Solebury Subscribes to ReadyNotifyPA.org
Residents Must Register to Benefit

Solebury Township has signed onto ReadyNotifyPA as a means of getting residents emergency information in times of need.

“With Hurricane Sandy, we realized we needed a more effective means of communicating with our residents during emergencies than the email-alert service we had set up in-house,” explained Township Manager Dennis Carney. “Not everyone had internet service during the storm.”

ReadyNotifyPA is a reverse-911 service that allows government agencies to send alerts to subscribers by email, phone, or text.

What’s unique about the system is the degree to which subscribers can customize the kinds of messages they receive as well as how they receive them.

ReadyNotifyPA allows users to choose from a range of information types (weather emergencies, municipal notices, security threats, road closings, school emergencies, Amber Alerts, and more). They can select the devices on which, and the forms in which, they receive the notices. And they can pick the locales they wish to receive information about.

Since making the decision to use ReadyNotifyPA, several Township employees—including Dennis, Assistant Township Manager Gretchen Rice, Administrative Assistant Jean Weiss, Police Chief Dominic Bellizzie, and Police Dept. Administrative Assistants Mary Grady and Bob Wolman—have been formally trained to use it. A second training session is planned for Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Kuhn and additional emergency service providers.

“We are not going to overuse this system,” Dennis stressed, “because that invalidates the service—people will turn a blind eye to it—and we don’t want that.”

(continued on page 3)
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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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.

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.

March
3/4 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
3/5 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
3/11 Planning Commission, 7 pm
3/12 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
3/19 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
3/21 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
3/28 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

April
4/1 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
4/2 Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
4/8 Planning Commission, 7 pm
4/9 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
4/16 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
4/18 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
4/25 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

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Click “Solebury Email Alerts” and enter your email address.

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Two-Day “Backyard Stewardship” Workshop Planned to Celebrate “Bird Town”

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) announced that, as part of Solebury’s ongoing celebration of its new “Bird Town” status, the Bucks County Audubon Society will offer a two-class workshop in “Backyard Stewardship” in the spring.

The first class—to be held April 28 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Bucks County Audubon Society Visitor Center, located at 2877 Creamery Road—will focus on restoring backyard ecology. Attendees will learn how to assess a landscape, how to use native plants to create curb appeal, and how to create sustainable landscaping that benefits the environment and saves homeowners time and money.

The second class—the date of which has yet to be determined—will include one or two backyard site visits that demonstrate the success of these practices. (The date, time, and location of the second class will be determined by the participants of the first class.)

The cost of the workshop is $55, which includes a companion textbook and notebook, as well as a light morning snack and lunch during the first class.

For more information or to register, contact Diane Smith (215-297-5880 or diane-smith@bcas.org) or visit the Bucks County Audubon Society website (www.bcas.org).

What’s a “Bird Town”?

The National Audubon Society’s “Bird Town” program encourages municipalities to partner with state and local Audubon offices to promote awareness of the benefits of birds and to encourage local action to protect birds and bird habitats.

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.”

Solebury became Audubon Pennsylvania’s 16th Bird Town on Jan. 1. The program is coordinated by the EAC, which plans to work with Audubon to highlight and protect the Township’s many ecological resources.

To learn more, visit: http://pa.audubon.org/bird-town.

ReadyNotifyPA (continued from page 1)

Instead, the Township plans to limit its use of ReadyNotifyPA to serious emergencies.

ReadyNotifyPA serves residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties and was developed by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force.

For more information or to sign up, visit ReadyNotifyPA.org and click Bucks County. Choose an option in the left-hand menu, or use the “Click Here to Register” button to sign up.
Pennsylvania State Police are participating in the launch of a new smartphone camera app called “See Something, Send Something,” which allows users to capture suspicious activity as a photo or written note and send it to the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC).

The app is available at no cost for iPhone and Android users and includes information on what to look for and when to report suspicious activity, along with how to receive important alerts.

In a press release about the app, the PaCIC stresses that “Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious activity. For that reason, the public should report only suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack or briefcase in a public place) rather than beliefs, thoughts, ideas, expressions, associations, or speech unrelated to terrorism or other criminal activity. Only reports that document behavior reasonably indicative of criminal activity related to terrorism will be shared with local, state and federal partners.”

Before Using the App

Solebury Detective-Corporal Roy Ferrarri encourages residents who have smartphones and who wish to use this app to practice using the technical features involved before using the app to report a tip.

“If you become familiar with the application first, you can avoid fumbling around with it when it comes time to take this important picture,” he explained. “It will allow you to use the technology to your advantage.”

