



# The Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

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Summer Issue

July 2017

## Supervisors Name Interim Board Member *Mark Baum Baicker Will Serve Through the End of 2017*

The four members of the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors unanimously selected Mark Baum Baicker to fill the vacancy of the fifth seat on the board until the end of the year. A special election this Nov. 7 will determine who will fill the remaining two years of the six-year term.

Baicker, a resident of Carversville for 24 years, is owner and president of a Doylestown-based investment consulting and financial planning firm. He is a board member and secretary of the Historic Carversville Society, where he has long taken an active role in the annual Carversville Day celebration. Baicker currently serves as a member of the Solebury Township Historic Architectural Review Board.

"I'm excited to accept this position and contribute as much as I can to the betterment of Solebury Township," Baicker said in a Facebook post after the Board announced his selection. "Most importantly, I want to listen to your concerns and be guided by what you hold most important."

Baicker added that his legal background – he earned a law degree and a master's degree in taxation law at Temple

University – and his financial experience will be put to good use as a township supervisor.

Jim Searing announced his retirement from the board at its June meeting, creating the



Mark Baum Baicker (left) will serve as a supervisor through the end of 2017. Voters at the November election will choose someone to fill out the remaining two years of Jim Searing's (right) term, who announced his retirement this summer.

vacancy. Searing, who was first appointed to fill a board vacancy in 2011 and won election to the post in 2013, said he timed his departure to allow for a Special Election this year, giving Solebury voters the earliest opportunity to choose their new representative on the board.

In his six-year tenure on the board, Searing was active in restoring the Township's fiscal condition, prioritizing the budget process and Solebury's many long-term projects, and improving communication at

public meetings. After Superstorm Sandy, he led the intergovernmental task force that sought broad community input to improve the way government agencies and public utilities respond to a crisis.



Long active in the Township's environmental community, Searing said it was a "dream come true" to see the creation of Aquetong Spring Park, from the long process of acquiring the land, the decision to breach the dam and restore the area to its original ecology, balancing the need to preserve Solebury's natural environment while protecting its financial condition.

### What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) and click "Email Notices."

# Budget Season Kicks Off in September

The annual budget sessions begin Sept. 5 at the Solebury Board of Supervisors, and board members are asking residents to consider attending the meetings to ensure their opinions are heard in the process.

At the fall budget meetings, each department presents its proposed budget, including any new or one-time spending requests. At times, other organizations such as the fire companies, EMS or the library also make requests. The board then evaluates the projected spending against the projected revenues.

The board asks questions: What items are must-do, nice-to-have or not needed at all? What must be done next year and what can be deferred further into the future? Should we consider financing options, such as borrowing money for a capital project?

The board seeks to accomplish the township objectives without raising taxes, which is generally considered only as a last resort.

Public input at the budget meetings helps the board set priorities by being fully informed about proposed spending. Citizen participation also allows residents to better understand what is being proposed and why, to ask questions, and to share opinions on what is most important to individuals, families and communities.

A preliminary hearing schedule will be posted on the township website, [www.SoleburyTwp.org](http://www.SoleburyTwp.org), once it is agreed to. Additionally, meeting agendas are posted to the website on the Friday before each meeting and sent directly to all who have signed up for the township's email alerts and have checked the box to receive agendas and minutes.

## Ordinances Now Online

Solebury Township has recently completed a two-and-a-half-year program to codify all Township ordinances and make them available online. Visit the Township website at [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) and click on the "Code of Ordinances" button to search the database.

## Township Directory

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-5656.  
General Inquiries: [soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org](mailto:soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org)

**Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:**  
[soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org)

**HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary**  
**Christine Terranova:** [cterranova@soleburytwp.org](mailto:cterranova@soleburytwp.org)

**Admin. Asst., LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator**  
**Jean Weiss:** [jweiss@soleburytwp.org](mailto:jweiss@soleburytwp.org)

**Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:**  
[soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org](mailto:soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org)

### Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Admin. Asst. Jean Weiss,  
[soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org)

Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,  
[police@soleburypd.org](mailto:police@soleburypd.org)

## Board of Supervisors

**Chair Kevin Morrissey** | **Vice-Chair Helen Tai**  
[kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org](mailto:kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org) | [htai@soleburytwp.org](mailto:htai@soleburytwp.org)

