Solebury Becomes an Audubon “Bird Town”

As of Jan. 1, Solebury is officially a “Bird Town.”

Responding to a proposal from the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), the Board of Supervisors agreed to add the Township’s name to the growing list of Pennsylvania municipalities opting to partner with the state office of the National Audubon Society to promote awareness of the benefits of birds and encourage local action to protect birds and their habitats.

Solebury is Audubon Pennsylvania’s 16th Bird Town.

According to Widgette Kelly, vice-chair of the EAC, “The EAC is looking forward to working with Audubon to make Solebury an even more beautiful and environmentally friendly township for both its two-legged and feathery friends.”

Behind the campaign is the philosophy that what’s good for birds also benefits people. As explained on the Bird Town website, Bird Towns promote “a culture of conservation where everyone is a potential steward of nature in their backyard and beyond.”

“The power of Bird Town comes from individuals taking actions on their landscape and in their home to be greener, experience nature every day, and contribute to the Township’s overall efforts to minimize environmental impacts,” the website states.

Policy Dept.

Police Chief Dominic Bellizzie’s budget continues to set money aside each year for officer training and the scheduled replacement of vehicles, computers, and radios, but the department budget funds no extraordinary purchases in 2013.

The vehicle replacement schedule allows for the purchase of two vehicles each year, plus extended warranties. These warranties typically expire around the same time the vehicle is scheduled to be replaced.

About $13,500 from the Capital Equipment Fund will be used to address a police safety issue noted by the Township’s insurance carrier: the need for new guns and either a new cell door or installation of a window in the existing cell door.

Parks & Recreation Dept.

The Township will apply $20,000 from the Parks & Recreation Capital Fund toward backstops and fencing at Laurel Park and Pat Livezey Park in 2013.

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Dear Taxpayer:

Through the **Solebury Messenger**, the Board of Supervisors 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 at 609-397-8483.

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.

**January**

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

**February**

2/4 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
2/5 Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
2/11 Planning Commission, 7 pm
2/12 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
2/19 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
2/21 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
2/28 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

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Warm Your Belly at
Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival Food Events
On the Web: winterfestival.net

Winter Festival offers many ways for locals and visitors alike to sample the fare of the area’s finest restaurants.

Thursday, Jan. 24, Taste of Winter Fest, presented by the Inn at the Lambertville Station, serves up a savory evening of samplings and spirits from river town restaurants and wineries.

Saturday, Jan. 26, the Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club’s Beef ‘n Brew presents an afternoon of hot roast beef sandwiches, Triumph brews, and live music.

Sunday, Jan. 27, the 17th Annual Chili

LOCAL RESTAURANTER Jim Hamilton sautés mussels at Taste of Winter Fest 2012.

2013 Winter Festival Highlights — Jan. 19 to 27

FIRE AND ICE BALL
Sat., Jan. 19, 7-11 PM
New Hope Borough Community Room
Presented by
New Hope Chamber of Commerce
TICKETS: $20/$25 (advance/door)

TASTE OF WINTER FEST
Thurs., Jan. 24, 7-9 PM
The Inn at Lambertville Station
A savory evening of fine food and beverages from great local restaurants.
TICKETS: $40 Adults

WINTER FESTIVAL CONCERT
PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE
Opener: Very Special Guest Craig Bickhardt
Fri., Jan. 25, 8 PM, Steven J. Buck Theater,
New Hope-Solebury High School
Presented by First National Bank & Trust
Company of Newtown
TICKETS: $45/$50/$90 (advance/door/VIP)
Pre-Concert VIP Reception: Meet & greet the band & light hors d’oeuvres at Nikós Restaurant at Logan Inn; trolley to concert.

A TRIBUTE TO DORO KERR
Sat., Jan. 26, 6:30-10:30 PM
Memorable Affairs—Occasions
Presented by New Hope Parks & Recreation
A sit-down dinner, cocktails, laughs, and memories in honor of a local volunteer.
TICKETS: $85

MUSIC & THEATER PERFORMANCES
Sat., Jan. 26, 10 AM-3 PM
St. John’s School
A full schedule of family-friendly events!
Featuring the PTSO Café in basement.
TICKETS: FREE!

