

THE LANDMARK

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Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

“A Magnificent Originator of Ideas”: LVC President John Synodinos in Shaping Downtown Annville’s Streetscape Project (1990-1996)

President’s Message, by Michael Schroeder

“The article about the beginnings of the Greater Annville Committee failed to include John Synodinos, past president of Lebanon Valley College,” read the handwritten note from Carol Hickey, onetime member of the Greater Annville Committee (GAC) in response to my President’s Message in the last issue of *The Landmark*. “I’m sure it was just an oversight, but he really was an initial force for the projects.”

I’m grateful to Carol for the correction. Sifting through the hundreds of pages of memoranda, minutes, and related documents on the GAC, it’s clear that LVC president John Synodinos (1988-1996) played a key role in envisioning and jump-starting the Streetscape Project and the revitalization of Annville’s downtown in the first half of the 1990s.

From the GAC minutes & memoranda kindly donated to FOOA by John Feather (now available in our Digital Archives), we learn that President Synodinos attended the first GAC organizing meeting in late 1990, and that he remained actively involved for the next six years. The minutes of the GAC meeting of 22 October 1993 show that President Synodinos proposed a “comprehensive plan with a unified theme” for a “conceptual site plan of the area from Manheim to King Streets and one block back, to include a study of the total streetscape.” Carol was charged with speaking to Dr. Synodinos “regarding the College’s involvement and level of participation in the funding.” A month later, Carol reported that LVC had agreed to chip in one-third of the \$16,000 cost for the downtown master plan. By February 1994, the College had agreed to fund half the cost of the study, up to \$8,000. LVC’s support only grew in the years to come.

Curious about President Synodinos’s role in Annville’s revitalization, I asked Dick Charles if he had anything to add on the subject. Dick served as LVC’s Vice President

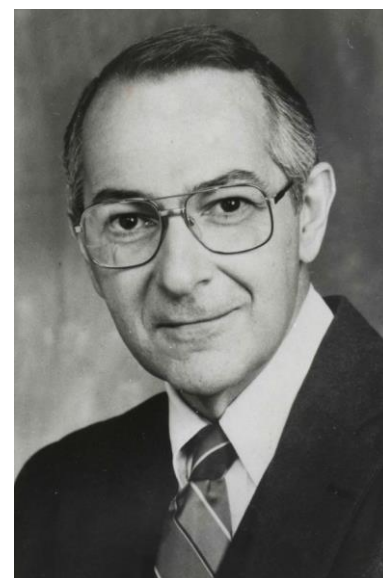
of Institutional Advancement from 1988 to 1997, and served on the GAC from its inception.

“He was a real visionary, a magnificent originator of ideas,” Dick responded.

“We used to joke about his ‘idée du jour’. He took criticism very well and looked at things objectively, even if they were his own ideas. He had a very egalitarian approach to the world, treating everyone as equals

and trying to see how people would work well together. For the Streetscape Project, mainly he asked: ‘How can we strengthen the College by making the downtown more vibrant and attractive?’”

In short, under the leadership of President John Synodinos (and his successor David Pollick), Lebanon Valley College was intimately involved in Annville’s Streetscape Project from inception to completion – clearly recognizing, as he did, that the health and well-being of the College were inseparably bound up with the health and vitality of downtown Annville. In so doing, he built on a tradition of active community involvement that stretched back to the College’s founding.¹ And that’s a legacy worth remembering.



LVC President John Synodinos (1988-1996)

¹ See the digital timeline of LVC’s history compiled in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of its founding, at <https://www.sutori.com/story/lebanon-valley-college-history>

FOOA Spring Program: History of the Annville Water Company

Sunday, April 15 at 2 PM at the Stone Pumphouse Building on Spruce Street

When did running water, delivered by underground pipes first come to the homes in Annville? Where did the drinking water come from? Why were public and private wells prohibited in Annville after the introduction of commercial drinking water?

Come and learn the answers to these questions at the 2018 Spring Program of Friends of Old Annville. Owen Moe will speak about the history of the Annville Water Company, a privately held company that delivered drinking water to Annville from 1890 to 1973, before eventually selling out to Annville Township.



Learn about competing water companies owned by prominent citizens of Annville, protracted legal battles, artesian wells, the great Annville conflagration in 1921, Penryth Springs, and much more. The slide show program will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, April 15, in the stone pump house building on Spruce Street in Annville, just south of the bridge crossing the Quittie. The pump house has a large stone parking lot available for this program.

