

Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of the Board of Supervisors

Vol. 18. No. 2 LATE WINTER ISSUE **MARCH 2012**

Township Updates Sewage Management Plan

Changes to Pa. Act 537 Demand More Detailed Planning

n keeping with changes to the state's ments, Solebury wants the revision to em-Act 537—Solebury has resumed its revithe Township's Comprehensive Plan. sion of the Township Sewage Management Plan.

When the Solebury Messenger went to press, a partial draft—started a few years ago—was in the process of being completed; the full draft is expected to be posted on the Township website in the spring.

First adopted in 1966, Act 537 requires sewage disposal needs of their residentseither by providing centralized sewer services or by enforcing state standards and regulations for the construction of multihome and individual on-lot septic systems.

mental Protection (DEP) added a higher the Township (Solebury has roughly 2,500 level of planning and governance to these requirements, which has forced most municipalities to extensively revise earlier plans.

Sewage Facilities Act-also known as brace the vision of sustainability outlined in

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

Study Process

CET Engineering Services of Harris-Pennsylvania municipalities to plan for the burg, Trevose, and Huntington Valley began the revision process by first surveying the Township to develop a profile of Solebury's sewage disposal needs, capabilities, problems, and limitations.

The engineers surveyed 320 existing More recently, the Pa. Dept. of Environ- sanitary systems from 13 different areas of on-lot systems in all). In addition, they examined 310 wells for signs of possible sewage contamination, with a focus on areas of In addition to meeting the new require- the Township that are more densely popu-

(continued on page 3)



WINTER FESTIVAL PARADE brightened Bridge Street January 28. Many local nonprofit organizations created floats—like the one above crafted by the New Hope Chamber of Commerce to showcase Winter Festival events. The Philadelphia Uptown String Band, Philadelphia Freedom Band, Lambertville Volunteers Drum and Bugle Corps, and South Hunterdon Regional High School Marching Band kept the beat, while N.J. Renaissance Faire revelers, President Washington & Coryell's Landing reenactors, a stilt walker, and many others marched.

Solebury Police Dept. presents

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative

10 AM-2 PM Saturday, April 28

Two locations:

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

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

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Dear Taxpayer:

Through the Solebury Messenger, the Board of Supervisors 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 at 609-397-8483.

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.

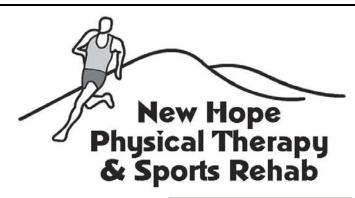
Kay and Marie



Printed on recycled paper by Hermitage Press, Trenton, NJ © School Window Publications

A NOTE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

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.

March

3/5	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
3/6	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
3/12	Planning Commission, 7 pm
3/13	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
3/20	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
3/22	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

April

4/2	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
4/6	HOLIDAY - TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
4/3	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
4/9	Planning Commission, 7 pm
4/1	0 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
4/1	7 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
4/2	6 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
4/2	6 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



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Planning a Winter Getaway? Police Dept. Warns of Vacation Safety Issues

hile you may think of summer vacation prime time, • criminals also see winter getaways—especially those that take place on lengthy school breaks—as opportunities for burglaries.

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie urges residents to "make your home look lived-in when you go away."

In particular:

- Let friends and neighbors know when you will be away for vacation.
- Before you leave, let police know exactly when you will be away and how you can be reached.
- ask a neighbor to move it each day.
- Set any alarms and be sure

the alarm company knows how to reach you.

- Don't leave trash or recycling cans at the roadside for pickup—ask a neighbor to move the cans for you at the appropriate times.
 - Cancel newspapers (or have someone pick them up) and have the post office hold your mail.
 - Set timers to turn lights on and off intermittently (don't leave the porch light-or other outside light—on all day and night).
- Lock all doors and windows.

<u>ım nifmilin mı</u>

Don't leave valuables in plain sight.

For help with any non-If you are leaving a car home, emergency home safety concerns, contact Township Police at 215-297-8201 during business hours. 🏖

> Solebury Parks & Recreation Supports Bucks County Parks & Recreation's

30th Annual Senior Games May 7 - 19

Additional information will soon be posted on the Bucks County Parks & Recreation website:

http://www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/ParksandRec/

${f Act}\;{f 537}$ (continued from page 1)

lated and a goal of learning what kinds of problems exist and why.

The firm also reviewed the repair history of 72 on-lot systems to establish trends.

The information gleaned during the study process will be used to inform the firm's recommendations.

What the Plan Means for Residents

The final Sewage Management Plan is expected to explain how residents and the Township will work together to protect public health and the environment from sewage contamination.

The revised plan will define standards for private septic systems, describe Solebury's process for monitoring those systems, discuss maintenance requirements for on-lot systems, and propose solutions for any existing sewage problems.

