Did You Know?
Pa. “Steer Clear” Law Enhances Roadside Safety

Pennsylvania’s “Steer Clear” law (Act 113, Section 3327, 2006) requires drivers to take specific precautions when they encounter roadside activity, such as:

- accident scenes
- traffic stops
- work involving disabled vehicles
- highway maintenance and construction

Because these activities place the safety of all drivers, passengers, and assistive personnel—including law enforcement, tow-truck operators, road crews, and emergency responders—at risk, the law requires passing drivers to move over or slow down when they occur.

According to literature published by the Pa. Dept. of Transportation, “motorists are required to move at least one lane away,” but in the event that driving conditions do not allow this, “you must reduce your speed.”

The law states that it is preferable to pass in a lane that is not adjacent to the incident, but when doing so is “impossible, illegal or unsafe,” drivers may pass more closely “at a careful and prudent speed.”

The fine for failing to move over or slow down under these conditions may be up to $250.

In addition, fines for other traffic violations committed in the area around such incidents may be doubled, and a driver’s license may be suspended for 90 days if a violation results in injury to workers.

PennDot states: “The law applies any time an emergency vehicle has its lights flashing and where road crews or emergency personnel have lighted flares, posted signs, or otherwise tried to warn motorists.”

And, “If law enforcement is not present at the time, the law allows road workers and emergency responders to report violations by motorists. Citations can then be issued by police based on these reports.”

Township Launches Comprehensive Plan Update
Watch for Resident Survey

Solebury has begun the process of updating one of the Township’s most important guiding documents, the Comprehensive Plan.

The process will involve, among other things, a survey of Township residents on a number of topics. It will be included in an upcoming issue of the Solebury Messenger.

Please watch for it, take the time to complete it when you receive it, and return it to the Township in a timely manner (instructions will be included with the survey).

LOCAL BOY SCOUTS will help Solebury label roadside storm inlets with the stickers at left to help prevent water pollution. The aim of the stickers is to remind people that Township storm drains lead directly to streams and wetlands, and ultimately to the river and ocean. The water that flows into them is not treated; waste dumped into an inlet pollutes local waterways and may harm fish and other wildlife. Solebury asks residents to apply this thinking to residential storm drains as well.

What’s Inside?

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- 2012 Presidential Election: Nov. 6
  POLLING PLACES

- Upper District: Carversville Christian Church
- Middle District: Solebury Twp. Municipal Building
- Lower 1 District: Solebury United Methodist Church
- Lower 2 District: Thompson Memorial Church

Questions?
Call the Board of Elections: 215-348-6154

Budget Work Sessions

The public is invited to attend the Board of Supervisors’ budget work sessions.

Each begins at 7 PM in Township Hall.

Tuesday, Sept. 4
Tuesday, Oct. 2
Tuesday, Nov. 6
Tuesday, Dec. 4
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.

**September**

9/3  HOLIDAY—TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED
9/4  Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
9/6  Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
9/10  Planning Commission, 7 pm
9/11  Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
9/18  Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
9/27  Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

**October**

10/1  Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
10/2  Board of Supervisors—Budget Session, 7 pm
10/8  Planning Commission, 7 pm
10/9  Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
10/16  Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
10/25  Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm
10/25  Land Preservation Committee, 7pm

Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!

Visit: soleburytwp.org
Click “Solebury Email Alerts”

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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.
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.

SOLEBURY BASEBALL ended its regular season by crowning its Major League and Minor League champions at Laurel Park. The Township’s recreation and suburban travel leagues, combined, supported more than 450 boys and girls on 46 baseball and softball teams. A record number of girls’ softball teams—eight in five different divisions, ages 8 to 18—also competed.

Major League champs (top), the “Phillies,” sponsored by New Hope American Legion Edgar H. Denson Post 79, include (lying down) Patrick Cooney, (front, l. to r.) Ryan Primavera, Tyler McCulla, Owen McKenna, James Scotto, (middle, l. to r.) Ryan Keating, Michael Duncan, Quinn Reinert, Jason Janora, Christian Scotto, Ben Dupont, (back, l. to r.) Asst. Coach Paul Keating, Head Coach Dan Dupont, and Asst. Coaches Scott Janora, Gary McCulla, and Brian Scotto.

Minor League champs (bottom), “Team Chuck Norris,” sponsored by Professional Landscape Services, include (front, l. to r.) Mason Malerba, Kyle Stretch, Kel MacDowell, Jake Masino, (back, l. to r.) Head Coach Dave Cane, Asst. Coach Carole Borys, Jackson Cane, Bryan Houlton, Michael Borys, Parker Cane, Eric Locke, Chance Trammell, and Asst. Coach Chuck Lumio.