**Supervisor Noel Barrett** | **Supervisor Paul Cosdon**  
[nbarrett@soleburytwp.org](mailto:nbarrett@soleburytwp.org) | [pcosdon@soleburytwp.org](mailto:pcosdon@soleburytwp.org)

**Supervisor Mark Baum Baicker**  
[mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org](mailto:mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org)

## 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.*

### August

8/7 Historic Architectural Review Board  
8/8 Environmental Advisory Commission  
8/14 Township Planning Commission  
8/15 Board of Supervisors  
8/17 Land Preservation Committee  
8/24 Parks and Recreation Board

### September

9/5 Board of Supervisors (Budget Session)  
9/11 Historic Architectural Review Board  
9/11 Township Planning Commission  
9/12 Environmental Advisory Committee  
9/19 Board of Supervisors  
9/21 Land Preservation Committee  
9/28 Parks and Recreation Board

### October

10/2 Historic Architectural Review Board  
10/3 Board of Supervisors (Budget Session)  
10/9 Planning Commission  
10/10 Environmental Advisory Committee  
10/17 Board of Supervisors  
10/19 Land Preservation Committee  
10/26 Parks and Recreation Board

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!  
Visit: [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org), click "Email Notices"  
and enter your email address.*



# Multi-Purpose Field Approved for Laurel Park

After vigorous and open community discussion at its May public meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to proceed with construction of a multi-purpose athletic field in Laurel Park funded in part with private contributions.

Scores of residents attended the meeting with many divergent views on what to do with the land behind the Township Hall where the public works pole barn once stood. Board Chair Kevin Morrissey, who is the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board, opened the discussion by urging everyone to focus the discussion on whether there was a need for a new multi-purpose field.

Supervisors took turns outlining the competing points of view on the issue before opening the floor to community discussion, which continued for more than an hour. Several residents had questions on funding and planning issues, which were answered by board members, Township Manager Dennis Carney and Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice.

Many of the dozens who addressed the meeting expressed their concerns with the

condition and number of existing fields, and as they made their case to their neighbors a consensus emerged on the need for at least one additional multi-purpose field and the prudence of funding the field now rather than in future years.

As the dialogue moved on to how to pay for the new field, several in attendance stood to pledge their personal contributions to the effort. The township had already budgeted \$30,000 to demolish the old pole barn and return the land to an open field; another \$75,000 is needed to bring the field into playing condition.

John Feehan, a soccer and basketball coach in Solebury, pledged \$35,000 on behalf of township sports organizations and former Supervisor Ed McGahan pledged an additional \$5,000. The township will put in up to \$35,000 to ensure the completion of the project.

The resolution of the issue continues the long history of sports organizations in the township making a significant financial contribution to the maintenance and improvement of Solebury's fields and facilities.

## *Newly-Completed River Road Trail is Ready for Your Walking Shoes*



The new trail connects Canal Park and the towpath to the Solebury Trail. The 0.3 mile off-road path along River Road provides a 10-foot-wide, shared-use trail for pedestrians and bicyclists, separated from traffic by grass buffers.

Ramps, crosswalks, signage and safety improvements near Route 202 are all part of the township's long-term effort to create a connected system of trails throughout Solebury.





# It's Hurricane Season!

## Be Prepared for Stormy Weather

### What to do before the storm...

- ☁ Fill your car with gas (and fill an appropriately sized gas can if using a generator).
- ☁ Withdraw cash in case ATMs are not working after the storm.
- ☁ Fill any prescriptions you may need if you are running low.
- ☁ Plug in a standard non-cordless phone to receive and make emergency calls. Charge your cellphone, smart phone, and/or tablet and locate your car chargers.
- ☁ Place flashlights or battery-operated lanterns, plus fresh batteries, on each floor of your home.
- ☁ Store water for cooking and cleaning. Fill bathtubs with water for flushing.
- ☁ Set up a battery-powered clock and radio.
- ☁ Locate your supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods, including pet food.
- ☁ Protect sensitive electronic appliances, like microwave ovens, TVs, and computers with surge suppressors, which can prevent damage from surges related to lightning, fallen poles, and other accidents. Alternatively, unplug them before a storm.
- ☁ Freeze and refrigerate bottles of water to occupy more space. (A partially full freezer can keep meat frozen for up to 24 hours - completely full, up to 48 hours.)
- ☁ Place your "go" bags and pet supplies in the car, and pet carriers near the door.
- ☁ If you plan to use a generator, set it up outside, close windows to prevent exhaust entering your home, and test any battery-operated CO detectors you installed.
- ☁ Secure lawn furniture, trash cans, and other light objects in case of high winds.

