



# Solebury Messenger

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## Making Progress with PennDOT

### *Township Executes New Road Maintenance Agreement*

If it looks like road crews are busier than usual this summer and fall, you're not imagining it. PennDOT has been repairing several state roads in Solebury, replacing drainage pipes, rebuilding roadbeds, and grading and paving those streets that are under the Commonwealth's control.

PennDOT has jurisdiction over a dozen roads in Solebury, which has effectively prevented the Township from making needed repairs while waiting for our roads to move up on the state's list of priorities. That's about to change, as the Township has negotiated a Maintenance Service Agreement with PennDOT.

The new Service Agreement, authorized by the Board of Supervisors at its Oct. 17 public meeting, will allow the Township Public Works Department to fill potholes and make other repairs when PennDOT is unable to do so in a timely manner. The state would then reimburse Solebury for the cost of the repairs.

"I think this is going to be a very big benefit to Township

residents," said Board of Supervisors Chair Mark Baum Baicker, who has been working on this arrangement for over three years, when PennDOT repairs dramatically declined during the pandemic.

Earlier this year, Baum Baicker and Township Manager Chris Garges sat down with several PennDOT representatives at a meeting arranged by State Rep. Tim

Maintenance Staff also helped set the agenda for a busy summer of road repairs.

In addition to regular maintenance that was delayed during Covid, PennDOT also had several important projects to repair the damage from the remnants of Hurricane Ida and recent washouts from this summer's flash flooding.

Late this summer, PennDOT contractors focused on Sugan, Aquetong, Greenhill, Mechanicsville and River Roads with various methods of base, surface and ditch repairs. The work is scheduled to continue apace through the fall and into 2024.

PennDOT's commitment to finishing projects in Solebury has occasionally led to work beginning on one or two days' notice. This happens when a crew is in the area on another project and finishes early, allowing them to be assigned to a nearby project here in the Township.

To stay up-to-date on PennDOT activities, visit the Township website and click on the "Road Work" button for links to PennDOT news and information. We'll also post closures on the home page, and on our **Facebook (SoleburyTWP)** and **Instagram (solebury\_township)** accounts.

#### **State Roads in Solebury:**

*Aquetong Road ~ Carversville Road*

*Fleecydale Road ~ Greenhill Road*

*Lower York Road ~ Mechanicsville Road*

*Phillips Mill Road ~ River Road ~ Stoney Hill Road*

*Sugan Road (Paxson Road to Upper York Road)*

*Upper York Road ~ Windy Bush Road*

Brennan and State Sen. Steve Santarsiero. All were very amenable to executing a Service Agreement, and lawyers got to work crafting the document just approved by Solebury's Board.

"There's supposed to be a strong El Niño winter, which means certainly more snow than we had last year, and we could have even more pothole issues in the future," said Baum Baicker.

The July meeting with PennDOT's District 6

#### **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."

# A Tree Falls... What Should You Do?

Few things better represent Solebury than our abundant trees. From the descendants of the iconic Columbus Oak to the saplings growing in our many nurseries, we all endeavour to protect and care for our trees. But like the great old white oak at the base of Bowman's Hill, old age and strong storms can bring down the mightiest tree.

What does it take to fell a tree? Heavy, wet snow. Strong winds. Soil erosion and sodden ground. Along with invasive pests and disease, this is the perfect recipe for downing trees into power lines, our streets, private properties, and parks. We've had a good dose of rain and wind this summer that brought down several trees, and in this El Niño year we can expect a snowy, wet winter to threaten many more in the coming months.

So what should we do when a tree falls in the street or near our home?

**Safety First.** If the tree brings down wires or falls near wires, do not go near it until the utility companies have had a chance to clear the wires. Always assume any downed wires are live power lines, and keep a safe distance to avoid electrocution. If a tree falls on

your home, leave the building if you are able to until it is deemed safe to return into your home. Contact the Solebury Police Department via 9-1-1 and they will help you assess the situation and contact the appropriate response agencies.

**Downed Wires.** If a tree falls into overhead wires, the utility responsible for the wires will need to clear them from the tree before the tree can be removed. Contact the Solebury Township Public Works Department at 215-297-8383 ext. 149 weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. and they will help you identify the appropriate utility to contact. Once the utility has cleared the wires from the tree, removal of the tree is the responsibility of the homeowner.

