

**2014**

**Media Packet**

Serendipity Farm

Sponsored by the

Village Improvement Association of Doylestown

(VIA-Doylestown.org)

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39th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens  
Serendipity Farm

# Overview

Serendipity Farm is the 39th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens presented by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA), and is staffed by VIA and community volunteers. Proceeds from the Designer House benefit Doylestown Hospital and the mission of the VIA.

Serendipity Farm is 245-year-old farmhouse with spectacular views and the charm of historic Bucks County. Join us and experience how a team of design experts have has transformed this stunning property. Wander through the charming old farmhouse, cozy cottage, grand barn, along with the pool, pool house and the serene pond. You will also find boutiques, designer décor and our sumptuous café.

Tour more than 30 40design areas throughout the home and gardens. End the day with a hot beverage overlooking the pond at the Water’s Edge Café and shop in four boutiques.

## Dates & Times

Sun., April 27th through Sun., May 31st, excluding Memorial Day, May 26

Mon – Wed 10 am – 4 pm  
Thu & Fri 10 am – 7 pm  
Saturday 10 am – 4 pm  
Sunday Noon– 4 pm

## Ticket Prices & Purchase Locations

### Prices

$20 advance sales (before April 25) and seniors 62+

$25 at the door - Beginning April 27

$250 Lifetime Ticket – allows entrance to this and all future Bucks County Designer Houses

*Children 10 and older are welcome*

*House is not handicapped accessible*

### Ticket Purchase Locations

Tickets may be purchased online at www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org

From March 1 – April 25 tickets will also be available for purchase at the following locations:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chalfont | Bucks County Antique Gallery |
| Doylestown | Bucks Country Gardens |
| Doylestown | Doylestown Hospital - Gift Shop |
| Doylestown | Mt. Lake Pool & Patio |
| Doylestown | Pine Run Retirement Community |
| Doylestown | Rutherford's Camera Shop |
| Doylestown | The Doylestown Bookshop |
| Dublin | Simons Fine Art Gallery & Boutique |
| Furlong | Furlong Lamp & Lighting |
| Lahaska | Peddler's Village |
| Richboro | Fireside Flowers |
| Warminster | Health Connections at ShopRite |
| Warrington | The Cornerstone Club at the Health  & Wellness Center |

### Newsletter

Visit www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org to sign up for the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens newsletter.

## Special Events

### Preview Gala – April 26th - 7:00 – 10:00 pm

The Preview Gala allows visitors to view the transformation at Serendipity Farm before it opens for general tours. This elegant evening features hors d’oeuvres and a buffet catered by Crystal Rose Catering plus wines, cocktails and signature drinks. Music will be provided by Chatterband. V.I.P. Champagne Reception at 6:00 pm. Black tie optional.

Tickets start at $150 per person; reservations required.

Tickets available at [www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/previewgala.html) or by calling 215.345.2191.

### Fashion Shows & Brunch - Thursday, May 8, 2014; 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm & Friday, May 9, 2014; 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Spring awakens at the Fashion Show to be held at the [Doylestown Country Club](http://www.doylestowncountryclub.com/) featuring fashions from [Chico’s](http://www.chicos.com/), [Cotton Company](http://www.peddlersvillage.com/shop/ShopDetail.aspx?ShopNumber=40),  [Frox](http://www.shopfrox.net/), [Lace Silhouettes Lingerie](http://www.peddlersvillage.com/shop/ShopDetail.aspx?ShopNumber=30),  [Page Six](http://www.pagesixskippack.com/), [PRIORITIES… for HER](http://newtown-pa.patch.com/listings/priorities-for-her), and [Signatures](http://www.peddlersvillage.com/shop/ShopDetail.aspx?ShopNumber=19).

View exciting fashion trends while enjoying roasted tomato soup, hot rolls/butter, penne pasta with grilled chicken, pesto cream, & tomato concasse, and lemon sorbet with baklava for dessert, and coffee & tea. Additional cash bar.

Accessories by [Simons Fine Art Gallery & Boutique](http://simonsboutique.com/) in Dublin. Hair styling provided by [Rituals Salon by Dona French](http://www.frenchrituals.com/) in Doylestown. Live music by [Lorenzo](http://lorenzobranca.com/3.html).

DOYLESTOWN COUNTRY CLUB

20 Country Club Lane

Doylestown, PA. 18901

Tickets $45 – Includes Show, Meal and Designer House Tour Ticket

Purchase tickets online or call 215.345.2191 for reservations.

