

# 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.

Richelle and Andrew Arnold, the new owners of 305 Sixth Street.

Regarding short-term rental permits, of the 72 short-term rental permits available, as outlined in Rule 20 and the associated policy, 33 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](mailto:homerentals@mtgretnacampmeeting.org) if you have any questions.

Help us, help YOU.

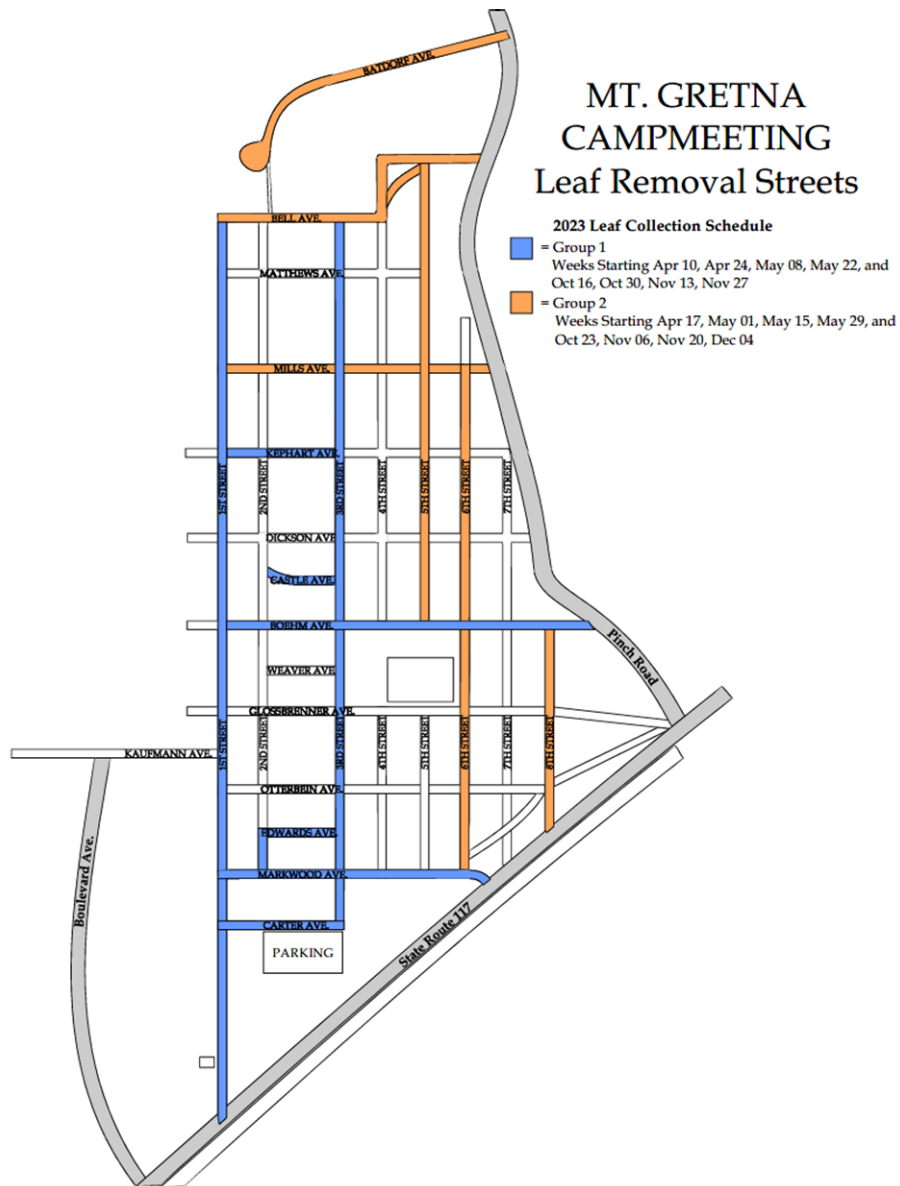
# Leaf Collection—Going, Going, Gone

MGCA provides scheduled leaf collection on driving streets (see the accompanying map) for leaves that can't be left on the ground. Final MGCA leaf collection for Group 1 streets will be during the week starting November 27 and the final leaf collection for Group 2 streets will be during the week starting December 4. Do not place leaves on the street for collection after these dates, as they will not be collected until the spring.

