FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to Indian Valley Today

Strengthening the Indian Valley: Our Strategic Vision for Growth

As the Indian Valley continues to grow and evolve, the role of the Chamber of Commerce has never been more vital. Our mission is clear: to **educate, advocate, and connect.** These three pillars guide every initiative we undertake, helping local businesses not just survive—but thrive—in an ever-changing environment. Our strategic plan is built to unlock new opportunities, strengthen our community, and deliver long-term value to members and residents alike.

Educate – One of the Chamber's core responsibilities is to provide members with resources they might not otherwise access. Our membership meetings feature expert insights from economists, municipal leaders, and tax professionals—bringing timely updates on issues ranging from economic trends to zoning policy to changes in tax law.

Our signature program, **LEAD IV**, is a capstone leadership development experience. With a hands-on curriculum, participants build essential leadership skills and apply them in real time—both in the classroom and within their organizations. Since 2016, more than 160 graduates have benefited from the program with the competence, confidence, and connections to lead at a higher level.

Advocate – The Indian Valley Chamber keeps a close watch on legislation that impacts our business community. We maintain strong relationships with state Senators and Representatives and make sure they hear directly from us about how proposed policies will affect their constituents. Our voice ensures that local businesses are part of the conversation in Harrisburg and beyond.

Connect – Business thrives on relationships. We do business with people we know, like, and trust—and that's exactly what Chamber membership fosters. From networking events to committee work, our members build meaningful relationships that lead to real business growth and increased visibility.

The Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce brings together businesses, nonprofits, and civic institutions. While each has its own goals, we're united by a larger purpose: creating a strong, connected community. We want to make the Indian Valley a place where people want to live, work, and play—and the Chamber is here to make that vision a reality.

If you're a business owner and want to learn more, scan the QR code, visit our website, and apply for membership. Let's build a stronger region—together.



Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. CONNECT.

IN THIS ISSUE

Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce 3
121 E Chestnut St #201
Souderton, PA 18964
215-723-9472
indianvalleychamber.com

Telford Borough 4-6
50 Penn Avenue
Telford, PA 18969
215-723-5000
telfordborough.org

Souderton Borough 9-17
31 W. Summit Street
Souderton PA 18964
215-723-4371
soudertonborough.org

Franconia Township 18-24
671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969
215-723-1137
franconiatownship.org

Lower Salford Township 25-30
379 Main Street
Harleysville, PA 19438
215-256-8087
lowersalfordtownship.org



What's new in Telford

As reported in another article in IV Today, our new borough manager, Bryan Poster started on April 14 and has hit the ground running. Stop by and say hello to Bryan and give him a friendly Telford welcome.

As of late June, Telford is in the process of interviewing potential candidates to fill the Public Works Director, after the retirement of Public Works Director, Gary Yoder.

Telford borough has appointed Councilwoman Meredith Torres to the Planning Commission and Meredith plans to revitalize the Planning and Zoning Committee and partner it with the Planning Commission starting with regular scheduled meetings and reinvigorate, positively influence and improve the Borough of Telford.

The Hometown Heroes program started in May 2024, now has 25 banners up and flying. They are flying along Penn Ave. and Main St. What a way to honor the men and women in the service. For details on the program go to telfordborough.org, in the search bar, type Hometown Heroes. The link will provide the detail, steps and the application to apply for a banner. You can also walk into the office for a flyer and discuss the program at the borough office at 50 Penn Ave. Telford or call 215.723.5000 for details.

Council passed a Resolution in our May council meeting, naming the recently acquired open land bordering Hamilton and Washington Streets and Hamlin and Madison Avenues, the Telford Veterans Memorial Park.



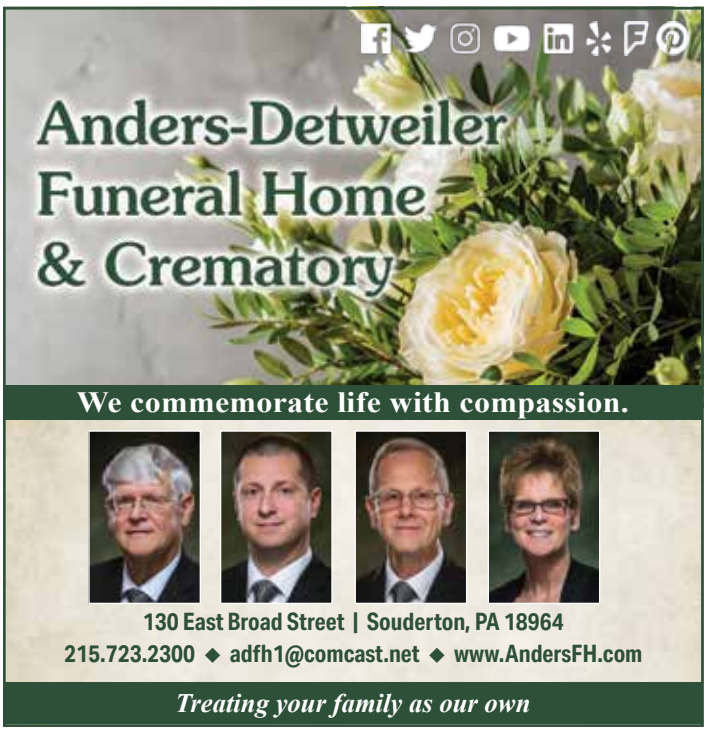
Council passed a Resolution in our June council meeting to rename the Telford Community building at 125 S. Hamilton St, the David S. Snook Community Building to honor our former mayor who passed away this April.

Telford Borough has recently issued a "New Resident Welcome Folder" for new residents to Telford, it contains informational and important items such as: flyer on paying your water bills; Parkes & Recreation flyer; Borough of Telford Street Map; Welcome letter from Police Chief Randall S. Floyd; Community news flyers; Wastewater flyers; and much more.

Police Chief Randall S. Floyd purchased two solar powered radar speed signs, placing them in sections with traffic issues in Telford in the hope to reduce speeding throughout Telford.

John A. Taylor





Welcome our new Telford Borough Manager, Bryan Poster



Bryan Poster joined Telford Borough as our new Borough Manager on April 14th and hit the ground running.

Bryan brings to our community almost twenty-five years of municipal government experience. He also brings a strong technology, leadership and organizational background. We can anticipate many positive improvements to the borough and a positive influence to our community.