Once the plan and ordinance are adopted, residents who have on-lot systems will be required to have them pumped out and inspected every three years, on a cycle to begin with the adoption of the ordinance.

Revision Timeline

The adoption of a municipal Sewage Management Plan includes passage through both local and state channels, which can take more than a year.

First, the Township completes its review of the draft plan, holds a 30-day public comment period, decides whether to further revise the documents based on comments, and then adopts the draft plan.

Next, the DEP reviews the locally adopted draft plan, which can take up to 120 days.

Depending on the revisions required as a result of the review, DEP approval of the plan may take several additional months.

After the plan is state-approved, the Township must then revise its ordinances to align with the plan.

Planning an Addition or Renovation?



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Solebury Resident

Aquetong Watershed Association Completes Watershed Assessment

Recommends Action Plan to Protect Water Supply

AQUETONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

aquetongwatershed.org

he Aquetong Watershed Association recently completed a comprehensive two-year assessment of the Aquetong Creek watershed with help from a Pa.-DEP Growing Greener grant, paid consultants, and more than 50 dedicated volunteers, Association Treasurer Les Isbrandt reported.

The Bucks County Conservation District managed grant funds for the association.

The assessment engaged experts in evaluating existing data as well as in collecting new data on the eight-square-mile watershed, which spans parts of Solebury and New Hope.

Findings suggest that the watershed as a whole and its 23 miles of streams appear to be healthy now, but show signs of stress related to development and use.

Concerted action is needed to protect the future quality and quantity of the water supply, Les said. On the basis of the assessment's findings and observations, the association has identified a range of actions to protect and conserve the watershed, some of which follow.

Water Quality

Homeowners with private wells that supply drinking water have responsibilities to their families and the community to monitor and safeguard the water supply. **Action:** Develop a well-testing education program and provide guidance to encourage homeowners to have their well water tested annually to ensure safe water quality.

Under Act 537, each municipality is required to have a DEP-approved sewage facilities plan.

Action: Help to educate property owners with on-lot septic systems on good management practices that reduce the potential for contamination of the water supply.

Moderate-to-high nitrate levels are present in surface water and groundwater as a result of fertilizers from residential and agricultural sources.

Action: Help educate property owners on how to increase the use of meadows and rain gardens and apply fewer chemicals to lawns; and work with local conservation districts and the county agricultural officials to improve agricultural practices.

Water Quantity

Various studies conducted by Solebury estimate that the Aquetong watershed may incur a water deficit of as much as 500,000 gallons per day in normal precipitation years

and 750,000 gallons a day in drought years, with lower deficits in years of higher-than-average rainfall.

Due to increasing strain on supply—such as population growth, continued exporting of wastewater to Lambertville, and changes in weather patterns—two successive drought years could present significant additional challenges to the water supply.

Action: Encourage all residents to conserve the water supply through behavioral and engineering practices.

Watershed Conservation, Protection, and Preservation

Local streams, ponds, and lakes experience elevated temperatures on hot summer days, which impair stream conditions.

These higher water temperatures are exacerbated by the impact of dams, impervious surfaces (like parking lots and roads), and lack of adequate tree cover along streambanks.

Action: Continue to seek ways to reduce the amount of water subjected to dams, improve stormwater and impervious surface ordinances, protect riparian buffers from encroachment, encourage people to stop mowing down to the streambanks, and plant more trees.

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Development along the Route 202 corridor will create more impervious surfaces and runoff into Aquetong Creek.

Action: Work to improve green and low-impact development practices, and create demonstration projects to protect stream corridors.

Riparian buffers play a key role in protecting streams from encroachment, pollutants, and excessive runoff.

Action: Be vigilant in finding ways to protect, preserve, and improve these areas from development, poor land-use practices, and poor maintenance habits.

The region's infrastructure was severely damaged and altered by the combined impact of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. If the natural resource protections that were enacted in the last two decades had *not* been in place, the impacts of these storms would have been even more severe.

Action: Continue to strengthen ordinances; participate in any comprehensive planning conducted by the Township; and work with local governments on the key findings of the assessment and problem areas identified.

The overabundance of invasive plants and dense deer population crowd out or destroy native flora and generally distort the ecological balance of the forests.

Action: Encourage both municipalities to develop a long-term and integrated program to find ways to restore the balance, by working first in designated areas near the headwaters of main streams and proceeding downstream to mitigate negative impacts throughout the watershed.

Aquetong Lake and Aquetong Spring (also known as Ingham Lake and Spring) are both valuable assets of the Aquetong watershed and our community.

Action: Encourage Solebury Township to diligently develop the Aquetong Lake property for the community. The dam and cold water bypass issues are clear mandates for the Township.



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welcomes suggestions from residents.

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Suggestion Box photo.
Your e-mail address is required.

