

Vol. 21, No. 5

# Solebury Messenger

A bimonthly publication of Solebury Township

LATE SUMMER ISSUE SEPTEMBER 2015

## Solebury Police On Way to Accreditation

Police Department has been immersed in the Pa. Chiefs of Police Association's intensive Law Enforcement Accreditation Program—a standardsdriven, self-evaluation and peer-review process designed to promote professionalism in law enforcement.

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie said he took on the rigorous process because it engages the entire force in examining the professional standards that high-functioning police departments strive to meet and helps ensure the highest possible level of local performance.

He knew his officers already held themselves to high standards, he said, and felt "it would be a feather in the Township's cap" to be recognized for it. "Our residents deserve a police department that embodies this kind of professionalism."

To qualify for accreditation, the department had to adopt the association's standards and related objectives as policy, self-evaluate the degree to which it met each one, make any needed changes to its procedures and facility, then compile evidence documenting that it meets each standard.

As an example of how the department's practices improved as a result of the self-evaluation, the chief pointed to its evi-

dence-room procedures. To meet the standard for this element, the department reorganized how items are stored, further restricted key access, and instituted a more rigorous process for signing in and out of the area. "No matter what size the department is, procedures like these are important," he said.

In June, the association sent a team of evaluators to Solebury to conduct a one-day mock-assessment of the department—an abbreviated dry run of the actual assessment scheduled for September—in order to ensure the most successful outcome.

In the fall, the evaluators—a team of police chiefs from outside Bucks and any adjacent counties—will spend three to four days riding with Solebury officers, interviewing personnel, reviewing the department's final documentation, inspecting the premises, and more.

Chief Bellizzie said he expects to receive word of Solebury's accreditation status by the end of the year.

Since 2001, 300 law enforcement agencies have applied for accreditation from the association and a third of those have attained it.

Accreditation is good for three years. To maintain that status, departments must repeat the process.

#### 2014 Polling Places Election Day: November 3, 2015



All polling locations in Solebury Township open during primaries and general elections from 7 AM to 8 PM.

#### Lower District #1\*

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church 1680 Aquetong Road

#### Lower District #2

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church 1680 Aquetong Road

#### Middle District

Solebury Township Hall 3092 Sugan Road

#### **Upper District**

Carversville Christian Church 3736 Aquetong Road

The Bucks County Board of Elections changed the Lower District #1 polling location from Solebury United Methodist Church to Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in 2013.

Questions concerning voter registration should be directed to the Board of Elections at 215-348-6154.

## 1st Annual Solebury Day

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



pet parade & dress-up contest
cake-baking competition
acoustic musical performances
caricature drawings by local artist
art show • community-oriented games
dunk tank • face-painting
balloon animals • arts & crafts
dinosaur moon-bounce

## 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

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).

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



#### 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.

#### September

9/1	Board of Supervisors, Budget Session, 7pm
9/8	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
9/14	Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
9/14	Planning Commission, 7 pm
9/15	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
9/17	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
9/24	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

#### October

10/5	Historical Architectural Review Board, / pm
10/6	Board of Supervisors, Budget Session, 7pm
10/12	Planning Commission, 7 pm
10/13	Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
10/15	Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
10/20	Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
10/22	Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm



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## Hurricane Season Tips: Storing Water for Emergencies

ccording to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, clean tap water can be stored for up to six months in sanitized soda bottles or milk jugs with screw-on tops. After six months, use the water for other purposes, sanitize again, and

To sanitize the bottles:

- Wash the bottles with warm (not hot) soapy water.
- Fill with water plus a teaspoon of bleach per quart, let it sit for two minutes, then empty and rinse with potable water.
- Fill the sanitized jugs with tap water, cap tightly, and label with "drinking water" and the date.
- Store in a cool, dark, dry place.



Solebury Police Dept. presents

## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative



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

The exact date is to be determined, but the take-back will be held in October at (1) Solebury Police Dept., Township Hall, and (2) Giant Food Store, Logan Square.

To learn more, follow:



SoleburyTwp.org



f www.facebook.com/SoleburyPolice



@soleburypolice

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### Safety First: Guidelines for Burning Yard Waste

efore burning yard waste on your property, please review the Township guidelines for open burning to minimize fire hazards and limit air pollution.

