

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Summer Edition 2020



Letter from the President

Kevin Burd, President, MGCA Board of Managers

Since the spring newsletter was published, much has happened in Campmeeting and beyond. A global pandemic has forever changed the way we think and function each day. We experienced fear for the health of our families, friends, and community members. Yet we experienced hope too.

Truth be told, I experienced dark days, days that challenged my spirit—but through it all, I have watched this community spring into action and lead by example. I shared a well-known quote from Fred Rogers in a weekly COVID-19 Update—a nod to the helpers in our community, and it could not be more true. I will share it again:

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” ~Fred Rogers

You INSPIRE me, and you inspire the Board of Managers every day. In the face of darkness, you continue to give back to the community. Countless volunteers give their time for committee work. Our volunteers’ experience and knowledge benefit this community in significant ways. Beyond committee work, our “steady Eddies” quietly maintain the community without asking for a thank-you. Whether it’s keeping the Tabernacle free of debris, pulling in a neighbor’s trash cans on Monday morning, or walking a friend’s dog when time is a challenge—you create a ripple that extends far beyond your reach, and you contribute to the spirit that is Mt. Gretna.

You CHALLENGE me, and you challenge the Board of Managers to maintain the best interests of our community, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. We listen to your comments

and concerns, and we take that into account as we make community-wide decisions. In recent months, we listened to your concerns and decided to create a weekly update to apprise Members of local, state, and federal government guidelines and restrictions related to COVID-19. We also took this opportunity to feature local businesses and community Members who were being creative amid the restrictions placed upon their businesses. The greater Mt. Gretna communities have also been challenged to collaborate and build relationships with one another. In many ways, this is a silver lining that will hopefully continue.

You TRUST me, and you place your trust in the Board of Managers. We are volunteers, and we are committed to Campmeeting. We work to prioritize infrastructure projects in the community. Water is a priority. Recently the board enlisted the expertise of a local engineering firm to guide us in making sound decisions regarding our drinking water, and we will seek your input too. Paving projects, culvert replacement under the street’s surface, and maintaining the tree canopy are all projects on the horizon. Communication and transparency are a must, and we ask you to stay engaged—we all play key roles in sustaining the future of Campmeeting.

Most important, I value YOU. Thank you for what you give me—your love for Campmeeting. I feel it every day, now more than ever.

“Stay safe, stay healthy—and stay calm.” ~Dr. Rachel Levine

Annual MGCA Board of Managers Election for the 2021-2023 Term

Submitted by Esther Mefferd, Nominations Committee Chair

Elections to fill three (3) seats on the Board of Managers will take place on July 25, 2020. Individuals serve for a three-year term (2021-2023) beginning in January 2021. Five (5) MGCA members have submitted their names. Of the five, two (2) are incumbents, including (alphabetically):

- Kevin Burd, 201 6th Street (Incumbent)
- Susan Engle, 705 1st Street
- Jennifer Kantmann, 404 3rd Street
- Ted Martin, 202 3rd Street (Incumbent)
- Katcha Neale, 502 6th Street

ELIGIBILITY & MAIL-IN BALLOTS

“The members of the Association shall be all persons who are homeowners within the Campmeeting Grounds” (MGCA Bylaws, Art. V, Section 1.). However, there are limitations on members’ voting rights. Article V, Section 11, states: “The homeowners within the Campmeeting Grounds are entitled to one (1) vote, in person, by ballot or by mail for each home, however, that (a) joint owners of a single home shall be entitled to one (1) vote for that household; (b) the owner or owners of two or more homes in the Campmeeting Grounds shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; and (c) under no circumstances shall any home, household or individual be entitled to more than one (1) vote.”

In other words, there is only one vote/ballot per household, and owner(s) of multiple cottages are entitled to only one vote/ballot. Members should decide who will cast the vote for joint owners. The MGCA office maintains a list of the eligible voters; eligible voters will cast their votes via mail-in ballot. We encourage Members to return their mail-in ballots as soon as possible.

To vote, the following steps must be followed:

- Ballots will be mailed to the Member’s address of record on July 3, 2020

- Detailed instructions are included with the ballot
- Members are asked to vote for no more than three candidates
- Members will have the ability to write-in candidates
- Returned ballots must be postmarked by July 18, 2020 and received by 11 a.m. on July 25, 2020
- Members will receive a courtesy email from the MGCA Office Manager to confirm ballot receipt
- Ballots will be counted on Saturday, July 25, 2020
- The results of the election will be emailed to Members, posted in the community, and posted to the MGCA website on July 25, 2020
- Short biographies are included with the ballot; full biographies are posted to the MGCA website, and Members are encouraged to view these personal statements

VOTING & POLLING PLACE

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, all eligible voters will receive a paper, mail-in ballot. There will be no in-person voting.

