

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



"PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE"

WINTER 2021-22 | VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 1

Reflections on a Long Career of Service

By Barbara N. Lyons, Chairman Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors

One thing parents of a certain age inevitably ask themselves is where did the time go? Yesterday she was two now she has a two-year-old. I have spoken at many Eagle Scout Courts of Honor and my response to this question has been that time does not just flit away, time goes into our children. Time becomes like a food that nourishes us and helps us produce, create, and nurture ourselves and those with whom we share our lives. Time does not simply pass us by but remains a steady benchmark for all we are and all we do.

I have been asked to take an account of my tenure on the Board of Supervisors over the last 20 years. My oldest was just graduating high school and the younger two were in middle school. Today they all live in Doylestown. The oldest has two children and the youngest has one child with one on the way. They are all three wonderful people and



Supervisor Barbara N. Lyons takes the Oath of Office while her daughter, Alexandra holds the Bible.

their father, and I couldn't be prouder of the kind and loving people they have become. Time didn't pass by at all. I can see how the steady beat of time

moved our children to who they are today.

Continued on page 2

Chairmans Message (Con't)

If you're lucky and blessed to not only have a family, but work that you love, time in retrospect offers a wealth in return. I have the best day job in the world. I get to resolve civil disputes so people can avoid going to court. Every case that settles, is a moment in time that means so much to the parties and serves as a spoonful of joy feeding my soul.

Now back to the question at hand. What has been my tenure on the Board of Supervisors? To begin, I am honored to have been elected Chairman of the Board by my fellow Board members for the last 15 years and Director of Public Safety for the last 14 years.

I have served with truly caring and civic minded fellow board members namely, Rick Gaver, Tom Scarborough, the late great Walt Berry, Cynthia Philo, Barb Eisenhardt, Shawn Touhill, Rick Colello and Ken Snyder.

I have served with volunteers who give and who gave endless hours of their time and expertise and who have shared their lives with me and the residents of the Township and from whom I have learned so much. I can't name them all, but I want to mention, Kathy Brown (Kids Castle, Dog Park, Park and Recreation), Brenda Bray (Ways and Means), Joe Salvati (Kid's Castle), Anne Woodbury, Chris Nardo, Mary Lou Parry, (2018 Bicentennial Celebration); Ray, "The Bird Man" Hendrick; the late Frank LaRosa (Oktoberfest); Lynn Goldman, Tom Kelso

(Bike and Hike), Ed Ebenbach (Telecommunication Advisory Board); Jeannine Mitchell, (Environmental Advisory Council); John Bray (Parks and Recreation and Golf Outing) ; the late, beloved Dawn Byers (Kid's Castle)- to name but a few volunteer residents with whom I have been honored to serve.

I have worked with the best of the best of Township Administrations- two Directors of Operations, the now retired Dick John and current Director of Operations Dave Tomko; Roads Superintendent Paul Garr; the one and only Director of Parks and Recreation Karen Sweeny; two Chiefs of Police, former Chief Steve White and current Chief Dean Logan; Finance Director Ken Wallace; Director of Code Enforcement Sinclair Salisbury, Fire Marshal/ Facilities Manager Rick Schae; Executive Director of the Township's Municipal Authority Keith Hass; and the great Township Manager Stephanie Mason; the one who holds us all together.

Working with all these folks over the years, volunteers, residents and township administration, and Boards of Supervisors, we have accomplished a mountain of greatness for our residents. Here are a few accomplishments worthy of note:

We built a new Township and Police Administration Building; rebuilt Kid's Castle; planned a new community and recreation center; built 30 miles of bike and hike trails;

preserved 740 acres of open space; provided 20 years of balanced budgets with minimal tax increase; built the C&N Bank Amphitheater; developed the Thompson Performing Arts Concert Series and added a beer garden; held 20 Golf Outings raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for our parks; developed 400 acres of active park land; approved multiple updates to comprehensive plans; developed a television station, telecommunications and social media systems; provided numerous periodicals and publications of interest; built the Sensory Trail; promoted the first woman to a command position, Sergeant of Police; held the First National Night Out; provided numerous events in the Parks and celebrated a year long Township Bicentennial.

