

# Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 21, No. 4

SUMMER ISSUE

JULY 2015

## Local Heroes: Supervisors and Police Chief Commend Officers & Residents

**T**he Board of Supervisors and Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie recognized four police officers for honorable service milestones, devotion to duty, and heroism at the board's May meeting. An EMT and two residents were also commended for quick action in separate emergencies.

As Chief Bellizzie noted on the certificates he presented, each person recognized is a credit to the police department and Township.

**Sergeant Kevin M. Edwards**, the department's second-in-command, was singled out for achieving 20 years of honorable, dedicated, and faithful service (1994 to 2015).

**Detective Roy Ferrari** was commended for diligently investigating a string of 13 Bucks County burglaries that occurred in April 2014. He worked with Buckingham and Doylestown detectives, as well as New Jersey and Massachusetts law enforcement who were investigating related burglaries, to help apprehend a suspect and recover stolen property. Detective Ferrari's work—which made use of his strong computer-forensic skills—helped secure \$250,000 in restitution for victims of the three local communities.

**Patrolman Keith P. Fennell** was praised for his devotion to duty for quickly following up on a report by a group of bicyclists who, after almost being struck by a vehicle May 2, said the driver backed up and pointed a handgun at them. Hearing of the incident on the

radio, Officer Fennell fearlessly stopped a vehicle that matched the cyclists' description. While apprehending the driver, he recovered what turned out to be a fully loaded handgun.

**Sergeant Marc R. Mansour** and **EMT Douglas Gimson** of the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad were cited for heroism and devotion to duty for rescuing a resident from a burning apartment at great potential risk to themselves on April 11. The officer and EMT, who were first on the scene, entered the smoke-filled dwelling without knowing where the entrapped victim was, found her in a bedroom, and brought her to safety.

**Resident John B. Mack** was also recognized for heroism for his actions in July 2014. While working at the poolside bar of the Ramada Inn one summer evening, he observed a 50-year-old male swimmer at the bottom of the pool, and without regard for his personal safety, dove in, pulled the man from the water, and cleared his airway, thereby saving his life.

**Resident Isabelle Cavallo**, age 6, was presented with a Distinguished Citizen Service Award for the quick thinking and bravery she showed May 16 by calling 911 when her mother, Melissa Panthel, fell at home. Isabelle stayed by her side until police arrived; she unlocked the front door only when she was sure it was an officer; and she secured her dog while police helped her mother. 🐾

### LOCAL HEROES

Sergeant Marc R. Mansour (right) and EMT Douglas Gimson (center) listen soberly as

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie details the April 11 act of heroism and devotion to duty that resulted in the commendations jointly presented to them by the Chief and Board of Supervisors in May.



## Hurricane Season Arrives

*Sign Up for Emergency Notifications Now*

**A**tlantic hurricane season officially runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, but peaks from late August through September—the time we in the North Atlantic often feel the brunt of storms.

Sign up for one or more emergency notifications before problems strike.

### ReadyNotifyPA.org

Use this website to ensure you receive weather warnings issued by the Township; the warnings are issued *only* for true emergencies. Choose notification options and specify how you want to be notified.

### Solebury Email Alerts

Township email alerts announce road closings, Police Dept. warnings, changes in meeting times and locations, articles posted on Township website, and more.

To sign up, visit [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org), click the News tab, then click the words "Email Alerts." Enter your email address to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time.

### Follow Police on Social Media

Facebook: [facebook.com/SoleburyPolice](https://facebook.com/SoleburyPolice)

Twitter: [@soleburypolice](https://twitter.com/soleburypolice) 🐦

## What's Inside?



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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 will celebrate its 20-year anniversary with the publication of the Nov. 2015 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](mailto: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.

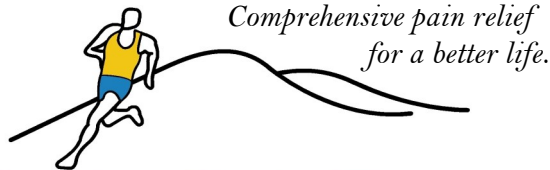
Other correspondence should be directed to the appropriate Township official. For more information, see the Township directory on page 7.