Supervisors Urge Residents to Sign Up for Email Alerts

The Supervisors urge residents to sign up to receive Township emails about emergencies and other important information.

The email address you provide will not be used for any other purpose; the Township does not share email lists with other individuals and/or entities.

The alerts are created, first and foremost, to inform the community of impending natural disasters (such as hurricanes and floods), snow emergencies, road closures, and other warnings issued by the Police Department.

They also alert residents to important topics under consideration by the Township and to upcoming community events.

Signing up for email alerts is easy:
1. Go to the Solebury website (www.soleburytwp.org).
2. Click on the “Email Alerts” box at the top of the home page.
3. Enter your email address in the form.
4. Click Submit.
That’s all it takes to stay abreast of important information.

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.

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Solebury Resident
Are you the proud owner of a septic system?

If so, you are not alone: Roughly 25 percent of American households use on-lot septic systems. Properly maintaining your septic system can extend its life, save you money, and protect the Township’s groundwater supply, all at the same time.

When properly designed, installed and maintained, septic systems can be the most cost-effective and efficient method of wastewater treatment a homeowner can choose; they can treat household wastewater for up to 20 years or more.

In addition, when septic systems are functioning properly, they can help replenish local groundwater resources—a very important conservation consideration, particularly since many Solebury residents rely on wells for water consumption.

The articles provided on the center pages of this issue of the Solebury Messenger provide information that can help you better manage and extend the life of your on-lot septic system.

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**Danger!**

Toxic gases produced by the natural septic treatment process, including methane and hydrogen sulfide, can kill in a matter of minutes. Take extreme care when inspecting your tank, even when just looking in.

Never enter a septic tank or try to inspect the tank alone.

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**How Do On-Lot Septic Systems Work?**

In a conventional septic system, treated wastewater flows by gravity from the house to the septic tank, and then to the drainfield (or to a distribution device that helps to distribute wastewater in the drainfield uniformly).

The drainfield, or soil absorption field, is a bed or series of trenches, lined with gravel or coarse sand, that is buried one to three feet below ground. Perforated pipes or drain tiles distribute wastewater through the drainfield.

The gravel and soil in the drainfield act as biological filters. Wastewater slowly trickles from the drainfield into the gravel and down through the soil.

This filtration process permits organisms in the soil to remove toxic substances, bacteria, viruses, and other pollutants from wastewater.

This process can effectively treat wastewater to an acceptable level, so it can enter the groundwater without contaminating it.

Soil particles, particularly clay, chemically attract and hold onto sewage nutrients, metals, and disease-carrying organisms.

The tank accumulates sludge and scum, both of which must be pumped out regularly.

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Attorney Yvette E. Taylor-Hachoose is an experienced probate lawyer who can help you avoid problems that may arise after someone has died. She can also guide you through:

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- Trusts
- Estate Planning & Elder Law
- Business Succession Planning

**Law Offices of Taylor-Hachoose**

Washington Crossing, PA

215-321-4033

www.ythlaw.com

Yvette E. Taylor-Hachoose is the author of *Stop! What Are You Waiting For? Your Step-by-Step Guide to Estate Planning*. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center. She has served as Vice President with Prudential Insurance Company and Assistant General Counsel with both CGI/Re偿 Corporation and Prudential.

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Proper Use and Maintenance of On-Lot Septic Systems

Here are some tips on how to keep your septic system functioning properly and thereby help insure that clean and plentiful groundwater is available for future generations.

1. Maintain it: Know where your septic system is located and keep that area free of deep rooted plants and trees. Never allow heavy construction equipment to be operated on the drainfield. Have the tank pumped by a professional every 2-3 years, regardless of whether the system has problems. Also have the tank inspected regularly, and keep records of all inspections, pumping, and other maintenance.

2. Don't use your toilet as a trash can: What goes into your toilet may eventually end up back in your drinking water. Never pour cooking oil, grease, or harsh chemicals (e.g., bleach, paint, paint thinner, drain cleaners, harsh toilet cleaners, pesticides, disinfectants, acids, medicines, gasoline, anti-freeze) into your septic system. These things cannot be treated by the drainfield; consequently, they can contaminate the water supply. In addition, they can kill beneficial bacteria that treat and decompose raw sewage, and thus can disrupt treatment.

3. Flush fewer solids: Reduce sludge buildup and prevent clogs by keeping unnecessary solids out of your septic system (e.g., the contents of your garbage disposal, coffee grounds, dental floss, sanitary pads, diapers, kitty litter, cigarette butts, bandages, paper towels, eggshells, bones, etc.). If you have a garbage disposal, severely restrict its use. If you have a dishwasher, make sure that the dishes are free of food particles before washing them.