ELECTION BOARD

“The Election Board, by the authority of the Board and with the approval of the Board of Managers, shall consist of a Manager (who shall act as judge) and two (2) members of the Association who shall act as inspectors. No person who is a candidate for office shall act as a judge or inspector (MGCA Charter & Bylaws, Section 13. Election Board). The Election Board will be notified of their role in the election/voting process.

- Barbara Myers, Judge (MGCA Board of Managers, Vice-President)
- Carmen Bianco, Inspector (MGCA Member)
- Don Miller, Inspector (MGCA Member)
- Beverly Andrews, Alternate Inspector (MGCA Member)

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Candidates submitted a full Bio/Letter of Interest, as well as a 50-word summary for this Newsletter. Below you will find the summaries numbered in alphabetic order. Please, go to the MGCA website; familiarize yourself with the full Bios for each candidate.

Kevin Burd (incumbent)—serving as the current board president, Kevin has served on the board since 2017. He chairs two committees and serves on numerous others. His experience is in non-profit leadership, policy development, communications, and fiscal planning. Kevin also serves as a member of the Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Board of Trustees.

Susan Engle—retired Pharmaceutical Executive: Quality, Regulatory, Facilities, Contracts. Education: BS Chemistry LVC; MBA, Doctorate - Temple. I am a 3rd generation, 705 1st Street, Association Member and both a Leader and Team Player. Campmeeting maintenance and capital improvement require attention. “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” (Drucker)

Jennifer Kantmann—a full-time resident with long-term ties to the area. An action-oriented, organized, and passionate Masters’-level Human Resources professional. I am creative and empathetic but hold myself, and others, to high standards. I encourage a focus on interests over positions, on common sense over politics and on fewer restrictions for homeowners.

Ted Martin (incumbent)—longtime cottage owner and incumbent Board member, successfully secured significant grant funding for infrastructure projects, and prioritized planning efforts and community concerns. Ted is the Executive Deputy Director for the Department of Community and Economic Development, Governor's Center for Local Government Services, and he works tirelessly for Campmeeting.

Katcha Neale—I volunteer on the Trees and Policy & Procedure Committees and I believe transparency and accountability are crucial to Campmeeting’s success. In addition to our cottage, my husband and I steward 39-acres of woods, wetlands, and pastures. My greatest joy was homeschooling our two sons. Preserving the environment is my passion.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

If you have any questions about the nominations and voting process, please feel free to speak to a member of the Nominating Committee:

- Esther Mefferd, Chair
- Pam Bishop
- Barbara Myers
- Tammy Travitz

For any questions/concerns, please contact: MGCA office at office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org or 717-964-3040.



Tree Health & Management in the Campmeeting

Submitted by Pat Wilmsen, Tree Health & Maintenance, Committee Chair

As many of you know, Pennsylvania is home to Penn’s Woods. It is easy to take our trees for granted, and at first glance there may seem to be many. However, we must recognize that there is

a relationship among our trees, and that they feed from one another. In turn, we must nurture the trees and be good stewards of our tree canopy. It is important to have a broad number of tree species—this includes native plants of varying height. Smaller tree saplings have a better chance at growth and survival, so we must be patient and watch them grow!

Trees certainly define the Campmeeting. Without them, our community would change drastically. Urban tree management started as early as the late 1800s, in America. Unfortunately, tree care and management has started to decline at a rapid pace. The volunteer members of the Tree Health & Maintenance Committee understand the importance of tree management, and the asset that the tree canopy brings to this community.

Our goal is to develop a comprehensive, long-term program that will address the following:

- Advise MGCA Members on tree-related issues
- Continue to maintain MGCA's Tree Inventory Development & Management Plan
- Develop a Tree Planting Program that accounts for tree species that minimize conflict with utilities, sidewalks, signs and more
- Review tree removal requests and coordinate tree removal, as needed
- Seek funds through grants and donations for tree planting and maintenance
- Develop policies that focus on protecting trees, fostering tree health, and proper/necessary tree removal
- Educate, inform, and involve the community in tree care
- Communicate with the Board of Managers, MGCA Members—West Cornwall Township, utility companies, and contractors

Who would benefit from this program, you might ask? Every Member, guest, and visitor in

the Campmeeting will benefit, but most important, future generations. Our children and grandchildren will inherit a beautiful tree canopy and a healthy community that promotes the symbiotic relationship among trees—while maintaining property value.

We are committed to planting trees. Please understand that when a tree is removed, another tree will be planted. Stumps will only be removed when necessary for future planting. If a new tree can be planted near a stump, as that stump decays it will feed the new-growth sapling. Tree planting will be focused during early spring and fall. If you find a sunny spot for a tree, let us know!

How can you help? Join the tree committee. Volunteer to help plant trees. Maintain the trees we have—do not drive over the roots, do not mulch too close to the trunks, stop ivy from growing up and choking trees, and report tree issues immediately to prevent further damage.

Consider making a designated donation to MGCA for “tree health & maintenance.” You can do this in honor of someone, or in memory of someone. The committee intends to post contributions to the MGCA website, as well as future newsletters.

While on your porch, enjoy the solitude and beauty of our trees that surround us.

I want to thank the members of the committee for their efforts—Ann Bering, Joe Bering, Deb Griffith, Kathy McKenna, and Katcha Neale—your dedication to our trees is noteworthy.



Mt. Gretna Community Library

The Library is committed to safely supporting the community. The book/magazine rack is stocked and on the porch. Take items from the rack and enjoy them without returning them. Keep an eye out for the children's "grab-and-go" summer reading box. In the coming weeks, look to borrow from a limited book list. Titles will begin with the Chautauqua book review titles. Mt. Gretna Library is consulting with other libraries to model practices, and to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

The committee will meet on July 9, 2020 to discuss the remainder of the summer season. Information will be posted on the Library's bulletin board that you can view from their porch. For up-to-date information on future events, like us on Facebook: Mount Gretna Community Library.

Let's Talk Trash

In 2019, the MGCA Board of Managers (BoM) voted to continue with curbside pick-up of trash and recyclables (every other week) for Members. At the same time, the BoM voted to move forward with a centralized collection site (dumpster) for Members who are unable to comply with the Trash Rule.

CURBSIDE PICK-UP – TRASH & RECYCLABLES

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 (Rule No. 4 – The "Trash Rule.").

When possible, recycling should be your first choice for waste disposal. However, just because an item has a recycling symbol on it does not mean it is recyclable. Materials currently acceptable for curbside recycling must be clean and limited to:

- Clear, green, and brown glass bottles/jars
- Steel and aluminum food and beverage cans
- Plastic bottles and jugs only (no food containers, packaging, etc.)
- Corrugated cardboard only (must be flattened)
- Newspaper

ENFORCEMENT

Members (including their guests and tenants) who place trash at the curbside ahead of the time, fail to return trash receptacles as noted in the Trash Rule, or place oversized items not pre-arranged by the trash vendor are subject to fines by the MGCA.

DUMPSTERS

When a dumpster meant for disposal of construction waste, rocks, or other bulky items needs to be emptied, it gets lifted onto a special truck and transported to a waste disposal facility where it is then emptied. In contrast, the Campmeeting dumpsters are emptied on site, directly into the hopper of a garbage truck. These trucks have a mechanism that compresses the waste to reduce its volume. Items other than regular household trash can damage that mechanism. Unapproved materials from a Campmeeting dumpster have already caused damage (\$5,000+) to one of our waste hauler's trucks. The MGCA did not have to pay for that damage in this instance, but that may not be the case if it happens again in the future.

Dumpsters are for disposal of regular, Campmeeting-household waste only. Waste should be bagged (maximum 35-gallon bags), and

all waste must be placed inside of the dumpsters. Recycling of cardboard is encouraged, though disposal is permitted in the dumpsters if boxes are broken down and flattened. Items prohibited for disposal in dumpsters include, but are not limited to, construction/demolition waste, yard/garden waste, medical waste, carpet, flooring, furniture, appliances, electronics, batteries, oils, antifreeze, paints, solvents, propane tanks, and any flammable or hazardous materials.

DUMPSTER ENFORCEMENT

Any Member or their guest(s) who is unable to comply with the “Trash Rule” is encouraged to use the dumpsters. The dumpsters provided by MGCA are for use by Members, guests, and tenants for disposal of regular household waste. Rules governing dumpster usage are posted on signs located at the dumpster site. If everyone abides by the posted rules, the dumpster area will remain clean and safe, and dumpster capacity will be sufficient for the intended purpose.

