# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR
# Enlightened
# LEADERSHIP

## New gateway building underway

On Tuesday, we discussed the gateway to Pottstown from the South Hanover Bridge.

For decades, the Mrs. Smith's Pie Co. dominated the entrance. Visitors saw a large parking lot at the corner of Hanover Street and the Industrial Highway, with a warehouse in the background covered with yellow aluminum siding.

Commentary by
Thomas Hylton

A plan for a mix of townhouses, offices, and retail was approved by the planning commission and Borough Council in 2006. Construction of 117 townhouses began shortly thereafter, but not the offices and retail.

A two-story commercial building was to front the entire project along Hanover Street and the Industrial Highway near the Hanover Street bridge.

Before the building was constructed, however, borough staff insisted on placing a parking lot at the most prominent part of the intersection to cover an underground run. It would have been easy to construct a building to allow for the run, but staff simply ignored the approved plan. Aesthetics didn't matter.

More than a decade after the plan was approved, a new developer, Rockwell Development Group, has started to build two commercial buildings, one on each side of the parking lot. The first building, which is under construction, will have 2,800 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and four apartments above it on the second and third floors.

The second building, also three stories, to be constructed starting next month, will have 4,500 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and eight apartments on the upper floors.

After more than a decade, it will be great to see the gateway project completed. But it is unfortunate a parking lot will diminish its appearance.



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION — The first of two commercial buildings at the South Hanover Street entrance to Pottstown is under construction, above, and should be completed in late May or June. Construction of the second building, at Hanover and South streets, will begin next month.**