


FALL 2020

# THE Gateway

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE TOWNSHIP

An American flag and the New Jersey state flag are flying on a flagpole against a blue sky with white clouds. The American flag is at the top, and the New Jersey flag is below it. Both flags are waving in the wind.

## Election Day — November 3, 2020 **VOTER'S GUIDE**

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[www.collegetownship.org](http://www.collegetownship.org)

# Important Numbers

## College Township

Administration, Public Works, Tax Office, Zoning .....	231-3021
College Township Industrial Development Authority .....	206-9224

## Emergency & Legal

<b>Emergency — (Fire, Police, Ambulance) .....</b>	<b>911</b>
Non-Emergency — Centre County Communications Center Dispatch .....	1 (800) 479-0050
“Call Before You Dig” .....	811
Alpha Fire .....	237-5359
Boalsburg Fire Company .....	466-7367
Centre LifeLink Ambulance Service .....	237-8163
County Assessment .....	355-6721
County Commissioners .....	355-6700
Centre Helps/Crisis Hotline .....	237-5855 / 800-494-2500
Dog Control/State College Borough Health Department .....	234-7191
Pennsylvania State Police .....	355-7545
PSU Police Services (General Information) .....	863-1111
PSU Sexual Assault/Relationship Hotline .....	800-560-1637
State College Police .....	234-7150
Centre Region COG Fire Administration .....	237-4127
Centre County Elections and Voter Information .....	355-6703

## Utilities & Transportation

Advanced Disposal (trash collection) .....	237-3713
CATA Bus Service .....	238-2282
Centre County Refuse and Recycling Authority .....	238-7005
College Township Water Authority .....	231-3021
Columbia Gas .....	278-5840
Comcast TV Cable Service .....	266-2278 / (800)-COMCAST
State College Borough Water Authority .....	238-6766
University Area Joint Authority (Sewer Authority) .....	238-5361
Verizon Residential .....	1 (800) VERIZON
West Penn Power: .....	Power Outages: (888) 544-487
Customer Service: .....	(800) 686-0021
Windstream Communications .....	1 (800)-347-1991

## Centre County Resources

Arts Tickets (Eisenhower Auditorium) .....	863-0255 / 800-ARTS-TIX
Bryce Jordan Center (tickets) .....	865-5555
The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau .....	231-1400
Centre County Library .....	355-1516
Centre Region Council of Governments .....	231-3077
Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters .....	(717) 787-4250
Pegula Ice Arena (General information) .....	865-4102
PSU Library Information .....	865-6368
PSU Parking Office .....	865-1436
Schlow Centre Region Library .....	237-6236

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*Municipal Building*  
1481 East College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
phone: (814) 231-3021  
[www.collegetownship.org](http://www.collegetownship.org)

*Public Works Facility*  
251 Reese Road  
State College, PA 16801

### COUNCIL

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L. Eric Bernier, *Vice Chair*  
D. Richard Francke  
Carla Stilson  
Paul Takak

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Photos by Frank Cott

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

# Looking Back

Looking back at the spring edition of *The Gateway*, we were just embarking on this COVID-19 journey that we then thought would be short and temporary. At that time, the mantra was “stay home and stay safe.” But everyone can’t stay home forever, and we’re all now trying to adjust to the “new normal” in our dailies.

What hasn’t changed, however, is my certainty that we’ll persevere and come through this as the strong community that we are. I’ll reiterate my urge that you exhibit patience, kindness, and consideration for others, as each person is doing their best to negotiate whatever individual aspect of this situation they are facing.

A silver lining to this summer that we all spent at home was it occurred sans UAJA odor. I’m sure that many of our township residents were extremely thankful to again be able to enjoy their yards, particularly in a year when there were so few other places to spend time.

Several College Township projects also progressed in recent months, including the Pike Street Project, the Sidewalk Master Plan, the Commercial and Industrial Zoning Districts Small Area Plan, and the Local Traffic Advisory Committee review of the Centre Hills Village neighborhood traffic. Further details on these projects and many other items can be found in articles throughout this edition of *The Gateway*. To keep up on all of the happenings in College Township, follow our meetings with the coverage by C-Net on C-NET Channel 7 or online or on-demand at [cnet1.org](http://cnet1.org).

I would like to thank the Township staff and volunteers for their wonderful work and willingness to adapt to a modified work/meet-

*continued on page 21*

## Public Works/Engineering

### College Township Receives New MS4 Permit from PADEP

Effective July 1, 2020, College Township (CT) has begun a new five-year permit cycle under the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Program.

#### What does that mean?

CT approaches stormwater from four (4) primary points of concern: 1) the rate of stormwater discharge, 2) the volume of stormwater discharge, 3) the quality of stormwater, and 4) the educational opportunities related to stormwater.

The most recent version of the MS4 Permit issued to CT includes Public Education and Outreach Opportunities, Public Involvement Opportunities, the identification and elimination of illicit discharges, Construction Site Management, Post-Construction Management, and continued Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.

#### What can you do?

Residents and visitors to CT should take pause and note the stormwater systems around them. Stormwater is designed to travel within both underground pipes and overland swales, and detention ponds are designed to slow the release of stormwater. Does your HOA own and maintain stormwater facilities? Does your place of employment? Areas where you shop or recreate?

CT regularly inspects basins, swales, and pipe outfalls to identify maintenance needs. Under no circumstances should leaves, brush, or other lawn debris be deposited in areas where they would plug or inhibit the function of

these facilities.

Residents are also advised to avoid the illegal dumping of paints, motor oils, or other pollutants into the storm sewer system. These deleterious pollutants are transferred via the storm system to our local waterways and ecological habitats. In addition to the harm caused to the environment by dumping pollutants, our local waters also flow downstream to users who withdraw these surface waters for drinking water purposes. Keeping pollutants from our stormwater systems is imperative to our community and Commonwealth health.

If a resident or visitor observes an accidental or intentional release, please contact CT as soon as possible at 814.231.3021 so that the Township may initiate a containment effort. Historical spills or releases are investigated and, in many cases, become opportunities to improve future handling of materials across parallel businesses and industries.

#### Are there new rules?

This permit expands the definitions of exempt activities to incorporate the phrase, "Non-contaminated." The Township and PADEP remind residents and visitors that any substance added to water may have a detrimental downstream effect. For this reason, residents should be cautious in the following scenarios:

- Please do not wash soaps or detergents into storm drains (as may occur during car washing at your home); consider washing the car over the lawn where soaps or detergents will break down
- Be wary of chemicals added to geothermal systems or HVAC systems that may discharge to upstream of our waterways

■ Be wary of drinking water discharging directly to the area surface waters; while the local water systems provide chlorine levels appropriate for humans, the levels may have an effect on microscopic ecology. Lawn watering and car washing should not discharge directly to a water course or storm drain.

**Do you want to learn more?**

CT and the Centre Region Staff will identify and present stormwater information to residents, groups, visitors, and others over the next five-year cycle. Past educational outreach has been extended to scouting groups, SCASD, the construction community, realtor associations, Leadership Centre County, and through the Festival of the Arts. CT and the MS4 Partners also partner with Clearwater Conservancy for outreach at rain barrel workshops and Watershed Clean-up Days.

If you or your group would like to participate in a future educational outreach opportunity regarding stormwater in the Centre Region, please contact the Township at 814.231.3021.

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## Winter Maintenance

Long before the snow falls, the College Township Public Works department begins their preparations to keep our roads clear and safe for travel. Please be reminded of the following:

College Township has adopted a Snow Emergency Ordinance, which stresses the importance of removing vehicles from the roadway in snowy conditions.

■ Property owners and/or occupants are responsible for the removal of snow/ice from sidewalks along any public rights of way abutting property or located on

their property.

■ Snow and/or ice is required to be removed within 24 hours of the end of the storm. It is unlawful for owners, occupants, tenants of properties, or contractors to plow, dump, throw, shovel, pile, or push any snow or ice onto public streets at any time.

■ Mailboxes should be inspected and repaired each year to make sure they can withstand the rigors of winter weather and being hit by snow or ice thrown by snowplows.

Please contact Amy Kerner, Public Works Director, for additional information at 814-231-3021.

### Helping Your Mailbox Survive Winter

Residents commonly overlook their mailboxes when it comes to regular maintenance; however, mailboxes do deteriorate and wear out over time. Please take the time to inspect and repair your mailbox before the worst of winter weather is upon us. Doing so now can save a lot of aggravation later.

Look for the following when inspecting the condition of your mailbox:

■ Inspect the vertical support; look for any rotting or rusting, especially at the ground line.

■ How is the box attached to the post? Is the mailbox wobbly? Do the fasteners hold firmly?

■ Are any fasteners or supports missing?

■ What is the condition of the box itself? Replace or repair rusty or cracked mailboxes.

Not only does regular maintenance reduce safety hazards, but it may also help your mailbox survive the rigors of winter weather and being hit by snow or

ice thrown by snowplows.

Remember, customers must keep the approach to their mailboxes clear of obstructions to allow safe access for postal deliveries. If US Postal Service employees are impeded from reaching a mail receptacle, the postmaster may withdraw delivery service.

### Brush Collection

Brush collection performed by College Township crews will continue through fall, weather permitting. The goal is to start collecting brush around the third week of each month, but the start date can fluctuate due to other duties assigned to our crews. brush out by 7 a.m. the Monday of the week of collection. Do not place your brush in the roadway. monitor the Township website for brush collection notices, as well as Facebook and Twitter. Collection dates are posted on the Township website under News. You can also find additional information on Brush collection under website at [www.collegetownship.org](http://www.collegetownship.org).



*Leaves should be placed **by the roadside**, not in the road as shown here. This photo depicts a violation to our Leaf Collection Guidelines.*

### Leaf Collection

Fall Leaf Collection is scheduled to begin the week of October 26, 2020, and will typically continue, until the first snowfall, or until complete. Leaves should be placed by the roadside and not in the road. More information is available on leaf collection at [www.collegetownship.org](http://www.collegetownship.org).

Follow us for the latest news at Facebook @College Township, Centre County, PA, Twitter @CollegeTwpPA and Instagram @collegetwppa



*Grapple Machine makes brush collection easier and safer.*

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## Everything Pike Street

As noted in the spring 2020 *Gateway* Newsletter, the Pike Street traffic Calming and Streetscape Improvement Project will be ready for construction beginning in spring 2021.

The \$1.6 million dollar project will dramatically re-create the 3-block section of Pike Street in the Village of Lemont, from the Lemont traffic signal to Dale Street. Funding for the project, which includes curb, storm water, sidewalk, on-street parallel parking, and street tree improvements, comes from a PennDOT Multimodal Transportation grant and College Township capital improvement funds. Execution of the \$1.15 million grant agreement was delayed until August 26, 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2021. The Township has acquired all but two of the permanent right of way acquisitions needed to ensure that all sidewalk improvements are located within Township right of way. The Township will soon send out Temporary Construction Easements to impacted parcel owners. The temporary easements will allow construction workers to complete the work.

A prerequisite of the Pike Street Improvements is the improvements to Granite Alley to allow tractor-trailers access to Granite Alley. This will eliminate the partial blockage of Pike Street that occurs as materials are offloaded to a local business along Pike Street. The Granite Lane work has been bid and CTawait formal State Agency approval. At this time, it is likely that the Granite Lane work will occur early in 2021.

In July of 2020, Council awarded Engineering Services to Pennoni Engi-

neering for the preparation of an Environmental Document The Environmental Document is needed to assess any impacts the project may have on environmental, historical, or archaeological resources in the area. This study is expected to be completed in November of this year.

The Turnback Agreement between PennDOT and the Township, for the portion of Pike Street between College Avenue and Elmwood Street, was signed in August 2020. Included in this agreement was \$812,000 for improvements to Pike Street such as resurfacing the roadway, replacing deteriorated stormwater piping, installation of guiderail, and stabilization of the Spring Creek stream bank. The Township anticipates that this work will occur in 2022, after the Pike Street project is completed.

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## Oak Wilt Found in College Township

Oak Wilt is a contagious disease that can quickly infect many species of oak trees. A confirmed case of Oak Wilt was discovered in an area of the Clover Highland Neighborhood. Measures were taken to help mitigate the case but residents should learn how to identify Oak Wilt and how to mitigate it as an effort to keep it from spreading.

Below are links to information regarding Oak Wilt that will help you understand the disease, ways to identify, treat, and prevent its spread.

- **USDA**

[www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/publications/how-identify-prevent-and-control-oak-wilt](http://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/publications/how-identify-prevent-and-control-oak-wilt)

- **PSU Extension**

<https://extension.psu.edu/oak-wilt>

Currently, the Township does not

have an ordinance that governs the maintenance of trees on private property and staff is currently working on a draft ordinance for Council's consideration.

## Local Traffic Advisory Committee

### ■ Centre Hills Village Neighborhood Traffic Study

The College Township Council received a petition with over 100 signatures from residents of the Centre Hills Village, requesting that a traffic study be prepared for the Centre Hills Village area of College Township. This neighborhood includes Squirrel Drive, Oak Ridge Avenue, Shamrock Avenue, Cottonwood Avenue, and Country Club Road. The petition asserted that the Centre Hills Village has experienced a significant increase in traffic in recent years. Information on traffic counts from 2018 to present, provided by

staff, supported that conclusion.

In response, Council activated the Local Traffic advisory Committee (LTAC). LTAC is made up of local residents, a Council Representative, the Township Engineer, and the Public Works Director. On September 23, LTAC met to discuss the Centre Hills Village concerns. The first order of business for the LTAC was to establish the study area.

The study area should be limited to those residents that are impacted by a particular traffic issue. The LTAC determined the study area to be the area shown in yellow on the attached map. The study area includes 140 residences. Having established the study area, the next task for LTAC was to send out ballots asking residents if they are in favor of proceeding with a traffic study. The ballots were sent-out the last week of September. Resident were given until October 30, 2020 to respond. At that

The Boroughs of Bellefonte and State College and the Townships of Benner, College, Ferguson, Harris, Patton, Spring and Walker have set October 29th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for residents who wish to participate in trick or treating.

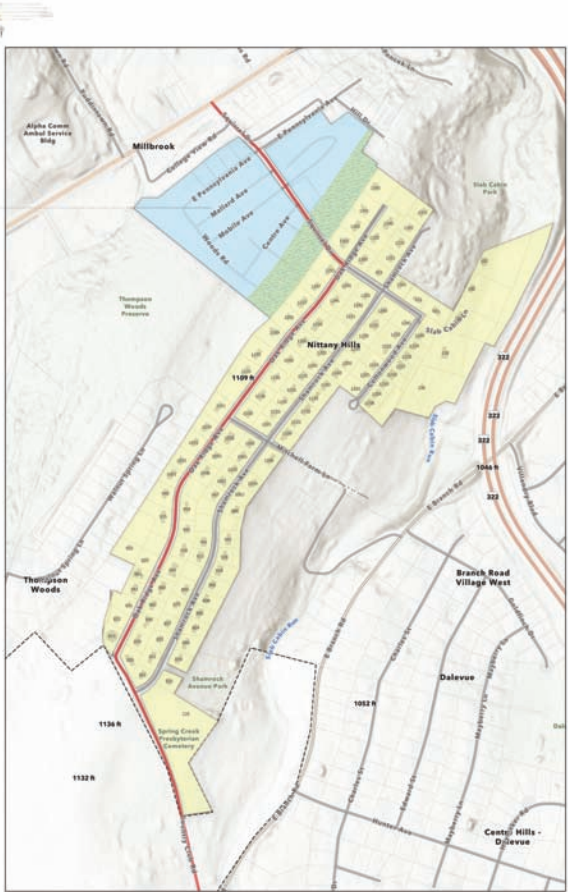
We encourage residents to make their own choice on if they will participate in trick or treating. We ask residents to follow the CDC guidance on Halloween activities.

Residents who choose to receive trick or treaters should turn on their porch or outside light and follow the CDC's guidance on contactless trick or treat options.

time, the votes will be tallied. If 66 percent of the responses are positive, then the LTAC will proceed to the next step, which is presentation of the findings of the survey to Council. Council will then make the determination on whether to proceed or not. In the meantime, staff will continue to obtain traffic counts and compile any other information that may be made available.

■ **Shady Drive/Elm Street Traffic Concerns**

Residents of Shady Drive and Elm Street petitioned Council to address their concerns of cut-thru traffic on both streets between Elmwood Street and East Branch Road as well as excessive speeding. The petitioners cited that motorists began using the streets when the bridge on Elmwood Street was closed for replacement and that motorists continue to use the streets as a way to avoid the traffic signal in Lemont. The data collected so far does not indicate there is an issue with speed or volume, but it recognized that Covid-19 may be causing changes to normal travel patterns and therefore, staff will continue to collect data for evaluation.



*Defined Study Area for the Centre Hills Village Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study.*

**Holiday Tree Collection**

As part of the contract for refuse and recycling collection, Advanced Disposal, will also collect your real holiday tree. They have designated the week of January 18–22, 2021 for collection and remind all residents that the tree must be removed from its stand, free of ice, snow and **all** decorations, including lights. Trees taller than 6 feet should be cut into pieces.



*Shady Drive/Elm Street*

## Zonning/Planning/ Parks & Rec

### A Municipal Curative Amendment — Adult Business Uses

The PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) is the document Planners use to ensure compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth. When any municipality in Pennsylvania enacts a zoning ordinance, that municipality is required (by the MPC) to provide for *every legal use, even the Locally Unwanted Land Uses (LULUs)*!

Township staff became aware that the adult business use, which had protective buffering requirements (*1000' from any residential use, residential district bound-*

*ary, or any church or other place of worship, school, park or premises licensed to sell alcoholic beverages*) had been “zoned out.” Essentially, in recent years, the laws have changed to allow more premises to sell alcoholic beverages. The establishment of these places (e.g. grocery stores/gas stations) made the area in which adult businesses are allowed very small, too small in fact, to allow the establishment of the adult business use anywhere in the Township’s Commercial Zoning District, in which it is/was a permitted use by right. The zoning ordinance became invalid, therefore, being in violation of the MPC.

The MPC allows a municipality to make one “Municipal Curative Amendment” every 36-months to “cure” any invalidities in the ordinance. The



The Municipal Curative Amendment, Ordinance O-20-03, created the Adult Business Overlay (tan section).

alternative to a municipal curative amendment is a “Landowner Curative Amendment” which if, a landowner were to realize not every legal use is permitted, they could petition the Township to place that use in any zoning district. To avoid this, the Township took steps to amend the Ordinance to allow the establishment of adult use businesses.

The Township Council, with input from the Planning Commission and staff, ultimately decided to create an overlay to allow adult businesses. The buffer requirements went away and the use is now contained within the overlay. The area, see picture, generally falls within the area where the use would have been located when the buffers were originally in place. Staff felt the parcels that contain the former Macy’s property, the area between the former Macy’s and McDonalds and the parcel where McDonalds exists is an appropriate location.

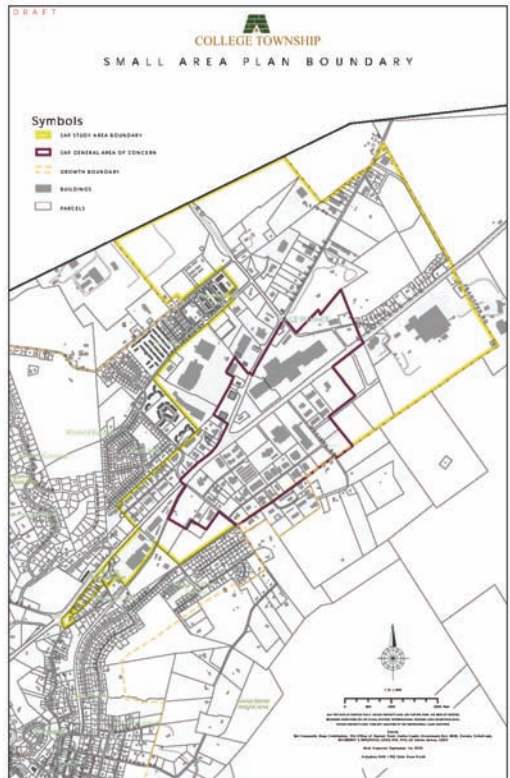
The overlay option was attractive because now the use can be established in this specific area, so if a incompatible use to this LULU, such as a church, is proposed in the area, the church will be aware that they are moving to a zoning district in which adult businesses are permitted. To take it one-step further, adult businesses are now a conditional use. This will not only allow specific conditions applied to the use, but public notification and posting of the property if the use is proposed would be required, more so than if the use was permitted by right.

If you have any questions about zoning processes or adult business uses, please feel free to contact the Township Principal Planner for more information.

## The Dale Summit Small Area Plan

Over the past several years, the Dale Summit Area has been studied and analyzed, starting with the *Vision 2020 study*, a study which concentrated on the development of the I-99 Corridor. The *Shiloh Road Land Use Study* included a detailed economic impact analysis of the area. A *Commercial and Industrial Zoning Study* was prepared by 4Ward Planning in 2018/2019. The 4Ward Plan concentrated mostly on the area of the Nittany Mall, dividing it into sectors with recommendations for zoning changes to accommodate modern and mixed uses.

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Defined Study Area for the Centre Hills Village Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study.

# VOTE 2020!

The following is information taken directly from the Centre County, PA voting website, [centrecountyvotes.com](http://centrecountyvotes.com).

Below is information for both traditional voting — physically going to a polling place and casting a ballot — and mail-in and absentee voting — casting a ballot by not going to a polling place.

There may be other options available to you to cast your vote, so be sure to go to [centrecountyvotes.com](http://centrecountyvotes.com) to review all your options.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Physical polling locations will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

*From [centrecountyvotes.com](http://centrecountyvotes.com)*

## What to Expect at the Polls

- **No campaigning within 10 feet** of the entrance of the polling location.
- **Do not discuss** any political subjects inside the polling place.
- **Feel free to ask an election official for help.**
- **When you approach the elections table**, an Election Official will ask for your name and possibly address and date of birth. Voters who are voting for the first time in a polling place are still required under existing law to present a form of ID.
- **After determining you are eligible to vote**, you will be asked to sign your name in the poll book. When doing this, check your address listing. If your address is incorrect, tell the Official, who will give you a Voter Registration Form (PDF). This form is used to change your address as well as to register to vote. You will still be able to vote.
- **After signing your name**, follow the instructions given to you by the poll worker.



- **When you have finished voting**, tear off the stub on the bottom of the ballot for your records and place your ballot in the ballot box. The poll worker will then give you an “I Voted” sticker.

## Polling places are as follows:

- **College North — Precinct 41**  
Nittany Mall (Space #318)  
2633 East College Avenue  
State College, PA • 814.238.8037
- **College East — Precinct 43**  
Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church  
1500 East Branch Road  
State College, PA • 814.237.3549
- **College South — Precinct 42**  
State College Assembly of God  
2201 University Drive  
State College, PA • 814.238.3800
- **College West — Precinct 44**  
College Township Municipal Bldg.  
1481 East College Avenue  
State College, PA • 814.231.3021

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## Secure Ballot Drop Boxes

For the 2020 General Election, the Centre County Board of Elections has established multiple secure ballot drop boxes throughout Centre County to achieve five main objectives:

- Afford voters greater access to returning their own voted absentee ballots and mail-in ballots.
- Decrease the wait time for in-person voting on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
- Provide voters another safe option for voting during COVID-19.
- Allay concerns regarding potential delays with the United States Postal Service.
- Reduce foot traffic at the Main Elections Office to keep our elections staff safe and healthy.

Secure Ballot Drop Boxes are located throughout the County. Below are listed locations within the greater State College area, also known as the Centre Region:

### WILLOWBANK OFFICE BUILDING

Located Outside the main doors of the Willowbank Office Building. Accessible 24/7 until 8 P.M. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Monitored 24/7 by video security surveillance system. Free temporary parking in the upper lot of the Willowbank Building.

### FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Located in front of doors to the Ferguson Township Police Department. Accessible 24/7 until 8 P.M. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Monitored 24/7 by video security surveillance system. Free temporary parking in parking lot.

### STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH BLDG

Located in front of the main doors of the State College Borough Building on the Allen Street side. Accessible 24/7 until 8 P.M. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Monitored 24/7 by video security surveillance system. Metered parking spaces are available on nearby streets.

### PATTON TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Located in front of doors to the Patton Township Municipal Building. Accessible 24/7 until 8 P.M. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Monitored 24/7 by video security surveillance system. Free temporary parking in parking lot.

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## Returning Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot

### ■ By Mail

Your ballot must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 3, and arrive at the Centre County Elections Office by Friday, November 6. **Postage is pre-paid.**

### ■ Secure Ballot Drop Box

Return your ballot at any of the secure ballot drop boxes located around Centre County by **8 p.m. Tuesday, November 3** — no postage required.

### ■ In-Person

Hand deliver your ballot to the **Main Entrance of the Willowbank Office Building**, 420 Holmes St, Bellefonte, **Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.** Open on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, until 8 p.m.

Once the 4Ward Plan was completed and reviewed by Council, the Planning Commission, and staff, it was determined that rather than changing the zoning right away, further studies and identification of specific areas of concentration should take place. In an effort to be consistent with our Regional Partners at the Centre Regional Planning Agency and their recent preparations of Small Area Plans for other local municipalities (Stormstown, Halfmoon Township; Boalsburg, Harris Township; and Pine Grove Mills, Ferguson Township), staff felt that a small plan for the Dale Summit is a logical next step.

The Dale Summit Small Area Plan is in the early stages. The boundary is defined and a study committee has been identified. The next steps include the continuation of review of previous studies, the gathering of data such as demographics (age, sex, household type, housing tenure, etc.), existing land use, historical information, and detailed photos of the area. The study committee will work together to prepare a Vision Statement and then divide into specialized groups to provide their knowledge of potential sub-areas within the greater boundary. The initial concentration will be the area immediately surrounding the Nittany Mall, as the Township is starting to see some potential developments and anticipate redevelopment in the near future.

A Small Area Plan is a large undertaking and can take 18-24 months to prepare and implement. College Township staff would like to take this opportunity to call on residents for input and participation. This effort will be very transparent, so keep an eye on the Township's website for more information and opportunities to comment.

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## Changes to College Township Ordinances

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** Chapter 171. Section 1 — Solicitors and Temporary Businesses, with regards to the seasonal sale of produce, horticultural products or seafood products, was amended by Ordinance O-20-05, to allow for Farmers Markets to operate in the (R1) Single Family Residential Zoning District at Places of Assembly such as a Churches, Clubs, or Community Centers and Schools. This allows for residents of the Township to obtain fresh food items close to home at a location that is equipped to handle a steady flow of traffic with ample parking available. Previously, College Township limited the Farmers Market use to Rural, Commercial and Village Zoning Districts.

■ **MOBILE FOOD VENDORS:** College Township approved Ordinance O-20-02 which amended Chapter 200-41, Temporary Uses — Mobile Food Vendors (Food Trucks, Ice Cream Trucks). The biggest change to this ordinance centers around definitions and the fee schedule. Mobile Food Vendors had been charged a fee of \$50 for the 1st week and \$30 for each successive week. The new revisions have a fee of \$50 for a 6 month permit. With the less restrictive fees in place, Township residents should be able to support small local vendors and take advantage of different food options during a period when restaurant seating is limited.

College Township is currently rewriting the Residential Rental Ordinance as well as crafting an ordinance to allow for the raising of Chickens on residential properties. Residents are encouraged to follow the progress on

our website as well as viewing the College Township Council and Planning Commission Meetings on CNET.

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## Millbrook Marsh Nature Center

The Millbrook Marsh Nature Center is a 62-acre site consisting of a 12-acre farmstead area and an adjacent 50-acre wetland area that includes a natural fen. A Conservation Easement between Penn State University (landowner) and Clear-Water Conservancy protects the wetland from future development. Formerly known as “Penn State Farm 12,” the tract was leased to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority (CRPRA) on a long-term basis from Penn State University starting in 1997. On-site is a LEED Silver Certified classroom building, called the Spring Creek Education Building, a restored bank barn with a wetland laboratory, a picnic pavilion, two sun shelters, nearly 3,000 linear feet of boardwalk, and walking trails.

The nature center hosts over 20,000 participants annually to organized programs, events, and reservations, not counting the recreational day users who enjoy bird watching, dog walking, hiking, picnicking, and more. The nature center also offers educational programs for all ages and groups, community events, rental facilities for special events and retreats, children’s birthday parties, and more. Individual and college class research is also conducted on-site through the relationship with Penn State University.

The nearly 3,000 linear foot boardwalk has experienced damage over its lifetime and is undergoing structural evaluation to include recommendations



for possible structural redesign, relocating the boardwalk into a new configuration, and recommendations for changes to structural materials. A stakeholders group has been formed and a Request for Proposals was issued in an effort to seek assistance in the long-term planning, repair, and/or improvement of the boardwalk system.

CRPRA has contracted with Lan Associates to perform preliminary Master Planning efforts to identify costs, permitting, and potential future options for the boardwalk and Millbrook Marsh educational opportunities. These efforts will occur over the next few months under a DCNR grant procured by CRPRA. Early in 2021, CRPRA and the stakeholder group will evaluate suggestions from Lan Associates and further refine a vision for the future of the boardwalk system.

Please note that as of September 2020, some sections of the boardwalk are closed to the public. As repairs, alterations, and/or reconstruction continues, CRPRA and College Township ask that visitors respect the posted signage to protect the natural wetlands and avoid areas where potential safety hazards have been identified.

## Zoning Change on Shiloh Road and College Avenue

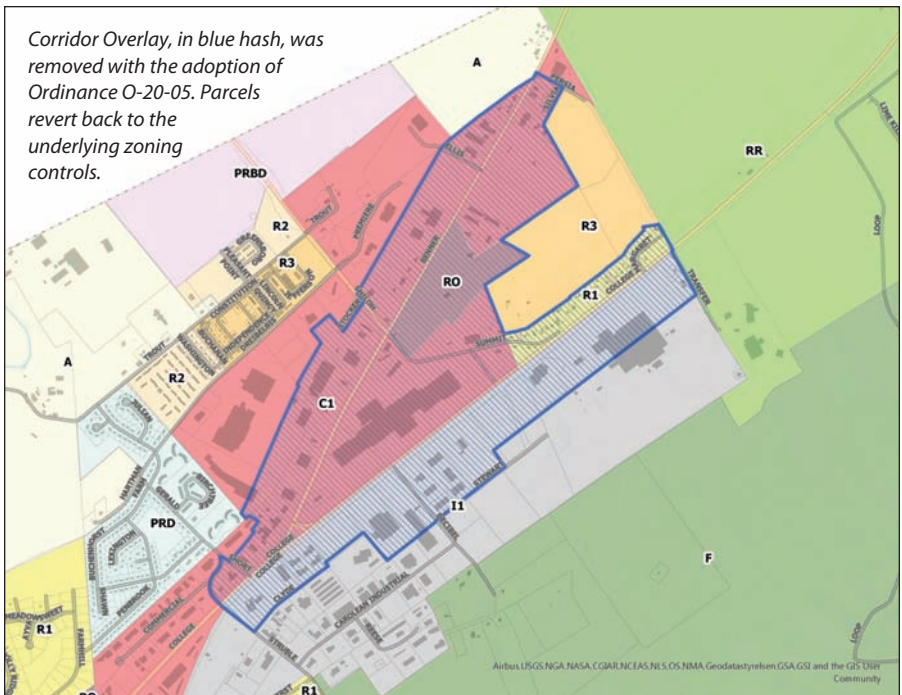
### ■ Ordinance O-20-05 Removal of the Corridor Overlay District

In recent months, several property owners along College Avenue petitioned the Township requesting a zoning change. The change is a proposal to remove the Corridor Overlay District. The map displays the overlay in a blue hash and covers an area from Struble Road to near the Benner Township line where the new Centre Care Facility is under construction.

An Overlay is a mechanism used in zoning ordinances to add more stringent restrictions (in most cases), to the underlying zoning districts. Overlays can be established in historical areas, areas of special environmental concerns, and in this case, commercial/industrial

areas to limit access to arterial roads, add landscaping and buffering requirements, and regulate the design of buildings.

The Corridor Overlay was established in the 1990s when development pressure was substantial along the Benner Pike/College Avenue Corridors and limiting access was important to avoid vehicular contact on busy arterial streets. After review of the underlying zoning districts the Corridor Overlay covered, staff decided that the underlying zoning controls (landscaping, buffering, etc.) are sufficient and since the majority of the corridor is built out, removing the overlay would allow for further infill development. The Corridor Overlay required a large/deep, 70' front yard setback, which, with the widening of the Benner Pike, varying widths of sidewalks and rights-of-ways, hindered development on the smaller lots in the vicinity.



This zoning change went through the required process set forth by the PA Municipalities Planning Code, in which the Township Planning Commission, County Office of Planning and Community Development, Centre Regional Planning Agency and the Centre Regional Planning Commission had the opportunity to review and comment upon the change. The Township Planning Commission voted 5:2 to remove the overlay. The two members who did not vote for the removal had concerns the removal could change the character of the area. Staff acknowledged their concerns and noted that the Small Area Plan, which will cover this area, will keep the character of the area at the forefront of the planning process. After an advertised public hearing took place, Council voted unanimously to pass Ordinance O-20-05, which authorized the removal

of the Corridor Overlay, reverting those parcels to the underlying zoning controls.



**COLLEGE  
TOWNSHIP**

For the latest news  
and updates, visit:  
**[collegetownship.org](http://collegetownship.org)**

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## Get Informed and Stay Informed

Do you want to know the latest about township road closures, snow emergencies, construction, brush and leaf collection, and other things that may impact your commute and your daily life? The Township makes it easy to *get informed and stay informed* by offering several options for engagement. News items and updates are regularly posted on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and on the Township website.

Sign up for e-notifications at our website at [www.collegetownship.org/enotify/index.php](http://www.collegetownship.org/enotify/index.php). When a news item is added or updated to the website, you will get a notification either via email or text (your preference).

Follow us on social media



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Centre County, PA](https://facebook.com/CollegeTownship, Centre County, PA)**



**[Twitter.com/CollegeTwpPA](https://Twitter.com/CollegeTwpPA)**



**[Instagram.com/collegetwppa](https://Instagram.com/collegetwppa)**

Website:

**[www.collegetownship.org](http://www.collegetownship.org)**

As always, feel free to call  
814-231-3021 for updated  
information as well.

## General Information

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### COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts and the Township Budget

Amongst the many challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 are the significant budgetary impacts being felt by municipal governments. Township staff have been monitoring these financial impacts and providing College Township Council with a monthly projection of the potential tax revenue losses in this fiscal year. As of mid-October, the latest projection of estimated losses due to the pandemic was \$750,000.

With the cancellation of the State College Spikes season and the limitations on events at the Bryce Jordan Center, the 2020 losses in Amusement and Penn State Impact Fees are projected at nearly \$300,000. Staff further projects decreases ranging from 5% to over 30% across other numerous revenue sources. To help offset these effects, Council and staff have been proactively searching for expenditure reductions and cost savings.

As the pandemic continues, Council and staff are preparing for an equally challenging 2021 budget development process. Budgeting during a pandemic will involve diligent work to ensure fiscal responsibility, while also delivering high quality services to the community at-large.

The significant purposes of the Township Budget process include:

- 1) Allowing the College Township Council to express its goals for community services for the coming year in a single document that is readily understandable by the citizens.
- 2) Allocating revenues amongst various municipal projects and services. Careful

decisions have to be made in order to determine where limited resources will be allocated each year.

- 3) Providing citizens with information on how their tax dollars are anticipated to be used. College Township encourages robust citizen input during this decision-making process.
- 4) Establishing a framework for monitoring the performance of revenues and the accumulation of expenditures. As with your household budget, these are monitored closely throughout the year.

Preparation of the 2021 budget began in mid-September with the projection of needs for the upcoming year. Staff compile and refines the requests for distribution to College Township Council in November. At the conclusion of their budget work session, Council will adopt a draft budget and then set a public hearing date and advertise the budget for inspection. Under the Second Class Township Code, the Council is required to adopt a final budget by resolution no later than December 31st.

Please visit the township's website and sign up to receive notifications via email for updated information on the budget process.

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### Ordinance O-20-08: Temporary COVID-19 Regulations

Based on guidance issued by both the Center for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, individuals can prevent infection and slow the transmission of the COVID-19 virus by doing the following:

- 1) Wash your hands regularly or clean them with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 2) Maintain at least six feet of physical distancing where possible.

- 3) Avoid touching your face.
- 4) Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- 5) Stay home if you feel unwell.
- 6) Avoid unnecessary travel.
- 7) Stay away from large groups of people.

In an attempt to further minimize community risk during this pandemic, College Township and several other Centre Region municipalities have enacted temporary COVID-19 regulations to enforce certain portions of the guidance described above.

College Township's Ordinance O-20-08, which took effect in early October, enacts temporary enforcement measures on the wearing of face coverings, maximum gathering size, line waiting and the hosting of events. Violators of the ordinance are potentially subject to base fines ranging from \$150 to \$1,000

depending on the section of the ordinance violated.

College Township Council has stressed that the goal of this ordinance is not punitive, but instead to encourage compliance with guidance that will limit the impacts of the virus on the community. Council and staff recognize the delicacy of these matters and through these regulations have aimed to strike a balance between protecting the public and ensuring an open and vibrant community.

Ordinance O-20-08 will remain in effect until 11:59 pm on January 4, 2021, unless otherwise repealed, rescinded, modified, or extended in response to the evolving aspects of the pandemic. To learn more about this ordinance, please visit the Ordinances section of the Township's website.

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## The Arboretum — 2020 Great Places in Pennsylvania

The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-PA) announced that The Arboretum at Penn State was designated one of the 2020 Great Places in Pennsylvania in the category of Great Public. The Arboretum will share its recognition with two other designated Great Public Spaces in the Commonwealth. The APA-PA will post the designated 2020 Great Places in Pennsylvania on its website, [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org). College Township thanks resident and Planning Commission member Peggy Ekdahl for her efforts and foresight in nominating The Arboretum at Penn State as a Great Place in Pennsylvania.



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## C-NET: Helping to Keep the Connection

2020 has been an unprecedented and unpredictable year for the C-NET organization. Along with the rest of the community, our world was turned on its head the second week of March when Penn State advised students not to return to campus. C-NET's strong internship program with the Penn State College of Communications is vital to our work and losing our spring semester interns at that point made it necessary for us to transition to a world without interns. Of course, everyone was adjusting, and more and more meetings began to move to a virtual meeting platform.

Now, in the fall, the pain of the pandemic has not lessened, but C-NET's member organizations have continued to perform the important work needed to keep local and County government functioning. Government entities have continued to meet, either completely virtually, in-person with physical distancing in place, or at times via a "hybrid" model. C-NET has continued to provide coverage of these meetings, often needing to adjust to a range of production challenges. Virtual meetings certainly look much different, and demand certain technological adjustments by the participants, but both C-NET and our member organizations have made transparency in government and the engagement of citizens a priority.

The meetings of the College Township Planning Commission are televised on C-NET Channel 7 at the following times:

- **LIVE — Thursday at 7:00 PM**
- **Sunday at 6:00 AM**
- **Monday at 1:00 AM**
- **Tuesday at 2:00 PM**

Meetings of the College Township Planning Commission follow the same schedule, but on alternate weeks. The Thursday evening airing of the Planning Commission is not live.

And of course, you can always find the meetings on [cnet1.org](http://cnet1.org) — online and on-demand.

We all look forward to a time when meeting rooms can be packed with interested residents. But until that time, C-NET will continue to provide the coverage that you need to stay connected to your local school districts, and County and municipal governments.

For complete C-NET schedule information, please visit [cnet1.org](http://cnet1.org). We are also pleased to provide additional information by phone at (814) 238-5031 or via email to [cnet@cnet1.org](mailto:cnet@cnet1.org).

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## New Employees



Mike Bloom joined College Township in May 2020 as the new Management Analyst. Prior to joining the township, he spent 16 years with the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office as a Senior Transportation Planner and most recently, Assistant Director. During his tenure at Centre County, Mike worked closely with the County Commissioners to administer the County's Local Transportation Funding Program, managed two regional trail studies and provided technical assistance on numerous grant-funded projects. He also served as staff to the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO), twice managing major updates to the CCMPO's Long Range Transportation

Plan. Mike, his wife Amy, and their 3 children enjoy taking family vacations, especially to their favorite destinations of New York City and Walt Disney World.



Kirk Hollwedel worked as a seasonal hire in 2019. When a full-time employee left the Township, just before winter, Kirk was asked to fill in through the end of the year. He was hired as a true full-time Public Works Laborer/Operator at the end of January 2020. Previously, Kirk served 8 years in the Marine Corp and was deployed twice to Japan and Afghanistan. He also received a bachelor's degree in Criminology with a minor in Sociology from Penn State in December 2018. He is originally from a small town near Buffalo, NY and currently resides in State College.

Brandon Coakley joined College Township in March 2020 as a Public Works Laborer/Operator. Previously, he worked in the Gas and Oil Well Drilling Industry. He worked mainly in Pennsylvania, but often traveled to West Virginia and occasionally to Texas.

Originally, from Yarnell, Boggs Township, Brandon graduated from Bald Eagle High School and completed the Heavy Machinery Course from Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology. He currently resides with family in the Bald Eagle Valley and enjoys hunting and farming.



Jackie Saylor joined College Township as the Accountant in June 2020. She was born and raised in State College. Jackie earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Business/Accounting from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 2000. She started working in the accounting field for a manufacturing company and continued to work in manufacturing until 2019, when she began working for the Blair County Dept. of Social Services as the Fiscal Officer. In her free time, Jackie enjoys collecting recipes, visiting historical sites, driving her jeep, and attending auctions and flea markets. Jackie now resides in State College and is excited for the opportunity to work at College Township.



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## Authorities, Boards and Commission/Committees

Townships rely on the expertise, commitment, and civic pride of community members who volunteer their time to serve on Authorities, Boards and Commissions/Committees (ABCs). If you are interested in learning more about local government, making a difference in your community, or having your voice heard, volunteer today! Request an ABC application form or download it from the Township website. You may also simply forward your resume with a cover letter briefly outlining your experiences and areas of interest. Applications should be mailed to: College Township Municipal Offices, 1481 E. College Ave. State College, PA 16801 or email to Jen Snyder at [jsnyder@collegetownship.org](mailto:jsnyder@collegetownship.org). For additional information, call us at 814-231-3021. Together we can build a better township!



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## Lemont Village Association News

The Lemont Village Association's summer evening outdoor concerts on the Lemont Village Green were very successful, with only two dates rescheduled due to rain. People were careful about social distancing and wearing masks, and enjoyed being outdoors and hearing live music. With the summer concerts being such a hit, the LVA decided to add four (4) more concerts in September. The extended dates were a success except for a few chilly evenings and dark endings. Grateful thanks to Jim Thorn, amazing sound engineer, who brought and set up the system, calibrated it for each group, and spent more hours afterward, putting it all away. It was much appreciated.

Thanks to the talented musicians who participated in the outdoor concerts: Michelle Katz, Overhead, Richard Sleigh, Potlicker Flats & the Stevedores, Hops and Vines, Acoustic Artifacts, Sound Car, Group Therapy, Mitch

Angle, The Beaver Avenue Beggars, Chris Kent, Tussey Mountain Moonshiners, John Wise & Friends, and Jim Colbert & Steve Van Hook.

The LVA thanks all who donated their time and talent to making the summer a success.

The Twelfth Annual German-style "Weihnachtsmarkt," celebrating Christmas in Lemont, with local crafts, scheduled for December 4-5 in the Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds in Lemont, has been cancelled due to the current pandemic. Although it can't be held in person, the LVA is considering doing a virtual sale of arts and crafts items with a combined pick-up site for purchases, however, emails sent to previous vendors and Facebook posts about the virtual sale have generated little response. If anyone is interested in participating in a virtual market, please email or comment on the Lemont Village Association's Facebook page. A decision about the virtual market will be made in October. The LVA plans to continue the Weihnachtsmarkt in 2021, if conditions allow.

## Employment Milestones

College Township congratulates the following employees for their service to the Township and reaching significant milestones in 2020. Each one is a valuable part of College Township. Congratulations and continued success!

- **Gregory Gotwalt**, Public Works Maintenance Laborer — 25 years
- **Becky Wagner**, CTWA Customer Service — 20 years
- **Ronald McMahon**, CTWA Water Maintenance — 10 years
- **Mark Gabrovsek**, Zoning Officer — 5 years

## Chair's Comments

*continued from page 1*

ing schedule during this pandemic. This is never an easy task to keep the Municipality up and running to continue to service our residents. The College Township residents themselves are our biggest asset and we thank you for adjusting in this difficult time. Last but not least, thank you to my fellow Council members for their time, dedication and adjustments. It's appreciated! As this is not a local election year for Council, your current Council members will continue to serve in 2021.

— *Council Chair*

Council and Staff sport Township logo masks generously donated by Council Members — Paul Takac and Anthony Fragola.



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**OCT 29**  
**Thursday, Oct 29 • 6 – 8 PM**  
Trick or Treat

**NOV 1**  
**Sunday, Nov 1 • 6 – 8 PM**  
Trick or Treat Rain Date

**NOV 3**  
**Tuesday, Nov 3 • 7 AM – 8 PM**  
Election Day

**NOV 20**  
**Friday & Saturday, Nov 20 & 21**  
Refuse and Recycling Household  
Hazardous Waste Collection

**NOV 26**  
**Thursday & Friday, Nov 26 & 27**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
*Township Offices Closed*

**DEC 24**  
**Thursday & Friday Dec 24 & 25**  
Christmas Holiday  
*Township Offices Closed*

**JAN 1**  
**Friday, Jan 1, 2021**  
New Year's Day  
*Township Offices Closed*

**JAN 4**  
**Monday, Jan 4, 2021 • 12 PM**  
Council Reorganization Meeting