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Welcome to **Indian Valley Today**

Dear Friend in the Community,

Our world has changed so much since the beginning of 2020, in ways we could never have imagined. And yet, here we are. Life has certainly not been without its challenges, but I am filled with a sense of hope and optimism. I believe the best for our region, state, and country is yet to come. This sense of optimism comes from you, your neighbors, friends, and colleagues, from the people and businesses of the Indian Valley. Through the challenges and loss of this time, we have all shown our resilience.

It has certainly been a unique experience, and one we have all experienced together. I have never been prouder of the businesses and nonprofit organizations of our region as I have been over the last 24 months. They have been laser-focused on keeping their employees safe while continuing to bring us, their clients and customers, the products and services we need to continue our lives. From the agribusinesses that feed us on a local, national, and global scale to the manufacturers creating and building the products we have come to rely on, to the human services providers that keep us healthy and happy, and to all the businesses in between – the members of the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce have stepped up to the challenge. None of this could have happened without the support of dedicated team members and employees. Everyone has stood together and it shows.

Members have kept their businesses going to continue to provide good-paying jobs to support the economy of our region. Our schools, both public and private, have exceeded our expectations, staying open for in-person learning and supporting our children with a quality education while building relationships and being in the company of their friends. This was so important, and we cannot take this for granted. We owe our teachers, administrators, and school boards a debt of gratitude.

How will you think back upon the last 24 months? It has been challenging. It has moved us to spaces of being uncomfortable. But it is in these spaces of being uncomfortable that we can learn about ourselves. Be sure to take the time to reflect on how you have changed. Many of us are taking this time of immense pressure and the unknown to evaluate how we want to see life moving forward. As we have done time and again before we will achieve much good by working together. I am looking forward to what we can create together.

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Souderton, PA 18964
215-723-9472
indianvalleychamber.com

Telford Borough..... 8-11
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Telford, PA 18969
215-723-5000
telfordborough.org

Souderton Borough..... 12-15
31 W. Summit Street
Souderton PA 18964
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Lower Salford Township...24-26
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215-256-8087
lowersalfordtownship.org

Hatfield Borough.....27-30
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From HVAC to Pest Control, Pool & Spa to Tree & Shrub Care, we've seen it all across our nine service divisions. Here are some fun facts about what we see and do.

Pool & Spa



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Pest Control

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Tree & Shrub

The maple leaf is the symbol of Canada but did you know there are six types of maple trees native to Pennsylvania? Can you guess what they are? *(The answers are at the bottom of this page.)*



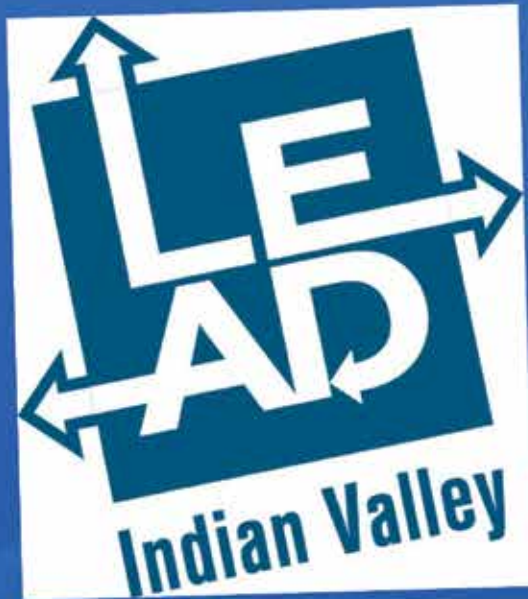
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THE LEGEND OF HARLEYSVILLE HANK

Punxsutawney Phil is not the only groundhog in Pennsylvania known for predicting the weather. Meet Harleysville Hank, who made his weather forecasting debut in 2016.

The brainchild of Steve Diehl, executive director of the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville Hank became the unofficial ambassador for Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania (MHEP). Tragically, we lost Diehl to an aggressive cancer in 2019. But his legacy lives on.

Hank has since continued to receive warm welcomes from the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce and its member businesses. Every year, about two months prior to Groundhog Day, Hank ventures out of his burrow and visits a variety of Chamber members to say "Hello" and create buzz for the big day.

Then on February 2, Hank's fans from across the region gather in the field – and the early morning chill – at the barn on the grounds of the MHEP (565 Yoder Road in Harleysville) to sing groundhog carols, enjoy funny cake and shoo fly pie and sample freshly-made scrapple. Even though Hank is a groundhog of the stuffed animal variety, he loves scrapple!

In addition to being a social media influencer and promoter of the region's businesses, Hank is an homage to the Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of Grundsau (Groundhog) Lodges. These were annual gatherings where the quickly disappearing Pennsylvania Dutch language was practiced and a hearty meal enjoyed. In their heyday, hundreds of people would attend these gatherings which were held across Lehigh, Berks, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties. These lodges are practically extinct today, with the ***Nummer Neine On Da Deef Runn*** (Number 9 on the Deep Run, near Dublin, PA) being one of the only local lodges still meeting.

Hank's native language, of course, is Pennsylvania Dutch and when it's time he whispers his prognostication into the Hauptman's (Grundsau Chairman's) ear and the Hauptman translates the forecast for the crowd.

Follow Hank's Facebook page -- facebook.com/harleysvillehank – where you can see a video of the 2022 event. Plan to join us February 2, 2023, at sunrise for some fun and humor!



