

# VILLAGE OF DOYLESTOWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## A Message From The Mayor....



I can't believe that Spring is right around the corner. According to Punxsutawney Phil, winter should almost be over...I guess we'll have to wait and see!

Our March issue of the Community Newsletter ushers in many new changes for our Village. The retirement of longtime Cemetery Superintendent Dave Monbarren, brings us a new Superintendent, longtime resident Dave Watkins. More information is on Pages 2 and 3.

Our Police Department has seen some recent changes as well. That write up is featured on Pages 8 and 9.

Our Business Spotlight features a new Doctor at Summa Family Medicine. Dr. Emily Godlewski, M.D. joins Dr. Wenger in providing our residents with the most up to date care. See page 4 for more details.

All of our annual events are highlighted on Pages 6 and 7, so make sure you mark your calendars for all that 2013 will bring. I would like to make a special mention regarding our new trash hauler contract. We will be changing our curbside recycling days from the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month to the **1ST AND 3RD** Fridays beginning April 5th. Page 5 has all the details.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Community Newsletter, and have a safe and enjoyable Spring.

Mayor Terry L. Lindeman

Brought to you as a community service and funded by the Village Council of Doylestown



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## Thank You Dave Monbarren for the Last 37 Years of Loyal and Dedicated Service to our Village



**Dave and Agnes Monbarren**

Born in Massillon, Ohio and raised in Fresno (Coshocton County) and Dalton Ohio, this Doylestown “transplant” has truly made a difference in our little neck of the woods. Dave has been married to Doylestown native Agnes (Petit) for 58 years, and both have served this community well. They have been members of the Lions Club for many years, and Dave is also a member the American Legion and the VFW. Agnes has also served on the Cemetery Board for many years as well. Both have been actively involved at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, where they are longtime proud and dedicated members.

I recently sat down with Dave and Ag to ask a few questions so that I could gain some perspective into this remarkable tenure.

**KR: Why did you take the job of Cemetery Superintendent back on January 1, 1975?**

**DM:** Well, my dad, Les Monbarren, had the job and wanted to retire from it. My father was also a Funeral Director and had funeral homes in both Dalton and Doylestown. I had gone through the Pittsburg Institute of

Mortuary Science in 1963 and became a Funeral Director as well.

**KR: Can you think of an “interesting” story to tell?**

**DM:** Many years back, I was out of town on vacation. My brother Dean, who is also a Funeral Director, was filling in for me. During a burial, Dean and Doylestown resident Paul Yaussy were at the grave site (Paul would assist during funerals). Paul stepped to the foot of the casket to help fold the flag that was draped across it. Without realizing it, he stepped right onto the artificial turf that was covering the grave and dropped straight down into the ground. He caught himself by outstretching his elbows. While Dean was helping him out, he quietly joked...“Sorry Paul, this grave is only meant for one person!”

**KR: What changes have you seen at Chestnut Hill Cemetery during the past 37 years?**

**DM:** Paving the roadways throughout the cemetery would be the best improvement I have seen. We also replaced all the waterlines and opened up Section 11. Most recently, I would have to say the Eagle Scout project by Garrett Bromley constructed in 2011. It is a beautiful Veteran’s Memorial and it has enhanced the cemetery grounds greatly.

**KR: What is the biggest change you have seen in Doylestown?**

**DM:** I would have to say the loss of all of our local industry, from Petit’s Poultry Plant, to CJ

Dannemiller, and finally the loss of our grocery stores.

**KR: Knowing what you now know, would you do this job all over again?**

**DM:** Absolutely! It was always very interesting and I had the opportunity to meet a lot of very nice people.

**KR: What is something people don’t know about you?**

**DM:** Well, I used to like to fish, and we also liked to travel. Ag adds, “he (Dave) believed that it didn’t matter how busy you were, you always needed to take a vacation. And so we did! Some of our favorite vacations included going to Australia for a Lions Club convention, a trip to Alaska and a Caribbean cruise.”

**KR: Do you have any closing thoughts?**

**DM:** I would like to mention that Bill Daniel has helped me in cemetery for many years. He was always willing to do whatever was asked of him, from plotting out the new grave sites in Section 11, to setting forms for new footers. I couldn’t have done this without him. Also, I want to thank my wife Agnes, especially these last few years. My eyesight has diminished greatly due to Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration and she truly has been my eyes and I thank her for supporting me.