If you have been around for 20 years, I welcome you to think back and recall these events and some I might have missed. I hope you appreciate this place as much as I do. It has enriched my life and I feel honored to have been a part of Doylestown Township over the last 20 years. I was just re-elected to the Board, so I have 6 years to go; and yes, no doubt my last 6. When I am done, I will be 72 which sounds old, yet serving 6 more years on the Board makes becoming 72 much more palatable because I will, from the age of 72, be able to look back and see where the time went.

I wish you all a wonderful 2022 and fun times in Doylestown Township.

Officials Take the Oath of Office

On Monday, January 3, 2022 elected officials were sworn into Township Office. We congratulate our Auditors, Supervisor, and Tax Collector. We also want to thank Judge Mark Douple, of Doylestown's Magisterial District Court for conducting the swearing in ceremony.

Tyler Tomlinson holds the Bible for his wife Sarah Tomlinson as she takes the Oath of Office as Doylestown Township Tax Collector



Christopher Weisel elected Auditor for Doylestown Township takes the Oath of Office

Judge Douple swears in elected Auditor for Doylestown Township Dr. Johnny King-Marino

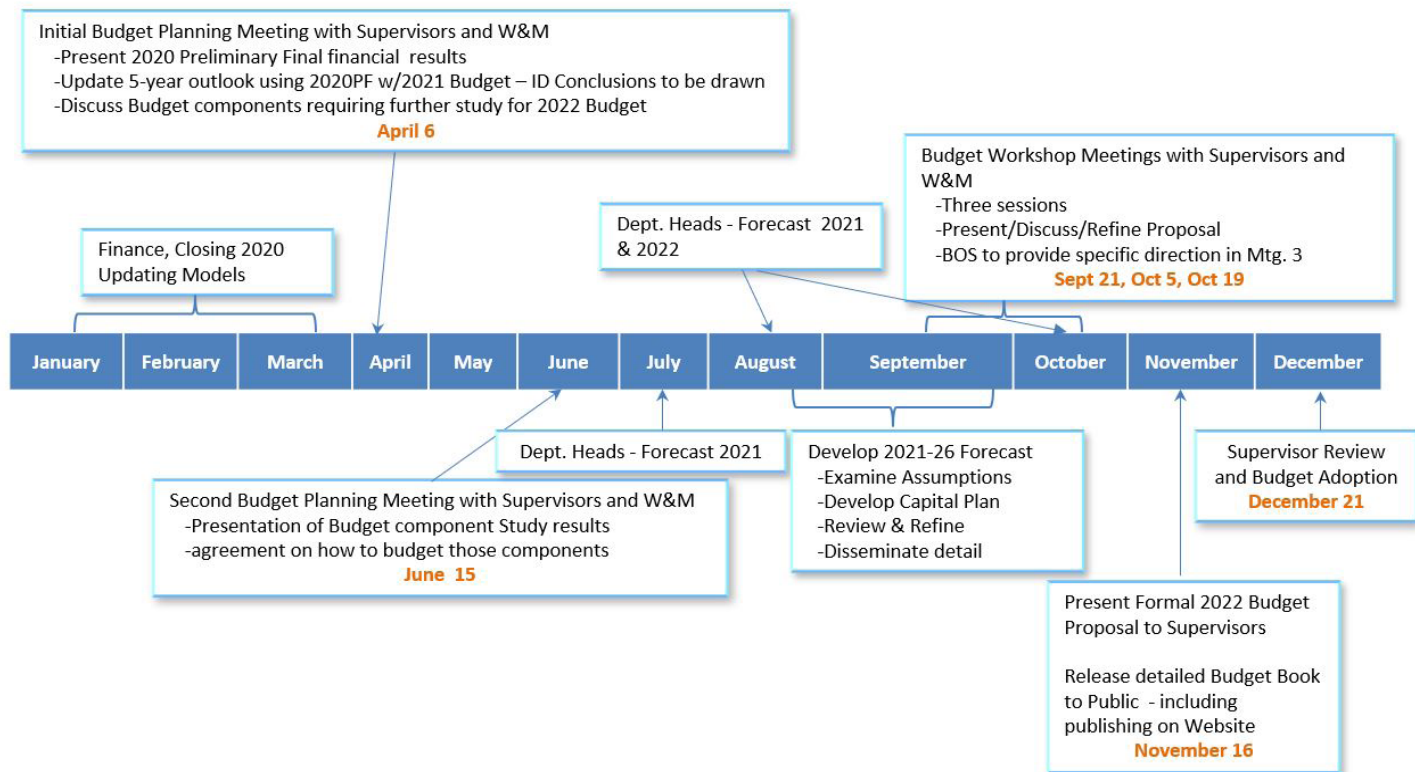


2022 Township Budget

On December 21, 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the 2022 Budget for Doylestown Township. Their approval capped off the annual eight-month collaborative review process we've established between the Supervisors, the Ways & Means Committee, and the Township Staff shown in the diagram below. The 2022 Budget will address the current needs of the Township, enabling us to provide our Community with efficient and effective services for the year, while addressing the Supervisor's three main goals for 2022:

- 1.) Accelerating maintenance to roads & bridges
- 2.) Building the Parks & Recreation Community Center
- 3.) Ensuring funding of future pension obligations

Township Budget Process - 2021 Schedule of Events



The diagram above shows the schedule followed in 2021. A similar schedule will be followed for the preparation of the 2023 budget.

Highlights of the 2022 Budget:

