

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP



"PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE"

WINTER / SPRING 2021 | VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 1

Doylestown Police Department Makes History First Female in Supervisory Position

By Dean Logan, Chief of Police, Doylestown Township



Sgt. Whiteside is Sworn in on December 15, 2020

On December 15, 2020, Sergeant Jessica Whiteside was promoted from Patrol Officer to Sergeant and sworn in by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Barbara Lyons. Sergeant Jessica Whiteside is the first female police officer to be promoted to a supervisory position in the history of the Doylestown Police Department, which was established in 1969. Sergeant Whiteside fills the vacancy left by Lt. Charles Ziegler's promotion. Sergeant Whiteside is a graduate of Quakertown Community High School and graduate of the Montgomery County Community Police Academy. Sergeant Whiteside also attended Penn State's

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Doylestown Township

Government Information

Township Offices

Office Hours:

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

425 Wells Roads
Doylestown, PA 18901
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www.doylestownpa.org

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Left to Right:

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

Township Manager

Stephanie Mason

Continued from page 1:

and Safety Institute Police Supervisory Program. Sergeant Whiteside has been with the Doylestown Police Department for five years and has served with honor.

In addition to Sergeant Whiteside's promotion, the Doylestown Township Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of two new patrol officers. Officer Christopher O'Connor, who is the son of recently retired Lieutenant Matthew O'Connor was sworn in by Chairman Lyons on December 1, 2020. Officer O'Connor, is 26 years of age and resides in Warrington, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Central Bucks South High School and previously served with the New Hope Police Department.



Patrolman O'Conner being sworn in at Doylestown

The second patrol officer to join the department is Officer Brandon Ciliberto who was sworn in by Chairman Lyons on January 4, 2021. Officer Ciliberto is 26 years of age and resides in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Central Bucks West High School and previously served with the Philadelphia Police Department since March of 2019.



Patrolman Ciliberto being sworn in at Doylestown



Sgt. Whiteside with her family following the swearing in on December 15, 2020

Twenty Years of The Doylestown Township Septage Management Program (SMP)

Doylestown Township passed Ordinance No. 299 in 2001. This ordinance requires all residents who have on-lot disposal systems (septic systems) to have them inspected by a Doylestown Township approved pumper/hauler/installer **every three years**. The SMP is a pumping and reporting program which, after 20 years, continues to be successful within Doylestown Township and has been used as a template by other municipalities.

The Township requires pumper/haulers to re-apply yearly to operate in the Township by submitting their PADEP permit to pump and their Bucks County Health Department license. The Township assures that the operating businesses are licensed and insured, while giving the resident options for service providers. The pumper/hauler is required to submit a pumper's report to the Township. This information is kept on file. The Township works with the approved pumper/haulers to obtain the report and make sure the homeowner is in compliance with the ordinance. Another component of the SMP requires residents, with on lot wells, to test their well water for coliform bacteria. The **water test is required every three years** and these results must be provided by the homeowner.

Doylestown Township communicates with residents about the program by sending out yearly reminders and providing information on the Township website and newsletter. The Septic Management Program continues to be vital in protecting the health and safety of our residents.

Cycle Year I (2022): Pebble Ridge – bounded by Bristol and Upper State Roads to Turk and Almshouse Road

Cycle Year II (2023): Pebble Hill I, II, III/Wilkschire – bounded by Rt. 611 to Rt. 313 and Rt. 202

Cycle Year III (2021): Tedwill and Pine Valley – bounded by Rt. 313 and the 611 Bypass, Ferry Road and Iron Hill Road and the New Britain Borough line

