

# Preserving the past. Embracing the future. Summer 2024 Newsletter | Volume 24 | Issue 2

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## 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! E-News will hit your inbox every Friday at 4PM (please note it may end up in your junk/spam folder so please check there if you do not receive it). Signing up for e-news is easy, just visit our website at **doylestownpa.org** and click the link at the top menu to sign up for e-news.

Stay connected and be informed!

# Chairman's Message

# By: Jennifer Herring, Chairman Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors

The most important reason for local government is you, the community. That is why Doylestown Township's Board of Supervisors has invested in our community by improving roads, upgrading parks, and developing ways to make the environment cleaner. Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents is reflected in these efforts and many more initiatives.

None of this would be possible without the outstanding work of our dedicated staff and volunteers. Their tireless efforts ensure that Doylestown Township remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Many of the improvements in Doylestown Township start with ideas from members of our boards and commissions. These committees consist of your neighbors who generously donate their skills and time. Their contributions are invaluable in shaping the future of our community and addressing the needs and concerns of our residents.

Recently, the Environmental Advisory Council held a garden party to celebrate 10 years of the Native Plant Garden—a labor of love for many official members of the committee and many others in the community. This garden stands as a testament to our commitment to environmental stewardship and community involvement. Additionally, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) is our newest commission, dedicated to fostering a more inclusive and equitable community. Their work is crucial in ensuring that all residents feel valued and respected.

The Veterans Advisory Committee decorated a township truck to be a part of the annual Memorial Day parade to honor our veterans. Their dedication to recognizing and supporting our veterans is a vital part of our community's spirit.

Continues on Page 2

## **Chairman's Message**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

Our committees include:

- Bike and Hike Committee
- Environmental Advisory Council
- Finance Committee
- Friends of Kids Castle
- Human Relations Commission
- Local Traffic Advisory Committee
- Doylestown Township Municipal Authority (DTMA)
- Park and Recreation Board
- Pension Advisory Committee
- Planning Commission
- Public Water & Sewer Advisory Board
- Telecommunications Advisory Board
- Veterans Advisory Committee
- Zoning Hearing Board

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer, contribute to your community, and work alongside some truly remarkable people. Volunteering is not only a chance to give back but also a way to connect with your neighbors and make a tangible difference in our township.

Visit our webpage to see a list of current vacancies and find out how you can get involved. Your participation is vital to our success, and we look forward to working with you to continue making Doylestown Township a great place to live

## **Doylestown Township presents the Lights Out Program**

On May 21, 2024, the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors was pleased to adopt the Lights Out Program. The program seeks to enlist help from the public to reduce the number of deaths to migrating birds from the months of April 1st to May 31st and August 15th to November 15th.

Doylestown Township is not the only place to adopt the Lights Out Program in the United States. Over 50 cities, including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg, participate in the program. With Doylestown Township now part of this program, the township helps to maintain one of the four important Migration Flyways called the Atlantic Flyway. Birds typically fly along established flyways, which offer birds ample opportunities to rest and refuel themselves during their lengthy journey.



The program requests that residents limit the amounts of light their homes or businesses produce during the hours of 11:00pm to 5:00am to reduce the intensity of light pollution. Light pollution at nighttime kills an estimated 1 billion birds each year, and Doylestown Township wishes to aid in the reduction of these preventable deaths by participating in the Lights Out Program. The Township requests that residents implement lighting with orange or red bulbs or turning off outside lights during the above hours. With the reduction of light pollution, birds can navigate their established flyways with efficiency while also decreasing the chances of having a fatal collision with a building. In participating in this program, Doylestown Township will help ensure that one of nature's greatest wonders continues unimpeded and that birds can continue their journey in the sky smoothly.

To learn more about the Lights Out Program, go to audubon.org/our-work/cities-and-towns/lights-out.

#### **Human Relations Commission**

On June 18, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Human Relations Ordinance (also known as the Human Relations Commission or HRC). This Ordinance seeks to ensure equality for all citizens for employment, housing, and the use of public accommodations within Doylestown Township. The Township serves as a reflection of the entirety of the nation, as such, Doylestown Township sees benefit in a law that protects all people from discrimination.

