

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

2000s

## Greenway, college expand

*At a recent Progress Pottstown luncheon, borough officials expressed optimism about Pottstown's future. The following is one of a series about where we've been in the last five decades.*

Just ten years after it opened its West Campus building in 1996, the



Commentary by  
Thomas Hylton

Montgomery County Community College expanded north of the railroad tracks to the newly renovated Vaughn Knitting Mills building on High Street.

Meanwhile, the borough had acquired the former PECO maintenance building on College

Drive and persuaded the Schuylkill River Greenway Association to move its headquarters there from Wyomissing. In 2009, the community college bought the building for an

Environmental Center, which it now shares with the greenway association.

With state and county funding, the borough created a Keystone Opportunity Zone on 58 acres along the Schuylkill River west of Route 100, and constructed Keystone Boulevard in 2003 to provide access to it.

Along with Keystone Boulevard came an extension of the Schuylkill River Greenway to connect to Riverfront Park. It is now possible to walk or bicycle from Pottstown west to Reading via the greenway.

In 2003, the Borough adopted a park masterplan to connect Memorial Park to Riverfront Park. The plan made it possible for the borough to obtain \$2 million in funding for renovated playing fields, a walkway along the Manatawny Creek, a spray park, and a fenced in bark park for exercising dogs.

An amphitheater was constructed at Riverfront Park.



Colorful balloons hang outside the building at 16 W. High St. to celebrate Friday's grand opening of the expansion of the Montgomery County Community College West Campus.

### MCCC West Campus expansion celebrates grand opening

By Michelle Korman  
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POTTSTOWN — Montgomery County Community College celebrated the grand opening of its West Campus expansion in style Friday evening.

A crowd of 200 gathered in the college's new art gallery in the building at 16 W. High St. that over the years has housed several other functions, including a bookstore and a library. Surrounded by colorful paintings by Chase Tighe, the first artist to be showcased in the spacious brick-walled gallery, the crowd mingled on snacks and listened to a succession of speeches.

"This places the face of this college into the community," said Karen Stock, MCCC president, "and begins to create a true campus environment."

Stock noted that the facility renovation, done to accommodate growth at the college, was made possible through the leadership of West Campus Expansion LLC.



Montgomery County Community College President Karen Stock smiles about the new building at the college's West Campus in Pottstown.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEST expanded from its original 1996 building to the former Vaughn Knitting Mills on High Street on the north side of the railroad using a pedestrian underpass. It also acquired the former PECO maintenance building on College Drive as an environmental center. Meanwhile, Riverfront Park joined with an expanded Schuylkill River Greenway along Keystone Boulevard, west of Route 100.**