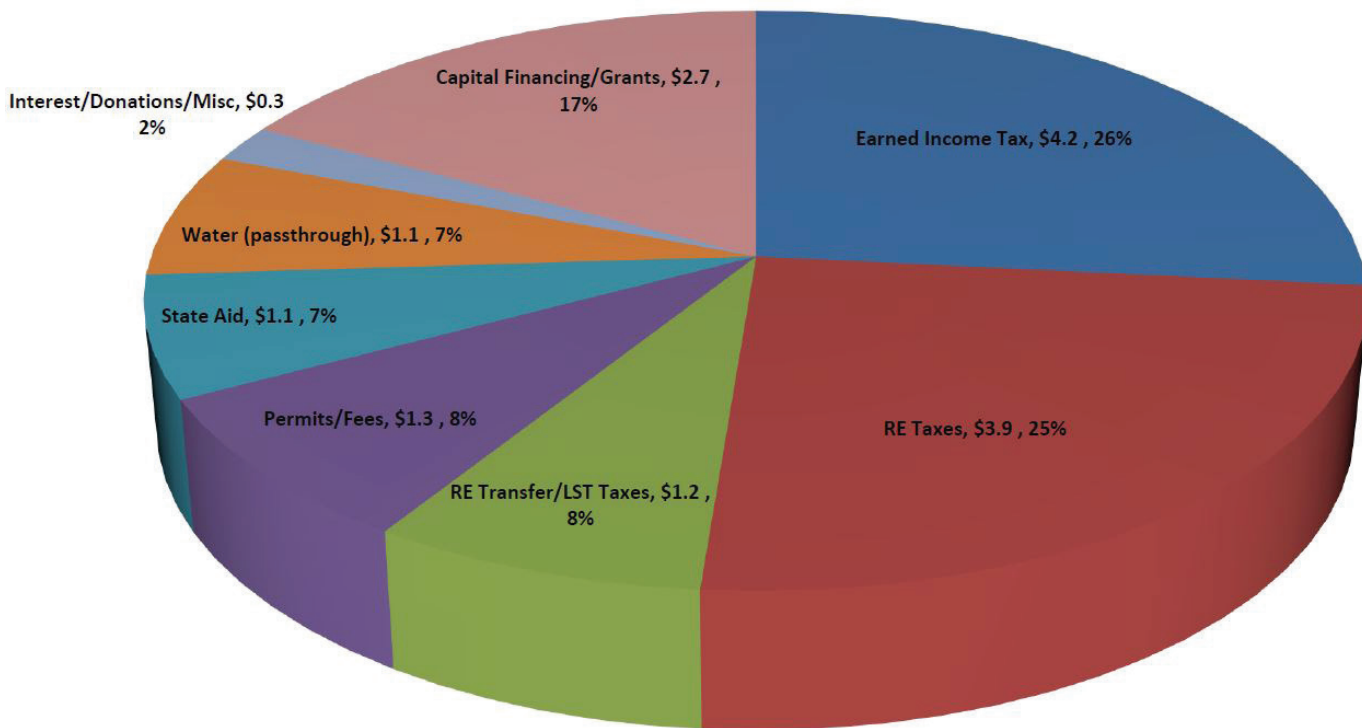


DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP 2021 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors adopted the 2021 Final Budget at their regular meeting on December 15, 2020. As always, the budgeting process started in the spring with the volunteers from our Ways and Means Committee and finance staff all working with the Board of Supervisors to develop a 2020 forecast and our 2021 budget. This year was different however. As we indicated in a previous newsletter, we needed to monitor the potentially negative impact of the COVID Pandemic on our 2020 and beyond financial performance. We believe at this point that we will likely end the year with a minimal impact of less than 1% overall on the entire budget. During the first three quarters of the year, the Township did put a freeze on hiring and deferred some of our capital spending. As 2020 went on we were able to resume some of our capital spending and began to hire some needed replacements within our police, public works and administration departments.

The 2021 Budget has projected Total Revenue of \$16.0 million (m) - \$13.0m Operations, \$2.7m Capital Grants and Loans, \$0.3m Other. The two largest sources of our Operations Revenue are expected to be Earned Income Tax at \$4.2m and Real Estate Taxes at \$3.9m. We also expect to receive state aid of \$1.1m, Permits and fees of \$1.3m, Real Estate Transfer at \$1.2m and a pass-through from our DTMA of \$1.1m. Capital Revenue is expected to be \$1.3m from grants, and \$1.4m in loan proceeds for the Pebble Ridge – Woodridge curbing project.