A MESSAGE FROM MARK D. FOURNIER, TELFORD BOROUGH/AUTHORITY MANAGER

2022 ACTION PLAN



The Christmas tree has been taken down and all the decorations throughout town and Borough Hall have been put away. It is time to plan ahead for 2022. Telford Borough has planned a full slate of activities to be completed in the coming year. Parks will be bustling with activity this spring and summer and our municipal parking lot will be energetic with our Telford Happenings activities, like the Telford Night Market, Car Show, Oktoberfest, Telford Tree Lighting, etc. There is an awful lot of people involved in making these events happen.



Our new Telford Borough Hall is fully operational since we moved in this July. The building has met our needs and expectations. Our residents are getting used to paying their water and sewer bills at the new location, including utilizing our new drive thru window and night depository on the side of our building. However, we do still get the occasional customer that is looking to cash or deposit a check, since our building was a former bank.

As we move through this Covid pandemic, it has become apparent that it isn't going away anytime soon. Dealing with the difficulty in acquiring materials for upcoming planned projects and new equipment is a major hurdle to overcome in accomplishing these tasks. Identifying the details of each project and ordering the materials way in advance is key. For instance, one project we intend to complete this construction season is the hardening of the Police Department lobby, making it a safer place for those in the building. This needs to be designed by the Borough Engineer, put out to bid, awarded to a qualified contractor, order the specialty bulletproof materials, and finally, complete the installation. This will take months to complete, even though this is just one very small necessary project.

Our Public Works Department has a host of our annual paving and park maintenance projects including NOVACHIP



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paving of the entire Liberty Place development streets – Stonehearth Lane, Whitford Circle, Coventry Circle and Paddock Circle. A few park projects to be completed in 2022 include sealcoating our walking trails, sealcoating the Stover Park parking lot and tennis court fencing at Stover Park. These are just some of the “normal” type paving and park maintenance activities to be completed in 2022.

We look forward to working toward completing the projects outlined above along with many other tasks with Telford Borough Authority. That is specifically waterline replacement projects along Fourth Street and Third Street and a sewer line relining project along West Broad Street between Third Street and Fourth Street which includes manhole relining.

Further, there are several significant projects planned at the Telford Borough Wastewater Treatment Facility including the roof replacement of four buildings and the design of a new operating control SCADA system.

This is an aggressive Action Plan outline for 2022. Obviously, many things need to fall into place in order to see these projects through to completion. We look forward to working with our residents and businesses in accomplishing these tasks with minimal impact. However, coordination and communication with our customers and residents is critical to successful project implementation. As always, we are here to answer any questions people may have for us. Please feel free to call or stop by the new Borough Hall if we can be of assistance to you.

MESSAGE FROM THE BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Are you getting ready to put your house on the market? Telford Borough requires that a Use & Occupancy inspection be done prior to the resale of property in the Borough, and prior to transferring ownership of a property. The Borough conducts these inspections to verify that the property is in compliance with current Building & Zoning codes.

The application fee for a residential U&O inspection is \$50.00, and \$75.00 for a commercial property.

The Borough recommends that the U&O inspection be completed three to four weeks prior to the date of Settlement, to allow a sufficient amount of time for the homeowner to address any items that need to be resolved before the property is sold/transferred. A copy of the U&O application can be found on the Telford Borough website (www.telfordborough.org) in the Frequently Asked Questions section, along with the checklist that the inspector will have with him when he comes to the property. Both of these items are also available at the Borough office.



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Chief Randall S. Floyd



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- 911 to report a crime in progress or emergency
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- (215) 723-6700 Police Department Administration Office
- (215) 723-7558 Police Department FAX Number

"Conflict builds character . . . crisis defines it."
unknown

Providing Quality Service to The Community

By Randall S. Floyd, Chief of Police

This February, I will have served in law enforcement for 35 years. With the exception of 14 months in West Rockhill Township (now part of the Pennridge Regional Police Department), the remainder has been with Telford Borough. Over these years I have worked with many different men and women, including several, now retired, that were great mentors, teachers, and friends. However, the makeup of the Telford Borough Police Department (TBDP) today as a whole, is the best that I have ever had the pleasure to be part of during my 35-year tenure. Having the privilege to lead these awesome men and women is what motivates me as the Chief. I can honestly say that I look forward to going to work every day.

The TBDP is made up of 13 men and women. In addition to my position as Chief, the department includes a detective, nine patrol officers, a civilian evidence technician, and an administrative assistant. Despite the smaller size of the department, there is great diversity. Five of the 13 are women, including three patrol officers and the evidence technician. Racially, three officers are mixed race, including Black, Asian, and Latino. Age wise the department goes from 22 to 62 years of age. Because of these differences, there is also great diversity in thought, experience, and tradition. This diversity makes the TBDP stronger and more effective.

Additionally, nine officers have college degrees. Officer Tori Adams is currently working on his master's degree, utilizing the education benefits offered by the Borough. All officers and staff take advantage of advanced training opportunities that are relevant to their respective assignments.

One of the department's female officers, Officer Sara Miller, is a Sergeant in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Last year she served a 12-month deployment in Kuwait and Iraq. Those skills and experiences transfer well into her patrol duties with the TBDP, making her a better officer.

Despite the diversity, one thing is uniform, each one is committed to providing quality service to the community. Dedicated to making Telford Borough and the surrounding community a great place to live and work.

Last year, in the aftermath of the George Floyd death in Minneapolis, there was a hue and cry to demonize the police and to defund their budgets. The term, "reimagining the police" was coined and many politicians, activists and celebrities jumped on the band wagon, so to speak. For the most part, the effort failed to produce anything except outrageous increases in crime in many cities. However, as a result of the yearlong banter, once the idea of rainbow and unicorn squads was debunked, some valuable tidbits rose to the surface indicating what most people would like to see from their police.

