New school director picks Pottstown

For decades, Pottstown has been slowly losing middle class residents to suburban and semi-rural townships, which traditionally featured ample open space and large house lots.

As housing and commercial development increases, however, these townships are losing their bucolic character.

Pottstown, with its walkable neighborhoods and charming architecture, is beginning to draw people back from the land of sprawl.

Two such pathfinders are Steven and Judith Kline, who moved to Pottstown’s North End two years ago from increasingly developed New Hanover.

Steven, a Boyertown High School graduate, taught physical education at his alma mater and later served as assistant principal for four years and five years as principal.

He then served eight years as principal of Lower Merion’s Harriton High School, where he retired in 2012. He now works part-time for the Montgomery County parks department.

Judith is a substitute teacher in Spring-Ford elementary schools. Her parents grew up in Pottstown.

Steven will be sworn in as a member of the Pottstown School Board Thursday night.

He lived in New Hanover all his life and enjoyed its rural character. As more and more people — and their cars — moved in, however, the township changed.

“We couldn’t even walk our dog on the road. It was just too dangerous.

“We decided to look for a house in the North End. There are sidewalks and you can walk everywhere. It’s actually quieter in the North End than in New Hanover.”

“We believe Pottstown is making a comeback.”

Commentary by Thomas Hylton

THIS LOVELY NORTH END HOME attracted Steven and Judith Kline from their longtime home in New Hanover Township, which is losing its rural character to overdevelopment.