

# Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 19, No. 6

AUTUMN ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2013

## Stormwater Pollution: Everyone's Problem

### Part 1: What Is Stormwater Pollution?

**S**tormwater pollution is everyone's problem: We all contribute to it, we are all affected by it, and we can all be part of the solution.

When stormwater runs across the land, it carries many pollutants into local streams—either directly or indirectly through storm sewer systems—causing stormwater pollution. Snowmelt and irrigation have the same effect, carrying pollutants from plowed fields, city streets, and suburban backyards.

The water in our streams ultimately makes it into our wells as drinking water. The more polluted our water resources become, the more difficult and expensive it is to purify it for drinking.

Stormwater pollution also negatively impacts wildlife, recreation, stream banks, and storm sewer systems. It can cause increased flooding, contaminate fish we eat, and spread pathogens that are hazardous to human health.

In the past, more stormwater was absorbed by the soil and filtered underground, replenishing our water resources and thus our wells. But due to development, today less rainwater makes its way underground and more rushes downstream, causing a problem related to stormwater

pollution—reduction of the water supply.

A reduced supply intensifies the impact of stormwater pollution and strains the natural process by which stormwater pollution is remediated. Like a filter, soil cleans water as it travels underground to springs or wells.

Without ample infiltration, groundwater supplies will continue to decrease, creating potential drinking water shortages. Furthermore, the rush of water that occurs when stormwater does *not* infiltrate causes erosion and degrades stream channels and aquatic habitats.

Each of us can take small actions to reduce the pollutants stormwater picks up as it runs across the land.

There are also ways to manage stormwater so less of it runs off our properties in the first place.

Whether you manage hundreds of acres or a small lot, you can do a great deal to improve the quality of the water that recharges local wells and waterways.

Next issue: **Stormwater Pollution: Everyone's Problem, Part 2: Reducing Pollutants** (*Adapted from articles by Krista Scheirer, Conservation Coordinator at the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.*) ♻️

## Attention Solebury Residents: Call for Volunteers

**T**he Board of Supervisors is currently accepting applications for appointments to advisory boards and commissions for the new year.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, submit your résumé and a brief letter of interest using one of the methods listed below.

In your letter, describe your interest or an area of expertise you would like to share, and note whether you would prefer to serve on a specific committee or to be appointed to a role by the Township.

- Mail:  
Solebury Township  
P.O. Box 139  
Solebury, PA 18963  
Attention: Gretchen Rice
- E-mail:  
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org  
or grice@soleburytpw.org
- Hand delivery:  
Township Hall, 3092 Sугan Road

## Attention Residents

### Please don't blow leaves and grass clippings onto roadways.

This organic waste can clog storm drains and impede the flow of stormwater from homes, roads, and driveways.

If the waste is carried by storm drains to local waterways, it can cause pollution by increasing the amount of organic waste in our streams and/or by carrying fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides to the water supply.

Please see related articles above and on page 3.

## 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](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.

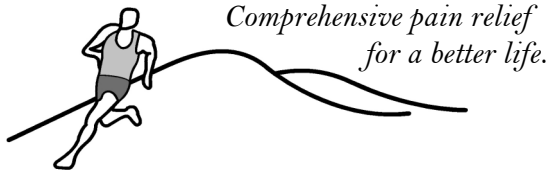
*Kay and Marie*



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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.*

### November

11/7	Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
11/4	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
11/12	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
11/14	Planning Commission, 7 pm
11/19	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
11/21	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
11/21	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm
11/28-29	HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

### December

12/2	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
12/3	Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
12/9	Planning Commission, 7 pm
12/10	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
12/17	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
12/19	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
12/19	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm
12/25-26	HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED



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## Maintaining Driveway Pipes and Swales

The Public Works Dept. reminds residents that the Township is not responsible for cleaning pipes and swales at the ends of driveways and ditch lines. Residents must monitor these regularly and keep them free of debris—such as leaves, sticks, grass, trash, and silt—to ensure the smooth flow of stormwater from homes, roads, and driveways.

Also, when mowing grass or blowing leaves, please do not blow the waste into streets or ditch lines, where it can clog storm inlets and pipes and where airborne seeds may germinate in cracks or at curb lines.

Curbside pickup of leaves and other natural refuse is not provided by the Township.

The Township does maintain and repair inlets, cross pipes, and culverts. Public Works strives to keep these clear, but if you discover one that is excessively clogged, please report it by calling 215-297-5656.

By working together, we can help prevent future maintenance problems. 🌱

## Composting 101: A Backyard Project

Composting is an effective way to turn fallen leaves and other yard waste, as well as some kitchen waste, into mulch and fertilizer for your garden beds and potted plants.

### The Compost Bin

To get started, all you need is a small bin (at least 4-x-4-x-4 feet), which you can build or buy. Your choice depends on many factors, such as the space you have available, the amount of compostable waste you generate, and convenience; the link at the end of the article points to examples of both types.

