

## Mayor of Souderton Dan Yocum Mayor's Memo!



From Souderton's *Half Century of Progress* publication; "in 1928...on the site of the old brickyard and ice house...the large, spacious swimming pool was opened to the public. This pool, measuring 300 feet both in length and in width, with its sand bottom, own water supply, beach, bath house, beautiful shrubbery, and athletic facilities...annually attracts thousands to refresh in its ever-flowing fresh water". In just over a month, that same much-loved and much-improved facility will open again for our 2023 Souderton Pool season!

Like so many kids growing up in this town, I was what we affectionately call a "Souderton Pool Rat". I spent almost every day at the pool; swimming on the Souderton Dolphins and later working there as a lifeguard and swim coach. It is a great place where generations of Souderton families have spent their summers. I'm looking forward to seeing you there in 2023!

The above-mentioned sand bottom pool was upgraded in 1953, with the lower lap pool added in 1964. The passage of time had a major effect on the facility and after nearly 60 years, the beleaguered pool was in desperate need of improvements by 2010. Those renovations did not come without a price. I was Junior Borough Councilor for Souderton in the years leading up to the decision to either renovate or permanently close the pool. It divided the community. With several late-night Borough meetings packed to the gills with attendees from both camps, it was ultimately decided that the Souderton Pool was a gem in the community that needed to be saved. It was to be closed for two summers and renovated at a cost of \$3 Million. When it re-opened in 2011, the Souderton Pool was perhaps the nicest facility in the area with amusement park level water slides, zero-depth entry, water features, a tot pool, a "fast" competitive lap pool, upgraded bath facilities, and a party room. Last summer, the lower lap pool was replastered as expected every 10 years. Over the past few seasons, we've also upgraded the deck furniture, shade umbrellas, and snack stand. It continues to be an amazing place to spend summer days with family and friends.

The lifeguarding staff had historically been employed directly through Souderton Borough. That burdensome responsibility of hiring, training, and daily scheduling of guards was only possible because of some dedicated long-time pool managers. When they departed before the 2021 season, Souderton Borough contracted with Bennington Pool Services to provide lifeguard staff to our pool. The transition hasn't been perfect and we continue to work out the kinks, but Bennington is a reputable local company and they will be back for the 2023 Souderton Pool season. If you or someone you know is interested in lifeguarding, Bennington is always hiring qualified applicants and is willing to train and certify new lifeguards.

### Borough Events

#### Borough Council Meetings

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm

Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

Souderton Borough Hall

**Third Fridays** start May 19<sup>th</sup>!

Main & Chestnut Streets

**Opening Day** at Souderton Pool

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

**Concert Sundaes** start June 4<sup>th</sup>

Souderton Community Park



The Souderton Pool has never been a money-maker for the Borough. Our membership prices and daily admission fees barely allow us to break-even. It is a large and complex facility for a small Borough. Our Borough Manager and Public Works crew save our taxpayers thousands of dollars each year by performing the seasonal opening and closing of the pool, chemical balancing, filter and equipment maintenance, and regular landscaping and cleaning; functions outsourced by many other municipalities.

As a Souderton Borough resident, you get a discounted seasonal membership rate for the pool. Please do not abuse that courtesy discount! A resident family includes all adults and children who live with you at your Souderton Borough home address year-round. If your cousins mother-in-law's housekeeper wants to purchase a pool membership, they are welcome to do so at the non-resident rate. You would be amazed at the inordinate amount of time our office staff spends tracking down fraudulent pool registrations of people looking to take advantage of the Borough resident rate.

**Membership Registration is now open!** If you are interested in a Souderton Pool membership, visit [www.soudertonborough.recdesk.com](http://www.soudertonborough.recdesk.com). If you had a pool membership last year, please login to your existing account and update household information as needed. New members may also create an account and enroll online. If you need assistance, our office staff is available to help Monday through Friday, 10am to 3pm in-person at Souderton Borough Office (31 W Summit St) or at 215-723-4371.


The Souderton Dolphins Summer Swim Team is also a great way to keep your kids active and engaged throughout the summer. From Head Coach Lou Williams:

*"Spring weather means that summer swimming is right around the corner and our Souderton Dolphins coaching staff and parent board are excited about the upcoming season. As always, summer swimming is an eight week "sprint", where our 200+ swimmers and divers compete against teams from around the Bux-Mont Swim League. Duel meets, which typically occur on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in June and July, will feature theme nights, DJ's, hot heat prizes and more.*

*Summer swimming and diving is an excellent place for athletes of varied abilities to give competitive swimming and diving a try. In what other sport do boys and girls ages 5 to 18 get to share space at morning practice and compete together in the evenings? For more information on our Souderton Dolphin team, please visit the team website or visit "Souderton Dolphins Summer Swim Team" on Facebook."*



The Souderton Pool opens Memorial Day 2023 (weekends only until June 12th) and is open through Labor Day. See you in the water!

 Follow the **BRAND NEW** "Borough of Souderton" Facebook Page and, as always, follow *Mayor of Souderton Dan Yocum* on Facebook for regular updates.