### During the storm...

- ☁ Avoid using candles but if you do, never leave them unattended.
- ☁ Check the fuse or circuit breaker box to see if a fuse tripped inside the home.  
  
Check with the neighbors to see if their power is out, too.
- ☁ If you see downed lines and the ground is wet or has standing water, do not go outside. Keep children and pets away from the area.
- ☁ Call PECO at the number above and report the outage through their automated, interactive system. Outages can also be reported online. Ask to speak with a PECO customer service representative to report downed poles or wires, but don't approach or look for these. Energized power lines are extremely dangerous.
- ☁ Stay away from windows, where flying debris can cause injury.
- ☁ Do not use a landline phone or run water during lightning storms.
- ☁ Turn off and unplug appliances - including your furnace, water heater, and water pump - to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored, but keep a couple of lights turned on so you'll know when service is back.
- ☁ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Move meats, cheese, milk, and other perishables into the freezer compartment where it will stay colder longer.







# Generator Safety Tips

Many residents who lose power turn to portable emergency generators to ensure a continuous flow of electricity to refrigerators, freezers, lights, fans, and other appliances.

While generators are convenient, Solebury urges residents to exercise extreme caution when using them, as they can create hazards for homeowners and electric utility workers.

⚠️ Use outdoors only: Never use generators indoors or in attached garages - you run the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Only operate outdoors in well-ventilated, dry areas, away from air intakes to the home.

⚠️ Don't overload it: Always operate generators in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator permits.

⚠️ Avoid shocks & electrocution: Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Wait for rain to stop before using a generator in an open area, or protect it with an open, canopy-like structure to keep it dry while in use. Dry your hands before touching the generator.

⚠️ Prevent fires & burns: Allow at least 5 feet of clearance on all sides of the generator. Let it cool at least 2 minutes before removing the fuel cap. If gas spills while fueling, let it evaporate before restarting. Always use fresh gas in your generator, and store gas only in containers approved for that purpose.

⚠️ Prevent back-feeding: Never try to power your house by plugging a generator into an ordinary wall outlet, a practice known as back-feeding (powering a house requires a whole-house transfer switch that works with your home circuit breaker). This feeds power back into the utility system and energizes the transformer serving the house, which can pose a serious threat to line, service, and tree crews working to restore power in the area, who may not know the line is energized.

⚠️ Shut it down safely. Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down. If you don't plan to use the generator again within 30 days, add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank. Do not store the generator or gas indoors.

## If It's Cold Outside...

- ❄️ Keep a screen around fireplace fires. Never use gas or other flammable liquids to start or quicken a fire. Don't close the damper while ashes are hot.
- ❄️ If the indoor temperature drops to 55 degrees Fahrenheit or below, prevent pipes from freezing by opening faucets slightly so that they drip constantly.
- ❄️ Open blinds during the day to let the sun warm the space.
- ❄️ Cover windows with drapes or blankets at night to minimize heat loss.
- ❄️ Never use a gas range for room heating.
- ❄️ Wear extra clothing and a hat to prevent the loss of body heat, or seek shelter at a warming center or the home of friends or family.



# Solebury Spiders Are 2017 USABL Champs

The Solebury "Spiders" Travel Baseball team captured the United States Amateur Baseball League (USABL) Championship on June 24 in the U11 Division by defeating the Sayen Park New Jersey Giants by a score of 4-3. The game, played at Laurel Park baseball field in Solebury, was a tight 3-3 contest until the Solebury Spiders put across the game winning run and then held on to the lead in the final inning of play to take the title.

During the regular season, the Solebury Spiders lost just one game before entering the playoff elimination rounds and competing for the Championship. Congratulations to the players, coaches and parents for this outstanding success for our community team!



