Emergency Responders Recognized

In January, the Board of Supervisors recognized several emergency responders who helped Solebury residents find safety during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee this past fall.

As Eagle Fire Company Deputy Chief Frank Cosner, Jr., recalled, the two storms presented Solebury with scenarios that the responders hadn’t before encountered.

In addition to flooding that followed predictable patterns, pounding rains and driving winds swept away natural barriers (like stream banks) that normally contained streams and creeks, causing flooding in unexpected areas as well.

And stormwater rushed across saturated earth with nowhere to go, in many cases pounding homes in low-lying areas and leaving residents in flooded areas with fewer options for escape.

(The January 2012 issue of the Solebury Messenger provides a description and some photos of the damage caused.)

Four particular rescues got the Board’s attention.

Dep. Chief Cosner, who was involved in three of the incidents, remembers feeling “a sense of unreality” as crews responded; while the rescuers’ combined years of experience normally prepares them for anything they may encounter, this time the team had to carefully assess each new situation and plan a unique strategy before taking action.

“You don’t want to cause more problems by jumping in without taking precautions,” he said. “Each time we had to sit there, take it all in, and figure out what to do—even coming up with a Plan B in case our first solution didn’t work.”

As he retold the stories to the board, the supervisors clapped for each person involved.

“These storms caused many unexpected problems in the Township,” said Supervisor Chair Bob Heath, “but two things got us through it: The courage and skill of our emergency responders, and the quick thinking of a few residents who heard people in danger and called for help.”

Descriptions of the four incidents and names of those recognized follow.

Dep. Chief Cosner, Eagle Assistant Chief Matthew Taylor, and Stockton Fire Company Deputy Chief Richard Hendricks (a Solebury resident) helped two residents safely flee their low-lying home near the intersection of Routes 263 and 32. As a combination of rain and stormwater rushed down the mountain, bombarding the dwelling and surrounding it with floodwater, rescuers forged a path through roughly 200 yards of woods to find relatively dry land.

Eagle Battalion Chief Tim Lohan, residents Christine and Larry Thiel, and PECO employee Ken Trago rescued a man who was stranded on top of his vehicle on Reeder Road. Not realizing the depth of the water flooding the roadway, the man had driven through it, only to find his car carried away by the rushing water. When the car became (continued on page 6)

A Thank You from Eagle Fire Company

Eagle Fire Company would like to thank all community members for their support and respect.

Each year our one-page fund drive letter reaches you, and you respond. We are optimistic that you will also support us in the near future, when we embark on a plan to enlarge and update our building, as we need more space.

We live in a wonderful area—one in which you seem to understand how hard your volunteers work!

Our volunteers spend 180 hours in a classroom just to achieve the first step toward becoming a volunteer firefighter; they spend hours in committee meetings making sure everything runs smoothly; and they spend hours learning about and buying equipment to keep up with changes demanded by the state and federal government.

And that’s before we count the hours they spend responding to fires, water rescues, and other types of emergencies. Helping those in need is, after all, the real reason they volunteer.

While our volunteers give all of those hours willingly, we would also like to thank their families, as the hours our volunteers give to the community often mean missed dinners, games, and other important family events. Fortunately, they usually understand.

It does not seem possible, but Eagle Fire Co. has been serving the community from 46 N. Sugan Road in New Hope for over 39 years.

We look forward to continuing to do so in the years ahead. ☼

Register Now!

SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP 2012
July 2 - August 10
NH-S Upper Elementary School
Registration forms are available at Township Hall and on the Township website. (See page 5.)

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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

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.

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The emergency rescues associated with Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee (see p. 1) drove home the importance of preparedness for all emergency responders.

Consequently, emergency Management Coordinator Jim Kuhn is reaching out again to residents who may need assistance during an emergency evacuation due to special circumstances (for example, physical or cognitive limitations, language barriers, lack of transportation, and more).

