

# Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 21, No. 1

BUDGET ISSUE

JANUARY 2015

## 2015 Budget Highlights

For the first time in three years, Solebury's new annual budget modestly increases property taxes to support some initiatives that benefit the community.

The increase in millage raises support for fire services from \$365,000 to \$425,000 and for the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury from \$60,000 to \$90,000.

The increase also includes matching funds in the amount of \$225,000 for the nearly \$1.7 million in grants received by the Township for trail linkages. These combined moneys will allow the Township to complete a portion of the Solebury Trail that will head south from Canal Park along River Road and connect with an existing segment that begins at Eagle Fire Co., runs along the New Hope-Solebury School District fields, and ends at River Road.

The total property tax allocation for 2015

2015 Property Tax Allocation	
General Fund	7.375 Mills
Fire Fund	1.750 Mills
Library	.375 Mills
Debt Service	12.810 Mills
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.310 Mills</b>

is as shown in the table.

### Employees

**Non-uniform employees.** In an effort to manage the continually rising cost of providing health insurance for full-time non-uniform employees (which includes all employees except police), the Township shopped for less expensive plans and selected a package that saves 4% over what it would have cost the Township to continue providing the same plans in 2015.

### Uniform employees.

The Township's uniform employees (police only) are covered under a collective bargaining agreement. No change in their health insurance coverage is possible under the existing contract. That agreement will be renegotiated in 2015, and the Township has budgeted for legal costs associated with that process.

(continued on page 6)

## It's Tax Season

EIT/LST Filing Reminder

Solebury residents now file and pay the 1% Earned Income Tax (EIT) and the \$52 Local Services Tax (LST) through the Bucks County-wide tax collection firm, Keystone Collections Group.

The 1% EIT is assessed by Solebury Township (0.5%) and the New Hope-Solebury School District (0.5%) on the earned income of Solebury residents as well as that of individuals who live outside the Township but work in Solebury.

Earned income and net profits from all sources for a specific calendar year that total less than \$5,000 are exempt from the EIT.

E-filing of both taxes is available on the Keystone website.

For more information on all matters related to the EIT or LST, contact Keystone:

[www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com)  
724-978-0300

### 2010 Taxes and Earlier

Any returns that remain to be filed or paid for 2010 and earlier are to be submitted to former Township EIT collector H.A. Berkheimer:

[www.hab-inc.com](http://www.hab-inc.com)



### SOLEBURY POLICE

participated in the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's 8th national drug collection event Sept. 27. At left, Officer Gary W. Forrester, Jr., hosts a shift at the Giant Food Store with Barbara Gross, Community Outreach Coordinator for New Hope-Solebury Cares. According to Chief Dominick Bellizzie, Bucks County police departments together collected more than 3.5 tons of medications for proper disposal during this event. More than half of this amount was deposited in the county's growing number of permanent collection boxes. Solebury's permanent drug collection box is accessible Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM in the Police Department lobby at Township Hall.

## What's Inside?



- ▶ Township Calendar .....2
- ▶ 2015 Winter Festival Highlights .....3
- ▶ De-Icing Solutions for Winter .....4
- ▶ Primrose Creek Watershed Assn. Receives Grants .....5
- ▶ Township Directory .....7
- ▶ Parks & Recreation Events .....7



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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*Publication of advertisements in the Solebury Messenger does not represent endorsement by the Township or its officers of any products, services, businesses, or ideas mentioned. Also, no political advertisements will be accepted.*



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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.*

### January

- 1/1-2 TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
- 1/5 Board of Supervisors—Reorganization Meeting, 7 pm
- 1/5 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
- 1/12 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 1/13 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 1/15 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 1/20 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 1/22 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

### February

- 2/2 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
- 2/3 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 2/9 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 2/10 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 2/16 TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
- 2/17 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 2/19 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 2/26 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!*

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# Winter Festival Concert Headliner:

On the Web: [winterfestival.net](http://winterfestival.net)

John Oates—of rock's most successful duo of all time, Hall & Oates—will headline the 2015 Winter Festival concert January 23.

Oates is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and recently completed a world solo tour. He and Daryl Hall have sold over 80 million albums and were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2014.

A musician with local roots, Oates graduated from North Penn High School. He met Daryl Hall in 1967 while enrolled in Temple University, and the two soon formed the now-famous duo.