IV Today's Spring 2025 Telford Borough update said goodbye to Borough Manager Kyle Detweller. His move to his new digs cut his travel time in half, so he can spend more time with his growing family. Coincidentally, Bryan not only comes to Telford with amazing credentials, he also is cutting his commute in half, again to spend more time with his family.

Who doesn't want to have a great work/life balance? It was a win/win situation for both Bryan, Kyle and Telford Borough!

To really introduce our new manager, I'll let Bryan put it in his own words. Below is a message Bryan sent out to Telford Borough residents, via our Borough of Telford Facebook page:

SUMMER MESSAGE FROM BOROUGH MANAGER

A neighborhood thrives on its sense of community, and there's no better time than summer to see that spirit come alive. Take a stroll down any street in Telford, and you're likely to get a friendly wave from a neighbor, hear the sound of children laughing as they play, or simply feel that warm, welcoming sense of belonging. As the new Borough Manager over these past few months, these are the things that have truly stood out to me.

One thing we should all do is take a moment to appreciate our remarkably low crime rate. Thanks to the tireless dedication of our outstanding Telford Police Department and the vigilance of our caring residents, Telford remains a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. Your commitment truly makes a difference, thank you!

We're also incredibly fortunate to have such an active and engaged community. From events to programs to volunteer efforts, there's always something happening in Telford. The Telford Happenings, Inc organization has been doing an amazing job, especially with the Telford Night Market series, which takes place every Wednesday evening throughout the summer. And don't forget to check out the Telford Fire Company Summer Cadet Program, a wonderful opportunity for young residents to learn and get involved. Lastly, stop by the Indian Valley Public Library to cool off and read a good book during these hot summer months.

The energy and enthusiasm at our community events are contagious, it's hard not to smile when you see neighbors coming together, creating memories, and building something truly special.

Lastly, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated Council members. Their continued efforts in crafting thoughtful legislation and providing sound oversight help ensure that our borough runs smoothly and remains a wonderful place to call home.

As Council President Emiline Weiss puts it, "We as Council members are very in tune with the needs of Telford Borough residents and want the very best for our community. We all take an 'Oath of Office' and intend to uphold that oath."

Thank you, Council, for your leadership and commitment, your service is deeply appreciated.

Together, we're making a real and lasting impact. Thank you all for being a part of what makes Telford so special. I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our Borough events throughout the summer as we continue to grow and thrive together in this great community.

Bryan has already had a positive influence in his short time here and Telford Borough Council is looking forward to a long-term relationship. Stop by the office and say hello to Bryan.

Welcome to our community, Bryan!

John A. Taylor

Telford Happenings, Inc. Updates

By the time you read this, our Telford Night Market will be over for the season. The Telford Night Market ran Wednesday nights from May 28 to August 27.

As of late June, we had one night market rescheduled to Thursday night due pending thunder storms. Another night market was cancelled, due to back-to-back storms on Wednesday and Thursday. The market gods were toying with us.

Effective this year, Telford Happenings, Inc. collaborated with borough council and the Telford Police Department to block Penn Ave. from traffic, from the driveway of the Telford Marketplace parking lot to the parking lot of the D L Beardsley business for the Telford Night Market season. This allowed us to put the food trucks on the street, making that portion of Penn Ave. to be a pedestrian walkway for three hours and opened up the parking lot to additional vendors. The decision was a hit for the vendors and the customers.

Upcoming annual THI events are: Oktoberfest @ J. S. Stover Beverage on Saturday October 18, from 12pm – 4pm; Holiday Market @ Penn Valley Church on Saturday November 22, 11am – 3pm; and our annual Telford Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday December 12, from 6 pm – 8pm. This will be Telford Borough's 100th Christmas Tree Lighting within borough limits.

Additionally, the borough and Telford Happenings, Inc., supports the annual East Penn Modifiers Car Show. The car show this year will be held at the Telford Marketplace on Sunday September 7, 9am – 2pm, with a rain date of September 14. Proceeds from the car show benefits local communities.

To keep updated on our events and community news, follow us on Facebook – Telford Night Market; telfordhappenings.com and Twitter - @telfordhappenings

We thank our community, our Events Coordinator Extraordinaire, Liz Pietzman, the THI board members, our volunteers, the vendors, and the continued support of the borough, the Telford Police and our fantastic Telford Public Works team for all their hard work for working together to bring our community all of the THI's events.

Telford Happenings, Inc. - Making Telford a better place to live and visit.

John A. Taylor



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BOROUGH OF SOUDERTON

Find us on Facebook at Borough of Souderton: Facebook.com/SoudertonBorough

31 W. SUMMIT STREET, SOUDERTON, PA 18964
Monday through Friday- 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Borough Office: 215.723.4371 • Email: info@soudertonborough.org
Website: https://www.soudertonborough.org/

Town Hall	215-723-4371
Borough Manager	215-723-4371
Administration	215-723-4371
Pool Membership/ Pavilion & Recreation Rentals	215-723-4371
Public Works	215-723-4371
Planning Code	215-723-4371
Tax Collector	215-207-1077
Water/Sewer Billing	215-723-4371
Water/ Sewer	215-723-3824
Zoning	215-723-4371
Fire Department	215-723-9209
Fire Marshal	215-723-4371
Police non- emergency	215-723-6500
Emergency 911	911

Other Important Phone Numbers

PA One Call System	800-242-1776
Berkheimer (per capita tax)	610-588-5765 or 610-588-0965
PennDOT	717-412-5300
Streetlights repair and Maintenance, PPL Number	800-342-5775
Trash/ Recycling-J.P Mascaro & Sons	800-432-1616

MEETINGS:

First Monday of Each Month at 7:00 pm	Borough Council Business Meeting
First Wednesday of Each Month at 7:00pm	Planning Commission Meeting
Third Monday of Each Month at 7:00 pm	Borough Council Work Session

Resident Quick Reference Guide

Indian Valley Public Library
www.ivpl.org, 215-723-9109

Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company
https://soudertonfireco.weebly.com/, 215-723-9209

Generations of Indian Valley
https://generationsofiv.org/, 215-723-5841

Montgomery Theater
https://www.montgomerytheater.org/, 215-723-9984

North Penn Water Authority
https://npwa.org/, 215-855-3617

Keystone Opportunity Center
https://keystoneopportunity.org/, 215-723-5430

Emmanuel Lutheran Church –E –Meal Ministry
Facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton

THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES

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 ofour community.



