

# Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Fall Edition 2019



## Letter from the President of the Board of Managers

*submitted by Ted Martin*

If you look around the Campmeeting on any given day lately, it seems like the end of season has brought quieter and calmer times. And yes, that is true to an extent. Take a deep breath and savor the beauty of autumn. For many, it is the most beautiful time of the year in our community. Speaking for myself, it is my personal favorite. But I would advise no one to assume decision-making by the Board and its committees has slowed with the season. In fact, these are busy days.

First up, the budget exercise currently underway is looking at our very full plate of projects and expenses and deciding the most efficient ways to proceed. From water to infrastructure to trash collection to grounds maintenance, everything is on the docket and the cost of each item is being weighed and debated, prioritized and reviewed. The Board has listened to your concerns and comments on trash, for example, and your input helped us to make a choice to continue service as we've come to know it.

On water, we're working closely with a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to pay for needed improvements to our pump house. We're also moving forward with a full inspection of our water tower as well as a thorough cleaning and repairs as necessary. Finally, on infrastructure, we're using an engineering study to prioritize the most important projects we can both afford and manage.

While we are juggling and looking for the most efficient ways to save money and continue services, we're also facing the reality of increased

costs and a changing world. There are hard decisions to be made in the next few weeks, and no member of the Board is taking any of these choices lightly and without a great deal of thought. I would also be remiss in not saying that some sort of an increase in the assessment isn't on the table. It will come as no surprise that infrastructure repair costs are significant and added up, are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are long overdue, and vitally necessary for the continued healthy operation of the community.

What I can promise is that we will do everything we can to be creative and thoughtful in both our deliberations and final decisions. We look to your suggestions and thoughts to help this process. We're all in this together, and the best plans for our community are those made when we work together and keep the betterment of Campmeeting firmly in our sites always.

## "Ted Time" - Office Hours for the President of the MGCA

MGCA President holds "office hours" from 10 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday of each month. From time to time, other board members will join Ted—but there is always room for more!

## Quiet Hours - be Considerate of your Neighbors

Community members, renters and guests—quiet hours remain in effect and have not changed. All residents within the borders of Campmeeting are expected to maintain quiet hours from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. and all day Sunday year-round. All unnecessary noise should be kept to a minimum. Source: MGCA Rules & Regulations, Rule No. 17.

## Green Waste Pick-Up Resumes in November

The Cheyney Property Maintenance crew will begin picking up Green Waste in the month of November through the first week in December. Please, do not place green waste on curbs after Saturday, December 7, 2019.

Remember to make two separate piles for yard waste including (1) sticks & tree limbs, and (2) Green Waste—this includes leaves, pine needles, pinecones and plant-related debris. Please, do not place animal waste in these piles. Do not place recyclable materials (flowerpots) in these piles; do not “hide” any garbage in these piles. West Cornwall Township only accepts green waste.

### Mt. Gretna Community Halloween Activities

Friday, October 25, 2019—do not miss the Annual Mt. Gretna Halloween Parade. The parade forms at the Jigger Shop at 6:30 p.m. See the “Fire Company” listing in this newsletter for more information. Trick-or-Treat Night is Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Lebanon County. The Mt. Gretna Community Library will be open for Trick-or-Treat Night. See the “Library Update” in this newsletter for details.



Campmeeting risks losing this free recycling service if any of these items are among the green waste. Similarly, if property management staff have to sift through the piles to ensure compliance, these additional labor hours take away from other needed services in our community. Whenever possible, place piles at or near driving streets for easy access. Please, comply with these simple guidelines.

Property maintenance staff pick-up sticks and tree limbs all year long; green waste pick-up is seasonal. After November 30, you can place green waste in your weekly trash, the Campmeeting dumpsters or in the appropriate pile for recycling (located behind the First Street garages).

Hardscape materials and/or old, rotting building materials are not “green waste” and will not be picked-up. Similarly, the refuse dumpsters do not support the weight of building materials—please alert your contractors! If you have large items to dispose of, contact TNT Sanitation directly at 717- 866-6902 to arrange for pick-up.

### Curbside Garbage Pick-up & Dumpsters—Current Services Remain

The current process for garbage and recycling collection will continue in the Campmeeting through 2020. For now, dumpsters will remain adjacent to the Carter parking lot. However, in the coming months Building & Grounds Committee members will work in conjunction with the Board of Managers to make recommendations for permanent placement of the dumpsters including a means of monitoring dumping by non-members.

