

MOMENTUM

One Good Thing Leads To Another

Pottstown, PA
Issue 9
Spring 2017

Carousel at Pottstown Brings New Life to the Borough

After nearly 18 years of restoration, the Carousel at Pottstown is officially open for its first year of operation. It is the second oldest wooden carousel in the United States and is run entirely by volunteers.

Built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1905, the carousel was first operated in Euclid Beach, Cleveland, Ohio and was constructed with no moving animals. After being moved several times, the carousel arrived in Twin Grove Park in Pine Grove, Pa., sometime in 1964, where it was last operated before being sold and dismantled in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Here in Pottstown, the legacy of the carousel has been cultivated for over a decade as hundreds of volunteers helped to prepare it for its debut. Each animal was hand-painted, taking anywhere from 250-350 man-hours to complete, giving context to the time it took to get the carousel up and running, according to George Wausnock, president of the non-profit Carousel at Pottstown group. Among its rich history, the carousel's center pole came from a ship in the Philadelphia Shipyard dating back to the late 1800s.

The idea to bring an indoor carousel to Pottstown was sparked years ago while Wausnock attended a Pottstown Home Show at the SunnyBrook Ballroom. The theme that year was carousels, featuring a mobile unit families could ride outside on a cold, windy March day. According to Wausnock, parents were placing their children on the cold animals to go for



After nearly 18 years of restoration, the Carousel at Pottstown is open for business!

a spin and it got him thinking about bringing an indoor carousel to Pottstown for the community to enjoy and to foster economic development.

"I think that what has transpired is a lot of people used to laugh at it thinking, 'What's a carousel going to do for Pottstown?' Wausnock said.

"It has really come to pass, bringing people from all over the country here to spend money at our hotels and in our community just so they can have a look at it."

Parking and admission to the carousel is free, costing just \$2 to take a spin! Refreshments are also available for purchase via the beautifully restored 1865 horse-drawn trolley snack bar.

The carousel is available for events such as birthday parties, school class trips, class reunions, community organization meetings, anniversaries, weddings and other special events or meetings. Contact 610-323-6099 or visit carouselatpottstown.org for more information.

Momentum is published three times per year by Partners for Success, a collaborative of area organizations with a common desire to celebrate the stories that make us proud of Pottstown as residents, business owners or other stakeholders who have a vested interest in seeing our community prosper.

@107/ Advantage Supports Local Non-profits



Every month, @107 hosts a community mixer, the proceeds of which benefit a local non-profit organization.

Located in downtown Pottstown, @107 is an event space with a lot of heart. Opening its doors in 2016, @107 began as a networking group through a partnership between Rachel Matute, Brian Hanson, Benjamin Moyer and Ed Wysock of Advantage Insurance Group, LLC. The venue has since evolved into a resource that fosters community collaboration.

Every month, @107 hosts a community mixer in which all proceeds benefit a local non-profit organization selected through a simple, application process. The mixers include raffles, live music, food and drink with opportunities to meet and network with fellow community members.

“We provide the space, the food and the alcohol and we suggest a donation at the door,” Wysock said.

“Advantage covers all the expenses so the non-profit can take home 100

percent of whatever is collected through tips, entry fees and donations. We’ve been averaging anywhere from \$300-\$1,200 a month depending on attendance.”

Most recently, @107’s February community mixer benefitted Meals on Wheels and raised a total of \$1,026 to provide meals for home-bound seniors. The group stays true to its roots and does not stray too far outside the Borough limits when scheduling the non-profits who will benefit from these events.

The mixers were developed as a way to bring people together inspired by the happy hour networking events started by Positively Pottstown, a local blog created by Pottstown native, Sue Repko.

“We wanted to re-create that event and our goal was to get people to meet each other and put together some common goals to make things happen in the

downtown,” Wysock said.

@107 is also used as a space to market the business located right next door, Advantage, and offer free tax prep, Medicare 101 classes, etc. to senior citizens.

