to align with the plan. This final step culminated in June with the adoption of both the final plan and the related ordinances.

What It Means for Residents

The final Sewage Facilities Plan outlines how residents and the Township work together to protect public health and the environment from sewage contamination.

The plan defines standards for septic systems, describes Solebury's process for monitoring those systems, discusses maintenance requirements for on-lot systems, and proposes solutions for existing sewage problems.

Three ordinances now support the plan.

Ordinance 2014-007 outlines the Township's On-Lot Sewage Management Program and explains processes related to the inspection, operation, and maintenance of existing on-lot systems. Among other things, this ordinance requires residents to have their septic tanks pumped once every three years, lists substances that may not be disposed of in on-lot

(continued on page 5)

2014 Polling Places Election Day: November 4



All polling locations are open during primaries and general elections from 7 AM to 8 PM.

Lower District #1*

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church
1680 Aquetong Road

Lower District #2

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church
1680 Aquetong Road

Middle District

Solebury Township Hall
3092 Sugan Road

Upper District

Carversville Christian Church
3736 Aquetong Road

*The Bucks County Board of Elections changed the Lower District #1 polling location from Solebury United Methodist Church to Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in 2013.

Questions concerning voter registration should be directed to the Board of Elections at 215-348-6154.

Solebury Police Dept. presents

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative

Safely surrender expired, unwanted, or unused prescription medicines, including controlled substances and other drugs, for destruction by law enforcement.

For more information, visit:
SoleburyTwp.org

Two locations:

- (1) Solebury Police Dept., Township Hall
- (2) Giant Food Store, Logan Square

10 AM - 2 PM
Saturday, September 27



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Dear Taxpayer:

Through the **Solebury Messenger**, the Township gives you, the taxpayer, firsthand information about Township matters. In these pages, you will read about what is being done to preserve and improve the quality of life as you know it, as well as how your hard-earned tax dollars are being spent.

The **Solebury Messenger** is created by Kay Hayes and Marie Collins, of School Window Publications; the newsletter celebrated its 15-year anniversary with the publication of the Nov. 2010 issue.

This bimonthly periodical is primarily ad-sponsored—a method which allows the Township to provide taxpayers with six professional newsletters each year for a fraction of the actual cost. To place an advertisement supporting this periodical, contact Kay (609-397-8483 or ads.schoolwindow@gmail.com).

If you live in the Township, but are not currently receiving a copy of the **Solebury Messenger** through the mail, please contact Kay so that she can add your name and address to our mailing list.

Other correspondence should be directed to the appropriate Township official. For more information, see the Township directory on page 7.

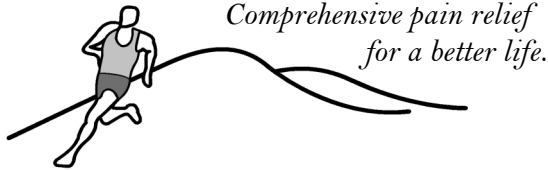
Kay and Marie



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Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to last-minute changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.*

September

- 9/2 Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
- 9/8 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
- 9/8 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 9/9 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 9/16 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 9/18 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 9/25 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

October

- 10/6 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
- 10/7 Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
- 10/13 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 10/16 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 10/14 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 10/21 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 10/23 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



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Establish a Rain Garden This Fall

Did You Know?

- Rainwater is a valuable natural resource that you can harvest, utilize, and help manage.
- Understanding the land-water connection is the first step to prevent flooding and protect local creeks and rivers.
- The health of water above and below the ground, including drinking water supplies, depends upon water being able to soak into the ground.
- Average temperatures in this region are expected to increase by 4 to 8 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Planting shade trees and rain gardens now can help offset rising energy and irrigation costs.

Rain gardens contain specially chosen plants designed to help collect rainwater from hard surfaces, such as roofs, sidewalks, and driveways.

These uniquely beautiful gardens can be created in all different shapes and sizes, but should be located in excavated or naturally low spots.

The bottom layer of the garden is filled with stone to provide an area for the water to pool.

The land around the rain garden is sloped so that rainwater flows naturally into the rain garden from nearby impervious areas. The water runs off of these hard surfaces, flows downhill to the rain garden, and ponds in the garden for up to 72 hours.

During those 72 hours the water is absorbed by the plants, soaked into the ground, and evaporated into the air.

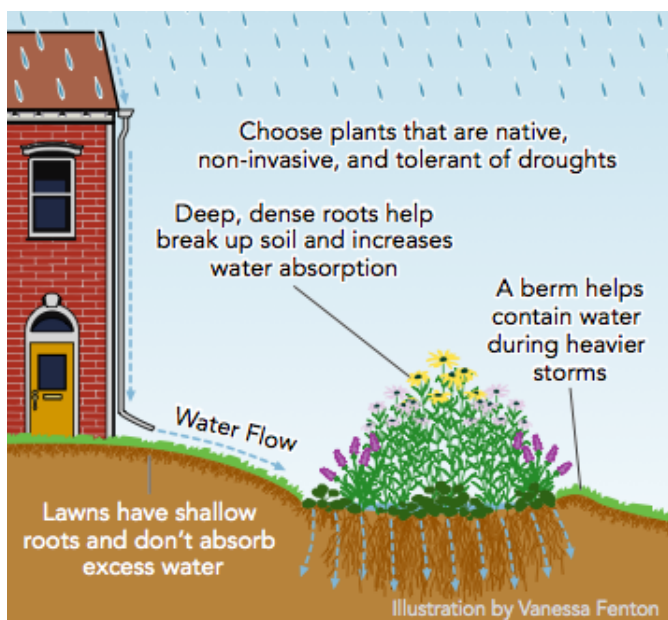
And the plants do a great job of filtering pollutants like oil and other motor fluids from runoff that flows across streets and driveways into natural waterways.

Since the rain garden is designed to only hold water for 72 hours, mosquitoes do not have enough time to breed. 🦟

Adapted from the *Green Guide for Property Management* by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Schuylkill Action Network.

The next
**Solebury
Messenger**
will mail on
Oct. 29.

Deadline for
advertisers is
Oct. 10.



Tuckamony Farm Preserved

Tuckamony Farm, located at 6356 Upper York Road, within the Honey Hollow Watershed, was preserved in May thanks to the dedication of its owners—Heritage Conservancy, Malcolm Crooks, Elaine Crooks, and Marjorie Crooks—and action taken by Solebury Township.

“Having the Tuckamony family farm remain in agricultural production is a major accomplishment and benefit to the community,” Land Preservation Committee Chair Ralph O’Banion noted.

“The Tuckamony Farm is one of the Township’s treasures,” Township Manager Dennis H. Carney added. “We are grateful to the Crooks family, Heritage Conservancy, and our own Land Preservation Committee for working patiently and diligently to achieve this goal.”

Tuckamony Farm includes 19 acres of prime farmland, 9 acres of grasslands and woodlands, and 23 acres of forest. A conservation easement now protects 49.08 acres of the 55.47-acre property from any use that would significantly harm or interfere with its agricultural values or economic viability.

According to the farm’s website (tuckamony.com), Tuckamony Farm has served as a Christmas tree farm since 1929: “Just six years after Calvin Coolidge held the first national Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Washington, Forrest Crooks began planting evergreen seedlings.”

The property consists of historically important structures, including the farmhouse constructed in 1747 and 1783, and a historically important barn, and it is also known throughout Bucks County as an archeological site. The watershed of which the property is a part was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark in 1969.

The easement protecting the farm will be held jointly by the Township and Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy, a private land trust dedicated to preserving the agricultural and natural features of the area.

Preservation Update

To date, the total amount of open space protected through the Township’s Land Preservation Program is 3,231 acres, and the total area preserved in Solebury—including lands owned or conserved through the Township program as well as using county and state funds—is about 6,333 acres. 🦟

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Supervisors Adopt Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

In July, the Board of Supervisors adopted an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, prepared by the Parks and Recreation Board and Director Dudley Rice.

Last updated in 2006, the plan provides a history of the Township's efforts to develop parks and recreation resources for residents. For perspective, it notes that when Solebury's first Parks and Recreation Master Plan was written in 1989, Pat Livezey Park alone served the entire population of about 6,000 residents.

By contrast, today about 8,700 Solebury residents use three parks developed for both passive and active recreation: 18-acre Pat Livezey Park, 17-acre Laurel Park, and 12-acre Canal Park. In addition, 5-acre Magill's Hill Park provides winter recreation, and a walking/bicycling trail runs from the Eagle Fire Company, past the New Hope-Solebury School District playing fields and Pat Livezey Park, ultimately terminating in Canal Park.

Two Township-owned parcels that are designated for recreational use—30-acre North Pointe Park (the Marshall tract) and 80-acre Solebury Park (the Roeser tract)—have yet to be developed.

And plans for Ingham Spring Park—a 44-acre environmentally sensitive property with a rich history—will be detailed in a separate master plan that is expected to focus on passive recreation as well as historical and environmental education opportunities.

Needs Assessment

To assess residents' needs for future services, the master plan update inventories Township-owned parks and facilities, as well

as those owned by the county, state, and school district—even those only in the planning stage.

The new plan also looks at Township recreation programs and those provided by schools, area YMCAs, and local businesses.

