

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP

"Preserving the past, embracing the future"

A PUBLICATION OF THE DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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From the Chairman, Barbara N. Lyons

The planning for the Doylestown Township Bicentennial Celebration in 2018 is well underway.

Page 9 of this edition of the Township Newsletter contains an outline from the Bicentennial Committee of just some of the events already in the works. In addition to those listed, the Committee will sponsor a float in the 2018 Memorial Day Parade and a contest for the design of a new Township flag.

The Township Flag Design Contest will be open to all Township residents of any age and ability - See page 13 for details. The parameters for submission of a flag design for consideration are as follows: any color or color combinations are acceptable; no letters or numbers can be used; the submission must work with the sizing of the current Township flag (3 x 5 feet) and no Township buildings can be depicted.

The selection committee will be comprised of individuals appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The winner of the Township Flag Design Contest will receive a \$1,000.00 cash prize and a commemorative note on the flag and/or on the Commemorative Wall in the new Township Building.

Contest submissions must be received in both hard copy and electronic (jpeg, pdf, eps, ai, etc.) attachment in the Township office by close of business on May 15, 2018.

Many of you attended the Wrecking Ball Event on September 16th, kicking off not only the Bicentennial Celebration, but also the take down of the old administration/police building and the start of construction for the new municipal complex. As it stands now, the new administration/police building should be completed by the end of 2018, at which time we will unfurl the new Township Flag and bury a time capsule.

The Township will be taking ideas for deposits into the time capsule from now until November 30, 2018. The selection of items will be made by the Board of Supervisors and members of the Bicentennial Committee.

We invite every resident to participate in the upcoming history making year! There are many opportunities to participate: volunteer for events, join the Committee, sponsor the Celebration or an event, or even create the flag. Your name too can go down in the history of Doylestown Township! ❖

General Information

425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901



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



Monday - Friday 8:30-4:30



info@doylestownpa.org



www.doylestownpa.org
www.doylestownrec.com

Drug Awareness, Prevention and Education

Doylestown Township has created a new web page that lists resources to assist those afflicted by drug abuse. It includes community groups, Township resources and educational materials. The Police Building also features a drug drop off location.

For more information, please visit www.doylestownpa.org/information or call 215-348-9915. ❖

Board of Supervisors

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P&R Program Coordinator
Kaitlyn Finley

Parks Superintendent
Butch Froehlich

Road Superintendent
Paul Garr

Fire Marshal
Rick Schea

Open Records Officer
Jackie Rowand

Executive Director of DTMA
Keith Hass

Water Superintendent
Scott Miele

From Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-08)

It has been an exciting first few months in office and I am grateful for the opportunity to update the residents of Doylestown Township on some of the important issues I am focused on as your independent voice in Congress.

As a former anti-political corruption FBI agent, I've approached my time in Congress trying to fix what I see as the flaws in our broken system – a system of career politicians and elite insiders who do more to preserve the status quo than to solve our most pressing challenges. That's why on my first day I introduced a package of legislative proposals to begin the much needed reform process. The measures include:

- A Constitutional Amendment enacting term limits for all members of Congress;
- A Constitutional Amendment preventing members of Congress from being paid unless a budget is passed. This is not just withholding pay for a little while, this is complete forfeiture;
- A Balanced Budget amendment so we are forced to stop kicking the can down the road, and will create a fiscal path that will allow the next generation to thrive;
- And a bill I call the Citizen Legislature Anti-Corruption Reform – or CLEAN – Act that includes language to:
 - End Congressional “pensions for life”

- Require this body to debate and act on single-issue legislation
- Codify that all laws passed by Congress apply to its members
- Reform the broken “Gerrymandering” process by moving all redistricting to independent, non-partisan citizen commissions, and
- Expands access to political party primaries to include both Independents and non-affiliated voters

Washington needs fewer politicians and more independent voices focused on solutions. These reforms are a good first step, but only if we are willing to put partisanship aside and work together for this community and all those we represent.

To stay active on these, or any other issues affecting you or your family, please visit my website at <http://www.fitzpatrick.house.gov> and sign up for my e-newsletter. Additionally, if you are having a problem with federal programs like Social Security or Medicare, or any federal agencies, please contact our Langhorne District Office at 215-579-8102. Our team stands ready to provide information and assistance.

It is an honor to serve you in Congress. ❖

Don't Forget!

Ready Bucks Emergency Notifications are available to residents. It's recommended that every resident sign up for this emergency alert system!

Visit www.readynotifpa.org for details.