### Mother’s Day Champagne Brunch - May 11 Seatings at 10:00 am; 11:30 am and 1:00 pm

Celebrate Mother’s Day in style with a champagne or mimosa toast and let mom know how much you care. Enjoy a delicious four-course meal prepared by Crystal Rose Catering, starting with a tempting trio of appetizers, two hot breakfast items, a choice from four luncheon selections and finish with a sumptuous dessert trio. Includes selection of juices, hot and cold beverages. Children’s menu available. Reservations Required.

Tickets $40 – Adults 21 and over, $35 – Young Adults (10 – 20), $20 – Children (5 – 9), Under 5 free. $18 – Reduced Rate House Tour Ticket when purchased with brunch.

Purchase tickets online or call 215.345.2191 for reservations.

### Meet the Design Team

Join us for a casual evening to meet the entire 2014 Design Team. Discuss with them about the inspiration for their work, the challenges they faced and their approach to design.

This event is complimentary with your House tour ticket.

### Doylestown Hospital Community Health Fair

Join Doylestown Hospital for a Health and Wellness Expo on Saturday, May17, 2014 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This free event is open to the public and takes place at the39th Annual Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, located at Serendipity Farm, 131 Pine Mill Circle, Doylestown, PA.

Stop by for free health and wellness information, screenings, exercise tips, or to talk with expert clinicians from Doylestown Hospital.

### Blue Jean Bash

Come and celebrate the ultimate event at the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens! Join us for the beginning of a new Bucks County tradition, the Blue Jean Bash. Relax and enjoy good food and music in this casual atmosphere at Serendipity Farm.

At this final event enjoy delicious picnic fare provided by [Wycombe](http://www.wycombevineyards.com/) and [Buckingham Valley Vineyards](http://www.pawine.com/).  Live music will be provided by renowned [Bob Egan Entertainment](http://www.bobeganentertainment.com/).

This closing event, is the final opportunity to purchase décor from the Serendipity Farm House & Gardens event.

The drawing for the 2014 50/50 raffle will also take place so make sure you do not miss this event.

Beer sponsored by [Bucks Life Magazine](http://www.buckslifemag.com/)  
Wines sponsored by [Tastings & Tours](https://www.tastingsandtours.com/)

## Seminars

(Complimentary with Tour Ticket)

Thursday, May 1 – 11 am - [Creating the Wow Factor](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/events/seminars/creating-wow-factor/)

Sarah Hull & Josephine Timms, Presenters,[Design Home Interiors](http://www.designhi.org/)

Thursday, May 1 – 2 pm - [Capture Your Bucks County Moment](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/capture-bucks-county-moment/)

Paul Bencivengo, Presenter, [Visit](http://www.visitbuckscounty.com/) Bucks County

Friday, May 2 – 2 pm - [Updating Your Look on a Budget - Use What You Have](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/seminarmay2p/)

Kristine Robinson, Presenter, [Robinson Interiors](http://www.kristine.robinson.org/)

Tuesday May 6 11 am - Proper Skin Care Techniques

Gloria Walker, Presenter, Mary Kay

Tuesday, May 6 – 2 pm - The Art of Collecting Art

Rich Timmons, Presenter, [Rich Timmons Studio & Gallery](http://3795gallery.com/)

Thursday, May 8 – 11 am - [De-Clutter with Style](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/seminarmay8a/)

Laurie Palau, Presenter - [Simply B Organized](http://www.simplyborganized.com/)

Thursday, May 8 – 2 pm - Breast Cancer Prevention – Empowering Our Community

Donna Angotti MD, Presenter, [Doylestown Hospital](http://www.dh.org/body.cfm?xyzpdqabc=0&id=8&action=detail&ref=647)

Friday, May 9 – 11 am - The “Ins and Outs” of Selecting Colors for Your Home

Mary Stein, Presenter, [Hunting & Gatherings](http://www.huntingandgatherings.com/)

Tuesday, May 13 – 11 am - The Management of Hip and Knee Arthritis

Dr. Burrows, Presenter - [Bucks County Orthopedic Specialists](http://www.bucksortho.com/charles_burrows.asp)

Tuesday, May 13 – 2 pm - Understanding Paint for Better Color Choices-It’s What’s in the Can that Counts!

Joyce Danko, Presenter, [Joyce Danko Design](http://www.joycedankodesign.com/)

Thursday, May 15 – 11 am - Slim Secrets

Carol Barndt, Presenter, [Chico’s – Peddlers Village](http://www.chicos.com/store/home.jsp?)