After the program, all interested persons can take a short guided walk from the pump house to see the remains of a weir dam used at one time to power the water company's large pumps. We will also view the overflow conduit from Penryth Spring and the still-existing water line from Penryth, running along the shore of the Quittie to the pump house on Spruce Street.

The accompanying picture shows the interior of the Annville Water Company's underground vault that encloses the Penryth Spring, located along the Quittie just east of Spruce Street. Note the crystal-clear water inside of the concrete vault that is no longer used as a source of water for Annville.

We hope to see you on April 15!

The Friends of Old Annville, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit corporation with over 400 members, offers annual memberships at the ridiculously low price of \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$25 for businesses — a great yet affordable way to become involved in your local community. Gift memberships can be a wonderful way to welcome your new neighbors, demonstrate pride in your community, or show that you remember an old friend. Membership fees support our Façade Grant, seasonal programs, and other initiatives.

30th Annual Historic Old Annville Day on Saturday, June 9!

By Douglas L. Nyce, FOOA Vice President and Historic Old Annville Day Coordinator

This year, 2018, marks the 30th consecutive annual celebration of Historic Old Annville Day, a one-day street fair held along West Main Street, right in the middle of the oldest sections of Annville's National Historic District. It is a day that celebrates the town of Annville, its rich history, and its wonderful historic buildings from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.

It is a day of music of many different types and at several venues, a day of food, including local and ethnic treats, a day of shopping at downtown businesses as well as at street vendors of locally-made arts and crafts. It is also a day for families, with many kid-centered activities. This year the event will include an expanded number of street vendors stretching for nine blocks of West Main Street. At three different spots on Main Street, Annville immigrant music will be featured, mirroring the waves of immigrant residents of Annville through the centuries. These include the music of the Scotch-Irish (early 1700's), German (mid-1700's through 1860's), Italian (early 1900's) and Puerto Rican (late 1900's). Festivities formally begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue till 2:00 p.m.

An addition to this year's program is the opportunity to see demonstrations of historic building methods utilized in Annville's 18th and 19th century buildings. Re-enactors will demonstrate the use of the tools of the trade for woodcarving, slating, blacksmithing, and masonry. Several buildings will be used as examples, enabling visitors to better understand the methods used to carve ornate wooden decorative trim, split slate for roofs, melt iron to form the hardware like nails, hinges and handles and build limestone foundations and walls.

Walking tours of Annville will be available, both guided and self-guided, leaving from the Friends of Old Annville information booth. Tours include easy walks along Main Street with a guide, to more challenging self-guided trips to the Quittapahilla Nature Park and back. Pick up walking tour maps at the booth, or purchase an Annville Day t-shirt, a book, or other memorabilia at the Friends' Store.



Come and enjoy what we hope is a bright and clear Saturday in June, walking among beautiful historic shops and homes, talking to historical re-enactors about Annville history, pausing to listen to Annville's Washington Band and Quittapahilla Highlanders, and sitting down for a tasty lunch on the street. It is a day for celebrating Annville past, present, and future. We hope to see you there!

Information for Vendors. If you are interested in renting a space during Historic Old Annville Day, please visit our website at www.fooa.org, click on "News" and follow the link to "30th Annual Historic Old Annville Day," where you'll find registration packets for both for-profit and non-profit organizations.



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found on the mailing label of this issue of *The Landmark*. Please send your dues and address change to Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA, 17003-8856. Questions? Call Rachel at (717) 867-2137.

Individual & Student \$ 5.00 Family (2+ persons) \$ 10.00 Business \$ 25.00 Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00 ★
Benefactor \$ 100.00 § Founder \$ 250 ❖

RENEWALS

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M/M Larry Aungst ★
M/M Alfred P. Bernardo
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M/M Leroy Brandt
M/M K. Kenneth Brown II
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Gary & Bridget Grieve-Carlson

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Brian & Tina Keck
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Elizabeth Lingle ★
M/M Albert Moser, Sr.
M/M Ralph F. Munz
Elton & Judith Kindt Palm
Ms Ruthmary V. Pearce

Doug & Bonita Royer
Dan & Donna Salerno
Ms. Stasi Schaeffer
Glenda Synodinos ★
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NEW MEMBERS

M/M Dave & Kim Laudermilch
Larry & Bonnie Loser, Jr.