

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Property Ownership Committee Update

Submitted by Committee Chair, Kevin Burd

There were no new Members to our community, though we know there are currently two cottages listed for sale in the community.

Regarding short-term rental permits, of the 72 short-term rental permits available, as outlined in Rule 20 and the associated policy, 44 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**.

Annual Meeting Update

A quorum of Members attended the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Mt. Gretna Community Association, held on November 19, 2024. The Members present approved, by acclamation, the reelection of four current MGCA Board Members who had agreed to run for reelection. Elected to three-year terms, running from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027, were Miles Bojanic, Joe Lamont, Marcielayne Lloyd, and Jeff Minnich.

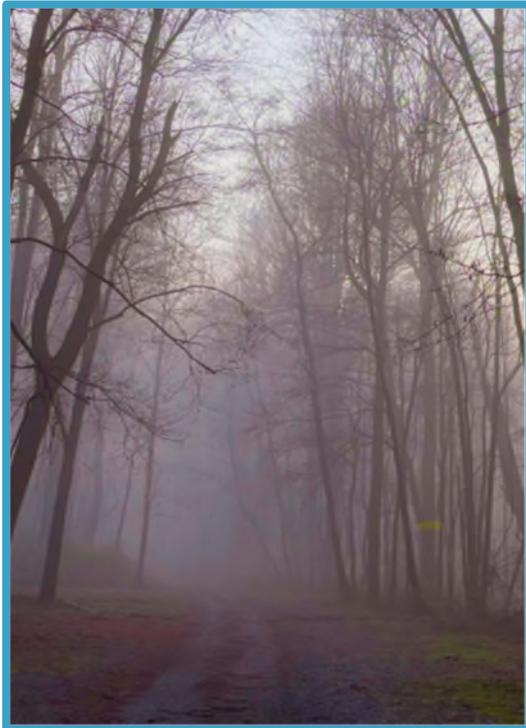
At the November MGCA Board of Managers meeting, the Board announced that there would not be a December meeting. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on January 21, 2025.

STOP THE FLOW

From Nate Godfrey, MGCA Superintendent

Since the end of November, the Campmeeting has seen an increase of 10,000 gallons water used DAILY compared to the previous month! So please do your part to conserve water . . .

At this time of year, water usage increase almost certainly means that some Members are letting their faucets drip or run to prevent their pipes from freezing. The exact same thing happened last year, almost to the day! To give some perspective, at the height of the summer season, we normally use around 20,000 gallons of water per day, while during the “off season”, water usage is usually around 10,000 gallons per day. Historically, around Thanksgiving, that low number increases to summer levels of water consumption (practically overnight) and remains at that level until Spring, when water usage goes back to normal “off season” levels.



Submitted by Mary Dougherty



Submitted by Ryan Fretz

We recognize that cottage owners want to prevent damage, but this practice wastes treated water and costs all Members money (not only in the treatment costs but also to pay to have those 10,000 gallons go to the sewage treatment plant). MGCA strongly condemns the environmentally-irresponsible practice of letting faucets drip or running water during the winter months to keep pipes from freezing! It is the responsibility of each Member to either ensure that their cottage is able to maintain above freezing temperatures, or that the water is turned off for the winter season. It is not the responsibility of the community to pay for “dripping” treated water and pay for that same water to go directly to waste just because a few residents are using that method to “winterize”.

Finally, if that is not sufficient reason to conserve water, we are also experiencing low levels of rainfall and are currently practicing water conservation due to a declining water table.

Whispers of Winter

By Kevin C. Wells

'Twas the start of a year in the town we hold dear,
When snowflakes fell softly, announcing it here.
The lake lay in slumber, the cottages bright,
Each porch warmly glowing, a beacon of light.

The hearths roared with fire, the pine scents did swell,
And stories of old Mt. Gretna were retell'd well.
With children tucked snugly and cocoa in hand,
Dreams of the New Year spread over the land.

But outside the quiet, a plan came to bloom,
A grand Bonfire Night to light up the gloom.
A blaze set to crackle, to spark and to glow,
'Neath star-speckled skies and soft-falling snow.

After the Buzzard Drop, hearts were alight,
A joyful beginning to this winter night.
The air filled with cider and chili's rich steam,
And neighbors with laughter, as warm as a dream.

Some shops now slumber, their doors tucked away,
Resting through winter for a bright springtime day.
Their shelves will soon sparkle, their treasures revealed,
With stories of artists' care freshly sealed.

The library sleeps now, its shelves standing still,
Dreaming of readers it will soon thrill.
Come spring, it will awaken, its doors open wide,
To welcome the curious and those who confide.

Couples walked hand-in-hand, under trees laced with frost,
Finding peace in the stillness, no moment was lost.

Though summer lay sleeping, its promise did grow,
With theater and art shows, and evenings aglow.
The crocus beneath the snow waited to bloom,
Heralding joys that would dispel the gloom.

Yet winter held treasures, a season to savor,
Warm mugs and book clubs, each moment a favor.
Neighbors with loaves and kind wishes to share,
A bond ever-strong in the crisp winter air.

As fires danced brightly on cottage stone walls,
Gratitude echoed through Mt. Gretna's halls.
For here, in this haven, where dreams come alive,
A spirit of warmth and goodwill will thrive.

