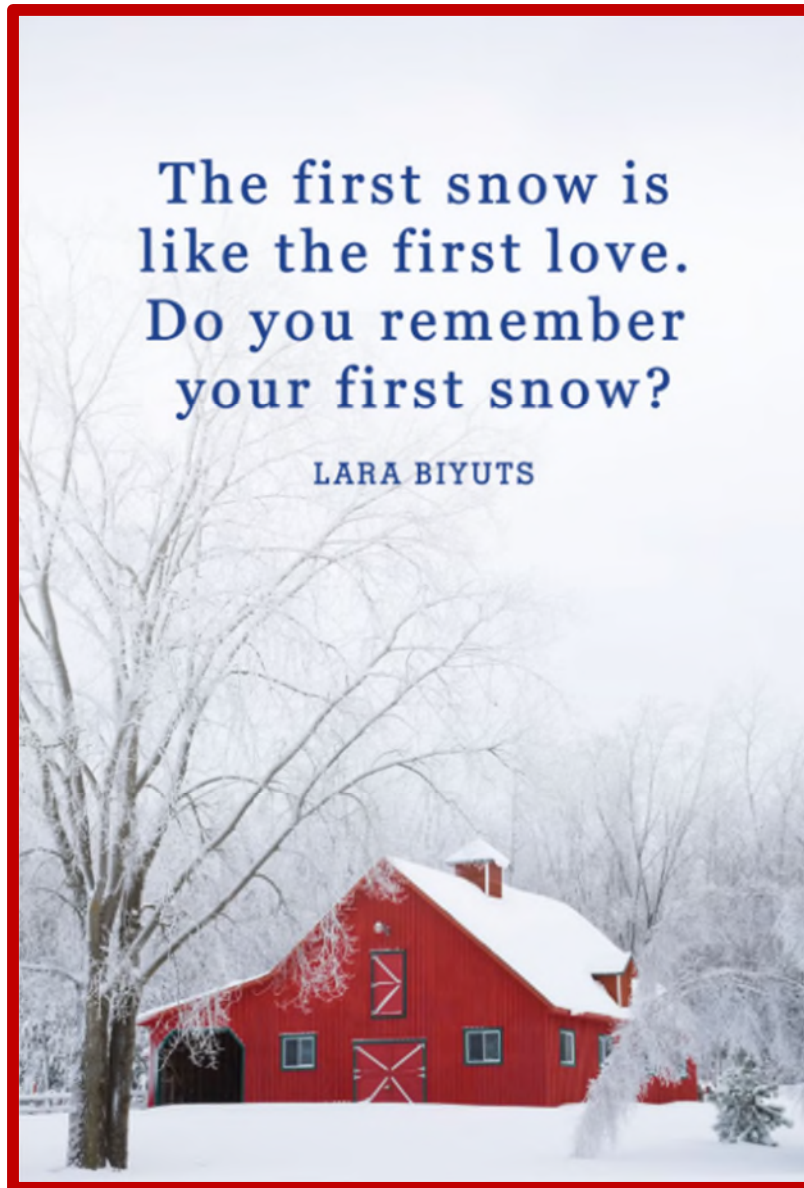


# Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



The first snow is  
like the first love.  
Do you remember  
your first snow?

LARA BIYUTS

## **2025 Board Officers**

At the January 21, 2025, Board of Managers Meeting the following individuals were reelected as MGCA Board Officers for 2025:

Pat Wilmsen, President

Miles Bojanic, Vice President

Kevin Burd, Treasurer

Marcie Lloyd, Secretary

Joe Lamont, Officer-at-Large

Thanks to these individuals for volunteering again to serve the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association.

## Saturday, Feb. 8: Book Sale

An eclectic collection of mysteries, novels and non-fiction – hard cover and paperback – will be on sale on Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Narthex of the Mount Gretna United Methodist Church. The books will be sold by donation starting at 9 a.m. with proceeds to benefit the Mount Gretna Community Library.

Be sure to stop also at the church's Soup-to-Go Sale also at 9 a.m. Soup and books – a delicious combination!

## 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 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.

## Lebanon County Community Water Day – Saturday, March 29 From PennState Extension - Master Watershed Steward Program

Learn about water resources, stream health, water quality, and more at Community Water Day, Lebanon County, on Saturday, March 29, sponsored by the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna. The event on March 29, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be in the Mt. Gretna Fire Hall.



*Submitted by Yasmin Brown*



*Submitted by Charity Lorenzen*

Watershed stewards and representatives from county, state, and federal conservation organizations will be on hand with activities for all ages. Discover Lebanon County streams and watersheds. Challenge your knowledge of Pennsylvania river basins.

A special workshop on the benefits and the use of rain barrels is planned and will include a demonstration and installation instructions. Barrels can be purchased in advance for pick up at the event.