Input from Township sports organizations and the community-at-large, data on field and park usage, population trends, and more are examined toward the same end.



To view the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan, visit www.soleburytwp.org, rest your cursor over the Parks and Recreation tab, and select Parks & Recreation Plans.

The updated plan forecasts a need for additional sports fields to accommodate use over the next three to five years.

"In addition to playing fields," the plan states, studies by both the Township and school district "reaffirmed the need for another indoor-basketball gym facility/community center."

And community surveys point to a desire for more passive recreation opportunities and walking trails.

Recommendations

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan divides its recommendations into short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (more than 5 years).

In the *short-term*, the plan recommends seeking grant funds to complete Solebury's walking/bicycling trail, and increasing trail use (1) by publicizing it in concert with information about canal and river access and (2) by installing navigational signs.

Additional short-term recommendations include building two multi-purpose fields while seeking public and private funds; exploring recreational uses for alternate age groups; implementing a Community Day event that promotes Township programs and volunteerism; and restoring Aquetong Creek as a cold water system while developing a plan for recreational use of Ingham Spring Park.

Medium-term recommendations include drafting a recreational plan for Ingham Spring Park; developing a plan for the portion of the current public works site that will be added to Laurel Park; seeking the possibility of Delaware River access through Washington's Crossing State Park; further expanding and interconnecting the Township's walking and biking trail system; and identifying a funding source and interest to support a dog park.

Finally, *long-term* recommendations include monitoring river access through Washington's Crossing State Park; validating support for the construction of a Community Center with a gym and meeting rooms for residents; and evaluating the need for additional outdoor recreational facilities. ♣

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Solebury Resident

2014 Summer Adventure Camp Comes to a Close

In August, Solebury Parks and Recreation Summer Adventure Camp wrapped up an exciting and innovative season at the New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School. This marks the fourth year that camp activities were held at the school.

This year's camp experience included "Mad Science" shows and hands-on science workshops presented by "Radioactive Rick;" arts and crafts projects presented by visiting art instructor Kelly Takayama; sports activities and games in the gym; and more.

Solebury Parks and Recreation partnered again with the school district's Extended School Year Program to provide camp opportunities for students who require special education services in the summer. Students in the program had the option to have lunch and participate in the camp's afternoon schedule of activities and programs, as well as to participate in some of the morning shows and events.

More than 180 campers enjoyed six weeks of healthy outdoor activities, challenging games, and arts and crafts projects.

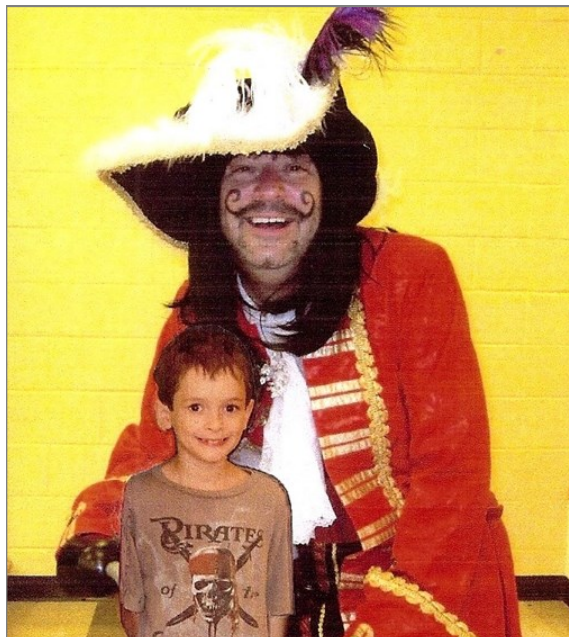
Parents and children alike were excited and enthusiastic about the Township's health-conscious approach to camp, which emphasizes play and exercise, with many programs taking place outdoors or in the school gymnasium.

A highlight of the season was Character Day, which included visits from Buzz Lightyear, Cookie Monster, Captain Hook and others, as well as face painting and balloon making.

The Kyle and Kelly Peron Magic Show entertained campers twice this year.

Artist Kelly Takayama helped campers make their own tie-dye tee-shirts, which they wore to camp for the rest of the week!

Also popular were visits from the AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Jarret Adams and



CHARACTER DAY. To the delight of campers, a special character visited Solebury's Summer Adventure Camp each week, accompanied by face painters and balloon makers. Pictured with Captain Hook above is camper Malek Higby.

the Karate School, and the Solebury Police Department, which gave weekly programs on community safety and awareness.

Camp staff took great pride in making this an exciting experience for everyone.

Join Us Next Year!