Borough of Souderton Fall Highlights 2025



ALL LEVELS YOGA

Souderton Pool Community Room
460 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA 18964

2025 YOGA - FALL SESSION 1
START DATE 8/26/2025 - 9/16/2025

2025 YOGA - FALL SESSION 2
START DATE 10/14/2025 - 11/11/2025

Join Instructor Beth of Younger Thru Yoga+ for this great yoga session! Modifications and challenges offered for your best yoga experience.
Please bring a yoga mat of your own.

To Register, please go to:
www.soudertonborough.org Parks & Recreation
https://soudertonborough.recdesk.com/Community/Program

DR. DRILL INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

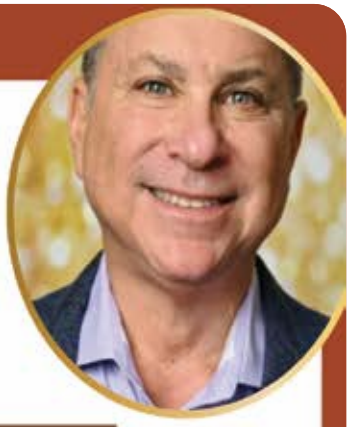
Souderton Community Park Pavilion
459 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA 18964

DDIP BOOT CAMP - FALL 2025 SESSION
START DATE 9/13/2025 - 11/15/2025

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Souderton Hometown Heroes Banners

The Souderton Hometown Heroes Banner Program is a living tribute created for the community to recognize and honor our Veterans who are serving or are veterans who have served our country in the United States Armed Forces.

To qualify, a Veteran, living or deceased, must have had a connection to Souderton (attended local schools, relative, friend, etc…) at some point in his or her life, also those honored on War Memorials and Veterans recommended by the local VFW and American Legion Posts.

Periodically, the banners become faded or torn to normal wear and tear. The Borough removes damaged banners, holding them for retrieval by the banner owner at the Borough Office to be picked up. Current HOMETOWN HERO BANNER NAME LIST WITH NUMBERS will be displayed and updated on our website at Soudertonborough.org

Order details:
If you are interested in purchasing new or a replacement Banner, please complete the form, and submit it, along with a photo. *Please note the photo will not be returned.

*Please have orders in beginning of January 2026. To have the banner hangup before Memorial Day.

*Please contact the Borough Office if you did not receive a letter notice by mail for replacement.

BRUSH COLLECTION

Brush, Leaves and Christmas tree details



- Stick and branch pick up is the first Monday of every month.
- No root balls, shrubs, logs, stumps, leaves, weeds or grass. Sticks and branches should be 1"-6" diameter and no more than 8' in length.
- They must be placed out front or if corner lot on side road NO ALLEY pickups.
- Brush should also be stacked in a clean manageable pile free of stones or other debris.
- Additionally, we aren't able to take whole trees. If you have a tree being taken down your contractor should remove the tree they take down.
- BRUSH SHOULD BE ON A SEPARATE PILE THAN LEAVES.

Schedule Brush pickup contacts the Office at 215-723-4371 or email us at www.info@soudertonborough.org

LEAF COLLECTION



No need to call to schedule leaf pickup! The regular leaf collection will attentively start spot pick-up the first week of October. May be delayed due to in climate. Collections will alternate each week between east and west sections of the Borough.

The Borough crew will be out spot checking for piles of leaves from December until first plowable snow. Depending on the weather; we will pick back up spot checking around April of next year.

Please refer to our website at www.soudertonborough.org for exact pickup dates.

SNOW REMOVAL



Souderton Borough crews diligently clear the streets of snow and ice after every snow event. The Borough first plows major streets, for emergency vehicle passage as the highest priority.

Once all the streets are passable, then crews work on clearing snow from intersections, alleys, and parking spaces. Please be patient and courteous to crews. They are working long hours doing a difficult job with the goal of getting you out about as soon as practical.

Chapter 549 Section 19-20 Streets and Sidewalk
Article II Snow and Ice Removal; Parking after snowfalls
Snow and ice shall be so removed from the sidewalk within the Borough within 24 hours after the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain. sidewalk of at least 30 inches in width to be thoroughly cleaned.

For more information, please go to our website:
www.soudertonborough.org

STREET SWEEPING



To help our streets remain clean and free of debris, stones, and litter, the borough street sweeping program takes place every Spring.

Street signs, notifying you of the schedule, are set out the afternoon prior to the day your street is scheduled to be cleaned. Please cooperate with the rules and restrictions by removing parked cars and any other obstructions. This will ensure that you and your neighbors benefit from the street sweeping program.

For more information, please go to our website:
www.soudertonborough.org

PERMITS



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- New Construction, Alterations to Buildings
- DEMOLITION PERMIT
- Plumbing
- Sheds
- Electrical/Solar Panels/New service (Meter Replacement)/Generators)
- Sale of your Home (Use and Occupancy Permit)
- Signs
- Decks/Patios
- Fences
- Swimming Pools: Above Ground 24 inches or greater and All in Ground
- SPAS
- Solicitations (Contact Police Department) 215-723-6500
- Yard/Garage Sale
- COMMERCIAL KITCHEN HOOD, DUCT AND EXHAUST EQUIPMENT
- MECHANICAL PERMIT PROCEDURES-Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning for new construction, renovations, alterations, fireplaces and insert, wood and gas stoves.

Contact the Souderton Borough Office **before** starting any construction to ensure that your project complies with various building and zoning ordinances. The Borough will need a copy of your plans, estimated construction cost, and contractor information. **Visit Forms to get permits and view the Fee Schedule**.

Please contact our office for question on Permits at 215-723-4371

Souderton Connects

Souderton Connects Mission Statement: *The mission of Souderton Connects is to help brand, market and beautify Souderton and promote the common interests of its businesses. We do 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.*

As I read our mission statement, something I have basically memorized as the Manager for Souderton Connects, I realize that our organization is not only achieving these goals but exceeding them. 2025 has been an amazing year for Souderton's businesses and the residential community alike and we are only halfway through the year. People are coming to visit, experiencing our restaurants, art galleries, breweries, retail shops and more. New businesses continue to put down roots and join an already successful and strong Business Improvement District (BID) composed of business owners that already know Souderton is where it is at.



