



# The Doylestown Township News

Winter/Spring 2016 Newsletter

Vol 13, Issue 1

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## Chairman's Message

by Barbara N. Lyons, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

In November 2014, the Board of Supervisors undertook a campaign to inform our residents of the lurking danger of opiate abuse and heroin addiction in our Township. We had learned of the two deaths and the several overdoses suffered by our young residents in 2014. The Board of Supervisors, interpreting our governing responsibilities to consider the promotion of public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of our residents necessitated that we inform our residents that heroine is in our community whether we want to believe it or not, and none of us are immune. Since then, we have heard from countless residents whose children have been or are at risk, or a friend of a friend, a neighbor, a niece or nephew, even parents, who have struggled with opiate addiction, that ultimately led to heroine addiction, the much cheaper version of prescription Oxycodone and the like.

To help spread the word, we have gone all out with linking resources on our website, informative programing on Doylestown TV (DTV), participation in local town meetings hosted by Representative Marguerite Quinn, Delaware Valley University, CB Cares Educational Foundation, the Bucks County District Attorney's office, Doylestown Township Police Department, to name a few. We participated in a special news show on heroin in Pennsylvania communities hosted by

the PA State Association of Township Supervisors which is available on our website, linked to the TVN special report, and on our cable station, DTV.

Still, we haven't done enough. The Center for Disease and Prevention has listed heroine addiction as an epidemic that kills more people now each year than automobile accidents. The incidents of drug overdoes in Doylestown Township doubled in 2015. We must remain vigilant and support early education and prevention programs that educate children at a young age to make healthy choices, like those offered by organizations such as CB Cares Educational Foundation. We must rid our cabinets of unused opioid prescriptions at the Doylestown Township Police Department drug drop off (open every weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the very least, lock them up. We must ask our doctors to offer an alternative to opioids for pain, especially for young adults, many of whom get a taste for pain killers following a sport's injury or wisdom tooth extraction.

Supervisor Ken Snyder recently asked that despite all of our efforts on this most local level of Township government, "are we doing enough and what more can we do"? I suggest we continue to communicate with and to our residents of the danger of heroine in our community, continue to participate in and host town meetings on the subject, support the

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**Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors**

Barbara N. Lyons, Chairman  
 Richard F. Colello, Vice Chairman  
 Ryan Manion  
 Shawn Touhill  
 Ken Snyder

See website for current meeting schedule.

**Township Staff**

Township Manager  
 Stephanie J. Mason  
 Chief of Police  
 Dean Logan  
 Director of Operations  
 Richard John  
 Special Projects Coordinator  
 Autumn Canfield  
 Parks Superintendent  
 Butch Froehlich  
 Road Superintendent  
 Paul Garr  
 Water Superintendent  
 Scott Miele  
 Finance Director  
 Ken Wallace  
 Director of Parks & Recreation  
 Karen A. Sweeney  
 Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator  
 Kaitlyn Finley  
 Director of Code Enforcement  
 Sinclair Salisbury  
 Fire Marshal  
 Rick Schea  
 Open Records Officer  
 Jackie Rowand

**Volunteer Boards and Commissions**

Agricultural Security Advisory Council  
 Bike & Hike Committee  
 Board of Auditors  
 UCC Board of Appeals  
 Central Bucks Senior Task Force  
 Doylestown Dog Park Advisory Committee  
 Environmental Advisory Council/Shade Tree Commission  
 Friends of Kids Castle  
 Historical Architectural Review Board  
 Municipal Authority  
 Park & Recreation Board  
 Planning Commission  
 Public Water & Sewer Advisory Committee  
 Telecommunications Advisory Board  
 Traffic Advisory Committee  
 Ways & Means Committee  
 Vacancy Board  
 Zoning Hearing Board

*Continued from Page 1 (Chairman's Message)*

area recovery programs and organizations linked to our website, continue the vigilance of educating our residents of what to look for where to go for help. We should do no less than what we would do and what our obligation as elected officials requires us to do, if our local water contained a harmful chemical: Educate and help remediate. And perhaps the single most important thing that each and everyone of us can do, is change our perspective on drug addiction and recovery from addiction. It is a disease like any other disease of the body and should be accorded the same treatment, respect and compassion.

