

MOMENTUM

Pottstown, PA
Issue 2
Summer 2014

One Good Thing Leads To Another



A summer to remember.

Photo by Bill Bonney Photography

The 23rd Annual Pottstown Rumble Volleyball Tournament was held from June 19 to 22 at Memorial Park. It is the largest grass volleyball tournament in the nation. About 7,000 people attended the tournament including 3,400 competitors.

Momentum is published four times during the 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. Each quarter we share stories about business development, recreation and healthy lifestyles, education, and arts and culture.

Summer is a busy time of year in Pottstown and this issue highlights just how active, welcoming and energized a community we are. This summer:

- Pottstown hosted a nationally recognized volleyball tournament that brought an estimated 7,000 people to Memorial Park back in June;
- thousands more are expected in August for a three-day national BMX event;

Sometimes it takes only one story to change the way we think.

- dragon boat teams have formed and are racing on the Schuylkill River; and
- craft brewers and distillers are producing award-winning beer and quality spirits in our business parks.

Some of the activities covered in this issue have been around long enough to be considered summer traditions; however, none have a track record of success anywhere near as long as the second oldest family-owned men's clothing store in the country. This summer downtown retailer Weitzenkorn's continues a year-long celebration in recognition of an incredible 150 years in business in Pottstown.

Plenty of summer remains, but fall is approaching fast. This issue includes information about Montgomery County Community College's University Center and Steel River Playhouse's 2014-2015 season.

We hope you enjoy Momentum. Sometimes it takes only one story to change the way we think and to remind us that we are part of something bigger – a community.



Manatawny Still Works' facility includes a tasting room with a copper bar and seating as well as a barrel room.

Made in Pottstown: Craft beer, spirits and kegs

Pottstown is riding the wave of the booming craft beverage industry. First there was craft brewer [Sly Fox Brewing Company](#). Then came craft distiller [Manatawny Still Works](#). Most recently, keg manufacturer [Geemacher LLC](#) commenced operations in Pottstown.

Sly Fox Brewing Company is a popular destination for craft beer enthusiasts near and far. In 2012, the owners opened the Pottstown production brewery where they can triple their production capabilities from their previous location. Tours are offered on Saturdays and Sundays. Customers can enjoy the variety of [craft beers](#) as well as bar fare in the Tastin' Room Wednesday through Sunday.

Manatawny Still Works, a distillery offering [quality spirits](#) in small batches, officially opened its doors in spring 2014. Check out spirits like J. Potts Whiskey, named after Pottstown founder and ironmaster John Potts, and specialty cocktails during tours on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Geemacher, LLC, the only domestic keg manufacturer in the country, started producing stainless steel kegs this year. Geemacher offers a variety of keg sizes and custom embossing.

Weitzenkorn's is 150 years young

Pottstown is home to the second oldest family-owned men's clothing store in the country. Founded in 1864, [Weitzenkorn's](#) is celebrating a remarkable 150 years in business. Located at 145 East High Street, the store offers a wide selection of suits, big and tall clothing, footwear, tuxedo rentals, casual clothing, and full-time tailoring service.

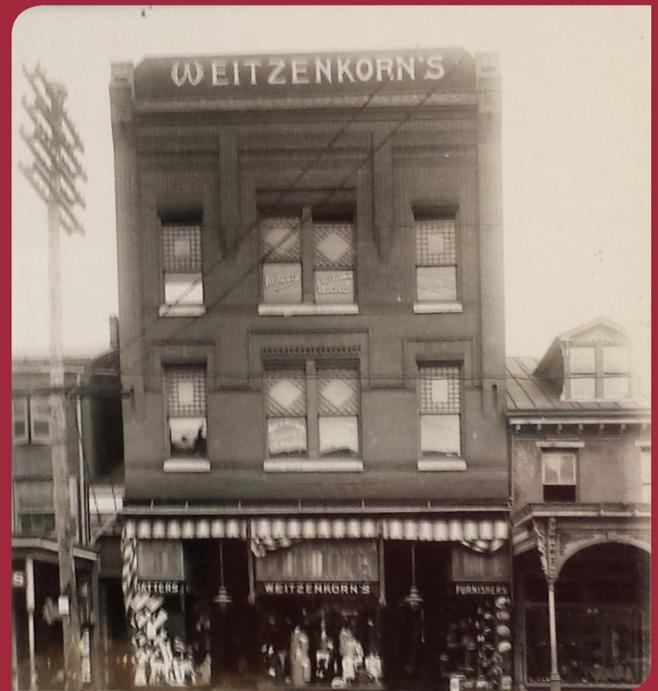




Photo by Jim Paiva

Trilogy Park BMX

Trilogy Park BMX, located in Memorial Park, was established in 2004 and is an affiliated USA BMX park. Local BMX riders have practice night each Tuesday and racing nights are Thursdays and Saturdays. For more information about Trilogy Park BMX, visit <https://www.usabmx.com/tracks/1868>.

A three-day, national BMX event, the [Quaker State Nationals](#) is coming to [Trilogy Park BMX](#) from August 8 through 10.

In its seventh year at the park, the event brings 2,000 to 2,500 people to Pottstown.

Attendees can watch professional BMX races featuring the A-Pro class. People of all ages and various skill levels also compete at the event: boys, girls, men and women. Young children compete

in the Strider/Push Bike Race for ages 3 and up.

“It is a fun, family event,” said Trilogy Park BMX Track Director Glen Knapper.

