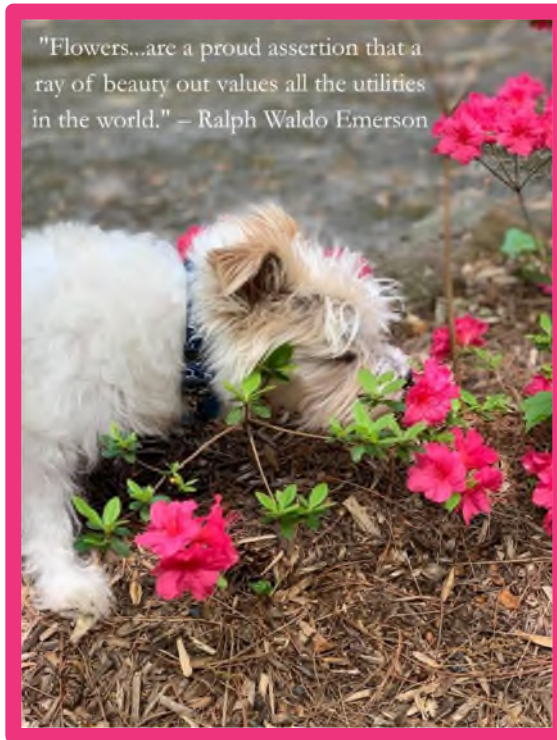


Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Property Ownership Committee Update

Submitted by Committee Chair, Kevin Burd

New Campmeeting Members

Please join us in welcoming new Members to the Campmeeting. Please introduce yourselves and share what you love about our community with the new owners of the following cottages:

- 114 Otterbein Avenue
- 105 Fifth Street
- 309 Seventh Street
- 710 Fifth Street

Short-Term Rental Permits

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.

Cottage Resale Certificate

A Resale Certificate is required for all cottage sales/transfers which settle March 15th and thereafter. This ensures that the Bylaws and Rules & Regulations are given to the buyer, and that the buyer agrees that they are reviewed. This removes the risk from the Campmeeting and its volunteers. New Member Orientation meetings will be encouraged but no longer required.

This means that the Resale Certificate and its associated \$200 fee are required for all cottage sales, this includes private sales/transfers, auctions, and those cottages listed for sale with realtors. The seller pays the fee; the fee is applied to the administrative costs associated with cottage sales.

Please contact us at homerentals@mtgretnacampmeeting.org if you have any questions.

Save the Date!

May 3, 2025

Earth Day Community Garden Clean-Up in Campmeeting 9 a.m. to Noon

Join your neighbors for a morning of camaraderie and fun by participating in the 55th annual Earth Day. We're gathering shortly after the official Earth Day on April 22, since it falls on a weekday and we are hoping for slightly warmer weather in May.

We need your help to revitalize the Community Garden after the winter season. Bring your energy, shovels, rakes and garden gloves – meet at the Garden at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025.



EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Recycling–Major (Exciting) Update!

We recently learned that TNT (our waste management vendor) has begun transporting its recycling to Cougle's Recycling in Hamburg, PA.

The great news is that Cougle's accepts far more items (*even junk mail!*) for recycling than the previous vendor TNT used. Here is what we've learned so far:

1. All your recycling items may be commingled in your recycling container. There is no need to separate cardboard anymore.
2. Cougle's accepts plastic types #1, #2, #4, and even Polypropylene (#5).
3. Labels do NOT need to be removed from cans or bottles, but the film wrappers found on some containers and spray cleaner bottles should be removed.
4. ALL paper items may be recycled, including junk mail and magazines. There is no need to remove plastic windows from envelopes. However, shredded paper (which sticks to the sides of recycling containers, making them difficult to clean) and paper towels or napkins with food debris cannot be recycled.
5. ALL cardboard, including printed (e.g. soda cartons) and wax-coated (e.g. rinsed milk cartons) may be recycled.

Of course, there are items they don't accept—including batteries, clothing, plastic garbage bags, hoses, electronics, various household metal items (such as pots and pans), and large plastic items (such as toys and large storage bins). See the list of “non-recyclable” items below.

In addition, any container with food residue will be rejected—please ensure that food containers are washed or well rinsed. Boxes that have food particles in them (e.g. pizza boxes) are not recyclable. **An item with food residue can render the entire recycling bin unsuitable.**

The graphics on the following page explain what we can and can't place in our recycling cans.