Robert T. Repko Takes Oath as New Auditor



With the departure from office by Joe Visco on June 20, 2017, the Board of Supervisors appointed Robert T. Repko to fill the unexpired term on the Board of Auditors. Mr. Repko is a local attorney. He was accompanied by his daughters Isabella and Sydney when he was sworn in by District Justice Mark Douple in his chambers. ❖

Officer Joseph B. Zuchero Sworn In



On Tuesday, August 15, 2017 Joseph B. Zuchero was sworn in as the 20th sworn police officer in the Township's Police Department. Judge Mark Douple administered the Oath of Office while Officer Zuchero's wife Kaitlyn held the Bible. ❖

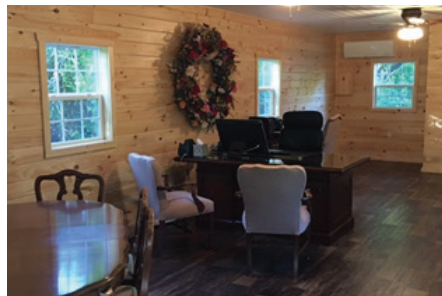
A Message from Sarah Tomlinson, Tax Collector



The tax office has moved! After renting office space for the past three years, I made the decision to personally build a permanent and professional office at 138 East Road. The new office was built with no taxpayer dollars and provides a private space for Doylestown Township residents to pay their real estate taxes and have their questions answered.

In my continuing effort to improve the taxpayer experience, in addition to building the office, I have developed and published a website www.doylestowntaxcollector.com.

The tax office location, hours, and other relevant information such as frequently asked questions, important dates, and helpful links can be found on the site. I can be contacted via the website or you can email me at sarah.tomlinson@ymail.com with questions, concerns, suggestions or to request a specific appointment time. I am dedicated to serving the community as tax collector and hope to see you at the new office. ❖



Government Access Channel

Comcast Channel 22 / Verizon Channel 31

Social Media

Stay informed of important Township news, Parks and Recreation events, road closures, winter weather and police emergencies:

To join our **Google Group**: Go to www.doylestownpa.org and left click [Click Here] to Subscribe to Doylestown News" at the bottom of the page

Follow 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 and then click [Like] in the left sidebar

Check out our newly created **Youtube** channel. This can be accessed via the "videos" button on the homepage of our website, www.doylestownpa.org

Water Quality Report

The Doylestown Township Municipal Authority's Water Quality Report for 2016 is available. The reports available are for Doylestown Township, Cedar Crest Farms/Wyndham, Cross Keys Place Shopping Center and Turk Road. This report contains information on the Authority's operations, water supply and monitoring results. The report is free of charge to Township residents and may be picked up at the Authority office, located at 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. You may also view the 2016 Water Quality Report by going to the direct URL @ <http://www.doylestownpa.org/ccr/pdf>. If you do not have internet access and are unable to visit us, please call 215-348-9915 and a copy of the report can be mailed to you. ❖

Construction Begins



If you have been by the Township building recently you may have noticed construction activities have begun. This is the beginning phase of the Township's Municipal Complex renovation/build. Construction is planned in two phases. Areas addressed in Phase I include Fleet Maintenance, Public Works and Police carport/large evidence storage bays. Phase II is the Administration/Police building and the Parks & Recreation building.

Phase I renovations to the Fleet Maintenance building started by gutting

the building interior, preparing for new garage doors and removal of the floor. Next tasks are to upgrade the utilities and pour a new concrete floor to accommodate the vehicle lifts. Meanwhile, specific rooms in the Public Works building are being demolished and utilities work will begin soon. The Police carport/large evidence storage bays started in August.

Phase II is currently in plan development phase (construction documents, bid specifications, etc.). Demolition of the current administration building will begin this fall. Both the administration and police staff will soon begin their move to the modular units set up on the tennis courts. Final touches are underway on these modular units and employees will move in early fall.

PLEASE be careful and obey all new directional and parking signs. All parking will be in the lot left of the current administration building. The present handicap spaces located in front can be used until the building is closed. Please stay on the sidewalks when entering the building.

Thank you for your cooperation during this construction period. ❖



Thank You Jeanne & John Hubbard

by Joe Salvati, Chairman Friends of Kids Castle

We are overjoyed by the extremely generous donation received from Jeanne & John Hubbard.

Together they sponsored the Castle Bridge and the Rock Block Bridge play pieces, and the Jack Sparrow and Davy Jones works of art that adorn our playground, which are part of our Save The Children's Artwork Sponsorship Program.

The money raised, through their generous sponsorships, goes directly toward making inclusive play and physical accessibility on our playground possible by helping us continue our move forward with the necessary improvements needed at Kids Castle for children of all abilities.

Through these improvements, children with diverse abilities will grow in the self-confidence that comes along with that sense of belonging, by welcoming everyone to join in the fun at our playground including children with sensory processing disorders, autism,

and people of all ages using wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

While play is an important part of children's developmental needs, it also has to be fun enough for them to want to be part of that experience... and these improvements at Kids Castle will accomplish that goal for all children.



Thanks to the ongoing support of caring people like the Hubbard Family, the magic that is Kids Castle will continue forward for the thousands of children who visit the playground each year and for thousands more who will have a new opportunity to join in the fun.

Please consider joining our Circle of Friends who are helping to provide a place to play for all children by making a donation in any amount you can afford.

Visit the Donate Your Way section of our website at SaveKidsCastle.com. Thank you all! ❖

Did You Know?

The Township is served by the Chalfont Fire Company, in addition to Doylestown and Warrington, which is all volunteer and responds to many calls in the Township. This is a very dedicated group that is professionally trained and responds for many hours each month. Although the trucks have numbers 34, 54 and 74 on them, they are all from one of the two stations that serve Chalfont. The company is always looking for new members, specifically those in the 17-25 age bracket. Although the job is often hard, it is also very rewarding to be able to help others when they need it most. The company is like a big family, with the firefighting tradition continued for generations since 1904. The bond that is formed among the unpaid members when helping others is unlike any other

found in civilian life.

Many of our responses are caused by smoke alarms which are set off by accident or are faulty. You can help us by checking your alarms to determine that they are less than 10 years, old whether they are battery or hard wired, or electrically powered. Ten years is the time limit for the sensor in the alarm to work with reliability according to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). Most alarms have a date somewhere on the device that states “replace by” or a manufacturers date. These should not be confused with CO (Carbon Monoxide Alarms) where sensors only last to a maximum of 7 years. This is an area where you can actively help us without leaving home. ❖

New Polling Location for Voting Districts 1, 2 & 8

Due to the construction at the Township Complex this coming fall, temporary polling locations were found by the Bucks County Board of Election for voting districts 1 & 8. The proposed location, pending the County Commissioners approval later this fall, is the auditorium room at the Bucks County Health Department Neshaminy Manor Center, 1282 Almshouse Road, Building K.

Voting District 2, which is located at the Pine Run on Ferry Road, will be relocated while the Pine Run is under construction. Polling location for Voting District 2 will be at the Central Bucks Senior Center at 700 Shady Retreat Road.

Please be advised that all affected voters will receive a new voter ID Card prior to the election. ❖

Septic Management Reminder

Cycle Two Residents must have their septic systems pumped and inspected and have their well water tested for Coliform bacteria by December 31, 2017. Please remember that although your pumper hauler will send us a copy of your pumper's report,

it is the home owner'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, located on Almshouse Road, they do not forward

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 & 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

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 under information! ❖

Township Certifies Three More Historic Trees

by Jeannine Mitchell, Environmental Advisory Council

“I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree.” - Joyce Kilmer

Three more Heritage Trees have been identified in Doylestown Township. Residents Helen Eves, Fran Miller, and Angela Parisi nominated trees on their properties EAC tree specialists Don Richardson and Marty Brooks inspected them and each tree has been certified as worthy of recognition.

Helen Eves’ large flowering cherry tree is next to her 1784 house on “Eves Farm” at 150 Pine Run Road. With a circumference over 14 feet, branches to a drip line that spreads to 15 feet, and a height of over 40 feet, the tree is intertwined with a thick trumpet vine and a climbing euonymous. The effect is charming and the tree supports a variety of wildlife. Helen reports that the tree is a bird haven. She enjoys the house wrens and hummingbirds that visit daily. The tree has been host to a family of raccoons as well. The density of the upper branches provides a snug shelter. Don and Marty agreed that the tree “should be considered a record tree of importance and value.”

Helen’s property is a 23-acre organic farm where she raises a wide variety of flora and fauna. Since 1986 she has developed the apiary, the animal enclosures, and the vegetable, fruit, and flower gardens. She has planted many specimen trees including Siberian willow, stewartia, copper beech, southern magnolia, birches, and oaks. The trees were carefully sited to allow them to reach their mature natural shapes. Helen offers residents this tip for keeping deer away from prize plants: fill socks with Milorganite, an “eco-friendly fertilizer” available in local supply stores. Hang the socks from

branches near the area to be protected. The deer are repelled by the material in the socks. Although our township deer enjoy munching on hosta, Helen’s hosta are uneaten wherever she places the sock repellents.

Fran Miller’s “Scotch Mill Farm” at 273 Edison Furlong Road is a historic property dating to 1810. She purchased the place in 1983 in large part because of the giant ash tree in front of the house. It is a majestic specimen over 100 years old, 14 feet in circumference, branches to a drip line over 75 feet, and a height over 125 feet. This tree is evidence that the emerald ash borer injection treatment currently available from arborists seems to work. The five ash trees that have been treated on Fran’s property every other year are healthy. The ashes on the property that do not get the treatment are dying. EAC certifiers Don and Marty agree that the nominated tree is worth saving and they have recognized it as part of the Historic Tree Program. Fran’s place was once a 50-acre farm, now divided between residential and commercial use. The classic stone Bucks County farmhouse, summer kitchen, and cottage are enhanced by the trees and gardens that she has protected and built with investments of both time and money. Sitting on her long back porch, a visitor can sense the passage of two centuries and the importance of the trees sheltering and providing for the land and its inhabitants.

Angela Parisi has lived at 15 Allen Drive for only two years, but she recognized early on that the two giant silver maple trees at the rear of the property are century-old “champions.” The larger of the two is a multi-stemmed specimen with a combined circumference over 24 feet, a spread of 60 feet to the drip

line, and a height of over 100 feet. The trees grow next to a small tributary stream, thus providing natural erosion control for the stream’s edge. The two trees add a stately presence to the relatively new house. Don and Marty certified that the larger one is indeed a Heritage Tree.

Angela’s family includes two young children who have the freedom to run and play under and around the old silver maples. They are enjoying learning about gardening and experimenting with trees and other plants in the abundant space around the house. Sited next to farmland and stream, the property gives them lots of opportunities to add beauty and enhance habitat by preserving the old trees while adding new species.

If you have a tree that might qualify for the Historic Tree Program, call the Township office at 215-348-9915 to schedule a certification visit from Don and Marty. ❖



From the Desk of State Rep. Marguerite Quinn

DOYLESTOWN – For years, growth in Pennsylvania’s pension contributions has been one of the largest cost drivers in the state budget.

In June, the General Assembly passed legislation that was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf to reform the state’s pension systems. Under current system, state workers and public school teachers are enrolled in defined benefit plans which promise a certain level of retirement benefits to retirees. This is a great plan for retirees, but when the anticipated investment return is below projection, or if the stock market crashes, the taxpayers are responsible to make up the difference in the benefits owed to the retirees.

With an outstanding pension debt of more than \$60 billion, Pennsylvania

would have to direct nearly every single tax dollar appropriated in its state budget to its pension funds – State Employees’ Retirement System (SERS) and Public School Employees’ Retirement System (PSERS) – for the next two years in order to pay it off.

The legislation, Act 5 of 2017, will decrease the long-term debt. The act honors the promises made to current workers and retirees while protecting the investments they’ve already made. Debt will be decreased by steering future state workers and school district employees toward the 401(k)-style plans private sector workers already rely on to fund their retirements.

Starting in 2019, new state employees and teachers will have to choose between one of three new retirement

plans. The plan selection will include a defined contribution plan or one of two hybrid plans that offer a combination of defined benefit and defined contribution.

Over time, this legislation will save taxpayers more than \$5 billion. An additional savings of up to \$3 billion is projected in terms of reduced costs and fees for investment management.

This pension reform act is a compromise, but it is also commonsense. The change will not provide us with relief from present obligations, so there will not be an immediate change in our tax bills. This reform will prevent us from building up this debt in the future. ❖

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications Available Now

by Senator Chuck McIlhinney (R-Bucks)

The state’s Property Tax/Rent Rebate program provides rebates on property taxes or rent paid in the previous year for seniors and disabled Pennsylvanians who are living on a fixed income. Since the program was first created in 1971, more than \$6.1 billion in rebates have been distributed to seniors and disabled adults through the program. I encourage community residents to learn more about whether this program could benefit them or a loved one.

To be eligible for a rebate, applicants must meet income eligibility guidelines and be a Pennsylvania resident age 65 or older, a widow or widower age 50 or older, or an individual with a disability who is 18 years or older. Eligible applicants can receive a rebate of up to \$650 on property taxes paid in 2016. Household income for applicants may

not exceed \$35,000, not including 50 percent of Social Security payments, Supplemental Security income and Railroad Retirement benefits. Renters can earn up to \$15,000 and still be eligible for the program. The amount of the rebate is determined by household income, with lower-income households receiving larger rebates.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications are available at my district office. Local residents can also apply by calling toll-free 1-888-222-9190 weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. or by visiting www.revenue.state.pa.us.

Applicants who have already signed up for the program and would like to check on the receipt and status of their claim can call toll-free 1-888-PATAXES. ❖

Boards and Commissions

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

Would you like to volunteer? Send your letter of interest to info@doylestownpa.org.



The Township Celebrates the 2018 Bicentennial with Kick-Off Gala and Other Events

It's time to celebrate a birthday... 200 years to be exact. The official launch for this celebratory year is the Bicentennial Gala which will be held January 6, 2018 at Doylestown Country Club. So please join your friends and family from 5 to 8 PM for good food, lively conversation, and lots of surprises at this gala event. In addition, please watch for other terrific events throughout 2018: a discussion of Edgar Geil's house, his travels and collections; a tour of the Hammerstein Mansion; a Veteran's Day presentation and many other activities for the entire family. Activities of all kinds will be planned for everyone to enjoy: from historical events to flag designing contests; from the burial of a time capsule to tree plantings in our beautiful parks.

We have much to celebrate! Doylestown Township boasts 400 acres of public parks and 27 miles of Bike/Hike trails, a dedicated police department that keeps us safe on a daily basis, and of course, the 18,000 people that call Doylestown home.

We look forward to celebrating our wonderful community with all of you! Other events being planned include:

March 13 - Delaware Valley University will host a presentation on the life of Edgar Geil. Geil was a Doylestown Township-born explorer, lecturer, photographer and author of 10 books related to his travels.

May - the Bicentennial Committee will participate in the Memorial Day Parade.

July 14 - Highland Farms, Oscar Hammerstein's former residence, will host an afternoon with entertainment and tour of the proposed museum will be offered.

July 15 - The annual concert and fireworks celebration at Central Park - A Bicentennial Birthday Bash.

November 12 - A Veteran's Day celebration is planned from 10 am to 1 pm. The event will be held at the Central Bucks Senior Center.

The final event of the 200-year celebration will be the ribbon cutting event at the new Doylestown Township building in December. At this time, a time capsule will be buried in a corner stone of the building. ❖

1600

Prior to European colonization, the Lenni Lenape Indians lived on the land that later became Doylestown.

1616

Dutch explorers arrive, followed soon thereafter by the Swedish, Welsh, Scotch-Irish and Germans

1640

The D'oyley family, ancestors of the Doyles, journey to the New World from Ireland.

1681

William Penn is granted land in New World as payment for a debt from King Charles II of England. As deputy governor of the territory, William Markham, Penn's cousin, negotiates a treaty with Lenni Lenape leaders.

1682

After arriving in Pennsylvania, William Penn names one of his provincial counties "Bucks" after Buckinghamshire, England.

Doylestown Township Bicentennial Committee

Incorporated in 1818, Doylestown Township is preparing to turn "200" next year. The Bicentennial Committee is hard at work planning an array of fun and informative events for the whole family.

Bicentennial Committee Members include:

- Joseph Paternostro, Chairman
- Arthur Zapolski, Vice Chairman
- Ted Feldstein
- Stu Abramson
- David Hansen
- Dr. Vail Garvin
- Tina Mazaheri
- Mary Lou Parry
- Renu Dalal
- Beth Long
- Chris Nardo
- John Arnold
- Anne Woodbury

If you are interested in getting involved or volunteering at any of the upcoming bicentennial events please send us an email at info@doylestownpa.org or give us a call at 215-348-9915. ❖

Environmental Advisory Council Celebrates 200 Years, 200 Oaks - "Times 2"

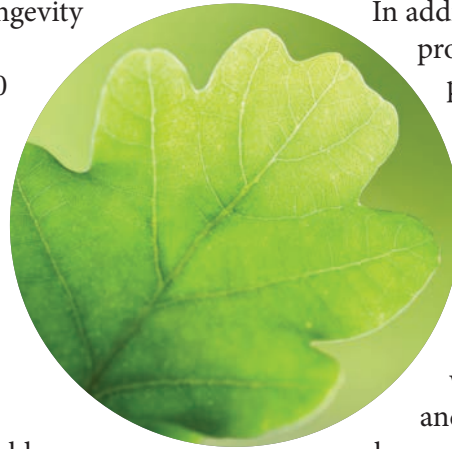
To celebrate the Township's Bicentennial, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is adding 200 Oak trees to the parks in the Township.

Why Oaks? Two reasons. First, the Oak is a symbol of longevity and sturdiness. Since we are celebrating 200 years and hope to continue for at least two hundred more, we are convinced that the choice of Oaks "speaks" to that commitment.

Secondly, EAC is committed to sustainable practices. The Oak has been cited by author Doug Tallamy as the single most important plant for wildlife in our area - 527 species use the Oak.

You can sponsor a tree! The Oaks

that will be planted in the Parks are 2-2 ½" caliper, balled and burlapped trees. In recognition, your name will be displayed on an honor plaque in the new Township building. Sponsorship is \$200 per tree.



In addition, there is a program for you to purchase and plant a tree at your house! These Oaks will be in 5-gallon containers and be available for pick up on Saturday, April 21, 2018 (Earth Day weekend). Planting and care instructions will be available. These Oaks are \$40 per tree.

Forms (for sponsorship of Park trees and for purchase of Container trees) are available for download on the Township's website. ❖

1745

Innkeeper William Doyle obtains a license to keep a public house known as "Doyle's Tavern."

1717

Soldiers from General Washington's Army, secretly transporting the Liberty Bell from Philadelphia to Allentown, pass through Doylestown.

1778

General Washington spends one night in "Doylestown" on his way to meet the British at the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey.

1810

The Pennsylvania General Assembly authorizes the change for the Seat of Justice from Newtown to Doylestown in Bucks County.

1814

The residents of Doylestown and vicinity petition the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions for the establishment of the Township of Doylestown.

Did you know? Before Doylestown Township there were the Villages of Doylestown

Although the name “Doylestown” goes back to the middle eighteenth century, the present Township is actually made up of a number of villages which were once independent communities. Some, like Cross Keys, Edison, Fountainville, Furlong, and Tradesville, are still referred to by name. Others, such as Rittersville, Southwark, Wrangletown, and Germany, have long since disappeared.

CROSS KEYS

According to the book *Place Names in Bucks County*, it was customary in colonial America to give a town the same name as its tavern. Keeping with this tradition, Cross Keys was taken from the name of a watering hole (and later an inn) established about the time William Doyle obtained his license to keep a public house.