“All trash and recyclables shall be placed in proper receptacles and shall be available for collection on designated collection days. MGCA Members shall place their trash and/or recyclables outside for collection no earlier than the night before collection day. Containers

should be returned to their normal location quickly after pick-up. Excess refuse shall incur additional charges as determined by the collector.” Source: Rules and Regulations, Rule No. 4.

### **Rental Permit Committee Update – 2019 Permits Issued**

At the September meeting, the Board of Managers approved 67 rental applications for the remainder of the 2019 rental season. Of these applications, 60 are “grandfathered” and can maintain rental status for subsequent years.

A rental permit is “Grandfathered” so long as the current owner maintains ownership of the cottage or it is sold, gifted or transferred to a member of the owner’s family. In addition, compliance with all Rules & Regulations is required. Completion of the annual application and associated fees must be submitted in full and within posted deadlines. Similarly, timely payment of annual MGCA assessment must occur. Property owners who fall out of compliance will risk losing this status.

The 2020 Rental Permit Application window closes on November 1, 2019. Anyone who applied in 2019 and received a rental application who applies for and receives a permit in 2020 will have the permit fee waived. As defined in Rule No. 20, section X. 4., based upon the number of permit applications received in 2019 the rental cap for 2020 will adjust to 67 properties, as determined by the board. The Board of Managers plans to vote at the November meeting with regard to the 2020 cap. Keep in mind, currently 60 properties are “grandfathered” and have rental permits so long as the criteria outlined above remains in full compliance.

The Rental Permit Committee would like to thank all Members for their patience throughout this process. The committee appreciates your feedback and suggestions. As the Rule and the

application process is evaluated in the coming season, the committee will review this feedback.

As part of new Rule No. 20 adopted by the Board of Managers, current homeowners who have been renting either short-term (fewer than 30 days) or long-term (30 days or more) who wish to continue renting their cottages are required to apply for a permit from the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association. Potential new homeowners must follow the same process with regard to applying for a rental permit and are subject to the same community rental cap. Go to <http://www.mtgretnacampmeeting.com/regulations.shtml> to download or view a copy of Rule No. 20 (Rentals), the Permit Application, two pages of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and Guidelines for Guests.

### **Nominating Committee Update – an Opportunity Exists to Serve on the Board through 2021**

MGCA board member, Larry Bowman is stepping down from his volunteer position on the Board of Managers. Larry is moving from Campmeeting. As a result, he is no longer eligible to serve on the board. The Board of Managers thank you, Larry, for all the service you have given to our community—not limited to your board service—for the many years you called Campmeeting home. We wish you well in your new chapter and look forward to seeing you often.

#### **Are you interested in volunteering as a member of the Board of Managers?**

An opportunity now exists to fill the seat vacated by Larry Bowman, and to finish the remainder of his current term. This board-approved candidate will serve through December 31, 2021.

Interested candidates must submit their interest in writing (email or USPS mail) to Esther Mefferd, Nominating Committee Chairman. Candidates must outline their interest in serving on the board, as well as the experience and talents they possess. A bio/resume is preferred. Send your interest within 30-days of the

publication of this newsletter to vicar2@comcast.net or by mail to Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association, Attn: Esther Mefferd, Nominating Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 428, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064-0428.

#### **Future opportunities to serve.**

Saturday, July 25, 2020—MGCA Members will have the opportunity to elect candidates to serve on the Board of Managers during the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Campmeeting Membership. The board will hold an election to fill three (3) seats on the Board of Managers for the 2021-2023 term. The spring 2020 edition of this Newsletter will contain details outlining the process for submitting your interest to serve.

#### **Interested in Volunteering? Consider Serving on an MGCA Committee in 2020**

It takes many hours to keep the Campmeeting functioning, as well as scheduling and bringing quality programs to the Tabernacle for all of the Members and guests in the community. This is what defines Campmeeting; this is what we love about our community. So, now we are ask for your help.

If you are interested in serving on a committee in 2020, please submit your name, contact information and the committee(s) you are interested in serving on to Kevin Burd at kevrburd@comcast.net no later than November 11, 2019. Members who currently serve on committees are also asked to submit their interest in remaining on specific committees.