The Mayor, Village Council and the residents of Doylestown say **“THANK YOU DAVE”** for all you have done.

~Kristen Robison

## Meet Dave Watkins, Our New Cemetery Superintendent



**Dave Watkins**

Dave and his wife Peg of 43 years have been lifelong residents of Doylestown. They have raised four sons in our community.

Dave is retired from Barberton City Schools, The University of Akron, Malone University, and Muskingum University.

Dave has held an elected position in the village, serving on the Board of Public Affairs for several terms. When asked why he wanted to take over this position, he stated: "I consider my service to the community as an honor and hope that I will be able to continue to serve the village that has offered a warm and wonderful place to live and raise a family."

Dave would like to acknowledge the mentoring that Dave Monbarren has offered and continues to give during the process of learning the intricacies of being the superintendent of Chestnut Hill. Both Dave and Bill Daniel have provided him with a wealth of history and knowledge regarding the process of providing a well-run service for the community. Without their help, assuming this task would have been daunting. Dave hopes that he can continue to offer the same level of service as them, for many years to come.



## The Village Hires a New Solicitor

*Spiros Vasilatos* has been actively engaged in general and commercial litigation practice for 28 years. His expertise includes real estate law, construction law, probate law, business law and corporate law, municipal corporation law, and personal injury.

Spiros is a member of the Akron Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, and its Real Property Law Section, and the American Bar Association and its Business Law Section. He is also a member of the Medina County and Wayne County Bar Associations. He is a member of the Summit County Trial Lawyers Association. Additionally, he was admitted to practice law in the State of Ohio and the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio in 1984; U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit in 2001; U.S. Supreme Court in 2002.

Spiros has provided pro bono legal services (wills, powers of attorney, living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care) and legal advice to young soldiers in the area who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Additional pro bono legal services were provided by Spiros while participating in "Write A Will Day" as part of the "Leave a Legacy Program" to benefit employees of Akron Children's Hospital. He also participated in the Mentor Program by and between the Akron Bar Association and the University of Akron Law School.

Spiros is a graduate of the University of Akron (B.S., 1980), with a concentration in tax and accounting. Spiros attended the University of Akron College of Law (J.D., 1984).

Spiros and his wife Denise have two sons, Nicholas and Adam. They have lived in Doylestown for the past 18 years. He has been actively involved in coaching kids and has served on many local committees and organizations. **WELCOME TO OUR TEAM, SPIROS!**

# Village Business Spotlight

## Summa Physicians Inc. ~ Family Medicine



**Emily S. Godlewski, M.D.** is a primary care physician who provides high-quality, compassionate care.

Both Dr. Godlewski and Dr. Wenger are currently accepting new patients.

Same-day/next day and evening appointments are available.

**Douglas A. Wenger, M.D.** is a primary care physician who provides high-quality, compassionate care.



Dr. Wenger delivers comprehensive care to patients of all ages, from infants to seniors, and has special interest in pregnancy/prenatal care, chronic disease management and sports medicine.

He earned his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed his family medicine residency at Summa Health System.

### Summa Physicians Inc. Family Medicine

80 N. Portage Street  
Doylestown, OH 44230  
330-658-1550

#### HOURS:

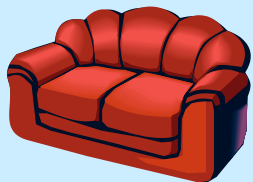
Monday and Wednesday  
7:30 am - 7:30 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday  
7:30 am - 5 pm  
Friday  
7:30 am - 3 pm  
[www.summahealth.org](http://www.summahealth.org)

Dr. Godlewski delivers comprehensive care to patients of all ages, from infants to seniors, and has special interest in pediatrics, pregnancy/prenatal care and women's health.

She earned her medical degree from the University of Toledo College of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at Summa Akron City Hospital.

*\*Information provided by Summa Health Systems*

## VILLAGE WIDE CLEAN UP DATES FOR 2013



**April 12th & October 11th** Multiple large items (couches, chairs, etc.) accepted, **NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, TIRES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** FREON **MUST BE REMOVED** from any appliance and **red tagged** by a licensed technician.

Paint cans are accepted but the paint has to be dried completely. Kitty litter can also be used to absorb the liquid inside each can. Please leave the lids off so Republic can see that they are acceptable for pickup. Thank you.

*\*This service offered to you by the Village of Doylestown and Republic Waste.*

## ~ Memorial Day Parade ~



Mark your calendars! Don't forget our annual parade which will begin at the Doughboy statue on **Monday, May 27th at 9 am.** After a brief ceremony, the parade travels to local cemeteries with the conclusion back at the square.

The American Legion will serve free hot dogs at 49 Black Drive after the parade. After you enjoy your free hot dog, please continue on to Emanuel UCC & Easton cemeteries.

## 1st Annual Christmas At The Square Recap



**Pictured above: Lila, Ellie, and Lola Miller visit with Santa**

The Village held its 1st Annual Christmas at the Square this past December, in conjunction with our visit with Santa. Santa arrived on his fire truck, and had plenty of good little boys and girls to visit with.

The tree lighting took place immediately after, allowing for Santa's visitors to stay and participate.

The Village thanks the following organizations / individuals who participated in this new program and had their trees on display: ***Bramblewood Homeowners Association, Chippewa Laundromat, Doylestown Area Business Association, Doylestown Summer Recreation 6 to 9 year olds and 10 to 13 year olds, Dutt Family, Terry and Nancy Lindeman, Marshall Family, Phil's Barbershop, and the Underwood Family.*** The trees truly

enhanced our Village Square.

We will once again offer the residents the opportunity to display their trees in 2013. Watch for more details in future newsletters.



**Pictured above: The Bramblewood Homeowners Association members with their birdhouse tree, complete with edible items for the birds and squirrels!**

## Village Accepts New Trash Hauler Bid



At the February 20, 2013 Village Council meeting, Council voted to accept the bid of Republic Waste Services to haul trash for village residents, for a one year term with an option to renew for a second and third year. The new contract begins in April of 2013. **The new rate for service will be \$9.84/month with two (2) scheduled recycling days per month. *The recycling days will be the first and third Friday of each month.*** Bags for low volume

**users stay at the cost of \$16 for 10 bags and can still be purchased at Village Hall.** Republic is the current hauler, which means you won't have to sign up with a new hauler. There were three companies that submitted bids which included Republic, Kimble Companies and Rumpke Waste and Recycling Service. Republic submitted the lowest bid.

After the first year of service, the Village has the option to either stay with the current program and its \$9.84 rate or change to another program. The second program or option #2 includes the same services (unlimited trash and recycling on the first and third Fridays of the month) but would include a 65 gallon rolling recycling cart. The cost for the service with the 65 gallon cart is \$10.73 per month. Residents who are on the bag system would also receive a cart at no additional cost to them.

In the very near future, the village residents will be receiving a survey regarding the proposed option for the second and third year of our contract with Republic Waste. When you receive this survey, please make sure you take the time to complete and return it so that Council can make an informed decision based on what the majority of our residents want.



## Community Bulletin Board

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

~Irish Blessing

### Doylestown Safety Village



Will be held June 10th - 14th from 9 am to 11:30 am at Hazel Harvey Elementary for all children entering Kindergarten. Registration deadline is May 3rd and is \$10. Forms are available at Village Hall. Call Nancy Brown 330-658-6561 for more info.

\*Program sponsored by the Doylestown Lions Club.



We are offering this service to **Village residents** on Saturday, **September 28th from 9 am to noon** in the back parking lot at Village Hall. This program is made possible thanks to the funds received from our "**Recycling Makes Sense Grant**". This grant is based on tonnage which is produced by our curbside recycling program.

So that we can accommodate everyone, please limit shredding to 5 boxes per person. We ask that you please bring one or more canned food items for donation to the Doylestown Food Pantry. Thank you from our Village Council Members.



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour @ 2 am on **Sunday, March 10th**



## Spring & Summer Brush Pick Up

Pick up is held on the **2nd Monday** of each month from now until October. Pick up dates are *March 11th, April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th and October 14th*. Please remember that shrubs will only be taken if the **root ball has been removed**.

