

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Winter Edition, Feb 2021



Letter From the President of the Board of Managers

Kevin Burd, President, MGCA Board of Managers

The New Year is often associated with new possibilities and new resolutions for positive change—a time to move forward. Yet, in many ways 2021 is a do-over. Many of us hope to hit replay on a summer of missed programming. And I hope we can do just that.

Beyond programming, porch parties and fellowship—we cannot forget the operations of our community. It is my duty to remind you. Board members continue to make difficult and necessary decisions about the future of Campmeeting. Now more than ever, the future includes the infrastructure of the community. With proper planning and decision-making, we hope to develop a plan that addresses and builds a future for our children, their children—and many more generations yet to come.

Drinking water, storm water runoff, and our aging tree canopy are issues we are tackling. But those are not our only priorities. It is true that we cannot move forward without truly understanding our past—and our issues are not new. The Archives Committee is spending many hours reviewing the history of projects in the community as a means of understanding our infrastructure and guiding us to make decisions that will carry Campmeeting into the future.

Our Members are strong, involved, and informed. We appreciate your volunteer efforts on the Board, on committees, pop-up work groups, and more. Just being a good neighbor is what makes our community unique. Look out for one another—and lift each other up!

You have an opportunity to be informed, and to have your voice heard. Please read our ongoing communications—email messages and quarterly newsletters. Take note of public, town-hall style sessions. If you cannot join us, they will be posted to the website. Our hope is to educate all of you and provide every opportunity for you to weigh-in if you would like. If not, that is okay too—just know that our priority is to work for you. If you choose not to be involved, we understand that you have elected us to do the work and we are willing to act on your behalf, with your cottage in mind.

Now is as good a time as any to keep the momentum going—it is a time to remember the community that we all love. It is more than homes—or cottages—it is what brings us together as a Campmeeting. I serve on the Board for you. I am here to listen to you. I hope the coming months will bring back those face-to-face interactions that we all value. Please, know how important it is to me when I say to you, see you on the porch!

Winter Storms & Plowing Efforts



MGCA residents are asked to relocate their cars from the church parking lot the evening prior to anticipated snowstorms. This (Boehm Avenue) lot is small and cramped; however, by moving your cars, the plows can quickly—and more efficiently—clear the lot. Members and guests are reminded to park along route 117 and in the Carter Street lot, as well as the

Kauffman Avenue lot (south of the Mt. Gretna Fire Company). All efforts to keep the streets clear of vehicles throughout Campmeeting helps the grounds crews to safely remove the snow. To date, Members have done an excellent job—and we appreciate your efforts—thank you!

Executive Committee Update

Submitted by Kevin Burd, Committee Chair

The following information is provided as an update:

A public session is scheduled to review the Campmeeting's options for water distribution on Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 10 a.m. until noon. The office emailed the ZOOM™ registration link to the Member email addresses on file. If you have not received the link, contact office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org. The public session will be recorded and posted to the website if you are interested, but unable to attend.

Similarly, a public session was recorded in January 2021. It is also posted to the website, and Member comments will be compiled and posted prior to the February session.

The Board of Managers will also have a private, working session to review all comments so that an informed vote can take place at the February Board of Managers meeting. Thank you for your questions, comments, and opinions related to the options before us. Our vote will represent your voices. We want our votes to be educated, well-informed, and most important, representative of your opinions.

The following article is re-printed from the Fall edition:

Earlier this year the Board determined that water was the number one priority to tackle this year. There have been challenges, barriers—a global pandemic—and a learning curve for this Board. We have risen to the occasion and continue to collect the facts to bring to the community in order to make an informed decision on how to best move forward and provide safe drinking water for generations to come. This article is intended to bring you the facts. In the future, communications regarding water may extend beyond this quarterly publication.