MGCA Committee Chairman receive the slate(s) of interested candidates and begin the selection process in accordance with the MGCA Bylaws. The Board of Managers will review tentative committee appointments at the November meeting. The final vote for 2020 committee membership will occur during the January MGCA Board of Managers meeting. Source: MGCA Bylaws, Article VII: Committees of the Board. MGCA Committees open to MGCA Members include:

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

This committee meets monthly on the Thursday prior to the Board of Managers meeting. The B&G Committee reviews community improvements and expenditures for the Campmeeting buildings, roads, walks/walkways; cleaning, lighting and maintenance of the community; the operation, maintenance of the water plant and sewage system; and, the removal of garbage. The B&G Committee reviews Member building permits and makes recommendation to the Board of Managers for approval.

#### **Community Activities Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. This committee organizes the annual Memorial Day Porch Sale, the Heritage Festival, the Annual Meeting & Member Picnic, Earth Day—and any other community-wide activities. Committee members can join to assist with one or more of these community events.

#### **Communications Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. This committee collects articles and gathers Mt. Gretna community-wide information for the quarterly newsletter. This committee also reviews and updates the MGCA website, as necessary. The committee members also update additional community websites, calendars and social media as directed.

#### **Property Ownership Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. At least one member of this committee meets with every prospective buyer prior to settlement. These meetings are a time to address community questions/concerns and to review the Charter & Bylaws, Rules and Regulation of the Campmeeting. Committee members maintain relationships with local real estate agents and keep abreast of current Campmeeting cottage listings. Members serve as “ambassadors” to the Campmeeting by answering new-member questions, and more.

### **Parks & Recreation Committee**

This committee meets in conjunction with the B&G Committee. Committee members are highly involved with the tree canopy, and the Memorial Tree program in the Campmeeting. Volunteers serve as project managers in conjunction with the MGCA vendors that are contracted to care for tree health, tree maintenance and tree trimming/removal.

### **Nominating Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. Committee members meet and put in nomination a slate of candidates for election annually, and in the event of any open board seats. Committee members work in conjunction with the Election Board and assist with annual elections.

### **Ad Hoc Archives Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. Committee members review the Campmeeting's historical information and insure proper historical preservation.

### **Ad Hoc Library Committee**

This committee meets regularly when the library is in operation. This committee organizes and staffs the community library and all of the programming throughout the season. The library takes part in books reviews, children's programs, coffee-chats, little library maintenance, social media—and much more!

### **Ad Hoc Policy Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. This committee drafts, revises and reviews MGCA policies and procedures and makes recommendations to the board of managers for approval.

### **Ad Hoc Rental Committee**

This committee meets at the discretion of the Chairman. This committee organizes the annual rental application process, reviews rental applications, and makes recommendations to the board of managers.

Additionally, there are two standing committees made up of only board members, including the

Executive Committee and the Finance Committee. An Audit Committee is unnecessary and in compliance with the Bylaws due to the use of an independent Certified Public Accountant.



### **Library Committee Update – Mt. Gretna Library Closes with another Successful Season**

The Mt. Gretna Library thanks all our supporters for donations of books, volunteer hours and continued interest in the library this past season. It was an active and productive summer season. Library volunteers were able to apply wood sealer to the deck and railings and upgrade porch furnishings. Additionally, the book collection grew to include community member suggestions for book editions including all the titles for the Tuesday book talks at the Hall of Philosophy and our own Monday night book discussions.

Our roster of volunteers expanded to include a third, Little Free Library outside the Heights Community Building. We hosted author Fran Metzman and families for popular First Friday events. We also continued our children's programs with 11 events. Thanks to all of our visitors and volunteers. We are already making plans for the 2020 season as we put the Library to bed for the winter months.

The Library closed for the season on Sunday, September 29, 2019—but the Little Free Libraries remain OPEN 24/7 year-round! For additional events and real-time information, like us on Facebook: Mount Gretna Community Library.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Community Activities Committee

### Update – Planning for the 2020 Season

The Summer Season is behind us—all but a memory—and planning for the 2020 season is well underway. If you are interested in volunteering for any events or if you have ideas for bands/musical ensembles for the Heritage Festival, please let us know! It takes an army of volunteers to organize Earth Day, Porch Sale, Heritage Festival and the Annual Campmeeting and Member picnic. If you are interested in lending a hand, contact Tammy Travitz, MGCA Community Activities Committee Chairman at [ttravitz@me.com](mailto:ttravitz@me.com). Come, meet neighbors and friends; join in the fun!

