

**Results of the 2021 Election:
Three Current Council Members and the Mayor Return;
One New Member is Elected to Council**

The Collegetown Council and Mayor would like to thank all the residents who came out to vote at the Nov. 2 General Election. Out of our 3,260 registered voters, 1,532 residents voted--a 47% voter turnout- which may be the highest Borough resident turnout ever for an off-year election. Clearly, Collegetown's residents are involved and care about our community!

Three members of the Council were re-elected: Cathy Kernen, Gary Hoffmann, and Marion McKinney. Dean Miller, who has been serving on the Borough's Planning Commission, was elected to his first term of office. He replaces Shannon Spencer in 2022, whose family will be relocating to Virginia. Our Mayor, Aidsand Wright-Riggins, was also elected. Our terms end in 2025.

These Council members join Kathy Costello, Craig Farr, and Valarie Beckius, whose terms conclude in 2023.

The latest results of the November 2, 2021 election can be found here <https://webapp02.montcopa.org/election/2021UnofficialGeneralElectionSummaryReport.PDF>

As a Council, we believe we have made significant progress over the last several years, and look forward to continuing our work:

- **The Freeland Square townhome development** on W. Third. Ave. is transforming a former Manufacturing and Industrial site into an upscale townhome community. The townhomes will add an additional \$68,000 per year to the borough budget (vs. \$3,465 from the former M&I property) and an additional \$305,291 annually to the PV School district.
- **We are reviewing new zoning at the 5th Ave. and Main St. corners** to allow for mixed use attractive commercial buildings with destination restaurants and retail on the first floor. There will be either market rate apartments or student housing above. We are also working with Ursinus College to locate retail and restaurants to the first floors of their dormitories on the 400 block of Main St. with offices or apartments above. These buildings will then lose their tax-exempt status, providing additional income to the borough.
- **Speeding on residential streets** has always been one of the top concerns of our residents. To evaluate the effect of the speed pillows installed on Park Ave this Fall, speed was measured at the end of October and compared to a previous study done this Spring. The data show that the speed pillows are effective, and that cars do not seem to be diverting to other residential streets:

<i>Speed Pillow Installation</i>	<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>
Average Speed	30.34	21.66
85 th Percentile	35.64	27.96
Max Speed	64	55
% of Violators	98.2%	1.5%
Avg # of vehicles per day	1934	2293

- **Perky Park**--We hope to start work on the borough's W. First Ave. creek side park in the summer of 2022. We have received a grant of \$107,000 from Montgomery County to create a park with a parking lot and a boat launch along the Perkiomen. Conversation will soon begin concerning naming the park, with consideration for a name honoring our Lenape ancestors and original residents.
- **Enhancements to Community Park**-- We have fenced in and added shade trees around the playground and along W. Third Ave. We also added new fencing around the children's playground area to keep them safe, as well as in front of the dugout and bleachers. We also replaced the back stop to better capture foul balls. We have kept all the park equipment maintained and each year organize volunteers to clean up Community and Waterworks Parks and Hunsburger Woods;
- **Borough Help for Ida Flood Victims**--Following Hurricane Ida, Council members were out every weekend helping Borough flood victims move debris from their homes and yards to the curb for pick up from September through October. Our Borough Manager, Tamara Twardowski, has been working closely with our flooded residents to help arrange assistance and FEMA buy-outs for their properties.

As the incumbent Council members, we have worked hard since taking office to maintain and update our roads, street lights, parks, buildings and other structures with a limited budget. We will continue to work as hard as we can to keep the borough running at an optimal level, and to work toward improving every resident's quality of life while being mindful of the budget.

This past year, we have been engaged in strategic planning to anticipate large, upcoming expenses. Unfortunately, we do have four major infrastructure maintenance projects looming:

- The culverts for the Donny Brook Creek under Eighth, Sixth and Fifth Ave. are well over 30 years old and crumbling under the roadways. We estimate replacements costs for the three will total about \$1.2 million.
- We are still paying off the loan the borough took out to replace the Eleventh Ave. culvert in 2016. The balance is about \$250,000.
- We are required by PA DEP under our MS4 Stormwater permit to develop and implement a pollution reduction plan for the Donny Brook Creek. The pollution mitigation measures will require at least \$100,000.

Additionally, the borough has about 100 storm drains that we need to begin to replace over time. We also have more residential roads that need to be repaved each year than we have money for. We will be communicating our plans for addressing all of these costs over the next month.

With Gratitude and Friendship,

Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Cathy Kernen,
 Marion McKinney, Gary Hoffmann,
 Shannon Spencer, to be replaced by Dean Miller,
 Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius and Craig Farr

