

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Property Ownership Committee Update Submitted by Committee Chair, Kevin Burd

Please join me in welcoming new Members to the Campmeeting. Please introduce yourselves and share what you love about our community.

- Marion and Herbert Cole, the new owners of 401 Bell Avenue.

Regarding short-term rental permits, of the 72 short-term rental permits available, as outlined in Rule 20 and the associated policy, 43 permits are currently granted in the community. Short-term rental permit holders are reminded that West Cornwall Township (WCT) has created zoning ordinances regarding short-term rental units. It is your responsibility to comply with WCT permit requirements.

As Members of the community – new and old – please contact us at homerentals@mtgretnacampmeeting.org if you have any questions.

Help us help YOU.

Snow Plan and Christmas Tree “Retirement”

MGCA and the Mt. Gretna Borough provide snow removal services on Campmeeting streets and some walking paths. To see the snow removal map, click on this link:

<https://www.mtgretnacampmeeting.com/Files/pdfs/MGCASnowRemovalMap2023.12.pdf>.

The map is also available on the MGCA website (under “Local Services>Snow Removal>Snow Removal Map”).

Please do not remove the “snow stakes” which have been placed along several streets in the Campmeeting. These guide the snow plow operators so they can keep the equipment on the street.

In the event of snow, please ensure your vehicle is not blocking any of the streets that will be plowed. Members will be notified via email if cars need to be removed from the Church Parking Lot to allow for plowing.

During the month of January 2024, and after the ornaments, tinsel and lights have been removed, previously “live” Christmas trees may be placed on MGCA driving streets for pickup by our Superintendent. Pickups will end on



Submitted by Mary Dougherty

January 31, so please have your tree outside by then if you would like MGCA to dispose of it for you. Information on a possible community “Christmas Tree Bonfire” will be sent to Members in the February Newsletter or via a Camp Connect email.

Just A Reminder–Member Use of MGCA Property

Assumptions about property boundaries and ownership in the Campmeeting are often incorrect, and have sometimes been knowingly or unknowingly misrepresented when properties changed hands. As a result, some Members have come to use property owned by the MGCA (MGCA Property) for parking or other purposes.

The MGCA does not at this time wish to correct all such existing, informal Member use of



Submitted by Mary Dougherty



Submitted by Andy Berfond

So close—we can even see it!!!

At a time when all you hear about is manufacturing and construction delays, it's hard to believe that the manufacture and assembly of the new Rescue Engine for the Mt. Gretna Community Volunteer Fire Company is ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, the fund-raising campaign for the new 2024 E-One Rescue Engine hasn't kept up! The Fire Company still needs your support to raise the last \$200,000 of their \$700,000 capital campaign goal.

Your contribution will help the Fire Company replace two pieces of equipment, a 31-year-old engine and a 22-year-old rescue truck. The new Rescue Engine will be a vital resource for the Fire Company that has provided 24/7 fire protection and medical emergency services to Campmeeting since 1978. With our wooded lots and aging cottages, fire protection is essential in Campmeeting, and your donation will ensure that our volunteer firefighters have the equipment they need to protect you, your cottage, and our community.

MGCA Property. However, we would like to make clear that the MGCA's decision not to challenge a Member's use of MGCA Property at this time does not confer upon any Member the right to claim ownership of that Property, regardless of any improvements, and that the MGCA retains the right to require a Member to discontinue use of the Property at any time. Questions regarding property boundaries may be resolved through a survey by a PA-licensed professional land surveyor.

MGCA Property is a valuable asset that belongs to our community as a whole, and the MGCA wants to make sure that we preserve our right to use it to benefit all Members.



Submitted by Andy Berfond

Please contribute to the campaign. If you've done so already, think about a new gift in the new year. Just scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone, or send your check directly to MGCVFC, PO Box 177, Mount Gretna, PA 17064.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Since seeing is believing, here is our engine at the manufacturing plant:



501-C-3 Non Profit



PLEASE, DON'T BE A DRIP

The Campmeeting is seeing an increase of 10,000 gallons of water used DAILY compared the months prior to Thanksgiving! So please do your part to conserve water . . .

At this time of year, that almost certainly means that some Members are letting their faucets drip or run to prevent their pipes from freezing. We recognize that cottage owners want to prevent damage, but this practice wastes treated water and costs all Members money, and the MGCA does not condone it.

An additional problem is that dripping or running water can freeze in the drain line causing a backup and overflow inside your cottage. This has happened in the past and creates quite a mess. So please, don't be a drip! Take the steps necessary to protect your water lines against low temperatures. Properly drain and winterize your cottage for the cold winter months.

PROPER WINTERIZATION

If you winterize your cottage, consider hiring a professional company to handle the project. A recent Facebook post asked for recommendations. They are listed below:

- JSL Mechanical, 717.336.2255, <https://jslmechanicalinc.com> 2760 North Reading Road, Reinholds, PA 17569
- L & T Plumbing & Heating, 717.273.7088 210 Burd Coleman Road, Cornwall, PA 17016

NOTE: The MGCA does not endorse either of the companies and does not benefit from their use. The question was recently posed on social media, and these were the two vendors that were recommended.

Together, as a community, we can all do our best to conserve water. When a similar notice was sent to Members last year, water usage reduced by nearly 2,000 gallons per day. Every bit helps!