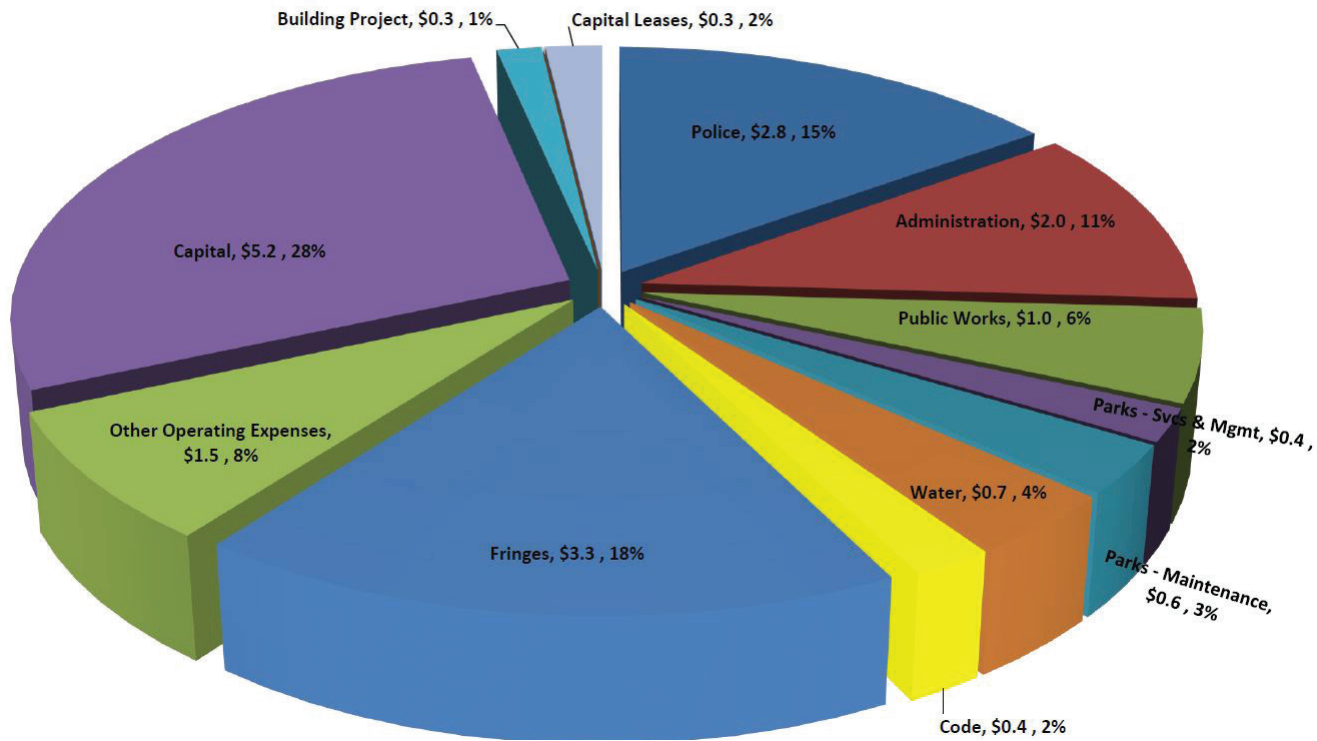
2021 BUDGET REVENUE by DEPARTMENT



Continued on page 6

Total Expenditures for 2021 are budgeted at \$18.3m - \$12.5m Operations (for a positive Operating Income of \$0.5m), \$5.2m Capital, \$0.6m Other. The Township will be utilizing \$2.3m from reserves to complete our Capital Programs and balance the budget. Operations spending is police at \$2.8 million, administration at \$2.0m, public works at \$1.0m, fringes at \$3.3m and other operating expenses at \$1.5m. The balance is in our smaller funds like code enforcement, parks and water.

2021 BUDGET EXPENSES by DEPARTMENT



For 2021, we focused on the impact of properly funding the employee defined benefit pension plan, and worked closely with the volunteers from the Pension Advisory Committee to set up a methodology to address that going forward. In addition, we focused on capital programs for the next 5 years especially on our roads and bridges program. We're increasing taxes by .750 mills in 2021 to assist us in completing a more robust road program of \$6.3 million in road restoration over the next 5 years. Some of our other capital projects include replacing the salt storage building and adding to our trail system with funding received from grants.

