MOMENTUM

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One Good Thing Leads To Another

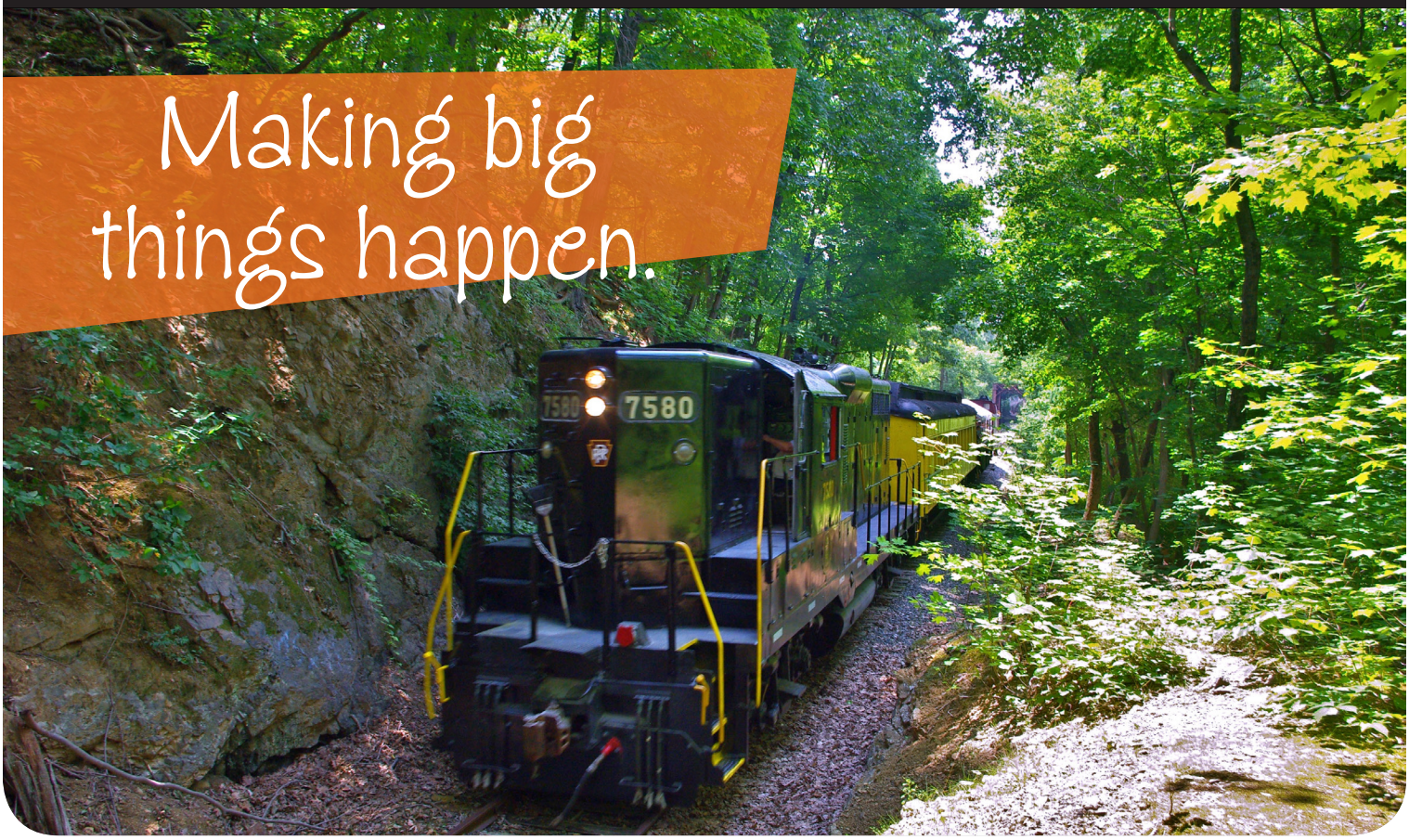

Photo by Leonard F. Shaner Jr.

Excitement has been building for the Colebrookdale Railroad which recently started to run trains along the 8.6-mile Secret Valley Line between Pottstown and Boyertown. See Page 3 for full story.

