

Mayor of Souderton Dan Yocum Mayors Memo!



2024 marked a year of many changes here in Souderton, including most notably our Borough Manager. Sara Jarrett-Eaton joined us in April after an unexpectedly short tenure of her predecessor. Sara has been hard at work learning about our community, modernizing our practices, and improving services wherever possible. In her short time here, we have already moved leaps & bounds forward in our municipal operations. Sara is a breath of fresh air. If you have not met her yet, you should! She is going to do great things in Souderton.

One of Sara's primary priorities is developing a sustainable and strategic budget. She is cutting costs where possible, without sacrificing service. Like all of you, our costs at the Borough continue to rise in areas including staffing, insurance, materials, etc. You certainly felt that last year with a significant tax increase. I am happy to report that this year there will be no tax increase. And Sara will continue to optimize our operations in hopes that I can say the same thing next year.



One new line-item in our Budget this year is a \$25,000 contribution to Indian Valley EMS. As you may recall, this division of VMSC took over as our EMS provider in Souderton & Telford two years ago. They've expanded to become the primary Emergency Medical Service provider for 11 municipalities including Hatfield Borough, Hatfield Township, Franconia Township, North Wales Borough, Towamencin Township, Upper Gwynedd Township, and Lansdale Borough.

VMSC did as they promised; providing services free-of-charge for the past two years on a trial basis, with the understanding that Souderton Borough would start to contribute if we were satisfied with their delivery. We have been incredibly impressed by and grateful to VMSC. Souderton Borough is happy to contribute toward Indian Valley EMS in exchange for the top-of-the-line EMS care they provide to our residents.



From VMSC Chief Shane Wheeler:

"VMSC has been honored to serve Souderton Borough for the past two years, and we are pleased to report continued improvements in service delivery. Our average response times have been consistently under 7 minutes, with a year-to-date average of 6 minutes and 40 seconds. The past 12 months, we have responded to 600 emergency calls, ensuring rapid and high-quality care for the community."

We have made significant clinical advancements, including the addition of ultrasound, ventilators, advanced formularies, and, coming soon, whole-blood capabilities. These enhancements contribute to better patient outcomes, as evidenced by our cardiac arrest survival rates, which surpass national averages by 12.4% and state averages by 13.3%.

We are proud of our partnerships with leading health systems, such as Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Jefferson Health, which support education and training for paramedics. This year, we graduated 10 new paramedics through our joint JeffSTAT-VMSC paramedic program.

Through compassion, innovation, and professionalism, we envision a future where every life can be saved, touched, and transformed by our care. This vision guides everything we do at VMSC. It's not just about the emergencies we respond to or the treatments we deliver; it's about making a lasting impact on every person we serve. We strive to be leaders in our field, pushing the boundaries of what emergency care can be, while remaining dedicated and compassionate caregivers within our community. Souderton is more than just a service area to us; it's a part of who we are, and we are honored to serve."

Indian Valley EMS will kick-off their 2025 Subscription Campaign this month. Residents are encouraged to subscribe, as it protects **YOU** from unexpected costs. As a subscriber, you have no co-pay or deductible for an ambulance transport after insurance is billed. Further, if care is provided to you without an ambulance ride needed, you will not be charged anything for their services. While a subscription could potentially save residents many thousands of dollars in the event of an unexpected ambulance need, only about 5% of households participated last year. I hope more may consider subscribing now that we have two years of proven results with our EMS provider.

Two years ago, Souderton & Telford took a leap of faith with our commitment to VMSC. Their creation of and dedication to Indian Valley EMS has been exceptional. The services they provide to our residents are the best available. I hope that you and your family are never in need of emergency medical services. But if ever you are, I am absolutely confident that Soudertonians are in good and capable hands with Indian Valley EMS.



UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

Souderton Tree Lighting

Friday, December 6th at 6:15pm

Univest Plaza

Broad St & Washington Ave

Reindeer Run 5K

Saturday, December 7th at 8am

Generations of Indian Valley

259 N Second Street

Souderton Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 7th at 11am

Main St & E Broad St