Lastly, we are planning to allocate funds over the next 5 years to address the needs for our proposed Park & Recreation and Community Center facility. When the time comes we want to have the appropriate borrowing available to accommodate the anticipated \$4.9 million spending beginning in late 2021. In addition, we anticipate utilizing the funds received from the sale of the cell tower lease at the Township Complex to assist with the project.

We appreciate the efforts of Budget Analyst Ed Ebenbach, Finance Director Ken Wallace, our department heads and volunteers for the time they spend working with the Board of Supervisors to present a budget that is comprehensive and addresses the Township's ability to continue to provide the level of service that our residents have come to expect.

To review the full budget go to the website: www.doylestownpa.org

Meet Your State Legislative Representatives



State Senator Steven Santarsiero:
Senate District 10
Democrate, serving Bucks County (Part)

Education:
Bachelors Degree, Tufts University, 1987
J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law, 1992

Steven Santarsiero (Democratic Party) ran for election to the Pennsylvania State Senate to represent District 10. He won in the general election on November 6, 2018. Steve Santarsiero (Democratic Party) is a member of the Pennsylvania State Senate, representing District 10. He assumed office on December 1, 2018. His current term ends on November 30, 2022.

Recent Co-Sponsorship Memoranda:

- 12-23-2020 -- Emergency Relief Program
- 12-22-20 -- Prohibiting Annual or Lifetime Limits on Health Insurance Policies

Contact Information:

Senator Steven Santarsiero
Building 100, Suite 121
2003 Lower State Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
(215) 489-5000
Fax: (215) 345-1361

Senator Steven Santarsiero
Senate Box 203010
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3010
Room: 182 Main Capitol
(717) 787-7305



State House Representative Shelby Labs:
House District 143
Republican, serving Bucks County (Part)

Education:
Central Bucks High School West, 2005
Temple University, 2009 B.A. Communications

Shelby Labs (Republican Party) ran for election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent District 143. She won in the general election on November 3, 2020. She assumed office on December 1, 2020. Her current term ends on November 30, 2022.

Recent Co-Sponsorship Memoranda:

- 12-01-2020 -- Upskirting: Justice for Children Victimized in Schools and Elsewhere (Former HB 2453)
- 12-17-20 -- Hospitality Industry Recovery Grants

Contact Information:

Hon. Shelby Labs
1032 N. Easton Road
Suite C
Doylestown, PA 18902
(215) 489-2126
Fax: (215) 345-1361

Hon. Shelby Labs
153B East Wing
P.O. Box 202143
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Improvements for All Abilities Continue at Kids Castle

Project #1

Play area for 2 to 5 year-olds

1. Install New Piece
2. Move Tot Swing
3. Install New Fence
4. Install PIP Surface

Project #2

Three-Bay Swing Area

5. Install PIP Surface

SaveKidsCastle.org

Fire Prevention and Safety

During the winter and spring months extra steps must be taken to keep your home and family safe. The lower temperatures and winter storms can cause problems. Fire is fast and it only takes 30 seconds for a small fire to become a large fire producing large volumes of smoke and toxic gases. **Here are a few things that will help keep you and your family safe.**

- Test all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, change batteries, and replace detectors every ten years.
- Make sure your house numbers can be seen from the street so if help is needed emergency personnel can locate your home or business.
- If the power goes out, stay away from downed lines. If generators are being used, keep them away from windows, doors and other openings. Do not run generators in or near the garage.
- Have your furnace, fireplace and chimneys cleaned and inspected for safe operation during the winter months. Keep anything that can melt or burn at least 3 feet away from heating units. Dispose of cooled ashes properly in a noncombustible container.
- Do not use extension cords for portable heaters. Keep heaters away from anything that can burn like bedding, walls and furniture.
- Always read manufacturer's instructions for the proper use of electrical devices like holiday lights, kitchen appliances, digital devices and household tools.
- Plan and know two ways out in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and sidewalks of snow and other debris for easy access to your emergency. Have a common meeting place in a safe location outside. Call 911 to report an emergency.