Thursday, May 15 – 2 pm - Using Color & Wallpaper in Design

Jere Bradwell, Presenter, [European Home Collection](http://www.europeanhomecollection.com/)

Friday, May 16 – 11 am - [5 Steps for Deciding Which Interior Design Trends to Follow](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/seminarmay16a/)

Barbara Zelechoski, Presenter, Barbara Zelechoski Interiors, LLC

Friday, May 16 – 2 pm - A Country Lifestyle and the Trappings That Go With It

Claire Harris, Presenter, The Saddlery at Fox Heath

Tuesday, May 20 – 11 am - Choosing the Best Fabrics for Your Lifestyle

Richard Stuckmeyer and Lydia DeSimone, Presenters, [LeRoux Interiors](http://www.lerouxinteriors.com/)

Tuesday, May 20 – 2 pm - New Surgical Techniques

Brian Pellini MD, Presenter, [VIAA](http://www.dh.org/body.cfm?xyzpdqabc=0&id=8&action=detail&ref=601) Surgical Associates

Thursday, May 22 – 11 am - Hiring the Right Contractor for Your Project

Elizabeth Maurer, Presenter, Interiors by Elizabeth Maurer

Thursday, May 22 – 2 pm - How to Get the Most from Your Designer

Kimberly Lux, Presenter, [Lux Interiors](http://www.luxinteriors.com/)

Friday, May 23 – 11 am - Container Gardening: Edibles & Ornamentals in Harmony

Kathy Evans, Presenter, [Bucks County Gardens](http://www.buckscountrygardens.com/)

Friday, May 23 – 2 pm - Scarves, Tying the Knot and the Art of Accessories

Yvonne Leathead, Presenter, [Simons Fine Art Gallery and Boutique](http://simonsboutique.com/)

Tuesday, May 27 – 11 am - [Capture Your Bucks County Moment](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/capture-bucks-county-moment/)

Paul Bencivengo, Presenter, Visit Bucks County

Tuesday, May 27 – 2 pm - The Art of Collecting: Selecting & Arranging Fine Art In Your Home

Patricia Hutton, Presenter, [Patricia Hutton Galleries](http://patriciahuttongalleries.com/)

Thursday, May 29 – 11 am - Tips for Successful Frame Design and the Art of Hanging

Yvonne Leathead, Presenter, [Simons Fine Art Gallery and Boutique](http://simonsboutique.com/)

Thursday, May 29 – 2 pm - [Making Antiques and Vintage Items Work for You](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/events/seminars/seminarmay29p/)

Kristine Robinson, Presenter, [Robinson Interiors](http://www.kristine.robinson.org/)

Friday, May 30 – 11 am - The Renaissance of Faux Surfaces and Wall Coverings

Richard Stuckmeyer and Lydia DeSimone, Presenters, [LeRoux Interiors](http://www.lerouxinteriors.com/)

Friday, May 30 – 2 pm - [How You Can Arrange a Small Selection of Flowers in Your Own Vase at Home](http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/flower-arranging/)

Tracey Finberg, Presenter, [Bonnies Flowers](http://www.bonniesflowers.com/)

The Designer House will not be responsible for any late cancellations on the part of the presenters.

# 2014 Designer House Team

## Interior Design

### The Main House

AREA 1-Front Entry  
[Design Home Interiors](http://designhi.org/)

AREA 2-The Lounge  
[Design Home Interiors](http://designhi.org/)

AREA 3-Elegant Entry  
The Painterly

AREA 4-Springtime Serenity  
The Painterly

AREA 5-The Salon  
[Hendrixson’s Furniture](http://hendrixsonsfurniture.com/)

AREA 6-Tiny Masterpieces  
[Rich Timmons Fine Art Gallery](http://3795gallery.com/)

AREA 7- Craftswoman’s Corner  
Nellie Easton Design, Inc.

AREA 8-The Office of a Lady  
Nellie Easton Design, Inc.