*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.*

### July

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

### August

8/3	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
8/10	Planning Commission, 7 pm
8/11	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
8/18	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
8/20	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
8/27	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



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

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## Resident Participation Needed for Deer Management Program

When the ecosystem is in balance, plant life plays an essential role in stormwater management. Plant roots facilitate the re-absorption of water through the ground, which can help prevent localized flooding and recharge the groundwater supply.

However, over-browsing by deer has been a key cause of the depletion of our local woodland understory and the vegetation that lines our stream corridors. The overarching goal of the Township's Deer Management Program is to re-balance the ecosystem by managing the white-tailed deer population.

This program is an important part of Solebury's long-term plan for maintaining and protecting local water resources.

In addition, the program is expected to reduce crop and property damage, minimize the threat of disease, and reduce deer-related accidents.

The program's long-term success depends on the active involvement of more Solebury landowners who are willing to allow sport hunting on their properties.

Positive relationships among hunters and landowners foster an environment in which deer are harvested at no cost, as well as in a manner that mutually benefits both hunters and landowners.

Solebury has developed a database of hunters who have been screened to ensure they are experienced, licensed, and committed to the legal and humane har-

vesting of adequate numbers of deer.

This community-wide approach to reducing deer damage will pay greater long-term dividends than a single landowner working alone.

For more information about how you can become involved in the program, contact Jean Weiss (215-297-5656).



*This community-wide approach to reducing deer damage will pay greater long-term dividends than a single landowner working alone.*

## Household Hazardous Waste Events

<b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY</b>	<b>July 25</b>	Central Bucks South H.S. 1100 Folly Road, Warrington
<b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY</b>	<b>Aug. 15</b>	Quakertown Community H.S. 600 Park Ave. (Rear Lot), Quakertown
<b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY</b>	<b>Aug. 22</b>	Bucks County Technical H.S. 610 Wistar Road, Bristol

These events are not open to business, industry, or institutions.

Each event is held, rain or shine, from 9AM-3PM.



To learn what you can and cannot bring:

- Visit: [www.buckscounty.org/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.org/recycling)
- Call the PA DEP Recycling Hotline: 1-800-346-4242
- Call the Bucks County Planning Commission: 215-345-3400

## About the Township Sign Ordinance

Thinking of putting up a sign to enhance your home, business, political campaign, or other activity?

Before you do, consider whether what you have in mind conforms with Solebury's sign ordinance and whether or not a sign permit is required.

The sign ordinance defines what constitutes a sign, specifies what kinds of signs are permitted in each zone, says where signs can and cannot be placed, provides formulas to determine the maximum size and placement of allowed signs, and more.

All sign placement is regulated—including banners, pennants, and signs placed inside windows.

To download the sign ordinance, go to [soleburytp.org](http://soleburytp.org) and select Documents & Forms from the Resources tab. Click Search Downloads, enter "sign ordinance," and click Search.

Click "Amended sign Requirements - Ord. 2012 -005" and click Download twice.

When the file displays, read it online or use the PDF toolbar to download the file to your computer.

Another option? Rather than trying to make sense of the ordinance yourself, you can talk to someone at the Township. When you call to make an appointment, someone will help you figure out who to speak to.

## Zoning Permits for At-Home Occupations

Effective July 1, 2015 any application for a zoning permit to permit a **Home Professional Office, Home Occupation, or Dwelling in Combination with a Business** that allows for customers, clients and or visitors to access the Home Occupation, Home Professional Office or Dwelling in Combination with a Business will require compliance with the Uniform Construction Code prior to issuance of a zoning permit.

The commercial requirements of the Uniform Construction Code will be applied to the area of the building to be occupied by the At Home Occupation.