Other activities for kids of all ages include painting a rain barrel, a demonstration of Penn State's Rain to Drain: Slow the Flow curriculum for elementary-aged students, exploration of how wet our planet is, and construction of water filters and model aquifers.

Watershed stewards, U.S. Geological Survey scientists, and Penn State Extension representatives will explain and show some of the routine tests and equipment they use to determine the water quality of streams. Updates on efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay will be provided.

Interested in aquatic insects, a key indicator of stream health? Learn about the life cycles of macroinvertebrates, see specimens, and identify insects collected in leaf packs. Try your hand at making one as well.

Members of local watershed and conservation groups will have information about what they do, what public events are scheduled, and how to become involved in protecting our water resources.



*Submitted by Yasmin Brown*

For a schedule of demonstrations and additional information on activities and educational games, go to <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/news>.

Food will be available for purchase.

Participating organizations include the U.S. Geological Survey, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Lebanon County Conservation District, Doc Fritchey chapter of Trout Unlimited, Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Swatara Watershed Association, Tri-County Conewago Creek Association, and Penn State Extension.

Questions or want more info? Contact Margaret Hopkins, watershed steward and Campmeeting resident, at [mah242@psu.edu](mailto:mah242@psu.edu) or 814-777-7463.

## **New Year's Eve – MGCA Style!**



*Submitted by Pat Wilmsen*



*Submitted by Pat Brosious*



*Submitted by Pat Brosious*

## **Enhancing Emergency Communication**

***By Miles Bojanic & Nate Godfrey***

The MGCA has begun utilizing the text messaging capabilities of Brevio (the system we use for sending emails to Members) to send critical alerts and emergency notifications. This enhancement promotes timely and effective communication during urgent situations.

Currently, only Members who have opted in for text messaging on their Property Update Form will receive these notifications. If you have not been receiving text messages but would like to opt in, please contact the office to request an update to your preferences.



***Save the date – February 28!***

## **Mardi Gras Stroll with the Mount Gretna Second Line Marching Band**

Celebrate Mardi Gras! Join us for a short musical stroll on Friday, February 28, step-off at 4:45 p.m. (This is the Friday before Mardi Gras.) We'll start at the Mt. Gretna Heights Community Building and end at the Hideaway. We will arrive in time for happy hour!

Bring your kazoo (or sing-along voice) and march with our kazoo brigade, the Krewe d'Kazoo. All are welcome. No experience necessary. We'll have some free kazoos, if you don't have one handy.

This event is open to the entire Mt. Gretna community. Kazoos and musical accompaniment provided by the Mount Gretna Community Music Collective (CMC) and the Mount Gretna Second Line Marching Band. Thanks to Michelle Shay and the Mt. Gretna Heights for assisting! To join the Band or get on the mailing list for CMC events go to [MountGretnaMarchingBand.com](http://MountGretnaMarchingBand.com).

## **History of the Mount Gretna Roller Rink: From livestock to dancing to skates**

***By Margaret Hopkins – Published in [LebTown](#)***

In 1890, the first Farmers' Encampment was held in Mount Gretna, marking a partnership between the Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad's officers and members of the Grange and National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union.

Robert H. Coleman, who owned the railroad and who had by that time developed a picnic grove and lake in Mount Gretna, built "a

mammoth exhibition hall with a railroad siding for folks to bring their animals and wares to the show," according to a history of the encampment published by the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society.



*Photo Courtesy of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society*

That first year, 25,000 people came to look at livestock and farm machinery, the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* reported.

The oldest building in Mount Gretna, that “mammoth exhibition hall” hosted the encampment — the precursor of the Pennsylvania Farm Show — every August through 1916 when it moved to Harrisburg.

Today, that hall is home to the Mount Gretna Roller Rink.

For the first several years, the building was a roller rink, dance hall, and auditorium for the showing of “moving pictures.”

By the mid-1920s, the building still had a dance floor, but roller skating had taken center stage. In May 1926, an ad for the grand opening of Mount Gretna Park featured roller skating in what was now called the Coliseum Building with “300 pairs of chic roller skates, a Gents smoking room, a vast spectators’ room and Wurlitzer organ.”



*Mount Gretna Tigers Hockey Team - Photo Courtesy of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society*



*LebTown file photo by Will Trostel*

In the 1930s, the Lebanon Rangers roller hockey team was based in the rink. When they left, the Mount Gretna Tigers came in, playing there until 1940.

Today, Eunice and Brian Heist own and operate the roller rink, although the building is owned by Eastern Enterprises. To the best of the Heists’ knowledge, the rink has operated continuously for skating except for three months during COVID.

“The minute it opened up, we were swamped with people,” Brian Heist said.



*Submitted by Yasmin Brown*

# **Mt. Gretna Community Volunteer Fire Department Annual Events**

At the start of 2025, the Mt. Gretna Fire Department mailed a notice to Mt. Gretna post office box holders announcing their annual calendar of events. We know not every MGCA Member has a post office box, so we've provided the listing below to be sure all Members have access to the complete schedule of events.