**Trees in the Road.** The Public Works Department is responsible for clearing the road only. We will do our best to put all the tree debris on the property where the tree came from. If you see Road Closed barricades out and don't see anything blocking the road, please do not assume it is safe to travel down the road.

There are often overhead safety concerns or leaning trees that most people never even see in their normal travels.

**Important Note About Damages:** If a downed tree caused damage to your vehicle or property, contact your insurance company and take pictures at the scene if possible and safe to do. If your neighbor's tree falls on your property, you will need to work with your neighbor and insurance company to clean up the fallen tree and repair the damage. The Township does NOT mediate neighbor disputes for damages caused by trees.

One of the best ways to reduce damages and inconvenience of a downed tree is to contact an arborist and have your trees routinely evaluated and maintained.



## ***DOs and DON'Ts When Closing Your Pool for the Season***

Pool treatment chemicals are great for people but dangerous to fish. Know how to properly drain your pool this fall.

**Don't dump pool water down the storm sewer.** Storm sewers drain directly into our natural streams and creeks.

**Do drain the water into a sanitary sewage system.** Wastewater systems are designed to

neutralize any chemicals in the water, making them safe for the environment.

If a sewage system isn't an option, **slowly pump the water over a grassy area**, to allow for natural filtration into the ground. Take your time to prevent erosion.

**Never discharge pool water** directly into creeks or ponds.

# Solebury Human Relations Commission Stands Ready to Help Discrimination Victims

In January of 2023, the Solebury Human Relations Commission was created, with its primary mission to provide a forum in which anyone who feels they have been a victim of discrimination in Solebury Township in matters pertaining to housing, employment, public accommodations and/or access to educational institutions in regard to a number of protected categories may lodge a complaint.

Once lodged, the HRC has an established process to investigate, mediate or assist with advancing the complaint in an effort to resolve the issue between the affected parties. The HRC was established to support the Township's stated

policy of and commitment to nondiscrimination in all matters affecting the Township's residents.

The HRC consists of 5 members: Dr. Thomas Lyon (chair), Paul Barnes, Dr. Cynthia Baum-Baiker, Don Bentivoglio and Susan Hollander Whitman. Mark Baum Baicker serves as the Supervisor Liaison while Catherine Cataldi serves as the Administrator of the HRC.

To date, there have been several organizational meetings held at the Township offices. In addition, several members of the HRC met with the Emeritus Council Chair of the Bucks County Human Relations Council to discuss

their mission and experiences as a way of assisting the Solebury HRC to firmly establish their organization.

Following the meeting with the BCHRC, several members of the Solebury HRC participated in a meeting at Bucks County Community College which was attended by members of several other HRC's from boroughs within the County. The objective of that meeting was to share processes, experiences and ideas.

While it is believed that discrimination within the Township is not a significant issue, the Solebury HRC stands by to aid residents should challenges arise.

## Safety Tips From Solebury Police

Solebury Township Police ask: In an emergency can we find you? Are your house numbers clearly visible from the street and well-lit at night?

Please make sure your house number is visible during the day and night from the roadway directly in front of your house or business.

When calling for police, fire, or EMS, the dispatcher will ask your location. Provide your current location (physical address, common place name, such as a store name, a roadway or an intersection).

Remember in an emergency dial 911 for police, fire, and emergency medical services. If you have a non-emergency, you can call the 24/7 dispatch center at 215-328-8511 for assistance.

Additional information to keep you safe and informed: Receive updates on the departments Crimewatch page <https://bucks.crimewatchpa.com/soleburytwppd>, on Facebook, Instagram, and X. For more urgent alerts or email notifications you can sign up online at <https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/i/1855/>

Stay informed! Our residents are the "eyes and ears" of our community, and are the ones on the scene before law enforcement arrives and who can give valuable information.

## Medication Take Back Day Saturday, October 28, 2023 10 am - 2 pm



For a complete list of locations, scan the QR code, visit [bcdac.org](http://bcdac.org) or call 215-444-2700!

In Solebury, the drive-thru and drop off location will be at the Road Department Building adjacent to the Township Offices at 3092 Sugan Road. Follow the signs and arrows into the drive-in bay for drop off.



