

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News

Winter Edition 2019



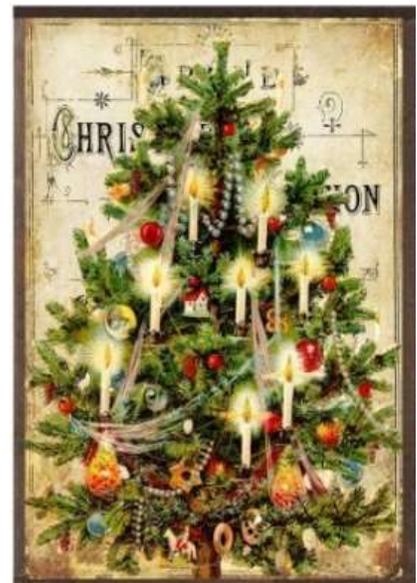
Letter From the President of the Board of Managers – submitted by Ted Martin

In our early days of cottage ownership, closing-up for the season was always sad for me. It often seemed coldly finite or at its most bearable, a series of quickly passing months one could check-off on the calendar's way to spring. A little more than 15 years of cottage ownership has mellowed me to each passing season and given me understanding that the Campmeeting never really leaves you. It is always there and if you let it just re-creates itself to each part of the year.

That sense of the place has never been more real to me than it has been over the past two years while serving as President of the Board of Managers. I've learned things about the Campmeeting that were new and surprising, sometimes unsettling, warm and traditional, never dull, and just enough to drive home the great care that is required to keep it safe and vibrant for future decades. Board service has been work, and it is far from simple to successfully juggle the many moving parts that make-up our community. I am lucky to have had such great help from talented Board colleagues and proud of what we have been able to accomplish for the community when we face and make hard choices. In 2019 increased professional duties and caring for an aging

parent have placed much heavier demands on my time, making it harder to balance everything well. And that just isn't fair to the management of the Campmeeting. For that simple reason, I have decided not to seek another term as Board President. It has been an honor, but it is time for others to lead.

As I look back, I see much progress. We began to address our serious infrastructure needs starting with repairs to our aging sewer lines along Front and First Streets back in 2018. A project, by the way, accomplished under budget and within a deadline. Thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection we received in 2018, over the past year we have been able to overhaul our water pump house. We have also invested in having our water tower thoroughly inspected to assess its structural health and long-term safety. And while our water system will certainly require more attention in the coming months, the Board has chosen to make protecting the system our top priority. The question around joining the Mt. Gretna Water Authority is another matter for future Board decision, but we are now better able to make that choice because the work done to our system has made us more informed



about its health and the repairs and improvements done through grant funding gives us time to make decisions smartly.

Continuing Board conversations about infrastructure and storm water management in 2019 yielded a professional engineering study of potential trouble spots specifically the culverts at the Kauffman entrance and on First Street near the garages, of the roadbeds of Markwood Avenue, and the Carter Lot. The study provided a roadmap for development of a work plan based on the severity of the need and costs and impact on the community. The study was accepted by the Board and allows for future prioritization, provides numbers to build budgets that support each project, and allows Campmeeting to send projects out for bid with a level of confidence unheard of in the past. Repairs to our infrastructure are almost of equal importance as the water system, and the Board now has the knowledge of what needs to be done and must move forward.

In 2019, we had a robust and sometimes contentious rental debate. Throughout the process, the Board did not always agree as a body. Hours of effort and conversation and debate and discussion went into creating the rental rule. The compromise that was reached was not perfect. Compromises by their very nature never are but the final rule addresses major issues and concerns from both sides of the debate in a balanced way.

On the issue of trash, the Board listened to the community and decided to continue working with our current trash hauler, TNT, for the next year maintaining both curbside pick-up and the ease of dumpsters. And on the important issue of the health of our tree canopy, we have been careful, thoughtful, more attentive to the

concerns of residents, and serious when it came to reviewing tree removal and grounds-related work. We have continued to refine our reliance on professional opinions when it comes to making final choices in this area, and hopefully that will only make the place look better.