Members of the HRC will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and a minimum of three members shall be Township residents. These positions can be given to residents, individuals who work full time in the Township, or business owners who operate in the Township. Doylestown Township wants to ensure that all people experience fair and just treatment in each opportunity in life, and with the help of the Hu

experience fair and just treatment in each opportunity in life, and with the help of the Human Relations Commission that goal will be taken in stride.

Please visit our website at **doylestownpa.org** to view the full Ordinance and if you have any questions, please call the Township at **215-348-9915**.



# **Arbor Day 2024 Community Tree Planting Event**



On Saturday, April 27, 2024, Doylestown Township planted 50 native trees of eleven different species! More than thirty volunteers and staff lent their hands to assist in moving and settling these trees along the Neamand Trail. These trees will play vital roles in our community, serving purposes such as soil stabilization, providing food, offering nesting sites, and serving as shelter for wildlife, all while enhancing the area's beauty.

The Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) extends heartfelt gratitude to several key contributors for their dedicated efforts during the recent tree planting event. The Board of Supervisors, including Jennifer Herring (Board Chairman) and members Dan Wood and Judy Dixon, along with the volunteer residents, and staff including the Parks Superintendent, Chris Mason, and his crew (Greg, Ryan, and Joe) provided invaluable assistance, ensuring smooth operations and successful implementation of the project. Additionally, Andrea Susten, Assistant Township Manager, helped support and coordinate the process.

Together, their collective commitment and hard work significantly contributed to enhancing the sustainability and beauty of Doylestown Township. This Earth Day/Arbor Day event significantly boosts the beauty and sustainability of Doylestown Township, and we express our gratitude to all who contributed to its success!



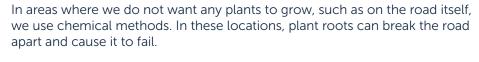




Our standard operating procedure for roadside vegetation control involves several methods: manual, mechanical, and chemical.

Manual methods, such as using weed eaters, chainsaws, and pruners, are labor-intensive. These methods are used to keep vegetation at a safe height without removing the roots, which helps hold roadside ditches in place and prevents them from washing out.

Mechanical methods, including brush hogs and flail mowers, serve a similar purpose. These techniques also maintain vegetation at a safe height while preserving the roots.



Here are two pictures: one shows an area that we moved to ensure the traveling public's safety and maintain visibility of road signs. The other depicts a curb line in front of a residence where grass is allowed to grow between the curb and the blacktop.

Did you know that you can sign up to be on the Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry? If you sign up for the registry, you will be notified if pesticide applications are present within 500 feet of your residence.

Learn more about the registry at paplants.pa.gov.



# **Doylestown Township Adopts Single-Use Plastic Ordinance**

The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce its contribution to decrease the amount of plastic waste that pollutes our world through the new Single-Use Plastic Ordinance that prohibits the use of single-use plastic bags and nonrecyclable paper bags in retail establishments. The ordinance was enacted on May 21, 2024, by the Board of Supervisors, and the use of single-use plastic and nonrecyclable paper bags during a sale will be prohibited after implementation date of November 17th, 2024.

The purpose of this ordinance originates from the township's wish to lessen the plastic waste that litters public domains such as parks, trees, and roads. In addition, Doylestown Township seeks to protect the aquatic environment of the area and limit the amount of plastic that becomes ensnared in waterways (such as streams and storm drains). The township encourages residents to utilize more sustainable methods for carry-out goods (e.g., groceries or clothing) such as reusable cloth bags.

Doylestown Township will provide a 6-month adjustment period for all retail establishments to provide a sign whereby each retail establishment in the Township can provide notice to patrons beginning September 2024 to make the public aware of the contents of the ordinance. Signage at local businesses will be visible until March 2025 and will be shown at all points of sale in retail establishments to provide key information for customers. Doylestown Township kindly requests the publics compliance with this ordinance to better protect our environment.