Operations Revenue for 2022 is expected to be \$12.9m, down by \$0.1m from 2021. The decline is due to a \$0.2m one-time fee that was paid by Toll Brothers in 2021. We expect the decline to be more than offset by other factors such as Earned Income Tax (EIT) up \$0.1m to \$4.7m in 2022, and

Local Services Tax (LST) and RE Transfer Tax which are together expected to grow by \$0.1m.

Real Estate taxes are reallocated for 2022 from the General Fund to Debt Service (0.875 mills) to match the rise in payments for the \$3.1m loan that finished off the Administration/Police Building and financed most of the curb replacement work in the Pebble Ridge Woodridge

project. A Real Estate Tax increase of 1.575 mills will occur in 2022 to pay for increased Roads maintenance, at an annual cost of \$64 for the average Township household.

State Aid is the only negative in our Revenue outlook, which is comprised mainly of State Liquid Fuels revenue (from retail gasoline sales), and State Pension aid. State Liquid Fuels is expected to

decline based on the gradual shift from gasoline-powered to electric vehicles in the years ahead. Pension Aid is also expected to be weak, and we have forecast both items to continue to decline at 0.25% per year.

Operations Spending at \$12.9m, up \$0.6m from 2021, will provide general police, fire and ambulance, parks & recreation, code enforcement and administration services to the community. The largest changes from 2021 will be:

- \$0.15m - Salaries grew by 3.5% for Police/3.0% average for Non-Uniform staff
- \$0.12m - full year effect for 5 new Non-Uniform employees, and anniversary step increases for 7 Patrol officers
- \$0.14m - Pension MMO payment increases
- \$0.1m - Medical & Rx payment increases, mostly due to full-year effect for new employees
- \$0.1m - Other Fringes and Operations expenses

Five Year Budget Perspective (2022-2026):

This Budget process also produces a projection of future budgets five years out. With the assistance of the Ways and Means Committee, the Board, together with a dedicated group of residents volunteers, look to future sources of revenue to make sure that long-term projects are sustainable five years into the future. The reason for completing these projections is to provide a longer range context to the financial decisions that need to be made for 2022, and to insure the Township's ability to provide desired resident services. Some important achievements of the 2022 Budget Plan over the