CAMPMEETING WATER SYSTEM OVERVIEW

For many years, the Campmeeting has operated its own water system. The system consists of two parts:

Water production: Water is drawn from an MGCA-owned well, treated to ensure its purity and safety, and pumped into a large, elevated storage tank.

Water distribution: Treated water is gravity-fed from the storage tank and distributed to the community through a network of underground pipes.

The MGCA is currently responsible for all aspects of the water system, including well operation, water treatment, daily testing, maintenance of the supply and distribution system, recordkeeping, and compliance with all Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations. All costs are paid from the MGCA General Assessment that you pay annually.

THE GOOD NEWS . . . AND THE BAD NEWS

The good news is that the quality of our water is excellent. The bad news is that some components of our water production system are in poor condition and are needing costly repair or replacement. The Board of Managers has been consulting with an engineering firm to determine the best way to ensure that our community has a safe, reliable, and economical supply of water going forward.

CONTINUE PRODUCING OUR OWN WATER

One option is to make the repairs/improvements necessary to continue producing our own water. On the positive side, our well produces a large volume of high-quality water. We also have a second well which, while not in use, may have the potential to be reactivated. Producing our own water would let us avoid dependency on an outside provider and should ensure that we have a reliable supply of high-quality water at a reasonably predictable cost for many years.

The downside is that there would be large upfront costs to repair our system and keep it viable. The biggest expense would be for the water storage tank which was installed in 1947 and is in dire need of refurbishment or replacement. Refurbishment to extend the tank's life would cost \$145,000 or more but would only be guaranteed for one year and was deemed by the engineering firm as "not a good candidate for asset management." A replacement tank would cost considerably more, but with proper maintenance could last indefinitely.

WATER FROM AN OUTSIDE PROVIDER

Another option may be to obtain our water from The Mt. Gretna Authority (MGA). The MGA was established in 1974 to operate and maintain the Mt. Gretna Borough's water and sewer systems.

The MGA can already supply water to the Campmeeting in unusual situations through a temporary connection, but it may be possible to establish a connection to have the MGA supply our water on a permanent basis. The cost of water supplied by the MGA would depend on the terms of a negotiated agreement between the MGCA and MGA.

We have broached the subject of having exploratory discussions with the MGA. There would be many factors to consider in negotiating an agreement:

Installing a permanent connection to the MGA system might cost \$60,000 or more. Who would bear that expense?

Would the MGA assume responsibility for operating the MGCA wells and water production and treatment?

If the MGA gained access to water from the MGCA well, how would we be credited for the value of that water?

What would the initial cost of water be, and could we negotiate provisions to limit price increases?

The Campmeeting currently maintains the pipes and valves that make up our water distribution system. The system is already in need of updating and as the system ages, we can expect it to require more maintenance. In negotiating an agreement for MGA to supply our water, we could seek to include provisions for the MGA to assume responsibility for maintaining our water distribution system as well.

SUMMARY

Our highest priority is to ensure that the Campmeeting water supply is safe and reliable. We also want it to be economical, and we must consider both up-front and long-term costs. The Board is currently working to determine costs associated with each of the options under consideration. The future of our water supply is an issue the Board of Managers has been discussing for several years but it is one that must be decided soon. Look for more information in future communications as we continue to address this issue.

COVID-19 Update

Partnering with our Mt. Gretna neighbors—and beyond; for the health of it!

Our friends in Chautauqua are now publishing and posting a newsletter titled, Chautauqua Cares. Feel free to access this monthly publication. The newsletter features information regarding COVID-19, and other related community safety information. The newsletter is published through the efforts of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Board of Managers Community Health and Safety committee.

Click or copy the following link:

https://www.pachautauqua.info/editor_upload/File/Chautauqua%20Cares/February%202021%20Newsletter.pdf

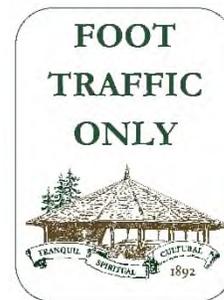
Please continue to follow the PA Department of Health's website for additional information related to Coronavirus, vaccine/testing-related information, contact tracing, traveler information, and so much more. Now more than ever—stay healthy and stay safe!