However, the real history of the name goes back much further. Originally, “crossed keys” served as the arms of the Papal See, which were borrowed from the emblem of Saint Peter. By the seventeenth century, Cross Keys had been adopted for lay purposes as the name for taverns throughout England. British subjects who settled in the New World naturally gave familiar appellations to their favorite watering holes here in America. Thus, the Doylestown community known as Cross Keys was born.

Located at the corner of Dyers Road (old Route 611) and Newtown-Quakertown Road, Cross Keys was a popular stop during the early stagecoach days. Just a short distance from the County seat, it provided convenient and hospitable accommodations. Because of the growth of the

surrounding townships during the last two and a half centuries, the area today known as Cross Keys is shared by four municipalities: Doylestown Township, Doylestown Borough, Plumstead Township, and Buckingham Township. The old Cross Keys Inn however, remains a symbol of the original community.

EDISON

Edison Village was once known as “Bridge Point” for the beautiful seven-arch stone bridge that crossed the Neshaminy River a century ago. In 1880, the village officially changed its name to Edison with the opening of a new post office. The name was chosen in honor of the inventor of the light bulb, Thomas Edison.

During the early 1800s, “Bridge Point” was a thriving manufacturing center along the original road from Philadelphia to Easton, now called Route 611. The Willow Grove Trolley, which began service in 1889, also followed this route, bringing businessmen and visitors alike to the Doylestown area. Largely through the efforts of one Dr. Samuel Moore, the village operated a woolen factory and saw mill, refurbished old grist and oil mills, and established a school. The school, which today serves as a private residence, still overlooks the banks of the Neshaminy.

In 1993, the Township took steps to preserve the heritage of Edison Village by restoring the Old Wheelwright Building. The rehabilitation process was extensive: the roof and windows were replaced, the masonry was repainted, and the barn doors were repaired. At the same time, the Township created a park at the site of the former bridge. Named Bridge

Point Park, it may now be enjoyed by all Township residents.

FOUNTAINVILLE

Along with Cross Keys, Fountainville is the only other Doylestown village to maintain its original name. The name came from the old Fountain Inn, which was a public house until 1857 when it became a private residence. The inn was so called because nearby artesian wells occasionally rose above ground like a fountain. The inn took advantage of the pristine source by piping the water directly into the building for its guests.

Besides the inn, Fountainville is known for its graveyard. Set in a small grove of trees, there are many old tombstones, some of which are inscribed in German. The oldest headstone dates to 1749.

Because Fountainville was originally centered at the busy intersection of Ferry Road and Old Dublin Turnpike, a post office was established in 1875 to serve the enlarged resident population. The first postmaster was John L. Kramer, who later became a merchant of some reputation and a Councilman of Doylestown Township.

Today, modern roads divide Fountainville among three municipalities: Doylestown Township, New Britain Township, and Plumstead Township.

FURLONG

The name of the village now known as Furlong has a most interesting history. Located at the crossway which became the Old York Road (Route 155) and Newtown Road intersection, it was first referred to as “Beartown.”

However, because of the idiosyncracies of the backwoods vernacular during the pioneer days, the village was generally referred to as “Barville.” The majority of the land on which Furlong stands was once a part of Israel Pemberton’s “Manor of Mayleigh.” After Pemberton’s death, the land changed hands many times until a large portion came into the possession of Colonel Elisha Wilkinson, who served as High Sheriff of Bucks County around the turn of the nineteenth century. At that time, Col. Wilkinson changed the name of the Beartown Inn to “The Green Tree.” To advertise the newly renamed inn, the Colonel commissioned an artist to produce a sign to hang in front of the building. The resulting placard, which featured a “green tree,” was so poorly executed that one townsman quipped, “with a generous stretch of the imagination, it might pass as a shrub.” Apparently, the other townspeople agreed for the village soon became known as “The Bush.”

When a post office was established at The Green Tree in 1832, the hamlet officially adopted the name “Bushington.” This, however, created some confusion. It seems another town in Pennsylvania already had a similar name, so the postmaster of “Bushington” was requested to find another. During the conversation with his superior, the Bucks County postmaster used the word “furlong,” which is the name given to distances measuring one-eighth of a mile. The “Bushington” postmaster liked the way the word sounded and asked if it could be used for the post office. The name was approved.

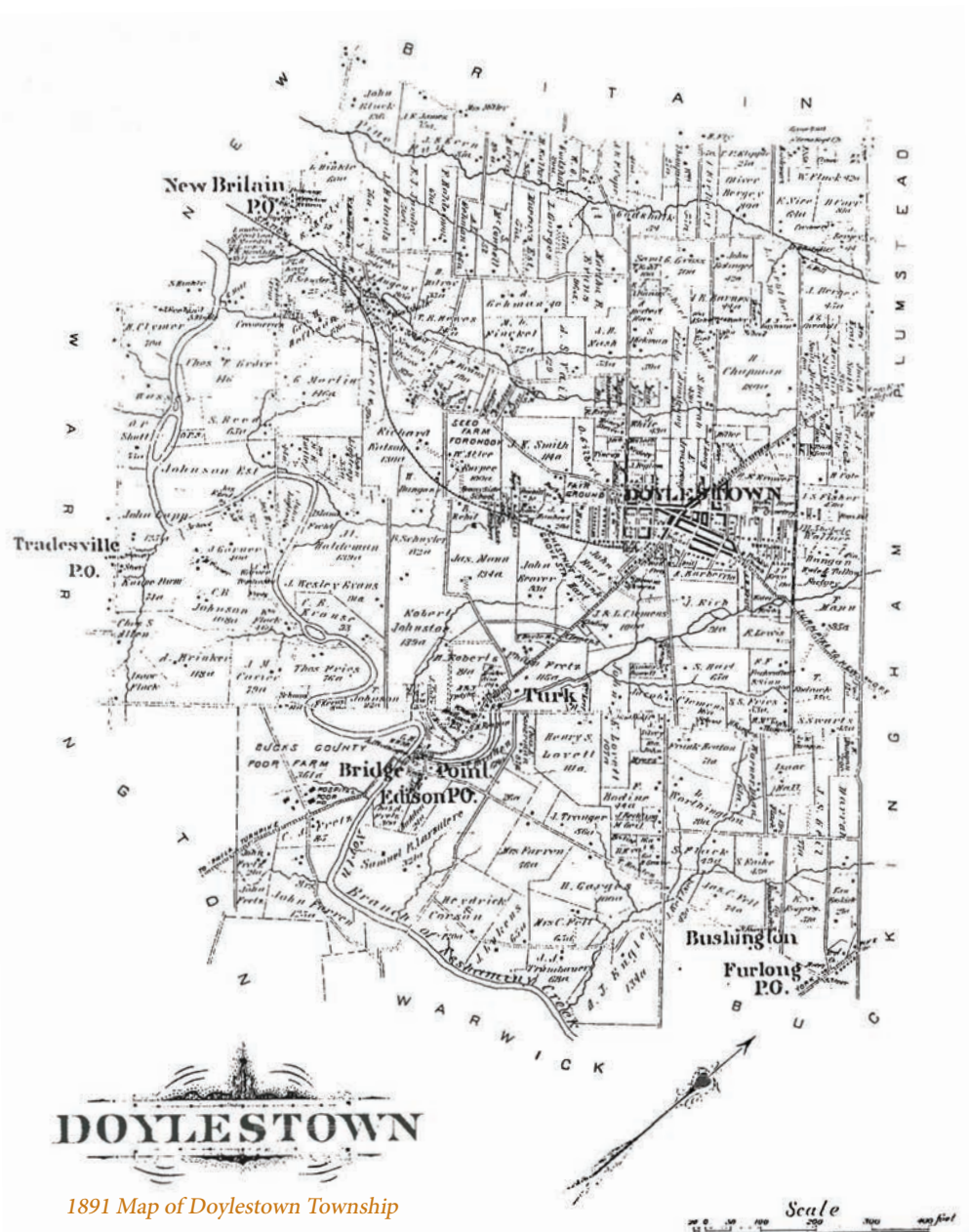
TRADESVILLE

Of all the Township villages, Tradesville is the smallest. Primarily a residential district filled with beautiful old homes, the site was first known as “Stuckerts Corner” after the name of a successful village storekeeper. For unknown reasons, the name was changed in 1854 to Tradesville. The growth of Tradesville led to the establishment of a post office in 1881. This post office remained open until

1914 when services were consolidated with the post office in Chalfont.

Like Cross Keys and Fountainville, Tradesville today lies in more than one municipality. Divided by Bristol Road at Lower State Road, half of the village falls in Doylestown Township with the other half in Warrington Township. ❖

- From the Doylestown Township 1993 Annual Report.



Vacant Homes and Property Maintenance

Every community at some time has “problem properties” which cause problems for neighbors and the community in general with increasing deterioration due to lack of property maintenance. However, many properties do not become a problem even though they are vacant for a period of time due to a change in ownership where occupancy does not occur immediately, a homeowner has a stay in hospital, or families are working away from home for an extended period of time. However, these homeowner’s plan for their absence by hiring a maintenance service or arranging with family, friends or neighbors to keep an eye on the house and provide regular lawn cutting and general property maintenance while they are absent. These well provided for properties never become a problem and it is not obvious they are vacant. Their value is maintained as well as the value and quality of life of the neighborhood.

“Problem properties” very soon come to the communities notice, especially in the warmer months when grass starts to grow, shrubs are not pruned and the weeds are growing everywhere. Our experience has shown that there are several main reasons for this situation to occur. A homeowner loses a property to foreclosure and the lending company takes possession, a sole occupant dies or a homeowner becomes unable to care for the property either through age or mental deterioration. In these situations it is usually found that there are no relatives living close who can step in to assist or no relatives at all. In the case of foreclosure, there is often a lengthy period between when the resident has abandoned the home and left the

area, but is still responsible for its maintenance, and the lending institution becomes the owner and responsible party.

