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Fall 2023 Newsletter | Volume 23 | Issue 3

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Chairman's Message: "Community Recreation Center and Park Improvement Project is Moving Forward"

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

The Board of Supervisors voted at a Special Meeting on October 3, 2023, to award the construction bids for the Community Recreation Center (CRC) and Park Improvement Project. The CRC portion of the project includes a full-size gymnasium providing much

needed space for indoor sports activities, leagues, resident open play and other recreational pursuits. There is also a subdivisible multipurpose room which will be available for parties, events, programs and meetings. The indoor/outdoor patio overlooking the park adds a connective space for outdoor activities and events. New courts include tennis, pickleball, bocce and basketball. The estimated cost of the project is 12.9 million, which includes the bid costs of \$9,793,100 for the general contractor, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and HVAC, as well as the soft costs of \$1,817,700 for flooring, furniture, audio visual, security, and indoor and outdoor athletic apparatus. It also includes \$633,000 for the "Comfort Cottage," which will house the permanent and accessible restrooms for all park goers, situated between Kids Castle and the Amphitheater. Consulting fees of \$670,000 for architects, engineers and consultants associated with the project were also covered. The project will be funded by bonds and supported through a combination of multiple grants and fundraising initiatives. An average increase of \$93.41 per household per year by a municipal tax increase is anticipated for debt service.



Doylestown Township
Capital Campaign

Community Recreation Center

Doylestown Township E-News

Stay Informed – Sign-up for E-News!

Are you signed up for E-News? It is a great way to stay on top of any recent news, events, and more! The E-News will hit your inbox every Friday at 4PM (please note it may end up in your junk/spam folder so please check that if you do not receive it). Signing up for e-news is easy-just visit our website at www.doylestownpa.org and click the link at the top menu to sign up for e-news. Stay connected and be informed!

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How We Spent Our Summer in DT!

Touch-A-Truck - May 13th

The Township hosted our annual Touch-A-Truck event. Despite some clouds and showers, the event was well attended by the community. We would like to thank all of our participants and our Public Works Department who helped coordinate this event! Thank you to everyone who came out for this event! Can't wait to see you next year!



Veterans Advisory Committee - Flag Raising Ceremony & Triangle Park Cleanup

The Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC) organized a Flag Raising Ceremony prior to the Summer Concert on June 14th. Cadets from the Civil Air Patrol served as the honor guard and representatives from the Police, Fire and EMS were in attendance. In addition, a local singer Blue Colacchio was on hand to sing the National Anthem.

The VAC also organized a cleanup of Triangle Park on May 17th. The Township would like to extend our appreciation to our Public Works (Parks Department), volunteers from the Bucks County Youth Detention Center, and other volunteers who spent a few hours cleaning, mulching, and planting Triangle Park. We would also like to thank The Garden Girl Company who donated plants to make Triangle Park look great this summer!



Summer Concerts

The Park and Recreation Department hosted 13 concerts for the Thompson Performing Arts Series which was held at the C & N Amphitheater in Central Park. Even with a very rare smoke air quality alert, we were able to have each of the concerts. There was a mix of all genres as well as local and nationally recognized musical groups. We had various food trucks and a beer garden throughout the summer! This summer the Township had several record-breaking amounts for our 50/50 raffles! Thank you to everyone who came out to join us and supported us through concession sales and donations!



Hart's Woods Clean-Up - May 24th

On May 24th, fifteen Penn Community Bank Employees, working with Doylestown Township's EAC's Bird Town Program, spent 3 hours on their Volunteer Day removing the invasive shrub, Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) from our Old Growth Forest, Hart's Woods in Central Park. Their outstanding efforts removed an area equivalent to about the size of a football field of this invasive shrub. Burning Bush attracts the white-footed mouse, the primary vector for supporting ticks that carry Lyme Disease. It also crowds out important natives that are needed to support our local birds and migrants in providing food and shelter. To learn more about this invasive shrub, please visit this site: <https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1738753&DocName=BurningBush.pdf>.



The overall state-wide Bird Town Pennsylvania Program (www.birdtownpa.org) was awarded \$10,000 by Penn Community Bank, with Doylestown Township's Bird Town receiving \$500 to be used to purchase native understory trees and shrubs to fill in this cleaned area. These new native plantings will provide much needed native understory habitat and will especially support our beautiful local woodland birds, the Wood Thrush and Ovenbird.

We're so grateful for this tremendous effort by Penn Community Bank's employees and also to our Public Works Department for the huge clean-up of all the debris afterwards. Please come and visit this site to see the transformation already.

3rd Annual National Night Out

The Doylestown Township Police Department hosted their third annual National Night Out at Central Park on August 1st. It was a great evening with perfect weather with several agencies from across the County and a K-9 Demonstration in addition the State Police Mounted Unit was here and provided a rare opportunity to see two horses from their unit. Thank you to everyone involved and all of the sponsors! Special thank you to Sgt. Jessica Whiteside who spearheaded and organized this community event! We hope to see you next year!



