Tending the forest
Clearing and replanting Aquetong Spring Park's woods

Nearly 900 Ash and Walnut trees in Aquetong Spring Park fell victim to invasive insects over the past year, and work is under way to clear the dead and dying trees and replace them with species that are not susceptible to Spotted Lantern Fly or Emerald Ash Borer.

The tree replacement program is a major step in the effort to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and sustainability of this forest, which surrounds the historic Aquetong Spring, revitalized stream and riparian land.

M. Dobron and Sons Excavating is cutting down the infested trees, grinding and chipping the remains. The chips are inhospitable to insect pests. When clearing is completed this summer, replacement trees will be planted in-season.

While this work continues, other efforts to restore native trees and plants to the park area are in full swing. Bucks Beautiful and its RePlant Bucks initiative brought 100 Red Maple trees to plant along the stream. Local landscapers set the trees in place where they will help anchor the stream banks and provide a cooling canopy for the local trout.

Recent water temperature and fish population samples show an improving habitat, continuing to take shape since the old dam was breached and the lake drained four years ago. The Aquetong Spring Advisory Council continues to regularly monitor stream conditions, improving its suitability as a natural Brook Trout habitat.

The perpetrators: Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lantern Fly

We've been on the lookout for the Emerald Ash Borer (lower left) and Spotted Lantern Fly (lower right) for a few years, and have gathered together useful information for Solebury homeowners and businesses to help you take action against these pests.

Visit soleburytwp.org/pests and learn what you can do to fight these bad bugs and help keep all our trees safe.
New officers, improved facilities at STPD

The Solebury Township Police Department welcomed spring with two additional full-time officers, facility improvements to the basement headquarters and an additional patrol bicycle. Officers Gina Ferzetti and Megan Klosterman, both previously employed as part-time officers with the department, were sworn in as full-time police officers in mid-January. They are the Township’s first full-time female officers.

The Board of Supervisors approved the two additional officers in the 2019 budget, who are expected to come on board mid-year, noting that police staffing had been unchanged for many years while demands on the department have increased.

Several recent improvements to the Township’s police facilities have focused on upgrading the department’s offices to meet the needs of modern policing, including additional workspace for the new officers.

This past winter, the Township installed new windows to bring daylight to the basement headquarters offices. A $20,000 state grant funded the window project in full and paid for an additional patrol bicycle for the police department.

Officers Ferzetti and Klosterman flank Chief Bellizzie at their swearing-in.
The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors joined forces with New Hope Borough Council to tackle two issues of community-wide concern: state roads that are long-overdue for repair, and funding for the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.

The Board and Council, with help from state Sen. Steve Santarsiero and state Rep. Wendi Thomas, brought PennDOT officials to Solebury to meet face-to-face and see first-hand the deteriorating conditions on several state roads in the Township and Borough.

"We regularly hear resident complaints about state road conditions, and it was very helpful to relay them directly to PennDOT," said Mark Baum Baicker, chair, Solebury Township Board of Supervisors. "The Department heard our concerns and was forthcoming with their plans going forward."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Baum Baicker gave officials an impromptu tour of conditions along Carversville Road, where all agreed that repairs were in order and should be prioritized.

The state roads in Solebury and New Hope are Aquetong Road, Carversville Road, Fleecydale Road, Green Hill Road, Lower York Road, Mechanicsville Road, Phillips Mill Road, River Road, Stoney Hill Road, Sugan Road (from Paxson Road to Upper York Road), Upper York Road and Windy Bush Road. PennDOT encourages residents to report state road maintenance issues by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD or on its website at www.penndot.gov.

Addressing the library’s needs, both the Township and Borough increased their budget contributions significantly this year, with an additional $20,000 from Solebury and $10,000 from New Hope.

"Our contribution is a year-to-year decision," said Baum Baicker. "We work closely with the library’s trustees to keep them informed of the Township’s needs and so that they can keep us apprised of their progress in meeting the goals of their strategic plan. This is an important investment, and we’re determined to see a strong return for all of our residents."

Supervisors plan to meet with library leadership later in the year to review the long-term plans to keep the library vibrant and engaged.
**Route 202 planning tops 2019 agenda**

In an effort to stay one step ahead of any future development along the Route 202 corridor, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors wants to hear from residents, businesses and engineers to help create an orderly plan for the stretch of highway between Logan Square and Upper Mountain Road.

“As always, we’re seeking to balance the rights of individual property owners with the good of the community as a whole,” said Supervisor Robert McEwan. “Our mission is to manage growth in a way that promotes sustainability of our natural resources, preserve our land and protect and revere our historic heritage.”

Suggestions and concerns about the 202 corridor can be emailed to Township Manager Dennis Carney or any Supervisor directly, or by using the “Contact Us” link on the Township website. Input is welcome from inside and outside the Township, and from residents of neighboring New Hope and Buckingham.

All community input, traffic studies and other recommendations will be passed along to the Solebury Township Planning Commission for review and recommendations. The Board listed 202 planning as one of its top agenda items for the year at its late-January work session.

Other priorities for the year include seeking state grant money to extend the hiking trail along Lower York Road, urging PennDOT to attend to long-overdue repairs on state roads in the Township, hosting single-issue forums on areas of concern to residents, realizing the vision for Aquetong Spring Park and its attendant projects, meeting with the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury to assess long-term plans, and continued vigilance over the quarry reclamation process.

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**Household Waste Recycling**

**Bucks County Spring/Summer Schedule**

Bucks County is hosting five household hazardous waste recycling events this spring and summer, in Bedminster, Bristol, Newtown, Richland and Quakertown 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.

- **May 11, 2019**
  - Lower Bucks
  - Bucks County Community College
  - 275 Swamp Road, Newtown
  - Newtown Township

- **June 1, 2019**
  - Upper Bucks
  - Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School
  - 3115 Ridge Road
  - Bedminster Township

- **June 29, 2019**
  - Central Bucks
  - Central Bucks South High School
  - 1100 Folly Road
  - Warrington Township

- **August 24, 2019**
  - Lower Bucks
  - Bucks County Technical High School
  - 610 Wistar Road
  - Bristol Township

- **September 21, 2019**
  - Upper Bucks
  - Strayer Middle School
  - 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown
  - Richland 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.
2019: A spectacular year for Winter Festival

The 22nd year of the Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival raised a record $45,738 for community non-profit organizations bringing the event’s grand total to $511,569 raised.


More photos and information, along with plans for next year, can be found on the web at www.winterfestival.net.

Festival Scenes. Clockwise from top right: The Landing Restaurant, Chili Cook-Off first place winner, Judge’s Choice; headliners Peter Asher and Jeremy Clyde in concert; Magical Musical Pub Crawl participants; Revolutionary Pub Crawl revelers, Soup-A-Thon winners.

WinterFestival Soup-A-Ton Winners

WinterFest Board Members

2nd place The Greenhouse

3rd Place Martines

1st place Its Nutts On The Canal

© CatherinePhoto
Worker bees are buzzing around preparing for the 2019 Community Spelling Bee, a fundraiser for the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury.

Mark your calendars for the Bee, which is set for Friday, October 4th at 7 p.m. at the New Hope-Solebury High School Auditorium, 182 W. Bridge Street, New Hope.

How can you bee involved with the event? Comb your friends, family, or workplace to form a team of three spellers. Bee a honey and support the Bee through sponsorship, by placing an ad in the Bee program, or by donating a raffle prize.

To form a team or to support this bee-dazzling community event, go to www.nhslibrary.org/events/spelling-bee. Questions? E-mail flnhsbee@gmail.com.

A Fundraiser for
The Free Library of New Hope & Solebury