Category	2022	Comments
Roads & Bridges Total	\$1,740.0	
Regular	\$1,340.0	Accelerated focus
PR-WR Project	\$400.0	Conclusion of Project
Trail Programs	\$2,297.1	Shady Retreat to Doyle Constr. - Grant
Community Center Project	\$1,013.0	Begin Commun Ctr Constr - Bond Financed
Traffic Projects	\$427.5	ARLE Projects
Stormwater	\$336.3	MS4 Project - ARP supported
Kids Castle	\$60.0	
Vehicles	\$350.0	
All Other	\$399.5	Maint Projects
Total	\$6,623.4	

In 2022 the Major/Capital Spending Activity will total \$6.5m, up \$2.8m from 2021. Major emphasis will be given to the main Supervisor priorities of accelerated regular road maintenance and on the new Community Rec Center.

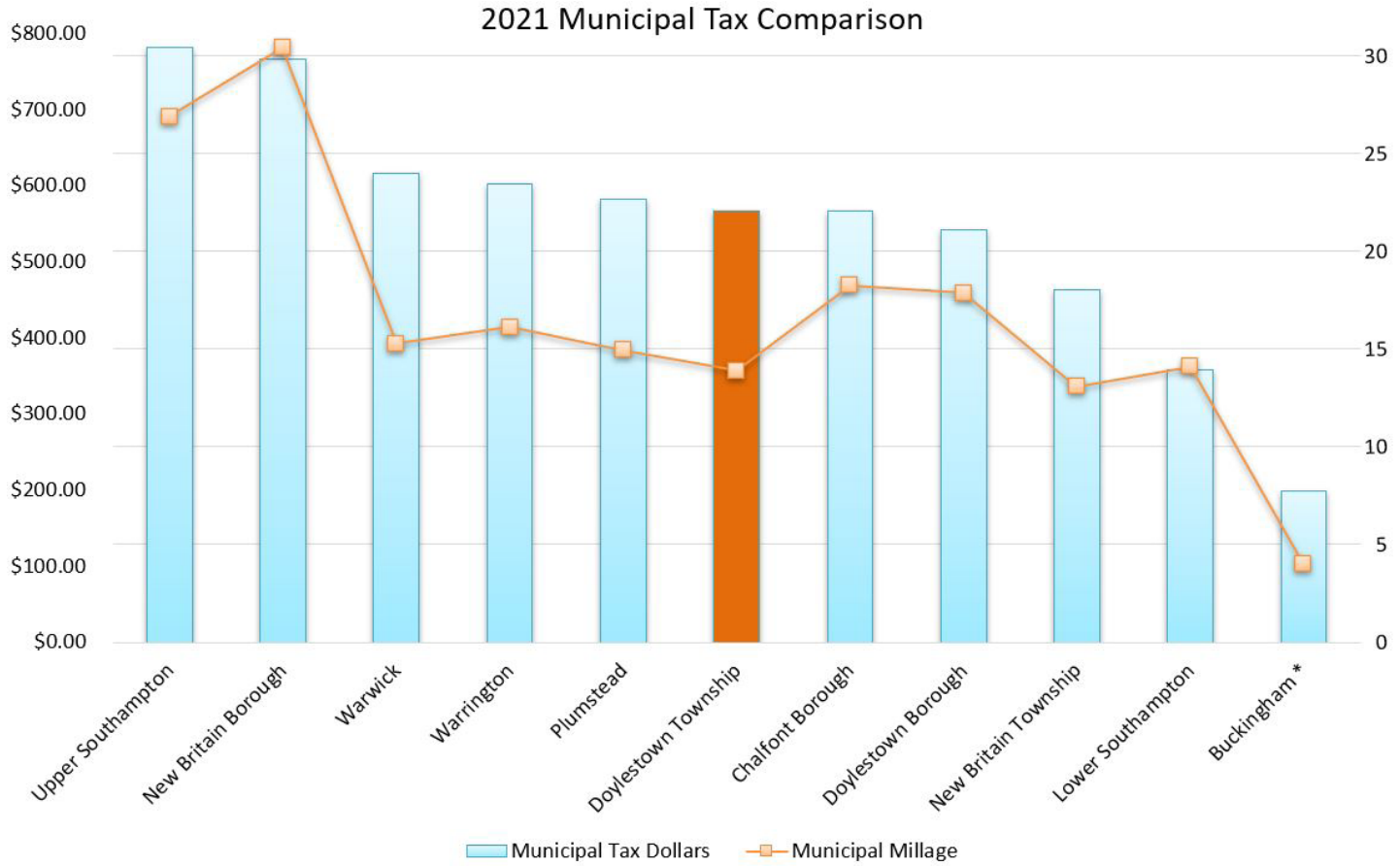
2022-2026 period includes:

- Continuation of the Township's ability to provide the many desired resident services;
- Providing funding to complete \$6.1m in Road restoration over the next five years;
- Providing funding for a new Community Recreation Center by borrowing \$6.4m in 2022, with spending extending over 2022 and 2023, and by using existing fund reallocations of \$1.1m, and new fundraising of \$0.25m for the balance;
- Providing funding for accelerated payments into the Township's Defined Benefits pension plans in accordance with the recommendations of the Pension Advisory Committee. This will get the Township's Discount rate to 6.25% in 2026. Pension payments at this level require additional funding, so this budget contains a placeholder 1.625 mill Real Estate Tax increase in 2025. The amount and timing of this placeholder will be the subject of further review and discussion

during the 2023 Budget process;

- Using America Rescue Plan funding (\$1.8m) to support the unfunded mandate spending required to upgrade our Stormwater infrastructure;
- Matching the projected rise in Debt Service obligations that are the result of the Admin/Police Building project, Bank loan, and the Community Recreation Center project, the 2022-2026 plan includes a Real Estate Tax increases in 2023 and 2024 of 0.925 mills total, estimated to cost the average household \$37 per year. The amount and its timing will be the subject of further review and discussion during the 2023 Budget process;
- Providing average Non-Uniform staff average salary increases of 3.0% in 2022, and 3.0% over the 2023 - 2026 period. Uniform staff increases will be at the current contractual rate of 3.5% for 2022 and are forecast at 3.25% over the five year period,

Continued on page 6



This graphs shows a comparison of the 2021 Municipal Tax Rates of other Bucks County Municipalities. We invite you to view our 2022 Budget in full detail at www.DoylestownPA.org under the Finance Department.

all subject to discussion and agreement during future Budget workshops and the upcoming new Police contract negotiations;

- And by prudent management of the Township's fund balances, this budget leaves the Township with healthy 2026 balances in all funds, including the General Fund, whose 2026

ending balance is projected to be \$1.4m/9.8 % of the 2026 Operational spending, meeting our target of 10% in the fifth year;

How the 2022 Budget will affect Our Residents

Overall, the Board of Supervisors continues to strive to

minimize costs where possible and be fiscally responsible. The 2021/2022 tax rate of Doylestown Township is in the middle of and competitive with other Bucks County municipalities. There will be a 1.575 millage increase in 2022 (\$61 a year), to be used for road maintenance.



Septic Management Program, Ordinance #299:

If you received a reminder card in the mail, its time to have your well tested and your system pumped. This is done every 3 years.

More information can be found at: www.DoylestownPA.org under Information.



Doylestown Township Participates in the Twilight Wish Project

On December 21, Doylestown Township Supervisor Chairman Barbara N. Lyons, Park and Recreation Board Chairman Kathy Brown, Township Administration staff from the Code Department, Finance Department, Park and Recreation Department, Police Department, Public Works (Parks), volunteers from the Twilight Wish Foundation and community residents came together to deliver 160 bags door to door to residents at Grundy Hall.

The Twilight Wish Foundation makes wishes come true for seniors. This holiday season Doylestown Township collected necessities (requested items like toilet paper, tissues, kitchen and bath towels, socks, lip balm, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tea and hot chocolate etc.) 10 volunteers packed 160 bags the day before delivery. All those that volunteered were touched by the overwhelming gratitude and joy from those



Township Officials, Staff and Volunteers help carry individual donations into Grundy Hall.

receiving the donated gift bags. A big thank you to the Township's Park and Recreation Department (Program Manager Lisa Pearsall, and Parks and Recreation Director

Karen Sweeney) for coordinating this wonderful event.

Donations of items came from the following individuals and organizations:

-The Albert R. Atkinson Jr. American Legion Post 210 Doylestown, PA

-Toll Brother's Tax Department

-New Britain Baptist Church Food Pantry

-Doylestown Police Benevolent Association

-Township staff

-Township residents

-Community members.



Grundy Hall Residents and Volunteers stop for a picture

Township Park & Recreation Board Hosted 1st Decemberfest

On Saturday, December 11th the members of the Township's Park and Recreation Board hosted their first Decemberfest event. The event included a visit from Santa Claus. Thanks to Doylestown Fire Company for delivering Santa safely. Our own Officer Jared Courts spun tunes while the children enjoyed crafts and refreshments. Look for details later in 2022 for another fun filled Decemberfest event.



Park Board members Brent Ruge, Paul DiNella, Bob Shaffer, and Blythe Kelly prepare for the event



Santa gets the inside scoop on some great present ideas



Children select from the arts and crafts available to enjoy



Doylestown Township Police Officer Jared Courts volunteers as DJ to strike a festive mood



Doylestown Township Park & Recreation Hosts "Jolly Jammy Jam" with Mrs. Claus

Mrs. Claus reads a story to the children that attended Jolly Jammy Jam with Mrs. Claus on Friday, December 17, 2021. Those in attendance watched Mrs. Claus arrive on a fire truck provided by the wonderful volunteers from Doylestown Fire Company #1 and escorted by our Doylestown Township Police Department. After stories the children made arts and crafts, decorated cookies and played games. It was a great way to kick off the holidays.



2020 Census Results from the US Census Department



Total Population
17,971



Median Household Income
\$115,237



Bachelor's Degree or Higher
54.7%



Employment Rate
55.3%



Total Housing Units
6,711



Without Health Care Coverage
1.0%



Total Households
6,087



Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
700

Housing

Financial Characteristics

\$1,507 +/- \$190

Median Gross Rent in Doylestown township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

\$1,257 +/- \$42

Median Gross Rent in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Income and Earnings

\$115,237 +/- \$7,262

Median Household Income in Doylestown township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

\$93,767 +/- \$3,193

Median Household Income in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Older Population

23.3% +/- 1.8%

65 Years and Older in Doylestown township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

19.2% +/- 0.1%

65 Years and Older in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Age and Sex

46.2 +/- 1.7

Median Age in Doylestown township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

44.0 +/- 0.2

Median Age in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

2021 Roads Department Results

Road Department staff conducted routine maintenance of the Township's 77 miles of roadways, including but not limited to; inlet tops and drainage pipe repairs, road patching and base repairs. The Road Department staff also conducted routine maintenance such as sign replacement and installation, road bank mowing and spraying, and drainage and inlet cleaning for storm preparation. All of the Public Works staff (Roads, Parks, Fleet and Facilities including DTMA staff) and contractors were active in providing salting, snow plowing and winter storm related services in 2021.