AREA 9-The Guest’s Bath  
Judith E. Stratton

AREA 10-Cate’s Room  
Barbara Zelechoski Interiors  
[Joyce Danko Design](http://www.joycedankodesign.com/)

AREA 11 – “That’s Amore! The Honeymoon Suite”

11A – Master Bedroom

11B – Master Sitting Room

11C – Master Dressing Room & Closets

12    - Master Bathroom

[Lux Interiors](http://www.luxinteriors.com/)[The Faux Studio](http://www.faux-studio.com/)

AREA 13-Reading Nook & Gallery  
[Patricia Hutton Galleries](http://patriciahuttongalleries.com/)

AREA 14A-Lovely Linens  
AREA 14B-Nanny’s Retreat  
[Hearth & Hedgerow, Ltd](http://www.hearthandhedgerow.com/)

AREA 15-Simply Elegant  
[Fabric Goddess of Bucks County](http://www.fabricgoddess.net/)

AREA 16-Once Upon a Time  
[Fabric Goddess of Bucks County](http://www.fabricgoddess.net/)

AREA 17-Wine & Game Cellar  
Interior Design by Elizabeth Maurer

AREA 18-A Silver Dining  
[LeRoux Interiors](http://www.lerouxinteriors.com/)

AREA 19-Kitchen & Cocktail Station  
[Hunting and Gatherings](http://www.huntingandgatherings.com/)

AREA 20-Sunroom with Vintage Vavoom!  
[Robinson Interiors](http://www.kristine.robinson.org/)

AREA 21-The Sunday Room  
Joan Curtis Designs

### The Guest Cottage

AREA 22-Sitting Room –“Coming Home…”[Good Stuff Thrift](http://www.goodstuffthrift.org/)

AREA 23-Fresh-Cut Laundry[Good Stuff Thrift](http://www.goodstuffthrift.org/)

AREA 24-Reading RetreatMarni James Interiors

AREA 25-The Downstairs BathLindsey Painting

AREA 26-The Downstairs HallwayLindsey Painting

AREA 27-Modern Farmhouse Getaway[Oskar Huber](http://www.oskarhuber.com/)

AREA 28-Shimmering Spa[Concept 2 Design Interiors](http://concept2designinteriors.com/)

AREA 29-Serene Study[Concept 2 Design Interiors](http://concept2designinteriors.com/)

AREA 30-Living Room[European Home Collection](http://www.europeanhomecollection.com/)

AREA 31-Dining Room[European Home Collection](http://www.europeanhomecollection.com/)

AREA 32-Cottage Kitchen[Sweetbriar Cabinetry & Design, Inc.](http://www.sweetbriarcabinetry.com/)

## Exterior Design

**Area A: The Welcome Garden**[Across the Pond Aquascapes](http://www.acrossthepondaquascapes.com/)

**Area: B: Farmhouse Porch**[Mt. Lake Pool and Patio](http://www.mtlakepool.com/mtlakepoolandpatio/Home.html)

**Area C: Farmhouse Front**[Environmental Landscape Associates](http://www.elaoutdoorliving.com/)

**Area D: Potting Shed**[Stenger Landscaping](http://stengerlandscaping.com/)

**Area E: Whimsical Path & Gateway**[karmic stone](http://www.karmicstone.com/)

**Area F: Sunroom Birding Garden**[Bucks Country Gardens](http://www.buckscountrygardens.com/)

**Area G: Pool Mechanicals & Fire Pit**[Town & Country Lawncare & Landscaping](http://www.townandcountrylandscaping.net/)