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# Planning of New Public Works Facility Moves Forward

In May, Phillips & Donovan Architects of Bedminster presented the Township with a three-dimensional rendering of the new, one-story, 14,000-square-foot Public Works facility to be constructed next to Township Hall in the coming year on unused Township-owned land (see right half of illustration).

Township Manager and Public Works Director Dennis Carney said the project would go to bid on June 8, with construction starting in the fall, but it will not be ready for use until next summer.

The new structure will house all Public Works activities in one space, including offices as well as bays for the Township's many and diverse vehicles. In addition, it will provide a drainage area for washing vehicles, a space for vehicle maintenance, storage areas, a kitchen, and locker rooms for employees.

Dennis said the fact that the structure is heated will reduce wear and tear on Township

vehicles, which are now washed in the middle of winter after snow plowing, then stored in the existing pole barn where they never really defrost or dry off.

An adjunct structure—a 60-foot-by-60-foot salt storage building—will also be constructed (see back and left of Public Works building in picture) with a high pitched roof and dormer that will allow salt delivery trucks to pour an entire season's worth of salt directly into the building. (The current facility holds only enough salt for 2-3 storms; the salt is dropped on the ground on delivery and pushed inside the pole barn by the road crew.)

The entire site will be curbed to contain and direct runoff to specific inlets, Dennis said.

In addition, drains in the parking area will be equipped with devices that separate water and oil before discharging only the former into the environment.

And a state-of-the-art stormwater man-

agement system will be installed below-ground to catch stormwater from inlets and direct its slow release into the aquifer.

"This is all part of Solebury's long-standing effort to protect local water resources," he said.



## Planning an Addition or Renovation?

Be smart: Talk to the Township first.

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## Aquetong Spring Park Update

Now that work has begun on breaching the earthen dam on the eastern end of what is now known as Aquetong Spring Park, the 15-acre lake created by the dam in 1870 has been drained, and the coldwater limestone spring that once fed it has started to create a stream that is cutting its way through the sediment of the old lake bed, Township Manager and Public Works Director Dennis Carney reported.

The process of restoring the site to this earlier state was a largely natural one, he stressed, and any major efforts to bolster the riparian buffer around the new stream would have been wasted until the waterway established its path. "It had to carve its own channel in that soft silt," he said.

The Township's focus has been seeding the soggy soil around the new stream and a related tributary with grasses and wildflowers—a temporary measure to stabilize the earth and prevent erosion.

The process will likely be well enough underway to reopen the area to the public by fall, Dennis predicted.

As a next step, the Township is applying for grant funds to support an extended project that allows Solebury to strengthen the emerging stream in a more permanent way.

The goal, Dennis said, is to first hire an environmental engineering firm to assess the needs of the stream and tributary and develop a plan for creating a natural buffer around them with shrubs and trees in addition to grasses and wildflowers.

The efforts spent in that direction will likely span a few years to ensure that the stream has truly found its new permanent home, Dennis projected. "It will take a few good storms to solidify the stream's natural course," he said.

In addition to a vegetation plan that stabilizes the stream, the Township would like to develop trails through the 48-acre property, create additional public access and parking, and possibly add other amenities for public use.

"This park has the potential to be a neat place when all is said

and done," Dennis said, "a kind of outdoor classroom," with educational features that showcase the park's unique environment as well as its rich history.

Aquetong Spring has been revered as a sacred site by the Lenni Lenapes since the early 1600s and will now be visible in its original state. Flowing at a rate of approximately 2,000 gallons per minute, it is the largest coldwater limestone spring in the five-county Philadelphia region and one of the largest in the state.

Meanwhile, what remains of the breached dam will point to the fact that the headwaters powered a mill and supported a fish hatchery throughout much of the 19th and 20th centuries. 🌿



**AQUETONG CREEK UNLEASHED:** Fed by the powerful coldwater spring (which, in the perspective of the photo, is located behind the viewer), Aquetong Creek cuts decisively across the newly drained lake bed. It flows east, then south, in this early part of its journey to the Delaware River, as it independently establishes its new course as a stream. (Photo courtesy of photographer Don Schoenleber and the Solebury Historical Society)



*There is still room!*  
**Summer Adventure Camp 2015**  
**July 6 - August 14**  
**NH-S Upper Elementary School**

See page 7 for details.