The two-page document is available on the Township website (SoleburyTwp.org). Find it using the steps below (or, if you are viewing the newsletter online, just click here).

- Rest your cursor on the Government tab and select Township Administration: Ordinances.
- Locate "Burning Guidelines, Approved 2012-01" and click the green arrow.
- Click the download button to open the file.
- Read the file on screen, print it, or download it. To download, move your cursor across the bottom of the document to reveal the PDF toolbar and click the download icon (last icon on right). 🌯

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## Solebury's Deer Management Program

Why the Need Is Ongoing

beautiful animals and are a common sight in the wonderful "whitetails" have been part of Penn's Woods for centuries and are our official state animal.

However, the deer population in Pennsylvania at the time of European

settlement was kept in check by natural predators and hunters and was in balance with the forest habitat of the time.

By contrast, today there are no predators to keep the population in check. Solebury engaged Wildlife the Services Division of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to conduct a deer density survey in 2015, and completed survey estimates that the animal's current population in Solebury is approximately 126 deer per square mile.

exceed what the habitat can provide. As a consequence, deer have depleted forest understories of wildflowers, shrubs, and tree seedlings.

This long-term damage to local woodlands is visible: In many places, the remaining forest understory consists only of

hite-tailed deer are graceful and tree trunks and a few deer-resistant shrubs and plants.

Ripple effects of this damage include the open spaces of Solebury Township. In fact, loss of vital habitat for birds and other animals, as well as erosion throughout local watersheds due to a lack of roots to channel stormwater absorption and thereby recharge the water supply.

substantial crop losses due to deer damage every year. And it's not unusual to be surprised by running deer when driving local

Solebury's Deer Management Program exists to address the need to reduce the density of the deer population, with the overarching goal of promoting a balanced

ecosystem.

Among other steps, the Wildlife Services Division recommends that Township continue promote the safe and legal hunting of deer.

The success of approach depends on the involvement active Solebury landowners who allow sport hunting on their properties. Solebury developed a database of hunters who have been screened to ensure they are experienced, licensed, and

committed to the legal and humane harvesting of adequate numbers of deer.

Added benefits of cooperation are that the meat can be donated to food pantries and distributed to people in need, and that community-wide involvement will greater long-term dividends than single landowners working alone. 🏖



#### **Solebury Needs Landowners**

who are willing to allow safe, legal hunting on their land as part of the Deer Management Program. Contact Jean Weiss to learn more: 215-297-5656

What's more, few young trees can be And today the needs of the animals found in the Township's wooded spaces, which is a threat to the future biodiversity of these forests. Once this generation of trees dies out, what will be left?

> Homeowners, too, see a secondary effect, as deer forage for food in their gardens and landscaping, stripping them bare. Similarly, Township farmers sustain



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### Township to Hold 1st Annual "Solebury Day"

Save the Date: Sept. 19, 10 AM-4 PM, Laurel Park

n a few weeks, the Township tured. will hold its first annual encouraging volunteerism.

Sept. 19 at Laurel Park with a about their activities. rain date of Sept. 20.

Special events will include a pet parade, cakebaking competition, acoustic performances by local musicians, caricature drawings by a local artist, and communityoriented games.

A dunk tank will give particwater!

Our giant dinosaur moonpainting, and plenty of arts and want to miss this one. craft projects will also be fea-

Many local organizations— "Solebury Day"—a commu- like the Police Department, Linity wide event designed to cele- brary, SPCA, Environmental brate all that is Solebury by fos- Action Committee, Watershed tering community pride, promot- Groups, Parks & Recreation ing Township programs, and Dept., Bucks County Audubon Society, and more-will offer The event is scheduled for information and demonstrations

> In addition, local restaurants and farms will have an opportunity to be preand sent, the snack stand will be open for business, along with bitter Bob's thentic barbeque food, an ice cream truck, and a pizza truck.

Fire company trucks and ipants an opportunity to test their personnel will be on hand to probaseball pitching skills and mote fire safety and give eager "sink" some local folks in the children a hands-on look at their equipment.