4. Use less water: Less water causes less stress on the system and prevents overflow. Purchase water-savers for your showers and your kitchen sink, place one or two bricks or plastic bottles in your toilet tank, fix leaky faucets/toilets promptly, and load your washing machine completely before running it. Prevent run-off from downspouts, sump pumps, and paved surfaces from draining into the septic system. Whenever possible give your septic system a break—for example, spread laundry over a period of days instead of doing 5-6 loads in one day.

5. Use septic-friendly cleaning strategies: Don’t use chemical or biological enzyme additives. As an alternative to caustic toilet bowl cleaners or bleach, try mild detergents, baking soda, or one half cup of borax per gallon of water. The best laundry detergents to use are those that have low or no phosphates.

Want more information about on-lot septic systems?
View the EPA publication, “A Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems:”
Visit the National Environmental Services Center to learn about the EPA-funded National Small Flows Clearinghouse, an objective source of information about on-site wastewater collection and treatment systems:
http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/wastewater.cfm

Trinity Day School
cove@trinitysolebury.org
www.trinitysolebury.org/tds

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Police Offer Fall Safety Tips

Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie encourages parents to stress the back-to-school and Halloween safety issues below with their children. “Also, as drivers, we all need to pay attention to the activity of children at school bus stops, to the school buses on our roads, and to parents dropping children off at schools and bus stops,” he said.

**Back-to-School Safety**

- Team up with other parents to supervise children at the bus stop.
- Teach your children to:
  - Follow the same safe route to school or the bus stop each day and cross safely at corners.
  - Pay attention to traffic hazards and not to rush.
  - Stay out of the roadway when waiting for buses.
  - Wait for the red stop-arm to fall and the bus door to open, then look both ways, before boarding.
  - Sit quickly, talk quietly, and obey the bus driver.
  - Look both ways when exiting the school bus.
- If you drive your children to school:
  - Decrease traffic by carpooling.
  - Follow the school’s posted traffic flow signs.
  - Observe the 15 mph limit in school zones.
- Adjust commuting times to allow for school traffic.
- Make sure there are no obstacles on your property, like overgrown landscaping, that may make it hard for drivers to see children waiting for the school bus.
- When school traffic causes delays, remember that the road is not the place to make up lost time.
- Always be alert for children darting between cars and crossing streets, especially on Halloween.

**Trick-or-Treat Safety**

- Use only fire-retardant materials for costumes.
- Make costumes fit loosely, so kids can wear warm clothes underneath.
- Select costumes that do not cause tripping.
- Attach strips of reflective tape to costumes and treat bags so children are more visible.
- Choose nontoxic make-up over masks, so children can see and breathe better.
- Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Supervise children under 12 while trick-or-treating.
- Direct older children to carry cell phones, travel in groups, and follow a preset route.
- Encourage children to walk, rather than run.
- Tell them not to enter homes without adult supervision.
- Be sure youngsters know to walk on sidewalks, not in the street or through dark yards.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before they are eaten.
- Feed children before trick-or-treating so they are not tempted to snack.
- Wash and slice fruit into small pieces before eating.
- When in doubt, throw it out.
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.

Attention Trick-or-Treaters!
When: Wednesday, October 31, 6-8 PM
Where: Corner of Norwalk Way & Kitchen’s Lane, North Pointe

Solebury Parks and Recreation will be giving away all kinds of Halloween items from their post at the corner of Norwalk Way and Kitchen’s Lane in North Pointe from 6-8 PM on Halloween night.

It’s all free! In the past, the handouts Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice has scouted out for local kids have included glow necklaces, beanie babies, fuzzy spiders, and more.

All friendly ghosts and goblins are welcome to stop by.

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)

Advertise your business in the Solebury Messenger

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Small (1½”-by-2½”) (see examples on p. 8) $100
Medium (2½”-by-2½”) (see examples on p. 8) $125
Large (1/8 page) (see examples on pp. 3-5, 6, 8) $150
X-Large (1/4 page) (see examples on pp. 2, 4, 7) $300
Special Insert (see example inside this issue) $650

Contact us to learn what discounts are available!
609-397-8483 • perfword@comcast.net
Parks and Recreation Board Members will distribute Halloween prizes

**Wednesday, October 31, 6-8 PM,**

at the corner of Norwalk Way & Kitchen’s Lane in North Pointe.

For more information, see page 7.

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The next issue of the **Solebury Messenger**

mails on October 31.

Deadline for advertisers is October 12.