Doylestown TV Daily Program Schedule	
Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 31	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Programming</u>
6:00am	Environmental
7:00am	Boards and Commissions
8:00am	Traffic
9:00am	Historical
10:00am	Seniors
11:00am	Stormwater
12:00pm	Board of Supervisors
1:00pm	Board of Supervisors
2:00pm	Medical
3:00pm	Medical
4:00pm	Parks
5:00pm	Stormwater
6:00pm	Environmental
7:00pm	Board of Supervisors
8:00pm	Board of Supervisors
9:00pm	Parks
10:00pm	Seniors
11:00pm	Stormwater

For more information, please visit [www.doylestownpa.org](http://www.doylestownpa.org)



## Application Period Opens for Heating Assistance Program

by Senator Chuck McIlhinney (R-Bucks)

As winter temperatures continue to chill communities throughout the region, many families are struggling financially due to higher cost of heating and fuel. Individuals and families who are having trouble with their energy bills this winter can apply now for the state's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The program provides grants to help low-income families pay heating bills. LIHEAP also provides crisis grants for families who experience heating emergencies, such as a broken furnace, utility termination or fuel shortage. Regular applications for the program will be accepted through April 1st.

LIHEAP applications can be completed online on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). District residents can also apply by contacting the Bucks County Assistance Office by calling 215-781-3300. More information is also available by calling the statewide LIHEAP hotline at 866-857-7095.

In order to apply for LIHEAP, applicants will be required to submit the names of all people in the household, Social Security numbers for all household members, proof of income for all household members and a recent heating bill.

Consumers should also contact their utility companies to learn more about other programs available to ensure that all local residents will be able to stay warm this winter. Many local utility companies offer assistance plans in addition to LIHEAP.

*Senator McIlhinney represents the 10th Senatorial District, which includes parts of Bucks County.*

## Poole's Corner Update

At the intersection of U.S. 202 and Route 313, JDM, PennDOT's contractor, will continue working through the winter constructing basins and removing the old ramps. In the spring, reconstruction will continue until the project is completed.

Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors in 2015. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you in 2016.

### Doylestown Township

#### General Information

425 Wells Road

Doylestown, PA 18901

Phone: (215) 348-9915

Fax: (215) 348-8729

[info@doylestownpa.org](mailto:info@doylestownpa.org)

Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30 p.m.

[www.doylestownpa.org](http://www.doylestownpa.org)

[www.doylestownrec.com](http://www.doylestownrec.com)

[www.facebook.com/doylestowntwp](https://www.facebook.com/doylestowntwp)

<https://twitter.com/doylestowntwp>

#### Government Access Channel

Comcast Channel 22 & Verizon Channel 31

#### Helpful Phone Numbers

Bucks County Conference & Visitor's

Bureau: 215-639-0300

Bucks County Court House:

215-348-6000

Bucks County Free Library:

215-348-9082

Bucks County Health Department:

215-345-3318

Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority:

215-343-2538

Central Bucks School District:

267-893-2000

Doylestown Borough:

215-345-4140

Doylestown Fire Company #1:

(Non-emergency) 215-348-2656

Doylestown Hospital:

215-345-2200

Doylestown Post Office:

267-880-3918

Emergency: 911

Keystone Collections Group

888-539-1100

PA Hotline (for State Roads):

800-349-7623

PennDOT:

215-345-6060

Police Non-Emergency:

215-348-4201

Tax Collector:

215-489-5416



## Are you Mulching Your Trees to Death?

by Jeannine Mitchell, Doylestown Township EAC

Trees are among your most valuable landscape plants. They are an investment in money and time, and the payoff is tremendous: shade, color, habitat, beauty, erosion control, stormwater infiltration, fruit, nuts, and more. Whether you planted them yourself or inherited them, the trees where you live deserve to be protected and nurtured.