“We feel that’s important because we identify a lot of ways to help these people with their financial problems or where they’re spending the money on insurance,” Wysock said.

“While they’re waiting for their taxes to be done, we analyze their health, home and auto insurance and give them recommendations on where they can save money and make sure they’re properly covered. We look at the entire financial picture.”

The group is also

involved in the recently developed Pottstown ArtsWalk through ArtFusion which they participate in three times a year. Its mixers act as a catalyst, sparking community collaboration and connecting non-profits with volunteers who want to get more involved.

“What we’re trying to do is create more of a creative downtown for people to work and live in,” Wysock said. “A lot of these ideas and the people that are helping make this happen attend our mixers and it’s almost like a way to bring in new recruits that want to help out.”

For more information and to stay updated on the next monthly community mixer, follow [@107 on Facebook](#).



Walk & Bike Pottstown Arrives in 2017

A collaborative effort between the Borough and Pottstown School District, Walk and Bike Pottstown will extend existing bike lanes on High Street eight additional miles throughout the Borough to increase non-motorized transportation connectivity and provide more opportunities for active lifestyles.

The primary emphasis of the project is to connect Pottstown's schools to residential neighborhoods and to the Borough's Schuylkill River Trail segment (also slated for completion in 2017). The project will build upon the national trend of creating 'complete streets' while minimizing impacts to homeowners and residents by converting underutilized portions of existing streets to dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The design of the network is meant to appeal to people of all ages and abilities so both residents and visitors feel safe

and comfortable biking or walking to destinations throughout the Borough. Funding for this project was provided by the PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program and the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation.

Walk and Bike Pottstown will consist of three phases constructed in the summer of 2017 through 2018:

Phase 1 - Extension of bike lanes on High Street; installation of cycle track, or a protected bike lane, on Jackson Street, Beech Street, North Roland Street and portions of South Roland Street.

Phase 2 - Creation of bicycle boulevards on Evans Street, Franklin Street and Oak Street; and bike lanes on Johnson Street and York Street.

Phase 3 - Sidewalk remediation at various locations along the routes listed above.

The Borough is very proud to host the



Walk and Bike Pottstown is a collaboration between the Pottstown Borough and Pottstown School District.

first borough-wide system of this size and scope in Pennsylvania and we look forward to becoming a regional leader for bicycle and pedestrian facilities! To stay updated with Walk and Bike Pottstown's progress, please visit pottstown.org.

Pottstown Memorial Medical Center Partners with Nemours Children's Health System

In October 2016, [Pottstown Memorial Medical Center](http://pottstown.org) (PMMC) announced its collaboration with Nemours Children's Health System (Nemours) to provide advanced pediatric care to families in Pottstown and surrounding communities.

As part of this collaboration, which began July 1, pediatric hospitalists trained and employed by Nemours will work with the staff on the inpatient pediatrics floor, provide consults in the PMMC Emergency Department, and attend high-risk deliveries. Should a higher level of care be required, additional consultative services may be provided remotely

via telemedicine by critical care physicians located at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. Moreover, PMMC will have access to Nemours Kids Transport, a state of the art emergency transport system designed to safely transport children to duPont Hospital for Children when the advanced pediatric services of a children's hospital are required.

Nemours pediatricians at PMMC provide advanced hospital care, including:

- Medical care for children staying on PMMC's pediatric unit
- Consultation in the hospital's emergency department (ED)-avail-

able 24 hours a day, seven days a week. PMMC offers a family-centered ED, designed for families with children, featuring kid-friendly equipment, exam rooms and waiting area.

- Newborn consultations in PMMC's Maternal Unit. Nemours pediatricians attend all high-risk deliveries, care for newborns in the nursery and stabilize sick newborns for transport, if necessary.

- Nemours specialists at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children can remotely participate and aid in the care of pediatric patients at PMMC via telehealth.