In addition to safety and protection, the chief expectation of policing, there is a major concern that officers operate legally within the parameters of the United States Constitution and state and federal laws. All TBDP officers and staff adhere to strict policies and procedures that are written to comply with state and federal laws and to embrace Constitutional limits on authority. They train regularly on these issues, including reading and testing on the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights twice annually. Officers and staff understand the important of legal and ethical integrity and practice it as a part of routine. It is common to overhear conversations between officers practicing ethical decision-making skills and is further rewarding to hear that they deliberated and concluded on taking a

high ground position.

Also, some of the other "expectations" that came out of the "defund the police" debacle, were that police should better be equipped to deal with the less fortunate in the community. This would include the homeless, mentally ill, crime victims, and those suffering from different forms of addiction.

TBPD officers encountering homeless persons, a growing issue in the Indian Valley region, take pride in being able to provide emergency assistance (food, shelter, etc.) and to aid in securing a more permanent solution to the individual. A \$20.00 gift card does not always resolve the situation. However, the expression of compassion and utilizing the patience to help that individual identify resources through county agencies or one of our community partners, Keystone Opportunity Center, can often get them on track to finding a shelter or housing alternative.

Mental illness in the community is rampant. There are days when a TBPD officer responds to as many as four to six calls, each involving an individual suffering from untreated and / or undertreated mental illness. Most TBPD officers have been certified as Crisis Intervention Specialists (CIS) and do a fabulous job with assisting those with mental illness, despite the lack of available treatment facilities or services. Oftentimes crimes are committed as a result of mental illness and officers need to be able to differentiate the type of response that is given. It is often a very frustrating and time-consuming process, but yet to see the officers carefully advocate

for these individuals to get the proper treatment is rewarding.

Being a victim of crime can be not only scary, but can also lead to emotional trauma, economic harm, loss of work, etc. How an officer responds to the victims of crime, making certain that they know their rights and have access to the necessary county and state agencies for further assistance is vital. In addition to officers providing immediate assistance to crime victims, TBPD Police Specialist and Evidence Technician Alysa Cianciarulo is also a trained victim advocate. She follows up with crime victims above and beyond the norm to ascertain whether they understand the information that was provided to them by the officers, and to offer additional advocacy and support if needed.

The opioid crisis that has impacted Southeastern Pennsylvania and numerous other regions of the country, results in many overdoses. Officers are often first on the scene and have been able to reverse the effects of the opiate drug with Narcan. TBPD officers have saved the lives of many individuals over the last few years as a result of their response.

While crime is often the major thing associated with policing, and it is a big part, there are many other tasks that require special skills as well. In Telford Borough, it is good to know that there are a special group of people capable and willing to do those things to not only protect, but to serve the good people of our community. In fact, they are the best police department ever.



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BECOMING A SOUDERTONIAN

By John R. Reynolds, Mayor of Souderton (2007-2021)



Souderton Borough Council asked Mayor Reynolds to write a letter to Souderton. Here are his thoughtful and indelible words that reflect what it means to become a true Soudertonian. We are grateful for his many years of service to Souderton Borough.

I was always a bit of a wanderer. As an Air Force brat, I lived on three different continents before I was eight years old. Oh sure, I grew some roots when as a family we settled down in Southern California during my third-grade school year, staying until my high school graduation. But as soon as I did graduate, I left for college and never really returned. I spent time at four different universities in California from San Diego to the wine country of Sonoma before receiving my undergraduate degree.

While plugging away at my third try for a master's degree in Marine Biology in northern California, I answered an ad in a trade magazine for a scuba diving instructor and underwater tour guide on a charter yacht in the Caribbean. I thought a few months in the islands would refresh my outlook on finishing my graduate degree, and since I was an experienced scuba diver by that time, I thought I would give it six months or so. Ten years and more than twenty yachts later, and with a couple hundred thousand miles of sailing under my keel, I fell in love with Laurie Day, and even though I did not know it at the time, my wandering days were pretty much over.

I was in-between boat jobs at the time, helping to manage a big 160-acre fox hunting estate outside of Ambler. I was scheduled to soon take off for Europe to prepare a small sailboat for a Trans-Atlantic passage. During my time on the estate, I took a seminar in Philadelphia. I decided that during the next intermission, I would ask this young blonde who was sitting alone a couple of rows in front of me if she would like to join me for a day of skiing. Laurie had unfinished business in Denver where she had spent the last few years getting her master's degree and joining the work force. When she came back, we had a few weeks of great fun together before I left for Europe. We kept in touch, and when I was finally ready to make sail from the south of England, I asked Laurie if she could join us when we made landfall in Barbados in the Caribbean. We had such a great time in the islands that I decided when my commitment to this boat was over, I would try to see what it was like living on dry land in Souderton, PA.

I was introduced to Souderton in 1985. Laurie was born and raised here. My future in-laws were locals, with some

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family branches going back a few hundred years in this area. Having been raised in a nomadic-type lifestyle, I really did not know what it was like having family of any type—cousins, aunts, uncles, friends—within any proximity to me. But then I met people here—Moyer, Landis, Allebach, Godshall, Leidy—who had what seemed to be countless family members and generations in our area. And so, within a few years of moving here, it seemed that I knew everyone in this small town. Everyone I met was very welcoming. The kind of place that I wanted to raise my kids. And so, I did. And my transforming into a Soudertonian began.