The bin allows you to create a compost pile that preserves heat and moisture (both of which enhance decomposition), and it keeps the pile from falling apart or blowing away.

When choosing a bin style, remember that you will need room to turn the compost periodically (a pile that is not mixed takes much longer to decompose). With a homemade bin you can do this with a pitchfork or shovel, whereas some commercial bins are set up to spin on a frame.

Some people use a multi-bin arrangement so that compost is ready for use on a staggered basis.

### The Compost Pile

Once your bin is in place, you're ready to start adding compostable materials. The link at the end of this article points to information about what you can and cannot add to your compost pile.

While the heat of a well-maintained composter is sufficient to kill many weed seeds, insect eggs,

and diseases, the seeds of some invasive species (e.g., Canada Thistle) can survive composting and should be disposed of another way, as should materials that promote disease, cause odors, or attract pests.

If you plan to compost kitchen waste, stick to fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and nutshells.

It is not necessary to add any kind of starter to the pile. The speed with which your waste becomes compost varies with the size and density of the materials in the pile, as well as how often you turn it. According to the PA-DEP website: "Depending upon seasonal temperatures, a well-built, well-tended pile generally yields finished compost in 2 weeks to 4 months. An unattended pile made with unshredded material may take longer than a year to decompose."

If you compost a lot of leaf matter, try gathering them with a leaf blower set on reverse with the cloth collection bag attached. This shreds the leaves as they are bagged. Also, limit the ratio of shredded leaves to other additions to about 4 to 1.

### Finished Compost

When your compost is ready, it will be dark brown and crumbly, with an earthy odor. Use it to mulch your flowerbeds, to feed your gardens and containers, or as a top dress on your lawn.

For more information, visit the PA-DEP website: [www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/Compost\\_sum/Home.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/Compost_sum/Home.htm) 🌱



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**January 18-26**

*On the Web: <http://www.winterfestival.net>*

**W**inter Festival returns January 18-26 to provide an exciting mid-winter break for visitors and residents of our twin river communities, complete with fun-filled events and activities for all ages!

In addition to taking an active role in event planning and hosting the popular Children's Activity Center in the New Hope-Solebury High School gym on Sunday morning, January 26, Solebury Parks and Recreation is a partner and sponsor of the annual event.

Now in its 17th successful year, Winter Festival has something of interest for everyone, including the popular Chili Cook-Off (always an early "sell out"), a spectacular parade through the streets of New Hope and Lambertville, live entertainment, family activities, and much more.

Please check out the Winter Festival website ([www.winterfestival.net](http://www.winterfestival.net)) around mid-November for event schedules, activity updates, concert news, and ticket

information so you can plan your visit. All information about the festival is posted on the website as soon as it's finalized.

Winter Festival provides a full schedule of both free and ticketed local events, including concerts, theatrical performances, food and wine tasting, a pancake breakfast, family and children's activities, ice sculpture displays, tours, arts and crafts, and more.

Proceeds from Winter Festival support the parks and recreation departments of Solebury, New Hope, and Lambertville, as well as local food banks, school scholarship programs, fire and police services, and other community organizations.

Thanks to the overwhelming community support of the event, Winter Festival 2013 raised and distributed more than \$18,000 to these local charities and organizations.

Keep in mind that many events require advance tickets; purchase them early through the website ([www.winterfestival.net](http://www.winterfestival.net)) to avoid being left out in the cold. ❄️



## Historical Society Holds Annual New Year's Brunch

**C**ome one, come all!

The Solebury Township Historical Society invites you to the 13th annual Solebury New Year's brunch on Wednesday, January 1, from noon to 3 PM.

It will be held at Holly Hedge Estates, located at 6987 Upper York Road in Solebury Township.

Beginning at noon, the event features social time with complimentary cider, a cash bar, and entertainment by Bob Egan.

A complete gourmet brunch follows, including meats, an omelet station, and poached salmon.

Honored Citizens of Solebury awards will be presented.

Join your neighbors and friends as we bring in the New Year together!

Seating is limited and advance paid reservations of \$50 per person are required.

Visit [soleburyhistory.org](http://soleburyhistory.org) to make your reservations through PayPal.

Or send a check to STHS, Drawer 525, Solebury, PA 18963. 📮

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### Trinity Day School's Holiday Vendor Fair & Craft Show

**Saturday, December 7**

**9 am to 3 pm**

Trinity Church  
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(across from the Lower Elementary School)

Vendors include Thirty-One, Lia Sophia,  
and Pampered Chef, plus many local  
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Buy homemade baked goods at our **Bake Sale**,  
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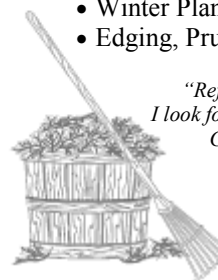
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## 2013 Summer Adventure Camp Comes to a Close

In August, Solebury Parks and Recreation Summer Adventure Camp wrapped up an exciting and innovative season at New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School. This marks the third year that camp activities have been located at the school for the summer.