Mulching trees is a valuable way to protect and nurture trees. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders Handbook puts it this way: "Mulching helps a tree grow strong and healthy. Mulch retains moisture, reduces weeds, and helps keep lawn mowers and weed whackers away from tree trunks. It can also increase root growth by 10 times and may reduce soil compaction and increase root aeration. The organic matter breaks down into useful nutrients."

However, we are seeing way too many trees in Doylestown Township and surrounding communities that are in danger of any early death because of improper mulching.

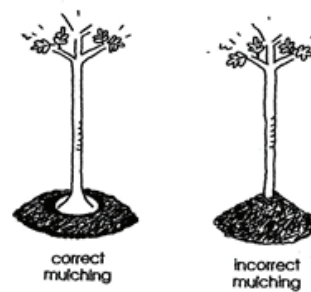
There are 2 easy ways to remember how to mulch a tree properly: First, 3-3-3; second, VOLCANIC CRATERS, not VOLCANIC CONES.

The 3-3-3 guideline is this: apply mulch no deeper than 3 inches, keep mulch at least 3 inches away from the tree's trunk, and make the mulch ring around the trunk at least 3 feet wide if possible. We are seeing too many trees that have been mulched with a foot-deep pile of mulch mounded up the trunks. This is a sure way to invite pests, rot, molds, and suffocation - eventually killing the trees.

The CRATERS, NOT CONES guideline is this: Mulch around a tree should look like a volcanic crater, not a volcanic cone. The center of the mulch ring should not touch the trunk or cover the root flare. A mounded ring of mulch built up around the tree's base will then look a little like a tire that's been placed around the base of the tree. This will create a basin for water to be caught near the tree's trunk, and it will allow air and nutrients to reach the roots of the tree without rotting and suffocating the tree at its base. Spreading the mulch out to at least 3 feet from the trunk will then keep lawn-care machinery away from the tree and prevent grass or other plants from competing with the tree for water and nutrients.

Ideally, mulch should extend out to the tree's dripline: way out to the end of the branches' spread. This extended mulching may not be practical in some situations, but it has the additional benefit of reducing lawn cover.

Please protect your valuable trees by mulching according to these guidelines. And if you see neighbors or lawn maintenance workers piling up mulch under trees in cone-like hills, urge them to stop. Our tree canopy is a valuable asset to our community. Save the trees by mulching for long, healthy lives - not slow decline and early death.



Picture courtesy of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

## Doylestown Township Municipal Authority Continues to Expand Water Service

by Dick Bach, DTMA Board Member

DTMA, formed in 1976 by Doylestown Township, provides a supply of safe drinking water to township residents and businesses. With 2600 hundred customers serviced from more than fifty miles of underground water main, the DTMA continues to grow and is now offering water service in new neighborhoods such as Casa Bella, Serendipity Farm, Stone Barn Manor and Towns Edge. In addition, DTMA has cooperating agreements with Buckingham, New Britain and Plumstead Townships and Doylestown and New Britain Boroughs to supply water as needed. Several other developments are under discussion and review for inclusion in the DTMA service area as plans are approved and construction begins.

Public water service as offered by DTMA means that water will be available at all times. A major storm, which cuts off electrical service, would not affect DTMA's ability to provide water as the DTMA well pumps are backed-up with emergency generators. An added benefit to customers is the inclusion of fire hydrants along the water mains and those hydrants are a fire company's best friend for fire fighting. Homes and businesses along those mains benefit from insurance credits.

All property owners along existing water mains are invited to connect and to take advantage of the benefits of using public water. Give us a call at 215-348-9915. We'll be glad to send you some information on connecting to public water.





## Reaching Out

by Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick

The role of a U.S. representative is two-fold. One, is the legislation, hearings, committee posts/meetings and all other daily business that takes place in the Congress. The other is constituent service at home and the very basis for what I do as your representative in Washington.