WINTER FESTIVAL PARADE
Sat., Jan. 26, Noon
Bridge Street, New Hope & Lambertville

ROUNDFLY BEEF ‘N BREW
Sat., Jan. 26, 1-4 PM
Triumph Brewing Co.
Presented by
Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club
Hot roast beef sandwiches & Triumph brews.
TICKETS: $40 Adults

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sun., Jan. 27, 8-11:30 AM
New Hope-Solebury High School cafeteria
Presented by the
New Hope-Solebury Girls Soccer Team
$40 Adults
$5 Seniors / $3.50 Children 3-12

17th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
Sun., Jan. 27, 1-4 PM
Memorable Affairs—Occasions
Presented by River Horse Brewery
Chili prepared by area restaurants, with award-winning River Horse Brewery beers.
$50 Adults / $45 Under 21 or No Alcohol
(includes commemorative pint glass)

PURCHASE TICKETS, FIND MORE EVENTS, AND GET OTHER EVENT DETAILS AT: WWW.WINTERFESTIVAL.NET

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Solebury Resident
The New Hope-Solebury School District recently transferred ownership of the historic one-room schoolhouse at Sugan Road and Upper York Road in Solebury Village to the Solebury Township Historical Society.

The society has leased the building since 2007 and completed interior renovations in 2008. Since then the organization established an extensive research library there.

“We are so excited to have ownership of this historic schoolhouse,” said Donneta Crane, president of the society.

She noted that the organization is committed to restoring and preserving the structure. “We are grateful that the school district recognized the importance of preserving this township icon by entrusting it to our care,” she added.

“We are pleased to transfer ownership of this historic building to the Solebury Township Historical Society,” New Hope-Solebury School Board President Amanda Elefante commented. “Being able to ensure the viability of the schoolhouse as a community resource was a critical aspect of our decision as a Board.”

A Rich History

The one-room schoolhouse was the first school built in Solebury Township and has a rich history.

In 1755, Samuel Eastburn sold the half-acre lot on which the school was built to Buckingham Friends Meeting.

During the 1780s, Zebulon Pike, the explorer for whom Pike’s Peak is named, attended the one-room schoolhouse.

It was reconstructed in 1810 and again in 1870, both as a result of fires.

In 1812, Solebury Friends Meeting took over the school, and by 1870 the school was in the possession of the Solebury Township School District.

It remained in operation as a one-room schoolhouse until 1938, when a larger elementary school was built, then continued to house first graders until the early 1950s, when new rooms were added to the 1938 school building.

Solebury Township held municipal meetings in the schoolhouse until 1959.

It was then used as the elementary school library.

After the library was moved to the elementary school in 1976, the schoolhouse was used for special education classes until the early 1990s.

The schoolhouse then served as a storage facility for the school district until it was leased to the Historical Society in 2007.

The schoolhouse is open to the public for research on Wednesdays from 3-5 PM or by appointment.

For more information, visit soleburyhistory.org or email soleburyhistory@verizon.net.

Advertise your business in the Solebury Messenger

Your ad will reach 5,500 Solebury Township households and businesses by direct mail.

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<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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ARMITAGE ROAD, which overlooks Cuttalossa Valley, was closed in the fall of 2011 until extensive repairs could be made to the roadbed (left). The one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee ripped away entire chunks of roadbed and destabilized the road’s footing along the hillside. Now the road is open again (right). A new concrete retaining wall that extends below the roadbed ensures it is safe for travel.

THE STONE ARCH BRIDGE on Covered Bridge Road between Aquetong and Pidcock Creek Roads was also closed in the fall of 2011 until the bridge could be replaced (left). The 2011 storms washed away so much of the streambed that the stream flowed under the bridge walls and caused one of the walls to collapse. The new bridge (right) is now open.
Bird Town (continued from page 1)

Audubon provides Bird Towns with resources that (1) teach residents about birds that live in or regularly pass through their communities, (2) enable individuals to create healthy backyard habitats that attract birds, and (3) enlist resident volunteers in participating in Audubon bird surveys.

The EAC plans to work with Audubon to highlight the Township’s ecological resources, Kelly said. For example, the Township organization will partner with the Bucks County Audubon Society to create workshops and other means of helping property owners get to know the birds in their backyards.