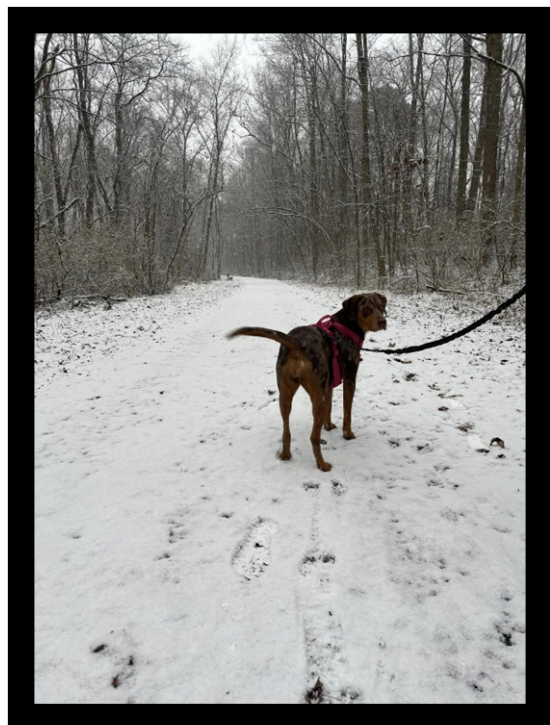


Submitted by Andy Berfond

CONSERVATION

National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) suggests:

1. If you have a dishwasher, put down the sponge. It may feel more virtuous to wash by hand, but it's more wasteful: You use up to 27 gallons of water per load by hand versus as little as 3 gallons with an ENERGY STAR-rated dishwasher. And just scrape off the food scraps instead of rinsing each dish before you load it.
2. Let the professionals wash your car. Once again, your DIY instinct is admirable . . . but profligate. Letting the local car wash do the dirty work could save up to 100 gallons.
3. Shower with a bucket. Granted, it's a little weird. But while you're in there, you could capture a gallon or more that could be put to good use watering your plants.
4. Test your toilet. Undetected internal leaks from tank to bowl could waste up to 100 gallons a day. Drop a dye tablet or food coloring in the tank yearly to see if the color of the water in the bowl changes color. If it does, your toilet needs a replacement rubber flapper or fill mechanism.
5. Conduct regular leak hunts. A 1/16-inch opening in your faucet could waste 100 gallons a day. Tour your cottage monthly, inside, and out, in search of dripping faucets, showerheads, hoses, and sprinklers. Most faucet drips can be fixed simply by replacing a



Submitted by Mary Dougherty

worn out washer. For other tips and fixes, see the EPA's WaterSense site. Excessive leaks could be costly to both you and your neighbors.

6. Invest in that new high-efficiency appliance or fixture. Your utility company might offer rebates or other incentives when you buy new water-saving showerheads, faucets, clothes washers, or toilets. And even if it doesn't, you'll still wind-up saving tons of money in the long run. Look for the EPA's WaterSense label or ENERGY STAR certification.

Together, as a community, we can all do our best to conserve water.

Thank you.

Mailing of Newsletters

As a reminder to Members, in December we announced that due to an increase in demand for printed copies of MGCA's monthly Newsletter, a subscription fee would be instituted to cover the costs.

Effective January 1, 2024:

Members who wish to receive a printed copy of our newsletter will be required to subscribe at an annual rate of \$36. This fee will allow us to continue mailing color copies. Current as well as previous Members may subscribe to the printed newsletter.

With your subscription, you can look forward to receiving the full, unabbreviated newsletter. We understand the importance of not compromising on content, and this change will ensure you receive the same newsletter as those that read it digitally.

Anyone who subscribes by the 20th of any month will begin to receive the printed newsletter the following month.

Month-to-month subscriptions are not available. Subscriptions that begin after January will have a prorated fee for the calendar year. Contact the MGCA Office for details.

Non-Members, or previous Members of MGCA can subscribe to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter.

For those who prefer the digital version, rest assured that the digital newsletter remains accessible to all members at no additional cost.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this transition, please do not hesitate to contact the MGCA Office. This step is necessary to accommodate the increased demand. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and support.



Submitted by Karin Guerrini

Upcoming Holiday Impacting TNT Trash Pick-Up

In observance of New Year's Day, trash collection will not take place on Monday, January 1, 2024. Trash will be picked up on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Members are reminded if they ever have questions about trash collection or recycling dates, the Campmeeting Event Calendar (MGCA News & Events) on the MGCA website contains the up-to-date schedule.



On the Horizon – What's Happening in Our Community

For a complete listing of events in the Mt. Gretna community, see the calendar on the Home/Events tab of <https://mtgretna.com/>.

EVENT LISTING

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16 – MGCA Board Meeting (A)

January 20 – Pasta Dinner (B)

January 20 – 50th Art Show Gala and Art Auction (C)

February 19 – Presidents Day

February 20 – MGCA Board Meeting (A)

March 19 – MGCA Board Meeting (A)

KEY/LOCATOR

A – 6:30 p.m., virtually via Zoom

B – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Mt. Gretna Fire Company

C – 5 p.m. – 9 p.m., The Timbers, Information at
<https://events.readysetauction.com/mountgretnaartscouncil/50thgala>

And the final photographs for our January photo album...



Submitted by Andy Berfond



Submitted by Karin Guerrini



Curling up in his recliner, Winston's eyelids fluttered in a futile attempt to stay awake, dreaming of the promise of Santa's visit soon lulled him into the sweetest slumber.

Submitted by Kevin C. Wells

Are You Connected to News & Info in Campmeeting?



MT. GRETTA
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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