My Bucks County district office is well-staffed and busy, but it is my intention to maintain an open door and communicate through private and group meetings, town meetings, tele-townhalls, website, email and the media. It is the most important part of this job – knowing your concerns and opinions so I can vote and represent the majority of my constituents.

Looking to the national media, one mainly sees the focus on the Middle East and the growing threat of terrorism around the world. That is a great concern, but this 114th Congress also must deal with many other issues affecting our citizens, business and industry, health --- and much more. However, as your representative, the opinions and the needs of my constituents in the 8th congressional district have my attention.

I am interested in your opinions on federal, domestic and international affairs and encourage you to communicate through my website, office and email. I do my best to provide you with information through the media, newsletters, town meetings, tele-town halls and other outreach programs. And my door is open for appointments when I am in the district.

Please do not hesitate to call, write or stop in the district office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is located at 1717 Langhorne-Newtown Road, Suite 400, Langhorne, PA 19047 (across from the George School). Or visit [www.fitzpatrick.house.gov](http://www.fitzpatrick.house.gov), or phone: 215.579.8102.

For your information and help with federally related matters, the following is a list of district office services available to you. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Social Security
- Veterans Affairs
- Medicare
- Passports
- Internal Revenue Service
- United States Postal Service
- Immigration issues

As a congressman, I can make inquiries only to federal agencies on behalf of any resident of the 8th congressional district and will support your inquiry to the fullest extent possible and fight to ensure a fair and thorough review. It should be noted that this office does not have decision-making authority – the respective agencies have complete discretion.

Also, if you are interested in a Capitol tour, you may contact my Washington office. Phone: 202-225-4276. We are located at 2400 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

I look forward to hearing from you.

## Poster: When Your Car is Leaking Oil

**WHEN YOUR CAR'S LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET, REMEMBER IT'S NOT JUST LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET.**

Leaking oil goes from car to street. And is washed from the street into the storm drain and into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters including the Chesapeake Bay. Now imagine the number of cars in the area and you can imagine the amount of oil that finds its way from leaky gaskets into our water. So please, fix oil leaks.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 722-1664 or visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us). Thanks to the Washington State Water Quality Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster.



## Road/Bridge Program to Dominate 2016 Budget

by Stephanie Mason, Township Manager

The Township's 2016 Budget will focus on infrastructure enhancements. We are allocating one mill to our Road Program for next year. Typically we budget \$540,000 for our road/bridge program and this enables us to pave approximately three miles of roads each year. With the Township increasing the millage by ½ mill in 2016 we are going to be able to allocate 1 mill to the Road/Bridge Program or \$800,000 which will allow our Public Works Department to pave upwards of five miles of roads, continue needed maintenance on township Bridges and begin engineering on the eventual replacement of the Chapman Road Bridge. Our infrastructure is aging and we want to make sure we are keeping up with necessary maintenance such as drainage work and repaving roads that are reaching their 25 year life.

The budget was also increased by 1/8 of a mil which will go to support the ambulance service. Central Bucks Ambulance appeared before the Board of Supervisors this summer and presented their capital needs for new equipment. Their capital plan will allow them to replace necessary ambulances with basic and advanced life support to serve our community. As the Central Bucks Ambulance indicated, having the right equipment allows them to save lives.

Through the assistance of the volunteers on our Ways and Means Committee and Township staff we began the budget process this past spring. We developed a five year budget plan looking out to 2020. This enables us to minimize surprises in the future. We held several public meetings where the pros and cons of proposed expenditures were vetted. The positive result is that we have a four year contract with our Police Benevolent Association which helps us in budget planning. Between preliminary and final adoption of the budget we reduced spending by over \$135,000. The results are a slight tax increase of \$25 for the year for the average homeowner with a \$40,000 assessment. This was done to provide better services for our residents.