To learn more, visit: [JohnOates.com](http://JohnOates.com)

New Hope musician David Barry will open the show for Oates.

Winter Festival 2015 offers a V.I.P. ticket option that includes a "meet and



Rock-&-Roll-Hall-of-Famer John Oates

greet" with the artists at Marsha Brown Restaurant.

## Other Township Events

Solebury Parks and Recreation will host children's activities in the New Hope-Solebury middle school and high school gyms Sunday morning during the NH-S Girls Soccer Pancake Breakfast.

Strolling magician Ran'D Shine will perform magic and illusions from 9 to 11 AM during the breakfast, and other special "characters" will appear in the gyms.

Also, the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury will announce the winners of its Annual Community Read-A-Thon at the breakfast on Sunday.

See more below and on the Winter Festival website: [winterfestival.net](http://winterfestival.net)

## 2015 Winter Festival Highlights — Jan. 17 to 25

### FIRE AND ICE BALL

Sat., Jan. 17, 7-11 PM

New Hope Eagle Fire House

TICKETS: \$20/\$25 (advance/door)

### TASTE OF WINTER FEST

Thurs., Jan. 22, 7-9 PM

Riverside Ballroom, Lambertville Station Inn

Presented by The Lambertville Station

A savory evening of fine food and beverages from great local restaurants.

TICKETS: \$45 Adults

### WINTER FESTIVAL CONCERT

John Oates

With Opener David Barry

Fri., Jan. 23, 8 PM, Steven J. Buck Theater,

New Hope-Solebury High School

Presented by

First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown

TICKETS: \$45/\$50/\$90 (advance/door/VIP)

**VIP at Marsha Brown Restaurant:** "Meet & greet" the artists, light hors d'oeuvres, ride to concert.

### TRIBUTE: FRANK SR., & PATTY COSNER

Sat., Jan. 24, 6-10 PM

New Hope Eagle Fire House

Presented by New Hope Parks & Recreation

A sit-down dinner, cocktails, laughs, and memories in honor of two local volunteers.

TICKETS: \$75

### MUSIC & THEATER PERFORMANCES

Sat., Jan. 24, 10 AM-3 PM, St. John's School

A full schedule of family-friendly events!

Featuring the SHR PTSO Café in basement.

TICKETS: FREE!

### WINTER FESTIVAL PARADE

Sat., Jan. 24, Noon to 1 PM

Bridge Street, New Hope & Lambertville

### BEEF 'N BREW

Sat., Jan. 24, 1-4 PM, Triumph Brewing Co.

Presented by Lambertville-New Hope Rotary

Hot roast beef sandwiches & Triumph brews.

TICKETS: \$40 Adults

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sun., Jan. 25, 8-11:30 AM

NH-S High School (Middle School Cafeteria)

Presented by the NH-S Girls Soccer Team

With children's activities hosted by

Solebury Parks & Recreation in the gyms.

TICKETS: All You Can Eat! \$6.50 Adults

\$5 Seniors / \$3.50 Children 3-12



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### 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Sun., Jan. 25, 1-4 PM

New Hope Eagle Fire House

Presented by Triumph Brewing Company

Chili prepared by area restaurants, with award-winning Triumph beers.

\$50 Adults / \$45 Under 21 or No Alcohol (includes commemorative pint glass)

**PURCHASE TICKETS, FIND MORE EVENTS, AND GET ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS AT: [WINTERFESTIVAL.NET](http://WINTERFESTIVAL.NET)**

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# ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Time to Think About De-Icing Solutions

**W**inter is rapidly approaching, and forecasters say it could be a snowy one. It's time to place a snow shovel and stiff-bristled broom where you can readily access them.

While you're at it, take a moment to consider the different ice-melting options for days when de-icing is necessary. By using these products judiciously, you can avoid injuries and help protect the environment.

Because no ice-melting solution is completely benign, the best way to treat an area that tends to get icy is to apply a thin layer of the product *before* snow falls, regardless of the de-icer you use.

## Salt-Based Products

Rock salt, or sodium chloride, the traditional ice melter, works when the temperature is above 15 degrees. It is easy to use, easy to store, and relatively inexpensive.

Other salts, such as calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, are often present in commercial ice-melt products that work at lower temperatures.