Other Beneficial Actions

The association offers the following reminders as a guide to actions that support the watershed:

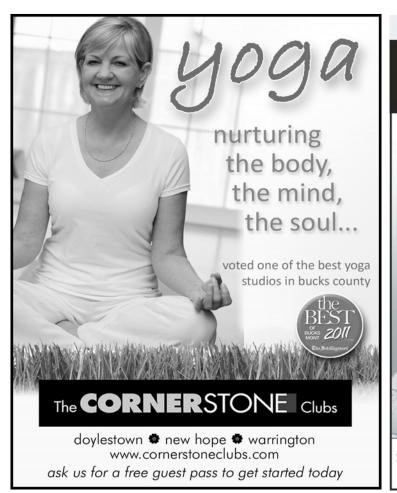
- **Chill Out:** Reduce dam impact, increase tree canopy, improve riparian buffers.
- **May Not Last Forever:** Don't take water supply and quality for granted.
- **Get Smart(er):** Strive for more natural resource protection, not less.
- **Go Native:** Take back areas decimated by invasive plants.
- Let's Talk: Maintain an open dialog with residents and Township officials.

What Can You Do?

Unless someone like YOU cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better.

—Dr. Seuss

- Go for a walk and become aware of what's happening around you.
- Plant native, non-invasive plants and trees.
- Inspect and maintain your private well and septic field.
- Test your drinking water or read your utility's water quality reports.
- Get informed and get involved: Join a watershed association.



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Yvette E. Taylor-Hachoose is the author of **Stop! What Are You Waiting For? Your Step-by-Step Guide to Estate Planning.** She is a graduate of Georgetown University
Law Center. She has served as Vice President with Prudential Insurance Company and
Assistant General Counsel with both CIGNA Corporation and Prudential.

Supervisors Recognize Volunteers

The 2012 Board of Supervisors is pleased to present the Township residents who have volunteered to staff the Township's advisory boards and committees in 2012.

"While we engage professionals in many key capacities, local government functions in large part because Solebury residents step forward to staff our advisory boards and committees," explained Supervisor Chair Robert Heath, Jr.

"Many communities struggle to find volunteers," he noted, "but we have a long tradition of participatory democracy in Solebury, and we take a lot of pride in that." Please join the supervisors in thanking your neighbors for their service.

2012 Board of Supervisors

Robert Heath, Jr., Chair Edward McGahan, Jr., Vice-Chair Paul Cosdon Dominic Marano James Searing

To learn more about Township advisory bodies, visit: SoleburyTwp.org

2012 Advisory Boards and Committees						
Environmental Advisory Committee Supervisor Liaison: Dominic Marano	Peter Schwalm, Chair Widgette Kelly, Vice-Chair Stephen Phillips, Assoc. Member David Benner Michael Farbotnik Barry Fetterolf Lauren McDonough	Parks & Recreation Board Supervisor Liaison: James Searing	Matt Hayden, Chair Kevin Campbell, Vice-Chair Dan DuPont Andy Kelly Martin Leyland Chris Walinski Kim Wilson			
Historical Architectural Review Board Supervisor Liaison: Paul Cosdon	Laurence Peseski, Chair Betsy Muzina, Vice-Chair Cristian Blackwood Moira McClintock, AIA Margaret Newman Nancy Ruddle Stuart Teacher	Planning Commission Supervisor Liaison: Edward McGahan, Jr.	Jane Wilson, Chair Jack Durkin, Vice-Chair Christopher Caputo Keith Deussing Dan Fest Laura Sachs Joe Tangradi			
Land Preservation Committee Supervisor Liaison: Robert Heath, Jr.	Malcolm Crooks Christine Hafner Phil Johnson Stanley A. Marcus Ralph O'Banion Karl Pettit Jan Ubel Charlotte Zanidakis	Zoning Hearing Board	Joseph Pignitor, Chair Arthur Rosenberg, Vice-Chair Lisa Lori Daniel E. Moser Steven M. Segal Michael Orozco, Alternate Michael Warden, Alternate Eric Stephens, Alternate			





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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/Secretary, Dept. of Planning and Preservation Christine Terranova: cterranova@soleburytwp.org

Land Preservation 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
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The appropriate individual will respond.







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Upcoming Events



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

March 31, 10 AM, rain or shine, Pat Livezey Park *Children 8 and under*. Arrive early to make sure your children do not miss the start of the hunt. Parking is available at the upper entrance of the park at the corner of Hagan and Parkside Drives. In the event of rain, prizes will be distributed at the snack stand until supplies are exhausted.



Summer Adventure Camp 2012

July 2 - August 10, NH-S Upper Elementary School, 180 West Bridge St., New Hope For more information and registration form, visit: http://www.soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)

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.tcteams.com/nhspopwarner (football)
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Township News Inside!

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Annual Easter Egg Hunt

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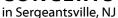
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Solebury Messenger

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Deadline for advertisements is April 5.

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