Click or copy the following link:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

New "Foot Traffic-Only" Community Signage

Reprinted from a community-wide email notification dated January 28, 2021.



As you know, many Campmeeting streets aren't meant to be regularly used by vehicular traffic. These streets were designated "non-driving" many years ago for a variety of reasons and are depicted in pink as "No Public Thoroughfare" on the Campmeeting street map (available on the MGCA website). And while they add to the unique charm of our community, they can be quite confusing to uninitiated drivers, sometimes resulting in tire ruts in gardens and damage to trees and property.

In 2016, the Building & Grounds Committee and Board of Managers developed a plan to permanently install signs at certain intersections to prevent vehicles from accessing these streets, but the project was never completed.

Last fall, the current Building & Grounds Committee revisited this issue. They realized that while it is desirable to keep most traffic (like hopelessly confused delivery drivers!) off our “non-driving” streets, they didn’t want to restrict Members who use these streets to access their cottages to drop off groceries, bulky items, etc.

With that in mind, the Board developed a plan to place additional movable “Foot Traffic Only” signs at certain intersections. This would keep drivers unfamiliar with Campmeeting from inadvertently entering non-driving streets but would allow Members to move the signs as necessary to access their cottages.

The Board had planned to install these additional signs this Spring and send out a Member communication beforehand so everyone would understand the intent. Unfortunately, signals got crossed and signs were placed in January without the planned communication. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

So, here’s how the “Foot Traffic Only” sign system is intended to work:

- Signs were placed at certain intersections to prevent unfamiliar drivers from inadvertently entering “non-driving” streets.
- Signs are equipped with handles so Members/guests/tenants can easily move them aside to pass.
- Signs should be moved only temporarily and repositioned back to their proper location as soon as practicable.

If driving on a “No Public Thoroughfare” street, please proceed slowly and watch for pedestrians—they may not be expecting to encounter a vehicle! And remember, the signs won’t work if drivers can’t see them. So, if you move a sign, please return it to its proper location as quickly as possible!

On a related note, most smartphone and vehicle GPS navigation systems don’t depict the “No Public Thoroughfare” streets as non-drivable. For the past year, we have been trying to get Google to make the

necessary changes. No luck so far, but we’ll keep trying!

Buildings & Grounds Committee Update

Submitted by Bob Travitz

A bit of Italy in Campmeeting . . .my grandfather always said, “I was born in the stinking toe of the boot” and because of that Tammy and I have travelled extensively throughout Italy. When you think of Italy the first things that come to mind is the food, oh the food, so fresh and so flavorful.

Olives, tomatoes, pesto, toilets, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar waft in our thoughts. Wait, “toilets?” How did that get in there? Well, if you have traveled in Italy outside the cities or most anywhere else in Europe you almost always see a placard posted above the toilets reading, “Please place all non-human waste in basket.” You see, a lot of Italy’s sewer system is ancient and has not been upgraded to meet the modern demand of increased indoor plumbing. Can you see where this is going? (no pun intended).

Yep, Campmeeting is a lot like Italy. We have great food, although I don’t see Pennsylvania Dutch cooking and Lancaster County becoming a “Blue Zone” anytime soon. However, we both have ancient sewer systems. Well, it is probably not as old as Italy’s but non-the-less it was originally installed when there were a lot less demands on our sewer system. Our sewer system was installed in 1906 and upgraded throughout the decades. Most of the upgrades had to do with replacing main lines. Some members installed new laterals (from cottage to the main), and main sewer clean-outs (the manholes you see around Campmeeting). Other than that, our system consists of a mish-mash of old 4” terracotta pipes, and 8”, 6”, iron or schedule 35 PVC piping. This piping snakes its way down our streets (maybe even underneath your cottage) until it gets to the connection at the library where it makes its way under 117 and then to the borough authority. At the Borough Authority it is processed back into clean water. As a note, most small community sewer lines are 8” PVC. Our First street sewer line is actually smaller than 4” because we had to have it lined 2 years ago thus reducing its inside diameter.