MCCC Hub Puts Pottstown at the Forefront of Sustainability & Innovation

Collaboration is the driving force behind the Sustainability and Innovation Hub—the newest addition to Montgomery County Community College’s (MCCC) West Campus in Pottstown. The project transformed the former energy substation and three-acre brownfield site adjacent to Pottstown’s Riverfront Park into a state-of-the-art center for education, innovation and conservation.

“The Hub is a truly collaborative space where faculty, students and members of the community are learning, sharing knowledge and working together to create a healthy and sustainable environment—one that enhances the economic health and well-being of the greater Pottstown community and Montgomery County,” MCCC President Kevin

Pollock said.

On the Hub’s first floor is an aquaponics/hydroponics teaching laboratory, which currently supports MCCC’s interdisciplinary Environmental Studies degree program.

The Hub’s second floor is an Engineering Design Center, where students, faculty and designers from the community are working together with robotics, quadrotors and 3D printing.

The Hub’s mezzanine is a flexible innovation space, intended as a “technical playground” for developers and designers to receive mentorship, learn new technologies, start side projects and collaborate on existing initiatives. MCCC’s new Software Developer Academy launched its first class here last June.

The front portion of the building is home to



Students work in the hydroponics/aquaponics teaching laboratory at MCCC’s West Campus.

the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) offices and a 400-square-foot Interpretative Center. To date, the unique collaboration between MCCC and SRHA is the only known partnership between a community college and a national heritage area in the United States.

The Montgomery County Planning Commission presented MCCC with a 2016 Montgomery Award for the planning and design of the Hub. For more information on the Sustainability and Innovation Hub, visit <http://bit.ly/2l8eJeN>.

Pottstown Trauma Informed Community Connection

In Pottstown, connection matters. This is the message of the recently launched Pottstown Trauma Informed Community Connection (PTICC), an initiative formed out of Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness (PEAK) to combat behavioral health issues affecting children in the district. Essentially, PTICC strives to make Pottstown a better place to form strong connections, experience belonging, put down roots and blossom, equipping the community to recognize, respond to and

reduce the struggles that kids and adults face every day.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), also known as childhood trauma, are events or series of events that involve a threat to one’s physical or emotional well-being, or are overwhelming, deeply distressing, alarming, fearful, or terrorizing. It leaves one feeling helpless; changes the way a person understands him or herself, others and the world; and changes one’s neurological landscape.

ACEs can disrupt the development of the brain and other organ systems, increasing the risk for stress-related disease and cognitive impairment, according to PTICC.

PTICC aims to break the cycle of ACEs and trauma in Pottstown, empowering the community to work together to combat trauma and spread hope. To learn more about trauma and how you can get involved, visit pottstownmatters.org.

Community Calendar

MARCH

Home Garden Contest March 13 - June 16



Grow For it! Beginner and experienced gardeners alike are invited to dabble in the art of gardening and compete for cash prizes. The contest is open to residents of the Pottstown and Boyertown Boroughs! The event is brought to you by MOSAIC Community, Land Trust, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation and Building a Better Boyertown. Learn more at www.homegardencontest.com.

APRIL

WWII Swing Dance April 7, 8-11 p.m., with 6 p.m. pre-dance dinner

The 17th Annual WWII Swing Dance will feature the Swing Fever Orchestra-USO Canteen Show at the world-famous Sunnybrook Ballroom. Dance tickets cost \$25 per person, with an optional All-American buffet dinner available before the dance for an additional \$25. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Proceeds benefit the TriCounty Active Adult Center. For more information, visit www.TricountyAAC.org or call 610-323-5009, ext. 104.

Pottstown YMCA Healthy Kids Day April 29, 1-3 p.m.