Golf Outing

The 30th Annual Township Golf Outing was held on August 21st at the Doylestown Country Club with 126 golfers in attendance. This year, the Township raised over \$30,000 which will go to help support the many park projects in the Township including the proposed Recreation and Community Center and other park improvements that are planned in Central Park. We hope you join us next year!



Heritage Tree Program

by: Anne Woodbury, EAC Member

When many of us think about Bucks County, or Doylestown Township in particular, we may think of field stone farmhouses, bank barns and bluestone walkways. But do we think of what frames those structures? It is the farm fields, woodlots and meandering streams that “flesh out” this vision. And it is the large, mature trees that really define the overall landscape.

Our oldest, largest trees are the signifiers of our history on this land—history shared by Native Americans and European settlers, more recent immigrants. Trees are the quiet testament to our mutual heritage.

Doylestown Township’s Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has revived a program called the Heritage Tree Program to honor these leafy sentinels. Through this program, EAC hopes to identify important trees in our Township—champion trees or trees of significance.

Interested? Here’s how you can participate. If you have a large, old tree on your property

and would like to know if it is a champion (or a significant tree), please contact the Township at 215-348-9915 or by email at info@doylestownpa.org. One of the EAC team members will contact you and set up an appointment to measure your tree and photograph it.

If your tree has the highest score for that species, you will be awarded a certificate from the Township. If your tree is large, but not a Champion, you may receive a Tree of Significance certificate.

Just as it is important to document historic buildings, it is equally important that we document the large trees of our area. Large trees out-perform smaller trees in carbon sequestration, mitigation of runoff, pollution control, and other services. Large trees provide habitat for a much wider array of birds, insects and animals than their smaller counterparts. Large trees play an important role in our local ecology.

We live in a beautiful Township. Let’s celebrate our big trees!

Here is a list of Recent Champion Trees and Tree of Significance:

- Andon George, Champion Black Walnut
- Linda and Brian Tilton, Champion Saucer Magnolia
- David Strawn, Champion Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Don Schuenemann, Champion Silver Maple
- Don Schuenemann, Champion White Ash
- Marcello & Priya Mangano, Significant White Ash



*Andon George,
Champion Black Walnut*



*Linda and Brian Tilton,
Champion Saucer Magnolia*



*Don Schuenemann,
Champion White Ash*

Unsung Hero Award 2023 - Jeannine Mitchell

At the June 20th Board of Supervisors Meeting, Jeannine Mitchell, a longtime member of our Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was awarded the Unsung Hero Award. Jeannine Mitchell has been a member of the EAC for over 10 years. Jeannine has been a champion of environmental initiatives and spearheaded many projects in the Township including:

- The award-winning Native Plant Demonstration Garden that is located in the Environmental Education area of Central Park (just follow the path over the bridge near Kids Castle and follow the path to the left).
- As a Master Gardener with the Penn State Extension, she has also started evaluating and helping to have Township-owned properties become certified as a Watershed-Friendly Property – an article was featured in 2023 Summer Newsletter regarding this project.

This is just a small snapshot of the contributions that Jeannine has provided to our community! This is a well-deserved honor! Thank you Jeannine!



Septic Management

Septic Systems and Well Testing is required every three years! Are you up to date?

Attention Doylestown Township Residents who have septic systems and well water - you need to pump your septic systems and test your well water every three years, which is required by Township Ordinance.

- **Anyone who is in non-compliance and past due for this requirement**
- Property owners received a final letter (multiple reminders have been sent!) and are required to comply with either pumping their septic system and/or testing their water by **November 30th** or the Code Enforcement Department will act which may include fines and legal action. Please make sure your property is complying with these requirements.
- **Reminders for properties due in 2023** - If you are due in 2023, please make sure you submit your water test result or pumper report to the Township before the end of this year.

Some important things to remember:

- All water test results, and pumper reports can be submitted several ways:
 - » E-mail: info@doylestownpa.org
 - » Dropped Off or Mail to:
Doylestown Township 425 Wells Road Doylestown, PA 18901
 - » Fax: 215-348-8729
- It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure the pumper report and water test results are sent to the Township. The pumper haulers should be submitting this report, but you are encouraged to follow up and make sure the report was sent. However, the water test results are not sent by the testing facility to the Township, property owners need to submit these reports.
- You are only required to test your water for coliform bacteria, nothing else is required. Please make sure that the water is tested for coliform bacteria or you will be asked to redo the test.
- Please submit your water test results even if they are positive for coliform bacteria, you will still be in compliance with the ordinance. The Township will send a letter with some tips on how to correct this problem.
- There is a list of pumper haulers that are registered with the Township and they should be the only ones that are used - this list can be found at the link below.
- Please note if you have public sewer but still have well water, you are not required to test your water, only if you have a septic system.