Recently Souderton Connects held a ribbon cutting ceremony at The Confectionary, a bakery making delicious and creative flavored macarons and cupcakes. We also welcome The Avenue Salon at the corner of Main and Chestnut and will be celebrating with a ribbon cutting in the near future. Many businesses over the years have celebrated milestones big and small and Souderton Connects has been proud to highlight all of them. This year, we are so excited to celebrate our beloved bike shop, Scooter's for their 50th year anniversary and have partnered up with them to bring the celebration to everyone during the July 18th 3rd Friday event. Dr. Keith Miller of Advanced Chiropractic and Spine Center also celebrates his 25th Anniversary this summer and can you believe that Broad Theater will be celebrating 5 years in 2025! Time flies when you are surrounded by an incredible community!



The Beautification Committee continues to work to make Souderton a destination where people of all ages can enjoy unique public art, but in 2025 it doesn't stop there. The committee has doubled in size and with that so have the ideas that we are implementing each month. We recently cleaned up a property on Chestnut Street run by Keystone Opportunity Center. Several members of the Board and volunteers came out to weed, clean up borders, plant and mulch and even paint the old concrete steps that had been peeling for a few years. We followed up on that hot day with a cold treat from Downtown Scoop! Next up we will be starting a "Brick Book" project that will incorporate businesses and community members alike. The Indian Valley Public Library is working with the committee to create a fun Storybook Walking tour of Souderton where families will get to explore the town in order to get to the next page of the selected book. Not to forget the foundation of which this committee was built on, we will be organizing the painting of the large electrical box at Reliance Rd and Main St to welcome everyone arriving into town.



Souderton Connects' successful "Storefront" Facade Grant Program, started in 2024 by the organization's Economic Development Committee, has attracted even more businesses to apply in 2025. The program provides a grant of up to $1,500 available to commercial property owners or business owners (with property owner approval) to enhance the appearance of storefronts in Souderton Borough. Businesses that have received or will be receiving grant funding this year are Eye Curious Atelier, Acorn Law, Scooter's Bikes, Exhibit B and North End Market. Souderton Connects' Economic Development Committee continues to provide BID exclusive events quarterly to encourage partnerships and networking among our businesses. We are also working closely with North End Market to keep the community up to date on the exciting things going on behind the doors. Stay turned to our social media for some teasers in the near future.

continued on page 16

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Souderton Connects

New this year, Souderton Connects has created a mentorship program that includes students from Souderton Area High School. With Connects' Board Member and Souderton High School Business teacher Amanda Davoli at the helm, students will take an active role in creating and executing our 3rd Friday events alongside a mentor helping to instruct and guide them each month Many students applied but only four were chosen with one student to each handle a specific area of the event The event is broken down into the following categories: Event Management, Civic Engagement, Marketing, and Child Development. The students and mentors alike are excited about this partnership and hope the students will take what they learn and apply it to their future endeavors beyond school.

Stay tuned for some other exciting projects and collaborations through Souderton Connects, including partnering with the Souderton-Telford Historical Society on creating historical building markers for some of our treasured buildings in town and creating a walking tour and map. We hope people come to town to explore our history and stay to experience the present!

Please don't hesitate to visit our website www.soudertonconnects.com to learn more about our events and what we are doing. Feel free to email the manager, Jess Cimini, at manager@soudertonconnects.com with any questions or ideas.

SOUDERTON CONNECTS EVENTS FOR 2025

May 16, 2025 - 3rd Friday

June 20, 2025 - 3rd Friday

July 18, 2025 - 3rd Friday

August 15, 2025 - 3rd Friday

September 19, 2025 - 3rd Friday

September 27, 2025 - Art Jam

October 17, 2025 - 3rd Friday

December 5, 2025 - Holiday Tree Lighting

December 6, 2025 - Holiday Parade









Souderton Borough Police Department

MEDICATION DISPOSAL BOX

For many years now, the Souderton Borough Police Department has been assisting our community by accepting and disposing of unwanted prescription drugs that our residents find they have.

In 2021, we started to have an increase in the amount of medication that was being turned in, and our little medication drop-off box at the back of the police station wasn't up to the task.



The Souderton Police Department contacted CVS Pharmacy and applied for a grant which would furnish a large medication disposal safe to the Borough for public use. Several weeks after the grant was applied for, we were awarded it, and a brand-new red medication disposal box was installed in the front vestibule of the Borough Building. Medications could now be safely deposited into the box for later destruction.

Since the box was installed, we have collected more than a half-ton of unwanted medications which were later destroyed in an incinerator as part of the national drug take-back events which take place twice a year. These events are sponsored by the DEA and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

Our residents are welcome to place their unwanted medications in the box, but there are a few rules that need to be followed. The following cannot be placed in the box:

- Needles
- Inhalers
- Thermometers
- Aerosol cans
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Ointments and liquids

Medications from clinics or businesses

These items can't be accepted because they pose a risk to borough employees and the people who are responsible for destroying them. On more than one occasion, a borough employee has been stuck with a needle that was placed into the box. We ask that anyone using the box please follow these rules as the safety of our employees is paramount. Unfortunately, if these items continue to be placed into the box, we may have to remove the box and limit our drug collection efforts to the national take-back events which only twice a year in the spring and fall.

We appreciate the efforts of all our residents who have worked hard to keep unwanted prescription medications out of the hands of those who could accidentally or intentionally use them and for keeping them out of our water supply and landfills. Thank you!

A Message from the Mayor



Mayor Dan Yocum

Indian Valley Today is not just about a magazine. Yes, the information provided here is invaluable. But equally as important is the unique and abundant spirit of collaboration that our region enjoys. We take it for granted, but our communities work together like no other in the modern world. Our police departments, fire companies, and EMS providers serve each other seamlessly with mutual aid. Our public works departments share tools, equipment, and resources; no questions asked. Our municipal leaders get together to discuss issues that face the region and work together on equitable solutions for the betterment of all. And, most importantly, our residents enjoy an overall prosperous community because neighbors here get along with one another. It's an old-fashioned way of doing things, but it's why we've enjoyed so much success. TOGETHER!