Please keep sidewalks clear of brush as stated in the village's codified ordinance **901-10 MATERIALS ON STREET OR SIDEWALK: No person shall encumber any street or sidewalk. No owner, occupant or person having the care of any building or lot of land bordering on any street or sidewalk shall permit the same to be encumbered with barrels, boxes, cans, articles, leaves, snow or substance of any kind so as to interfere with the free and unobstructed use thereof.**

### 2013 SUMMER RECREATION SIGN UPS



Will be held in the lower level of Village Hall on **Wednesday, May 15th from 4:30 - 8:30 pm; Saturday, May 18th from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm; and Thursday, May 23rd from 4:30 - 8:30 pm**. There is a \$5 registration fee per child. Recreation will begin on June 3rd and ends July 12th. Recreation days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the mornings. More detailed information will be sent home through the schools in the near future.



# Community Bulletin Board



## Garden Club Annual Plant Sale



This years plant sale will be on **Saturday May 11th** from 10 am until 2 pm.

They will be set up at the Memorial Park Lions Pavilion off of Gates Street.

There will be a variety of plants, including herbs and vegetables and also a few hanging baskets for sale. Come early, last year was a complete sell out!

## Farmers Market Set to Open In July



This year the market will begin on July 6th and runs through August 31st. Residents can enjoy fresh produce, baked goods and even some hand made items. The market is open every Saturday from 8 am to 11 am at the Lion's Pavilion at Memorial Park (off of Gates Street). Are you interested in becoming a vendor? If so, more information can be obtained by calling either Trudy 330-658-6085 or Bill 330-658-1001. Applications are available online at [doylestown.com](http://doylestown.com), News & Events Tab, then Farmers Market. We hope to see **YOU** there.

## VILLAGE WIDE YARDSALES

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**



The Village will once again host this annual favorite. Yard sales are held, **rain or shine**.

The Doylestown Lions Club will also offer doughnuts in the morning, and chicken in the afternoon at Memorial Park. Be sure to come and support the Lions while browsing for your bargains.

\*Public restrooms are available at Memorial Park.

## Dates to Remember



- Memorial Day Parade Monday May 27th at 9 am
- Safety Village June 10th - 14th  
*Nancy Brown 330-658-6561*
- Relay For Life Event at Memorial Park June 21st - 22nd
- Farmers Market begins Saturday, July 6 - Aug 31st every Saturday at Memorial Park 8 - 11 am. Trudy Lucas 330-658-6085 or Bill Frederick 330-658-1001
- Rogues' Hollow Festival August 2nd and 3rd (Friday/Saturday)
- Village Wide Yard Sales Saturday September 21st
- Document Shredding Saturday September 28th in Village Hall parking lot from 9 am - Noon
- Trick or Treat Thursday October 31st 5:30-6:45 pm

## Doylestown Prayer Breakfast



The annual **National Day of Prayer Breakfast** will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 7 am in the American Legion Hall 49 Black Drive.

Tickets are available for a donation of \$9 and can be purchased at all local churches and Village Hall. The breakfast is sponsored by the Doylestown Ministerial Association and the Doylestown Lions Club.

This years speaker will be Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.



## From the Desk of Chief Dressler

2013 is off to a good start for the police department. In January I was pleased to be able to promote Sgt. **Casey Tester** to the rank of Lieutenant. As a sergeant, Casey brought many new ideas and improvements to our patrol division. Casey is a hands-on supervisor who leads by example. Some of Lt. Tester's new administrative duties will include evidence room management, training coordinator and general oversight over patrol. He will continue to operate our K-9 unit. I'm honored to have Lt. Tester join me in administration and as my second in command.



Lt. Casey Tester

February brought another opportunity to fill the sergeant's position that Lt. Tester vacated. Officer **Kevin Milburn** was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Kevin was one of three

that took the promotional exam and achieved the highest score. The test score was one of several factors that were considered in making the promotion. Sgt. Milburn has tremendous attention to detail and gives each call for service and investigation his complete effort. I'm confident Kevin will be an excellent supervisor and leader of our patrol officers.



Sgt. Kevin Milburn

Sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to our longest serving patrol officer. Officer **Eric Sands** will be leaving us at the end of this month to take a position with the Cleveland Police



Officer Eric Sands


Department. Eric has been serving here since 2003.

We will miss his experience, humor and camaraderie. We wish him the best as he continues his public service up north.