Top Row: Coach Barry Wiseman, Head Coach Andy Shaw, Coach Jim Koziol  
Middle Row: Jon Wilson, Michael Shaw, Jack Ratigan, Miles Demby, Nate Klossner, Vasi Grabarz  
Bottom Row: Teddy Devaney, Matthew Rickert, Jake Koziol, Nate Wiseman, Sam Hoffman

## It all begins with the first pitch...



Newly-elected League President John Madara tosses out the first pitch of the season on Opening Day, April 22.





# Baseball and Softball Opening Day



Hundreds of players, coaches and parents turned out at Laurel Park for "Opening Day" on Saturday, April 22, for the official start of the spring season for Solebury Baseball and Softball. Following the "Parade of Players" and opening ceremonies, 26 teams played baseball and softball games throughout the day. Newly-elected League President John Madara tossed out the first pitch of the season. Festivities included face painting and glitter tattoos, games by NHS Cares, and of course some great hot dogs and food at the popular Snack Stand.





# Mosquito Prevention Tips for Your Back Yard

Mosquito season got off to an early start this year, thanks to a warmer-than-average winter. While the little biters haven't been in the news much lately, county and state health and environmental protection officials continue to monitor for Zika and West Nile viruses and urge homeowners to take simple, common-sense steps to help reduce the mosquito population.

As of mid-summer, there is no reported case of an individual contracting Zika virus from a mosquito in Pennsylvania, according the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In the first seven months of 2017, the state Department of Environmental Protection found 10 mosquitoes in Bucks County that tested positive for West Nile virus out of 301 tested; no individuals have contracted West Nile in Pennsylvania so far this year.

Backyard vigilance is a community's first line of defense against this pointy pest. Stagnant water is their breeding ground, and every effort to eliminate standing water from yards and gardens helps control the mosquito population.

Turn wheelbarrows and wading pools upside-down when not in use. Discard old

tires, cans and pots that trap rainwater. Change the birdbath water weekly, keep the pool chlorinated and stock the ornamental pond with surface-feeding minnows (they love to dine on skeeters).

For larger pools of standing water, like mill ponds or water gardens, the state DEP recommends Bti, a naturally-occurring beneficial bacteria that kills mosquito and black fly larvae. It is not harmful to people, pets, aquatic life or plants, and is available at many garden centers, home improvement and outdoor supply stores.

To keep yourself and your family bite-free, an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET is your best defense, according to the state health department. Ultraviolet bug zappers, ultrasound emitters, and other expensive gadgets are mostly useless against biting mosquitoes. And while the smell of citronella candles is burned into many a summer evening memory, their repellent range is less than six feet (mere inches in a breeze).

To stay up-to-date on state and county efforts to combat Zika and West Nile viruses, you can visit [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us) and [www.zika.pa.gov](http://www.zika.pa.gov).

## Household Waste Recycling Bucks County Summer Schedule

Bucks County is hosting household hazardous waste recycling events this summer, with two dates scheduled in Bristol and Richland townships.

Pesticides, paints, weed killer—toxic chemicals are found in many household products, and when they are no longer needed they need to be disposed of safely. Every year the county sponsors recycling events for residents to responsibly discard these hazardous materials.

**August 5, 2017**

Upper Bucks

Strayer Middle School  
1200 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Richland Township

**August 26, 2017**

Lower Bucks

Bucks County Technical H. S.  
610 Wistar Road  
Bristol Township

Please note that no electronics, including televisions and computers, will be accepted this year due to a change in state law. This program is available to residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.

## Protect Your Roadside Environment

If you want to stop PennDOT from spraying herbicide along the side of the road in front of your home, you'll need to apply for a Vegetation Management Permit. As we wrote in the last *Messenger*, the process is a bit cumbersome but an important step in protecting our environment. To learn more and download the form, visit the township website at [SoleburyTwp.org](http://SoleburyTwp.org) and click on Documents & Forms.



**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION  
HALLOWEEN NIGHT**

**OCTOBER 31 from 6 to 8 P.M.  
TWO LOCATIONS**

**CLYDESDALE DRIVE & TARPAN CIRCLE IN PEDDLER'S VIEW  
AND AT NORWALK WAY & KITCHENS LANE IN NORTH POINTE**

**LIGHT UP THE NIGHT**  
*Stop by as we hand out  
special lighted items to help  
make our kids more visible.*



**IT'S ALL FREE ...  
SEE YOU THERE!**