I'm proud that Souderton Borough has become a cornerstone of that success in the Indian Valley. When I walk into a crowded restaurant on a Saturday night and don't know anyone in the room, that's a great achievement. For the first time in decades, people are coming to Souderton to spend their weekends and resources. Our residents enjoy a vibrant and walkable town, and our businesses support each other and the community as a whole. Souderton is the place to be!

I am so appreciative of the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce for coordinating this effort across municipalities. Our Chamber is uniquely positioned to connect our businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and governmental entities to foster communication, local vitality, and overall quality of life to everyone in the Indian Valley. Thanks to the Chamber for putting together this resource, and thanks to YOU for reading and staying informed.

Welcome to Franconia's Newest Police Officer Christopher Hough

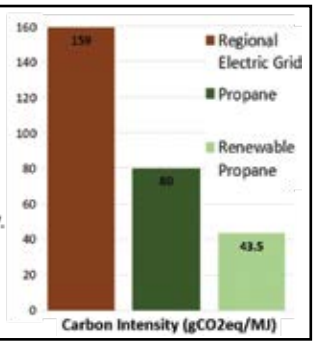
The Franconia Township Police Department welcomed Officer Christopher Hough on June 2, 2025. A formal swearing-in ceremony was held at the Board of Supervisors' June16th meeting.





Before coming to Franconia, Officer Hough was employed by the Telford Borough Police Department as a patrol officer in 2022. In his relatively brief time in Telford, Officer Hough served as a Bicycle Patrol Officer and excelled at traffic enforcement. Prior to his law enforcement career, he spent 14 years as a cabinet maker with his father. Officer Hough successfully graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy and has earned several certificates including Traffic Patrol/Drug Interdiction, Crisis Intervention Specialist, and Bicycle Patrol. He grew up in Perkasie, PA and graduated from Pennridge High School and Upper Bucks Technical School.

In the Franconia Township Police Department, we are committed to law enforcement professionalism through integrity, respect, and service. To maintain these high standards, every officer hired here must first go through a stringent testing process. Officer Christopher Hough excelled during this process. We are certain that he will serve our community well.

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Franconia Township Police Department
MEADOW McNAMARA HONORED

On May 20, 2025, The Franconia Township Police Department honored 9-year-old Meadow McNamara who acted quickly to help her younger sister who was in respiratory distress.



Pictured L to R: Corporal Edward Hall, Navy Cooper (Meadow & Summer's Cousin), Meadow McNamara, Summer McNamara, and Chief Michael Martin

On March 31, 2025, at 3:40 AM, Police and EMS were called to the McNamara home after Meadow alerted her parents that 5-year-old Summer was struggling to breathe. Summer had been suffering from a respiratory infection and was sick for several days. The family was unaware that a monitoring system in Summer's room had stopped working. Meadow was awakened by the sounds of her little sister coughing and gasping for air. Meadow immediately alerted her parents who then began to aid Summer and call 911. Medics from VMSC Ambulance assessed Summer's condition, then transported her to Grand View Hospital for treatment. Summer has since made a full recovery.

Franconia Township Police Corporal Edward Hall, who was on the scene, was so impressed with Meadow's selfless actions, that he recommended she be recognized. Chief Michael Martin reviewed the case and completely agreed with Cpl. Hall. The Chief said, "Many nine-year-olds would have just rolled over and tried to go back to sleep, but Meadow knew something was different and took potentially life-saving action. Because of her quick-thinking and genuine concern for the well-being of her little sister, critical time was not lost, which is truly admirable. Our entire police department is very proud to recognize Meadow."

A Chief's Letter of Commendation was awarded to Meadow McNamara for her "quick and unselfish action, which displayed maturity beyond her years." Meadow was also presented with a gift card to Downtown Scoop Ice Cream Shop from the officers and staff of the Franconia Township Police Department.

A WARRIOR WALK FROM NEW YORK TO GEORGIA CROSSES THROUGH FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

You truly never know what a day will bring! In April, Detectives Kranich and Frary were assisting patrol officers with a traffic crash on Allentown Road near the Rising Sun Inn. As they worked to keep traffic moving, they encountered a man carrying a very large backpack walking along the road. They greeted the man, learned that his name is Art Lashomb, and engaged him in friendly conversation.



Art is a United States Army veteran whose local VFW Post in New York needs major repairs to continue operating. Art decided to go on a Warrior Walk to raise money for this cause which is near to his heart. His Warrior Walk began in Syracuse, NY and will take him all the way to Brunswick, GA; a journey that is over 1,000 miles! Art was kind enough to come by our station to enjoy a few bites to eat, share some stories from his journey, and brighten up our day. We were happy to help him get off his feet, even if it was just a few minutes. We sent Art on his way with some Franconia Police Department mementos, new friendships and some fresh-baked treats, compliments of a local resident.

We sincerely thank Art for taking the time out of his journey to stop and talk with us! His determination is truly inspiring! We wish him the best of luck on the rest of his journey!

If you would like to follow Art on his journey, please see his Warrior Walk Facebook page at the link below. He is sharing updates as he moves along!

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574554901984

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP HISTORY

A TOWNSHIP FOUNDED ON ACCEPTANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY

In the late 1720s, Franconia Township encompassed parts of what are now Souderton and Telford. Together the three municipalities fell under the jurisdiction of Salford Township. In 1731, Franconia split from its neighboring communities to form its own municipality.

Franconia means "land of the Franks." Beginning in the 1600s, a large German population began to grow in Franconia, and descendants of some of the Township's original settlers still live here.

Early Franconia residents found that Indian Creek and its valley had its own population of already established Native Americans, whose artifacts can still be found within the area.



Little Zion Lutheran Church at Indianfield

Religious Tolerance Fuels Growth

Religious freedom attracted the European immigrants who settled here. Franconia's earliest church is believed to be Indianfield (Little Zion) Church, which was built with logs in 1730.

