

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 20, No. 2

#### LATE WINTER ISSUE

#### **MARCH 2014**

# What's In Your Drinking Water?

ore than 43 million people living in drinking water.

and, in most cases, state laws do not regulate the quality and safety of water from private circ/circ1332/ wells.

responsible for maintaining their private wells and for monitoring their water quality.

This lack of regular monitoring makes periodic assessments of private wells that are potential contaminants that threaten your conducted at the national, regional, and local level important sources of information about well water quality.

For example, a 2009 report from the National Water-Quality Assessment Program keep of the U.S. Geological Survey surveyed waterquality conditions of more than 2,000 private wells across the United States between 1991- to locate a local certified testing lab, or for 2004.

The study measured more than 200 right for your sample, contact: properties and contaminants-including pH, . bacteria, major ions, nutrients, trace elements, radon, pesticides, and volatile organic . compounds.

The high number of contaminants the United States rely on private assessed and the broad geographic range of wells as the source of their the study provide a foundation for improved understanding of the water quality of the Yet, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act major U.S. aquifers tapped by private wells.

To read the report, visit: pubs.usgs.gov/

To ensure that your drinking water is safe, Rather, individual homeowners are have your well water tested annually for coliform bacteria and every three years for pH and total dissolved solids.

> In addition, if you can determine any water supply-such as nitrate, arsenic or radon-vou can include other tests and analyses to ensure the safety of your water.

> Be sure to use a certified laboratory and records to facilitate year-to-year comparisons.

> To obtain a drinking water sampling kit, help with questions about the tests that are

- Brian Swistock, Water Resources Specialist, Penn State Extension (brs@psu.edu)
- Les Isbrandt, certified Master Well

Owner (lesisbrandt@comcast.net)

SNOW FOLK ART, created by area residents from blank snowman cutouts, were displayed in New Hope and Lambertville storefronts in the weeks leading up to Winter Festival 2014, then exhibited at the Winter Festival Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 26. Girl Scout Troop 2024 created "Lilly Local," at left, winning first place in the 4-to-8-year-old category. Karen Rice (right) and Jean Heath (left), manager and assistant manager of First National Bank and Trust of Newtown, respectively, cochaired the event.

## It's Income Tax Season

Earned Income Tax Reminder

 $\frown$  olebury 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 on 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 the EIT and LST is available on the Keystone website.

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

> www.keystonecollects.com **Bucks County Office** 1243 Easton Road, Suite 101 Warrington, PA 18976 Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-4 PM 866-539-1100

#### 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 🍋

# 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 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

Printed on recycled paper by Hermitage Press, Trenton, NJ  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  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

- 3/3 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm3/4 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 3/10 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 3/11 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 3/18 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 3/18 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm 3/20 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 3/27 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

## April

- 4/1 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
  4/7 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
  4/8 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
- 4/14 Planning Commission, 7 pm
- 4/15 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
- 4/17 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
- 4/18 HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
- 4/24 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



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

Visit: soleburytwp.org Click "Solebury Email Alerts" and enter your email address.



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# Planning a Getaway?

Recent Thefts Increase Importance of Vacation Safety

Due to recent thefts of copper downspouts in the Township, Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie urges residents to take home safety more seriously than ever, particularly when away on vacation.

In December the police department received three reports about copper thefts from residents along Upper York Road, Upper Mountain Road, and Stony Hill Road.

All thefts occurred during the night, and numerous sections of downspouts and gutters were removed from each house.

Police urge anyone who sees or hears anything unusual during the night around their home to call 9-1-1 or 215-348-7400.

If your house has copper downspouts or gutters, police recommend taking extra measures to secure the piping to your dwelling. Residential security cameras can also assist police if any activity occurs around your house.

The vacation safety steps below can help decrease the likelihood of thieves seeing your home as opportunity for burglary while you are enjoying your vacation.

The theme of the tips is to "make your home look lived-in when you go away," Chief Bellizzie explained.

- 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.
- If you are leaving a car home, 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.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight.

For help with any non-emergency home safety concerns, contact Township Police at 215-297-8201 during business hours.

Solebury Police Dept. presents

## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative 10 AM-2 PM Saturday, April 26

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

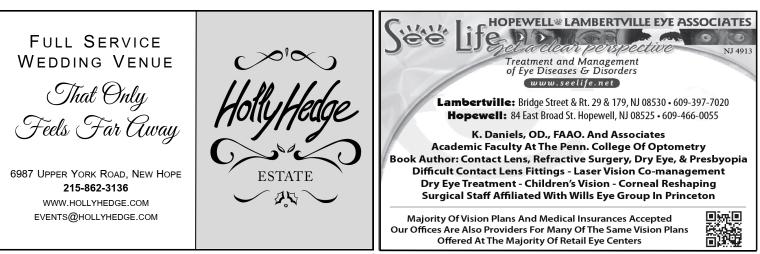
Safely surrender expired, unwanted, or unused prescription medicines, including controlled substances and other drugs, for destruction by law enforcement.