### Potential Impacts:

These products are extremely caustic and can burn skin on contact. Children, with their sensitive skin and eyes, must be espe-

cially careful. They can even cause a pet's skin to blister.

They can cause severe discomfort, even death, if ingested (e.g., if a pet licks some off its paws or fur).

They may harm plants and disturb soil composition.



They can damage wood, concrete, pavers, bricks, and other surfaces.

They can attract wildlife in search of salt, who lick road surfaces, increasing the chance of collision.

Runoff that picks up these products can carry large amounts of chloride to the water supply, increasing the corrosive effects of the water.

## Nitrogen-Based Products

Urea, a nitrogen-based fertilizer, is a less caustic ice-melter and thus poses less threat to the skin and various surfaces.

Several commercial ice-melting products marketed as safe for the environment and pets contain nitrogen (and also tend to be expensive).

### Potential Impacts:

When applied in the quantity necessary to melt ice, the large amount of nitrogen left behind can inhibit flowering, damage roots, and eventually kill plants.

Runoff that picks up this product can carry large amounts of nitrogen to waterways, causing algae blooms that cloud water, decrease oxygen supply, and promote mosquito growth.

## Other Products

Sand, kitty litter, and gravel provide traction on ice, hopefully making it less slippery.

### Potential Impacts:

Runoff that picks up these products can carry them to waterways, causing an accumulation of silt.

Runoff that picks up these products can clog drains and storm sewers. ❄️



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# Primrose Creek Watershed Association Receives Grants to Provide Community Education

Thanks to three grants from Verizon, IBM, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Dominion Foundation, the Primrose Creek Watershed Association expanded its educational offerings in 2014 and will continue its outreach in the coming year, association president John Winterbottom reported.

## 2014 Offerings

Verizon funding enabled the association to offer the “We All Live Downstream” series in 2014—a series of three classes emphasizing the importance of watersheds to the health of communities.

Between 35 and 50 middle school and high school students from the New Hope-Solebury and Bristol school districts participated in each of the following series components.

*Macroinvertebrates:* In classroom and field experiences, students gained an overview of the importance of macroinvertebrates to watershed health.

*Sum of the Parts:* Students received cards representing streamside properties, which they could “develop” as they wished, then joined the cards together to gain an understanding of how upstream development decisions impact those made downstream.

*Watershed Decisions:* Students roleplayed that they were neighborhood watershed association volunteers who had to decide how to spend grant money to improve an impaired creek.

*Enviroscope:* Students used a tabletop model of a watershed to investigate how watersheds become polluted.

*Understanding a Stream:* Students explored the mapping of physical stream characteristics (e.g., flow, depth, velocity, slope, substrate) and elementary stream chemical tests that evaluate stream conditions.

Instructors for the series included association members Mark Cowell and Carol



## Planning an Addition or Renovation?

Be smart: Talk to the Township first. We can help you navigate the Township’s forms, approval process, codes, and zoning regulations.

Getting it right the first time could save you time and money.

Cope; Mary Ellen Noon and Meghan Rogalus of the Bucks County Conservation District; Ian Kindle and Sarah Berg, who are associated with Delaware Canal State Park; and Diane Smith from Bucks County Audubon Society, who also coordinated the use of Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center, where the “We All Live Downstream” classes were conducted, John said.

## Planning for 2015

Financial support from IBM and the Western Pa. Conservancy and Dominion Foundation will be used to provide education and encourage watershed awareness in 2015, the association president said, and the group’s education committee is in the process of finalizing the 2015 curriculum.

“This has been a fortunate year for grant funding,” John observed. “However, we never lose site of how this has come about—our membership. Our members are crucial in demonstrating to our grantors and elected officials that our community cares about natural sustainability, and membership funds are a vital source of support for our programs.”

What’s more, he added, membership funds “help restore and protect the watershed and lend strength to our voices as we advocate for green approaches to our community.”

Association member Kevin Morrissey, director of the association’s Funding Committee, worked with Verizon to fund the “We All Live Downstream” series; association vice-president Hope Blaythorne coordinated the IBM Grant; and Education Committee Director Carol Cope helped with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Dominion Foundation grant.

