

# THE Souderton Story

A Publication for the Residents of Souderton Borough

## Mayor Allebach Retires



Mayor Charles Allebach retired in Jan. after 38 years as Mayor.

After 38 years as Mayor of Souderton, Charles H. Allebach Jr., 85, has retired. At the end of January he moved down the street to the Souderton Mennonite Home retirement community, which is technically located in Franconia Township.

### A Familiar Face

Everyone knows Charlie.

He “tests the coffee” at the Senior Adult Activity Center of Indian Valley

(SAAC) each morning. He heads to the Boys & Girls Club most mornings for twenty minute walks on their indoor Astroturf. He also frequently stops at the Indian Valley Public Library and talks with the librarian, “I tell her I’ve read all her books and I wish she’d get more.”

Besides visiting these places himself, Charlie loves to give people tours of these and the other great things in Souderton, like the park and concert shell that hosts summer Concert Sundaes and the Montgomery Theater. Each stop on his tour represents

a project he either led fundraising efforts for or had a hand in.

### ‘Souderton Became My Family’

In 1964, the company Charlie worked for encouraged political participation and offered a 10-week class in relevant politics, which he describes as “boring.” Still, at the end of the course, he came back to Souderton and told the borough council if they ever needed anything to call him. Just two weeks

later, a councilman moved out of the borough and Charlie got a call.

Charlie served five years on borough council before being appointed mayor. After his wife died during his first year as mayor, he threw himself into community work. “A family man couldn’t have done everything I did,” says Charlie, “Souderton became my family.” Charlie has served as board member, or president, of 25 organizations at the local, county, and state levels.

While he’s leaving as mayor and reducing the number of boards he serves on, Charlie plans to continue working with the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce, SAAC, Boys & Girls Club, and Indian Valley Public Library.

### Still Around Town

And Charlie does have many family members in the area whom he sees regularly. His brother invites him over when he makes soup, and Sundays are reserved for dinner with his daughter and two grandchildren.

With his move only a few blocks away, Charlie will still be able to visit his regular haunts. Though he won’t be mayor any more, Souderton will still see plenty of Charlie.

## John Reynolds Appointed Mayor

Souderton welcomed its first new mayor in 38 years, former borough councilman John Reynolds, on February 5, 2007.

When he realized he would not finish his term, Mayor Allebach had approached Mr. Reynolds to consider replacing him. “My reaction was that I couldn’t possibly fill Charlie’s shoes,” says Mayor Reynolds, “and I knew that my roots in Souderton were shallow,

having lived here for only twenty years.”

Mayor Reynolds said he was also approached by several members of Borough Council, and independently by Police Chief Quinn. “Chief Quinn’s support was probably the final tipping point in my decision to ask Borough Council to consider me for the position,” says Mayor Reynolds.

*(continued on page 2)*



John Reynolds was appointed Mayor in February.

# Watching Revitalization Happen



The Wheelwright opened in 2006 at the corner of Chestnut and Main streets, and is benefiting from the new streetscapes.

## Façade Grants Improve Downtown

In 2006 the Souderton-Telford Main Streets Design Challenge Grant became available. Landis & Landis CPA completed the first project using the grant to repaint their exterior and large porch. Many property leasers and owners have submitted applications and discussed projects with design advisors,

and more applications are expected in spring of 2007.

## New Businesses Open, Old Businesses Expand

Souderton saw an influx of new businesses in 2006; some opened just in time for the holiday season. Below are some of our new businesses.

- **An Extra Hand Organizing Services** will create an action plan for organizing your home or office
- **Streetwear**, an urban clothing store
- **The Wheelwright**, a gift shop with quality country merchandise
- **Lawrence Printing Service**, a print broker specializing in customer service
- **Travel Haus**, a full service travel agency

- **Reliance Inn**, a beautiful renovation brings life and delicious food back to this landmark
- **Nancy Lawrence, EA**, tax preparer licensed by the IRS
- **Tai Chi & Kungfu in Souderton**, has small classes downtown
- **Health Insurance Services, Inc.**, provides businesses with health insurance options
- **Louisa Belle Wellness Escape** focuses on the wellness of the clients and an escape from a stressful lifestyle

In addition, several businesses expanded, moved, or upgraded their facilities, such as these:

- **Allebach Advertising**, an award winning, full-service agency in a new location
- **Caruso's Brick Oven Trattoria** is recreating its exterior to match the interior
- **Consign for Design** is expanding to a new level for consignment of better home furnishings and decorator items.
- **La Simpatica Salon & Day Spa** formerly La Styles, was transformed into a full-service salon and spa

And Univest Corporation recently received approval to go for a new office building on Lumber Street, which will replace two older buildings.