#### Mark your calendars:

□ Annual Porch Sale—Saturday, May 23, 2020 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Annual Meeting & Member Picnic—Saturday, July 25, 2020 beginning at noon.

## Mt. Gretna School of Arts

The Art School is working to remodel Artist Cottage #3 in Campmeeting and an October Fund Drive is underway. Every dollar donated will be matched up to \$100,000 through a challenge grant from the Thomas A. and Georgiana T. Russo Family Foundation. Consider helping this challenge and this Member of the community. For information, go to [www.mgsoa.org](http://www.mgsoa.org).



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students give back to Campmeeting—this summer Art School Students completed service hours as part of the curriculum by repainting the street names on the Campmeeting pillars, as well as repainting the shuffleboard courts.

Mount Gretna School of Art has a symbiotic relationship with the community. As Mt. Gretna at-large plays host to the school and its students, the school's rich artistic resources are shared with the public in the form of a lecture series hosted by the Pennsylvania Chautauqua in the historic Hall of Philosophy, open enrollment fine art classes for children and adults, museum trips and art exhibits.



## First Fridays in Mt. Gretna

Timbers Restaurant continues to have live entertainment and a featured artist on First Fridays. This is a popular event; reservations are encouraged. Featured art remains throughout the month, as well as jewelry by artist, Kate Dolan. La Cigale Gallery also remains open year-round featuring the original works from several Mt. Gretna artists. For up-to-date information, follow Mt. Gretna First Fridays on Facebook. Also, consider following community partners' social media sites to stay informed of upcoming, pop-up events.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

Mt. Gretna Nursery School is offered weekday mornings for three-year-olds and four-year-olds from September through May. The youth ministry meets on Sundays from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in the lower level Fellowship Hall of the church. Summer Bible School and Wet 'n Wacky Wednesdays take place during the summer for children in pre-school through sixth grade.

Worship services are scheduled at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and are open to the public. For additional information about any church events, contact: [www.mtgretnachurch.org](http://www.mtgretnachurch.org).



## Mt. Gretna Fire Department, Station 38

Interested in volunteering at the Fire Department? If you would like to volunteer at fund raising events, contact Karen Lynch. Interested in being a volunteer firefighter—contact the station at 717-964-3511. Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information and events, and mark your calendars.

All events are open to the public; Campmeeting Members and guests are invited to attend.

- October 25, 2019—Halloween parade forms at the Jigger Shop, 6:30 p.m. followed by refreshments at the Fire Company.
- November 3, 2019—Annual Breakfast Buffet (by donation) from 8 a.m. until Noon.
- November 9, 2019—Annual Soup Cook-Off. “Chefs” must register for this event. Event scheduled from Noon until 2 p.m.
- November 30, 2019—Fall Cottage Crafters Holiday Show with refreshments available for purchase; from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- December 14, 2019—Cookies with Santa and Santa Shop; from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
- January 18, 2020—Pasta Night—you heard it here first—more information in the next Newsletter!

## Mt. Gretna Roller

The Mt. Gretna Roller Rink is open for family fun. Sundays enjoy public skating to pop music from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays enjoy Family Night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. while skating to '80s music. Fridays enjoy public skating to pop music from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturdays are open for public skating from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. (pop music), then return from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. for live organ music—a truly unique Mt. Gretna experience.

Don't forget to like and follow the Mt. Gretna Roller Rink Facebook page. Come and join in the fun. Some hours and events are seasonal, so click on [www.mtgretnarollerrink.com](http://www.mtgretnarollerrink.com) for more information.



## From the Tool Shed

*Submitted by Doug Cheyney, Cheyney Property Maintenance*

Autumn is here and leaves are starting to fall!

October will mark our first year of service to the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting. It has definitely been an interesting year to say the least. Everything from strong, storm damage to water issues and our continuing work to comply with DEP requirements—all to keep the Campmeeting looking and functioning as best we can. We hope that we have been able to meet most of your expectations. Yes, there have been some changes; however, I hope these changes have not caused disruption. More important, these changes were necessary to meet your budget requirements.

We will be starting to clean leaf piles in November. After November 30, if your street is clean please do not put out any additional leaf piles. They will not be collected until spring. Leaf cleanup will commence again in the middle of March until the last week in May 2020. Our crew gathers sticks and fallen limbs every other week, year-round.