In 1734, only 34 people landholders lived in Franconia, and nearly all were German. The town included:

- 175 residents
- Two gristmills
- One tannery
- 153 horses
- 266 cattle
- One tavern

By 1882, the population exploded with:

- 2,556 residents
- Seven gristmills
- 515 horses
- 1,147 cattle
- Nine taverns

At that time, much of Franconia's population was Mennonite, and they built meeting places and churches for worship throughout the township, including:

- Franconia Mennonite Meeting Meetinghouse on Route 113, established between 1730 and 1750
- Indian Creek Reformed Church (Christ Church) at Cowpath and Church Roads, established in the 1750s
- Leidy's Church on Cherry Lane, established in 1858, following construction of a schoolhouse and cemetery



Liberty Bell history lies within Franconia

The Rising Sun Inn located on Allentown Road, Telford was formerly known as Gerhart's Tavern. The inn built in 1739 was owned by the Gerhart family for many years and played a role in the Liberty Bell's history during the Revolutionary War.

When the Liberty Bell was transported from Philadelphia to Allentown in 1777, it is believed that Gerhart's Tavern was a location where the bell was housed overnight to keep it safe. This stop was important in order to prevent the British from capturing the bell and melting down the symbol of freedom.

A Rural Setting with City Access

With the onset of the automobile in the early 1900s, village shops gave way to borough stores which became more accessible with the improvement of roads. As reliance on cars increased, residents used the railroads less. A testament to those changes, Bergey's Automobiles was established in 1924, and continues to succeed today celebrating their 100th Anniversary in 2024!

Suburbanization spread following World War II, along with commercial and industrial growth in Franconia. Early 20th century farmers created agribusinesses, many of which are still successful today, such as JBS (formerly Moyer Packing), Marcho Farms, and Leidy's.

Fall Festival

2025

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
NOW FOR FALL FEST 2025 –
WATCH FOR UPCOMING DETAILS ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE.

WHEN: Saturday, October 4-11AM to 7PM
FIREWORKS @ 7:30 PM
Sunday, October 6-11AM to 4PM
WHERE: Franconia Community Park

Drive-In Movie Nights

Drive-In Movie nights will be returning to Franconia Park this fall. If you're dying to have fun, Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association's annual Halloween movie nights are being held on October 10 and 11 (with rain dates on October 17 and 18). Mark your calendars now as it's going to be something fang-tastic to add to your Halloween season!



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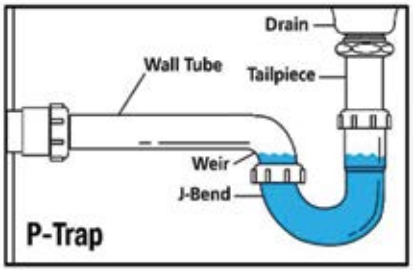
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What to Do If Your Drains Are Running Slow or Backing Up?

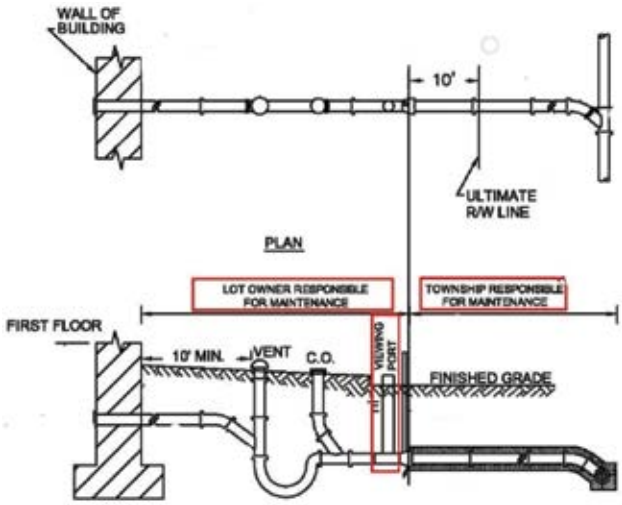
There are a number of reasons why your drains start running slow, or water is backing up in your house. Here are some steps to take to help determine what the cause might be.

First, are all of the drains running slow or only one or two? If it's only one or two, the problem is most likely from a clogged or clogging trap under your sink or bath fixture. The trap's purpose is to hold a portion of water to create a seal – preventing sewer gases from coming through your plumbing and entering your house. Over time, however, solid particles, hair, and/or grease can accumulate in the trap, blocking the water flow. In this case the debris has to be cleaned out. This can sometimes be done using chemicals or mechanical methods. Once that's done the water can again flow freely. It's also possible that the pipe following the trap can get debris build-up that reduces water flow. Typically, the only way to clear up this situation is by mechanical means (like using an auger).



Picture showing the normal water level in a trap

If all of the drains in your house are running slow, or water backs up from one fixture into another, the problem is most likely outside your house. The pipe that carries wastewater from your house to the public sewer main – the lateral – could be clogged. Much like a clog inside your house, an outside trap could have filled with debris or the lateral itself could have issues like a collapsed pipe, tree roots entering the lateral, or just build-up of debris. It's important for you to understand that the sewer lateral is your responsibility from the house out to the property line – so almost all of the lateral is yours. The sewer authority is responsible for the sewer main (usually in the street) and the "T" that connects your lateral to the main.



Gravity Sewer Lateral Responsibility

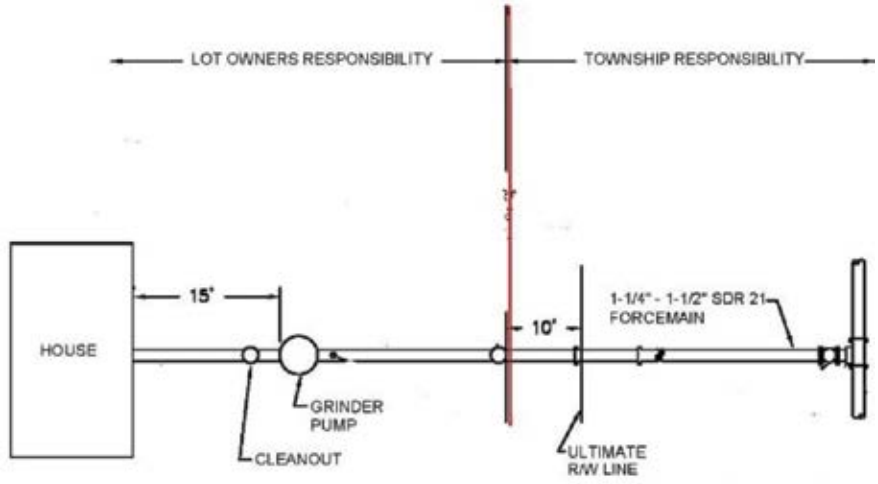


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Grinder sewer lateral responsibility

If you have an on-lot disposal system (OLDS), all of the above holds true, except there is no connection to public sewer, so all issues with problem drains are on the homeowner. In addition to the above, some OLDS use a dosing pump, which can fail over time and cause a back-up. For all of the issues regarding homeowner responsibilities for clogged drains, it is best to call a plumber who can identify the actual cause of the problem and correct it.

