

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Pottstown: a safe place to live

One of the most stubborn myths about Pottstown is that it's dangerous.

You might get that impression from your local newspaper, where murders and violent accidents from all over the region are blazoned across the front page.



Commentary by
Thomas Hylton

But the chart at right tells the real story.

Nearly all of us are going to die from disease, not violence, and in that case, it really doesn't matter whether you live in Pottstown or the surrounding area — except for medical emergencies.

Heart attacks have been the leading cause of death for decades, and if you have one, Pottstown is probably the best place in the region to survive it.

Nationwide, the death rate from coronary heart disease dropped an astonishing 38 percent from 2003 to 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control. That's because hospitals and Emergency Medical Services are constantly getting better at coordinating their responses to get heart attack victims treated ever faster when they reach the emergency room. Good Will Ambu-

lance can transport any Pottstown resident to Pottstown Hospital in a hurry.

And for other health issues, it's mighty convenient to have the hospital and a complex of doctors' offices clustered in one location at the east end of Pottstown.

Pottstown mortality, 2015 PA Department of Health

Heart	49
Cancer	43
Lower Respiratory Disease	16
Stroke	15
Non-transport accident (includes overdoses)	8
Motor vehicle accident	0
Alzheimer's	1
Diabetes	7
Influenza	4
Nephritis related	7
Blood poisoning	13
Liver related	1
Parkinson's	1
Suicide	3
Homicide	2
Other natural causes	52



A HOSPITAL and top-notch Emergency Medical Services — Good Will Ambulance — make Pottstown a very safe place to live.