**Area H: Pool & Pool House**[Jerry and Sons Landscaping](http://www.jerryandsonslandscaping.com/)

**Area I: Ellipse Upon the Pond**[Landscape Design Group](http://www.landscapedesigngroupinc.com/)

**Area J: Stone Wall Garden**[Bucks Country Gardens](http://www.buckscountrygardens.com/)

**Area K: Bluestone Terrace**[Bucks Country Gardens](http://www.buckscountrygardens.com/)

**Area L: Potting Porch**[Bucks Country Gardens](http://www.buckscountrygardens.com/)

**Area M: Perennial Garden**[Stenger Landscaping](http://stengerlandscaping.com/)

**Area N:  Barn Area**[Stenger Landscaping](http://stengerlandscaping.com/)

**Area O: Corn Crib**VIA Landscape Committee

**Area P: Cottage Right**[**Jerry and Sons Landscaping**](http://www.jerryandsonslandscaping.com/)

**Area Q: Cottage Gardens and Reflection Area**Warrington Garden Club

**Area R: Cottage Left & Deck Gardens**[Natural Beauty Lawn & Landscaping](http://www.naturalbeautylawn.com/)

**Area S: Cottage Deck**[Mt. Lake Pool and Patio](http://www.mtlakepool.com/mtlakepoolandpatio/Home.html)

**Area T: Cottage Entrance**[Jerry and Sons Landscaping](http://www.jerryandsonslandscaping.com/)

**Cottage Gardens: A Haven for You and the Birds** [Wild Birds Unlimited](http://buckingham.wbu.com/)

### 

## Boutiques

Floral Wholesale Warehouse

Simon’s Fine Art Gallery & Boutique

The Crystal Cottage Boutique

The Saddlery at Fox Heath

# Sponsors & Supporters

## Sponsors

***Honorary Chairs***Jack & Carol McCaughan

***Gold Sponsor***

Johnson & Johnson

SEI

***Silver***Cowhey Family ShopRite

***Bronze***Crane Communications, Inc.  
Dinesen Associates OB/Gyn and Infertility  
First Savings Banking-Insurance-Investments  
Flo Smerconish Realtor & Zaveta Custom Homes, LLC  
Bucks County Visitor & Conference Bureau

***Pewter***Bucks County Bank  
Doylestown Radiology Associates  
Fred Beans Family of Dealerships  
Grant Thornton  
John Ford Builders Inc.  
Law Offices of Cotlar & Cotlar  
Lockton  
Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin  
Monument Bank  
Northwestern Mutual  
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Silverman Family Partnership

## Additional Supporters

***Poster sponsor***

Doylestown Commerce Center – Premier Office Center

***Rack Card Sponsor***

Law Offices of William L. Goldman

***Media Supporters***

Bucks County Herald

Bucks County Women’s Journal

County Lines Magazine

# The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA)

## About the VIA

Concerned about their community when dusty Bucks County roads caused a variety of health-related issues, 14 women gathered on April 26, 1895 and formed the Village Improvement Association to be dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Central Bucks community. Early on, the group arranged to eliminate dust in the streets and later established the first visiting nurse service in Doylestown. In 1923 they founded Doylestown Hospital.

The VIA was the first Women’s Club established in Bucks County. The stated mission of the VIA is to enhance the quality of life in the community through service and education. Throughout the year, VIA committees work to fulfill the organization’s responsibilities to meet its mission, oversee hospital development, maintain the James-Lorah Memorial Home and explore mutual interests.

The VIA has grown in size and scope to its present membership of more than 350 women, many of whom are also a vital presence at Doylestown Hospital. The VIA also oversees Pine Run Retirement Community. Today, the organization’s efforts go beyond health services supporting the local community. Additionally, it offers one-time grants to community efforts and educational scholarships.

The VIA is proud to call the James-Lorah Memorial Home at 132 North Main Street in Doylestown its headquarters. The 17-room residence, its contents and a trust fund for maintenance were bequeathed to the organization in 1954 by Sarah M. James, a charter member of the VIA. Today, the Federal-style building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bucks County Designer House is an annual fund raiser that supports VIA Community Projects and Doylestown Hospital.

# Benefiting Doylestown Hospital and the Community

The mission of the VIA is to enhance the quality of life in our community through service and education. To fulfill the objectives of its mission, the organization owns and operates the VIA Health System which includes Doylestown Hospital and the Pine Run Retirement Community.

The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens is the largest fundraiser sponsored by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown.

## Doylestown Hospital

The primary beneficiary of this event is Doylestown Hospital. In 2011, the VIA pledged one-million dollars to renovate and expand the VIA Maternity Center of Doylestown Hospital. Proceeds from the 2011 – 2013 designer houses enabled the organization to contribute toward that goal. Proceeds from 2014 designer house will also be used toward that goal.

Past significant donations include $750,000 toward construction of a new Emergency Department, $250,000 for the Heart Center, and hundreds of thousands of dollars for additional capabilities including: improved mammography equipment, expanded cardiac monitoring system, a universal bed program, and upgraded obstetrical fetal monitoring and surveillance system.

## About the VIA Health System

Doylestown Hospital is a comprehensive 238-bed medical center serving families throughout Bucks and Montgomery Counties and Western New Jersey.

The Hospital, along with The Doylestown Hospital Surgery Center at the Health & Wellness Center in Warrington; Pine Run Community and Health Center; Lakeview by Pine Run, Visiting Nurse/Home Health, and VIA Affiliates, comprise the VIA Health System.

## Doylestown Hospital at a Glance

* Doylestown Hospital’s Medical Staff includes more than 420 physicians in more than 40 specialty areas.
* Areas of clinical emphasis include cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery, emergency medicine, orthopedics, maternal-child health, oncology, interventional radiology, gastroenterology, urology, general surgery and robotic surgery.
* The renovations to the VIA Maternity Center of Doylestown Hospital were completed in September 2013, giving area families room to grow for years to come.
* The Cancer Institute was granted Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons in 2013.
* In summer 2013, Doylestown Hospital began using iDose to produce high quality medical images with the lowest amount of radiation exposure.
* In January 2014, Doylestown Hospital debuted its new 3T MRI with Ambient Experience, offering the most advanced MRI technology available while also improving patient experience.

