

Mayor of Souderton Dan Yocum Mayor's Memo!



In 1910, the Souderton Independent wrote “*Souderton Borough Council announced that anyone driving faster than 12 miles an hour within Borough limits would be arrested and fined, though it was unclear how the new policeman, Constable Henry S. Landes, would determine the speed, or for that matter catch the offenders, since he himself had no car*”.

As much as things change, they stay the same. Traffic calming is still an issue in Souderton and we are actively working toward solutions.

The issue of traffic calming is a challenge for several reasons. It is difficult for our police officers to catch specific drivers in the act because by the time you call 9-1-1 about a problem driver, the car is long gone. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also does not allow our police officers to use radar to catch and document speeding drivers, so we must be creative in our enforcement methods. The issue in Souderton is also compounded by the fact that our Main and East Broad Streets are part of PA Route 113.

Further, many people think that writing traffic tickets is a lucrative revenue stream for the Borough. I often hear “*If the police just stopped cars at my intersection, they would make a fortune!*”. Unfortunately, the opposite is true. In addition to mandatory processing costs, the fee for traffic citations must be split between the state, county, and municipality. So for a \$25 traffic ticket, Souderton Borough may only get a few dollars. When considering the time the officer spends on the traffic stop, the fuel and maintenance costs on the police vehicles, and the possibility that the officer who wrote the ticket might have to spend time in court, traffic citations are not a money-making venture for the Borough.



Nonetheless, traffic calming is a top priority for our Souderton Borough Police Department. In 2022 we hired two new full-time police officers, one of whom has the primary responsibility of calming traffic. The Borough also traded in an older police car for an unmarked vehicle that will help with speed enforcement. In 2021, we conducted 507 traffic stops. As of September 21, 2022, Souderton Police have already made 678 traffic stops; a substantial increase in speed and traffic enforcement.

Borough Events

Borough Council Meeting

Monday October 3rd at 7pm
Souderton Borough Office
31 W Summit St, Souderton

Fire Prevention Open House

Friday, October 14th 6-8:30pm
Perseverance Volunteer Fire Co
266 N Second St, Souderton
Bring the whole family!

Third Friday

Friday, October 21st 6-9pm
Main & Chestnut Street
LAST for the year
Wear your costume!

Halloween

Monday, October 31st
Please be safe and enjoy!

From Police Chief Brian Newhall:

“Traffic safety is a priority in Souderton Borough. Our community is very walkable, which means that people and traffic spend a lot of time near each other. We don’t write tickets just to punish people. We try to get them to comply with the law so that everyone will be as safe as possible. We would much rather educate a driver than cite them. Please be careful on our streets! Thank you!”

Our Public Works crew is also doing their part to help with the traffic calming issue. Every year the Borough re-paints crosswalk lines throughout Souderton. This year the first time, those lines are brighter and bolder horizontal stripes at several key intersections to make the crosswalks exceptionally obvious. Our hope is that drivers will heed those crosswalks and allow pedestrians to cross safely.



Bold new crosswalks at the intersection of School Ln and Chestnut St

The Public Works crew is also diligently working on replacing old and worn-out signage throughout the Borough. This is an onerous task since the hundreds of signs around town are constantly plagued by the elements (and the occasional vandalism). Our crew has a renewed focus on replacing signage regulating speed limits, parking restrictions, and stop signs so there is never a question about the posted laws and regulations on any given street.

Souderton Borough Council is playing their part too. A new Noise Ordinance is being drafted that will allow better enforcement of disturbances to the peace; those drivers whose music rattles your windows and whose mufflers “pop” all the way down the road. Yes, I’m fully aware that I sound like an old man yelling from my rocking chair, but...*Keep it down!*

On the personal front, I used to live on Main Street and recently moved to Broad Street; Two busy roads with lots of loud traffic. It annoys and disturbs me too. I hear your complaints and I want you to know that Souderton Borough does not take them lightly. We are doing all we can to keep Souderton a peaceful, safe, and pleasant place to live, work, and play. Please continue to be part of the solution by being conscientious and diligent about safe driving habits. It benefits us all!

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

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