Cougle's has made some educational videos – we've provided the links below. **Happy Recycling!**

[Cougle's Introductory Video](#)

[Single Stream Recycling Educational Video](#)

[Cougles Insider Glimpse - Feeding the Single Stream](#) [Cougles Insider Glimpse - Single Stream Recycling](#)

<p>PLASTIC</p> <p>YES</p>  <p>Bottles & Containers Only</p>	 <p>PETE</p> 	 <p>HDPE</p> 	 <p>PP</p> 	 <p>LDPE</p> <p>Tubs & Lids ONLY</p> <p><u>NO Film or Bags</u></p>
<p>PAPER ITEMS</p> <p>YES</p>  <p>Can be torn by hand</p>	 <p>Single Stream Recycling</p> <p>ACCEPT</p>	<p>FOOD & BEVERAGE CARTONS</p> <p>YES</p>  <p>Empty & Lids On</p>		
<p>Always recycle with care.</p> <p>www.couglersrecycling.com</p> <p>www.recyclewithcare.com</p>  <p>CRI Cougler's Recycling, Inc.</p>		<p>ALUMINUM & TIN CANS</p> <p>YES</p> 	<p>GLASS BOTTLES & JARS</p> <p>YES</p> 	

<p>NO</p>  <p>FILM OR BAGS</p>	<p>NO</p>  <p>HOSES</p>	<p>NO</p>  <p>STRING LIGHTS</p>	<p>NO</p>  <p>CORDS OR CABLES</p>	<p>NO</p>  <p>CLOTHING & FABRIC</p>
<p>TANGLERS These items *may be* recyclable in specialized programs but in the standard curbside/residential program they cause large issues. They tangle in the processing equipment and cause continual delays and breakdowns.</p>				
<p>NO</p>  <p>FULL & SOILED CONTAINERS</p>	<p>METAL ITEMS</p> <p>NO</p> 	<p>REJECT</p> 	<p>SHREDDED PAPER</p> <p>NO</p> 	<p>NO</p>  <p>FOOD & YARD WASTE</p>
<p>NO</p>  <p>LIGHT BULBS</p>	<p>BATTERIES</p> <p>NO</p> 	<p>NO</p>  <p>ELECTRONICS</p>	<p>LARGE PLASTIC OR METAL ITEMS</p> <p>NO</p> 	
<p>Please don't place these items in recycling containers in Campmeeting.</p> <p>Seek other ways to recycle these items.</p>				

Reflective House Number Signs

Support the Mt. Gretna Fire Department & Improve Emergency Response

The Mt. Gretna Fire Department—Station 38 is offering **reflective house number signs** to help emergency responders locate homes quickly and efficiently. These highly visible signs enhance safety while raising funds to support the fire department's essential work.

A Legacy of Service: The History of the Mt. Gretna Fire Department

The Mt. Gretna Fire Department was born out of necessity following devastating fires in the early 1900s. The **first recorded fire in 1899** tragically took a life in Campmeeting, and the most destructive blaze in **1949 destroyed an entire block**, underscoring the community's need for a dedicated fire company.

Early firefighters faced major challenges, relying on a **World War I-era fire engine** and storing hoses in sinkholes—often rendered useless by rust and squirrels. In **1953**, the department moved to its current location and, by **1965**, purchased its first full-sized fire truck.

A **1978 merger** of the Campmeeting and Borough Fire Companies strengthened operations, but difficulties continued. Outdated water lines hindered firefighting efforts in the 1980s, and the tragic loss of **Fireman Fred Klinefelter in 1982** prompted investments in better safety equipment.

Today, the **Mt. Gretna Fire Department is a modern, well-equipped organization staffed by dedicated volunteers**. With community support, it continues to evolve, ensuring the safety of residents and visitors through **ongoing training, improved technology, and upgraded resources**.

Why Reflective House Number Signs Matter

In an emergency, **every second counts**. Poor visibility due to darkness, heavy rain, or snow can delay first responders from finding your home. **Reflective house number signs ensure your address is clearly visible**, helping fire, EMS, and police personnel **locate you faster when it matters most**.

How to Order Your Sign

Each sign is available in **vertical or horizontal format** for **\$20**. Payment is by **check only**, made payable to the **Mt. Gretna Fire Department**. Once completed, signs will be available for pickup at:

Mt. Gretna Borough Office

101 Chautauqua Dr, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064

Ordering is easy! Just follow these steps:

1. Print and complete the order form on the next page.
2. Submit your form and payment via one of the following methods:
 - **Drop it off** at the Mt. Gretna Borough Office.
 - **Mail it to:**
 - Mt. Gretna Borough Office, P.O. Box 61, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
 - Mt. Gretna Fire Department, P.O. Box 177, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064

Your Support Makes a Difference

By purchasing a **reflective house number sign**, you're making an impact on **emergency response times and community safety** while directly supporting the **Mt. Gretna Fire Department**. Your contribution helps fund **life-saving equipment, training, and resources** for our dedicated firefighters.

Thank you for helping to keep Mt. Gretna safe!