We will fill Officer Sands vacancy with part time patrol officer **Curt Gillespie**. Curt is an astute police officer who police's with passion and zeal. He is very personable and enjoys interacting with the community. I am excited to have him join our full time ranks.



Officer Curt Gillespie



**DOYLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
 20 S. Portage Street  
 Doylestown, OH 44230  
 Chief Brian Dressler  
 330-658-2181  
**DISPATCH**  
 330-658-2771

I am also proud to announce that our longtime Police Clerk, **Joyce Shaw**, has reached her 20 year Service Award. Joyce was honored at the February 20th Village Council Meeting where Mayor Lindeman presented her with a plaque and a \$25 Visa Gift Card for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Village. On behalf of a grateful Police Department, **THANK YOU** Joyce for all you do.



**Joyce Shaw**  
Police & Mayor's Court Clerk

We also have two additional full time officers, Officer **Tony Grimm** who has been with us since 2004, and Officer **Greg Tomasek** who has been here since 2012.

We are now in our second year of having a full time D.A.R.E. officer in our district. The



**Officer Tony Grimm**



**Officer Greg Tomasek**

police department has been awarded the grant two years in a row now. I am pleased with what Officer **Shannon Gerber** has done with this role and continue to support her in gaining new training and implementing new ideas and resources.



**D.A.R.E. Officer Shannon Gerber**

Having a child in each school building, I along with you realize that our children are the most vital and precious commodity that we have in our Village. School and student safety is and has been a top priority for our agency and our school district under the leadership of Chippewa Superintendent Dave Fischer and Father Rob Stein at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School. We continue to collaborate and evaluate our prevention and response initiatives several times a year. We are committed and we will continue to remain committed.

Should you have specific questions about school safety please feel free to call me.

## 2013 Mosquito Spraying Program



Due to recent EPA regulation changes regarding mosquito spraying programs, the Village can no longer spray for mosquitoes on a regularly scheduled basis. We will, however, continue to spray on an "as needed" or "complaint" basis. We ask that if you are experiencing mosquitoes in your

neighborhood, please call and report it to the **Streets Superintendent, Brett Shaw at 330-658-2181 ext. 1160**. You will need to provide your name and address.

Always remember to protect yourself and your family members against mosquitoes by applying bug spray repellent. Also, watch for standing water where mosquito larvae grows.

As an example, bird baths are perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Rinse these out on a regular basis to flush any larvae that could be present. This will kill mosquito eggs AND keep the birds happy.

**For more tips on mosquito safety, go to:**

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/prevention\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/prevention_info.htm)

## VILLAGE HALL HOURS

**Monday thru Friday**  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**Saturday (Water Dept. only)**  
8:00 am - Noon

330-658-2181

## Village Hall Upcoming Holiday Hours

Closed Friday March 29th and Saturday March 30th for Good Friday

Closed Saturday May 25th and Monday May 27th for Memorial Day

Closed Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day

## HOLIDAY TRASH DELAYS

Saturday June 1st - Memorial Day Holiday Delay

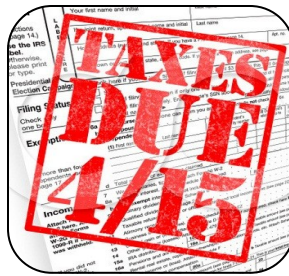
Saturday July 6th - 4th of July Holiday Delay

Comments are invited  
kristen@doylestown.com or  
mayorlindeman@doylestown.com

Our Community Events Calendar  
will help you stay connected.  
Check it out often for updates!

[www.doylestown.com](http://www.doylestown.com)

## From the Income Tax Department



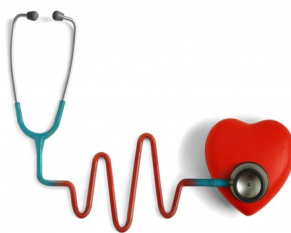
Once again in an effort to save on costs, the Village of Doylestown Income Tax Department will **NOT** be mass mailing income tax forms for the tax year 2012. The 2012 village income tax forms will be available at the Doylestown branch of the Wayne County Library, the Doylestown Post Office and at Village Hall. You may also obtain a copy of the tax form at the village web site [www.doylestown.com](http://www.doylestown.com). Go to the Village Government Tab, then to Clerks Office/Income Tax. They are at the bottom of that page and are in printable PDF format. This year you can fill the form out online and print it off for submission.