## Women Bike Dtown

by Liz Wyckoff, Bike and Hike Committee

Women Bike Dtown welcomes all local women who ride bikes to join our group. Our goal is to connect women who ride bicycles and to strengthen and grow the bicycling community in the Doylestown area. We encourage and support all women of all abilities to ride bikes (on roads and trails) by promoting social events, educational clinics and group rides. We hope to serve as advocates for each other and to help improve the focus on safe riding in our area. All members are welcome to post rides and to share/post bike-related events, advice and questions. Over the winter we'll be hosting fix-a-flat and other bike maintenance workshops as well as fitness demo's and social gatherings. When the weather breaks we'll have clinics to get new riders comfortable riding and we'll continue to connect women who want to ride together. It's a great group of friendly, supportive women of all experience levels who love to ride bikes - you may have seen us riding through Doylestown dressed as witches last Halloween - we hope you'll join us. Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WomenBikeDtown/> for more information.



## Recycling in Doylestown Township

In Doylestown Township, all trash haulers collect recyclables as well. Residents are required to recycle newspaper and other clean paper; aluminum, steel and bimetal cans; clear, amber and green glass; #1 and #2 plastics; and yard waste. Individual trash haulers may accept more recyclables than listed here. For a complete list of trash and recyclable haulers in the township, visit our website at [doylestownpa.org](http://doylestownpa.org) under the information tab.

Remember, our Leaf and Yard Waste recycling drop off location is open from March through December, every third Saturday of the month between 9am and 11am. Christmas tree drop off is allowed until February 14th at the New Britain entrance of Central Park.



## Frozen Pipes

by Scott Miele, Water Superintendent

This coming winter forecast, according to some prognosticators, calls for a harsh and very cold winter. I gave up trying to predict what type of winter may come our way four years ago when I was looking up at a mighty oak tree at a squirrel with a mighty big and bushy tail. It was at that moment I was about to exclaim “break out the long johns for a new ice age is upon us”. It was at this same moment, the squirrel with the big bushy tail knocked loose an acorn and, as the force of gravity took over, this acorn landed squarely in my eye! I do not recall the type of winter we had then, however, I do recall a faint sound of laughter coming from high above in that mighty oak tree. Now then, without looking for squirrels in any type of tree, I am reasonably sure that if this coming winter is anywhere near the winter of last year, we can expect very low temperatures. As winter temperatures drop, the risk of water pipes freezing increases. If you have unprotected water pipes in and around your home, the risk of having these pipes freeze and break is very real. Please take the time and be sure the pipes in your home are well protected from freezing. Oh, and if you see a squirrel with a big and bushy tail, please send him my way; I have some unfinished business to discuss with him. Thank you.

How many people around the world lack access to safe drinking water? Answer on pg 11.

- A) 75 million      B) 450 thousand  
C) 1.1 billion      D) 400 million

## On the Road: Public Works Update

At Doylestown Township, our Public Works department is always hard at work keeping the township in running order. Whether it's fixing streets, cleaning up parks or installing bridge footers, this multi-faceted group does it all. For example, during and after photos of a pipe replacement the crew completed after a pipe failure are pictured below.



## Making Sure Dollars Given to Charity Reach People in Need

by State Rep. Marguerite Quinn

We're fortunate in Bucks County to have many local charities providing high-quality, compassionate services to individuals in need and causes we support. While we can be confident of the integrity of the vast majority of charities in our area, the same cannot always be said of all charitable organizations. By nature, Pennsylvanians are generous. When asked to respond to a natural disaster, to children, cancer research, or veterans living in poverty, we open both our hearts and checkbooks. When we give, we generally assume that our hard-earned dollars are going to the causes to which we contributed. But that's not always true.

Often, third-party vendors contract with charities to collect dollars on their behalf, assessing fees for their services. These fees coupled with contractual terms, can be such that many charities receive only a tiny fraction of donated dollars. On average, charities that engage a third-party solicitation firm receive only 36.7 percent of collected funds. Of the \$2.54 billion charitable organizations raised through outside vendors in Pennsylvania from 2012 to 2014, \$1.53 billion was retained by the third-party solicitors, never reaching the people donors thought they were supporting.