For further information, please visit doylestownpa.org.

CARRY

# **Native Plant Garden Party**

The Garden Party, held on Saturday, June 22, 2024 was thrown by the Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), marking the 10th Anniversary of the Native Plant Garden in Central Park. It served as a gathering point for residents and families eager to learn about native plants and immerse themselves in the beauty of the garden in full bloom, right in their community.

The EAC gave away a reusable bag that they designed to further promote sustainability efforts. These bags will be available at future EAC and Township's events to continue to engage with the community. Attendees enjoyed the live music, native plant giveaways, engaging in environmental crafts, and enjoying refreshments and food!



At the event, the Lenape Garden was unveiled with the installation of a new sign, offering visitors a glimpse into its significance and providing educational content and captivating photos to deepen understanding about the Lenape culture.

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who joined us in supporting the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and the Township. Your presence and enthusiasm made the event a memorable success!





## **Bright Path Center Groundbreaking**

On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Bright Path Center which marks the start of an important journey towards enhancing mental health care services in our community.

"The first of its kind in Pennsylvania, the center is a collaborative effort between Lenape Valley Foundation,
Doylestown Health, Bucks County Department of Behavioral Health/Developmental Programs, Bucks County Drug &
Alcohol Commission, Magellan Behavioral Health, and NAMI. Lenape Valley Foundation will operate the center."

- Lenape Valley Foundation



# Solar Panels vs. Solar Shingles: A Guide to **Evaluating the Best Solution for Your Home.**

**Article by Eiseman Construction** 

Solar shingles, an innovative advancement in renewable energy technology, offer homeowners an aesthetically pleasing alternative to traditional solar panels. These photovoltaic shingles not only provide a seamless integration into the roof design but also harness solar energy efficiently, contributing to a sustainable future. As more homeowners and businesses look towards eco-friendly energy solutions, understanding the benefits, installation process, and cost implications of solar shingles becomes essential.

**Disclaimer**: This article is intended for educational purposes only. The Township does not sponsor, endorse, or have any affiliation with Eiseman Construction, or any other company mentioned in this article. Readers are encouraged to conduct their own research and consult with professionals before making any decisions regarding solar shingles.

The popularity of renewable energy has brought solar power to the forefront as a sustainable solution that increases home values. Doylestown has been forward-thinking when it comes to solar energy and recent installations have appeared around the township. With ever-increasing efficiency that delivers real energy cost savings, solar panels have long been the solution for converting sunlight into electricity. More recently, solar shingles have become popular because they offer seamless integration into building materials and are aesthetically pleasing options without sacrificing functionality. While both technologies have benefits, knowing the differences between the two is key to deciding which option is best for you.

**Aesthetics**: One distinction between solar panels and solar shingles is their appearance. Panels are typically mounted on top of an existing roof, while solar roof shingles are integrated into the roof itself, resembling traditional roofing materials. Solar shingles blend seamlessly with conventional roofing materials, providing a sleek low-profile look that avoids the bulky appearance of traditional solar panel arrays. This integration offers a more aesthetically pleasing look, while solar panels may appear bulkier and more noticeable.

**Installation**: Solar panels require a dedicated mounting system to be installed on the roof. The mounting system secures the panels, wires them together, and connects them to a device that converts DC electricity, which is what a solar panel generates, to AC electricity, which the electrical grid uses. Some manufacturer's warranties for the roofing material expressly disallow solar panels. In most cases, solar panels will not void your roof warranty if your installer is properly certified and follows the roofing manufacturer's instructions.

Solar shingles' technological advances offer many benefits over traditional solar panels. Solar shingle systems can be installed without roof penetration. Rather than using mounting hardware to install solar shingles on top of your roof like panels, solar shingles are part of your roof, replacing traditional asphalt or slate shingles. Simplifying the installation process and reducing labor costs, solar shingles can be installed as part of the initial roofing process or as a direct replacement for existing shingles.