Let me end by thanking the members of the Board of Managers and all the volunteers I've had the pleasure to know. They have clocked many, many hours in hard work to address and understand our challenges. For all the care and thought and sweat and frustration and time they have put into numerous meetings and hours of service, I am incredibly thankful and grateful. I also need to thank our wonderful staff - Debby Erb, Doug Cheyney, and former staff Ed Neidigh and Carol Clemens - who have shown dedication above and beyond that has made our community shine and my life easier.

Over the past two years, I hope that we have been more open to hearing your thoughts and willing to talk. We've had numerous public sessions, have surveyed the community, and I've personally held monthly office hours open to all residents. I've not found too many too shy to give me their opinion. Taken together, you've left me feeling deeply honored and humbled and happy to know we all share a community so passionately loved. Serving as Board President is an experience I won't soon forget. It has made me respect the community more and love the Campmeeting in ways even I couldn't have expected. Thank You. I wish you all the best in the coming holidays and New Year.



Mount Gretna Community Winter Activities



O Come, All Ye Faithful

Consider attending the Annual Children's Holiday Program on Sunday, December 22, 2019. Youth Group Members and Sunday School children have been practicing each week and are excited to present the program at both services (8:30 a.m. and 10 p.m.). Come see the excitement in the little ones eyes as they celebrate the wonder of the season.

ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

This year the church will again hold two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. The early service is 7 p.m. and the late service is at 11 p.m. on December 24, 2019.

"Gathering Place" is a monthly luncheon open to all community members at no charge. It offers a time for members of the community to get together in friendship and fellowship, and to enjoy a good meal. The next scheduled luncheon January 22, 2020 at noon.

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.

7th Annual Buzzard Drop to Celebrate 2020

There are many activities in Mt. Gretna throughout the year, so join us for the FIRST in 2020! Welcome in the New Year at the Mt. Gretna Community Buzzard Drop located at the corner of 3rd Street and Glossbrenner Avenue. Everyone is invited; bring your friends.

The buzzard will be high in his perch from 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Spotlights will illuminate the buzzard at night. Walk by the area any time to visit, but come at night to enjoy the celebration and welcome in the New Year. People will start to gather around 11:30 p.m. The festivities will include refreshments. Coffee, cookies and the traditional pork and sauerkraut as pork sliders will be served after the buzzard has officially dropped to welcome in the New Year. This year, the Campmeeting Board has given permission to use the adjacent Tabernacle if the weather is bad.

New Year's Eve - Live Entertainment

Ring in the New Year at Timbers Restaurant. Friends and neighbors are invited to attend a New Year's Eve buffet with live entertainment. Make your reservations early as this event always sells out!

This year's band, Galbraith, Briody & Friends, features Scott Galbraith (vocals/guitar), Bart Briody (vocals/harmonica), Campmeeting resident, Andy Briody (keyboards/piano), Gloria Tice (vocals), Scott Whitford (saxophone), Dave Shultz (trumpet), Dave Sanatan (drums), and Steve Meashey (bass). The band will play from 9 p.m. until 12:30 a.m., so bring your dancing shoes. The dinner buffet begins at 6:15 p.m. Dinner and musical entertainment, \$25.75 per person.

Mount Gretna Community Winter Activities



Mount Gretna School of Art

Mount Gretna School of Art (MGSoA) alumni Marisa Smith & Kristen Peyton have artwork on display in a group holiday show at Lancaster Galleries, 34 North Water Street, this month along with current and former MGSoA faculty JD Wissler, Ruth Bernard, Brian Rego, Aaron Lubrick, Alex Cohen, E.M. Saniga and Lou Schellenberg (former Campmeeting resident). An image of one of Marissa Smith's painting is featured below. For more information on the event go to <http://lancastergalleries.com/>.

For ExtraGive this year, the Mt. Gretna School of Art (MGSoA) raised \$4,425 from 51 donors. Several local organizations offered matching campaigns during this event including the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association and the Mt. Gretna Neighborhood Association. To date MGSoA has reached nearly 40% of their \$75,000 annual fund goal. The main purpose of the fund is to support the school's need and merit-based scholarship system, a core value of the school. Annual fund donation slips are located at the post office, or online: <https://www.mgsoa.org/annual-fund>.