- Road Paving and Curbing Program: The 2021 Road Program consisted of three separate projects that included pavement milling, base paving and wearing course paving in the Pebble Ridge/Woodridge neighborhood and vicinity, as well as various roads throughout the Township.
- Paving Part 1: Completion of 3-inch milling and 3-inch base course paving of Old New Road, Buck Road, Anvil Lane, Springdale Road, Pebble Ridge Road, Stony Lane Circle, Stone Lane, Pebble Crest Road, Shady Brook Circle, Davids Way, and Linda Lane totalling 2.25 miles of paving completed.
- Paving – Part 2: Completion of 1.5-inch milling and 1.5-inch base course paving of Townview Road, Springs Drive, Dogwood Lane, Oak Drive, Greentree Drive, Pebble Woods Drive North, Bomaca Drive, Spring Meadow Lane, and Old Colonial Drive totalling 2.10 miles of paving completed.
- Paving – Part 3: Completion of 1.5-inch milling and 1.5-inch base course paving of New Britain Road, Duane Road, Iron Hill Road, Covered Bridge Lane, and Hagan Court totalling 1.34 miles of paving completed.
- Pebble Ridge/Woodridge curbing project: Included removal of existing gutter curb, installation of concrete curb, roadway restoration – stone and storm inlet top replacement on Old New Road, Buck Road, Springdale Road, South Woodridge Drive, Westaway Lane, Willow Lane, Davids Way, Linda Lane, and Turk Road for a total of 3.34 miles of new vertical curb.

Doylestown Township



Board of Supervisors

Left to Right:

- Nancy Santacecilia
- Ryan Manion, Vice Chairman
- Jennifer Herring
- Barbara N. Lyons, Chairman
- Dan Wood

Township Manager

Stephanie Mason

Government Information

Township Offices

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:30AM to 4:30PM

425 Wells Roads
Doylestown, PA 18901
(215) 348-9915

www.doylestownpa.org

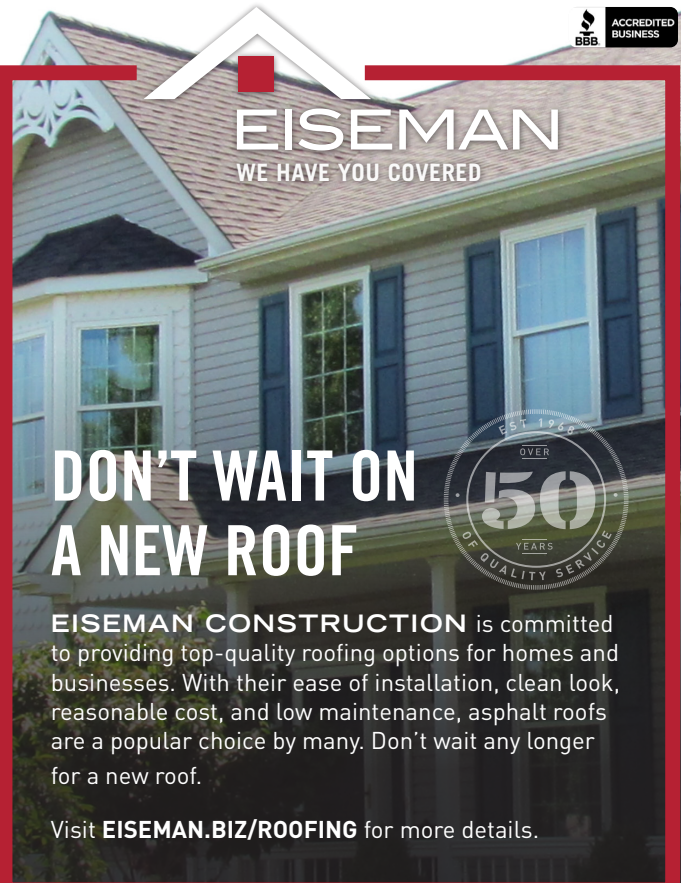


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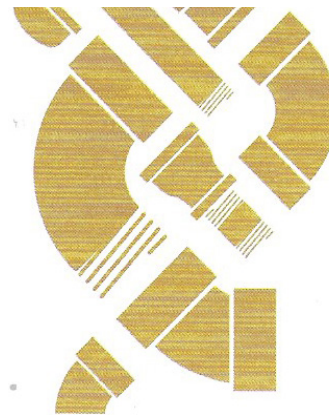
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