Township Holds Property Tax Flat

Solebury departments have kept their operating budgets at largely the same levels as prior years, allowing the Township to once again produce a 2014 budget that requires no property tax increase.

Police Dept.

Police Chief Dominic Bellizzie’s budget continues to set money aside each year for officer training and the scheduled replacement of equipment.

Planned purchases to be made in 2014 with a combination of reserved and newly budgeted funds include two vehicles with extended warranties ($75,000); a new server ($8,000); radios ($143,000); accident diagramming equipment ($23,000); three wireless notebooks ($3,500); and five Generation 5 tasers ($5,500).

In addition, the department will spend $15,000 toward accreditation by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This rigorous, independent standards-based review helps police departments evaluate and improve their performance and ultimately validates that local departments are operating effectively and professionally.

Parks & Recreation Dept.

The Township will apply $26,000 from the Parks & Recreation Capital Fund toward building, fencing, and other planned improvements of Township playing fields in 2014, which represents expenditures of $10,000 at Laurel Park, $10,000 at Pat Livezey Park, and $6,000 at Canal Park.

In addition, $20,000 from the same fund will be used for the maintenance of the Judy House at Ingham Spring. The structure’s electrical system will be replaced and a heating system will be installed in the new year.

Solebury continues to reserve roughly $800,000 in the Land Preservation Fund for work that must be done at Ingham Spring. Once the state grants permission for the repairs, the Township will remove the dam and lake and restore the creeks to their natural state.

The 2014 Parks & Recreation Dept. operating budget is less than 1% of the overall budget.

It’s Tax Season

EIT/LST Filing Reminder

Solebury residents now file and pay the 1% Earned Income Tax (EIT) and the $52 Local Services Tax (LST) through the Bucks County-wide tax collection firm, Keystone Collections Group. The 1% EIT is assessed by Solebury Township (0.5%) and the New Hope-Solebury School District (0.5%) on the earned income of Solebury residents as well as that of individuals who live outside the Township but work in Solebury.

Earned income and net profits from all sources for a specific calendar year that total less than $5,000 are exempt from the EIT. E-filing of both taxes is available on the Keystone website.

For more information on all matters related to the EIT, contact Keystone:
www.keystonecollects.com
Bucks County Office
1243 Easton Road, Suite 101
Warrington, PA 18976
Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-4 PM
866-539-1100

2010 Taxes and Earlier

Any returns that remain to be filed or paid for 2010 and earlier are to be submitted to former Township EIT collector H.A. Berkheimer: www.hab-inc.com

2014 Winter Festival Highlights

Are You Ready for Winter? 

Emergency Notifications

Stormwater Pollution Part 2: Reducing Pollutants

EAC Offers Well & Septic Tips

Township Directory

Parks and Recreation Events
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-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 (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

Printed on recycled paper by Hermitage Press, Trenton, NJ
© School Window Publications

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.

Comprehensive pain relief

for a better life.

New Hope Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab

In a friendly and supportive environment, our goal is to treat your problem, relieve your pain and restore your ability to function. We get you back to work, sports, and a better life.

Linda, Bill, Kathy, Natalie, Janet

Orthopedic injury · Back, shoulder or hand problem
Chronic pain condition · Postsurgical rehabilitation for joint replacement or after a work, auto, or sports injury · Women’s health - chronic pelvic pain, incontinence, post-partum physical therapy

Solebury Roofing Contractors, Inc.

Locally owned and operated
All work installed by owner
All work 100% guaranteed
Fully insured and bonded
Roofing professionally installed since 1970

215-534-0284
Soleburyroofing.com

2302 Street Road Lahaska, PA
Office and Fax 215-794-7634
Winter Festival Concert Headliner: Grammy-Winner Jimmy Webb

On the Web: winterfestival.net

Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Jimmy Webb will headline the Winter Festival concert Friday, January 24.