Registration can be completed at the track on Friday and Saturday. There will be no registration on Sunday.



Photo by Nihart Photography

Start Your Own Dragon Boat Team

Rob Matthews invites churches and other organizations to contact him if they have interest in starting a team. New teams would receive the proper training and would be working with experienced paddlers on the water. For more information, call Matthews, 610-327-1321.

Pottstown is a river town. So it's no wonder local athletes have been inspired to start dragon boat racing teams.

Two award-winning teams, the Dragon Warriors and Draco Scholars, practice on the Schuylkill River and will show what they're made of at the [Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival](#) this fall. The Dragon Warriors team is comprised of women who take [CrossFit](#) classes in Pottstown. The Draco Scholars team consists of men and women from the Pottstown School District. The teams have a boat to practice and compete with thanks to a grant from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation.

Both teams have shown that they are fierce competitors. The Draco Scholars won an Educator's Cup during the [Independence Dragon Boat Regatta](#) this spring. The Dragon Warriors won a bronze medal in the Women's B division at the Independence Dragon Boat Regatta in Philadelphia this spring. The team won a gold medal in the Mixed C division during the Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival in the fall 2013.

CrossFit Pottstown owner Rob Matthews initiated dragon boating in Pottstown after encouragement from his mentor, former Olympian John Breen, who saw the athleticism of the women in the local CrossFit classes. Breen now coaches the dragon boat teams.

Community College's University Center offers bachelor's and graduate degrees

You know Montgomery County Community College is the place to earn an associate's degree, but did you know area residents are able to earn a bachelor's or graduate degree conveniently in Pottstown at [Montgomery County Community College's West Campus](#) through its [University Center](#)?

Located at 95 S. Hanover St., the University Center provides opportunities for these degrees through partnerships with select four-year institutions including Albright University, Alvernia University, Chestnut Hill College, Drexel University, Immaculata University, Temple University and Villanova University.



First introduced in 2006, the University Center framework offers an entrepreneurial approach to expanding higher education opportunities to area residents. Building on its vision to create a thriving urban campus in downtown Pottstown, the College opened a dedicated University Center in 2012 at the site of the former AAA East Penn building. The 10,500-square-foot building features six classrooms equipped with smart and videoconference technology, a student lounge and reception area.

For more information, visit mc3.edu/university-center.



Steel River Playhouse announces 2014-2015 season

Steel River Playhouse has a lot in store for its 2014-2015 season. It is chock-full of award winning productions. The theater, which is offering its seventh season of shows, is located at 245 E. High St., Pottstown. For more information, call 610-970-1199 or visit <http://www.steelriver.org>.

SHOUT! A Mod Musical

September 26 – October 5

Created by Phillip George and David Lowenstein

The dawn of the women's movement, is explored through the storylines of 5 British females and the unforgettable music of the era, including "To Sir With Love," "Son of a Preacher Man" and "Downtown."

The Miracle Worker

October 23 – November 2

Book by William Gibson

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this is the touching story of Annie Sullivan and her student, the blind and mute Helen Keller. Trapped in a secret, silent world and unable to communicate, Helen's turbulent and violent nature is tamed by the wonder of learning, as Annie leads her to connect with the world she will eventually inspire.

Sound of Music

December 4 – December 14

Music by Richard Rodgers; Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein; Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

The winner of five Tony Awards including Best Musical. This beloved musical tells the story of Maria who, on leave from her convent training, serves as governess for the children of a widowed Austrian officer with whom she finds true love. But their joy is unsettled by the Nazi presence in their homeland, leading them to seek freedom through the hills of Maria's youth.

Court Martial at Fort Devens

February 6 – February 15

Book by Jeffrey Sweet

This play, based on a true story, is about a group of young, black women who joined the Women's Army Corps during WWII, and trained as medical technicians. But a racist Colonel restricts them to cleaning duty and their refusal leads to a court-martial where a civilian defense lawyer assists their uphill fight to change the status quo.

(Note: contains mild adult language)



Steel River Playhouse's main stage is a black box theater that can be easily reconfigured.

Rumors

March 12 – March 22

Book by Neil Simon

The Deputy Mayor of NYC has accidentally shot himself! It's only a flesh wound but his friends will soon arrive to celebrate his 10th anniversary and his lawyer quickly realizes the circumstances need to be explained. The attorney and his wife must get the story straight before the other guests arrive.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

May 1 – May 10

Book by Edward Albee

Winner of the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and New York Critics Circle Award as Best Play, and written by the USA's foremost living playwright, this is generally viewed as one of the greatest plays of the American stage. Alcohol, bold humor and biting dialogue lay bare the secrets that lie behind two marriages. The film version won an Academy Award.

(Note: contains mature themes and adult language)

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

June 4 – June 14

Music and Lyrics by William Finn; Book by Rachel Sheinkin; Conceived by Rebecca Feldman; Additional Material by Jay Reiss

An eclectic group of competitors vie for the ultimate spelling championship and along the way we learn their hopes and the humorous stories of their lives. As the contestants navigate their way through increasingly complex words, the adults (and a few audience members) help and hinder their progress. Winner of the 2005 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical, this hilarious and warmhearted tale of overachievers' angst celebrates the triumph of doing the best you can.

Photos courtesy of John Daggett



The Newberry Loft, located on the second floor, is used for smaller musicals, dance performances and other productions.

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 <http://www.paidinc.org/momentum.php> and [subscribe to the email list](#).



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