

BOROUGH OF
State College

YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FALL 2008

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LION 2008

"We Are...Living In One Neighborhood" is the newest message to be spread throughout State College Borough.

The inaugural "Living In One Neighborhood," or LION, Walk took place on Wednesday, August 27, 2008. The initiative was a neighborhood welcome program jointly sponsored by State College Borough, Penn State University's Division of Student Affairs, and the Off-Campus Student Union. The program was designed to promote positive neighborly relations by encouraging both student and non-student residents to be good neighbors. Informational packets containing Good Neighbor tips, borough ordinances, safe partying habits, and fire-safety tips were distributed to residents along the LION Walk routes.

Eleven teams of 4 members each, a student, a police officer, a borough official, and a university official participated in the walk.

The teams visited approximately 250 homes. Routes were focused on parts of the Holmes-Foster and Highlands neighborhoods this year, with plans to expand into other areas in future years. Most visits were initiated by the student team members. This proved to be very effective in communicating with our target audience, Penn State students living in these mixed neighborhoods.



Penn State's Assistant Director of Off-Campus Living, Loretta Doss, greets several students.



Council President Elizabeth Goreham, PSU President Graham Spanier, UPUA President Gavin Keirans, Mayor Bill Welch, OCSU President Pat Gordon and State College Borough Police Officer Anne Supina meet student Chad Schmidt.

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2008 CALENDAR

Mid OCTOBER

- 20 Borough Council—7:30 pm
 21 Redevelopment Authority—12:30 pm
 Historic Resources
 Commission—7:30 pm
 22 Design Review Board—noon
 23 Planning Commission—7:00 pm
 27 Transportation Commission—noon
 Halloween Costume
 Parade—7:00 pm
 31 Trick or Treat—6-8 pm
 Community Land Trust—6:30 pm

NOVEMBER

- 3 Borough Council—7:30 pm
 5 Planning Commission—noon
 6 CDBG Citizens' Advisory
 Committee – noon
 7 Council Work Session—noon
 10 Council Work Session—7:30 pm
 11 *Veterans Day—Municipal
 Offices Closed*
 12 Design Review Board – 11:00 am
 13 Planning Commission—7:00 pm
 17 Borough Council—7:30 pm
 18 Redevelopment Authority-noon
 Historic Resources
 Commission—7:30
 19 Council Special Meeting—noon
 20 Tree Commission—noon
 Planning Commission—7:00 pm
 21 Council Work Session—noon
 26 Design Review Board—11:00 am
 27 *Thanksgiving Day—Municipal
 Offices Closed—no refuse collection*
 28 *Floating Holiday—Municipal
 Offices Closed*

DECEMBER

- 1 Borough Council—7:30 pm
 2 Board of Health—4:00 pm
 3 Council Special Meeting—noon
 Planning Commission—noon
 4 CDBG Citizens' Advisory
 Committee – noon
 5 Council Work Session—noon
 8 Council Work Session—7:30 pm
 9 Design Review Board – 11 am
 Transportation Commission—12:15 pm
 10 Council Special Meeting—noon
 11 Planning Commission—7:00 pm
 12 Council Special Meeting—noon
 15 Borough Council—7:30 pm
 16 Redevelopment Authority-noon
 Historic Resources
 Commission—7:30 pm
 18 Planning Commission—7:00 pm
 23 Design Review Board—11 am
 25 *Christmas Day—Municipal
 Offices Closed—no refuse collection*

LION 2008 *(continued from cover)*

Residents visited were very receptive and grateful for the effort. Although many residents were initially apprehensive when a group of people, including a uniformed police officer, knocked on their doors, they warmed quickly after the program's intent was made clear. Students were appreciative when receiving the information. Most of them were unaware of local ordinances. "Information is key for us students. The more we know initially, the less we get into trouble," noted one student. Non-student residents were also pleased with the effort.

LION participants' enthusiasm helped to make the program the success that it was. According to one participant, "This program worked well and more than achieved its goals."



OCSU President Pat Gordon, Borough Manager Tom Fountaine, and Penn State's Vice President of Student Affairs Damon Sims talk with longtime Borough Resident Russ Frank.

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT ELIZABETH GOREHAM

Dear Neighbor:

What did we do during summer vacation? As our beautiful Indian summer turns to fall, there are quite a number of accomplishments, which your Borough government can point to with pride.

Highlights of the past few months include:

- A 10-year cable agreement with Comcast, reached after several years of talks. Key to success was the combined efforts of a consortium of Centre County municipalities plus Bellefonte and Benner Township. In the contract is the potential of a public access channel and funding to C-NET. The Franchise also includes a five year renewal option.
- To assist the recycling of building materials, a portion of our composting operation on North Atherton has been leased to Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., to establish a grinding operation for stumps, concrete and other construction materials. Part of the agreement provides the Borough with all of its fill requirements at no cost.
- LION (Living In One Neighborhood) teams – each with Borough, PSU, police and student representatives – visited student homes and non-student residents in the Highlands and Holmes-Foster neighborhoods, to build understanding and connection and build good neighbor relations. More about this well-received program is in the newsletter.
- New bike racks on Allen Street have increased bike parking downtown, with more to come. Bicycle commuting is on the rise. A bicycle and pedestrian safety program is being finalized this fall for implementation early next year.
- The final go-ahead has been given for Fraser Centre. Construction is expected to begin at the first of the year.
- The realignment of Fraser Street/Beaver Avenue intersection is expected to begin in early 2010.
- After more than two years of focused attention, the State College Police Department has achieved Pennsylvania Police Accreditation. Less than five percent of police departments in the state have met all 124 professional standards. You can read more about the process and its significance in the newsletter.

Looking toward the future, Borough Council, Manager and staff are working together to respond to the changing needs of our community, while maintaining the services we all rely on.

Currently Borough Council are responding to several animal related matters, including how to deal with the increase of feral cats, whether or not to allow dog grooming as a home occupation, and proposing language that would allow for and regulate the housing of chickens. The Borough is also poised to work with the university in their efforts to reduce the enormous number of crows roosting near the gates at College and Allen.

If you need information about any Borough matter or have an issue to bring to our attention, please contact Council through the Borough's website at www.statecollegepa.us. We want to know what you think!

Elizabeth Goreham



GRANTS HELP FUND PARK PROJECTS

Borough parks are some of the most used recreational facilities in the area. Although Centre Region Parks and Recreation provides the day to day maintenance of the parks such as grass mowing, keeping facilities clean and insuring that all playgrounds and fields are safe and ready to use, each municipality uses its own funding sources to buy or repair play equipment and other improvements. The Borough continuously strives to not only maintain its existing playground equipment but to expand recreational opportunities and try new and exciting things. Playground and facility replacement and improvements can be very expensive and one way to help offset the cost is with public and private grants. Over the last several years, the Borough has been relatively successful in getting this type of assistance. Grants have helped with three different park projects this year.



A grant was awarded in 2007 by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to replace the aging fitness trail in Sunset Park. The original trail was installed over 30 years ago and was made mostly of wood structures. It was a "trail" and looped around the perimeter of Sunset Park. The new fitness trail, completed this summer, is not a trail in the usual sense but is a circuit located within a mulched pit to improve its visibility as well as its practicality. The fitness equipment has been separated into two distinct pits, one for adults and the other for youth. The Borough purchased the equipment primarily with grant funds and Park and Recreation's Conservation Core installed it. The new fitness areas appear to be popular

and well used by youth and adults alike.

A second project made possible through grant funding was the replacement of the play structure in lower Orchard Park. Installed in 1992, the play structure remains in fairly good shape but does have several safety deficiencies. A grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) will facilitate this replacement as well as allow the Borough to try an alternative safety surface. In the past, certified mulch was used as the soft surface within the play pit. These specialized wood chips have become increasingly expensive to purchase and haul. Also the woodchips only last one or two seasons before they have to be replaced. With the grant, the Borough was able to purchase a synthetic material called SofTILE instead of woodchips. SofTILE is made of rubber-like material, comes in various colors and is long lasting, eliminating the annual cost for woodchips. The SofTILE and new play equipment are scheduled to be installed this fall.

The third park project that received grant funding was an Eagle Scout project to relandscape the bank at the intersection of University Drive and Walnut Spring Lane (part of Lederer Park). Unfortunately, this visible location also supports overhead electrical conductors and an underground high pressure gas line. Because of these utilities, trees in the area have been removed and shrubs and tall growing weeds have created quite an eyesore in a very prominent location. Columbia Gas approached the Borough and suggested that this area be replanted with small native trees, shrubs and other plants that do not interfere with utilities. Upon their suggestion, we applied for an Environmental Challenge Grant that their parent Company, NISource, offered and we were awarded a grant. The local Columbia Gas office doubled the amount in order to complete the entire project with Grant funds. An Eagle Scout candidate took the project on as the requirement for his badge and developed a planting plan, ordered the plant material and will install the plantings this fall. The grant funds will allow us to turn this highly visible location into an area of beauty and an inviting entrance into Lederer Park.

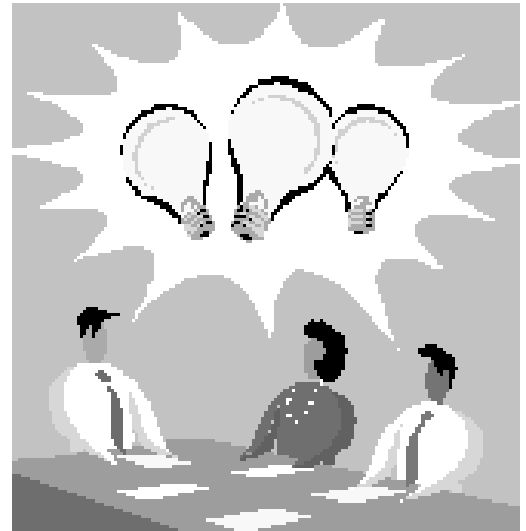


Eagle Scout site project ready for planting

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

State College Borough Council encourages everyone who would like to offer his or her time, talent and expertise to the community to consider a volunteer position with State College Borough. Each year more than 80 Borough residents volunteer on various Authorities, Boards, and Commissions (ABCs). Volunteering for one of our ABCs is an excellent way for State College residents to offer advice to Borough Council and Borough Administration on municipal policies and issues. Here is a list of some of the committees: Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee, Design Review Board, Board of Health, Historic Resources Commission, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, Tree Commission, Water Authority and Zoning Hearing Board.

At the end of this year, several positions will be available. If you are interested in shaping the future of State College, we might have an opportunity for you. Please visit the Borough website at www.statecollegepa.us and click on the ABC Information button for current opportunities, information about our ABCs, and how to apply. You can also call the Borough Administration Office (814) 234-7115 for more information.



Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Downtown Improvement District



Tree Lighting Ceremony
November 20, 2008
 6 - 7 pm
 Caroling, live reindeer &
 official lighting of the
 Christmas Tree.



Polar Express
 December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21
 Saturdays: 11 am – 3 pm
 Sundays: 2 – 4:30 pm
 Event begins with reading of the
 Polar Express at Schlow Library.



www.downtownstatecollege.com

STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION



In many professions accreditation signifies a high level of professionalism, expertise, and commitment to accepted standards. Many of us are familiar with accredited universities and hospitals. Law Enforcement is another profession in which accreditation is very important; especially to the community it serves. State College Borough Manager Thomas J. Fountaine is proud to announce that the State College Police Department has earned accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

What is law enforcement accreditation? Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping police agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance.

The cornerstone of this strategy is a clear statement of industry wide accepted professional objectives against which current practices are evaluated and adapted to assure compliance. In Pennsylvania, accreditation can be achieved by successfully proving compliance with 124 police standards established by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was implemented in 2001 by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. So far less than 5 percent of all the police departments in Pennsylvania have achieved this status.

The Accreditation Process. Under the leadership of Chief Thomas King, Captain Dana Leonard, and Lieutenant Chris Fishel, the State College Police Department enrolled in the accreditation program in November 2006. All administrators and supervisors participated in a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations could be adapted to meet the 124 objectives. With the procedures in place, a team of independent professionals were assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. After just 20 months of intense work the Department successfully completed it's on site assessment on June 3, 2008. The assessment was an intense two day review of the Department's policies, procedures and processes for compliance with established professional police standards. Chief King praised the 65 officers and many civilians that make up the department for embracing the idea of accreditation and contributing in many ways towards this success.

A Favorable Decision. The process culminated with a decision by the authoritative body -- the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association--that the State College Police Department is worthy of accreditation. In its report to the Commission, the Assessment Team gave special note to the Department's excellent leadership and the many collaborative partnerships the Police Department has developed with community and University groups.

The State College Police Department joins a select group of 64 agencies (about 5% of the more than 1200 agencies) in Pennsylvania which have attained this prestigious designation. The State College Police Department is the first local law enforcement agency in Centre County and abutting counties to achieve accreditation by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission.

Benefits. The department will see a 10 percent decrease in premiums for liability insurance. Accreditation also brings with it increases in morale and pride in the department. Logos identifying the department as an accredited agency have been added to officers' shoulder patches and vehicle decals. Community members can also take pride in knowing they have a top quality police force.

Ongoing Effort. Achieving accredited status is only the beginning of this program. Accreditation is an ongoing process and every three (3) years the police department will undergo another on-site review and be required to prove ongoing compliance with the 124 standards. Once that occurs, the police department will be accredited for another three years.





The State College Borough Council meetings
and selected work sessions are cablecast on C-NET Channel 7 at the following times:

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mondays of the Month—Live 7:30 pm

The Monday night meetings will be rebroadcast during the same week at the following times:

Wednesday at 10:00 am

Thursday at 2:00 pm

Friday at 9:00 pm

Saturday at 9:00 am

State College Planning Commission and Transportation Commission meetings are also cablecast on C-NET Channel 7. Please call C-NET at 238-5031, visit their website at www.centreconnect.org or watch the C-NET Channel 7 Bulletin Board for complete C-NET schedule information.

NEWSWORTHY:



Top left: Dan Hawbaker and Mayor Bill Welch sign the new construction recycling center agreement.



Top right: Children gather for story time at the Municipal building as part of the National Week of the Young Child.



Bottom right: Representative Scott Conklin presents Borough Council with a grant from DCED for park improvements.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Crews will begin collecting leaves Monday, September 29 and collect once each week throughout the Borough until December 19. Leaves are collected in the designated areas shown below during the dates listed. Leaves should be ready for collection by 7:00 am on Monday of your scheduled week. Please rake leaves within 5 feet of the curb and do not place leaves in bags. To avoid creating hazards or clogging of storm inlets please refrain from blowing or raking leaves into the street. Please make sure that leaves are free of brush, glass, cans, rocks or other debris, as these items may cause damage to the collection equipment. Brush is collected separately; please call 234-7135 to schedule brush/bulk collection.

Area 1	Area 2
College Heights West of Atherton	South of College Ave East of Atherton
September 29-Oct 3	September 20-Oct 3
October 6-10	October 13-17
October 20-24	October 27-31
November 3-7	November 10-14
November 17-21	November 24-28
December 1-5	December 8-12
December 15-19	December 15-19



State College Borough Holiday Refuse Schedule					
Holiday	Monday Refuse Day	Tuesday Refuse Day	Wednesday Bulk/Brush	Thursday Refuse Day	Friday Refuse Day
2008 Veterans' Day Tuesday, November 11, 2008	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Bulk & Brush Pick up	Regular Collection	Regular Collection
Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 27, 2008	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Refuse Make up Day No Bulk/Brush	Refuse Collected Wed, Nov 26	Regular Collection
First Day of Deer Season Monday, December 1, 2008	Refuse Collected Wed, Dec 3	Regular Collection	Refuse Make up Day No Bulk/Brush	Regular Collection	Regular Collection
Christmas Day Thursday, December 25, 2008	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Refuse Make up Day No Bulk/Brush	Refuse Collected Wed, Dec 24	Regular Collection
2009 New Year's Day Thursday, January 1, 2009	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Refuse Make up Day No Bulk/Brush	Refuse Collected Wed, Dec 31	Regular Collection
Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 19, 2009	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Bulk & Brush Pick up	Regular Collection	Regular Collection
President's Day Monday, February 16, 2009	Regular Collection	Regular Collection	Bulk & Brush Pick up	Regular Collection	Regular Collection
Memorial Day Monday, May 25, 2009	Refuse Collected Wed, May 27	Regular Collection	Refuse Make up Day No Bulk/Brush	Regular Collection	Regular Collection

ELECTRONIC FILING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS TAX RETURNS

In 2007 the tax office introduced to the public its first electronic filing option for the annual Earned Income and Net Profits Tax Returns. Due to the success of the program, this filing option will be available for the 2008 tax returns. The program will go live shortly after January 1, 2009.

In December 2008 taxpayers currently listed on the tax rolls will receive in the mail a tax return preprinted with the website address and their personal identification number (PIN). If a husband and wife previously filed a combined return, their returns will list two PINs. Please note that there is no fee for e-filing. Taxpayers with a balance due can use a secure third-party vendor to pay by credit card or an electronic check. Those that wish to pay at a later time are provided a payment voucher. The third-party vendor does charge a fee for the use of their service, none of which is paid to the Borough.

Exciting changes that have been made since last year include:

1. A short-form tax return for taxpayers who have a simple filing need. The long-form will only be needed by taxpayers with more complex filing circumstances.
2. The Borough has purchased and made available public access terminals at the Borough building for individuals who prefer to use a high-speed connection or would like to have a tax office staff member observe their entry ensuring that they have filed correctly.

The tax office encourages taxpayers to provide comments and feedback on features they would like to see offered or ways that their filing experience could be made a better one. Last year's comments, whenever feasible, have been added to the 2009 filing software. Office hours are 8:00 – 5:00 daily with evening hours offered during the filing season.

T A X D E A D L I N E S

Month	Individual Taxpayers - Dates to Remember
Oct	31 st – Final day to pay July 1 st State College Area School District Real Estate Tax Statements at face value 31 st – Final day to pay July 1 st Supplemental Tax Statements at face value 31 st – Earned Income & Net Profits Tax 3 rd quarter estimated payments due 31 st – Self-employed individuals or individuals working in the municipality and not subject to tax withholding of the Emergency Municipal Services Tax also known as Local Services Tax required to file an annual EMST/LST tax return and remit tax due
Nov	30 th – Third and Final Installment Payment due for taxpayers participating in SCASD payment plan (current year taxes only)
Dec	31 st – Final day to pay Borough and School Real Estate Taxes (February 1 st , March 1 st , and July 1 st billing dates) before returned to the Centre County Tax Claim Bureau 31 st – Recommended last date to file an original homestead application for State College Borough real estate tax relief. File early since real estate tax notices are printed in February with a due date of March 1 st . No need to update annually unless the use of your primary residence has changed during the tax year from resident to commercial or partial commercial. Please note that taxpayers wishing to apply for the school district homestead exclusion should contact the Centre County Assessment Office to receive an application and to confirm the annual deadline for the school district.
Jan	31 st – Earned Income & Net Profits fourth quarter (prior year) estimated payments due



PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE TO RENT

The Borough currently has parking spaces available to rent in the parking garages. The cost ranges from \$80 to \$95 per month depending on the garage. There is also a \$20 deposit. If you are interested in renting a parking space, please stop by the Parking Office at 243 South Allen Street to complete a contract.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT UNION (OCSU)

Greetings from the Off-Campus Student Union! We represent more than 30,000+ off-campus students to local and university officials. Frequently working in conjunction with the Borough Council, the Downtown Improvement District, and various on-campus organizations, OCSU is a growing voice in the student population. OCSU sponsors events and information sessions to facilitate communication and community between residents and students. Recently, we co-sponsored the LION Program (see front cover) bringing together University officials, the Borough Council and State College Police as well as members of the Interfraternity Council and University Park Undergraduate Association.



In addition to providing a crucial link between off-campus residents and the larger State College community, OCSU also attempts to foster positive relations between the two. Annual events like the OCSU/ IFC Holiday Lights Tour are town favorites which add to the festive spirit of the holiday season. This year OCSU will be attempting to expand the Holiday Lights Tour to cater to all residents of State College, not just the Fraternities. Watch the Borough website event list (www.statecollegepa.us) for details on this exciting competition slated to take place in early December. We are encouraging all residents and students to participate this year with prizes awarded in different categories.

OCSU is involved in the running of several other events on and off campus such as Borough Forums, the Housing Fair, and Fire Safety Awareness activities. For more information on any of our upcoming events or to get involved with Off-Campus Student Union, please see our website at www.ocsu.psu.edu or contact us via email at offcampus@psu.edu.

Community Housing Partnership Homes for Sale



214 Logan Ave.

- 3 bdrms, 1.5 story
- Convenient, close to downtown
- Sweet front porch, parquet floors
- Efficient gas heat
- Plenty of off-street parking

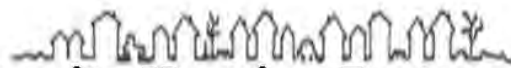
Ron @ HTI 237-4863

131 W. Lytle Ave.

- 3 bdrms
- Quiet street
- Woodstove in living room (+ wood)
- Updated kitchen & bath
- Spacious deck & yard



State College Community Land Trust 867-0656



Community Housing Partnership

State College Borough First-Time Homebuyer Program

(814) 278-4701

www.statecollegepa.us

Down payment & closing
costs assistance,
home rehab \$

Housing

Transitions, Inc.

(814) 237-4863

www.housingtransitions.com

Budget & homebuyer
counseling, affordable
for-sale houses

State College Community Land Trust

(814) 867-0656

www.scclandtrust.org

Affordable for-sale homes



Program guidelines apply, including must be owner-occupied. Contact us for more info.



Hotel State College, Co-Op Corner in 1939.
Photo Courtesy of the State College Historical Society.

Borough of State College

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