# Keep a Storm Kit at the Ready

Whether its a late-season hurricane or a gusty nor'easter, keeping your household prepared can be the difference between an event and an emergency. Having a few simple items in a "go bag" is an important part of being prepared for severe weather.

Flashlights, a battery-powered radio and clock, car chargers for your phone, first aid supplies, cash and copies of critical information should be at the ready before a storm hits. Extra batteries and a three-day backup of medications should also be in your kit.

Build your supplies over time, adding a few items each week or month, and be sure to check and replace any items that go bad over time.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests

that your storm kit provides for these basic needs:

- **Emergency Communication.**

Make sure you have everything you'll need to get in touch with your family either through cellular phones or email.

- **Medical Needs.**

Be equipped to tend to any current or unexpected medical conditions your family may have.

- **Critical Documents.**

Place any important documents in a waterproof container to help keep them dry and easily accessible.

- **Tools and Safety Items.**

Small items like matches, flashlights, a multi-purpose tool, and a whistle can make a huge difference for your family while weathering the storm.

- **Food/Supplies.**

Have at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water



for your family. Remember to pack anything specific to your family's needs.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation.**

Sanitizer, wet wipes, paper towels.

- **Gear for the Weather.**

Protect yourself by packing warm clothes and blankets; don't forget protective footwear and gloves, too.

- **Comfort & Priceless Items.**

Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially your children, and toys for the pets.

## Pantry Provisions: What to Have on Hand

Emergency preparedness guidelines recommend that we all keep three days of food and water on hand for each member of the family (pets, too) to weather a severe storm or other major event. But what constitutes emergency food, anyway?

Can you cook if the power goes out? A fireplace, outdoor grill or camp stove will meet your needs, along with a sturdy pot and skillet (non-stick cookware isn't meant for fireplace cooking, but cast iron is). Make sure your storm supplies match your equipment: Think instant rice, not risotto.

Water: One gallon per person per day. But water can get boring quickly, so cold-brew tea bags and powdered drink mix can liven things up.

Buy canned and jarred food that can be finished in one meal. Without a working

refrigerator, leftovers are off the menu. Canned beans, potted meat, seafood and chili are good protein sources; a variety of jarred veggies will help balance the meal. Keep a manual can opener handy.

Root vegetables and long-lasting fruit, like oranges and melons, are good to have on hand if purchased right before a storm hits.

For packaged food, stick with high protein items that are filling. Instant oatmeal, single-serving packages of cereal, peanut butter and nut butters are good staples. If you can boil water, you can make pasta with a small jar of store-bought sauce.

Snacks help fend off cabin fever. Candy, cookies, pudding cups; crackers, seeds and nuts, as long as they're low in salt to prevent thirstiness; granola and trail mix all have long shelf-life.

## Storm Outage Contacts

**PECO** 1-800-841-4141 or [www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx](http://www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx)

**Verizon** 1-800-837-4966 or [www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage](http://www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage)

**XFINITY** (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or [www.xfinity.com/support/status](http://www.xfinity.com/support/status)

# Fallen Leaves: Best Practices for the Environment

Before the first snow falls, it's time to manage the fallen leaves, clippings from the last mow of the lawn, and the accumulated twigs and trimmings from warmer seasons. Whether you've contracted with a landscaping company or prefer to tend to the yard yourself, here are a few considerations to keep in mind to protect our environment, respect our neighbors and keep our roadways safe.

## Composting is good for the environment.

A well-maintained compost pile enriches the soil, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, gives a home to beneficial bacteria and lowers your carbon footprint. You should site your compost pile in a dry, shady spot near a water source and away from the road, and feed it a mix of untreated green and brown yard trimmings. For more information on composting, the US Department of Environmental Protection has an informational website at [www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home](http://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home).

## Land Preservation Committee Celebrates Participating Members

Solebury's Land Preservation Committee hosted a reception on Oct. 8 to honor members of the Land Preservation Program.

Jim Coan graciously opened his beautiful farm to the members and entertained with farm stories and family histories.

Jim first preserved his farm in 2000. He preserved a second piece of the farm in 2012.




Elaine Crooks, the Land Preservation Committee chair, opened with heartfelt thanks to those property owners who have preserved their land in perpetuity.