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## Summertime Child Safety Tips

The Solebury Police Dept. urges parents to stay extra aware of the following summertime child safety concerns:

- Be sure your children know how to dial 911 in an emergency.
- Make sure children know and can spell their surnames, know their parents' names, and know how to contact their parents in an emergency.
- Secure children in approved child safety seats (to age 4), booster seats (to age 8), or seatbelts (8 and older) when riding in vehicles. The back seat is safest.
- Remind children never to talk to, take candy from, or take rides from a stranger; never to help a stranger find a lost pet; and never to open a vehicle door for a stranger. Reinforce that *anyone they don't know is a stranger*.
- Insist that children wear proper safety gear, including a helmet, when biking, skateboarding, or inline skating, and that they abide by the rules of the road.
- Never allow children to swim alone; always make sure an adult is nearby and watching.
- Keep children in eyesight at parks, shopping malls, and public events, and stay aware of the surroundings. Be alert to strangers watching children and report suspicious persons or activities to police immediately.
- Keep a current schedule of children's activities, including times, who they will be with, and how to contact them in an emergency. 📞



**SOLEBURY POLICE** accepted medications for safe disposal at Giant Food Store April 25 during the DEA National Medications Take-Back. Detective Roy Ferrari and NHS Cares Project Director Barbara Gross reported that this time police collected more drugs in the drug collection box at Township Hall than at the event. According to Chief Bellizzie, Bucks County police collected a total of 3,247 pounds of drugs at their combined events; their permanent boxes collected another 4,738, for a total of almost 4 tons.

## Police Urge Caution Around Motorcycles

The return of warm weather also brings the usual increase in the number of motorcycles on Township roads.

To help avoid accidents and injuries, the Solebury Police Dept. urges residents to be cautious when sharing the road with motorcycles—particularly when turning onto Township roads from blind driveways and intersections.

“Motorcycles are sometimes difficult to see and extra caution must be taken,” noted Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie.

“Noise is another problem related to motorcycles at this time of year,” he said. “The police department will be vigilant and will do everything legally possible to ensure that all motorcycles operated in the Township have proper muffler systems.”

Residents who have particular concerns or questions about motorcycles may contact the Solebury Township Police Dept. at 215-297-8201. 📞



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# Township Directory

P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963  
SoleburyTwp.org

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:**  
soleburytwp@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@soleburytwp.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 & Recreation Dept.

## Upcoming Events



**There is still room! July 6 - Aug. 14**  
**Summer Adventure Camp 2015**  
NH-S Upper Elementary School  
180 West Bridge St., New Hope

For more information and to download a registration form,  
visit: soleburytwp.org (click Canal Park footbridge at mid-page)  
OR stop in at Township Hall during normal business hours.



**Come celebrate all that is Solebury!**  
**1st Annual Solebury Day**  
Sept. 19, 10AM - 4PM, Laurel Park  
Rain date: Sept. 20

parade • pet dress-up contest • cake-baking competition  
musical performances • art show • community softball game  
dunk tank • face-painting • balloon animals • crafts

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:  
soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)  
www.soleburybaseball.org (baseball)  
www.soleburybasketball.org (basketball)  
www.nhsfcc.com (football)  
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www.soleburysoccer.com (soccer)  
www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)

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Large (1/8 page)	(examples on pp. 3-5, 7-8)	\$165
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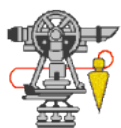
## 1st Annual Solebury Day

Sept. 19, 10AM - 4PM, Laurel Park

— Rain date: Sept. 20 —

### Come celebrate all that is Solebury!

parade • pet dress-up contest • cake-baking competition  
musical performances • art show • community softball game  
dunk tank • face-painting • balloon animals • crafts



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