Neighborhood Preservation Update

Borough Manager Tom Fountaine recently offered the following thoughts on the Borough strategic plan's #1 goal, neighborhood preservation. Ordinances relevant to neighborhood preservation are posted on the State College Borough website, www.statecollegepa.us/.

1. Borough staff works with property owners, tenants, and realtors to achieve compliance with ordinances through education and information dissemination.
2. When compliance is not achieved, enforcement of ordinances becomes necessary. Because noncompliance with zoning regulations was changed from a criminal to a noncriminal offense in Pennsylvania, zoning enforcement takes time; it has become a multi-step process.
3. Limited staffing levels are a major deterrent to full compliance and enforcement. Even with 3.5 enforcement positions, Borough staff members alone are unable to identify all infractions.

Thus Borough residents are asked to take an active role in supporting observation and enforcement of ordinances by reporting all incidents of noncompliance.

1. To report noncompliance regarding these problems…
   - Occupancy code violations (e.g., unauthorized student home, more than 3 unrelated tenants, unauthorized home occupation)
   - Failure to remove snow, trash, or weeds over 6"
   - Poor property maintenance

   … take *one* of these steps:
   a. complete and forward the complaint form found at http://statecollegepa.us/forms.aspx?FID=81
   b. send an email to boro@statecollegepa.us.
   c. send a letter to State College Borough, c/o Zoning Enforcement, 243 South Allen Street, State College 16801
   d. call 234-7191

2. To report noncompliance regarding these problems…
   - excessive noise
   - property vandalism
   - open container and drunkenness
   - violence or perceived potential violence
   - parking violations
   - speeding (get license number if possible)

   … call the police:

   EMERGENCY: 911
   nonemergency during business hours: 234-7159
   nonemergency after business hours: 1-800-479-0050

It is the policy of the Borough to protect the identity of the person reporting the noncompliance. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in all circumstances.