With a major portion of the Souderton streetscape project completed, construction of a new parking lot about to begin, façade grants improving the look of downtown, and many new businesses moving in, the revitalization of downtown Souderton is becoming easier to see.

## Streetscapes & New Parking in Downtown

With the structural improvements completed along Main Street from Chestnut Street to Hillside Avenue, it's time to add the details. This spring look for planters, hanging baskets, banners, and street furniture.

In addition, to the new street parking, visitors will soon have a new parking lot at Hillside and Main streets.

## John Reynolds Appointed Mayor *(continued from page 1)*

### Friends in the Community

In the time he's lived in Souderton, Mayor Reynolds has gotten to know everyone. He knows the business community through his membership in the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club and as charter board member of Souderton-Telford Main Streets; resi-

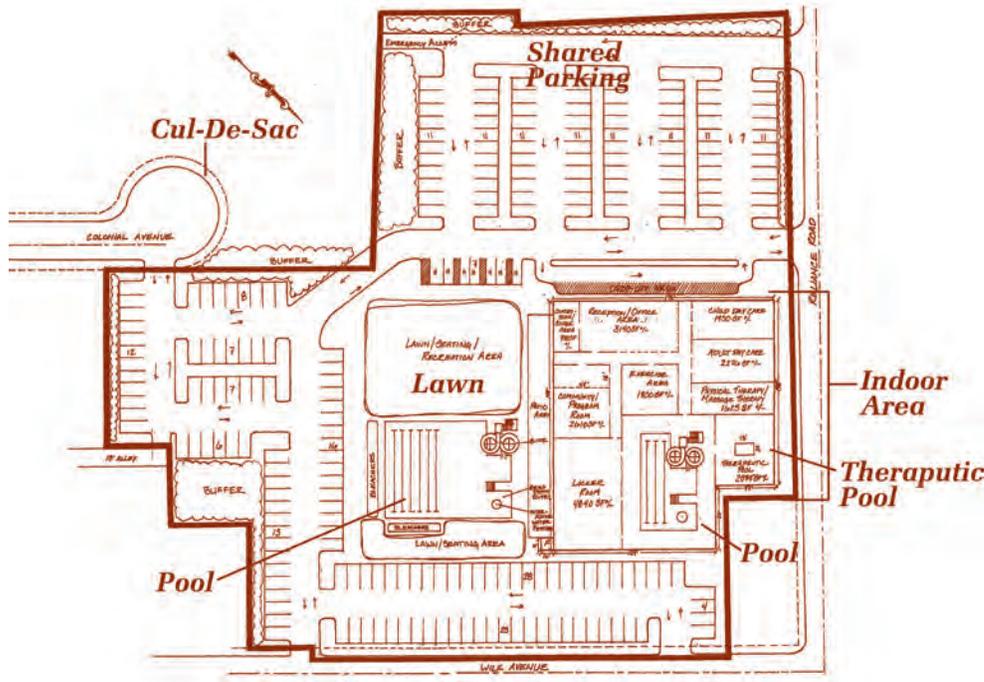
dents through his business in downtown Souderton, the Souderton Rehabilitation Center; and most of the council members from his recent service on Borough Council (1996-2005). "I believe I can bring a strong level of communication to the borough at all levels," says Reynolds, "and I hope I

can represent the borough in an enthusiastic, dynamic nature."

Mr. Reynolds will serve as Mayor until the end of the year. He does plan to run in the primary in May and if he wins, in the general election in November to complete the full-term, which ends in 2009.

# Pool Opens June 2: New Pool Plans In Review

by Mike Coll, Borough Manager



Souderton Borough and the staff of the Indian Valley YMCA are preparing for the Souderton Community Pool's 2007 season: Saturday, June 2 through Labor Day. Memberships will be available at the Souderton Borough Office beginning April 16, with discount opportunities through May 31. The pool will be open 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. As in past seasons, the YMCA will provide swim lessons and other programs.