To learn more about the Primrose Creek Watershed Association, visit:

[www.Primrosecreek.org](http://www.Primrosecreek.org)

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# 2015 Budget Highlights (continued from page 1)

**Staffing levels.** Along with the current full-time staffing level, the 2015 budget provides for hiring a part-time temporary employee to support the Township administration.

## Police Dept.

The Police Dept. budget sets capital funds aside each year for the scheduled replacement of vehicles and other law enforcement equipment. This year that amount went down because the Township recently finished purchasing new radios the department had been saving for across the last several years.

Under the department's annual schedule of vehicle replacement, the Township will replace the two oldest police vehicles with new ones covered by extended warranties (\$80,000).

Other planned purchases include the replacement of outdated laptops and other computers, as well as the purchase of a new message board, for a total cost of \$30,000.

The Police Dept. budget also includes a slight increase in officer training, as well as a small increase in the cost of traffic enforcement in response to resident complaints about speeding in areas of the Township.

Finally, the department has budgeted \$15,000 toward accreditation by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This rigorous, independent, standards-based review helps police departments evaluate and improve their performance and ultimately validates that local departments are operating effectively and professionally.

## Parks & Recreation Dept.

In addition to managing the work on the Solebury Trail, described above, the Parks & Recreation Dept. will use about \$33,000 in capital funds to continue repairs to the Judy House at Ingham Spring Park. A heater, windows, and stolen copper fixtures will all be replaced, along with some other repairs.

Other capital projects include the replacement of roofs that are at least 18 years old on buildings at Laurel Park and Pat Livezey

Park, and the installation of new insulation and security doors for the building at Pat Livezey Park.

Within the department's operating fund, projected new expenses include the printing of a Solebury Trail map; planning for a "Community Day;" and mowing and maintenance of both Ingham Spring Park and the Lumberville site.

The Parks & Recreation Dept. operating budget is offset by Summer Adventure Camp revenues as well as fundraising activities run by volunteers.



## View the 2015 Budget Online

The 2015 budget is available on the Township website.

Visit [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org),

click the Resources menu,

and choose Documents & Forms.

The budget is in the Finance folder.

All sports programs are self-funding, with all expenses covered by the respective organization's registration fees. In addition, local soccer and baseball organizations each contribute \$6,000 per year toward Township expenses, and they pay for field maintenance out of their own funds. The football organization is charged an annual maintenance fee based on field usage.

According to Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice, community volunteers and local partnerships contribute to the department's success. Critical partners include NH-S School District, which provides facilities for Solebury's Summer Adventure Camp; Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival, which

helps support several local organizations in addition to Solebury Parks and Recreation; and individual sports organizations.

Thanks to its partners and volunteers, the Parks & Recreation Dept. is able to provide residents with free programs throughout the year, like AED/CPR certification and Halloween Safety Awareness.

## Public Works Dept.

Solebury is planning construction on a new Public Works facility this year at an estimated two-year cost of \$2.7 million, funded by loans. The new facility will be located on two lots next to the Township Building, and as part of the project, in year two a portion of the existing facility will be renovated to accommodate the Police Dept.

Public Works Director Dennis Carney—also the Township Manager—recently updated the Public Works department's Road Maintenance Program for 2015, which lays out a five-year maintenance plan for Township infrastructure.

In keeping with that plan, this year a total of \$300,000 will be used for milling, paving, overlay, and tar-and-chip treatments of local roads, and \$80,000 will be used to complete a combination of planned bridge repairs and repairs identified as necessary during annual bridge inspections.

In addition the department has budgeted \$50,000 for a new roller that will provide more flexibility for in-house paving projects and repairs.

## Other

The Township Manager noted that the Natural Resource Protection Fund will support several items in the new year, including \$5,000 for a deer count, \$8,000 to continue the state-mandated (Act 537) sanitary sewage study, and \$10,000 for stormwater management and other stormwater-related studies.

In addition, the fund will finance ongoing tree planting (\$3,000) and the Township's membership in the Audubon Bird Town program (\$850). 🌳



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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:** cterranova@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



**January 17-25**

On the Web: [winterfestival.net](http://winterfestival.net)



Baseball and softball online registration  
has started. Go to the baseball website,  
below, and click this link:

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To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:  
SoleburyTwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)  
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[www.soleburybasketball.org](http://www.soleburybasketball.org) (basketball)  
[www.nhsfcc.com](http://www.nhsfcc.com) (football)  
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