“Birds are natural indicators of ecological health,” said Steven Saffier, who manages the Audubon Bird Town program. “Small steps in a backyard can increase the diversity of birds and at the same time create a healthier living environment for people and pets. With our incredible partners in Solebury, residents will surely hear more about their role in the lives of birds. I’m confident that they will be amazed to find out what birds come through this area as part of the Atlantic Flyway ... the super-highway of bird migration.”

Stay tuned! More information and resources will be provided in the Solebury Messenger and on the Township website in the coming months.

In the meantime, to learn more about what it means to be a Bird Town, visit: http://pa.audubon.org/bird-town

Budget (continued from page 1)

These two parks will also benefit from a planned $20,000 expenditure on turf management, which is reflected in the department budget.

The 2013 Parks & Recreation Dept. budget is less than 1% of the overall Township budget and is offset by Summer Adventure Camp revenues as well as numerous fund-raising activities run by volunteers.

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice reported that community volunteers and local partnerships contributed to the department’s success in 2012.

Key partners include the NH-S School District, which provided facilities for the Township’s 2012 Summer Adventure Camp; the Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival, which supports several local organizations in addition to Solebury Parks and Recreation; and individual sports organizations.

Summer camp and Winter Festival funds allow the department to provide the community with free programs, like AED/CPR certification and Halloween Safety Awareness, while individual sports organizations are a source of volunteers and raise money to support their teams and park facilities—all of which are vital to the health of the Township athletic program.

More than 800 children participate in parks and recreation activities each year. In addition, adults participate in basketball, soccer, and softball programs.

Public Works Dept.

According to Public Works Director Dennis Carney—also the Township Manager—an increase in Highway Aid Fund revenue will allow the Township to complete an additional $90,000 of road resurfacing in 2013.

The department will purchase a gas-powered post driver and gas generators for Township traffic signals in 2013—fail safe against future power outages—for a total of about $8,000.

Approximately $150,000 of the Roads and Bridges Fund will be applied to road paving in 2013.

As Township Roadmaster, Dennis will inspect all of the Township’s bridges with the Township Engineer in 2013 and create a prioritized list for future repairs.

Administration Dept.

The Township Manager noted that the 2013 budget will fund several items from the Natural Resource Preservation Fund in the new year, including a $5,000 watershed study, an $8,000 Act 537 update, $15,000 worth of stormwater outfall repairs and upgrades, $1,000 for the planting of trees, and $840 for enrollment in the Audubon Bird Town program.

The Township will maintain its contribution to the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad at $17,500 this year, while increasing its contribution to the Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit from $3,000 to $13,000.

The Township will support other local nonprofits at 2012 levels, including the Bucks County SPCA ($1,250), Central Bucks Senior Citizens ($500), New Hope Senior Citizens ($500), and Phillips Mill Community Association ($375).
Township Directory
P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963
soleburytpw.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@soleburytpw.org
Asst. Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer/Zoning Officer
Gretchen Rice: grice@soleburytpw.org
HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Christine Terranova: cterranova@soleburytpw.org
Admin. Asst., LPC Administrator, Planning Commission
Administrator Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytpw.org
Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org
Right-To-Know Officer, Administrative Records
Asst. Twp. Manager Gretchen K. Rice
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org
Right-To-Know Officer, Police Records
Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie
police@soleburypd.org

Unsure where to direct your question?
Email: soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org
You can direct your query to a specific individual
or write a general query.
The appropriate individual will respond.

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.

Parks and Recreation Dept.
Upcoming Events

WINTER FESTIVAL
NEW HOPE LAMBERTVILLE

January 19-27
On the Web: www.winterfestival.net

Baseball and softball online registration has started. Go to the baseball website,
below, and click this link:

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:
www.soleburytpw.org (Parks & Recreation tab)
www.soleburybaseball.org (baseball)
www.soleburybasketball.org (basketball)
www.tcteams.com/nhspopwarmer (football)
www.tcteams.com/solebury (soccer)
www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)

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The next
Solebury Messenger
will mail on
March 7.
Deadline for ads is February 9.
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