In over twenty-six years of public service, I certainly got to know the borough and its people pretty well. I got into politics and the running of the borough for two reasons—first, I was asked by then Mayor Charlie Allebach, a hard ask to turn down. But I got into it due to a feeling of civic duty. Although I had no agenda, I wanted to help the borough move in the directions that I thought was best for long term success. After a year on Zoning Board, I was appointed to an empty Borough Council seat, where I spent ten years before my time as Souderton Mayor began. We pushed forward with downtown revitalization, working to remake Souderton as a great place to work and live. We helped build the Indian Valley Boys and Girls Club, and redeveloped the Souderton Community Pool to be one of the best public pools in our region. In fifteen years as Mayor, I was lucky to work with three different Chiefs of Police, two who I helped to hire. And our police force is larger and better equipped now than it was fifteen years ago.

As Mayor, I got to know many of our business owners and leaders. I came to realize that our businesses were supportive of what we were accomplishing at the pool, the Boys and Girls Club, the community park, and the continued revitalization of our downtown. I have met many local artisans who draw attention and clientele to our borough. We have supported the opportunity for new businesses to come into town. It all taught me that being a Soudertonian included supporting the community in many ways.

Becoming a Soudertonian was a process of becoming included into the community. Marrying and starting a family here, buying a house, joining a well-established business, all helped to give me a feeling of home. It did not take long to realize what this community has to give. The people are what makes Souderton so special. The giving, the volunteering in so many ways, and the welcoming support.

Sure, if I had not done my bit of reaching out over the years, I may not have become such an ardent member of the community. But then after moving here and settling down here, I realized that giving to the community is just something we as Soudertonians do.

Thank you all for your support of me for over a quarter of a century. Souderton continues to progress in a good direction. I am happy to continue to be a part of it.

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THANK YOU, BRIAN GOSHOW, PRESIDENT OF SOUDERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (2005-2021)

By Daryl Littlefield, Souderton Borough Councilor

January 2022 started off with a lot of change on Souderton Borough Council. Longtime council president Brian Goshow ended his 16-year council tenure.

Goshow has been a fixture in the Souderton Community for many years. As a young child he lived in or around Souderton, attended school in the Souderton Area School District, and was a 1990 Graduate of Souderton High School.

As an adult he has maintained his Souderton roots by running a family business in Souderton and being involved in local and regional groups that include the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission and Generations of Indian Valley Board.

We were recently able to speak with Goshow about his tenure on council to understand what sparked his interest in local government, the highlights, and what he sees for the future of Souderton.

His interest in local government started in 2003 when the council was investigating contracting policies services from another township and his concerns on the revitalization efforts at the time and how that would affect Souderton's taxpayers. After speaking at a few borough council meetings about these issues he was encouraged by local business leaders to run for council.

There were challenges after being elected to council. He was young when elected to his first term (33 years old). He had bucked the system and felt the challenge to earn the respect from the other members of council. Also during this time there was a push for the revitalization effort that would have dramatically changed downtown Main Street as well as being faced with an aging swimming pool complex and the redevelopment of the Old Souderton High School site, which all was occurring during the recession of 2008.

Through these challenges came some significant highlights and accomplishments that have shaped what Souderton is today:

Redevelopment of the Souderton Community Pool – This was a responsible construction project, but it was also a large fundraising campaign. Our local businesses invested in the pool complex at a high level, and ultimately guided the way to the pool residents and nonresidents enjoy today.

Redevelopment of the Souderton High School Property – The project started off with a full head of

steam, but given the economic collapse in 2008, met with some serious speed bumps. In the end, Goshow is hopeful for a project that highlights a small town-like shopping area with flexible retail space.

125th Anniversary of Souderton (2012) – In 2010, Goshow formed a committee to plan the 125th Anniversary of Souderton's establishment (1887) because they wanted to make an impact and long-lasting mark. They developed a number of fun events throughout the year from community ice skating to historical trolley rides, to a grand parade and ending in a spectacular fireworks display. Most of the events were developed to highlight the great events that happen in Souderton on a regular basis. And again, it was the financial support of our business community that carried the cost for all of these events.

In addition to these accomplishments, Goshow is also proud of the redevelopment of the Souderton Train Station, Broad Theater, Broad Street Italian Restaurant, Single-Hauler Municipal Waste Service, development of the Public Works Building, hiring of two Police Chiefs as well as the park projects that include Souderton Park and Chestnut Street Park. In each case it shows how local government along with business and community support can accomplish great things and improve the landscape of Souderton.

Goshow's ongoing hope for Souderton is that it can continue to attract more businesses to downtown and become a retail/entertainment/dining destination as well as the borough being able to continue all the outstanding services that make Souderton a great place to live.

One final thought from President Goshow:

"Our community continues to be a great place to live and raise a family. While local leadership has helped to pave the way, a lot of what happens only is possible because of the continued investment of our local businesses, residents, and volunteers. So much of what we enjoy including the Concert Sundaes, fireworks, parades, the Souderton Community Pool, the Indian Valley Boys and Girls Clubs, and our beautiful parks would not happen without the financial support of our local businesses and lots of volunteer hours. Remember to support those businesses, and offer to help."

We thank President Goshow for his years of service to our community and wish him well.

SOUDERTON CONNECTS

By Donna M. Rogers, Souderton Borough Councilor

In the late 1870s the dusty road that came down the hollow and up the hill through town was known as Main Street. Soon after, Univest Bank of Pennsylvania, opened

in June 1876, eleven years before Souderton was chartered in 1887. Still retaining many of the buildings constructed during this booming era, Souderton is like no other Borough in Montgomery County. Pride of place and that same eagerness to improve the lives of our families and visitors alike.