In an emergency, rescue workers want to be able to rapidly identify and aid such individuals, but they can only do so if they know ahead of time who they are and what kind of supports they are likely to need, he stressed.

If you or someone you care for would be unable to act independently in response to emergency protective orders, please contact Assistant Township Manager Gretchen Rice by email (grice@soleburytwp.org), phone (215-297-5656), or mail (Solebury Township, P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963—Attention: Gretchen Rice).

Include your name, the name of the individual who would need assistance, the type of assistance that would likely be required, and if appropriate, the name of a primary caregiver, as well as contact information for all individuals mentioned.

The information you provide will be maintained in a confidential file, to be shared only with the Police Department, the Emergency Management Coordinator, and rescue workers, as needed.

If you previously provided this information to Gretchen, you do not have to do so again unless any of the information you provided has changed.

Please direct questions about emergency preparedness to Jim Kuhn at: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org.

Would You Need Help in an Emergency? Let Emergency Workers Know

Telephone “Emergency Money” Scam

Solebury Police are warning residents to be wary of telephone calls allegedly from grandchildren or other relatives, saying that they are in jail or injured in a distant country and in need of emergency money.

The content of the emails can alarm recipients, who may act quickly before sharing the emergency scenario with other family members.

The email urges relatives to send money by Western Union or Moneygram, and out of love and concern, some residents have done so, reporting losses in the $2,500 to $4,800 range.

The targeted recipients are encouraged to not tell others—to help the writer avoid embarrassment or to test the special relationship with the victim.

The email may also say that the relative is speaking through a public defender, health care provider, or other intermediary because they do not have communication privileges.

Money wired in the manner the email requests is released almost instantly around the world without valid I.D. or verification.

Investigations into such scams often lead to phone numbers and money pickups outside the United States.

Residents may report similar suspicious occurrences to the Solebury Township Police Department by calling 215-348-7400.
2012 Summer Adventure Camp Registration Now Open

Registration is now in progress for Solebury Parks and Recreation’s six-week 2012 Summer Adventure Camp, which will be held July 2 to August 10. The camp is located at New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School in New Hope; the camp day starts at 9 AM on July 2 and ends at 3 PM.

Camp size is limited and spaces fill very quickly. Parents can register children for any number of weeks, and discounts are available to anyone who signs up before June 1.

Forms and information are now available as downloads on the Township website (go to www.soleburytwp.org, click the Parks and Recreation tab, then click Documents & Forms).

This year’s camp adventures will include science workshops and shows by Mad Science, the Magic of Kyle and Kelly Peron, Karate instruction by Jarrett Adams of the Karate School, arts and crafts, our famous Dinosaur Moon Bounce, and special events and activities that vary from week to week.

New this year is a fitness and obstacle course featuring unique tunnels and crawl-through tubes.

In addition, many fitness and sports activities are held outdoors each week, while indoor basketball, floor hockey, and quick start tennis programs are held in the school gymnasium.

Our camp is a Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society award winner for excellence in programming, as well as for its focus on health, fitness, and wellness.

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.

Sale of Tiles and License Plates Supports Parks & Recreation Programs

Consider supporting Solebury Parks and Recreation programs by purchasing commemorative, limited-edition, red clay tiles or a Township license plate for yourself or as gifts.

Designed by local artist Erika Bonner, four colored tiles featuring Solebury landmarks celebrate the Township’s 300th anniversary; they are priced at $25 each.

The Township’s special edition, multi-color front license plate features the historic Columbus Oak, with Bowman’s Tower in the background; they are priced at $20 each.

All proceeds from the sale of tiles and license plates benefit Parks and Recreation programs; they are available at Township Hall during regular business hours.

Trinity Day School

cbove@trinitysolebury.org
www.trinitysolebury.org/tds

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Planning an Addition or Renovation?

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Longhouse Farm Preserved

Longhouse Farm, a scenic property located at Greenhill and Mechanicsville Roads, will remain in its current condition due to the dedication of landowners James and Clara Coan and action taken by the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee.

