

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

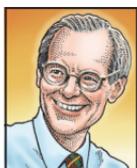
## Gov. Wolf an example to Hill

The election of Hill School alumnus Tom Wolf as governor of Pennsylvania is one of the commonwealth's most amazing political stories.

Six months before the May 2014 primary, Wolf was an unknown York County businessman whose only political experience was two years as secretary of revenue under Gov. Ed Rendell.

But with a television advertising blitz, funded largely with \$10 million of his own money, Wolf skyrocketed to the top of the polls, easily winning both the primary and general elections.

The Hill School, of course, is delighted with Gov. Wolf's victory and



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

students. "Fairness might seem like something you talk about in chapel, but people want to be fair and if you're fair to them, they will reciprocate."

The Hill School owns Pottstown's most valuable real estate. Because it is recognized as a charity, it avoids a \$2.2 million annual property tax bill.

To other property owners who must shoulder the tax burden, subsidizing an affluent school may be legal, but it's not fair.

At the same time, The Hill School's main competitors — schools like Hotchkiss, Deerfield, Lawrenceville — are all located in idyllic villages, not gritty industrial towns. That can be a major handicap to attracting students who can afford to go anywhere.

But as the world begins to recognize the reality of climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, The Hill School might help itself by touting the merits of older towns like Pottstown.

Because of their compact form, towns consume far less energy, per capita, than the suburbs. They encourage walking and biking.

Pottstown is working on a sustainability plan to build on these strengths. The Hill School can help.



Gov. Tom Wolf, Hill School Class of '67

invited him to address its students last month.

Prior to running for governor, Wolf was for decades a leader in efforts to preserve and revitalize the city of York, which like Pottstown is a declining industrial town struggling with poverty.

As head of a business group called Better York, Wolf worked with other businessmen to leverage millions of dollars for economic development in the city.

As a young man, he took time off from college to work two years in rural India as a Peace Corps volunteer.

His advice to Hill students, therefore, was not just theory, but based on his own practical experience. And it's useful for all of us, including Hill School administrators and board members, not just young people.

"Do difficult things," Gov. Wolf said. "When I look back, all the things that I've done that really count, were really difficult. Useful things, but difficult. The easy stuff is never really satisfying."

Wolf also preached fairness to the



**Tom Wolf joined with other York businessmen to preserve the 11-story Yorktowne Hotel, a downtown landmark since 1925. It's just one example of his commitment to York.**