Now, over 150 years later, our community continues to grow as a gathering place for dining, art galleries, community parks and entertainment. The buildings of yesteryear now house eclectic businesses. Since its beginning, Souderton Connects, a non-profit, has been working alongside more than 200 property owners within the Borough of Souderton and its commercial district. Its leadership team has been built carefully to include Souderton community and business owners who volunteer their time. Providing marketing, networking, beautification, community engagement, collaboration, and economic development for Souderton, it is dedicated to supporting our local businesses.

The mission of Souderton Connects is to help brand, market and beautify Souderton and promote the common interests of its businesses. Souderton Connects does this through strategic attention to business and retail development, facilitation of cultural institution anchors, streetscape beautification, community special events, and other initiatives that improve the economic vitality of Souderton. Souderton Connects hosts many well known events which include 3rd Fridays, Art Jam, So You Think You Can Cook, the Holiday Christmas Parade, and the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Their calendar of events is always packed with so much to do. Live music, food trucks, art festivals, exhibit



openings, and theaters. Come for hair, nails, and lashes too! Souderton businesses cover the spectrum from legal and financial, automotive, eateries, health &

wellness and plenty of retail shops. So come early and stay late. Many of the businesses participate in a Souderton exclusive digital gift card offering. Souderton Connects knows that there are many challenges for any business owner. They are there to help with many resources available. Whether its marketing, digital sign ads, funding opportunities, or ribbon cuttings, Souderton Connects can provide these needs to any business. Just recently Montgomery County Planning Commission has begun meeting with a Steering Committee of local Souderton residents, elected officials, and business owners to analyze data gathered by the county.

The leadership team is made up of Souderton community and business owners who volunteer their time for the good of the town.

Recently, the Montgomery County Planning Commission is working with Souderton Borough and Souderton Connects to update the borough's Revitalization Plan! The plan will provide a long-range vision for the continued revitalization of Souderton Borough. Please take a few moments to complete our Community Survey. Your input will help direct our recommendations for the plan. For more information, please contact Danielle Baer at dbaer@montcopa.org.

Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YCZ3RR>

QR Code:



Souderton Spring/Summer 2022 Events:

- **May:** Memorial Day Opening of the Souderton Community Pool
- **June-August:** 35th Annual Concert Sundaes in the Park

**Check www.soudertonborough.org
and <https://www.soudertonconnects.com> for updates.**

WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM AT SOUDERTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS OPPORTUNITY



The kinds of challenges women face in their careers and professional life are unique, and there is great strength in having the support of women who have successfully navigated the world of work. This is one of the messages female students at Souderton Area High School heard during the school district's Women's Symposium 3.0, a school-day event focused on bringing local women together to discuss career paths.

The event, held November 10, 2021, featured the Honorable Carolyn Tornetta Carluccio and the Executive Director of the Montgomery Bar Association, Denise S. Vicario, Esq., as keynote speakers. Ten other presenters spoke to students, sharing personal and career stories. The Symposium, first held in 2015, is organized by students and supported by a faculty committee. It's

offered every other year but was delayed due to the pandemic. As part of the event, the National Honor Society organized a collection of donations for Jenna's Blessing Bags, which provides supplies to homeless members of the community.

"The Symposium provides leadership opportunities for students, whether they serve as committee members, ambassadors, or participants," said Souderton Area High School Assistant Principal Ellen Sykes. "It teaches students different ways to build confidence and balance their personal lives against the pressures they face in today's competitive world. It also exposes students to future careers and personal opportunities while giving them strategies and resources to overcome the barriers they may face." She says some students have stayed in touch with speakers, and some have even earned internships because of the connections they'd made.



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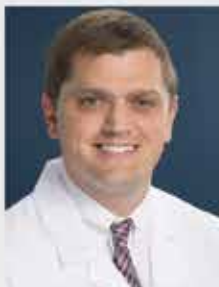
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Primary Care
Sports Medicine

Message From JON HAMMER, Township Manager



Jon Hammer, Township Manager
Franconia Township

It's an honor for me to have the opportunity to serve as Township Manager for Franconia Township, a place that truly epitomizes the word 'community.' Over the past two years, together, we have gone through some difficult times. We have suffered through the tragedy of a global pandemic together and yet we've shared opportunities to celebrate together. We live in a time of such uncertainty, not knowing what the future holds – other than the fact that we will get through these difficult times together, as a community.

I am optimistic that 2022 will bring a newness, a springtime for us all. To help usher in these better times, the township is in the process of some large-scale projects to better serve the residents. For the first time in decades, the municipal building on Allentown Road is seeing significant improvements, including upgrades to the lobby area, main meeting room and restrooms. New flooring, lighting, doors, technology improvements, including the addition of big screen video monitors and an audio upgrade

are all a part of the plan. But that's not all.

This spring, we will also be making upgrades to the playground area at Franconia Community Park. New playground equipment will be added, and a rubberized surface installed to allow children of all abilities to play together in a fun and safe environment. And lastly, we are continuing to make improvements to the Godshall Pond area which will include the removal of dead trees, creating a biodiversity area at the current pond, and increasing areas for picnicking and passive recreation. This improvement is part of the township's MS4 stormwater upgrades.