Efficiency: Traditionally solar panels held an advantage over solar roof shingles with higher efficiency, enabling them to generate more electricity from the same amount of sunlight. However, advancements in solar roof shingle technology have



vastly improved their efficiency levels, and because shingles can be installed without roof penetration, solar shingles are gaining in popularity.

Solar panels and shingles require lots of sunlight, so it is essential to evaluate the orientation and tilt of your roof. Shading from trees, neighboring buildings, or other obstructions can reduce solar energy production. Solar panels offer more flexibility in placement, allowing installers to position them optimally on various parts of the roof. In contrast, solar shingles are uniformly spread across the roof and may be less effective in shaded environments. A thorough assessment by a certified professional installer can help you determine the best configuration.

Selecting the right installer is crucial for a successful and efficient solar roofing installation. It is important to select an installer that is GAF certified. The GAF Golden Pledge warranty provides 100% coverage on roofing systems for 25 years. This warranty includes an energy output guarantee plus a workmanship warranty.

At Eiseman, we are committed to helping our community be more energy efficient. If you have questions about solar installation, we encourage you to reach out. Whether you choose our services or one of our competitors, we want to help you maximize your solar investment. We are proud to support Doylestown residents as they determine the best solution for their homes.

## **Upcoming Events**

#### **Summer Concert Series**

Our Summer Concert Series has been a huge success! Keep an eye out for upcoming events on our website.

Also featured throughout the series:

Beer Garden featuring Warwick Farm Brewing



#### **NEED A RIDE? Catch the DART!**

The Doylestown DART Bus will be making the rounds with several scheduled stops to make sure everyone has the opportunity to attend.

For more information, visit doylestownrec.org



## **Fido Float at Fanny**

Saturday, September 9, 2024

Location: Fanny Chapman Pool - 10 McKinstry Drive,

Doylestown, PA 18901

Middle Pool for Large Dogs (30 lbs +)

Toddler Pool for Small Dogs (29 lbs and under)

**Session 1:** (Large Dogs ) 11:00am – 12:00pm **Session 2:** (Large Dogs) 12:30pm – 1:30pm **Session 3:** (Small Dogs) 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Fee: Dog Park (DP) members:

\$10/dog/session Non-members:

\$15/dog/session

Grab your canine companions and join us for a special "Dogs Only" swim event at Fanny Chapman Pool.

Pre-registration is required.

No walk-ins admitted.



#### **Annual Golf Outing - FORE Parks**

Monday, October 7, 2024

Commonwealth National Golf Club

Check-in: 8:00am Shotgun start: 9:00am

Join us for this popular outing presented by Doylestown Township. YOUR participation and sponsorship support will make a difference for generations to come.

Includes breakfast, golf, refreshments, contests, hole-in-

one prize opportunities, cocktail reception and awards.





#### **Fall Food Truck Fest**

**Saturday, September 22, 2024** • 1:00pm – 5:00pm C&N Bank Amphitheater

It's back and better than ever for 2024! There will be many different style food trucks, music, games, crafters, and fun! Come for lunch—stay for dinner! Food Trucks will be announced via social media.

## **Penn Community Bank Day of Service at Central Park**

On June 5, 2024, the Township was thrilled to host Penn Community Bank and Special Olympics of Bucks County for the Penn Community Bank Day of Service.

A team from Penn Community Bank and Special Olympics Athletes worked together to mulch and beautify Central Park. They also made signs and snack bags to cheer on the Athletes who were leaving the next day for Penn State to compete in the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Summer Games from June 6-8. In addition, the two organizations worked together to craft scoreboards for the soon to be constructed bocce ball courts that will be part of the Community Recreation Center and Park Improvement Project, which is currently under construction. The two scoreboards will be installed when the new bocce courts are completed, and we look forward to welcoming both organizations back to unveil their work. The highlight of the afternoon was the Special Olympics bocce ball team athletes teaching the Penn Community volunteers how to play bocce ball on a field in the park.