So save the date for our first bounce, balloon sculpting, face- ever Solebury Day! You won't



#### 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.

## Hurricane Season Tips: Are Your Go-Bags Ready?

Defore an emergency strikes, pack a go-bag for each member of the family using backpacks or easy-carry totes. Attach I.D. tags to each and include only the essentials for a brief evacuation:

- A few changes of weather-appropriate clothing
- A sweater, jacket, hat, and rain gear
- Socks and sturdy shoes
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, hair brush/comb, deodorant
- Toilet paper, tissues, soap, shampoo
- Moist wipes and/or hand sanitizer
- A blanket or sleeping bag
- A personal flashlight
- A copy of the family's health insurance cards
- Medicines (with instructions), glasses/contacts, hearing aids

- Spare house and vehicles keys
- A pocketknife
- First aid supplies
- Copies of important documents
- Cell phone and charger

It's a good idea to pack a bag for pets, too. Pack as you would for a kennel stay in case the animal has to be sheltered alone.

- A 3-5-day supply of food and water, instructions, and bowls
- A manual can opener for wet food
- Copies of health records (e.g., proof of vaccinations, list of
- An animal first-aid kit, including medications your pet needs and an antihistamine for stings and allergic reactions (You may want to dose them with flea and tick ointment
- A collar and leash with license and I.D. tags
- Contact information for you, plus a photo of your pet for I.D.
- Contact information for your veterinarian, plus any
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- Waste bags for dogs
- Paper towels, moist wipes, and cleaning supplies &

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will mail on Oct. 29.



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## Police Offer Fall Safety Tips

olice Chief Dominick Bellizzie encourages parents to stress the back-to-school and Halloween safety issues below with their children. "Also, as drivers, we all need to pay attention to the activity of children at school bus stops, to the school buses on our roads, and to parents dropping children off at schools and bus stops," he said.



- Team up with other parents to supervise children at the bus stop.
- Teach your children to:
  - Follow the same safe route to school or the bus stop each day and cross safely at corners.
  - Pay attention to traffic hazards and not to rush.
  - Stay out of the roadway when waiting for buses.
  - Wait for the red stop-arm to fall and the bus door to open, then look both ways, before boarding.
  - Sit quickly, talk quietly, and obey the bus driver.
  - Look both ways when exiting the school bus.
- If you drive your children to school:
  - Decrease traffic by carpooling.
  - Follow the school's posted traffic flow signs.
  - Observe the 15 mph limit in school zones.
- Adjust commuting times to allow for school traffic.
- Make sure there are no obstacles on your property, like overgrown landscaping, that may make it hard for drivers to see children waiting for the school bus.
- When school traffic causes delays, remember that the road is not the place to make up lost time.
- Always be alert for children darting between cars and crossing streets, especially on Halloween.



- Use only fire-retardant materials for costumes.
- Make costumes fit loosely, so kids can wear warm clothes underneath.
- Select costumes that do not cause tripping.
- Attach strips of reflective tape to costumes and treat bags so children are more visible.
- Choose nontoxic make-up over masks, so children can see and breathe better.
- Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Supervise children under 12 while trick-or-treating.
- Direct older children to carry cell phones, travel in groups, and follow a preset route.
- Encourage children to walk, rather than run.
- Tell them not to enter homes without adult supervision.
- Be sure youngsters know to walk on sidewalks, not in the street or through dark yards.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before they are eaten.
- Feed children before trick-or-treating so they are not tempted to snack.
- Wash and slice fruit into small pieces before eating.
- When in doubt, throw it out.



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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: soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officer, Administrative Records
Asst. Twp. Manager Gretchen K. Rice

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 & Recreation Dept.

**Upcoming Events** 



#### Attention Trick-or-Treaters!

When: October 31, 6–8 PM
Where: Corner of Clydesdale Drive and Tarpan Circle,
Peddler's View

Solebury Parks and Recreation will be giving away all kinds of Halloween items from their post at the corner of Clydesdale Drive and Tarpan Circle in Peddler's View on Halloween night.

It's all free! In the past, the handouts Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice has scouted out for local kids have included glow necklaces, beanie babies, fuzzy spiders, and more.

All friendly ghosts and goblins are welcome to stop by.

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) www.soleburylacrosse.com (lacrosse) www.soleburysoccer.com (soccer) www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)



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## Township News Inside!

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Parks and Recreation Board Members will distribute Halloween prizes on

October 31. 6-8 PM.

at the corner of Clydesdale Drive and Tarpan Circle in Peddler's View. For more information, see page 7.





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