The things you and your family do now could prevent problems in the future. We all want a safe and enjoyable winter and spring.



Tropical Storm Isaias Update



On August 4, 2020, Doylestown Township prepared for Tropical Storm Isaias. The Township experienced something that its never experienced before, an EF2 Tornado.

Several neighborhoods were impacted with damage to their homes, property and downed trees. The largest single impact was to Doylestown Health's Children's Village. The high winds flipped cars, shattered windows and tore into the childcare center. Township Police, Bucks County Sherriff's Department and local fire companies responded to aid in escorting staff and children from the rubble.

UPDATE: Sally Graham will be your U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) point of contact for Bucks County. The SBA has announced that Pennsylvania businesses, private nonprofits, and residents affected by Tropical Storm Isaias can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the SBA by February 16, 2021. (Sally.Graham@sba.gov 404-331-0333)

BICYCLE SAFETY

What *Every* Cyclist Must Know !



Doylestown's trails are some of the best in the region and are getting more popular all the time. Learning proper bicyclist rules for the trails will help everyone use them safely.



Bicycles Are Vehicles!

Bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of motor vehicles. (75 Pa.C.S. Sec.3501) Bicyclists must stop at stop signs, obey traffic signals, and yield to pedestrians.



Visit: www.doylestownpa.org/twp-information/biking/

It's The Law

Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes contains the laws which govern the operation of vehicles on Pennsylvania roads. In Pennsylvania, a bicycle is considered a vehicle and, as such, is governed by a general set of rules (common to all vehicles) and a specific set of rules (designed for bicycles).



Automobiles are not required to yield to bicycles being ridden across a crosswalk (at a trail crossing for example) as the **bicycle is treated as a vehicle**. A better choice is to dismount and walk your bike across; as a pedestrian you have the right-of-way!

Rules To Follow At Trail Crossings:



Stop and yield right-of-way to vehicular traffic on the roadway approaches at trail crossings where posted (Remember! – Trail crossings are posted with stop signs for bicyclists). Consider dismounting and walking your bike; especially at traffic signals and trail crossings with flashing beacons.



Yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk. Pedestrians have the right-of-way on shared used trails. You must give an audible signal as you approach and pass a pedestrian.

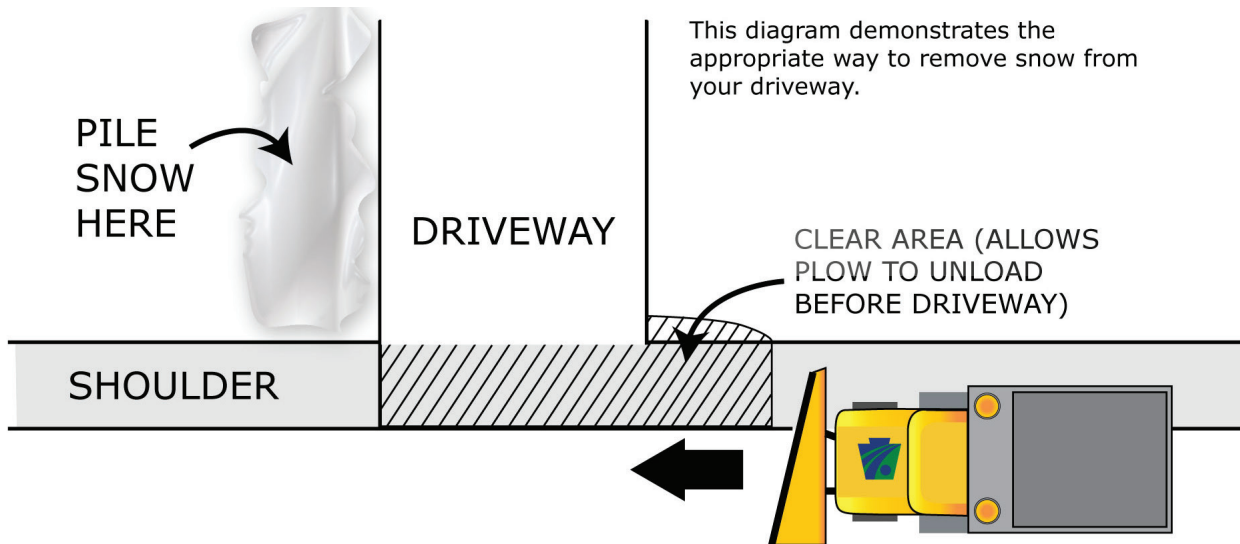
A Message from Doylestown Township Public Works