Mark your calendars now and support the people who are there for us around the clock, 365 days a year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## **Upcoming events at the Mt. Gretna Fire Company**

- January 18 - **Pasta Dinner** - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- February 1 - **Ground Hog Breakfast** - 8 am - 10 am, Grady @ 10.15
- February 23 - **Bingo**. Doors open at 11 am - Games start at 1 pm, 20 Games
- March 30 - **Bingo**. Doors open at 11 am - Games start at 1 pm, 20 Games
- April 27 - **Bingo**. Doors open at 11 am - Games start at 1 pm, 20 Games
- May 24 - **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** -7:30 am -10:30 am
- June 8 - **Bingo**. Doors open at 11 am - Games start at 1 pm, 20 Games
- July 19 - **Community Picnic** at the Fire Hall 11 am - 2 pm
- September 8 - **Wing Night @ Hideaway** 5 pm - 9 pm, Free Dozen Wings with Donation
- September 13 - **Car Show @ Soldiers Field** 10 am - 2 pm, Registration 8 am - 11 am
- October 9 - **Fire Prevention with Lawn Fire Co.**
- October 11 - **Pig Roast** 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm \$25 All you can eat food, drinks
- October 24 - **Halloween Parade** forms at the Jigger Shop 6:30 pm
- November 2 - **Fall Buffet Breakfast** from 8:00 am - 11:00 am
- November 8 - **Soup Cook Off** from 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- December 13 - **Cookies with SANTA and Santa Shop** 10 am - 11:30 am



Please check our website: [www.mtgretnafire.com](http://www.mtgretnafire.com) or our facebook page for more information

***They're always there for us – be there for them!***

## Save the date!

Mark your calendars for February 15 and join the Friends of Governor Dick for this winter potluck.

*Wake up from Winter's Slumber!*  
at the  
**Friends of Governor Dick  
Winter Potluck!**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>**

3pm until 6pm

Mount Gretna Fire Hall

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share

Beer by donation

Live music

Water/Lemonade/Iced Tea provided

Come hear what we've  
been doing and what's up  
for 2025!



Mount Gretna Community Music Collective  
**House Concert**





KEVIN NEIDIG & HENRY KORETZKY      OPENING, BOB BRYAN

*Bringing neighbors together with the magic of live music.*

Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones on Sunday afternoon, February 9, as the Mount Gretna Community Music Collective hosts a house concert open to the entire Gretna community. Enjoy an afternoon of music with Kevin Neidig & Henry Koretzky. These talented musicians bring together bluegrass, folk, gypsy jazz, swing, and other genres, creating a diverse and engaging

performance. With their skilled playing and love for a wide range of styles, this house concert promises to be a warm, intimate afternoon of excellent music. Both musicians are award-winning artists with a passion for storytelling through music, making this an experience you will not want to miss. Opening the concert is Bob Bryan, performing acoustic Americana and roots music to set the perfect tone for the afternoon.

The performance will begin at 2 p.m. on February 9 at “Larry’s Place”, 110 Brown Avenue in Chautauqua. Admission is by donation. For more information visit our Community Calendar at <https://www.mtgretna.org/>.

## February Trash & Recycling Pick-Up

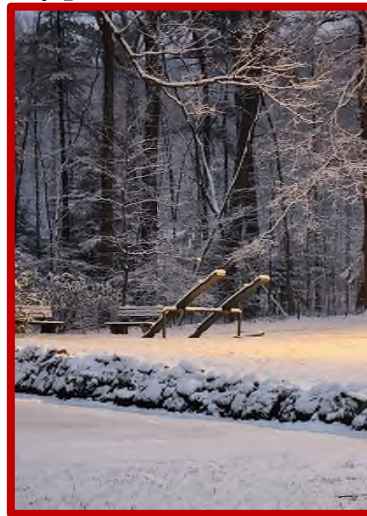
Regular trash and recycling collection will occur throughout the month of February.

Although February 17 is a Federal holiday (it’s Presidents’ Day) it is not a holiday for our trash collection service, TNT Sanitation.

*And the final photographs for our February photo album...*



*Submitted by Kevin C. Wells*



*Submitted by Michelle Shay*

## Are You Connected to News & Info in Campmeeting?



**MT. GRETTA**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

On Facebook



**YouTube**

Mount Gretna Campmeeting –  
Click on Subscribe

**Community Calendar**

<https://www.mtgretna.org/home>



Send your email address updates to:  
Office@MtGretnaCampmeeting.org



Please visit and bookmark:  
mtgretnacampmeeting.com





Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association  
P.O. Box 428  
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064-0428  
717-964-3040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Mt. Gretna Campmeeting**  
LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES