

As we approach 2010 we, as a community, have much to think about. Do we live in the past or do we look to the future? Pottstown and the surrounding area have changed dramatically over the last fifty years. There are naysayers who maintain that the era of Firestone, Bethlehem Steel, and Flagg was the best of times for the community. Yes, things were different back then. Those of us who were fortunate enough to grow up during that time have many fond memories: hopscotch, box hockey, walking to the movies. Only one parent had to work to maintain our lifestyle. Life was simple.

Today, life is not so simple. Everyone has been affected by the current state of the economy. It takes two incomes to support a home and family. As individuals we have had to distinguish between our needs and our wants. It is more difficult to see the promise of the future when the present weighs so heavily on our shoulders.

As a community we have to tighten our belts and work together. As expenses rise the value of our income remains stagnant. The rising costs of heat, electric, gasoline, medical care, affects a community as much as an individual. Everyone expects the same level of services but many complain about an increase in fees.

At parks and recreation we strive to do as much as we can with what we have. The parks and recreation department will continue to provide quality programming at an affordable price, will continue to assist with community events, and will endeavor to answer the needs of the community. The grounds crew will continue to maintain, with pride, the public grounds that have been entrusted to them.

As the New Year approaches look to the future. See the good in the community. These are the times that our children will look back on as their memories.

I wish you all health and happiness in the New Year.

Eileen Schlegel
Acting Director