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 & culture.

Good things inside this issue

Page 2 Haggerty Steel sets up shop in Pottstown
Page 2 Tompkins Insurance opens downtown
Page 3 Colebrookdale Railroad is on track
Page 4 The Hill School: A home away from home
Page 5 Pottstown students show creativity for ArtFusion 19464 fundraiser
Page 6 Partners for Success

A look at the Haggerty Steel building in the early stages of construction at 380 Circle of Progress Drive in Pottstown.

Haggerty Steel recently completed construction of its new facility.

Haggerty Steel sets up shop in Pottstown

After five generations in the metal-working business, father-son team Tom and Jim Haggerty moved their family business, Haggerty Steel, to Pottstown. The Haggertys acquired one of the last remaining lots in the Airport Business Campus and have recently completed construction of their brand new 9,000-square-foot crane-served facility.

Haggerty Steel is an ornamental iron and structural steel fabricator serving residential and commercial markets. The business was formerly located in Norristown. About 10 people are employed at the business.

The company is involved in every aspect of estimating, detailing, fabrication, delivery, installation and erection. The company works with materials such as steel, stainless steel, aluminum and brass as well as a variety of finishes including paint, powder coating, anodized, galvanized and polished.

Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust provided the construction/permanent loan for the project. Scenic Ridge Construction was the general contractor.

Tompkins Insurance opens downtown

Tompkins Insurance has joined the ranks of the growing number of shops, restaurants and offices doing business in dowtown Pottstown.

The company recently opened an office at 258 East High Street after completing several months of substantial renovations. Tompkins is one of the top bank-owned insurance companies in the nation offering personal insurance, business insurance and employee benefits.

Tompkins Insurance and Tompkins, VIST Bank, are owned by parent company Tompkins Financial Corp., headquartered in Ithaca, N.Y. The corporation has 20 offices in Southeastern Pennsylvania including Blue Bell and Wyomissing.

Tompkins Financial Corporation is a $4.9 billion in assets financial services company trading on the NYSE MKT under the "TMP" symbol.

For more information, visit https://www.tompkinsins.com.

Public parking is available next door to Tompkins Insurance.

Colebrookdale Railroad is on track

Photo by Leonard F. Shaner Jr.

The Colebrookdale Railroad recently began running excursions with passengers boarding the train in Boyertown and traveling the scenic, 8.6-mile Secret Valley Line to Pottstown.

This fall, the railroad is offering rides on Saturdays and Sundays and occasionally Fridays. With the completion of a station in Pottstown's Memorial Park next year, riders will be able to board the train in either Boyertown or Pottstown.

Passengers are riding on a tourist railroad with a history that dates back to the Civil War era. It was completed by soldiers who were home from the Civil War. Stretching between Berks and Montgomery Counties and traversing geological formations unique to Pennsylvania and rich with Native American lore, the Colebrookdale Railroad connects the sites of the earliest iron-making industries in the American colonies, sites once familiar to William Penn, George Washington, and Thomas Edison.

The railroad is expected to attract 20,000 to 30,000 visitors annually, serving as an anchor attraction for tourists. Visitors can start their trip to this area with their ride on the train, but then also pair that with a meal or visit to another downtown or area attraction.

For more information, tickets, or to make a charitable contribution, visit www.colebrookdalerailroad.com.

By the Numbers

The Colebrookdale Railroad is expected to have a significant economic impact on the region. According to a study completed by Stone Consulting for the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust, the impact includes:

- 20,000 to 30,000 visitors annually
- $980,000 annual economic impact by railroad spending
- $1.8 million minimum annual economic impact from visitors
- $7.2 million economic impact of capital cost investment which could be as high as $18.2 million with enhanced infrastructure and equipment program
- 270 new jobs during implementation phases
- 80 new jobs after implementation phase

The Hill School: A home away from home

The Hill School, a co-educational college preparatory school, brings students, faculty, and guests from around the country and world to Pottstown.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, 515 young people from 27 states and 26 foreign countries will study at The Hill School as "third formers" (ninth graders) through "sixth formers" (12th graders) as well as one-year postgraduate students who take advanced courses to prepare for highly competitive colleges and universities. Students arrive from such places as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Spain, Austria, India, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Venezuela, Mexico, and numerous Asian countries, among others.

