



***The State College Municipal Newsletter
Second Quarter of 2019 Edition***

In this quarter's edition, you can find helpful tips on how to get your yard ready for Spring, a community message from Council President Evan Myers, a step-by-step tutorial to sign up for construction updates and much more. Please also read about this past quarter's Council actions. This document is one way to display how everyone works together to create a strong community. Please share with your friends and neighbors.

Thank you for supporting State College.
*Tom Fontaine, Manager
State College Borough*

The community is always welcome to attend Council meetings. They are typically held on Monday evenings at the Municipal Building in Council Chambers. Meetings are also aired on Channel 7 and live streamed on cnetl.org.

Upcoming Council Meetings:
-May 6
-June 3
-June 17

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact information: (814) 234-7100



Evan Myers, Council President, Community Message



For elected officials and Borough staff, one of our main duties is to actively respond to residents' interests, provide information and work towards greater civic participation in State College. Over the years, we have put in place a multitude of policies and procedures to ensure that happens. One of the foremost ways we accomplish this is by working and listening to State College's Authorities, Board, Commissions and Committees (ABCs). These are the lifeblood of civic participation and are essential to the functioning of the Borough, helping to sort out policy and advising Administration and Council on many important issues. The Board of Health, Human Relations Commission, LGBTQ

Advisory Committee, Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission are just a few of the more than 20 such ABCs and have approximately 150 community members serving. Serving on an ABC is how I got started in Borough government, serving first on the Consolidation Study Commission 30 years ago, then the Downtown Vision and Strategic Plan Committee and finally as a longtime member of the Planning Commission, including 6 years as its Chair. I urge anyone who is interested to inquire about how to serve can do so by calling (814) 234-7115.

These formal committees are not the only way the Borough seeks to reach out to gain input and have dialogue. Recently, for example, residents of Addison Court expressed concern about how the impact of construction at an adjacent property on Beaver Avenue was impacting their ability and those of others to use the sidewalk and nearby streets. In response to their request, I joined Mayor Hahn, Borough Manager Fountaine and other staff members to meet with residents for a discussion at Addison Court on how we could help mitigate these issues. Another recent example is a couple of weeks ago the Mayor and I, along with a few Council members and staff, had a 2-hour working lunch with leaders of our neighborhoods and the Neighborhood Coalition to discuss topics ranging from the new zoning rewrite to fraternities and revenue generation to pay for services. Similarly, about a month ago, Mayor Hahn, a couple Council members, staff and I held a meeting with student leaders to have a wide-ranging discussion on many topics to further enhance relationships between students and more long-term residents. Also, a lunch was held in December between a similar group of Council, the Mayor, Borough staff and members of the Penn State administration including President Barron to discuss town-gown issues including the proposed parking garage on west campus.

We are continuously working to keep the lines of communication open with all community members through group meetings and the formal inclusion of residential input through the ABCs is vital as a process to insure input and diverse opinion. We look forward to more engagement in the coming year and welcome any ideas on how to move that forward.

Highlights of Council Actions from First Quarter of 2019

January 14, Council Regular Meeting:

-National Day of Racial Healing Proclamation–Mayor Donald M. Hahn issued a proclamation declaring January 22, 2019, *National Day of Racial Healing*. The proclamation urges, “all citizens to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a means to working together to ensure the best quality of life for every child.”

-Codification Amendments–Council adopted two separate amendments to the Borough Codification. The first amendment was to Chapter VII, Part A, Section 8-114 of the codification and established a restriction and fine of \$25.00 for leaving refuse and organics carts at the curb after the day of collection and provided consistency within the ordinance. The second amendment was to Chapter XVI, Part H, Section 16-705 and Section 16-709 and established a minimum height of seven feet for any tree, shrubbery, bush or other vegetation that overhangs a sidewalk.

February 4, Council Regular Meeting:

-City of THON–Mayor Hahn issued a proclamation to rename State College the “City of THON” during the 2019 THON weekend (2/15-2/17). This is the fifth consecutive year State College has renamed the community in celebration of THON.

-Vacation of Laurel Alley–Council enacted an ordinance to vacate a section Laurel Alley between Fraternity Row and Clover Alley.

February 11, Council Regular Meeting:

-Noise Waiver–Council approved a noise waiver for the mixed-use building construction at 131 Hiester Street with the condition that the contractor notifies all adjacent property owners 48 hours in advance of scheduled work.

-Certificate of Appropriateness: 400 South Gill Street–Council approved an application and issued the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) that is required for a construction project for a property in one of State College’s Historic Districts. These actions are required by Ordinance 2104 which established a local Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) to oversee regulated activities within the Holmes-Foster/Highlands and College Heights historic districts. This was the first COA issued by the HARB.

March 18, Council Regular Meeting:

-East Fairmount Avenue Park–Council adopted a resolution authorizing the Borough to execute the Grant application for the East Fairmount Avenue Park Project. The Architect, Dan Jones, that is working on the project presented the proposed improvements to the park to Council.

You can access Council agendas and approved minutes in the Borough’s Agenda Center at www.statecollegepa.us/AgendaCenter/.

Helpful Tips

Recycling Tips from Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority:

-Tires can be recycled at the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority for a minimal fee. Tires are accepted (on or off the rim) during regular Transfer Station operating hours (Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). For more information, call (814) 238-7005 or visit centrecountyrecycles.org.



-Vinyl siding can be recycled at the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority for a fee. Only vinyl siding, corner posts and j-channel will be accepted. Call (814) 238-7005 for more information.

-If you have used all of your paint and are left with empty paint cans, these cans may be recycled. Place your empty paint can in your curbside recycling bin or local recycling drop off container and the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority will accept it for recycling.

Impacted Refuse Collection:

Holiday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Memorial Day Monday, May 27, 2019	NO Bulk/Brush Collection	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Regular Collection
The following dates will not have an impact on refuse service: Good Friday (April 19)				

There's a New Way to Engage with State College:

State College wants to hear from you! Take a moment and get involved because it's your community, your voice.

www.statecollegepa.us/engage

CURRENT OPEN TOPICS ARE:

Are you interested in a State College Bike Share Program?

Fact or Fiction to get to the bottom of questions or rumors you might have heard

Community Idea Board



Grass, Trees, Leaves and Weeds:

Spring is on the way. Here are some tips to get your yard ready for the warmer weather.

-Tree limbs and branches must be trimmed to a minimum height of 7 feet over a public sidewalk and 14 feet over a street or alley.

-Trees and limbs in the right-of-way (the grass area between the sidewalk and curb) will be trimmed by the Public Works Department.

-Shrubbery, including hedges and flower gardens, must be trimmed back behind the sidewalk to provide pedestrian access to the full width of the walk and allow room for use by others passing by at the same time.

-Weeds and grass should not exceed 6 inches in height or produce pollen. The Borough Ordinance includes all non-woody vegetation except garden vegetables and cultivated flowers. Property owners, as well as tenants, are responsible for compliance with this ordinance. Only one warning of violation is issued per growing season. Each subsequent violation carries a \$50 fine. In addition, upon issuance of a third violation, the Borough may make arrangements to have the grass/weeds cut and the property owner billed for the costs.



If you have questions or observe a problem in your neighborhood concerning weed, grass, trees, branches or shrubbery please contact the Neighborhood and Community Services Department at (814) 234-7191. This is a safety issue. We hope to prevent head and eye injuries from overhanging limbs or branches and also prevent cuts, scrapes or falls from brush invading onto sidewalks.

What's the easiest way to have yard debris collected by Public Works?

Use your organics cart—Most of the smaller yard debris can fit in your local organics cart. Roll the cart around the yard with you as you clean up debris, leave it at the curb, and the Borough will collect it in its regular organics collection.

*Don't have a cart? Request a cart [online](#) for year-round use.

Bulk and brush collection—If you have branches too large for your organics cart, you can request brush collection from the Borough. You can schedule pick up by submitting a pick up request [online](#) or by calling (814) 234-7135. Learn more about local bulk and brush collection [here](#).

Leaf collection—If your yard is still covered with leaves, the Borough also has a regular spring leaf collection where crews will collect leaves on the curbside once each week in the Borough until collections end. The Spring schedule began on Monday, March 25, and will end on Friday, May 10, 2019. More details can be found [here](#).

Any questions regarding refuse collection can be directed to the Public Works Department at (814) 234-7140.

Stay in the Know Informative Updates from State College

AVAILABLE SOON: The 2018 State College Annual Report:

The 2018 Annual Report reflects the work that was done by the Borough of State College in 2018. This report is organized by stories that contributed to meeting the organization's Mission Statement to enhance the quality of life by fostering a **safe, vibrant, diverse and sustainable** community; by providing quality, innovative, cost-effective services; and by allocating resources efficiently with professionalism, integrity, transparency and accountability.

The 2018 Annual Report is scheduled to be published in April. Visit [this page](#) to learn more.

Construction Updates:

In just a few simple steps, anyone can sign up to receive the latest construction updates.

1. Visit www.statecollegepa.us/constructionupdates
2. Click on "notify me" on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Type in your email address at the top of the page under "email address".
4. Subscribe to any alerts by clicking on the envelope icon. For text message alerts, click on the telephone icon and enter a phone number.

You may have to scroll back down to the NewsFlash listings and find "Construction Updates"

More of a visual learner?

Check out this video tutorial on signing up for updates:

<https://www.statecollegepa.us/CivicMedia?VID=11>

Stay up to date with what's
going on in State College



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www.statecollegepa.us

Community

Community Engagement Spotlight:

This quarter the Community Engagement Office would like to highlight
Board Game Night



On February 5, the Community Engagement Office hosted a successful Game Night at New Leaf Initiative with approximately 20 community members present. While everyone was playing games and enjoying dinner, community members provided the office with valuable input regarding what they enjoy in State College along with what they would like to see implemented in the future.

C-NET: Connecting You and Your Local Government

When it comes to receiving information, advances in technology affect us all. C-NET plays an important role in the community by helping residents be informed about the doings of their local government and organizations. C-NET's coverage of State College Borough Council, Planning Commission and Transportation Commission meetings is "gavel to gavel", providing residents with complete information about legislation, developments and initiatives affecting them where they live. There is no substitute for being able to watch full and complete deliberations. C-NET's mission is to provide citizens with the information they need to fully participate in their local government.



In addition to the televised airings, all C-NET programs are also available to view online, on-demand at cnet1.org. Online meetings are "bookmarked" by agenda items, so that viewers may click on an agenda item of interest to them and be taken directly to that point in the meeting. View the full list of meetings covered by C-NET [here](#).