And one more improvement is PennDOT will begin construction on the 309 Connector Road this spring which will help alleviate truck traffic and congestion in the township, creating a direct route to the Pennsylvania Turnpike without using our local roads. More information on this project can be found at www.pa309connector.com.

As most everyone is aware, Franconia Township has amongst the lowest municipal real estate taxes of any municipality in the region with its own police department. We take great pride in providing outstanding basic local government services at a low tax rate, including being recognized as one of the safest communities in the entire state. I would encourage anyone with questions on the township's financial status to view our financial audit posted on the township website. By any account, the township is in a very strong financial position, with very little debt, and we expect to keep taxes low for years to come.

Lastly, I'd like to thank and congratulate our former Public Works Director, Paul Nice, on a very successful career. Paul retired in January after more than 50 years with the township. Paul's fingerprints are everywhere in the township, from the park system, to trails, to the condition of our roads ... no one knows the township better than Paul. I wish him and his family well and thank him for his service to the township. Paul will be missed.

I hope everyone has a safe, healthy and happy 2022!

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LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The following is a look at Land Development projects in Franconia Township.

Approved or Under Construction

- *The Pizza Box* – 402 Morwood Road
- *Medical Office Building* – County Line Road and Township Line Road
- *Peter Becker Community* – 30 Cottages at Pondview
- *Amplifier Research* – Building addition, 160 Schoolhouse Road
- *Alderfer Glass* – 134 Telford Pike, Warehouse and office expansion with associated parking
- *Bayard Estates* – WB Homes, Indian Creek Road, 22 Single Family Homes and 23.6 acres designated for Open Space

Preliminary Approval

- *Belton Manor Estates* – 9 Single Family Homes, Godshall Road
- *Allebach Tract* – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road

Rezone Projects

- *Neighborhood Overlay District* – To permit mixed residential development.
Applied to property along Beck Road and Cowpath Road.
- *Professional Office Overlay District* – To allow professional office use through the Conditional Use process.
Applied to parcels along Township Line Road and County Line Road

TOWNSHIP LOCK BOX

Life is busy as are the schedules we have to keep so for the convenience of our residents, the township has a lock box for use after hours in making sewer or tax payments as well as dropping off permits or other documentation you might need to provide to the township. The lock box is black and mounted on the left side of the township building next to the entrance doors and is secure and checked daily.



Partnering to Advance Human Health

BEWARE, IT'S A SCAM!!



Chief Michael L. Martin

The Franconia Township Police Department and other police agencies within Montgomery County have been receiving reports from residents whose identity have been stolen/compromised, then used to open unemployment claims, credit cards, phone services, and bank accounts. We also receive frequent reports of scammers attempting to trick or intimidate people into revealing personal information or making payments. Here are a few of the most common scams and how they work:

Unemployment Fraud: The COVID-19 pandemic created much financial turmoil within the United States and around the world. The pandemic forced many Americans out of work, thereby creating a fast and furious demand for unemployment benefits. The number of unemployment claims has been overwhelming, and the Department of Labor and Industry has had difficulty keeping pace with the claims filed. This has created fertile ground for opportunistic criminals to cash in for themselves.

Police reports filed with Franconia Township Police Department indicate that many victims of unemployment identity theft learn of their victimization from either their employer and/or by receiving US Bank Relia card or unemployment checks in the mail. You should not attempt to cash a check or activate the US Bank Relia card if you did not sign up for unemployment benefits. Instead, you should mark "Void" on all checks and return them to:

Department of Treasury Comptroller's Office

Attn: Mark Accorsi

Room 113, Finance Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Anyone who receives a US Bank Relia card should take photos of both front and back of the US Bank Relia card and then email pictures to the PA Treasury Office of Investigations at the following email address: officeofinvestigations@patreasury.gov

Internal Revenue Service: Scammers will call or send letters to potential victims with threats of an arrest for not properly filing taxes over the years. The I.R.S. will not make threats of an arrest and will not ask for back payments in the way of gift cards. If the I.R.S. had questions regarding your tax filing, a date and time would be arranged to meet directly with an I.R.S. representative.

Family member needing bail money: This scam is designed to trick you into paying money to free a family member who has been allegedly arrested. The scammer will try to make you believe he/she is a bail bondsman, an officer, or a clerk for legal aid of the courts. The scammer will then go into some detail that a family member was charged in a crime and bail money is needed in order to release the family member. The scammer will ask for bail money to be paid by either banking account information, credit card information, or purchasing of gift cards. No legitimate bail bondsman will ask for payment information over the phone, especially not gift cards. If you would ever need to post a bail for a family member or a friend, you will need to sign paperwork and/or a contract to protect everyone involved.

How is your information being stolen?

Criminals are constantly trying to steal your personal identity by using fake emails, phone calls, text messages, or hacking into websites (Amazon, Walmart, etc...) where you may do online shopping. Some sophisticated criminals will even try hacking into your personal computer/cellular phones to obtain information from Social Media platforms. Never supply your personal information to anyone via text, email, social media platforms or over the phone, especially from a phone number you do not recognize.

"Phishing" is a term used to describe the electronic or telephonic methods by which criminals try to get your personal information (Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Numbers, Home Address). Unsolicited emails or phone calls requesting personal information or instructing you to click on a link are undoubtedly Phishing expeditions.

"Dumpster Diving" is a term used to describe how criminals sort through trash containers looking for personal information listed on discarded documents. Be sure to shred any document containing personal and or financial information.

"Skimming" is a term used to describe how criminals copy your credit/debit card numbers during a legitimate transaction. Card numbers can be skimmed with a secondary recording device, either affixed to an actual point-of-sale terminal or a small hand-held device. Always check statements carefully and check your credit report at least annually.