Mt. Gretna Fire Department Reflective House Number Sign Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Sign Orientation (check one):

☐ Vertical

☐ Horizontal

House Number to be Displayed: _____

Total Signs Ordered: _____ x \$20 = **Total: \$**_____

Payment Method:

☐ Check (Payable to Mt. Gretna Fire Department)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submission Options:

- Drop off the completed form at the Mt. Gretna Borough Office.
- Mail the form to Mt. Gretna Borough Office, P.O. Box 61, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064.
- Mail the form to Mt. Gretna Fire Department, P.O. Box 177. Mt Gretna, PA 17064



PORCH SALE

**MAY 24, 2025
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**MOUNT GRETNA
CAMPMEETING**

**HAVE NICE ITEMS TO SELL BUT CAN'T HOST YOUR OWN
PORCH SALE?
CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING ITEMS TO THE MGCA WHO
WILL BE SELLING ITEMS TO SUPPORT MGCA COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES!**



**TO DONATE
ITEMS
CONTACT THE
OFFICE**



Calling All Volunteers...May 24

MGCA is looking for a few volunteers to help with the MGCA “booth” at our annual porch sale on Saturday, May 24. We are seeking two volunteers for each of the following time slots:

7 to 9

9 to 11

11 to 1

1 to done

Volunteers are also needed to help with clean-up.

If you're interested in helping during any of these times, please contact the office at office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org.

If you have anything you'd like to donate (proceeds benefit MGCA) please let the office or Nate know. Thank you.



What You Need to Know About Spring Leaf Collection

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.

Understanding that not all leaves can be left on the ground, the MGCA will collect loose leaf piles in the spring that are placed on driving streets. Collection will begin the week of April 7, continue through May and resume again in the fall. The current year's map and schedule is posted on the Campmeeting website at: <https://mtgretnacampmeeting.com/Files/OfficialPublications/Procedure.LeafCollection2024.09.pdf>

Leaf piles must contain leaves, pine needles and pine cones only, no sticks or other debris.

Collection of separate stick piles (sticks and branches only) will continue periodically throughout the year.

- Leaf piles may contain leaves, pine cones and pine needles ONLY!
- Sticks and branches MUST be placed in a separate pile—not in the leaf pile!
- Both piles must be free of pet waste, stones and foreign objects.
- Piles that do not meet these requirements will NOT be collected.

Parking Spaces Available in the Carter Lot

A limited number of parking spaces are available for annual rental in the Carter lot. Spaces are rented on a yearly basis – from January through December – for \$375 per year.

If you're interested in securing a spot or would like more information, please contact the MGCA Office. Don't wait – spaces are limited.

Heritage Park Rentals

Heritage Park is the site of the extremely popular “Friday Nights with Nate” (officially “Friday Happy Hours”), which are scheduled to resume on May 23. These family-friendly events provide an informal way to welcome the weekend and are open to Mt. Gretna area residents and their guests.

But Heritage Park is also available to Members who can rent the pavilion for special events or family gatherings. The current rental calendar is accessible on the "News and Events" page of the MGCA website.

If you have any questions about pavilion rentals, please feel free to contact the Office for assistance. Rental applications can be submitted via email or postal mail.

Heritage Park features a playground, charcoal grills, picnic tables, and restrooms. It is located along Route 117, with access from the parking lot off First Street.

April Trash & Recycling Pick-Up

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

If you are ever uncertain if “this week” is a recycling week, just check the “Calendar of Events” on the MGCA website at: <https://mtgretnacampmeeting.com/local.shtml#calendar>. Recycling and trash pickups are clearly listed.

Conservation Easement Preserves 34 Acres of Woodland Near Mount Gretna

Written by LebTown Staff

[https://lebtown.com/2025/03/05/conservation-easement-preserves-34-acres-of-woodland-near-mount-gretna/?utm_source=LebTown&utm_campaign=123ab9c6e8-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_27e53f8430-123ab9c6e8-438267176&mc_cid=123ab9c6e8&mc_eid=0314714e9d](https://lebtown.com/2025/03/05/conservation-easement-preserves-34-acres-of-woodland-near-mount-gretna/?utm_source=LebTown&utm_campaign=123ab9c6e8-WEEKLY%20NEWSLETTER&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_27e53f8430-123ab9c6e8-438267176&mc_cid=123ab9c6e8&mc_eid=0314714e9d)

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy has partnered with Brett and Janice Balmer to establish a conservation easement on their 34-acre property in West Cornwall Township.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and the land trust to protect the conservation values of the landscape and prevent future development, the conservancy explained in a press release. The landowners continue to own and manage their land.

“The dedicated conservationists from the Lebanon Valley Conservancy will hold and defend their conservation easement,” Chuck Wertz, TLVC emeritus board member, said Feb. 24 in a statement. “The Balmers made a commitment to their family, the Mount Gretna area, and residents of Lebanon County by permanently protecting their land and important plant and animal habitat.”