Leaf piles must contain leaves, pine needles and pine cones only, no sticks or other debris. Sticks may be placed in a separate pile for collection.

As a reminder, Members are encouraged to leave leaves on the ground around the trees as much as possible. These leaves degrade to soil over time, providing much needed nutrients for the trees and groundcover to replace eroded soil.

Members are always welcome and encouraged to take their leaves to the storage location behind the garages on the east side of 1st Street.



## Annual Buzzard Drop Will Return!

This New Year's Eve marks the 11th anniversary of the annual Buzzard Drop! MGCA thanks Campmeeting residents Tom & Kay Heberling for carrying on this tradition. The buzzard will drop from above the Tabernacle stage at midnight on December 31, 2023.

Beginning in the late afternoon, the buzzard will spend New Year's Eve above the stage at the Tabernacle. Tom sets up the buzzard early so that those that cannot attend the late celebration can see the buzzard and take selfies with him.

If you find yourself awake on New Year's Eve around 11:30 p.m.-11:45 p.m., please come over to the Tabernacle. Bring your noisemakers, dress warmly and be ready to mingle with your neighbors! Some antique noisemakers will be available for use at midnight when the buzzard drops. The noisemaker/rattles are used year after year, so if you use one at this year's event, please be sure to return it prior to departing from the festivities.



*Submitted by Janelle Kuligowski*

## Beware of Internet Scams

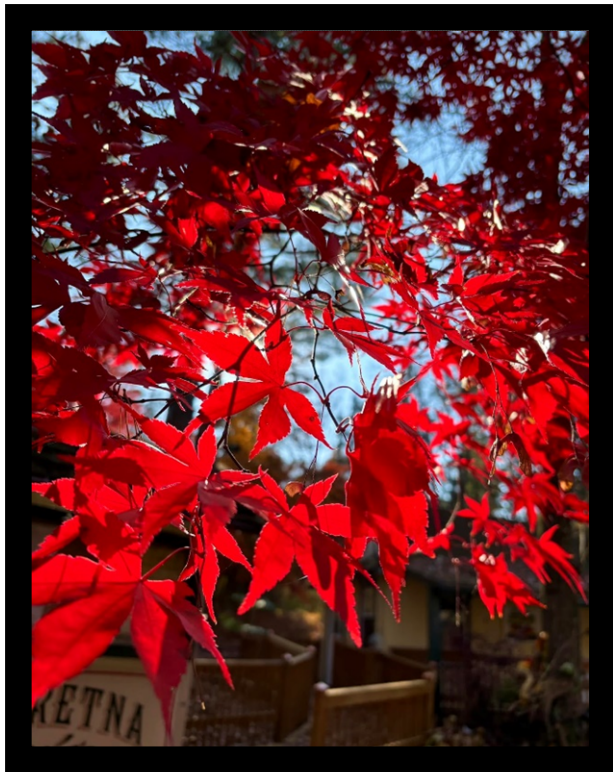
Recently an MGCA Member alerted the Board to a scam that may affect you too. Please be aware.

What is known is that the Member's Amazon account was compromised. Then, the predator stole the Member's account information on Amazon, purchased items, and shipped them to cottages that were closed for the season—intending to intercept the deliveries. However, these individuals were not anticipating our community spirit. When other MGCA Members noticed the packages, they looked and realized the addressee was not at that address and they delivered them to the “intended” recipient's name. However, the Member never made these purchases!

Now, the Member has numerous boxes of purchased items from Amazon and is working with Amazon and local authorities to “right” this wrong situation.

The morale here—be aware of your online account information and monitor your credit card statements. And never underestimate the power of our community to look out for one another.

Someone once said Mt. Gretna is not a place, but a spirit. Thank you for looking out for one another.