**Please do not mix sticks/trash or any other items into leaf piles—they will not be picked up.**

Winterize your pipes properly and refrain from leaving your water run in your home during the winter. If Cheyney Property Maintenance receives a call about a water problem at your cottage while you are away for the season due to

lack of winterizing, you could be billed for time/services to rectify the situation. Please do your best to prevent these issues and emergency calls.

The Cheyney Property Maintenance Team looks forward to serving the residents of Mt. Gretna Campmeeting and looks forward to a quick winter and back to warmer weather. We wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. Feel free to say hello while we are there working. We like to get to know everyone!



## From the Office

Welcome new Members!

- Carmen Bianco & Maureen Garrity - 611 First Street
- Mark & Missy Campbell - 8 Batdorf Avenue
- Deborah Griffith - 209 Fifth Street
- Robert & Sharon Siegrist - 406 Otterbein Avenue

## Mark Your Calendars

The MGCA Board of Managers meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. MGCA Members are always welcome to attend. The Buildings and Grounds Committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. Again, all Members are invited to attend.

## Rules & Regulations

In an ongoing effort to enforce Campmeeting Rules, in the third quarter of 2019 (July-September):

- No warnings were issued for Rules and



Regulations violations in the third quarter.

- No fines were issued for Rules and Regulations violations in the third quarter.

### Designated Parking Areas

Please remember that there are three designated parking areas for Members and their guests. This includes the Kaufman Lot (the gravel lot situated between the Fire Company and Kauffman Avenue), the Carter Lot (the gravel lot accessed from First Street) and the parking along the south side of Route 117. In the off-season, Mt. Gretna Miniature Golf allows residents to park on the north side of Route 117. Similarly, the Mt Gretna United Methodist Church allows MGCA Members and guests to use the church's private parking lot when it is not in use for church programming. Sundays from 8 a.m. until noon, and any other time when the church posts signage for special events, the parking lot is not available to MGCA Members and guests.

### Parking Tickets

The Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church needs all parking spaces in their lot on Sundays from 8 a.m. until noon, and during any posted church event. Likewise, the parking spaces located at Boehm Avenue & Eighth Street are Member parking spots whereby Members pay a monthly rental fee. West Cornwall Township police will ticket cars illegally parked in the church parking lot, as well as the private member spaces located at Boehm Avenue and Eighth Street.

### Update Your Association Membership Contact Information

If you've changed your phone number, mailing address, email address or any other contact information, please notify the Campmeeting office. Email communication is preferred.

## COMMITTEE ROSTER

### Executive

Ted Martin—Chair  
Margaret Hopkins  
Mary Kopala  
Sally Marisic

### Buildings & Grounds

Ted Martin—Chair  
Larry Bowman  
Doug Cheyney  
Don Dale  
Margaret Hopkins  
Joe Lamont  
Doug Lorenzen  
Bob Travitz

### Communications

Kevin Burd—Chair  
Pam Bishop  
Deborah Erb  
Sally Marisic  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio

### Community Activities

Tammy Travitz—Chair  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio  
Esther Mefferd

### Finance

Sally Marisic—Chair  
Larry Bowman  
Margaret Hopkins  
Mary Kopala  
Ted Martin

### Nominations

Esther Mefferd—Chair  
Pam Bishop  
Kevin Burd  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio

### Property Ownership

Pam Bishop—Chair  
Kevin Burd  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio  
Barb Myers

### Ad Hoc Archive

Barb Myers—Chair  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio  
Esther Mefferd

### Ad Hoc Library

Kristi Donahue—Co-Chair  
Joan Sherman—Co-Chair  
Margaret Hopkins  
Sally Marisic  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio  
Michelle Shay  
Val Swarr

### Ad Hoc Policy

Margaret Hopkins—Chair  
Pam Bishop  
Deborah Erb  
Sally Marisic  
Ted Martin, Ex-Officio  
Hal Myers  
Pat Wilmsen

### Ad-Hoc Property Rental Committee

Justin Williams—Chair  
Pam Bishop  
Margaret Hopkins  
Sally Marisic  
Ted Martin, Ex-officio

### Tabernacle Association

Larry Bowman—President  
Esther Mefferd—Vice-President  
Tom Heberling—Secretary  
David Pierce—Treasurer  
Bruce Gettle  
Margaret Hopkins  
Bob Kettering  
Mary Kopala  
Sally Marisic  
Ted Martin  
Barb Myers