Before winter storms occur, the Public Works Department request that if you don't have to be out on the roads, please stay at home. Secondly, we request that residents remove obstructions from public streets or rights-of-way, including but not limited to:

- Parked vehicles
- Trash/recycling containers, and
- Basketball hoops

Residents are reminded that plowing or depositing of snow or ice from a private road onto a public street, or right-of-way is prohibited in accordance with the Doylestown Township Code, Chapter 151, Article III, § 151-13.

Public Works also recommends that residents clear their driveways in the following manner as recommended by PennDOT:

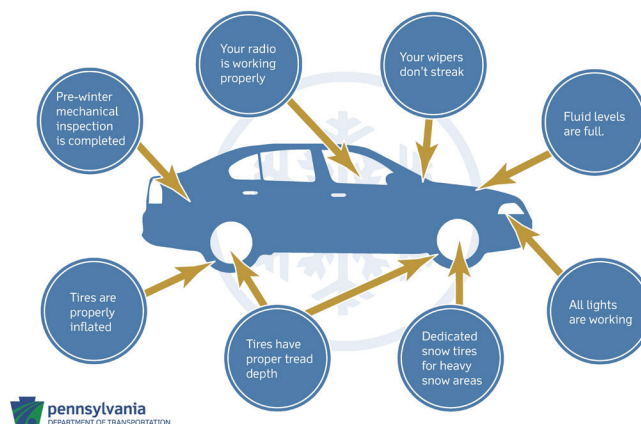


During winter storm events, the clearing of snow and ice from public streets and rights-of-way take precedence. Winter bike & hike trail maintenance will be conducted after the public streets and rights-of-way are cleared. Trail users are urged to use caution on all bike & hike trails during and after winter storm events.

Vehicle preparation is another key to successfully navigating winter roads. Winter weather can bring unexpected conditions, so make sure your vehicle is ready for ice and snow. Prior to the winter driving season you should have a mechanic check the brakes, battery, hoses and belts. Below are some additional tips for getting your vehicle ready for winter:

Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter

Motorists should ensure that...



A Message from Doylestown Township Municipal Authority

In December of 2020, the Doylestown Township Municipal Authority (DTMA) completed the rehabilitation and painting of our South One Water Tank located adjacent to Easton Road. Safety improvements and various metal work upgrades to the tank were also achieved. DTMA received a significant PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant to pay for most of the project. The South One Tank is the first tank in DTMA's system to be painted under our recently updated Tank Maintenance Plan. Performing necessary maintenance on water tanks prolongs the life expectancy of these vital assets and reduces the need for costly replacement. Water tanks store water for our customers, provide necessary water pressure, and are used during fire-fighting.

Tank Before:



Tank After:



Pebble Ridge and Woodridge Main Extensions

Also in 2020, DTMA began installing public water in the Pebble Ridge and Woodridge neighborhoods. Homeowners will receive a letter in the mail alerting them when they may connect to the DTMA system. DTMA thanks the residents for their patience during the construction.

Water Quality- Why is groundwater hard?

Did you know the Doylestown Township Municipal Authority provides water to approximately 3,000 customers via ten groundwater production wells? These wells withdraw groundwater from 300 feet to 500 feet below the surface. This groundwater is naturally filtered through the earth's crust. As a result of this natural filtration, dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium are present in the water. These minerals cause hardness in the water that is not a health risk but can impact soap and detergent performance and cause mineral buildup on fixtures. For specific questions related to your hardness, please contact the DTMA at (215) 348-9915.