This year's camp experience included Mad Science shows and hands-on science workshops presented by Radioactive Rick, arts and crafts projects presented by visiting art instructor Rachel Brown, sports activities and games in the gym, and more.

Solebury Parks and Recreation partnered again with the school district's Extended School Year Program to provide camp opportunities for students who require special education services in the summer. Students in the program had the option to have lunch and participate in the camp's afternoon schedule of activities and programs, as well as to participate in some of the morning shows and events.

More than 180 campers enjoyed six weeks of healthy outdoor activities, challenging games, and arts and crafts projects.

Parents and children alike were excited and enthusiastic about the Township's health-conscious approach to camp, which emphasizes play and exercise, with many programs taking place outdoors or in the school gymnasium.

A highlight of the season was Character Day, which included visits from Buzz Lightyear, Cookie Monster, and others, as well as face painting and character-balloon making.



**CHARACTER DAY.** To the delight of campers, a special character visited Solebury's Summer Adventure Camp each week, accompanied by face painters and balloon makers. Pictured with Buzz Lightyear is camper Malek Geiger.

The Kyle and Kelly Peron Magic Show entertained campers twice this year.

Artist Rachel Brown helped campers make their own tie-dye tee-shirts, which they wore to camp for the rest of the week!

Also popular were visits from the AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Jarret Adams and the Karate School, and the Solebury Police Department, which gave weekly programs on community safety and awareness.

Camp staff took great pride in making this an exciting experience for everyone.

**Join Us Next Year!**

Camp registrations typically begin in April each year and continue on a first-come, first-served basis. Camp size is limited to ensure close supervision by the counselors, and spaces usually fill very quickly.

Camp typically runs for six weeks, beginning with the first week of July; daily hours are 9 AM to 3 PM. 🐻

## Solebury Emergency Notifications



### ReadyNotifyPA.org

Use this website to ensure you receive Weather Warnings issued by the Township; these warnings are issued only for true emergencies.

You can specify how you want to be notified, and whether you choose additional notification options is up to you.

### 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.

### Social Media

- Facebook: [facebook.com/SoleburyPolice](https://facebook.com/SoleburyPolice)
- Twitter: [@soleburypolice](https://twitter.com/soleburypolice)



## Planning an Addition or Renovation?

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## Getting Ready for Snow

Because the Township recognizes that Solebury residents depend on their automobiles, the Public Works Dept. spends the fall getting everything ready for the prompt and orderly removal of snow from Township roads.

Winter weather conditions are expected to slow, but not inhibit, the ability of residents to attend work and school, stressed Township Manager and Public Works Director Dennis Carney.

Township vehicles—one loader, a road grader, and five trucks that each hold nearly 10 tons of salt—are lined up now to be winterized, conditioned, and repaired, as needed.

Plows and spreaders are also scheduled to be checked and readied.

In addition to relying on its own vehicles and employees, the Township also uses various subcontractors (as well as their trucks and equipment) to better

facilitate snow removal operations.

By late November, ample supplies of salt and a melting compound (sodium chloride) will be in the ready, and Public Works Dept. employees will be reviewing plans and procedures with subcontractors to ensure that everyone understands what to do when snow falls and the removal process begins.

In the event of snow or freezing rain, the department will immediately dispatch its five largest vehicles, outfitted with spreaders, to lay salt on 60 miles of Township roadway.

When snow accumulates to a depth of two inches, plowing will begin. Trucks are assigned the priority role of first clearing arterial roadways and the byways that feed into them.

All trucks remain in use until the entire Township has been cleared. ❄️



## Snow Ordinance in Effect

The Solebury Township Police Department urges residents to be mindful of the Township's snow ordinance.

No parking is permitted on any road in the Township from the onset of a winter storm until 24 hours after the last snowflake falls and all roadways have been plowed from road bank to road bank.

Residents are required to have their sidewalks cleared of all snow within 24 hours after a storm has stopped.

Property owners and private plow operators who clean driveways must remove any snow they deposit on roadways. If snow is left in the road, homeowners may be liable in the event of an accident.

Disregard for the snow ordinance can result in fines, towed vehicles, or both.

***The Township is not responsible for damage caused by snow moving equipment before, during, or after snowstorms—including damage to mailboxes.***



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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 18-26**

On the Web: <http://www.winterfestival.net>

## Solebury Parks and Recreation

To learn more about the Township's parks and recreation programs, visit the Solebury website ([soleburytwp.org](http://soleburytwp.org)) and click on the Parks and Recreation link.

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:

[www.soleburytwp.org](http://www.soleburytwp.org) (Parks & Recreation tab)  
[www.soleburybaseball.org](http://www.soleburybaseball.org) (baseball)  
[www.soleburybasketball.org](http://www.soleburybasketball.org) (basketball)  
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[www.soleburywrestling.com](http://www.soleburywrestling.com) (wrestling)

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## Township News Inside!

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## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

January 2 to January 17 • 7 am to 3 pm

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