

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Dead trees mar downtown

Starting with the transformation of the old Levitz building into the headquarters of VideoRay in 2012, there's been an increasing amount of activity on the 200 block of High Street.



Commentary by  
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Recently, Scott Bentley, who owns the Video Ray building and several others, began removing decades of paint from the façade of the 1890 Ellis Mills building, 227 High St., which he plans to lease or sell to a restaurateur.

Bentley previously cleaned and painted the façade of the New York Plaza building, 238 High St., to a luster not seen in decades.

Meanwhile, Win and Sutida Somboonsong are beginning to remodel the old Van Buskirk hardware store, 226 High St., into a high quality restaurant.

Later this year, the former Warwick Jewelry Store, 251 High St., will be converted into the Armstrong Alehouse.

Because the 200 block is the center of downtown Pottstown, you might think the borough would remove the dead trees and stumps that mar its appearance.

The trees were planted in the late 1980s as part of a major facelift

funded by a Community Development Block Grant. Some of the trees are starting to die. Other, healthy, trees were casually cut down.

With all the money spent to plant and water dozens of flower baskets and planters along High Street from York to Evans streets — a worthwhile investment to beautify the street — the decision not to touch the dead trees and stumps is inexplicable.

They degrade our downtown.



**Dead trees and stumps mar the 200 block of High Street, the heart of downtown Pottstown.**