Four Pillars artist residency, a non-profit service of MGSoA, has application due January 15, 2020 at www.fourpillars.org. The school begins promoting the program to prospective 2020 summer students in January with an application that is due April 15.

MGSoA 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.

Groundhog Day



Sunday, February 2, 2020 - join Mt. Gretna Grady, Campmeeting's groundhog prognosticator, will make his appearance at the Mt. Gretna Fire Company's Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. The breakfast is from 9 a.m. until noon—pay

what you want—all proceeds benefit the Fire Company.

Campmeeting residents Val and Fred Swarr will sponsor children's activity games and puzzles up until Grady's arrival at noon, and Mt. Gretna Grady memorabilia and trapper hats will be for sale during breakfast. ABC27's weatherman, Eric Finkenbinder will MC the event. Whether you wish for six more weeks of winter, or an early spring—come on out, join in the fun and support the fire company.



Mount Gretna Community Winter Activities

First Fridays in Mount Gretna



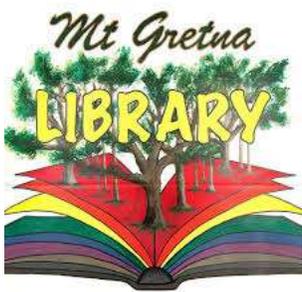
Timbers Restaurant continues to have live entertainment and a featured artist on First Fridays. This is a popular event; reservations are encouraged. Featured art remains throughout the month, as well as jewelry by artist, Kate Dolan. La Cigale Gallery also remains open year-round featuring the original 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.

2020 Heritage Festival, an MGCA Sponsored event series – Music under the Trees



Heritage Festival planning is underway. Mark your calendars now for the 2020 season to include the Celtic Martins (May 30, Don Johnson Project (June 13), and Angry Young Band: The Billy Joel Tribute (August 15). An additional performance is tentatively scheduled for August 8, 2020, and musical talent is being secured. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Mount Gretna Volunteer Library



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

From the Tool Shed—submitted by Doug Cheyney



The Cheyney Property Maintenance team would like to wish all Campmeeting residents a Happy Holiday & Happy New Year. It has been a pleasure serving the Members of the Campmeeting as our first year serving you closes. We look forward to 2020 and providing you with great service.

Thank you for all being so nice to our staff and appreciating how hard we work for you. **We are truly blessed.**

Mt. Gretna Fire Department – Station 38, Community Events



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.

- December 14, 2019—Cookies with Santa and Santa Shop; from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
- January 18, 2020—Pasta Night (information to be posted to the Facebook page)

Mount Gretna Community Winter Activities

Mt. Gretna Roller Rink



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 for more information.



From the Office

Welcome new Members!

Mike & Stacey Goldfarb - 200 Bell Avenue
Bryon & Allison Kaster - 111 Second Street
Jennifer & Steven Mellinger - 401 Second Street
Joanne Schmidt - 112 First Street
Bruce & Virginia Wagner - 108 Fifth Street
Timothy & Patricia Williams - 109 First Street

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.

- 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.

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 (MGCA Rules & Regulations, Rule No. 17).

Rules & Regulations

In an ongoing effort to enforce Campmeeting Rules, in the fourth quarter of 2019 (October-December):

- One warning was issued for a noise violation at 207 Fifth Street
- No fines were issued for Rules and Regulations violations
- Year-in-Review - three warnings were issued for noise violations; one warning was issued for a trash violation; and, no fines were issued in 2019.

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

Mount Gretna Community Winter Activities

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.

Mulch Delivery

Be aware that MGCA offers Members the opportunity to purchase and have mulch delivered by the scoop directly to your cottage. 2020 mulch delivery rates have yet to be determined. So keep an out for more

information in the spring newsletter. In the meantime, feel free to email the MGCA office if you are interested and we will add your name to the list.

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

MGCA Board of Managers

Ted Martin, President
Mary Kopala, Vice-President
Margaret Hopkins, Secretary
Sally Marisic, Treasurer
Pam Bishop
Kevin Burd
Barb Myers
Tammy Travitz
Justin Williams
Esther Mefferd,
Representative, Tabernacle
Board of Trustees

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
Kevin Burd
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