 Webb is well known for many platinum-selling classics, including “Up, Up and Away,” “By the Time I Get to Phoenix,” “Wichita Lineman,” “Galveston,” “The Worst That Could Happen,” “All I Know,” and “MacArthur Park.”

His songs have been performed by The Supremes, The 5th Dimension, Art Garfunkel, Linda Ronstadt, Glen Campbell, and others, and he is the only artist to ever receive Grammys for music, lyrics, and orchestration.

Webb continues to write carefully crafted, magical music. He recently released a new CD, "Still Within the Sound of My Voice," and is currently touring Europe and the U.S.

Local musician and producer John Danaher will open the concert as a Special Guest, accompanied by Eric Aceto and Doug Robinson, who have performed with John worldwide for 35 years.

An award-winning singer-songwriter, John has toured with many well known musicians; was awarded “Best Rock Song for a Documentary Film” by the Garden State Film Festival in 2010 for his song “Give it Time;” and is the current producer of the Winter Festival Concert Series.

In addition to regular concert tickets, Winter Festival 2014 offers a V.I.P. ticket option that includes a “meet and greet” with the artists and more. Additional information is provided below and on the Winter Festival website (www.winterfestival.net).

2014 Winter Festival Highlights — Jan. 18 to 26

FIRE AND ICE BALL
Sat., Jan. 18, 7-11 PM
New Hope Eagle Fire House
Presented by New Hope Chamber of Commerce
TICKETS: $20/$25 (advance/door)

TASTE OF WINTER FEST
Thurs., Jan. 23, 7-9 PM
New Hope Eagle Fire House
A savory evening of fine food and beverages from great local restaurants.
TICKETS: $40 Adults

WINTER FESTIVAL CONCERT
JIMMY WEBB
Fri., Jan. 24, 8 PM, Steven J. Buck Theater, New Hope-Solebury High School
Presented by First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown
TICKETS: $45/$50/$85 (advance/door/VIP)
VIP at Logan Inn: “Meet & greet” the artists, light hors d’oeuvres, ride to concert.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM HAMILTON
Sat., Jan. 25, 6-10 PM
L-NH Amb. & Rescue Squad Banquet Hall
Presented by New Hope Parks & Recreation
A sit-down dinner, cocktails, laughs, and memories in honor of a local volunteer.
TICKETS: $75

MUSIC & THEATER PERFORMANCES
Sat., Jan. 25, 10 AM-3 PM, St. John’s School
A full schedule of family-friendly events!
Featuring the SHR PTSO Café in basement.
TICKETS: FREE!

WINTER FESTIVAL PARADE
Sat., Jan. 25, Noon to 1 PM
Bridge Street, New Hope & Lambertville

ROTARY BEEF ’N BREW
Sat., Jan. 25, 1-4 PM, Triumph Brewing Co.
Presented by Lambertville-New Hope Rotary
Hot roast beef sandwiches & Triumph brews.
TICKETS: $40 Adults

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sun., Jan. 26, 8-11:30 AM
NH-S High School cafeteria
Presented by the NH-S Girls Soccer Team
With children’s activities hosted by Solebury Parks & Recreation in the gyms.
TICKETS: All You Can Eat! $6.50 Adults
$5 Seniors / $3.50 Children 3-12

18th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
Sun., Jan. 26, 1-4 PM
New Hope Eagle Fire House
Presented by Triumph Brewing Company
Chili prepared by area restaurants, with award-winning Triumph 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
Are You Ready for Winter?

Time to Think About De-Icing Solutions

Winter is rapidly approaching, and forecasters say it could be a snowy one. It’s time to place a snow shovel and stiff-bristled broom where you can readily access them.

While you’re at it, take a moment to consider the differences among the ice-melting products that are available for your use. Using these products judiciously can help you avoid injuries and protect the environment.

Unfortunately, no ice-melting solution is completely benign. The best advice for an area that tends to get icy is to apply a thin layer of a de-icer before snow falls.

