

Welcome to our first installment of the *Mayors Memo!*

(A newsletter sent with your sewer and trash bills...not the most flattering association but saves a few bucks on postage!)



Don't you hate it when you only hear from elected officials once every few years at election season? I do! Well that is not the kind of Mayor that I plan to be. Local government works best when *we all* participate. I hope that these newsletters will be one small way to keep folks in the loop as to what is going on in town. I want to take the opportunity in this first newsletter to introduce myself and give you a bit of information about how the Borough operates. Whether you've lived here for decades or are brand new to town, everyone should know how their municipality runs and the people who dedicate their time to make it happen. We want your participation, concerns, and feedback! That is the best way for us to know what is going on, what needs to be addressed, and where to focus our energies.

So a little bit about me; my roots in Souderton run deep. I am an eighth generation Soudertonian. My great-great-great

Grandfather was Henry O. Souder, the founder of Souderton. This connection inspires my love for this town. I started my service to the Borough in High School, serving as the appointed Junior Councilor in 2008. I was first elected to Borough Council in 2014 at age 22 when Andrew Schlosser decided not to seek re-election. Since then, I've had the opportunity to immerse myself in all things Souderton; the Fire Company, the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club, the Historical Society, to name a few. I live & work in Souderton and I love this town. I love the people, and the pride they take in their community. Souderton really is a special place. In 2022, I had the privilege of becoming your Mayor. This is a dream realized and I am incredibly grateful for the welcoming support I've received so far. If we haven't met yet, say hello! You might see me out walking the First Dog of Souderton. Yes, that's right! Souderton has a First Dog. Her name is Estelle and we'd love to meet you!



Estelle, First Dog of Souderton

The Mayor, along with your nine Borough Councilors and many committee positions, are all volunteer. We aren't paid for our time. The benefit we get is the ability to help Souderton move towards a bright future.

The Borough is separated into three geographic wards. The Wards determine your polling place, but in my eight years on Borough Council, I frankly never much thought that I represented specifically Ward 1. We are all here to serve Souderton together. The current makeup of Borough Council is as follows:

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3
Matthew DiNenna	Tracy Burke (Council President)	Edward Huber (Vice President)
Matthew Sholly	Julie Munden (President Pro Tem)	Courtnee Wampole
Richard Walczak	Daryl Littlefield	Donna Rogers

We meet several times each month. The first Monday of every month is the "formal" meeting, where Borough Council hears public comment, receives correspondence, offers reports, and votes on Ordinances and Resolutions. Agendas are posted on the Borough website before each meeting, and Minutes are posted afterwards. If you have an idea, a concern, or an opportunity, bring it to Council! You can also always email the general mailbox at info@soudertonborough.org or to me directly at dyocum@soudertonborough.org. Also be sure to follow me on Facebook at *Mayor of Souderton Dan Yocum* for regular updates.



Another important figure you should know in Souderton is our Chief of Police Brian Newhall. Chief Newhall has been with us for just over a year, after previously serving as Police Chief in Valley Township and Emergency Management Coordinator in Upper Moreland. Chief Newhall has a Masters Degree in Public Safety Administration from Saint Joseph's and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Organizational Leadership. He is very qualified and we are exceptionally lucky to have him!

Chief Newhall will be the first to tell you; *if you see something, say something!* Souderton residents are a bit shy about dialing 9-11. Don't be! We have a small but mighty police force, plus wonderful mutual aid support from neighboring municipalities. We don't know about a problem unless you tell us. Help us help you and your neighbors. In an emergency, call the police. And for non-emergency police matters, always feel free to reach out or attend a Borough Council meeting.



Last, but not least; please know Michael Coll, our Borough Manager for an astonishing 40+ years! Many people don't remember Souderton without Mike. He oversees our Administrative Staff, our Public Works crew, and our Wastewater Treatment Plant. He also does so much more; Mike spends countless evening hours in Council and Committee meetings, manages the Borough budget down to every penny, and fills in the gaps of service wherever needed. Mike has announced that he will retire in 2024 and we will have quite a task finding his replacement. Mike is a work horse, not a show horse. In fact, I'm sure he hates that I'm even writing about him. But I think it is important for you to know that Souderton Borough staff and volunteers are real people, who live in your community, and every day do the best they can for the betterment of Souderton.

If you've read this far, I appreciate your openness to learning more about the Borough. Perhaps now more than any time in our history, we want your participation! It is impossible for a municipality to please everyone. For every one person that wants one thing, there is another person that wants the opposite. But the best way for us to gauge our direction is to hear from you. We are your neighbors. We're here to listen, learn, grow, and improve. Thank you for being a part of our community!

Stay tuned for the next *Mayors Memo* newsletter included in your utility bill!

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Borough Events

Borough Council Meeting
Monday May 2nd at 7pm
Souderton Borough Office

Kid Fun Run Event
Saturday, May 7th at 9am
Souderton Park
To benefit Salvation Army Foster Care & Adoption Program

3rd Friday
Friday, May 20th 6-9pm
Main & Chestnut Street

Souderton Pool Opening Day
Saturday May 28th 12-8pm
Buy your membership now online or at the Borough Office.