Theft of personal property remains the most highly effective method for obtaining personal information. Should your wallet or purse be stolen, immediately call the police and your credit card companies.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

If you receive a phone call, text message, or other communication informing you that you are a lottery winner or a winner of a prize from another country, **do not fall for it**. The scammer will instruct you to pay additional fees, or "up front" taxes associated with obtaining your winnings. Scammers will request you pay the additional fees in the following manner:

Gift cards

Your bank account information

Your credit card numbers

Gift Cards - The scammer will instruct to purchase a certain dollar amount and ask you to call them back to confirm the purchase(s). Once you call them back, the scammer will ask that you supply the serial numbers on the back of the gift cards. When the scammer receives the serial numbers, the gift cards are redeemed and no longer valid. The scammer quickly uses the serial numbers to make purchases. The same would be done if you supplied your banking or credit card information.

Phone numbers for Victims of Financial Crimes

Credit Bureaus

Equifax (800) 525-6285

Experian (888) 397-3742

Trans Union (800) 680-7289

Social Security Administration (800) 269-0271


Federal Trade Commission (877) IDTHEFT (438-4338)

National Consumer League (800) 876-7060

Consumer Credit Counseling Service (800) 388-CCCS (2227)


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PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Bioretention Pond

Enos B. Godshall Park is one of our township's hidden gems. Located at the intersection of Godshall and Lower Roads, this park remains in a natural wooded state and is perfectly suited for walking on our all-natural wood chipped trails, picnicking, or simply enjoying the natural surroundings. The park has a walking trail situated on 11 acres with a small pond and stream and is available for use from sunrise to sunset.

The pond was originally constructed as a man-made water source to fight fires at nearby farms, should it ever be needed. Fire ponds were fairly common in the area prior to modern fire equipment, public water sources and fire hydrants. Because of its construction, each year there is a large buildup of algae on the pond and the area becomes rife with mosquitos. The Township has received its permits from the State Department of Environmental Protection and from Montgomery County Conservation District to move forward on its MS4 plan to improve this area. We will be removing trees and the overgrowth surrounding the pond, removing the sedimentation build up within the pond, and converting the area to a bio-retention area where natural habitat can flourish, eliminating the algae and making the entire area even more desirable, including the expansion of the picnic grove. The work will begin sometime in early spring.



The Beat Tells took Franconia Township to "Strawberry Fields Forever" during its annual Summer Concert held on August 15, 2021. The weather was beautiful, and a great crowd enjoyed the hits of the Beatles with family and friends on the lawn of Franconia Community Park. We look forward to seeing you for another great concert in 2022!

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FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION

The real estate market has truly been a tricky endeavor during the past year but as a result, many new residents have moved into our beautiful township. We welcome those of you that are new to Franconia Township and believe the information that follows will be a helpful resource to you as you become acquainted with our community. Additional information about the amenities afforded to you can be found on the Township website at www.franconiatownship.org.

Utilities:

Water:
North Penn Water Authority 215-855-3617

Sewer:
Franconia Sewer Authority 215-723-1137

Cable/Phone:
Comcast 215-257-8046
Verizon 1-800-660-2215

Electric:
PP&L 1-800-342-5775

Gas:
PECO 1-800-484-4000

Oil: Resident's Choice

School District:

Souderton Area School District 215-723-6061
www.soudertonsd.org

Taxes:

Earned income tax:
1.25% for residents living in Franconia Township

Collected by: Berkheimer Tax Associates
325 Pottstown Pike
Exton, PA 19341
610-599-3140

School & Real Estate Taxes:

Collected by: Wm. Keith Freed
215-723-2024
Franconia Township Tax Collector
wkeithfreed@franconia-township.org

Police:

Emergencies: 911
Non-Emergencies: 215-723-6777

Public Works Department: 215-723-1153

Trash Collection: Resident's Choice

Recycle bins are available at the Township Office.

Advanced Disposal: 610-440-3700

Allied Waste Service (now Republic Services):
215-723-0400

Waste Management: 215-257-1142

Whitetail Disposal: 610-754-0103

Free leaf bags are available at the Township Office. Contact your trash hauler to determine their guidelines for pickup of full bags.



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LOWER Salford BIDS FAREWELL TO THREE VETERAN POLICE OFFICERS



Officer Kim Kratz & Officer Brian Kriebel

In 2021, Lower Salford Township bid a fond farewell to three of its veteran officers. Officer Brian Kriebel was just the sixth officer hired in the history of Lower Salford Township when he joined the Police Department in 1976 leading him to an amazing 45 years of service! Over these many years of service, Brian served as a patrol officer and as a Traffic Safety Officer. Officer Kim Kratz began her 33-year law enforcement career as a Lansdale officer and joined Lower Salford in 1992. She served as a patrol officer, DARE Officer, School Resource Officer and investigator. Officer Patrick O'Brien signed off for the final time in July of 2021 as he bid farewell. Officer O'Brien gave 25 years of service to the Lower Salford Community. All three officers received recognition from State Representative Tracy Pennycuick, Senator Bob Mensch as well as many thanks from Supervisor and Chairman of the Board, Doug Gifford. We all wish them happiness in their new chapters and thank them immensely for the work they have done during their years of service to the residents of Lower Salford Township.



Officer Patrick O'Brien

Representative Tracy Pennycuick, Senator Bob Mensch as well as many thanks from Supervisor and Chairman of the Board, Doug Gifford. We all wish them happiness in their new chapters and thank them immensely for the work they have done during their years of service to the residents of Lower Salford Township.