Lately we have had a number of clogging issues here in Campmeeting both in cottage laterals and main

lines with some of the culprits being non-human waste. Non-human waste—toilet wipes, baby wipes, paper towels, and feminine hygiene products—get caught in the hairlike roots that penetrate our joint connections. If it says dissolvable, it is still not okay as these products take days to dissolve.

Remember, if the sewage line from your toilet(s) to the main (the lateral) gets clogged it is your responsibility. So please, do not dispose of anything in your toilets and into our sewer system other than human waste and toilet paper (please avoid the thick, multi-ply toilet tissue, when possible). Following these guidelines will keep our sewer system flowing smoothly to its intended destination at the Mt. Gretna Authority.

Ad Hoc Tree Health & Maintenance Committee Update

Submitted by Pat Wilmsen, Committee Chair

FALL TREE & SHRUB PLANTING

This past Fall season, several committee volunteers spent an afternoon planting trees, planting cuttings from trees, and scattering seeds gathered from native tree species. The committee diligently worked to create community awareness of the importance of our trees.

Trees planted by our committee include: two Scarlet Oak trees; four Sourwood trees; three Sweet Gum trees; one Sycamore tree; one Willow Oak tree; three American Beech trees; one Arrowwood tree; four Flame Leaf Sumac trees; seven Ironwood trees; four Red Cedar trees; four Red Bud trees; two River Birch trees; and seven (donated) Paw Paw trees. In addition, over 50 Paw Paw seeds were scattered in the Campmeeting, and ten cuttings from American Holly trees were planted. Signage was installed to designate the locations of the new trees.

Several of these trees were planted in the Community Garden in the hope of turning it into a woodland garden filled with native species. In time, as the trees mature, the area will develop to provide an optimal space for woodland plants to thrive.



Photo 1 Ann Bering & Kathy McKenna



Photo 2 Garey Wilmsen



Photo 3 Kathy McKenna



Photo 4 Ann Bering



Photo 5 Joe Bering



Photo 6 Chet Johns



Photo 7 Emily Johns

REMOVE SPOTTED LANTERN FLY EGGS

The spotted lantern fly is an invasive pest that state officials worry could damage the state's important grape and wine industries. While most adult spotted lantern flies have frozen to death, their eggs can survive over winter and are viable from October

through July. That is why it is important to eliminate as many egg masses as possible. A single egg mass can hold 30-50 eggs.

Go to the PennState Extension website for further details and to view an informative video to learn first-hand how to scrape and destroy egg masses <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-remove-spotted-lanternfly-eggs>. Please be safe when scraping and do not climb ladders for hard-to-reach egg masses.

Nominating Committee Update

Submitted by Esther Mefferd, Committee Chair

Are you interested in serving on the Board of Managers? If so, information related to the Summer election will be featured in the next newsletter. The next Board term begins January 1, 2022 and runs through December 31, 2024. We are always looking for Members to serve the community.

Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society



Go to the Historical Society's website for details on upcoming events. Consider becoming a member or a volunteer. Also, looking for a unique Mt. Gretna gift? Feel free to browse the online store at www.mtgretnahistory.org/shop.

Mount Gretna United Methodist Church

Online Zoom church services, Prayer Zoom, and other meetings continue virtually. Contact the church for further information at mgumc@verizon.net or 717-964-3241. Follow their Facebook page [Mount Gretna United Methodist Church] for up-to-date information.

