Pottstown loves dogs

During my 21-day trek from door to door prior to the recent Pottstown School Board election, I learned many things about Pottstown I never fully appreciated.

One such aspect is dogs. Pottstonians love dogs. Of course, over the years I have seen plenty of people walking dogs, and seen dogs in yards, but it is not until you approach residents’ doors that you find out just how many dogs reside in our borough.

And they are not hesitant to spring into action if they detect a stranger outside. Sometimes, I could delicately hang my campaign flier on a doorknob without being detected. But one little sound of paper scraping against wood, and it was instant pandemonium. The smaller the dog, it seemed, the more vociferous the response. Some dogs hurled themselves against front doors and windows with such force I thought they would break through. But none did.

I was nipped once trying to traverse a walkway on Park Drive (the owner was no doubt chortling inside the house) but it didn’t break the skin or rip my pants.

My wife and I have had four dogs ourselves since 1975, and I must say, they’ve all been rather blase about people coming to the door. Perhaps we’ve been negligent in training them.

But Pottstown’s abundance of dogs has given me a new appreciation for the exhortation, “Run for office.”

Commentary by Thomas Hylton