Solebury Supervisor Board Chair Mark Baum Baicker also spoke and stressed the importance of continuing to protect and preserve all of the natural resources which make Solebury such a special place.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Land Preservation Program, please call Jean Weiss, administrator, at 215-297-5656.

**Scattering grass clippings in the road is bad for the environment.** Township equipment can't vacuum up grass clippings, and the next storm will wash them down the catch basins, clogging inlets and choking streams. These cuttings themselves are not healthy for our water ecology, let alone any herbicides and pesticides that they may contain.


**Wet leaves are a roadway hazard.** Even when dry, leaves hide road obstacles and obscure pavement markings; when wet they are as slick as ice. The Township works diligently to remove leaves from our roads, primarily to keep drivers safe from slipping and skidding conditions. While Solebury has a single leaf collection truck to gather and distribute leaves to local farmers for mulch, large leaf piles left at the edge of the road are a safety concern — they block drivers' vision, reduce the size of the running lane and all too frequently blow out across the roadway.



## SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION HALLOWEEN NIGHT



# OCTOBER 31 FROM 6 TO 8 PM

STOP BY AND SEE US AT THE CORNER OF  
NORWALK WAY & KITCHEN'S LANE  
IN NORTH POINTE



## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

*We will be handing out  
special lighted items to help  
make our kids more visible.*

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

# Last Bucks County Household Waste Recycling Event for 2023

The last remaining household hazardous waste recycling event in Bucks County this year is set for Oct. 28.

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.

**October 28, 2023**

Upper Bucks

Strayer Middle School

1200 Ronald Reagan Drive

Quakertown, Richland Township

Please note that no electronics, including televisions and computers, can be accepted under state law. Visit **[buckscounty.gov/recycling](https://buckscounty.gov/recycling)** to discover eCycling options.

This program is available to Bucks County residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions.

## Township Directory

### Police:

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-8201.

General Inquiries: [Police2@soleburytpd.org](mailto:Police2@soleburytpd.org)

### Administration:

Township Number: 215-297-5656

General Inquiries: [soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org)

### Township Manager Christopher Garges:

[soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org)

### EAC Administrator Kate Robeson-Grubb:

[krobeson-grubb@soleburytpw.org](mailto:krobeson-grubb@soleburytpw.org)

### HARB Administrator Zachary Zubris:

[zzubris@soleburytpw.org](mailto:zzubris@soleburytpw.org)

### LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator

Jean Weiss: [jweiss@soleburytpw.org](mailto:jweiss@soleburytpw.org)

### Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:

[soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org)

### Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,

[soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org](mailto:soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org)

Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzi,

[police@soleburytpd.org](mailto:police@soleburytpd.org)

## Board of Supervisors

### Chair Mark Baum Baicker

[mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org](mailto:mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org)

### Vice-Chair Hanna Howe

[hhowe@soleburytpw.org](mailto:hhowe@soleburytpw.org)

### Supervisor John Francis

[jfrancis@soleburytpw.org](mailto:jfrancis@soleburytpw.org)

### Supervisor Robert A. McEwan

[rmcewan@soleburytpw.org](mailto:rmcewan@soleburytpw.org)

### Supervisor Kevin Morrissey

[kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org](mailto:kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org)

## Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to changes.*

*Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.*

*Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

### October

10/26 Parks & Recreation Board

### November

11/2 6 p.m. Human Relations Commission

11/6 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board

11/9 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors Budget Session

11/13 Planning Commission

11/14 Environmental Advisory Commission

11/15 202 Property Advisory Committee

11/16 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee

11/21 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors

11/28 Solebury Farm Committee

11/29 Zoning Hearing Board

11/30 Parks & Recreation Board

### December

12/4 6 p.m. Historical Architectural Review Board

12/5 Environmental Advisory Commission

12/7 6 p.m. Human Relations Commission

12/11 Solebury Township Planning Commission

12/12 6 p.m. Board of Supervisors

12/13 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed)

12/14 Parks & Recreation Board

12/21 6 p.m. Land Preservation Committee

12/27 202 Property Advisory Committee

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

*Visit: [SoleburyTwp.org](https://SoleburyTwp.org) and click "Email Notices."*