Pottstown celebrates young children with the YMCA's

11th Annual Healthy Kids Day, which will be held rain or shine at Pottstown High School, 750 N. Washington St. The event will feature face painting, a moonbounce, free snacks & beverages, mascots, free family fun activities, a petting zoo and the Miller Keystone Bloodmobile. Event sponsors include Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, PEAK, Independence Blue Cross, the Pottstown YMCA and Pottstown Parks & Recreation. For information, visit www.pottstownready.org.

MAY

Rep. Quigley's Healthy Lifestyles Expo May 5, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Members of the community are invited to explore services, participate in activities and gather information to help them live a healthy lifestyle. The expo will be held in the Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Pottstown Arts Walk May 6

Details are being developed for the Pottstown Arts Walk on Saturday, May 6. For information, visit artfusion19464.org/artwalk.

Powwow on Manatawny Creek May 6-7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.



The 4th Annual Circle Legacy Center Powwow on

Manatawny Creek will be held at Pottstown Memorial Park. The event is held rain or shine and is wheelchair accessible. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged and will benefit future Powwows. Highlights include Music by Spirit Wing, dance exhibitions, Native American craft vendors, Native American food, children's story telling and fun Native American games. A silent auction will benefit the Circle Legacy Center. Visit www.crazycrow.com/site/event/circle-legacy-center-powwow-on-manatawny-creek/ to learn more.

JUNE

Schuylkill River Sojourn June 3-9



Registration for the 19th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn opens on March 31 (for full-trip participants) and April 7 (for partial-trip participants). The event theme is 'I Protect the Schuylkill.' Visit www.schuylkillriver.org/sojourn.aspx for information.

Pottstown Rumble June 23-25

Get ready for the world's largest grass doubles volleyball tournament! Visit pottstownrumble.com to register and learn more.

JULY

On Your Park, Get Set, Go!® July 2017

Don't miss Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation's

month-long race, during which local parks compete to win grant funds toward park improvements. Visit [facebook.com/PAHWF](https://www.facebook.com/PAHWF) for more information!

Pottstown Half Marathon July 15, 7 a.m.



The 3rd Annual Pottstown Half Marathon will begin and end at the Sly Fox Brewery, 331 Circle of Progress. A race expo and bib pickup will take place on July 14, 3-7 p.m. Visit slyfoxtrackclub.com/the-pottstown-half-marathon to learn more.

Pottstown Bike Race July 16



The Pottstown Bike Race is a fast & exciting event for amateur and professional cyclists of all ages in 7 categories of racing. Each race ranges from 15-35 miles. A festive atmosphere with a beer garden, food and numerous vendors will be on High Street between Hanover & Evans. The race is held rain or shine! The event also features a free race for kids! The first 50 children get a free bike helmet. Visit pottstownbikerace.com to learn more.

Partners for Success

Momentum is published by Pottstown Area Industrial Development, Inc. (PAID) in collaboration with the Partners for Success. PAID is a non-profit economic development corporation with the mission to promote investment in Pottstown. Questions or comments about Momentum can be directed to info@paidinc.org or call 610-326-2900. To receive future issues of Momentum by email visit www.paidinc.org/momentum.php and [subscribe to the email list](#).



Borough of Pottstown

100 East High Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.pottstown.org • 610-970-6500



Montgomery County
Community College

Montgomery County Community College

West Campus
101 College Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.mc3.edu • 610-718-1800



Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation

152 East High Street, Suite 500
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.pottstownfoundation.org • 610-323-2006



Pottstown Area Industrial Development, Inc.

152 East High Street, Suite 360
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.paidinc.org • 610-326-2900



Pottstown Downtown Improvement District Authority

17 North Hanover Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.downtownpottstown.org • 610-323-5400



Pottstown Memorial Medical Center

1600 East High Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.pottstownmemorial.com • 610-327-7000



Pottstown School District

230 Beech Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.pottstownschoools.com • 610-323-8200



The Hill School

717 East High Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.thehill.org • 610-326-1000



TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce

152 East High Street, Suite 360
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.tricountyareachamber.com • 610-326-2900