## Continuing a Tradition of Excellence

**Doylestown Hospital:**

* Was named to *Becker's Hospital Review’s* 2013 list of “100 Hospitals with Great Heart Programs” in the United States.
* Was one of the first hospitals in the nation recognized by Independence Blue Cross in 2013 as a Blue Distinction Center+SM in the area of cardiac care.
* Was recognized as one of the “Most Wired” hospitals in the nation according to the 2013 Most Wired Survey by *Hospitals & Health Networks* magazine.
* Received the Get With The Guidelines®–Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association in 2013.
* Received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award in 2013.
* Emergency Department was awarded the 2013 Guardian of Excellence Award from Press Ganey for patient satisfaction.
* Earned the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® for its Hip and Knee Replacement programs.
* Was named an Independence Blue Cross Blue Distinction Center+ in Knee and Hip Replacement in 2013.

Care. Reinvented.

* The team from the Heart Institute completed the hospital’s first Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedures in fall 2013. The Heart Institute is one of only a select few in the region to offer this revolutionary procedure.
* Doylestown Hospital was the site of Pennsylvania’s first robotic-assisted single-incision hysterectomy on May 15, 2013.
* The hospital’s first robotic single-incision gallbladder removal was performed in January 2014.
* Doylestown Hospital was the first in Pennsylvania to implant the innovative new LINQ cardiac monitor system for irregular heartbeat in February 2014.

For a comprehensive list of Doylestown Hospital’s programs and services, and for the latest information on classes, events and hospital news, please visit dh.org. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/doylestownhospital.

## The VIA Maternity Center of Doylestown Hospital

Approximately 1,300 babies are born every year at Doylestown Hospital, which is rated among the best in the region for maternity care by HealthGrades™. The VIA’s one-million-dollar pledge will support expansion of the hospital’s VIA Maternity Center.

Outpatient services include the *Prenatal Testing Center* and the *Healthy Beginnings* program, which ensures prenatal care for uninsured or under-insured women. In-patient services are provided in 22 private rooms and 10 private labor and delivery rooms, where mothers give birth and bond with their newborns immediately after birth, and a Newborn Nursery. Families are encouraged to “room-in” with their newborns. An intensive care nursery is onsite for those babies 32 weeks or older who require a higher level of care, staffed 24 hours a day by specialists from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Planned upgrades include construction of a new and larger newborn nursery, expansion of the Intensive Care Nursery, and two new C-section rooms. Equipment upgrades will include a state of the art cardiac respiratory monitoring system and new warmer beds for the ICN as well as a new hearing screener for all babies.

## Community Support

In addition to donations directed to Doylestown Hospital, the organization supports the greater Bucks County community. Examples of the VIA’s community support include the following:

### Community Response Fund

Founded in 1995, this fund provides financial assistance to projects that enhance quality of life in the community. Grants are awarded on a one-time basis to an agency or individual targeting community needs including health, economic and social issues. Previous grants have been awarded to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Lord’s Pantry, Women Build, Central Bucks Family YMCA and many other organizations requesting grants for a specific community program.

### Welfare Fund

This fund provides monies for food, clothing, medication, rent, utility bills, transportation and many other emergency needs to members of the community. Committee members are available 365 days a year to respond to needs.

### Women’s Scholarship Fund

Established in 1997, the fund supports training and education for eligible women to become self-supporting by assisting them to secure employment or upgrade their skills to improve work opportunities. Past recipients have attended technical and trade schools, Bucks County Community College, Montgomery County Community College, Temple University, Gwynned-Mercy College, and Drexel University.

## James-Lorah Memorial House

The Village Improvement Association also maintains and preserves the James-Lorah Memorial House, located across from the Doylestown courthouse. The James-Lorah Memorial House is the home of the VIA and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

This home was built in 1844 by Judge Henry Chapman, the grandfather of the famous Henry Mercer. He owned and lived in the house until 1869 when he sold it to Dr. Oliver James, who lived there until his death. After that, his daughter, Sarah, who had married the Reverend Doctor George Lorah, and her sister Martha used the home as a summer vacation house. Sarah was a charter member of the VIA from its organization in 1895. Upon her death in 1954, Miss James bequeathed to the VIA the17-room residence, its contents and a trust fund for maintenance. The house and the newer, attached auditorium are now used by the VIA for monthly and other club meetings and are often opened to the public for tours and community events.