He advises residents to practice taking pictures with their phone’s camera and to practice executing related functions like deleting and saving photos as well.

Users should not put themselves at risk to take a photograph as part of a tip, he added: “Remember, there’s nothing to prevent people from calling the police and reporting an activity the old fashioned way—by telephone.”

More About the App

Developed by My Mobile Witness, the “See Something, Send Something” app uses the sender’s location to route tips to the geographically appropriate state police branch.

In addition, the app uses privacy protection software to safeguard the integrity of tips and of the sender’s personal information. Submitted tips are removed from the mobile device and purged from the My Mobile Witness system as soon as they are delivered to PaCIC for analysis.

“See Something, Send Something” can be downloaded using the QR code at left or by following this link from your smartphone: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mymobilewitness.seesend
Planning a Winter Getaway? Police Dept. Warns of Vacation Safety Issues

While you may think of the summer as vacation prime time, criminals also see winter getaways—especially those that take place on lengthy school breaks—as opportunities for burglaries. Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie urges residents to “make your home look lived-in when you go away.”

In particular:
- Let friends and neighbors know when you will be away for vacation.
- Before you leave, let police know exactly when you will be away and how you can be reached.
- If you are leaving a car home, ask a neighbor to move it each day.
- Set any alarms and be sure the alarm company knows how to reach you.
- Don’t leave trash or recycling cans at the roadside for pickup—ask a neighbor to move the cans for you at the appropriate times.
- Cancel newspapers (or have someone pick them up) and have the post office hold your mail.
- Set timers to turn lights on and off intermittently (don’t leave the porch light—or other outside light—on all day and night).
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Don’t leave valuables in plain sight.
- For help with any non-emergency home safety concerns, contact Township Police at 215-297-8201 during business hours.

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.

Township Targets Roads for Repairs

Working in his role as Roadmaster, Township Manager Dennis Carney recently inspected all Township roads to determine which will require repaving in 2013.

The Public Works Dept. uses a five-year projected plan to estimate which roads are likely to make this annual list, but reviews it each year to push back those that fared better than expected and move up any that deteriorated faster than expected.

This year’s list includes roads that will be repaved using a typical asphalt overlay as well as roads that will be repaved using a tar-and-chip treatment.

Asphalt overlay, which is required for roads that experience a high volume of traffic, will be used on:
- Street Road (from Stoney Hill Road to Rt. 202)
- Great Oaks Road

Tar-and-chip treatment, which can only be used on lightly travelled roads, involves laying a coating of tar, embedding the tar with stone chips, then using a driveway-type sealer to create a smooth surface. The method is more aesthetically suited to rural roads and will be used on:
- Yorkshire Meadows
- Ingham Mews
- Cornwell Drive
- Circle View Drive
- Corrigan Road
- Dewees Road
- Arboresque Drive
- Comfort Road (from Paxson Road to Rt. 263)
Supervisors Appreciate Volunteers

The 2013 Board of Supervisors is pleased to present the Township residents who volunteered to staff the Township’s advisory boards and committees this year.

“Professionals help us in many important ways, but our local government succeeds because Solebury residents always volunteer to staff our advisory boards and committees,” explained Supervisor Chair Robert Heath, Jr.

“Many communities struggle to find volunteers,” he noted, “but not here. We take pride in our long tradition of participatory democracy.”

Please join the supervisors in thanking your neighbors for their service.

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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

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The appropriate individual will respond.

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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.

Parks and Recreation Dept.
Upcoming Events

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
March 30, 10 AM, rain or shine, Pat Livezey Park
Children 8 and under. Arrive early to make sure your children do not miss the start of the hunt. Parking is available at the upper entrance of the park at the corner of Hagan and Parkside Drives. In the event of rain, prizes will be distributed at the snack stand until supplies are exhausted.

Summer Adventure Camp 2013
July 1 - August 9, NH-S Upper Elementary School, 180 West Bridge St., New Hope
For more information and registration form, visit:
http://www.soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)

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)

2013 Pidcock Creek Watershed Association Events

3/12 PCWA Board Meeting
4/11 Spring Community Potluck Gathering
4/21 Annual Earth Day Road Cleanup
5/14 PCWA Board Meeting
7/9 PCWA Board Meeting
9/10 PCWA Board Meeting
10/10 Fall Community Potluck Gathering
11/12 PCWA Board Meeting

Confirm dates with Jan Ubel at janubel@comcast.net or 215-598-7602.
For more information visit: www.pidcockcreekwa.com

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Solebury Township Parks and Recreation presents

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 10 am  Rain or shine  Pat Livezey Park
(see p. 7 for details)

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