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NEW OFFICERS JOIN THE LOWER SALFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Connor McGovern

Connor McGovern started in May 2021 and was previously a police officer at SEPTA since 2018; he attended Kutztown and West Chester Universities, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Glenn Seymour started in June 2021 and was previously a part-time officer at Bridgeport Borough; he attended East Stroudsburg and Widener Universities, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Zachary Snyder started in July 2021 and previously worked for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as the Chief Ranger for Evansburg and Ft. Washington State Parks. Zack attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Donovan Sobetsky started in January 2022; he was previously a police officer in Philadelphia and Norristown for a total of 5 years. He attended Christopher Dock HS and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Mercyhurst University.

The four officers spent one week of orientation meeting township employees, conducting firearms and use-of-force qualifications and policy review, prior to being assigned to a patrol squad for one year of field training.



Zachary Snyder



Glenn Seymour



Donovan Sobetsky

The Police Department anticipates hiring one more officer in the near future, completing the process of replacing the five officers that either recently retired or will retire later this year.

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ONLINE RESIDENT REQUEST PORTAL



Lower Salford Township has launched a new layer of communication for its residents. With the idea from the Communications Committee and the technical knowledge of McMahon Associates, local citizens can now go online and submit a request and/or a concern to the Township. This new feature has been linked to the Township Website (www.lowersalfordtownship.org) and is called "The Lower Salford Resident Request Portal". Residents have the option of several topic areas to report



concerns and/or make requests. To view this new feature, visit the Township Website Home Page and look for the Resident Request link. If you prefer to speak with us directly instead, we are always here to help; give us a call at: 215-256-8087.



The Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the businesses that appear in this issue of *Indian Valley Today* and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community.



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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:00AM

For information about our worship, ministries and activities visit **GwyneddSquare.org** or follow us on social media.



EVENTS 2022



This year we will be holding the following events.
Stay tuned to Hatfield Borough social media for details.

Facebook: [Hatfieldborough19440](https://www.facebook.com/Hatfieldborough19440)

Website: www.hatfieldborough.com



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ELECTED OFFICIAL WELCOME AND SEND OFF

Congratulations and welcome to our new Elected Officials and current Councilmembers!

Jason Ferguson: President
 Richard Girard: Vice-President
 James Fagan: Councilmember
 Michelle Kroesser: Councilmember
 Lawrence G. Stevens: Councilmember
 Mary Anne Girard: Mayor
 Mohammed Haque: Tax Collector



Congratulations to our new Hatfield Borough Manager! The Borough of Hatfield Council unanimously approved at the January 3, 2022, Reorganization / Workshop Borough Council Meeting to name Jaime E. Snyder Hatfield Borough Manager.

Warm wishes to all of our Retirees and Outgoing Elected Officials!

John H. Weierman
 John Kroesser
 Salvatore DiLisio
 Robert L. Kaler
 Nancy DeFinis
 Michael J. DeFinis

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HATFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY SOCIETY

The Hatfield Museum & History Society is ready to welcome visitors to the new Hatfield History Museum located at 1702 Cowpath Road. The museum features display cases packed with artifacts that help tell the history of Hatfield Township and Hatfield Borough. Four large TVs also continuously show vintage photographs which compliment the various displays. Current displays include: artifacts showing what life was like in Hatfield 200 years ago; memorabilia from Hatfield businesses & churches, Hatfield Vol. Fire Co., Montgomery County Fair, Hatfield Speedway, the Geo. S. Snyder business, and the Hatfield High School. In addition to the displays, guests may utilize the museum's Research Room where they can browse through a collection of history books and school yearbooks, or use the room's computer to look through the museum's collection of digital photos and documents. The museum is currently open by appointment only: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday – 9 am to 8 pm; Saturday – 9 am to noon. In addition to operating the museum, the Society also presents Community Programs throughout the year on various topics of Hatfield's history, and maintains a Facebook page with hundreds of old Hatfield photos as well as videos of past Community Programs. Visit www.hatfieldhistory.org for addition information on both the Society and the museum, or call 215-362-0428.



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HATFIELD BOROUGH 2022/2023 GRANTS AND PROJECTS

Grants:

DCED H2o PA STORM WATER GRANT

- North Main Street, East Broad Street and West Broad Street
- Total Awarded \$1,093,333.00
- Estimated start date: April 3, 2023

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

- Orchard Lane & Forest Way
- Total awarded: \$200,000.00
- Completion date: Spring 2022

MTF GRANT

- Crosswalks with mast arms located at: Towamencin Avenue / Broad Street and South Main Street at the Liberty Bell Trail
- Grant awarded: \$228,321.00
Borough match: \$17,000.00
Total project cost: \$245,321.00

FLASH WARNING DEVICE

- Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company
- Estimated Borough match: \$6,000.00

Thank you to Representative Malagari and Senator Collett!

Projects:

ADA CURB RAMP PROJECTS

- East Lincoln Avenue
- East School Street
- Orchard Lane
- The intersection at North Market Street, East Lincoln Avenue and East Broad Street

ROADWAY RESURFACING (2022)

- East Lincoln Ave
- Poplar Street

STORM SEWER PIPE AND INLET REPLACEMENT

- Jade Drive
- Replace all the deteriorating Storm Sewer Pipe and inlets

COMPLETED GRANT PROJECT!

DVRPC- BRIDGE RETRO REIMBURSEMENT GRANT

East Lincoln Avenue Bridge- \$1.2 Million

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