At its February meeting, the Board of Supervisors announced that the Township would purchase a conservation easement for the roughly 35-acre property at a cost of $463,400; settlement took place in March.

“We are so pleased that the Coans’ 35.15 acres of scenic viewscape are now protected in perpetuity,” Land Preservation Committee Chair Ralph O’Banion said on behalf of the Township. “This is a very important piece of Solebury. It represents the quintessence of everything that the Township is looking for in a preserved property. This represents true conservation.”

“We are very pleased to be able to actively participate in the preservation of this Township,” the Coans stated.

The easement will protect the entire property, which is mainly agricultural and is maintained as hay fields. The southeasterly section of the property contains wooded, steep slopes that border Cuttalossa Creek, which is designated by the state as a high quality-cold water fishery. The easement will be held jointly by the Township and Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy, a private land trust dedicated to preserving the agricultural and natural features of the area.

Preservation Update

To date, the total amount of open space protected through the Township’s Land Preservation Program is 3,184.38 acres, and the total area preserved in Solebury—including lands owned or conserved through the Township program as well as using county and state funds—is 5,984.29 acres.

Purchasing a box of Solebury’s unique note cards—featuring scenes of preserved Solebury properties, as seen by Lambertville photographer Mark Ludak—helps raise money for land preservation.

To view a slideshow of the four scenes depicted on the cards (two are shown in black-and-white at right), go to www.SoleburyTwp.org, click the Sustainable Solebury tab, then click the “Note Cards” link in the menu at left.

Each box includes eight cards—two each of four color photographs—and costs $8; two boxes cost $15.

All proceeds from the sale of note cards benefit Land Preservation Fund; they are available at Township Hall during regular business hours.

About the Photographer

Lambertville photographer Mark Ludak’s work is on display in the Township Building, has been exhibited in area galleries, and is featured in area publications.

For more information, visit: www.markludak.com.

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Solebury Resident
trapped between a bridge and tree, he climbed onto the car roof, then screamed for help. Fortunately, Ms. Thiel went to sleep with a window open that night, heard him, and called 9-1-1. Rescuers secured a ladder near the scene and used ropes to get him to safety.

Dep. Chief Cosner, Asst. Chief Taylor, Eagle Water Rescue Captain Keith McMillen, and Eagle Lieutenant Bill Hasher rescued a man from a stream when his car became stranded below the bridge on Covered Bridge Road. Approaching from Lurgan Road, the man saw no water on the bridge and crossed it, only to find himself in three-to-four feet of water when he reached the other side. When he got out of the car, the stream swept him about 200 feet south of the bridge. Rescuers tied themselves to a secure emergency vehicle, walked through a submerged meadow, then lowered themselves into the creek to bring the man to safety.

Dep. Chief Cosner, Water Rescue Capt. McMillen, and Lt. Hasher helped two residents escape their home on River Road near Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, which was nearly surrounded by rising water. After surveying the property and the direction of the flooding, rescuers led the residents over a hill and across a farm to safety.

Responders (cont. from p. 1)

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2012 Southeastern PA Old Computer & Electronics Recycling Program

Now Two Separate Programs for Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste

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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: cteranova@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?
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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

Summer Adventure Camp 2012
July 2 - August 10, NH-S Upper Elementary
School, 180 West Bridge St., New Hope
For more information and registration form, visit:
http://www.soleburytwp.org OR
Township Hall

Solebury Baseball Camp
With NH-S High School varsity baseball coach Tony Vlahovic, former pitcher for the Boston Red Sox
June 18 - 22, 9 AM - 3 PM
June 25 - 29, 9 AM - 3 PM
Laurel Park Baseball Fields
For more information and registration form, visit:
http://www.soleburytwp.org OR
www.soleburybaseball.org

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/nhsopwarner (football)
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(See page 5.)

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The next issue of the Solebury Messenger will mail on August 29.
Deadline for advertisers is August 8.

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