The Mount Gretna Roller Rink

The Roller Rink opens on February 4th and the new season of live organ music on Saturday nights continues. Come on out for a night of fun rolling with the crowd, or just listening to the organ music on the Hammond B3. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Follow Facebook or www.mtgretnarollerrink.com for additional days/hours of operation, special events, and any safety precautions related to COVID-19.

Support Mt. Gretna Businesses

The following local businesses remain open and continue to follow state/federal guidelines regarding safety:

- **Gretna Timbers** www.gretnatimbers.com. Follow Facebook [The Gretna Timbers] to support upcoming events. A Valentine's Day menu will be offered for take-out on Sunday, February 14th from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Call 717-964-3601 for menu details; take-out is by pre-order only.
- **La Cigale** www.lacigale-usa.com. Shop online, or in the local gallery. Several local artists are featured—contact 717-964-3313 for more information.
- **Mt. Gretna Hide-A-Way** www.mtgretnahideaway.com. Limited in-house dining is available as well as outdoor, heated igloos. Contact 717-657-7987 for reservations. Orders can be placed online for take-out through the website. Follow Facebook [Mt Gretna Hideaway] for up-to-date events, information, and their partner restaurants.
- **Mt. Gretna Pizzeria**. Open Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Call for details 717-964-1853.
- **Porch & Pantry** www.porchandpantry.com. Open for indoor dining Tuesday through Sunday 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served. Sorry, no reservations. Follow on Facebook [Porch & Pantry] for up-to-date information or go to their website to order from the online store.

From the Tool Shed

submitted by Doug Cheyney



On behalf of the Cheyney Property Maintenance team—we would like to thank the Members of Campmeeting for their ongoing compliance in separating sticks from green waste, as well as their timely removal of

Christmas trees for our disposal.

For many, this is a quiet time in Mt. Gretna. For us, it is a time to prepare for the coming season.

As a reminder, if you are a seasonal cottage owner, please shut off your water and winterize or insulate your pipes from freezing. The temperature has remained below freezing. So, consider calling local companies who are familiar with winterizing Campmeeting cottages. One of several local plumbing companies who frequents Campmeeting is L&T Plumbing (717-273-7088).

In this new year, we wish you good health. Thank you for allowing us to serve this community.



Consider calling us for your personal landscaping needs!

Mt. Gretna Fire Department – Station 38

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Follow their Facebook page [Mt Gretna Fire Company] for up-to-date events information.
- Looking to volunteer? Contact 717-964-3511.

REFLECTIVE HOUSE NUMBERS

Reflective house number signs are still available for purchase from the fire company. Ensure that emergency personnel can find you quickly. If interested, contact the fire company for further details.



From the Office

Welcome new Members!

Evin Fitzpatrick – 601 Second Street
Stacey & Leslie Kato – 105 Fifth Street
Robert Kripaitis & Stephanie Capkovic – 207 Weaver Avenue
Chip O’Neal – 201 Glossbrenner

Office Hours, MGCA President

Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, office hours are on-hold. If you have questions, please contact Kevin Burd, MGCA Board of Managers, President at president@mtgretnacampmeeting.org. He will address your questions, comments and/or concerns.

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. Members will receive an email invitation (sent to the primary email address on file at the MGCA office) to join these ZOOM™ meetings. Additional individuals interested in attending should request the meeting link from the office in advance of the meeting dates. 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!

Rules & Regulations

In an ongoing effort to enforce Campmeeting Rules, in the fourth quarter of 2020 (October-December):

- No warnings were issued for Noise (Rule No.17); no fines were issued.
- No warnings were issued for Trash (Rule No. 4); no fines were issued.
- No warnings were issued for Parking (Rule No. 8); no fines were issued.

Dumpsters

In an ongoing effort to enforce legal disposal of refuse, in the fourth quarter of 2020 (October-December):

- One fine was issued for improper dumpster usage (207 8th St).
- 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 \$50 along with a \$25 refundable 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 have changed your phone number, mailing address, email address or any other contact information, please notify the Campmeeting office. Email communication is preferred.