It was a rousing and celebratory ending to the day's collaborative efforts. In conjunction with the Day of Service, Penn Community Bank donated \$10,000 to Bucks County Special Olympics. Penn Community Bank sets aside time each year for a Day of Service. It is an all-team member event involving the entire organization in a physical and public expression of their mission providing team members an opportunity for scheduled community involvement with over a dozen partner nonprofits throughout the region. In addition to hundreds of volunteer hours, Penn Community Bank provides over \$100,000 in financial support to participating organizations. June 5th at Central Park was a great example of how businesses, nonprofits and municipalities can come together and make a spirited impact on a community.









# **Safety Tips - Share the Road!**

Help keep the roads safe for everyone by adhering to these safety precautions. Remember, no one — no driver, cyclist, or pedestrian — has sole rights to the road. It's a shared space where we all have rights and responsibilities. Here's what you should know:

#### If you're a Driver:

- Bicyclists and motorcyclists have the same rights to the road as a vehicle.
- Drivers must observe a 4-foot rule allowing this distance between your vehicle and the bicyclist.
- Drivers should not cross the yellow line to pass a cyclist on a blind curve or hill where you cannot see upcoming traffic. Wait until you are sure the road is free before using the opposing lane to pass.
- To assure a safe stopping distance, allow more space behind a motorcycle.
- Yield to pedestrians when they're in a crosswalk. Follow the speed limit.
- Be extra cautious of pedestrians when backing up across sidewalks or in parking lots.
- Use your turn signal. Cyclists and pedestrians look for these cues when navigating around vehicles.

## If you're a Bicyclist or Motorcyclist:

- Bicyclists and motorcyclists must obey signs and signals.
- Bicyclists should always ride with traffic, or use bike lanes. Avoid riding on sidewalks when possible.
- Bicyclists should utilize a highly luminated tail light. A headlight is also recommended.
- Bicyclists must wear a helmet. Bright or neon colored clothing is recommended.

## If you're a Pedestrian:

- Pedestrians should use sidewalks, if available. Otherwise walk facing traffic and as far from vehicles as possible. Take extra care on hills or turns. Make sure you are seen!
- Cross streets at crosswalks when they are available. If there isn't a crosswalk, cross at a highly visible place where drivers can best see you.
- At dusk or night, wear light clothes at night or carry a flashlight! Drivers cannot see you in dark clothing.
- Attempt to make eye contact with a vehicle's driver before crossing a busy intersection. Make sure you are seen!
- Pause your phone call or podcast to make sure you are fully aware of your surroundings when crossing a street, crosswalk, busy driveway or parking lot.



# Awarded Outstanding Citizen Communication Award

Doylestown Township was the recipient of the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Outstanding Citizen Communication Award!

Jennifer V. Herring, Chairman, Judy Dixon, Board member, Stephanie Mason, Township Manager, and Andrea Susten, Assistant Township Manager, were present at the 2024 annual conference to accept the award. The township, having won this award three times, deeply appreciates the recognition for our transparency and citizen engagement efforts.



## **Easton Road Roundabouts**

The Easton Road Roundabouts project is located at the intersections of Easton Road and New Britain Road. This project is essential because the area has a high crash rate, and roundabouts are expected to reduce these incidents.

The primary goal of the project is to create a safer and more efficient route for multiple users, including:

- SEPTA Bus Route 55 and Doylestown Area Transit (DART) users, who will benefit from improved bus stops.
- Cyclists and pedestrians, who will have better mobility and safety due to the inclusion of sidewalks and ADA-compliant crossings.
- The roundabout will provide a safer crossing for both vehicles and pedestrians.

The majority of the construction is expected to be completed by mid-August, with the roundabout open for public use by that time. Only minor work will remain afterward. The project began in October with an original completion date of April 2026. However, due to the efforts of PennDOT, the project will be finished ahead of schedule.