Approximately 80 percent of Hill's students are boarders who live in residence halls supervised by faculty members who live in apartments in the dormitories, along with their own families. The Hill, and Pottstown, truly become the students' home away from home.

The faculty is also diverse. This year's new faculty members represent nationalities including Korean, Moroccan, South African, Dutch, Canadian, and American.

The Hill School's visitors include all prospective families as well as those who travel to Pottstown for events including athletics, arts presentations, Parents Weekend in the fall and Commencement in the spring.

The Hill School's Impact on Pottstown

Did you know?

• The Hill School is one of Pottstown's largest employers. About 206 teachers and other staff members work at the School.

• On an annual basis, The Hill School buys more than $2 million in goods and services from Pottstown businesses and visitors spend more than $200,000 at local restaurants, stores, and other businesses, according to a recent community impact study.

• Community members can attend theater productions, concerts and special speaker presentations at the School's The Center of Fine Arts and see art exhibits at the Boyer Gallery.

• The Hill School teams up with Pottstown Borough and Pottstown School District for Pottstown CARES, a community clean-up day. This fall, a dozen volunteers from the Montgomery County Community College as well as additional individuals from other community businesses and organizations are joining the effort. About 700 volunteers will weed, pick up trash, bag leaves and complete other chores. Watch the Pottstown CARES video on The Hill's website, www.thehill.org/CARESvideo.

• Notable Hill School alumni include former Secretary of State James Baker III '48, Oscar-nominated actor James Cromwell '58, Academy Award-winning producer Oliver Stone '64, author Tobias Wolff '64 and other professionals contributing to many other fields including business, science and academia.

Pottstown students show creativity for ArtFusion 19464 fundraiser

Every January, community members warm up with a bowl of soup and enjoy local art at ArtFusion 19464's Soup Bowl Fundraiser. This year Pottstown Middle School students were among the volunteers who helped ArtFusion prepare for the fundraiser by creating the soup bowls.

Students created and painted bowls this summer during sessions led by Pottery Studio Director Kristen VonHohen at ArtFusion. Then the students will glaze the bowls this fall at the middle school. Each bowl is an artistic collaboration: one person creates the bowl and another person glazes it. Each bowl is unique. Some have simple designs and others are much more intricate.

See what these talented students created during ArtFusion's fourth-annual Soup Bowl Fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on January 24, 2015, at its 254 East High Street location in Pottstown. Pre-paid tickets are $20 per person and go on sale the beginning of January. Limited tickets will be available for purchase at the door for $25. Attendees can enjoy a variety of vegetarian and meat soups and choose a bowl to take home with them. The soups are donated by local volunteers and restaurants. In addition, the event will feature the Student Faculty Winter Exhibit and musical entertainment.

October marks ArtFusion 19464's 10-year anniversary as Pottstown's non-profit community art center. The center's mission is to enrich the lives of the residents in the greater Pottstown area through the visual arts, regardless of ethnicity and economic situations, and to spark creativity, build self-confidence and develop community bonds through education, mentoring and community service. The art center offers art classes for all ages and skill levels. The gallery features the work of new and established artists.

For more information, visit www.artfusion19464.org.

Guests from last year's Soup Bowl Fundraiser at ArtFusion 19464 show off some hand-crafted bowls.

Here is a look at the bowls created for last year's Soup Bowl Fundraiser.

ART fusion 19464

Upcoming Shows

Five Show: November 4-22, 2014

Five Show features work by Kristen VonHohen, Bob Hakun, Dora Siemel, Jeanne Petrosky and Dennis Guzman.

downSizing Show: November 29, 2014-January 3, 2015

ArtFusion's annual holiday show will feature art on the smaller size. The reception and annual holiday party will be held on Friday, December 12, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Check the website for hours of operation: www.artfusion19464.org

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.

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.pottstownschools.com/pottstown • 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