Salt-Based Products

- Rock salt, or sodium chloride, the traditional ice melter, works when the temperature is above 15 degrees. It is easy to use, easy to store, and relatively inexpensive.
- Other salts, such as calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, are often present in commercial ice-melt products that work at lower temperatures.

Potential Impacts:

- They are extremely caustic and can burn skin on contact. Children, with their sensitive skin and eyes, must be especially careful. They can even cause a pet’s skin to blister.
- They can cause severe discomfort, even death, if ingested (e.g., if a pet licks some off its paws or fur).
- They may harm plants and disturb soil composition.
- They can damage wood, concrete, pavers, bricks, and other surfaces.
- They can attract wildlife in search of salt, who lick road surfaces, increasing the chance of collision.
- Runoff that picks up these products can carry large amounts of chloride to the water supply, increasing the corrosive effects of the water.

Nitrogen-Based Products

- Urea, a nitrogen-based fertilizer, is a less caustic ice-melter and thus poses less threat to the skin and various surfaces.
- Several commercial ice-melting products marketed as safe for the environment and pets also contain nitrogen (and tend to be expensive).

Potential Impacts:

- When applied in the quantity necessary to melt ice, the large amount of nitrogen left behind can inhibit flowering, damage roots, and eventually kill plants.
- Runoff that picks up this product can carry large amounts of nitrogen to waterways, causing algae blooms that cloud water, decrease oxygen supply, and promote mosquito growth.

Other Products

- Sand, kitty litter, and gravel provide traction on ice, hopefully making it less slippery.
- They are extremely caustic and can burn skin on contact. Children, with their sensitive skin and eyes, must be especially careful. They can even cause a pet’s skin to blister.

Potential Impacts:

- They can attract wildlife in search of salt, who lick road surfaces, increasing the chance of collision.
- Runoff that picks up these products can carry large amounts of chloride to the water supply, increasing the corrosive effects of the water.

- Sand, kitty litter, and gravel provide traction on ice, hopefully making it less slippery.
- They are extremely caustic and can burn skin on contact. Children, with their sensitive skin and eyes, must be especially careful. They can even cause a pet’s skin to blister.
- They can attract wildlife in search of salt, who lick road surfaces, increasing the chance of collision.
- Runoff that picks up these products can carry large amounts of chloride to the water supply, increasing the corrosive effects of the water.

- Sand, kitty litter, and gravel provide traction on ice, hopefully making it less slippery.
- They are extremely caustic and can burn skin on contact. Children, with their sensitive skin and eyes, must be especially careful. They can even cause a pet’s skin to blister.
- They can attract wildlife in search of salt, who lick road surfaces, increasing the chance of collision.
- Runoff that picks up these products can carry large amounts of chloride to the water supply, increasing the corrosive effects of the water.
Whether you manage hundreds of acres or a small lot, you can do a great deal to improve the quality of the water that recharges local wells and waterways.

One thing each of us can do is reduce the non-point source pollutants stormwater can pick up as it runs across the land, ultimately washing into streams at many different locations.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “non-point source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems.”

Non-point source stormwater pollutants include litter (e.g., cigarette butts, cans, tires, plastics), chemicals (e.g., soaps, oil, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, car fluids), organic waste (e.g., grass clippings, yard waste, pet waste, compost, bacteria from septic system leaks), and sediment (e.g., soil from bare earth, eroded stream banks, and construction sites).

Yard waste and fertilizers, especially when used heavily or just before a storm, increase the nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen, in our waterways, which can disrupt the balance of aquatic habitats and cause unnaturally large amounts of algae growth. When that algae dies, its decomposition uses a lot of oxygen from the stream, which can create a “dead zone” where few things can live.

Sediment can muddy water, preventing fish from spawning and generally destroying stream habitats.

A good rule of thumb to increase awareness of non-point source pollutants is, *What we do to the land, we do to the water.*

By disposing of trash, yard waste, and household chemicals properly, using fertilizer sparingly, and picking up after our pets, we can greatly reduce the pollution on our land that stormwater can pick up.