#### 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 Consumer** Protection: 215-348-6060

**Bucks County Water** & Sewer Authority: 215 343-2538

Central Bucks School District: 267-893-2000

Doylestown Borough: 215-345-4140

Non-Emergency: 215-348-2656

Doylestown Fire Co.#1

Doylestown Hospital: 215-345-2200

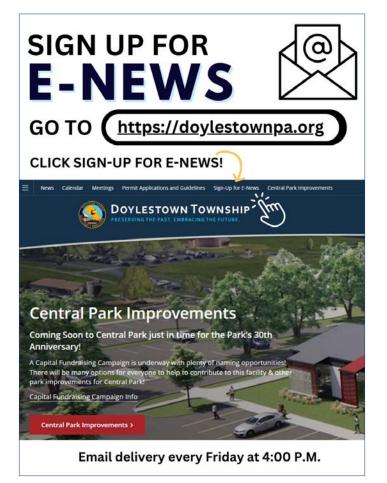
Doylestown Post Office: 267-880-3918

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



## **Intern Spotlight**

We are excited to introduce our dynamic group of summer interns joining us this year. These talented individuals bring a diverse range of skills and perspectives, eager to contribute and learn during their time with us.

Please join us in welcoming Lindsey, TJ and Katie to the team!

#### **Lindsey Rolke**

My name is Lindsey Rolke, and I am a summer intern in the Finance department here at Doylestown Township! Since graduating high school in 2021, I have been a student at the

University of Pittsburgh studying accounting and business information systems. Upon my graduation from the university, I will be continuing my education to obtain a master's in accounting. Being from New Hope, I wanted to be close to my family while pursuing opportunities to further my career. Thanks to Doylestown Township, I've been able to do just that! My time at Doylestown Township has allowed me to learn the ins and outs of local government and build upon my foundations of finance knowledge.



#### **TJ** Grenda

My name is TJ Grenda and I'm from Perkasie, PA. I am entering my senior year at Susquehanna University, where I'm studying finance. After graduation, I will be looking to begin my career in the Philadelphia area. My internship at Doylestown Township has equipped me with valuable insights into government finance, while enhancing my communication skills in the professional environment.

#### **Katie McDermott**

My name is Katherine (Katie) McDermott, and I am a Support Intern at Doylestown Township. I currently attend Lafayette College in Easton, PA, and I am a Policy Studies major with an Economics minor. I decided to apply for this internship to refine and add to my skillset, and to help guide me on what career path I should walk upon once I graduate from college. One of the more important lessons of this internship I have picked up on is transparency. One of the most important lessons I have learned during this internship is the value of transparency. By being transparent with the information, you have and the expectations that come with it, you help others stay informed and follow along with you more easily.



# Preserving the past. Embracing the future.



Doylestown Township 425 Wells Road Doylestown, PA 18901 Presorted Standard Mail U.S. Postage PAID Permit # 50 West Chester, PA

Doylestown Township was founded in 1818 after the inhabitants of Doylestown and its vicinity petitioned the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions for the establishment of the Township of Doylestown. According to the US Census Bureau, there are 17,971 people residing in Doylestown Township.

PHONE: 215-348-9915
FAX: 215-348-8729

DOYLESTOWNPA.ORG

HOURS: Monday-Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

#### **DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP STAFF & COMMITTEES**

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Jennifer Herring, *Chairman*Barbara N. Lyons, *Vice-Chairman*Judy Dixon
Nancy Santacecilia
Dan Wood

#### **TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager
Andrea Mergner, Assistant Township Manager
Dean Logan, Chief of Police
Charles Zeigler, Lieutenant/Open Records Officer
Dave Tomko, Director of Operations
Ken Wallace, Finance Director
Anne Marie Dobson, Assistant Finance Director
Karen A. Sweeney, Director of Parks & Recreation
Sinclair Salisbury, Director of Code Enforcement
Rick Schea, Fire Marshal
Paul Garr, Roads Superintendent
Chris Mason, Parks Superintendent
Margaret Trageser, Open Records Officer
Keith Hass, Executive Director of DTMA
Brent Eaton, Water Superintendent

#### **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Agriculture Security Advisory Council
Bike & Hike Committee
Board of Auditors
Board of Supervisors
Environmental Advisory Council/
Shade Tree Commission
Finance Committee
Friends of Kids' Castle
Historical Architectural Review Board
Doylestown Township Municipal
Authority (DTMA)
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.