The Balmer family’s newly preserved property extends the forest habitat of the adjacent 1,105-acres Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick and State Game Lands 145. According to the conservancy, it provides critical, uninterrupted habitat for local wildlife.

“The property has several unique features, including a clear stream originating in Governor Dick Park that flows into Chiques Creek in Lancaster County,” explained Courtney Reimann, the conservancy’s land protection director. “It also has areas of wetlands, mature trees, large boulders, meadows, and natural seeps and springs.”

The Balmers and their two sons enjoy hiking and mountain biking throughout their property. “When I was a kid, I used to explore Governor Dick and the land we currently own. I was always drawn to this area,” Brett Balmer said in the release.

The Balmers and their two sons enjoy hiking and mountain biking throughout their property. “When I was a kid, I used to explore Governor Dick and the land we currently own. I was always drawn to this area,” Brett Balmer said in the release.

More information about the conservancy’s efforts can be found [online](#). The conservancy is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and details about several upcoming events are also available on the website.

— ★ ★ ★ —

**MGCA'S ANNUAL PICNIC
MEMORIAL DAY**

**PIG ROAST
EVENT**



MONDAY *AT MGCA'S HERITAGE*
MAY 26 *PARK*
4:00 - 8:00 PM

— X —

DELICIOUS ROAST PIG - GENEROUSLY SUPPLIED BY YOUR
NEIGHBORS DALE & MARIE MARTIN,
SAUERKRAUT, MUSIC, BRING A SIDE TO SHARE.
-- MORE DETAILS TO COME --

— X —

MUST RSVP BY MONDAY, MAY 11
office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org

WINE BOTTLE DROP-OFF

FOR THE GUARDIAN OF THE ARTS SCULPTURE

✓ PLEASE DEPOSIT CLEAN,
LABEL-FREE, AND EMPTY
GREEN WINE BOTTLES
HERE.

✗ NO RESIDUE, LABELS, OR
BROKEN GLASS, PLEASE.

⚠ HANDLE WITH CARE TO
PREVENT BREAKAGE.



HELP US TRANSFORM RECYCLED GREEN
WINE BOTTLES INTO A STUNNING GLASS
COLLAGE BASIN FOR THE SCULPTURE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

COME TO SUMMER KICKOFF ON MAY 24TH TO
SEE FINISHED PRODUCT UNVEILED.

Wine bottle collection sites:

- The Mount Gretna Community Library
- The Mount Gretna Playhouse Concession stand area
- 100 Bell Avenue (residential porch)
- 1027 Stanford Drive at Alden Place (residential porch)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Right at Your Doorstep!

If you are embarking on “Spring Cleaning” in your cottage, you may be wondering how to get rid of all those partially-full paint cans, old fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, etc. that you *know* should not be put out with your weekly trash. We’ve got the answer!

For a very reasonable \$15 fee, Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority will come to your home or an adjacent street (depending on their truck size) and pick up your hazardous household waste and dispose of it properly. There is a limit of 10 cans of paint per household (so combine your leftovers into as few cans as possible) and each household is limited to one collection per year. Just call 1-800-742-5542 Extension 123, or schedule a pick up online at MXI Environmental Services Lebanon County Program.

More details about the program and the full list (it’s long!) of items GLRA will be pick-up can be found on the GLRA website at: <https://www.goglra.org/2170/Household-Hazardous-Waste>.

In case you wondered, empty, fully-dried paint cans can be included in weekly trash.

The Campmeeting’s Path to the National Register of Historic Places

Written by Esther Mefferd

If you were to write some interesting facts about a person who loved Mt. Gretna and who never lived in the Campmeeting, who would this person be? This person was born in 1921 and is still living in 2025. His name is Thomas Meredith, better known to many as Tom.

Tom’s great grandfather, Joseph R. Meredith, and his family with 7 children, lived for two weeks in the summers on the corner of Otterbein and Third Streets (opposite Ted and Dwayne’s cottage). The entire family was involved in many of the religious activities which were held here in the Campmeeting. Joseph was one of three men who drew up the plans for the “auditorium” and then hired John Ciley to do the world. Tom never met Joseph but heard so much about his experiences here in Mt. Gretna.

Tom is very important to the Campmeeting for many reasons. He has written many articles and books about this beautiful and unique place called Mt. Gretna. Because of his interest in history and writing, he contacted April Frantz of the Bureau for Historic Preservation and chose several people to help do the footwork. As of September 4, 2012 the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting is now listed with the National Registry of Historic Places.

We thank Tom Meredith for all that he has shared and done with and for the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting. Tom is now living in his apartment at the Tel Hai Retirement Community in Honey Brook, PA.

Are You Connected to News & Info in Campmeeting?

 MT. GRETNA 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