Washing a car outside allows soap and pollutants to enter storm drains and thus our streams. We can prevent this by washing our cars at a carwash, where the water is recycled, and washing other things indoors at a sink.

Other tips include:
- Never dump anything into storm drains or streams.
- Check your vehicles for leaks and have them fixed.
- Prevent litter or lawn clippings from washing into roads with storm drains.
- Use fertilizers and other chemicals sparingly, but never before it rains.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly.
- Make sure your septic system works properly.
- Pick up after your pets.

Next issue: *Stormwater Pollution: Everyone’s Problem, Part 3: Reducing Runoff* (Adapted from articles by Krista Scheirer, Conservation Coordinator at the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.)

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.

Suggestion Box

Do You Have an Idea You Would Like to Offer to the Township?

Solebury Township welcomes suggestions from residents. Visit our website and click on the Suggestion Box photo. Your e-mail address is required.

Experience Fitness from a Different Angle.

*Join Today for $0 Enrollment! *Ends 1/31/14

Ask About Our Money Back Satisfaction Guarantee

The CORNERSTONE Clubs
doylesstown | new hope | warrington
visit www.cornerstoneclubs.com for a free guest pass
Township budget and is offset by Summer Adventure Camp revenues as well as numerous fundraising activities run by volunteers.

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice reported that community volunteers and local partnerships contributed to the department’s success in 2013.

Key partners include the NH-S School District, which provided facilities for the Township’s 2013 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.

Public Works Director Dennis Carney—also the Township Manager—completed a Road Maintenance Program for 2014, which lays out a new five-year maintenance plan for Township infrastructure.

In 2014, the Township Roads & Bridges Fund will finance maintenance and repairs identified in year one of the plan.

A total of $300,000 will be used for milling, paving, overlay, and tar-and-chip treatments of local roads, and $80,000 will be used to complete a combination of planned bridge repairs and repairs identified as necessary during annual bridge inspections.

In addition, the department will use $150,000 from the Liquid Fuels Fund to replace a 2002 GMC Dump Truck in the new year, while $65,000 will be taken from the Capital Equipment Fund to replace the roof of the Public Works pole barn ($40,000) and to purchase a new milling head for the skid-steer apparatus the department uses to resurface roads ($25,000).

In 2014, the Township will begin the longer-term project of building a new Public Works facility by contracting engineering and architectural services at an estimated cost of $50,000, which will come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The new facility will be located on the two lots next to the Township Building; no additional property will be purchased for the project.

Other

The Township Manager said the Natural Resource Protection Fund will support several items in the new year, including a $5,000 watershed study, an $8,000 sanitary sewage study (Act 537), and a $22,000 stormwater study.

The fund will also finance continued stormwater improvements ($15,000), ongoing tree planting ($3,000), and the Township’s membership in the Audubon Bird Town program ($850).

Solebury will maintain its annual contribution to the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad at $17,500 this year, while increasing its contribution to Central Bucks Ambulance from $13,000 to $82,500.

The Township will support other local nonprofits at 2013 levels, including the Bucks County SPCA ($1,250), Central Bucks Senior Citizens ($500), New Hope Senior Citizens ($500), and Phillips Mill Community Association ($375).  

EAC Offers  
Well and Septic Tips

While parts of Solebury are serviced by public water and sewer services, a large portion of the Township uses on-lot well-water and septic systems.

In effect, most residents operate their own personal utilities and need to perform regular maintenance to protect the water supply and preserve their septic systems.

Replacing a failed system can cost more than $30,000 and can be very disruptive to a household.

According to the Solebury Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), owner maintenance is the most important factor in keeping septic systems operating properly.

