Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

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Caution! Deer Crossing

Fall is deer rutting season, when deer are more active and may unexpectedly dart across roadways as they search for mates. Drivers should use extra caution, especially during the early morning and evening hours when deer are most active.

Help keep yourself and others safe:

- Slow down and stay alert, particularly in wooded areas and along rural roads.
- Watch for deer near the roadside, and remember that where there is one deer, others may be nearby.
- If a deer crosses the road, expect others to follow.
- If a deer appears in your path, brake firmly and stay in your lane. Swerving can lead to a more serious collision.



Please take your time, stay alert, and use extra caution on our local roads this fall. A few extra seconds of caution can help prevent a serious accident.

Solebury 2035: *Comprehensive Plan Nears Final Approval*

In January 2024, the Township embarked on a process to update the 10-year Comprehensive Plan. The plan, known as ***Solebury 2035***, is an update to the 2014 plan.

The plan serves as a long-range policy framework to guide decision-making related to land use, development, conservation, infrastructure, and community services.

With the assistance of the Bucks County Planning Commission, a Committee of nine Township residents and Township staff worked diligently over the course of two and a half years to obtain community feedback, glean knowledge from focus-area experts, and meticulously formulate various drafts of the plan.

At its Oct. 6 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve the draft plan and authorized Township staff to send the plan to adjacent municipalities, the school district, and the Bucks County Planning Commission for review and comment during a 45-day period. After the 45-day period, the Township Board of Supervisors may proceed to finally adopt the plan.

Tax Collector Office Hours

Solebury's elected tax collector, Laura Kim, will be at the Solebury Township Administration Building on Monday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m.-noon and from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. to collect property tax payments for the New Hope Solebury School District.

The deadline for the face amount is Oct. 31, but because it falls on a Saturday, payments are allowed on the next business day. If you have any questions, please reach out to Laura at soleburytaxcollector@gmail.com or 267-614-2230.



Solebury Goes Solar

New Panels Up and Running on Public Works Building Roof

In November 2025, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of a 270kW solar system that will offset 99 percent of the electricity used at the municipal complex.

As of October 2026, construction is complete and the solar system is fully operational.

This solar project is helping to forward the Township's progress in meeting its Ready for 100 Goals, which entail achieving 100 percent clean and renewable electricity by 2035, and 100 peercent clean and renewable energy for heating and transportation by 2050.

The Township plans to organize a ribbon-cutting ceremony to take place in the near future to celebrate this achievement.

To learn more about this project, please contact Solebury Township's Sustainability Specialitst, Kate Robeson-Grubb, krobeson-grubb@soleburytwp.org, or by phone at 215-297-5656.



Solebury Businesses Help Cut Plastic Waste

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) recently recognized businesses that have successfully transitioned away from single-use plastic carryout bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene food containers in compliance with Solebury Township's 2022 Single-Use Plastic Ordinance.

These efforts are making a real difference.

Based on studies of similar communities, Solebury has likely kept more than 2.5 million plastic bags out of the environment since the ordinance took effect.

While many businesses have made the transition, the EAC looks forward to recognizing additional businesses complying in the future.

When you notice local businesses reducing single-use plastics, please take a moment to thank them for helping make Solebury a cleaner and more sustainable community.



Jeanne Litwin (EAC) presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Janis Lepelis (Dogs & Cats Rule)



Fritz Ege (Greenology) with Certificate of Appreciation



Alica Lewis (Giant) with Certificate of Appreciation

Lake Solebury Advisory Committee Starts Work to Develop Master Plan

The Lake Solebury Advisory Committee (LSAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors in March 2026 and held its first public meeting on Oct. 21, 2026.

The LSAC is an ad hoc committee that was established for the purpose of developing a Master Plan for Lake Solebury (formerly known as the New Hope Quarry) over the course of 12 - 18 months. Working alongside the Board of Supervisors and Township staff and consultants, the LSAC has adopted an aggressive agenda in order to accomplish this task.

Members of the LSAC include representatives from Solebury's Environmental Advisory Council , Parks & Recreation Board, and Planning Commission, as well as six at-large members from the community, three non-voting student representatives from NHS High School and Solebury School, and three non-voting associate members.

The LSAC holds public meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Township Building (3092 Sugan Rd, Solebury, PA 18963). Visit the committee's webpage on the Township website (https://soleburytwp.org/lake-solebury-advisory-committee) to learn more about the LSAC or to view the current agenda, meeting minutes, and meeting recordings.

Have a question, concern, or idea about Lake Solebury? Contact the LSAC by sending an email to krobeson-grubb@soleburytwp.org.



"Lake Solebury From My Studio" by John B. Winterbottom (2026, Oil on Board)

At the inaugural meeting of the Lake Solebury Advisory Committee (LSAC), our local artist, John Winterbottom, has generously donated one of his paintings to the Township. Since 2000, John and his wife Joan have lived in the home that New Hope School artist, Richard Wedderspoon designed and built in 1926.



John is an engaged community resident, a founding member of Primrose Creek Watershed Association, and a neighbor of the old quarry which is now the new Lake Solebury. The painting is his view of the lake from his studio as seen in wintertime. John's painting follows in the path of other local artists who paint direct from nature, as did the New Hope impressionists in their Phillips Mill artists' colony just down the road from where John now lives and paints.

The Township is very grateful for this wonderful gift which will always be a good reminder of the start of a whole new episode in the history of Solebury, as we start on the exploration and creation of the park at Lake Solebury.

Thank you John!

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 cell 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*
Verizon 1-800-837-4966 or *www.verizon.com/support/check-network-status*
XFINITY (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or *www.xfinity.com/support/status*

Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority Answers Questions About New Billing

1. How do I understand my bill and determine what I owe?

The amount you owe consists of two charges:

- **Base Rate** – this is the flat amount that you owe to be connected to the BCWSA system. It is a standard service charge before there is any usage.
- **Usage Charge** – the charge based on the volume of water consumed. This amount can fluctuate each month depending on how much water you use.

2. Did I recently get billed twice for the same month?

No. BCWSA delayed issuing bills in May when the new billing system was launched. Instead, there was a one-month lag in billing: May's bill was issued in June, June's bill was issued in July, and July's bill was issued in August. Once the new billing system caught up in August, the August bill was issued during August as scheduled.

3. Why did my water bill remain low for two months and then suddenly increase?

For some BCWSA customers, they were charged ONLY the base rate for the first two months following the launch of the new billing system. The base rate is the flat amount that customers owe to be connected to the BCWSA system before there is any usage (see question #1). After the first two months, customers began receiving standard bills that included both the base rate and a usage charge – the volume of water consumed during the billing period.

4. Why am I being asked to pay a larger amount as a result of the billing catch-up process?

We understand that some customers received higher bills because usage charges that were not billed during the initial two months were added back into their bills as part of the catch-up process. Because two months of billing were processed in August to bring customers up to date with the regular billing cycle, these customers may have seen a higher amount due.

To help ease the impact, customers affected by the catch-up billing will have until November 30, 2026, to pay the outstanding usage charges that were not billed during those two months. No penalties or interest will be charged during this extension period.

5. Why can't I get through to the Customer Service line?

We understand that our customer service line is experiencing a high volume of calls, and we sincerely apologize for the diffculty some customers have had reaching us. Our customer service representatives are working diligently to assist customers, answer questions about their bills, and help ensure accounts are activated in the new water billing system.

Despite the challenges, more than 30,000 customers have created accounts during the first four months of the new billing system. Creating an online account at bcwsa.net allows customers to conveniently view their bills, review their water usage history and make payments online.

Help Lighten the Load for Your Mail Carrier

Some Pointers to Keep Your Mailbox in Tip-Top Shape

The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 370 million pieces of mail each day, much of that arrives in a mailbox.

USPS recommends inspecting, maintaining, and upgrading mailboxes to ensure important documents arrive and to help mail carriers deliver efficiently.

Mailboxes need to be inspected to ensure they have not been damaged by wear and tear. According to USPS, some of the most common fixes include:

- **Tighten up**: Check for and tighten any loose hinges on the door. Take care of any rusty or loose parts.
- **A fresh coat**: Brighten up a rusty or peeling mailbox with a fresh coat of paint.
- Stand securely: Make sure your mailbox post is secure and upright.
- **Be seen**: Make sure your house numbers are clear, visible, and easy to read. Replace any missing or faded numbers.
- **Clear the way**: Make sure the area around your mailbox is free of debris or insect pests.

Report mailbox tampering or vandalism to the Postal Inspector at 1-877-876-2455.



Celebrate Solebury: Community Farm Tour and Happy Hour

Solebury residents came together to celebrate our first ever celebration of our local farms.

Kicking off with a bike rodeo for the kids, families toured our local farms during the day and joined in an evening celebration at Manoff Market.

Our community partners helped both the farm tour and Celebrate Solebury events run flawlessly!



Major thanks to all who helped organize and execute this year's Bike Rodeo! Despite tight schedules, busy workloads, and chilly temperatures you all helped to make sure it went off without a hitch. Joe showed up before 8 a.m. to help move cones, chairs, tables, and the kitchen sink with Gina, Kelley, and their crew close behind.







Poppa Frank was on the grill, cooking up burgers and hot dogs, with Supervisor Rickie Yudin and Dudley helping to sell s'more kits and pass out free apple cider donuts donated from Solebury Orchards.



Conversations were flowing and everyone loved our live entertainment from The Traveling Soleburys and Long Hill String Band. Our biggest thanks go out to our gracious hosts Amy & Gary Manoff who opened their incredible property up to our community.



S.O.S - Support Orchards in Solebury!

A Message from the Solebury Farm Committee

Solebury Orchards and Manoff Market have been staples of our farm community for over 40 years, but this season has been unlike any other. Fruit tree growers across Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and as far south as North Carolina, suffered catastrophic crop losses due to a hard freeze in April that killed blossoms and fruit that had already set following unseasonably warm temperatures. The Pennsylvania and U.S. Departments of Agriculture estimated losses for cherries and stone fruits (peaches, nectarines, plums) as high as 100%. Apple losses are estimated as high as 90%. The economic impact in Pennsylvania will total in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

For our small growers this historic crop loss is devastating. With little to no fruit to harvest, they must still maintain their trees, pay workers, plan for next season, and keep their gates open to the community that relies on them not only for local produce, but also for on-farm experiences.

Despite their losses farmers are doing what they always do when faced with a challenging season: adapting and moving forward. Solebury and Manoff are open for business even if the season looks a little different this year. They are harvesting what they can; leaning on value added production of cider (sweet and hard!), sauces, and jams; bringing in high quality produce from other growers; and adding events to their calendars that offer plenty of reasons to visit. So be sure to visit often!

You can also lend financial support thanks to an emergency fund established by the Bucks County Foodshed Alliance. All donations will go directly to fruit tree growers in Bucks County and are tax deductible. Right now you can double your impact thanks to a $10,000 challenge match. Visit https://bucksfoodshed.org to donate.

Light Up the Night This Halloween!

Solebury Township Parks & Recreation's Light Up the Night" event is an essential community service that addresses a significant safety concern in a creative and impactful way. The event, which is held in the North Pointe neighborhood, one of the busiest and most popular trick-or-treating destinations in Solebury Township, enhances public safety by improving the visibility of children and families during Halloween night. By distributing over 600 illuminated accessories to children, the program not only ensures that participants are easily seen by drivers, but also demonstrates how parks and recreation services play a critical role in addressing community challenges.



This initiative provides a safer, more enjoyable experience for families and children, while reinforcing the value of Solebury's Parks and Recreation Department in enhancing the well-being of the community.

The primary access road in North Pointe has a speed limit of 35 mph and serves as a high-traffic access route. Visibility diminishes significantly after dark in this rural neighborhood, adding to the concern of parents for "trick or treaters." By distributing illuminated accessories - such as light-up wands - this unique and thoughtful approach not only makes children and parents more visible to drivers, but also provides an immediate, tangible impact on public safety, AND increases the fun factor significantly!

The Estate of David R. McShane and the David R. McShane Charitable Foundation (Paxson Hill Farm) Preservation

The Solebury Land Preservation Committee recently completed a Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants on four tracts of land owned the Estate of David R. McShane and the David R. McShane Charitable Foundation (a.k.a. Paxson Hill Farm) along scenic Comfort and Paxson roads.

The Paxson Hill Farm easement covers 30.59 acres within the Delaware River Watershed. It is a scenic rural property that reflects the enduring connection between agriculture, horticulture, and the natural landscape of Solebury Township and Bucks County.

Its gardens, cultivated grounds, and agricultural heritage contribute to the property's distinctive rural character and visual appeal.

Additionally, the four preserved tracts contain prime agricultural soils and are connected to eight eased properties creating over 420 total acres of contiguous protected land.



Township Directory

Police:
Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-328-8511
Police Administration: 215-297-8201
General Inquiries: police@soleburypd.org

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

Township Manager Christopher Garges:
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

EAC Administrator Kate Robeson-Grubb:
krobeson-grubb@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator Zachary Zubris:
zzubris@soleburytwp.org

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

Right-To-Know Officers
Administrative Records: John Ives,
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org
Police Records: Police Chief Kelley D. Warner,
police@soleburypd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker
mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org

Vice-Chair Christy Cheever
ccheever@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor John Francis
jfrancis@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Kevin Morrissey
kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Rickie Yudin
ryudin@soleburytwp.org

Township Calendar

Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.

October
10/26 Planning Commission
10/27 Solebury Farm Committee

November
11/2 Historical Architectural Review Board
11/4 Human Relations Commission (as needed)
11/4 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
11/5 Board of Supervisors
11/9 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
11/10 Environmental Advisory Council
11/12 Parks & Recreation Board
11/17 Board of Supervisors
11/18 Lake Solebury Advisory Committee
11/19 Land Preservation Committee
11/20 Energy Transition Committee
11/23 Planning Commission
11/24 Solebury Farm Committee

December
12/1 Environmental Advisory Council
12/3 Human Relations Commission (as needed)
12/7 Historical Archictural Review Board
12/8 Board of Supervisors
12/9 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)
12/10 Parks & Recreation Board
12/14 Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan Committee
12/16 Lake Solebury Advisory Committee
12/17 Land Preservation Committee
12/28 Planning Commission
12/29 Solebury Farm Committee

January 2027
1/4 Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting