

COLLEGEVILLE MATTERS

MAY/JUNE 2017



We all live here in this one town. Together we work and play; together we make community. And now it's your turn: your turn to be heard; your turn to participate; your turn to be a part of what makes YOUR town OUR town!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BOROUGH OF COLLEGEVILLE

ISSUES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND CONCERN:

FIREHOUSE: The Collegeville Fire Company has been working toward building a new fire station for many years. Our Volunteer Fire Fighters need and deserve better facilities. We respect them and appreciate all that they do to make us safe and protected. The Fire Company is currently proposing a 1 mil tax on Collegeville Borough residents to pay for the new building. (\$100 tax per \$100,000 taxable property) There will be a special meeting held prior to the Borough of Collegeville's regular meeting to discuss this new tax. This meeting will be on Wednesday, June 7 at 6PM. Critical community concerns include:

- Are there ways to partner with other communities for better buildings and more efficient services?
- What bids have been received and what are the differences between those bids?
- To whom is the Volunteer Fire Department accountable and to whom does its leadership report?
- How sustainable is a "Volunteer Fire Department" and how will a decision to build or not build a new Firehouse impact Borough budgets in the short and medium term?
- What other alternatives to a "Fire Tax" have been explored or should be explored?
- What have been the results of the Capital Campaign to raise money over time for a new Firehouse? And have these campaigns involved professional fundraisers?
- Would the Borough Council, Fire Department and citizens of Collegeville be better served if the Borough's primary contribution to this effort was to help hire a professional fundraiser to assist the Mayor, Fire Chief and Council to help raise voluntary contributions to build a new Firehouse?

ROYAL FARMS GAS STATION: Royal Farms (RF) is a company that is a direct competitor of Wawa. They have purchased the vacant site located across Rt. 29 from the Perkiomen Hotel. They propose building a Wawa-style gas station & convenience store on that site. The Collegeville Planning Commission has voted to recommend to the Borough Council that a variance to zoning codes be granted to RF. During the regular Borough Council meeting, there will be a hearing at which residents will have an opportunity to voice their concerns and hopes regarding their proposal to put in a gas station at the corner of Rt. 29 and Ridge St (across from the Perkiomen Hotel and Next to DaVinci's). Critical community concerns include:

- There was a gas station on the site several decades ago; the old tanks were removed. RF would install fiberglass tanks.
- The proposed site is in the floodplain. If there were a leak during a flood, it could contaminate downstream houses & businesses.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5/29 @ 10AM-1PM – Collegetown/
Trappe Memorial Day Parade,
Community Day & meet the Democratic
candidates - Waterworks Park

5/31 @ 7PM – Collegetown Democrats
monthly meeting – Ursinus College
campus, Wismer Hall Faculty/Staff Dining
Room

6/3 @ 11AM-4PM – Perkiomen Valley
Art & Food Truck Festival – Perkiomen
Valley High School.

6/7 @6-7PM– Collegetown Borough
Council Special Meeting to discuss tax
increase to pay for new firehouse –
Borough Hall, 491 E. Main St. Collegetown

6/7 @ 7PM – Collegetown Borough
Council Meeting: on the agenda: Royal
Farms Public Hearing. – Borough Hall,
491 E. Main St. Collegetown

6/9 @7PM – Perkiomen Valley High
School Graduation – PVHS Football Field.

6/12 @ 6:30PM Perkiomen Valley
School Board Meeting – PV High School
Library

6/15 @ 12-2PM –Bach's Lunch, BYO
lunch to 775 W Main Street Trappe, PA
and enjoy a free concert!!

6/20 @ 4:30PM – CEDC's Board
Meeting (open to the public!) Freeland
Lounge, lower level, Trinity Church,
Main Street, Collegetown.

ISSUES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND CONCERN (con't from page 1)

- The proposal includes changing the traffic pattern of Rt. 29 and would add impervious surfaces to a flood prone area.
- RF's stated goal is to take 50% of Wawa's business as well as 50% of the business from the Speedway, located across Rt. 29.
- Some RF gas stations include a large inflated chicken (advertising their fried chicken).
- The RF convenience store would be a direct competitor for the Quick Stop.
- The location of this station would be visible to visitors coming from across the Perkiomen Creek toward Collegetown.
- RF has been fined in MD for fuel leaks that took months to notice. (2013)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Recurring Meetings to Remember:

***Borough Council** meets on the 1st
Wednesday of each month at 7PM.

***Planning Commission** meets as
needed on the 3rd Thursday of each
month at 7PM

***CTMA & Public Works
Committee** meets the 3rd Tuesday of
each month.

***Perkiomen Valley School Board**
meets on the 2nd Monday of each
month at 6:30PM, usually at the PV
High School Library.

Online Information:

Borough of Collegetown website:
<http://www.collegetown-pa.gov/>



Collegetown Economic Development
Commission:
<https://www.collegetowndevelopment.org/>

Perkiomen Valley School District:
www.pvsd.org

Collegetown Fire Department:
<http://www.collegetownfire.org/>

Collegetown Police Department:
www.collegetown-pa.gov/node/8

STAY IN TOUCH

We'd like to hear what makes Collegetown special to you!

- Email us at: collegetowndems@gmail.com
- Check out our website: www.collegetowndemocrats.com
- Read our blog: www.collegetowndemocrats.com/blog/
- Find us on Facebook: Collegetown Democrats

Paid for by: Friends of Collegetown Democrats