The following actions are considered infractions of the Trash Rule:

- Unauthorized persons using the dumpsters. This is considered “theft of services” and may be prosecuted and subject to fines.
- Items left in the vicinity of the dumpsters. This is considered “illegal littering on private property” and may be prosecuted and subject to fines.
- Members, guests, and tenants disposing of materials not allowed under MGCA Rules & Regulations.

Individuals violating MGCA Rules regarding items acceptable for disposal are subject to fines by the MGCA.

A surveillance video system records all activity in and around the dumpster site. The MGCA is coordinating with the Cornwall Borough Police to identify and when possible, prosecute violators.

DUMPSTER LOCATION

The MGCA dumpsters are located near the north end of First Street. If entering from Route 117, the dumpsters are on the left side of the street, situated between the garages. Side-loading dumpsters were placed in June.

LARGE/OVERSIZED ITEMS (MGCA VENDOR)

Members who wish to have large items picked-up must make these arrangements directly with the trash hauler and must pay for the additional fee(s) directly with the trash hauler. Contact, TNT Sanitation at 717-866-2322, or www.tntsanitation.com.

ADDITIONAL WASTE DISPOSAL OPTIONS

The Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA) north of Annville offers extensive (and free) drop-off recycling and free disposal of many electronics items, including televisions. For a nominal fee, Lebanon County property owners can also dispose of large items, construction/demolition waste, etc. at the GLRA location. For more information on these options, visit the GLRA website at <https://www.goglra.org/> or call 717-272-9841.

For a small fee, Lebanon County property owners can arrange for annual pickup of certain household hazardous waste (e.g., paints, stains, solvents, batteries) that are otherwise difficult to dispose of safely and legally. For details call 717-449-7857 or search for “Household Hazardous Waste” on the GLRA website.

QUESTIONS?

MGCA seeks to provide Members and their guests with a variety of convenient options for waste disposal and recycling. If you have any questions about curbside trash pick-up, recycling or dumpster-usage, please contact office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org or call 717-964-3040.

Cancellations

See You Next Season!

- Bible Festival, all performances are cancelled
- Heritage Festival – music under the trees, all performances are cancelled
- Mt. Gretna Summer concert series, all performances are cancelled.

Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society – Community Events



Watch the MGAHS website for upcoming events. Consider becoming a member or volunteer. Also, looking for a unique Mt. Gretna gift? Feel free to browse the online store at www.mtgretnahistory.org/shop.



From the Tool Shed

Doug Cheyney, Cheyney Property Maintenance

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and previous travel restrictions, a decision was made to extend Green Waste pick-up throughout the summer season.

Please remember to make separate piles for:

- Leaves, pinecones, and pine needles (Green Waste)
- Sticks and branches

West Cornwall Township removes Green Waste from our dumpsite. They have instructed our team that no sticks may be in the Green Waste piles for their composting operations, so please help us to be compliant. Also, for residents on Batdorf Avenue, please make separate piles for grass clippings.

For the consideration of our staff—please do not put dog waste in these piles as our work is mostly done by hand. As far as clean-up operations, we also ask Members to place piles on streets in-view, so removal is easy and efficient.



Consider calling us for your personal landscaping needs!



From The Office

Welcome new Members!

Ian & Kendra Davis – 51 First Street
Miles Bojanic – 405 Seventh Street
Brenda Martin – 205 Fourth Street
Angela Hollinger – 305 Sixth Street
Ken Storck – 301 Bell Avenue

Annual Assessment

In light of the global pandemic and restrictions placed on Campmeeting Members' ability to work and be compensated, please know that we are willing to work with anyone who finds him/herself in a situation where they are unable to pay their assessment on time. We will take each situation individually and ask that you contact the office at your earliest convenience.

Office Hours, MGCA President

Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, office hours are on-hold. If you have questions, please contact office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org and your questions, comments and/or concerns will be forwarded to Kevin Burd.

Volunteers Needed

Community members are invited to volunteer on committees of the MGCA Board of Managers. Choose your area of expertise. Meet your neighbors and make new friendships while making the Campmeeting a desirable place to live. A full committee roster is located within this newsletter. Contact the office (717-964-3040) for more information—or to volunteer.

