2010s
More renovations, expansions

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.

After more than 15 years of debate, including three full-blown architectural studies, the Pottstown School Board finally agreed on a plan in 2012 to renovate four of its five elementary schools at a cost that eventually totaled $30 million. The fifth school, Edge-wood, was retained without renovations and is currently leased to Montgomery County Head Start.

Keeping its neighborhood schools enabled the district to partner with the borough to create a borough-wide system of biking routes that will connect all the schools. The $2 million project, funded entirely by grants, will begin construction this summer.

Meanwhile, the Montgomery County Community College West Campus continued its expansion by creating a University Center in the newly renovated former Reading freight station on South Hanover Street.

On the environmental front, the community college dedicated an environmentally friendly parking lot next to its Environmental Center on College Drive in the former PECO maintenance building.

The brownfield reclamation project features LED lighting, bioswales to absorb rainwater, and 132 trees.

Not as obvious, but vitally important to the future of Pottstown, the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center completed $52 million in upgrades and new facilities by the end of 2010, including an expansion of the emergency department, an improved intensive care unit, a progressive care unit, a new center for orthopedics, and a whole body PET/CT scanner.

Commentary by
Tom Hylton

POTTSTOWN REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY completed a comprehensive renovation in 2016, its first in decades. New flooring, ceilings, lighting, and handicap ramps were installed, and the second floor was expanded.