While we can't eliminate all bad actors, there are steps we can take to weed them out. That's what I've proposed in House Bill 1240. This legislation would establish tough new licensure and disclosure requirements for third-party charitable solicitors. My bill would create a fund to oversee these outside vendors to keep them in compliance with the law. It would also force these solicitors to be more transparent about the funds they've raised and the funds they've kept. Finally, it would prohibit anyone convicted of a crime from serving as a third-party fundraiser – an important step, considering cases where convicted felons stole dollars they were collecting designated for charitable causes. I encourage you to give locally whenever possible, where our charities are well-known and seldom employ third-party vendors. But if you do choose to give elsewhere, please call the Pennsylvania Department of State at 1-800-732-0999. There, you can find out if a charity is reputable, as well as the percentage of dollars that actually go to worthy causes. Please don't stop giving but do so wisely.



## Thank You to our Sponsors Molly & John Gribb

by Joe Salvati, Chairman, Friends of Kids Castle



Improvements at Kids Castle continue with the addition of four new play pieces for children ages 2 to 5, made possible through a grant from the Timken Foundation and a generous donation from Molly and John Gribb who sponsored the Jet Spring Rider (pictured above).

Volunteers continue to work with the community to seek out new sponsors and donations as part of the Phase 2 improvement campaign which is called, Build the Kingdom at Kids Castle. The Kingdom is the entire play area that surrounds the Castle within the fence-line.

The plan in this phase is to build a kingdom that provides a play environment which welcomes everyone, including those with sensory processing disorders, autism, and people of all ages using wheelchairs and other mobility devices. In this environment, children can enjoy play experiences together and children with special needs feel included as any other child.

Kids Castle has always been a magical place where children come to play and explore and now through these improvements and your financial support that magic will continue forward for children of all abilities including those with special needs.

We are actively pursuing more grants, ongoing donations and sponsorships so we can add these new play pieces. While we are making progress, it can only continue with your help.

To find out how you can support the initiative to Build the Kingdom at Kids Castle for children of all abilities, visit the "Donate Your Way" section of our website at [www.SaveKidsCastle.org](http://www.SaveKidsCastle.org)

On behalf of all those children who are waiting for their chance to play, we thank you for your support.

## New and Familiar Faces in 2016

It is with mixed emotions that Doylestown Township announces the retirement of Sgt. Mark Wetmore. After more than 37 years of dedicated service Mark retired on December 31, 2015.

Sgt. Wetmore was hired in March, 1978. Within a few years of his start Mark had shown his ability to be a leader within the department and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in January, 1983.

Throughout his years of dedicated service, Sgt. Wetmore has received numerous commendations from the department and letters of appreciation from the citizens he served. In retirement, Mark plans to spend more time with his wife Theresa and visit their son, Andrew, a school teacher in the Chicago area. It is with great honor and appreciation that his co-workers at Doylestown Township say thank you and wish him the best of luck and happiness.

On November 23, 2015 Doylestown Township filled the 21st sworn officer position by hiring Jessica Lynn Whiteside. On January 4th, Monica Malatesta was sworn in bringing the number of officers back to 21 after Sgt. Mark Wetmore's retirement at the end of December. Jessica and Monica are welcomed additions to the Doylestown Township Police force.



*Pictured Left:  
Swearing in of Officer  
Jessica Lynn Whiteside*



*Pictured Right:  
Swearing in of Officer  
Monica Malatesta*

*Continued on Page 9*





## Portable Generators

by Sinclair Salisbury, Code Enforcement Officer

This is the time of year that many people will be considering the installation of a permanent stand-by generator or using a portable generator should the electrical utility service be interrupted. You are reminded that permits are required before a generator, or the required transfer switch is installed. A transfer switch automatically cuts off the utility connection to the house when it detects a power cut, allowing the generator to feed the house safely and not feeding electricity back into the street and potentially endangering utility workers whom expect the wires to be de-energized. The transfer switch is also there to automatically cut electrical energy from the generator entering the house once utility power is again detected. For permit requirements, see the Code Enforcement “Guidelines” section of the Township website. Some Safety Tips for Using Portable Generators:

- Follow the manufactures operating instructions and maintenance schedule.
- Always use outside (not in the garage) and keep away from all openings, vents, windows and doors because carbon monoxide is emitted by internal combustion engines.
- Follow manufactures instructions for distance to keep generator away from combustibles.
- Ensure the dwelling has working carbon monoxide detectors installed.
- Allow generators to cool before refueling, gasoline is extremely flammable.
- Make sure that extension cords are grounded cords, rated for the application and laid flat as coiled cords generate heat and can become a hazard.
- Never plug a generator directly into an outlet in the dwelling. Have a transfer switch installed.
- Protect the generator from rain and snow following the manufactures recommendations for clearances to combustibles.

### Tax Reminder

Please contact Sarah Tomlinson at 215-489-5416 with any tax questions.

## Gardening in our Community

by Kaci Milligan, Graduate Intern

Community gardens are a great way to engage members and actively use open areas. Gardening provides many benefits for community members of all ages, from children to the elderly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, community gardens provide many benefits. These benefits include providing healthy fruits and vegetables, the physical activity of gardening and the strengthening of social connections of the community. Gardening can be adapted for all physical and skill levels, including having a children’s garden section and creating raised beds to decrease the amount of bending over to garden. Whether you don’t have enough land of your own to garden or are just an avid grower, a community garden could be a place to make social connections and create a greener Township.

The Environmental Advisory Council would like to survey the residents of Doylestown Township to gage the level of interest in a community garden. While this project is still in the very early stages of planning, the Environmental Advisory Council would like feedback from the community. Individual garden plot sizes can range from 5’x10’ to 3’x6’ to 4’x4, and the rental cost per growing season (April until August) could range from \$30-\$100. Plot sizes and rental fees have yet to be determined. Access our survey on the Doylestown Township website, Doylestownpa.org under our “Hot News” tab to help the Environmental Advisory Council better understand the level of interest in this project. We appreciate your feedback.

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In addition to the changes in the Police Department, 2016 also welcomes Joseph Visco, new auditor for Doylestown Township. While the new year brings exciting new personnel and bittersweet retirements, it also fosters a sense of devotion and loyalty as Barbara N. Lyons was sworn in for her third term as Township Supervisor. Mrs. Lyons also later accepted the position as Chairman of the Board for the 10th consecutive year.



*Swearing in of Joseph Visco and Barbara N. Lyons*



## Radon, Have You Tested your Home?

by Kaci Milligan, Graduate Intern

Radon is a natural occurring colorless and odorless gas that can be found in any type of building and has been found to cause lung cancer. The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that overexposure of radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States (PA DEP, Pennsylvania Citizen’s Guide to Radon). While radon can be found all over the United States, Pennsylvania has 49 counties, including Bucks County, which have been identified as having higher than acceptable radon readings, according to the American Lung Association. One of the factors that cause higher levels of radon in these areas is the geology of the state. Radon comes from the natural decay of uranium found in most soils. Pennsylvania has higher levels of uranium in the soil which releases more radon. Radon gas can get into any type of building through cracks or holes found throughout the foundation. Even if a building or home doesn’t have a basement, there could be radon detected. The only way to determine the level of radon in your home is to test. Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive for home owners. Test kits are available at a number of local retailers. PA Law requires testing for radon before selling a house, but owners should test radon to determine the level of exposure to those that live in the home. Even if radon levels are below the acceptable level, owners should still consider testing in the future. If test results show higher levels of radon, owners should consider radon reducing techniques which cost about the same as other common household repairs. Consider testing your home for radon to learn the risk to you and your family.

**Reminder: All Bike and Hike trails within the Doylestown Township park trail system are non-motorized trails which prohibit use of all motorized modes of transport, including golf carts, segways, hover boards, etc. unless required by documented disability.**

## “Miracle of Trees”

by Raymond Hendrick, EAC Chairman

They give us shade, beauty, the air we breathe - If we let them, they could even save our environment. Thomas Jefferson was quoted as saying, “The mark of a good citizen is one that plants a tree knowing that he will never live to sit under its shade.”