Camp registration begins in April and continues on a first-come, first-served basis. Camp size is limited to ensure close supervision by counselors, and spaces fill quickly. Camp runs for six weeks, starting with the first week of July; daily hours are 9 AM to 3 PM.

Act 537

(continued from page 1)

systems, and gives the Township the authority to inspect and require the rehabilitation of on-lot systems.

Ordinance 2014-009 establishes a permitting process for installing new on-lot sewage systems. It designates the Bucks County Department of Health as the agency that issues these permits and outlines how the permitting process is enforced.

Ordinance 2014-008 outlines procedures for the use of holding tanks designed to retain sewage. The ordinance authorizes the Township's management of holding tanks and explains processes related to permitting; sewage collection, pumping, and transportation; and the operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of holding tanks.

To view the final Act 537 plan and the ordinances, visit www.soleburytpw.org and click the Sewage Management tab.

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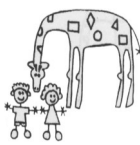


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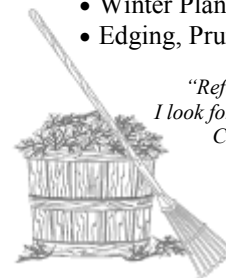
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Police Offer Fall Safety Tips

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie encourages parents to stress the back-to-school and Halloween safety issues below with their children. “Also, as drivers, we all need to pay attention to the activity of children at school bus stops, to the school buses on our roads, and to parents dropping children off at schools and bus stops,” he said.



Back-to-School Safety

- Team up with other parents to supervise children at the bus stop.
- Teach your children to:
 - Follow the same safe route to school or the bus stop each day and cross safely at corners.
 - Pay attention to traffic hazards and not to rush.
 - Stay out of the roadway when waiting for buses.
 - Wait for the red stop-arm to fall and the bus door to open, then look both ways, before boarding.
 - Sit quickly, talk quietly, and obey the bus driver.
 - Look both ways when exiting the school bus.
- If you drive your children to school:
 - Decrease traffic by carpooling.
 - Follow the school’s posted traffic flow signs.
 - Observe the 15 mph limit in school zones.
- Adjust commuting times to allow for school traffic.
- Make sure there are no obstacles on your property, like overgrown landscaping, that may make it hard for drivers to see children waiting for the school bus.
- When school traffic causes delays, remember that the road is not the place to make up lost time.
- Always be alert for children darting between cars and crossing streets, especially on Halloween.

Trick-or-Treat Safety



- Use only fire-retardant materials for costumes.
- Make costumes fit loosely, so kids can wear warm clothes underneath.
- Select costumes that do not cause tripping.
- Attach strips of reflective tape to costumes and treat bags so children are more visible.
- Choose nontoxic make-up over masks, so children can see and breathe better.
- Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Supervise children under 12 while trick-or-treating.
- Direct older children to carry cell phones, travel in groups, and follow a preset route.
- Encourage children to walk, rather than run.
- Tell them not to enter homes without adult supervision.
- Be sure youngsters know to walk on sidewalks, not in the street or through dark yards.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before they are eaten.
- Feed children before trick-or-treating so they are not tempted to snack.
- Wash and slice fruit into small pieces before eating.
- When in doubt, throw it out.



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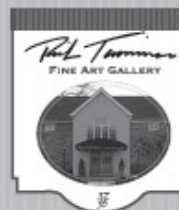
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Township Directory

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In an emergency, please dial: 9-1-1.
For other matters, call: 215-297-5656

The following individuals can be reached by email:

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

**Asst. Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer/Zoning Officer
Gretchen Rice:** grice@soleburytwp.org

**HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Christine Terranova:** ctterrano@soleburytwp.org

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

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

Right-To-Know Officer, Administrative Records
Asst. Twp. Manager Gretchen K. Rice
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officer, Police Records
Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie
police@soleburypd.org

Unsure where to direct your question?
Email: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org
You can direct your query to a specific individual
or write a general query.
The appropriate individual will respond.

Parks and Recreation Dept.

Upcoming Events



Attention Trick-or-Treaters!

When: October 31, 6-8 PM

Where: Corner of Norwalk Way & Kitchen's Lane, North Pointe

Solebury Parks and Recreation will be giving away all kinds of Halloween items from their post at the corner of Norwalk Way and Kitchen's Lane in North Pointe on Halloween night.

It's all free! In the past, the handouts Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice has scouted out for local kids have included glow necklaces, beanie babies, fuzzy spiders, and more.

All friendly ghosts and goblins are welcome to stop by.

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:

- www.soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)
- www.soleburybaseball.org (baseball)
- www.soleburybasketball.org (basketball)
- www.nhsfcc.com (football)
- www.soleburysoccer.com (soccer)
- www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)

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