While we're on the topic of sewer drains, here is another tip to remember. Sometimes you might get a sewer smell in your house. If this occurs, run water into each of your sinks and bath fixtures. If the water in the trap evaporates over time, the seal that keeps sewer gases from entering your house goes away. Simply putting about a gallon of water down each drain will restore the seal, and the odor goes away.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Approved or Under Construction

- Allebach Tract – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road
- Reserve at Franconia, Pulte Homes – 42 Single Family Homes & 42 Townhouses, Beck Road and Cowpath Road
- Souderton Mennonite Homes – Land Development, W. Reliance and Colonial Avenue
- 205 Schoolhouse Road – New Warehouse Building
- 640 Lower Road – New Warehouse Building
- 315 E Township Line Road – Building Expansion to an Existing Business
- Marcho Family LP – New Freezer and Storage Building, 519 Allentown Road
- Godshall's Quality Meats- New Treatment Building
- SASD – West Broad Street Elementary School Expansion
- Hagey Road – Landis Land Development
- 24 Allentown Road – New Warehouse Building
- Peter Becker – Apartment Building

Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- Cross Point Baptist – Building Expansion

Information from Public Works

EAGLE SCOUTS

When you think about an Eagle Scout, what comes to mind? Hiking, camping, earning badges, community service?

In the past few years, Eagle Scouts have reached out to Franconia Township for help with one of their final steps on receiving the "Eagle" ranking by doing some type of community service project. In partnership with these scouts, we have added a few unique touches to some of our parks.



Pollination Garden – Chestnut Grove Park

It's commendable that we have youth in our community that take the time and effort in brainstorming an idea, then presenting it as to how it might help the area. They also have to purchase materials and perform the work to install a project. Another huge aspect to these projects is the amount of time devoted to them.

To all of the scouts that have ever done projects in completing their "Eagle" rank in Franconia Township and to the parents and leaders of these scouts, I would say Thank You!

I would like to especially thank Stephen Hradnansky for the gaga pit at Forrest Meadow Park, Liam Grant for the kiosk at Enos Godshall Park, and Lillie Wade for the pollination garden at Chestnut Grove Park.

Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works Director



Gaga pit – Forrest Meadow Park



Kiosk – Enos Godshall Park

RECONNECT WITH NATURE IN THE HEART OF FRANCONIA

Nature abounds in Franconia Township especially during the spring and summer months. You can see the return of many bird species (some of the most beautiful blue birds can be seen while walking at Franconia Park as well as red-tailed hawks, and an eagle's nest on Long Mill Road) and for those who love nature and the great outdoors, you can spot bunnies, squirrels, chipmunks, fox, deer and various other wildlife throughout the township.

Snapping turtles can also be spotted in the township. Some female turtles will sometimes venture out of Branch Creek by Branchwood Park to lay their eggs and return to the water shortly thereafter. We had a spotting of that very thing this year, and here are some interesting facts you may not have known about snapping turtles:

- Snapping turtles typically lay their eggs in June.
- They scrape dirt and dig a deep hole with their hind feet where they lay their eggs.
- Snapping turtles do not stay with their nest. After laying and burying eggs, the female turtles abandon the nest and return to the water (their natural habitat).
- It takes approximately 80-90 days for the eggs to hatch.
- Once the eggs hatch, the hatchlings instinctively go towards the nearest water source.
- Snapping turtles are typically not dangerous unless they feel threatened. They tend not to be aggressive and do not attack or bite people or pets unless they are provoked; therefore, it is best not to approach them or give them reason to feel endangered.

So if you enjoy nature, grab your sneakers and even your camera and venture out into the township to see what you can find. You might even find some in your back yard!



Fawn running through garden area of a property



Blue bird spotted in tree at Franconia Park



Red-tailed hawk in tree with blue jay over head



Eagle's nest in tree on Long Mill Road



Three fox kits playing





Snapping turtle scrapings and hole where eggs were laid

PICKLEBALL CLINICS AT BRANCHWOOD PARK

Pickleball continues to be all the craze, and it's rare that Branchwood Park's six pickleball courts that were constructed in 2023 are not in use.

New pickleball players are joining the ranks of this sport regularly, and Franconia Township offered opportunities to attend one of three pickleball clinics this spring. We held two beginner pickleball clinics as well as one intermediate pickleball clinic. The clinics were well attended and instructed by Barb Matase, USA Pickleball Ambassador. The weather was perfect this year, and the clinics were enjoyed by all!



Lower Salford
Township Quick Reference

Digital Copy

Published by the Communications Committee • Version 3



- **Scouts BSA Troop 137 or BSA Troop 91**
  https://sites.google.com/view/troop137harleysvillepa/home
  https://www.troopwebhost.org/troop91harlesville/index.htm
- **Indian Valley Girl Scouts**
  www.gsep.org • 215-564-2030
- **Encore Experiences (formerly the Senior Center)**
  www.ghnpss.org/encore_experience • 215-256-6900
- **Indian Valley Public Library**
  www.ivpl.org • 215-723-9109
- **Lederach Golf Club**
  www.lederachgolfclub.com • 215-513-3034
- **Harleysville Community Center (Pool)**
  www.harleysvillecommunitycenter.com • 215-256-9315
- **North Penn YMCA Early Childhood Center**
  www.northpennymca.org • 215-256-0767
- **North Penn YMCA Indian Valley Branch**
  www.northpennymca.org • 215-723-3569
- **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy**
  www.perkiomenwatershed.org • 610-287-9383
- **Heckler Plains Folklife Society**
  www.facebook.com/hecklerplains.org • 215-822-7422
- **Harleysville Fire Company**
  www.harleysvillefire.org • 215-256-9657
- **Freedom Valley Medical Rescue**
  www.fvmedrescue.org • 215-513-1880
- **PA Attorney General - (Including Landlord/Tenant questions)**
  www.attorneygeneral.gov • 717-787-3391
- **Additional Contacts & Links**
  www.lowersalfordtownship.org/your_community

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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PECO Outage
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SPCA
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Use the Residential Request Portal to:

- Report a concern
- Share an improvement idea
- Submit a general suggestion

Call the office 8:30 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Friday at 215-256-8087

Scan Me!