## Planning for a New Pool

While we are fortunate to be able to run the pool again this summer, the facility is aging and construction of a new one is under consideration. On May 1, 2006, Souderton Borough Council held a third and final hearing on the feasibility study report to construct a new aquatics facility on the site of the existing pool complex. The purpose of the study was to assess community needs, and develop a conceptual facility that will address those recreational needs and be financially self-supporting.

To achieve these goals, the study

suggests the construction of a year-round facility, providing outdoor and indoor swimming pools, provisions for various water therapies, accessory facilities to provide child day care, intergenerational programming, fitness equipment, and other wellness programs.

## Changes to the Plan, But Concept Remains

Since the hearing, suggested changes include: one outdoor pool, reducing the size of the indoor facilities, and relocating those facilities on Souderton Borough property. The project continues to support the initial concept of converting Colonial Avenue into a cul-de-sac street to maximize the potential of the existing site. A large parking area would be available on Souderton Mennonite Home property to provide shared parking opportunities.

Work will continue on potential funding alternatives and the development of business plans. Borough Council has established a goal of completing the evaluation of this project proposal by the end of 2007.

# Boys and Girls Club Expanding

The second phase of the Indian Valley Boys and Girls Club project will provide public recreational facilities on the remaining portion of the site that extends to Lawn Avenue. Souderton Borough Council recently authorized the advertisement for bids.

This phase will include the construction of a Little League baseball field, a batting cage, new modular playground equipment, an additional parking lot, and walking paths. Funding for this project will come entirely from grant funds through a State Redevelopment Capital Program grant, a Community Development Block Grant, and a State Legislative Initiative grant, obtained through the efforts of Representative Robert Godshall.

Construction is expected to begin in early spring and be completed by the end of this year. These facilities will be available for public use regardless of membership with the Boys and Girls Club.

## SOUDERTON BOROUGH

31 West Summit Street  
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[www.soudertonborough.org](http://www.soudertonborough.org)  
John Reynolds, Mayor

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# Mark Your Calendar

## Soap Box Derby

**Saturday, June 2 – 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Rain Date: Sunday, June 3**

**Trial Run: Thursday, May 17 – 4 p.m.**

Cheer on your favorite racers as they speed down Main Street. A trial run will take place on Second Street.

Children 8 to 17 can enter.

Registration cut-off is March 31. To volunteer or enter, call Gus Wadsworth 215-453-9265.

## Moyer & Son 5K Run

**July 11**

**1K Kid Fun Run: 6:30 p.m.**

**2K Fitness Run: 7 p.m.**

**5K Race: 7 p.m.**

All runs are held at Souderton Community Park. For more information, contact Bob Williamson, 215-799-2000, ext. 2490.

## Ladies Auxiliary Events

### Spring Breakfast

**Sunday, March 18 - 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Enjoy a full breakfast at Souderton Fire Station. Adults \$6.50, children \$3, children under five are free.

### Cash Bingo

**Sunday, April 29 – 1 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 9 – 6 p.m.**

Compete for cash and prizes at the Souderton Fire Station, \$15. Doors open one hour early.



## Get A Clue At Your Library

**Register June 1 through August 25**

Kids will enjoy a summer of mystery and intrigue with the Indian Valley Public Library's summer reading program. An adult reading program is also available with regular prize drawings. Call 215-723-9109 or visit [www.ivpl.org](http://www.ivpl.org) for more information.

# 20th Annual Concert Sundaes in the Park

Bring the whole family for an evening of great music and cold ice cream Sunday evenings all summer long. Concerts are free. Refreshments will be sold by local community organizations.

**June 3 . . . . . Community Day**  
Featuring Local Talent

**June 10 . . . . . To Be Determined**

**June 17 . . . . . Jimmy Sturr**  
Polka

**June 24 . . . . . Frank Tenalgia**  
Tenor Classical

**July 1 . . . . . Allentown Band**  
Traditional Marches

**July 8 . . . . . Rhythm In shoes**  
Variety of Musical Numbers

**July 15 . . . . . Philly Fun**  
Soul, R&B, Dance, and Party Music

**July 22 . . . . . Harmenaires**  
Gospel

**July 29 . . . . . Klington Klezmer**  
Klezmer

**August 5 . . . . . Fred's Mobile Homes**  
Bluegrass

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