*Submitted by Mary Dougherty*

## In the Spirit of the Season

*The MGCA Office recently received this heartfelt thanks from one of our Members. We wanted to share it with the entire community:*

A Special Thank You to all who so generously gave toys for “Toys for Tots”. My daughter, Lindsay O’Connor, has been holding this toy drive each year in memory of her sister, Stacey Pennington, who was tragically killed in Mt. Gretna. Toys for Tots was Stacey’s favorite charity.

I tried to thank everyone but some toys were just left on my porch without a name. This picture is a good portion of the toys Lindsay and I collected. I had 126 toys that I drove to Maryland. The children of Queen Anne’s County will again have a memorable Xmas due to the generosity of my Mt. Gretna neighbors and friends. THANK YOU.

Stephanie Seldomridge

Conner & Cole Pennington



## Upcoming Holidays Impacting TNT Trash Pick-Up



*Submitted by Karin Guerrini*

In observance of Christmas and New Year’s Day, trash collection will ***not*** take place on Monday, December 25, 2023 or Monday, January 1, 2024. **Trash and recycling will be picked up on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, and 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.

## 2024 Assessments

The 2024 Assessment will be mailed to the Membership in the coming weeks. There is no increase from the previous year—the Annual Assessment and Water Tank Loan payment is \$3,231.

New this year, we are offering three payment methods:

As in previous years, mailing a check to the MGCA Office.

NEW – Paying by ACH on the MGCA website. A \$3 convenience fee is applied.

NEW – Paying by credit card on the MGCA website. A \$99 fee is applied to full payment. Members who choose the three-payment plan would apply \$33 to each of the three payments.

Members are reminded that they can take advantage of the early payment discount by paying their Assessment prior to March 31, 2024. If not paid early, Members must pay the full Assessment by June 30, 2024. Similarly, Members can take advantage of the three-payment plan that is offered—*making three payments*—on February 29, April 30, and June 30.

Likewise, Members who are experiencing financial hardship can reach out to the MGCA office to discuss alternative payment plans. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed. This decision will be made by the Finance Committee and the Member's identity will remain confidential. We encourage you to contact the office in a timely manner if you have any questions.



*Submitted by Joyce Ruhl*

## Mailing of Newsletters

As we approach 2024, we have some important updates regarding the distribution of our monthly newsletter. In the past, we've taken pride in sending out printed copies of our newsletter free of charge (without photos). However, due to an increase in demand, we find it necessary to implement a subscription fee 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.
- **To ensure you receive the January 2024 printed newsletter, payments must be made to the MGCA Office by December 20, 2023.** This will enable us to deliver your first printed copy in a timely manner.
- Anyone who subscribes by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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

December 1 – Last Day of Group 1 Leaf Collection by MGCA

December 2 – Tree Lighting & Christmas Caroling (A)

December 8 – Last Day of Group 2 Leaf Collection by MGCA

December 9 – Cookies and Shop with Santa (B)

December 19 – MGCA Board Meeting (C)

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 31 – 11th Annual Buzzard Drop (D)

January 1 – New Year’s Day

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16 – MGCA Board Meeting (C)

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

February 19 – Presidents Day

February 20 – MGCA Board Meeting (C)



*Submitted by Joyce Ruhl*

### KEY/LOCATOR

A – 6:30 p.m., at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

B – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at the Mt. Gretna Fire Company

C – 6:30 p.m., on Zoom

D – 11:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m., The Tabernacle

E – 5 p.m. – 9 p.m., The Timbers, Information at

<https://events.readysetauction.com/mountgretnaartscouncil/50thgala>

Please Join us for our Community

# Tree Lighting & Christmas Caroling

The tree lighting will take place in the parking lot in front of the  
Mount Gretna United Methodist Church at 6:30pm.

Following the tree lighting, everyone is invited into the sanctuary to sing carols.  
You are invited to bring a refreshment to share after caroling.



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023, 6:30PM**

**Hosted by the Mount Gretna United Methodist Church.**

**All are welcome.**

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




*Submitted by Jen Snyder*





*Submitted by Kevin C. Wells*

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

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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

 **YouTube** Mount Gretna Campmeeting – Click on  
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