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 425 WELLS ROAD DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901
 TEL: 215-348-9915 FAX: 215-348-8729
WWW.DOYLESTOWNPA.ORG
 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM (MONDAY-FRIDAY)



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 Ryan Manion, Vice Chairman
 Jennifer Herring
 Dan Wood
 Nancy Santacecilia

TOWNSHIP STAFF

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 Dean Logan, Chief of Police
 Charles Zeigler, Police Lieutenant/ Open Records Officer
 Dave Tomko, Director of Operations
 Ken Wallace, Finance Director
 Karen A. Sweeney, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Sinclair Salisbury, Director of Code Enforcement
 Rick Schea, Fire Marshal
 Aaron Walizer, Special Projects Coordinator
 Kaitlyn Finley, P&R Program Coordinator
 Paul Garr, Roads Superintendent
 Chris Mason, Parks Superintendent
 Jackie Rowand, Open Records Officer
 Keith Hass, Executive Director of DTMA
 Scott Miele, Water Superintendent

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- Agriculture Security Advisory Council
- Bike & Hike Committee
- Board of Auditors
- Board of Supervisors
- Dog Park Advisory Board
- Environmental Advisory Council/ Shade Tree Commission
- Friends of Kids' Castle
- Historical Architectural Review Board
- Doylestown Municipal Authority
- Local Traffic Advisory Committee
- Park & Recreation Board
- Planning Commission
- Public Water & Sewer Advisory Board
- Telecommunications Advisory Board
- UCC Board of Appeals
- Vacancy Board
- Ways & Means Committee
- Zoning Hearing Board

*****Would you like to volunteer? Send us an email at info@doylestownpa.org*****

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Bucks County Courthouse : 215-348-6000
 Bucks County Free Library : 215-348-9081
 Bucks County Health Department : 215-345-3318
 Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection : 215-348-6060
 Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority : 215 343-2538

Doylestown Fire Co. #1 - Non-emergency : 215-348-2656
 Doylestown Hospital : 215-345-2200
 Doylestown Post Office : 267-880-3918
 Doylestown Township : 215-348-9915
 PA Recycling Hotline : 800-346-4242
 PennDOT : 215-345-6060 , 1-800-FIX-ROAD (pothole)
 Police Non-Emergency: 215-348-4200 , 215-348-4201

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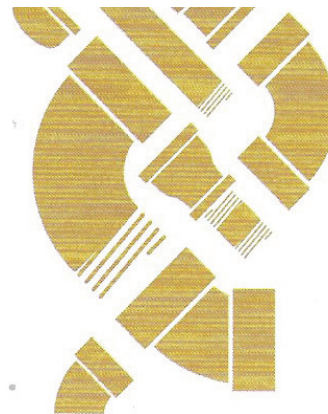




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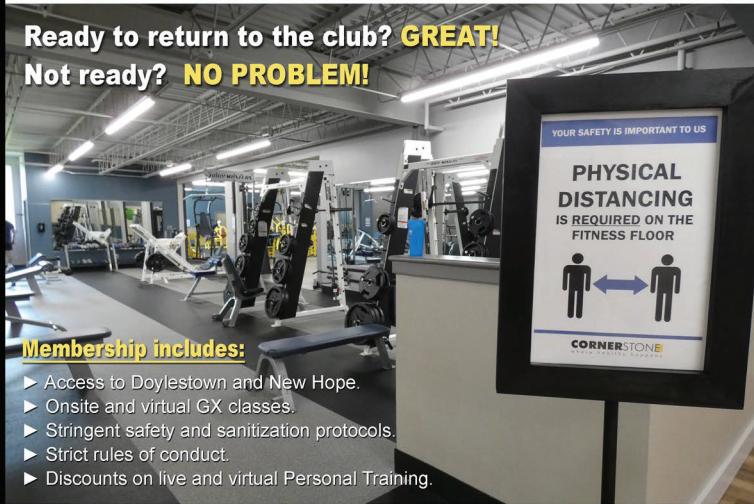
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