

News

An Afternoon at the Schuylkill River Festival

By Bonnie L. Mauger, Staff Writer

Oct. 10 – It's raining outside and I'm thinking, "not today."

I can only hope the weather forecaster is right. He predicts clear skies by the afternoon.

Turns out he is right and I end up spending a windy but rain-free and fun afternoon at the Schuylkill River Festival.

The festival at Pottstown's Riverfront Park was situated across the street from South Hall on Montgomery County Community Col-

lege's West Campus. The event's sponsors included not only the college and borough but also the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the Pottstown Mercury newspaper.

Jewelers, painters, photographers and furniture makers were among the several artisans featured at the event. From clothing and candles to crystals and stoneware, there was something for everyone to buy. Pottstown Pottery made souvenir crocks with the heritage area logo. Besides the crocks, there were souvenir T-shirts and tote bags.

College and community leaders who attended the festival included the event's founder, former college Vice President Dean Foster, who recently retired from full-time work but has maintained a part-time role to help the college develop 140 College Drive in Pottstown into a Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center; college President Dr. Karen Stout and Kurt Zwinkl, the executive director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. They received proclamations from Pottstown Mayor Sharon Thomas, Pottstown Council President Stephen Toroney, North Coventry Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Andrew Paravis, state Sen. John Rafferty and Patrick Beck, a representative from U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach's office.

A Native American exhibit in which young children learned to dance with hoops and a "Latino Village" were among the cultural exhibits at the festival.

The college had several booths to pro-



Photo by Alana J. Mauger, Managing Advisor

An interactive Native American exhibit was part of the festival's activities.

vide information about the school and its transfer programs with Albright College and Temple University.

Face painting, a moon bounce and arts and crafts were among the activities in the "Kids Camp."

Many showed their enthusiasm for the river and its beauty by kayaking or canoeing. Or they biked along the Schuylkill River Trail.


Pottstown native John Comperon sat on the riverbank and reminisced about how he used to canoe the Schuylkill many years ago. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married 52 years. He said that they were glad to see the amount of progress in Pottstown.

As we chatted, I learned that Comperon had served in the Navy. I thanked him for his service.

He was surprised to find out I was a new student and encouraged me to continue pursuing my studies.

At the West Campus, the "Scenes of the Schuylkill" art exhibit hosted a reception in the college gallery.

Overall, the river festival and art exhibit made for an exciting day. Next year, I hope to see you at the annual festival.



Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Montgomery County Community College

Central Campus List of Events and Projects

College-Wide Theme for 2009: "Faces of the Homeless"

All Week Events, 11/16-21

College Hall Library Display
View books, pictures, and other materials pertaining to the poverty theme for the week.

Athletics Food Collection
See additional flyer for drop-off locations.

Winter Coat Drive
See additional flyers sponsored by the Medical Assisting Club.

Monday, 11/16

"A Day Without a Home"

Quad
All Day
Stop and check out the display created by students, who have built a mock version of a street where homeless individuals would live.

Live Actors Hour
Time: TBD
Students will join the "A Day Without a Home" display to perform a live hour of interpretation on the life of someone who goes without a home on a daily basis.

Wednesday, 11/18

Leadership Over Lunch
RM 111
12:30-1:30 PM
Join us for this special edition of the Leadership Over Lunch series focusing on the topic of "Effective Leadership in the Community." This session will be led by Frank Hartwell, the Education Program Director of Impact! Thrift Stores located in Montgomery County. A simple lunch of soup and water will be served.

Poverty Fair
Cafeteria
11:30-1:30 PM
Stop by the cafeteria to get info on poverty and homelessness, meet different clubs supporting projects during the week, bring coats and food donations, and perform mini-service projects that will represent different aspects of being "homeless" and benefit local organizations in Montgomery County. These projects will take 15 minutes or less a piece!

Friday, 11/20

Winter Outreach Kick-Off
College Hall Upper Lobby
10:00-11:00 AM
Stop by to help with the set-up of the Giving Tree, which will hold over 200 ornaments listing gift ideas for children and teens in need. This will be the campus-wide student project sponsored by the Central and West SGA and will benefit St. Mary's Villa in Ambler and the Pottstown branch of the Salvation Army.

"Third World Banquet"
Faculty/Staff Dining Room
12:30-1:30 PM
Join the International Relations Club and the A.C.F. Club as they host an interactive event that puts YOU in the place of another human being. This event does provide food based on the role each individual is given. However, it is recommended that lunch is picked up before hand so you have something to eat on your way to the next class! Donations are welcomed and will benefit an international organization supporting an end to global poverty.

Saturday, 11/21

Sign-ups for off-campus projects will be held during the Poverty Fair dates at West and Central campus. (Some spaces are available for faculty and staff too!)

Tuesday, 11/24

Men's Basketball Game
"Poverty Awareness Night"
Gymnasium at 8 PM
Join the basketball team as they raise awareness about the issues of poverty and homelessness, and conclude their month-long collection of food donations to Manna on Main Street in Lansdale. The director of Manna, Tom Allebach, will be on hand for a half-time presentation. See additional flyer for more details!

Questions? Contact Jemma Meehan at 610-718-1973 or jmeehan@mc3.edu