Board of Managers Meetings

The MGCA Board of Managers meets monthly via ZOOM™ on the third Tuesday of the month. The recorded session is posted to the MGCA website within 24-hours. The video is located within the “Board of Managers” ribbon, by clicking on the “Board Meeting Minutes” drop-down menu. Members are encouraged to view these meetings and to submit questions/comments to office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org within 10-days of the video’s posting. All questions/comments are addressed at the next board meeting and included with the official meeting record. Meeting minutes are the official record for the MGCA archives; the ZOOM™ video is deleted once the minutes are approved by the board.

Be Respectful of Quiet Hours

- Traditional quiet hours are from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday and all day on Sunday year-round—please no leaf blowers on Sundays!
- Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and restrictions on contractors, the Board of Managers will not enforce quiet hours between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

during the Quiet Season, July 15 through August 31.

Rules & Regulations

In an ongoing effort to enforce Campmeeting Rules, in the second quarter of 2020 (April-June):
One warning was issued for Noise (Rule No.17) to 410 Sixth Street.
No fines were issued.

Dumpsters

In an ongoing effort to enforce legal disposal of refuse, in the second quarter of 2020 (April-June):
One warning was issued for dumpster usage to 404 Seventh Street.
One fine was issued for dumpster usage to 103 First Street.
One referral was made to Cornwall Borough Police Department.

Campmeeting Rental Opportunities

Heritage Park pavilion is available for rental on a first-come, first-served basis. The pavilion is available from April through October. The rental fee is \$25 along with a \$25 security deposit. Be advised, rental is for the pavilion-only. The surrounding park area, playground and rest rooms remain available to the public. Additional rental opportunities that exist for Members include: Tabernacle rental, garage/shed rental (First Street), parking space rental (Boehm Avenue), large parking space rental (First Street, behind garages) and raised planting bed rental (Bell Avenue). Contact office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org for additional details, or to request a rental application.

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

(Names in italics are MGCA Members who do not serve on the Board of Managers)

MGCA Board of Managers

Kevin Burd, President
(2020)
Barb Myers, Vice-President
(2021)
Sally Marisic, Treasurer
(2021)
Pat Wilmsen, Secretary
(2022)
Pam Bishop (2020)
Don Dale (2022)
Joe Lamont (2021)
Ted Martin (2020)
Tammy Travitz (2022)
Justin Williams (2021)
Esther Mefferd (Tabernacle
Representative)

Executive

Kevin Burd—Chair
Sally Marisic
Barb Myers
Pat Wilmsen

Buildings & Grounds

Don Dale—Chair
Dean Kantmann
Joe Lamont
Doug Lorenzen
Barb Myers
Bob Travitz
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Doug Cheyney, cheyney
Property Maintenance

Communications

Kevin Burd—Chair
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Sally Marisic
Christine Slotznick

Community Activities

Tammy Travitz—Chair
Esther Mefferd
Jennifer Kantmann
Justin Williams
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio

Finance/Audit

Sally Marisic—Chair
Kevin Burd
Ted Martin
Barb Myers
Pat Wilmsen

Nominations/Election

Esther Mefferd—Chair
Pam Bishop
Barb Myers
Tammy Travitz

Property Ownership

Pam Bishop—Chair
Susan Hoyt
Barb Myers
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Recreation
Justin Williams - Chair
Tammy Travitz
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio

Ad Hoc Archives

Don Miller - Chair
Jeffrey Hazel
Carole Miller
Barb Myers
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Executive Committee

Ad Hoc Grants & Funding Sources

Sally Marisic - Chair
Ted Martin
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Finance Committee
Ad Hoc Library
Michelle Shay - Co Chair
Joan Sherman—Co-Chair
Margaret Hopkins
Marcie Lloyd
Sally Marisic
Kevin Burd, Ex-officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Community Activities
Committee

Ad Hoc Policy

Hal Myers - Chair
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Jennifer Kantmann
Sally Marisic
Ted Martin
Katcha Neale
Pat Wilmsen
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Executive Committee

Ad Hoc Tree Health & Maintenance

Pat Wilmsen - Chair
Ann Bering
*Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff &
Representative to B&G*
Deb Griffith
Kathleen McKenna
Katcha Neale
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the B&G
Committee

Board of Trustees, Mt. Gretna Tabernacle

Association
Ted Martin—President
Esther Mefferd—Vice-
President
Tom Heberling—Secretary
David Pierce—Treasurer
Kevin Burd
Don Dale
Bruce Gettle
Bob Kettering
Sally Marisic
Barb Myers
Pat Wilmsen