So onward to 2025 we go,
With hearts full of hope and cheeks all aglow.
The year stretches wide, a canvas to fill,
With Mt. Gretna's heart, its wonder, and thrill.



Submitted by Ryan Fretz

Lead Pipe Survey Update

This past summer all cottage owners were asked to send the MGCA Office information regarding their water service line connection and provide whatever information or pictures they had that would verify the composition of their water pipes. Many of you emailed that information to the office and we are very grateful for your efforts.

All the collected information was submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP is the PA agency responsible for carrying out the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mandate to determine whether or not a water system's piping has lead in it.

The DEP evaluated all the information submitted and each cottage owner was sent one of four letters.

1. No-Lead Service Line – the cottage has been determined to have no lead in the water piping;
2. Lead Service Line – the cottage has lead somewhere in the piping;
3. Galvanized Line – the cottage has galvanized piping which should be replaced; or,
4. Lead Status Unknown – the cottage water service line may have lead in it.

The DEP provided a “No-Lead Service Line” letter if the following documentation was submitted:

1. The cottage owner provided hard evidence that the piping installed from the water main at the street to where the pipe comes into their cottage was made from lead-free material (such as a material's list from installation); or,
2. The cottage owner dug up and exposed the entire length of the service line and documented the pipe composition.

No MGCA Member provided sufficient documentation to satisfy the DEP criteria for a “No-Lead Service Line” letter. No Members submitted documentation that resulted in issuance of a “Lead-Service Line” letter or a “Galvanized Line” letter. Therefore, all cottage owners received a “Lead Status Unknown” letter. At this time, no further action is required by Members.

We will continue to collect information supplied to us from Members to update the data submitted to the DEP.



Submitted by Ryan Fretz

We also strongly encourage Members who have done lead tests on their water to submit those results to the office so that those results can be added to our database.

Finally, if you do any work to your water service line, please submit copies of all pipe composition documentation to the office.

We apologize for the confusing process this has been for many of our Members – we are very much learning as we go and trying to react to the changing DEP requirements. We will keep all of you informed as we receive additional information.

● Join Us for ●

BONFIRE

Winter Night

- It's time for the annual bonfire and Christmas tree burning to celebrate the end of the holiday season!
- This is a Campmeeting event, but the greater Gretna community is welcome. Any attendees are also welcome to bring their Christmas tree for burning.
- The Fire Company will attend and offer fire safety and protection.
- We will provide some hot dog sticks, but we encourage everyone to bring their own.
- What to bring? Drinks, Chairs, Flashlight, Roastables.
- The ground can be muddy in this area, please wear appropriate footwear.
- Donations for the Fire Company are welcome and appreciated but not required.



FRIDAY, 31 JANUARY 2025. 5-7 PM

Behind the garages on 1st Street at the Campmeeting
Maintenance Area. Park in the Carter Parking Lot.



Join the Conversation

The MGCA invites Members who are interested in serving on a committee to contact us. Committee members play a vital role in shaping the direction and success of the Campmeeting community. Through collaborative efforts, the committees address key issues, plan events, manage resources, and help preserve the unique character and values of Campmeeting.

Your voice and expertise can make a meaningful difference. If you would like to contribute to the continued growth and stewardship of the Campmeeting, please reach out to the MGCA Office to learn more about opportunities and how you can get involved.

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>



Submitted by Mary Dougherty

lights have been removed, previously “live” Christmas trees may be placed on MGCA driving streets for pickup by our Superintendent. Pickups will end on January 31, so please have your tree outside by then if you would like MGCA to dispose of it for you.

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 2025, and after the ornaments, tinsel and



Figure Leesbann Musick

January Trash & Recycling Pick-Up

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

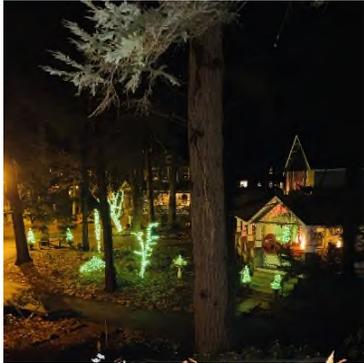


Happening in our Community

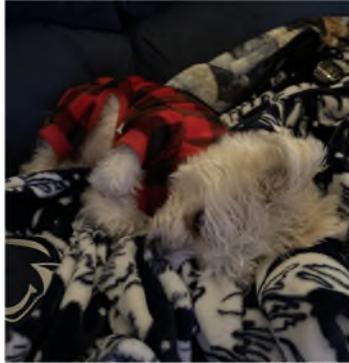
Members are reminded that a new comprehensive community calendar has been created by the Mt. Gretna Arts Council. The calendar can be accessed at <https://www.mtgretna.org/home>.

Members can choose to “subscribe” to the Community Calendar and events will be copied to their personal computer, iPhone, Google, Outlook or other electronic calendar. Subscribers can also choose to have the events updated on their personal calendars as changes and additions are made to the Community Calendar.

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



Submitted by Pat Brosious



Submitted by Kevin C Wells



Submitted by Mary Dougherty



Submitted by Mary Dougherty



Submitted by Mount Gretna Nursery School

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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