During a recent township nature walk we discovered a very large red oak tree that had been cut, and the exposed stump showed its growth rings. With the very capable help of our public works staff, a section of the trunk was removed and preserved. A resident of the township took up the task of counting the rings and recording historical events that went back to the early 1700’s. A section of the stump can now be seen in the township’s public meeting room.

Our Environmental Advisory Council has formulated a plan to record large native trees in the township, both deciduous and evergreen. If you have a large native tree that you think has merit we will measure the DBH (diameter breast height) and record it for future reference. I extend to one and all, if you would like us to come out and see your tree, please call the township at 215-348-9915.

When I was in grade school, the following poem had to be recited. For those of you who have never read it, here is Joyce Kilmer’s “Trees”:

“Trees”

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth’s flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

*I hope to see you outdoors!*  
Ray “The Bluebird Guy”



Pileated Woodpecker



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Social Media

Stay informed of Parks and Recreation events, summer concerts, road closures, winter weather and police emergencies:

By joining our Google Group: Go to [www.doylestownpa.org](http://www.doylestownpa.org) and left click "Click Here to Subscribe to Doylestown News" at the bottom of the page

By following us on Twitter @DoylestownTWP: Go to <https://twitter.com/doylestowntwp> and click "Follow" in the top right corner

Like us on Facebook: Go to [www.facebook.com/doylestowntwp](http://www.facebook.com/doylestowntwp) and then click "Like" in the left sidebar

### Septic Management Reminder

Cycle One Residents must have their septic systems pumped and inspected and have their well water tested for Coliform bacteria by December 31, 2016. Please remember that although your pumper hauler will send us a copy of your pumper's report, it is the homeowner's responsibility to send a copy of your water test results to the Township. We are located at 425 Wells Rd., next to Central Park. If you have your water test done at the Bucks County Health Department, it is located on Almshouse Road. They do not forward us a copy of your water test.

Remember to maintain a healthy septic system because water conservation is key!  
Check out our Stormwater Survey and Hotline at [Doylestownpa.org](http://Doylestownpa.org) under information!

### Water Question Trivia

How many people around the world lack access to safe drinking water?

C. 1.1 billion

Info from [Safewater.org](http://Safewater.org)

If you have any questions for the Authority please contact: 215-348-9915.

### Doylestown Township Upcoming Events

Christmas Tree Recycling available until February 14th, 2016.

Drop off location: New Britain entrance of Central Park

Follow posted signs.

### Drug Awareness, Prevention and Education:

Doylestown Township has created a new webpage that lists resources to assist those afflicted by drug abuse. It includes community groups, Township resources and educational materials.

For more information, please visit [doylestownpa.org/information](http://doylestownpa.org/information) or call 215-348-9915.

### Township Closures

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18th  
Presidents' Day, February 15th  
Good Friday, March 25th  
Memorial Day, May 30th

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### *Behind the Scenes Tours of Fonthill Castle*

Saturday, March 26  
6:30 - 9 p.m.

Climb from the Crypt to the top of Fonthill's tower and visit areas of the castle that are not on the regular daytime tour. Wear comfortable shoes and don't forget to bring a flashlight!  
\$18/\$12 members

To register for *Behind the Scenes Tours*, call 215-348-9461 or email fhmail@mercermuseum.org.



East Court Street & Route 313  
fonthillmuseum.org

Doylestown Township  
425 Wells Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Phone: (215) 348-9915  
Fax: (215) 348-8729

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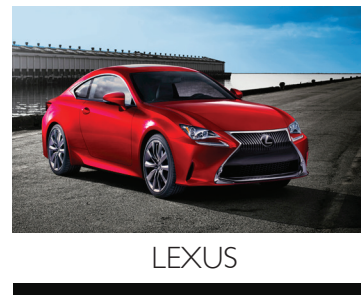
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