Once the Township hears of a property that is becoming a problem, we work to find out who is the responsible party and contact them by mail to notify them of their responsibility to comply with Township Code Chapter 128, Property Maintenance, and Chapter 62, Brush, Grass and Weeds. Failure to start maintenance can result in citations being filed to the District Court.

The Township is not able to spend taxpayers’ money and send employees to clean up and maintain private property except in situations that threaten public safety.

Vacant properties that are well taken care of are the result of forward planning and community involvement. If you are a property owner who is beginning to find property maintenance a difficulty, reach out to family, friends, neighbors or the Township. We may be able to provide guidance on where assistance may be found. If you are a neighbor and notice a change in a property's appearance, reach out to see if there is some way you can help, not only may you be lending a hand to a neighbor in distress, you may be helping yourself by keeping up the standards in your neighborhood and protecting your own investment in the community. The Code Department is always ready to provide advice and assistance where possible. ❖

Another Fantastic Summer of Sights and Sounds in the Park



Spending a summer evening outdoors watching a movie under the stars or listening to great live music is something very special. It’s even more special in Central Park. Summer 2017 celebrated the twenty-third year of the Township hosting such events. It was another fun full season of movies and concerts in Central Park, all part of the **Thompson Performing Arts Series** at the **Covenant Bank Amphitheater**. The schedule included five family friendly movie nights, ten lively musical performances and one DJ Dance Party. Thousands enjoyed themselves throughout the season, though our largest crowd came out on July 16th for our annual concert and fireworks event. It was truly an amazing evening with an energetic performance from Bigg Romeo followed by a fantastic fireworks display. The Thompson Performing Arts Series continues to bring people together in Doylestown Township and the surrounding communities. Of course none of it would be possible without the support of the Township Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board and our sponsors: Thompson, Covenant Bank, Penn Color, Wegmans,

PECO, TD Bank, DAMC, Pennoni, Smile Exchange, DK Brede, Boucher and James, Barbara N. Lyons, Esquire and Stephanie J. Mason.

Plans for the 2018 Thompson Performing Arts Series are already underway. Look for the lineup of performers and movies in the spring and plan to spend your Wednesday evenings under the stars at the Covenant Bank Amphitheater in Central Park. ❖

A NEW FLAG FOR DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP - ENTER THE CONTEST

Design Submissions Due	May 15th, 2018
Winner Announced	July 17th, 2018
Flag Unfurled	December 2018

Why a new Flag?

Did you know that Doylestown Township has an official flag? The current Township flag is actually just our township seal on a blue background. A true Township flag should be much more than that. Designing a flag for Doylestown Township is a great opportunity to represent our Township with meaningful imagery that reflects our history and our future.

When you're designing your submission keep in mind some of the most iconic and striking flag designs in the world are the simplest, using basic elements to represent and unify large groups of individuals. A successful flag not only showcases the best of a political entity, but also does so in an aesthetically pleasing way.

The adoption of a new flag could do the following in a cost-effective manner:

- Help to better define the Township's image, using powerful symbolism depicting the Township's rich history and promising future
- Encourage increased economic activity by using the new design on promotional materials for business (brochures, websites) and tourism (stickers, t-shirts, etc.)
- Encourage community involvement by inviting residents to submit their designs
- Attract positive media attention statewide and possibly beyond
- Better adhere to the "5 basic rules for good flag design" as put forth by the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA). To learn more visit, https://nava.org/digital-library/design/GFBF_English.pdf.
- Unify residents under an iconic flag that will be a source of Doylestown Township pride

Guidelines:

- Create an original flag design that is scalable to a 3' X 5' finished dimension. Electronic drawings should be high resolution JPEG, EPS, and/or AI files. Hard copies should be 8-1/2" x 11".
- With your flag design, submit an explanation of the design you created in 150 words or less
- Include: Name, Address, Contact Number, Email, and submission category (7-12 years, 3-17 years, 18 years or older and professional)
- Multiple entries are allowed but must be submitted separately

Rules:

- No letters, numbers or depictions (eg. local architecture) may be used in the design
- Only Doylestown Township residents can submit entries for consideration
- Entries that do not follow the guidelines will not be considered
- Once submitted, all entries become the property of Doylestown Township and the designer relinquishes all rights to the design
- The Township reserves the right to alter, modify or combine designs to create an official Doylestown Township flag.
- Entries will not be accepted if they use the following: gradient color, two sides, designs that are plagiarized or are not completely original artwork
- No member or family member of the committee or judging panel can submit a design to contest

Submit Your Entry

Drop off or mail your complete entry to:

- Doylestown Township Administrative office
425 Wells Road | Doylestown PA

or Email your entry to:

- info@doylestownpa.org

Winner receives \$1,000 prize

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Administrative Offices Closed

Columbus Day, October 9, 2017
Election Day, November 7, 2017
Veterans Day, November 10, 2017
Thanksgiving, November 23 & 24, 2017
Christmas, December 25 & 26, 2017
New Year's, January 1, 2018



General Information

425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901



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



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