For more information, visit: SoleburyTwp.org



**MAGICIAN RAN'D SHINE** entertained young people with magic coin tricks during the annual Winter Festival Pancake Breakfast held at New Hope-Solebury High School January 26. Solebury Parks and Recreation sponsored the magic act as part of the Children's Activity Center it held during the breakfast.



## Stormwater Pollution: Everyone's Problem

Part 3: Reducing Runoff

us can help manage stormwater so less of it runs off our properties, and more is absorbed by the soil.

Stormwater management used to emphasize removing water quickly way to reduce runoff and add beauty from land to prevent flooding, but to your property. that sent large volumes of water rushing into local streams. which quickly eroded stream banks, muddying the water and changing the shape of the waterways.

Also, fast-moving stormwater picks up more pollution from lawns, farms, and roads, turning creeks and aquatic habitats into open storm groundwater resources, and as an sewers.

It is now understood that the key to proper stormwater management is slowing the rate of runoff. This allows time for rainwater to sink into the ground rather than run into storm drains.

your downspout is one easy way to keep rain on your property. These containers collect and store rainwater so it can later be used for watering plants, cleaning yard equipment, or topping off a swimming pool.

When collected in a rain barrel, stormwater can be released slowly. giving it time to seep into the soil.

Rain barrels also save money on

n addition to reducing the household water use, provide plants pollutants stormwater can pick up with soft water (free of chlorine, lime as it runs across the land, each of or calcium), conserve water for use during drought, and can be designed to fit in nicely with your house and landscaping.

Rain gardens are another great

Rain gardens are graded slightly to collect several inches of stormwater, which allows time for the water to seep into the soil or be used by the plantstwo natural processes that filter the water and prevent it from polluting our waterways.

Rain gardens recharge our added benefit, attract butterflies, beneficial insects, and other wildlife.

We also can encourage infiltration by planting more native vegetation elsewhere on our properties, keeping grass tall enough to slow down water (three inches or Installing a rain barrel under higher), and installing silt fences during earth disturbance activities.

> By using rain gardens and other stormwater management techniques at home, we can have a positive, cumulative effect on the quality and quantity of our drinking water. 🍋

Adapted from articles by Krista Scheirer. Conservation Coordinator at the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.

## New 2014 Township Fee Schedule

The Board of Supervisors adopted a new Township fee schedule in January.

The fee schedule covers everything from the purchase of copies of specific ordinances, to subdivision and land development fees, to building permit fees, and more.

The Township's extensive review of the actual costs associated with the fees resulted in a number of fees being reduced in the 2014 schedule.

The updated fee schedule is posted on the Township website under the Administration tab.

## **Backyard Stewardship Workshop**



BIRD TOWN

s part of the Solebury Bird Town program, the Township and Bucks County Audubon Society are offering a workshop in backvard stewardship.

Any homeowner, gardener, teacher, or land owner who is interested in helping the environment can benefit from this program on restoring ecology to backyards and other properties.

This workshop on backyard design and ecological stewardship includes two sessions:

Session 1: Saturday, March 29, 10 AM - 3 PM

Session 2: Date to be determined by attendees.

The first session is conducted in a classroom setting at the Bucks County Audubon Society (BCAS) Visitor Center on 2877 Creamery Road. A companion textbook, notebook, light morning fare, and lunch are included.

The second session involves site visits, demonstrations of the course's backyard assessment tool, and opportunities for students to practice using it.

The cost of the workshop is \$55. To register, contact BCAS at 215-297-5880.



# Township Targets Roads for Repairs

w orking in his role as Roadmaster, Township Manager Dennis Carney recently inspected all Township roads to develop a new five-year plan that estimates which roads are likely to require repaying between 2014-2018.

At the beginning of each year of the plan, Dennis reviews the roads targeted for that year. Depending on road conditions, he pushes back the repaying of those that fared better than expected and moves up those that deteriorated faster than expected.

This year's list includes roads that will be repaved using a typical asphalt overlay as well as roads that will be repaved using a tar-and-chip treatment.