# About Serendipity Farm

### Location

131 Pine Mill Circle, Doylestown, PA 18901

### The History of Serendipity Farm

**In Loving Hands and Hearts**

Early records of the portion of land where Serendipity Farm now stands date back to 1775, a time when the colonists were facing war with Great Britain.

It was on the 18th of April in ’75 that Paul Revere made his legendary ride, and the next day the battles at Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of open conflict. The ensuing Revolutionary War impacted upon the settlers in the region of Bucks County as men were needed to serve in the militia. Records disclose that there were a number of volunteers, whereas others felt obligated to remain with their small businesses and struggling farms.

The original tract of land that became Serendipity Farm was associated with the Worthington family, a name still prominent in the area. It was passed on by Samuel Worthington to his nephew Isaac and his three sons, Samuel, Jonathan and David, in 1775. David received a farm of 112 acres recorded in New Britain Township because the area did not become part of Doylestown Township until 1817.

New Britain Township tax documents of 1784 list David with “250 acres, two houses and one out house, nine white inhabitants residing on the land.” This may have been because David was guardian for a kinsman under 18, and it was common practice for the older man to pay the property taxes for his young relative.

A description of one of the houses taxed by the federal government in 1798 virtually assures that it is the core of the current house: “one dwelling 46’ by 21’ two story, new stone” with a kitchen added and a milk house.

When David Worthington died in 1828, a jury of 12 men appointed through Orphan’s Court, decided that his property was too small to be parceled out among his heirs, and a notice appeared in the Doylestown Democrat announcing that it was to be sold publicly and the profits divided. However, David may have had a will recorded elsewhere, because it is known that his son Amos “received a plantation where he then lived in Doylestown Township.” The description included a “commodious two story stone dwelling house and kitchen” with barn probably constructed in the early 1830s, and land that was later sold to Joseph Tyson for $27 an acre.

Other archives reveal that Tyson sold 112 acres to Charles Shade in 1845 which Shade divided ten years later, selling 80 acres with the house to George Quick and his wife for $7,050. Within eight years, the Quicks had sold to the Bergey family who retained the property for several generations.

Oliver Bergey was born on the farm. In 1923 he married and brought his bride Elizabeth to the homestead. She bore seven children, three girls and four boys, all born in the house. The oldest, Grace Brenneman at age 90, lives in Souderton. Her brothers and sisters now live in various parts of the country.

The Bergey children helped out in planting season and with the threshing of the wheat crop in July. Grace’s fondest memories are of the brothers and sisters cooling off after their chores with a swim in the creek, a short distance from the house.

She tells of one summer day that turned into near tragedy. Five beehives were kept on the roof of their springhouse. While playing nearby the youngest sister, just two-and-a-half, was attacked by a horde of bees. Screams of panic brought her mother running to the rescue. Little Lois suffered 150 stings and her mother, 50. To escape, they fled to a dark room in the house and the attack subsided with bees flying out of the child’s nose and ears. She was seriously ill for some time.

The children walked to the two-room school on Sandy Ridge Road, now a private home. In the cold winter months, they bundled up for happy sledding parties on the hill and skating on the frozen creek–memorable times during the 14 years they lived on the farm.

Oliver and Elizabeth Bergey held the land until 1937 when it passed to Alvin T. Miller. The next recorded exchange was “eighty acres more or less” in 1954 to Charles and Sue Carew. In 1974, Countryside Developers, Inc. bought the acreage with buildings and subdivided the farm. George E. Michael Jr. and Janet Michael bought the lot where the house and buildings stand and named the property Serendipity Farm. The Michaels more than doubled the size of the farmhouse where they raised their family.

In 1998 the property was sold to Bucks County attorney Christopher Serpico and his wife Maureen when their boy and girl twins were seven and their younger son was three. They all learned to fish in the pond and the children often had their friends to the farm to play. The parents enjoyed entertaining guests in the lovely setting. A few years after the Serpico’s acquired the property, they doubled the size of the cottage, which was near the house, but distant enough to afford privacy for Chris’s parents who lived there for ten years. The children appreciated the advantages of growing up close to their grandparents. The twins now live in New Jersey and New York and their brother is a student at Bucknell University. Chris and Maureen, who now have a home in another part of Doylestown Township, look forward to their daughter’s wedding in November.