The Income Tax Department also accepts all generic forms used by tax preparers. If you need a form mailed, please contact Ann Youngblood in the Income Tax Department at (330) 658-2181 ext 1102.

As always, we are available to help you with your Village taxes. Thank you!

***\*Quarterly Statements will still be mailed if you are making a declaration on your income tax return.***

Tax due date is April 15, 2013.



Join Us For A **FREE**  
Health Fair  
Friday, June 7th

Please join us at Chippewa High School in the multi-purpose room for this **FREE** event which will showcase local healthcare vendors, as well as various free health screening including blood pressure and blood sugar tests. Lunch will be provided. This is open to the community and to people of all ages. The Health Fair will be held from 10 am - 1 pm.

***\*Sponsored by the Village of Doylestown's Committee on Aging, Doylestown Health Care, and the Post Newspapers***

## Main Street Music At The Bandstand

“April showers bring May flowers and sweet bowers where roses twine...” June and July bring music to the square. As repeated every year; if you haven’t been to the square on a Friday, summer evening, please let it be this summer! Come and hear the styles of first class musical entertainment. Take the opportunity to come together with family, friends and neighbors and enjoy the sights and sounds of this outdoor venue. We truly value your attendance and continued support.

Our mission was and always has been as inscribed on the plaque at the back of the bandstand, “Erected for the purpose of fostering the performance and appreciation of music.” We have made this event possible for eleven years with your generosity and continued support and your attendance being equally important.

All contributions will benefit **Main Street Music at the Bandstand**, which provides this summer concert series. There are several levels of contribution as well as sponsorship of a preferred performance. Questions or detailed information may be directed to Joyce Marshall at 330-658-3719 or 330-658-2181.

### 2013 Summer Concert Schedule

June 07 7 pm	Nostalgia Cleveland Recess	Classic Rock Journey Tribute	July 05 7 pm	Mark Leach & The Blue Collar Valors	Country
June 14 7 pm	B.E. Mann	Reggae	July 12 7 pm	LaFlavour	Classic Rock
June 21 7 pm	The Speedbumps	Eclectic Strings	July 19 7 pm	Luke James	Originals & Covers
June 28 7 pm	Bringing Benetar	Benetar Tribute	July 26 7 pm	We Are Public Radio	Indie-Rock

#### MAIN STREET MUSIC AT THE BANDSTAND

Doylestown Performing Arts, 24 South Portage Street, Doylestown, Ohio 44230

*Please make checks payable to Performing Arts Fund – Village of Doylestown*

Name / Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### \*LEVELS OF CONTRIBUTION\*

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000	Patron of the Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	Supporter
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	Friend
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	Gift

**Contributors will be noted on the program unless otherwise noted if received by 5 pm, May 31, 2013**

**\*ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**



Village of Doylestown  
 24 S. Portage Street  
 Doylestown, OH 44230

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**Doylestown Community  
 Newsletter**

Written and edited at  
 Doylestown Village Hall  
 24 S. Portage Street  
 Doylestown, OH 44230

Senior Editor: Terry L. Lindeman  
 Managing Editor: Kristen J. Robison

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**POSTAL CUSTOMER**



**Doylestown Poppy Days May 16-17-18**

Poppy Days are sponsored each year by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary to remind Americans of the sacrifice of life and health made by the men and women of our Armed Forces. Do you know the history of why we celebrate Poppy Days? Here is a brief explanation to the evolution of this tradition:

John McCrae, a Canadian, enlisted to help the allies in WW1. Upon landing in Europe, he was made a Medical Officer. During a lull in the battle, with the nub of a pencil, he scratched on a page from his dispatch book. The poem (shown below) found its way into the pages of Punch magazine. By 1918 the poem was well known throughout the allied world. Moina Michael, an American woman, wrote the following as a response:

**In Flanders Fields**

John McCrae, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
 We are the Dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies  
 grow  
 In Flanders fields.



*We cherish too, the Poppy red  
 That grows on fields where valor led,  
 It seems to signal to the skies  
 That blood of heroes never dies*



She [Michael] then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. This tradition spread to Canada, The United States and Australia and is still followed today. The money collected from the sale of poppies goes to fund various veterans programs.

Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored and neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag

etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think this day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.