Asphalt overlay is required for roads • that experience a high volume of traffic, while tar-and-chip treatment—which • involves laying a coating of tar, embedding the tar with stone chips, and using a •

driveway-type sealer to create a smooth surface—can only be used on lightly travelled roads.

The following roads will be resurfaced as needed in 2014:

- Honey Hollow Road
- Great Oaks Road
- Sunset Drive
- Arboresque Drive
- North Sugan Road (from Mechanicsville Road to Sugan Close)
- Red Fox Drive
- Paddock Drive
- Bridlewood Drive
- Creamery Road (from Mechanicsville Road to Route 263)
- Paxson Road (from Comfort Road to Sugan Road)
- Hagan Drive
- Bogle Drive
- Parkside Drive

## **Solebury Emergency Notifications**

#### ReadyNotifyPA.org

Use this website to sign up for Weather Warnings issued by the Township. Weather Warnings are issued only for true emergencies.

If you wish, you can also choose additional notification options. And you can specify exactly 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 the Township website, and more.

To sign up, visit 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 Twitter: @soleburypolice



#### Do You Have an Idea You Would Like to Offer to the Township?

Solebury Township welcomes suggestions from residents. Visit our website and click on the Suggestion Box photo. Your e-mail address is required.



### **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.



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## **Supervisors Appreciate Volunteers**

The 2014 Board of Supervisors is pleased to present the Township residents who volunteered to staff the Township's advisory boards and committees this year.

"Solebury is a great community because so many people step forward in so many ways," explained Supervisor Chair James Searing.

"Volunteers serving on Township committees or specific projects provide insights, experience, and keep us focused on the real needs of residents," he noted. "They help the Township identify emerging issues, plan for the future, and bring a real-world perspective that benefits everyone."

Please join the supervisors in thanking your neighbors for their service.

### 2014 Board of Supervisors

James Searing, Chair Paul Cosdon, Vice-Chair

Robert Heath, Jr.

Edward McGahan, Jr.

Helen Tai

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, as needed, at 7 PM (unless otherwise noted)

# 2014 Advisory Boards and Committees

For changes in meeting dates & times, visit soleburytwp.org or sign up for email alerts (see page 2).

Environmental Advisory Committee Supervisor Liaison: Robert Heath, Jr. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7 PM	Eric Allen David Benner Jim Bishop Hope Blaythorne Michael Farbotnik Barry Fetterolf Peter Schwalm	Parks & Recreation Board Supervisor Liaison: Paul Cosdon Meetings: 4th Thursday, 7 PM	Kevin Campbell Dan DuPont Matt Hayden Andy Kelly Martin Leyland Chris Walinski Kim Wilson
Historical Architectural Review Board: Supervisor Liaison: Helen Tai Meetings: 1st Monday, 7 PM	John Colton Moira McClintock Betsy Muzina Margaret Newman Laurence Peseski Nancy Ruddle James Trammell	<b>Planning Commission</b> Supervisor Liaison: James Searing Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM	Christopher Caputo Keith Deussing Jack Durkin Dan Fest Laura Sachs Diane Sarti Jane Wilson
Land Preservation Committee Supervisor Liaison: Edward McGahan, Jr. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 PM	Malcolm Crooks Christine Hafner Phil Johnson Stanley A. Marcus Ralph O'Banion Karl Pettit Jan Ubel Charlotte Zanidakis	Zoning Hearing Board Meetings: When needed	Lisa Lori Daniel E. Moser Joseph Pignitor Arthur Rosenberg Steven M. Segal Eric Stephens, Alternate Michael Warden, Alternate

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



The next issue of the **Solebury Messenger** will mail on April 30. Deadline for advertisers is April 9.

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# Township Directory



# Parks and Recreation Dept.

Upcoming Events



## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 19, 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.

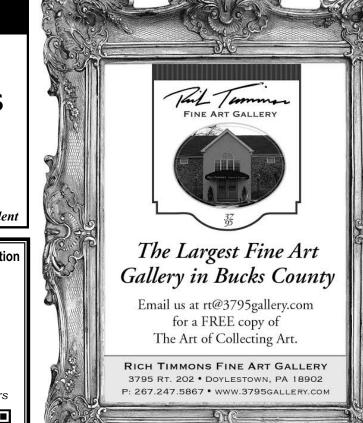


#### Summer Adventure Camp 2014 June 30 - August 8, NH-S Upper Elementary School, 180 West Bridge St., New Hope

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) www.tcteams.com/solebury (soccer) www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)



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: 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.



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Township News Inside!

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Solebury Township Parks and Recreation presents



Saturday, April 19, 10 am • Rain or shine • Pat Livezey Park (see p. 7 for details)

