2000s
Greenway, college expand

At a recent Progress Pottstown luncheon, borough officials expressed optimism about Pottstown’s future. The following is one of a series about where we’ve been in the last five decades.

Just ten years after it opened its West Campus building in 1996, the Montgomery County Community College expanded north of the railroad tracks to the newly renovated Vaughn Knitting Mills building on High Street.

Meanwhile, the borough had acquired the former PECO maintenance building on College Drive and persuaded the Schuylkill River Greenway Association to move its headquarters there from Wyomissing. In 2009, the community college bought the building for an Environmental Center, which it now shares with the greenway association.

With state and county funding, the borough created a Keystone Opportunity Zone on 58 acres along the Schuylkill River west of Route 100, and constructed Keystone Boulevard in 2003 to provide access to it.

Along with Keystone Boulevard came an extension of the Schuylkill River Greenway to connect to Riverfront Park. It is now possible to walk or bicycle from Pottstown west to Reading via the greenway.

In 2003, the Borough adopted a park master plan to connect Memorial Park to Riverfront Park. The plan made it possible for the borough to obtain $2 million in funding for renovated playing fields, a walkway along the Manatawny Creek, a spray park, and a fenced in bark park for exercising dogs.

An amphitheater was constructed at Riverfront Park.

Commentary by Thomas Hylton

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEST expanded from its original 1996 building to the former Vaughn Knitting Mills on High Street on the north side of the railroad using a pedestrian underpass. It also acquired the former PECO maintenance building on College Drive as an environmental center. Meanwhile, Riverfront Park joined with an expanded Schuylkill River Greenway along Keystone Boulevard, west of Route 100.