The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens is grateful to the Serpicos for their generosity and cooperation, and is pleased to have their picturesque property, now up for sale, as the 39th designer house project.

Thanks to the Bucks County Conservancy for access to historical accounts and to Grace Brenneman and Maureen Serpico for more recent information.

# History of the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

## Designed to Care

Since 1895 the women of the Village Improvement of Doylestown have committed themselves to improving and beautifying Bucks County. The VIA has continued to be forward looking, maintaining its original goals to promote “every proper means of improving and beautifying Bucks County…improving the health and welfare of the residents,” now “supporting a community hospital and other healthcare facilities for the benefit of all persons.” Each year members rededicate themselves to these commitments made in 1895.

“Designed to care” reflects the 2014 Designer House Committee’s commitment to support the community, the designers, Doylestown Hospital and the VIA. We sincerely hope you will join us and support our commitment by attending the 2014 Bucks County Designer House, Serendipity Farm, located at 131 Pine Mill Circle Doylestown, PA.

## From the beginning to now

In 1971, the VIA held the first Bucks County Designer House at Wheelbarrow Hill in Holicong. The second was in 1976 at Darlington House in Doylestown and the third in 1978 at Red Stone Farm in Danboro. Beginning in 1979, with the Hendrie House in Doylestown, the VIA has held a designer house every year. Additional information is available on the Doylestown Hospital website at www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

This is the 39th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens.

## An All-Volunteer Effort

The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens in an all-volunteer effort. This year approximately 80 members of the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown serve on the Designer House committee. When the house opens, hundreds of volunteers from the hospital, service organizations, and the general public give their time to staff the house during the month. Without strong community support, this would be a daunting task. The committee is grateful for all volunteers who find the time to donate hours to this worthwhile cause.

## Selection of a House

The Designer House Chairman and Vice-Chairman, along with several VIA officers, visit and evaluate available properties. Realtors often suggest properties that may be suitable and, at times, homeowners offer their property for a several-month period during which the transformation and house tours take place. Many factors are considered in selecting a house including location, historic interest, accessibility, and function space, parking and unique architectural and landscape characteristics.

## Designer Selection

Letters are sent to interior designers and landscapers inviting them to an open house to preview the property. Interior designers are asked to submit a color board, sketch and written description of their first room choice and to select two other alternate choices. The committee endeavors to match the designer and design area, realizing that it is not always possible to give everyone his/her first choice. Landscapers request their preferred areas and are assigned according to availability.

## When the House Closes

The house reverts back to the owners who then enjoy the newly painted surfaces and any designer accessory that they may have purchased or, if the house is for sale, the realtor continues to market the designer enhanced property.

# Public Service Announcements

## Overview (60 seconds)

Visit Serendipity Farm, a 245-year-old farmhouse with spectacular views and the charm of historic Bucks County. Join us and experience how a team of more than 30 design experts has transformed this stunning property. Wander through the charming old farmhouse, cozy cottage, grand barn, along with the pool, pool house and the serene pond. You will also find boutiques, designer décor and the sumptuous Water’s Edge Café.

Presented by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown to benefit Doylestown Hospital and the mission of the VIA. The Designer House will be open for tours from Sunday, April 27 through Sunday, May 31 (excluding Memorial Day) and is located at, 131 Pine Mill Circle, Doylestown, PA 18901.

Advance tickets and seniors 62+ are $20; tickets at the door, $25.For more information, visit www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.orgor call (215) 345-2191.

## Brief (30 seconds)

Visit Serendipity Farm, a 245-year-old farmhouse with spectacular views and the charm of historic Bucks County. Join us and experience how a team of design experts has transformed this stunning property. Also explore boutiques, designer décor and a café.

Proceeds benefit Doylestown Hospital and the mission of the Village Improvement Association.

The house will be open from April 27 through May 31(excluding Memorial Day) and is located at, 131 Pine Mill Circle in Doylestown, PA, 18901.

Advance tickets and seniors 62+ are $20; tickets at the door, $25. For more information, visit www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.orgor call (215) 345-2191.

# For more information . . .

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## Internet Links

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| --- | --- |
| Bucks County Designer House & Gardens | www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org |
| Village Improvement Association of Doylestown | www.via-doylestown.org |
| Doylestown Hospital | www.dh.org |
| James-Lorah Memorial House | doylestownborough.net/jameslorahhouse.htm |

## Style Sheet

Name of the organization: “the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown” or “the VIA”

Name of the event: “Bucks County Designer House & Gardens” – note the use of an ampersand.