For more information on this program, please visit doylestownpa.org/information/septic-management-program/ or scan QR code.



Thank you for your cooperation in completing these requirements!



Leaf & Yard Waste Drop-Off Hours

Leaf & Yard waste is accepted on:

- 3rd Saturday of each month from 9-11am
- Every Tuesday, the site will be open from 9am-2pm

Residents of the Township only, no contractors or businesses please!

Please make sure that when you are dropping off that you dump the bags out and take the bags with you.

In addition, during these hours, you can also pick up free mulch for your use on your private properties! Please note that mulch is the only thing that is available for pickup.

Stormwater Tips to Help Prepare Your Yard and Home Before Winter!

The arrival of cold winter weather can bring all sorts of issues for your yard and our sewer system. Fallen leaves can clog gutters and storm drains then freeze in place, causing flooding when it rains or snows. Water expands when it freezes, which can crack and damage garden hoses or rain barrels that haven't been emptied.

Prepare your yard and home before winter:

- **Drain, remove, and store garden hoses.** Close the inside valves that control the water supply to the outside hose spigot, then open the outside spigot to allow any remaining water to drain.
- **Clean out roof gutters.** Remove leaves and other debris so that the gutters can drain properly when ice and snow melts.
- **Rake up leaves.** Fallen leaves can smother your lawn or wash away into storm drains. Compost leaves at home, or bring them to our Leaf and Yard Waste Drop-Off at the New Britain Road Entrance to Central Park which takes place the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9AM-11AM and Every Tuesday from 9AM-2PM
- **If you have a rain garden, add a layer of mulch and rake any leaves.** This will help the garden manage stormwater during winter and ready it for spring. Avoid cutting back plant growth, since it can provide food and cover for winter birds.
- **If you have a rain barrel, drain and store it.** Clear the barrel filter of debris. If storing outside, cover with a tarp and leave the barrel spigot open so it can drain any water that may enter. If you have a downspout diverter, switch it to bypass the barrel so that water drains through the downspout.



Chairman's Message Continued from Page 1

Fundraising opportunities include naming rights, a donor recognition program, and Township sponsored initiatives, such as our current raffle with a chance to win one of the three exciting prizes. Donations are tax deductible under the IRS Code 170(c)(1) as charitable contributions to a governmental unit. Funding was discussed in various public meetings and the input and contribution from the community were considered in determining how the project was to be supported.

To date, the Township has been awarded \$1,700,000 in grant funding. This includes a grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for \$1 million for the construction of the Community Recreation Center, \$500,000 for the construction of the new courts, and \$200,000 from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). We are thankful to State Senator Steve Santarsiero for his assistance in obtaining the RACP funding and to all who have supported the Capital Fundraising Campaign thus far.

The Township is mindful of our residents who may be on a fixed income. We are thankful to State Representative Tim Brennan, who went to bat and fought for an increase in the tax rebate for homeowners and renters who earn \$45,000.00 or less in annual income. The rebate is currently \$650.00 per year but will increase to \$1,000.00 per year in 2024 for seniors and others who may qualify. The Township is committed to making sure all of our residents will benefit from this program and so will offer information and assistance to those who need it when applying for the rebate.

We invite everyone to stay tuned and be informed about the progress of the improvements. If you have any interest in participating in our fundraising efforts, or questions about the project in general, please contact me or Stephanie Mason, the Township Manager.

We look forward to the park improvements in Central Park and hope you will as well.

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP STAFF & COMMITTEES

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Nancy Santacecilia
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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
Finance Committee
Friends of Kids' Castle
Historical Architectural Review Board
Doylestown Municipal Authority
Local Traffic Advisory Committee
Park & Recreation Board
Pension Advisory Committee
Planning Commission
Public Water & Sewer Advisory Board
Telecommunications Advisory Board
UCC Board of Appeals
Vacancy Board
Veterans Advisory Committee
Zoning Hearing Board

Would you like to volunteer? Please send us an email at info@doylestownpa.org.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--|---|
| Bucks County Courthouse: 215-348-6000 | Doylestown Fire Co.#1 Non-Emergency: 215-348-2656 |
| Bucks County Free Library: 215-348-9081 | Doylestown Hospital: 215-345-2200 |
| Bucks County Health Department: 215-345-3318 | Doylestown Post Office: 267-880-3918 |
| Bucks County Consumer Protection: 215-348-6060 | Doylestown Township: 215-348-9915 |
| Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority: 215 343-2538 | PA Recycling Hotline: 800-346-4242 |
| Central Bucks School District: 267-893-2000 | PennDOT: 215-345-6060, 1-800-FIX-ROAD (pothole) |
| Doylestown Borough: 215-345-4140 | Police Non-Emergency: 215-348-4200, 215-348-4201 |

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