

## Mayor Libby White



Mayor White was born at Fort Riley, Kansas, during the Great Depression, and at the brink of World War II. In 1940 the family moved east to Maryland. Her father was in the military and served in the Pacific during World War II and later in Japan and Korea.

The family moved several times, even spending a brief time together in Japan. She and her mother and two sisters followed their father as army dependents, traveling by train across the U.S. They then crossed the Pacific on an army transport ship to Yokohama, Japan, in June of 1950. Libby credits these years as an “Army brat” with giving her a wide variety of interesting experiences and an appreciation of people from different cultures, and in different parts of our country.

At West Chester University, Libby met her husband Lou. Both have followed careers in education and earned Master’s degrees in education. Libby began her career as an elementary school vocal music teacher in Havre de Grace, Maryland. The couple were married in 1962, and took off for their honeymoon in a bright red Volvo. In 1964 and 1966 their two sons, Eric and Douglas were born.

Libby was occupied for the next ten years with child rearing, with the help of Lou, and homemaking. She feels that she and her husband and family “grew up with the town”. They saw Doylestown begin its revitalization with the downtown initiatives begun in 1964. They remember with nostalgia the old Doylestown High School, Kershner’s Drug Store, Musselman’s, Leatherman and Godshall’s, and the Arctic grocery store. Central Bucks was the high school, and it took about three minutes to go anyplace in town. They formed many friendships that they still enjoy, and gradually joined with others in community activities.

In 1976 Libby enrolled as a graduate student at Lehigh University, and in 1979 graduated with an M.Ed. in Counseling. She worked for the next six years as an elementary school counselor at Franconia Elementary School, Souderton, PA.

In 2003, Libby was instrumental in founding the Doylestown Democrats. Lou was then serving on Doylestown Borough Council; and is presently Vice -President of Council. In 2004 Libby was asked by her party to run for mayor, and was elected in November, 2005.

The mayor sees her job as two-fold – to help preserve the character and stability of the town, and to promote and encourage programs and initiatives that will further improve the quality of life for all residents.

To this end she has supported Borough Council and the Police Department in their efforts to reduce criminal activity and promote considerate behavior on the downtown streets and in the parks. As mayor, she has oversight of the police department. She works closely with Chief Donnelly, and his complement of 16 officers. She feels much encouraged by the improved behavior of young people who enjoy being downtown, and the relaxed atmosphere present for adults as well.

A main concern of the mayor is the health and well-being of all our young people. She has participated in forums for youth sponsored by CB Cares (Central Bucks Healthier Community Team) and the Bucks County Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence. She also supports the police department's DARE program for sixth graders, and the Town Watch program.

As Borough liaison to the Regional Task Force on Aging, Mayor White is promoting the distribution of helpful information to senior citizens. She is being aided in this effort by Mayor Marilyn Becker of Chalfont, and the Doylestown Task Force Committee.

She has initiated Doylestown Clean and Green, a volunteer effort to keep the sidewalks clean, and to promote beautification in the downtown area. This program also provides an opportunity for young people to perform community service as part of their school program. Many adults have volunteered, and the participation continues to grow.

Libby is a member of several local civic groups, and enjoys books, films and music. Her favorite hobby is playing the Irish harp. She and her husband Lou enjoy traveling in the U.S. and abroad. They are the proud parents of two grown sons.

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