Lower Salford Township Police Department

NEW OFFICER

On March 5, 2025, Officer David Sangree was welcomed as the newest Lower Salford Township Police Officer. Officer Sangree began his law enforcement career at the Jenkintown Borough Police Department. During his 11-year career at the Jenkintown Borough Police Department his responsibilities included patrol, investigations, firearms instructor and Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) Accreditation Manager.

PROMOTIONS

In March 2025 the following officers were promoted:

- Sergeant Cory Moyer was promoted to Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Moyer has been with the department for 28 years.
- Corporal Christopher Missimer was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Missimer has been with the department for 21 years.
- Officer Matthew Cotellese was promoted to Corporal. Corporal Cotellese has been with the department for 7 years.



Left to Right: Matthew Cotellese, David Sangree, Cory Moyer, Chris Missimer, and Chief Tom Medwid

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SALFORD QUARRY PROJECT UPDATE

The Contractor, Conti, has prepared the site by clearing the trees, installing a workpad, abandoning certain monitoring wells, pulling back the rock headwall and recycling the rock material, performing soil excavation and will be disposing of the soil. The "down hole hammer" used to install the subsurface perimeter wall is on order and work is anticipated to begin in April.

Project items completed to date:

- Detour traffic around closed portion of Quarry Road
- Site prep, e.g., control measures for sediment erosion, tree clearing, establish temporary construction facilities, and staging/work pad areas;
- Excavate limited areas of contaminated surface soils and transport off-site for disposal; This remedy will minimize the migration of contamination to groundwater. It will also protect public health by preventing exposure to site-related contaminants.

Residents can continue to reach out with any specific questions to any of the contacts listed below. There is also an information flyer on the Township website as well as at the site itself.

EPA Contacts

Sharon Fang
Remedial Project Manager
(215) 814-3018
fang.sharon@epa.gov

Ian Stewart
Remedial Project Manager
(215) 814-3016
stewart.ian@epa.gov

Katie Page
Community Involvement Coordinator
(215) 814-2409
page.katherine@epa.gov

Facebook

Additional Site Information
https://www.epa.gov/superfund/salfordquarry

Instagram





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Township Teams Up for Annual Stream Clean-Up at Heckler Plains



On Friday, April 11, members of the Township Administration and Public Works Department rolled up their sleeves and joined forces with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy for this year's Corporate Day Stream Clean-Up. The group spent the morning at Heckler Plains Farmstead, helping to remove litter and debris from the stream and surrounding areas to improve the health and beauty of our local watershed.

Despite the threat of rain, spirits were high as the team donned gloves, grabbed trash bags, and got to work. In total, the Township team collected 14 Bags of trash of trash from the banks of the creek and areas along Stover, Morris, and Quarry Rd.—ranging from bottles and wrappers to larger debris.

This year's clean-up marks the 21st annual Stream Clean-Up, and the Conservancy saw its biggest turnout yet, with nearly 2,200 volunteers participating across the watershed. As the largest single-day clean-up event in Pennsylvania, the initiative spanned 233 locations, bringing together schools, friends, community groups, and local governments with one shared goal: restoring and preserving the Perkiomen Creek Watershed. The total collected for the efforts was: 1,815 bags of trash, 231 tires and 3,420 lbs. of scrap metal.

The Township is proud to support this meaningful effort and thanks the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy for organizing such an impactful day of community action. We look forward to continuing this tradition and doing our part for a cleaner, healthier Lower Salford and beyond.

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Public Works to Repurpose Donated Playground Equipment



Township Supervisor Dave Scheuren, and his company, Construction Services International Inc., recently donated a fairly new and gently used playground to the Township from a nearby school construction project they are working on. The play equipment, which includes a multi-faceted play structure, a 3-bay swing set, two 15-foot-wide shade canopies, an accessible spinner, and other activity panels, will be repurposed to create a new playground at Bucher Park, and to supplement existing equipment at Dan Roth Park and the "Duck Pond".

Public Works Department personnel worked with Supervisor Scheuren's construction team to carefully dismantle the equipment, originally slated for disposal, and transport and store the equipment until later this summer when it can be installed at its new home. All of these features, valued at well over $50,000, are going to be wonderful amenities to our Parks System.

We would like to thank Supervisor Scheuren for thinking of the needs of Lower Salford Township and for taking the time to painstakingly remove the equipment for reuse. Kudos also to the Public Works team. Without their skill and attention to detail, this project would not have been possible. Great work everyone in making Lower Salford a better place to live, work, and play!

Camp Wawa Park Dam Project
Transforming a Safety Concern into an Amenity

If you've ever been to Camp Wawa Park, you have undoubtedly seen the dam across the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek. It is a unique feature of the park that attracts anglers, bird watchers, and just curious park visitors. Quite some time ago, the Township poured roughly finished concrete on the approach to the dam, and over time the Creek undermined the concrete creating a safety concern.



Rather than just filling this void with large rocks, which would only wash away during the next hurricane, the Public Works Department developed an innovative solution that turned this area into a new feature of the park. Through the brainstorming efforts of Brent Allebach, Phil Landis, and other members of the team, we decided to install precast, wedge-shaped concrete blocks along the perimeter of the undermined area. The implementation team of Justin Taylor, Claudio Sanchez, and Eli Vasey brought this vision to life by first installing three layers of these blocks, stacked in a semi-circular pattern until they were high enough to fill with crushed stone to eliminate the void.



Concrete steps were then formed and poured to the top of the dam approach, and a sidewalk installed extending to the driveway. All of the new concrete is anchored into either the dam or the existing concrete securing it in place. Finally, large rocks, salvaged from the Bergey's Mill Road Bridge project, were placed on either side of the sidewalk and anchored into the ground, providing stormwater protection. The unique shape of these rocks allowed the team to create several stone "benches" for visitors to use while enjoying the view.

We hope that visitors to the park will enjoy this new amenity for fishing, as a picture spot, or for just relaxing and listening to the hypnotic sounds of the creek cascading over the dam.



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