The EAC offers the following top-10 actions to help residents safeguard the integrity of their septic systems and protect Township water quality:

1. Have your septic tank pumped every 2-3 years, regardless of whether your on-lot sewage system has problems.
2. Use less water—less water causes less stress on the system and prevents overload.
3. Have the tank regularly inspected by a professional, and keep records of all inspections, pumping, and other maintenance.
4. Do not flush coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter, cigarette butts, bandages, or other materials that can damage your system.
5. Never pour harsh chemicals into your septic system (e.g., bleach, latex paint, drain cleaners, cooking oil).
6. If you have a garbage disposal, severely restrict its use.
7. Do not use chemical or biological enzyme additives.
8. Whenever possible give your septic system a break—for example, spread laundry machine use over a period of days instead of doing 5-6 loads in one day.
9. Know where your septic system is located and keep that area free of deep rooted plants and trees.
10. Never allow heavy construction equipment to be operated on the drainfield.
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
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 and Recreation Dept.
Upcoming Events

WINTER FESTIVAL

NEW HOPE • LAMBERTVILLE

January 18-26
On the Web: http://www.winterfestival.net

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

SIGN UP NOW

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:

www.soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)
www.soleburybaseball.org (baseball)
www.soleburybasketball.org (basketball)
www.tcteams.com/nhspopwarner (football)
www.tcteams.com/solebury (soccer)
www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)

Your ad could be here.
609-397-8483
ads.schoolwindow@gmail.com

slatterycompany.com

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
Landscape Masonry & Fine Gardens
SLATTERY & COMPANY
215 630 1752 Solebury Resident

Creative Landscape Design & Installation
Outdoor Lighting
Complete Outdoor Property Maintenance
Certified Hardscape Installation
Outdoor Kitchens, Pool Houses
Owner Operated
Serving Bucks County Since 1984

Call us now for your Hardscape Projects!
www.PLSBlue.com PA032949

6650 Lower York Rd.
New Hope, PA 18938
215-862-5531
Fax: 215-862-5532
Happy New Year

FROM SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP

CREWS SURVEYING, LLC
Adam D. Crews, PLS
1806 Deep Run Road
Suite B
Pipersville, PA 18947
Ph: 215-766-2477
Fx: 215-766-2399
A.Crews@CrewsSurveying.com

PRESTIGE
Heating & Cooling
Solebury, PA
- Free estimates on new installations
- Seasonal tune-ups
- Maintenance Agreements
- Service on all makes & models
- Water heaters, humidifiers
- Emergency service available
215-297-0811
Family owned and operated.

SOLEBURY CHIROPRACTIC
DR. MICHAEL J. PREDIGER
2996 SUGAN ROAD • BOX 85
SOLEBURY, PENNSYLVANIA
215 297 8444
HANDS ON HEALTH CARE
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

THIRTY-ONE
independent consultant

DOUBLE HOSTESS CREDIT
through January 31
Home & Catalog Parties
Parties-On-The-Go • Fundraisers
Shop the spring catalog now!
www.mythirtyone.com/374546

TOWNSHIP NEWS INSIDE!

Heating & Cooling
215-862-3600
Buckingham Green
Buckingham, PA
215-794-1199

15% OFF
PACK AND SHIP
100% GUARANTEE
WHEN WE PACK FOR YOU

No expiration. Cannot be combined with other offers.

THE LEGENDARY
ANTIQUE CENTER AT THE PEOPLE’S STORE
Antiques • Furniture • Accessories • Art
50 Fabulous Dealers & Galleries
28 N. Union St., Lambertville, NJ
www.PeoplesStore.net • 609-397-9808
7 DAYS, 10AM TO 6PM

STONE HOUSE
ANTIQUE CENTER
C.1814
ANTQUES • FURNITURE • ACCESSORIES • ART
25 Dealers & Galleries
1.5 miles from Route 202 • Near Peddler’s Village
3292 DURHAM ROAD (RT. 413), MECHANICSVILLE, PA 18934
WWW.STONEHOUSE1814.COM • 267-544-0574
7 DAYS, 10AM TO 6PM