

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News

Fall Edition 2021

Letter from the President

And just like that, another season closes. At times, we've had to pivot, but all in all, audiences returned to the Tabernacle and the Summer's events brought back old memories and created new ones, too. Laughter was heard from porch to porch. We proved that we are a resilient community.

Now we move to the Fall season, and it is not a time to relax; instead, it is a time of planning for the next year. As the leaves turn and begin to fall, there is a sense of quiet that comes over our community. Many cottages are or will soon be winterized; it is a distinctly different season.

It is also a season for exterior work to be completed. The culvert replacement projects under Kaufmann Avenue and under First Street at the Carter parking lot will commence this month. Any street closures will be temporary, and members will receive notification before the closures. Planning continues with the water tower



project as we navigate the DEP approvals process. In each newsletter we will continue to update you on this initiative.

Thank you for another year of letting me serve you on the Board of Managers. I get to work with a great group of volunteers, and we appreciate all of you.

See you on the porch!

Kevin Burd
President, MGCA Board of Managers

Thank You & Welcome!

A great big **Thank You** to two very special, hard workers! Sally Marisic and Barb Myers will be leaving the Campmeeting Board of Managers in December. We know they will continue to do many special projects to benefit our community, but wanted to formally (and gratefully) recognize their service on the Board. THANKS!

Welcome to the three new members of the Campmeeting Board who were elected in July. Let's all get to know Carmen Bianco, Katcha Neale, and Hal Myers, who begin their official duties in January. And to Joe Lamont, welcome back for your second term on the Board! Congratulations on your re-election!

Board Approves 2022 Budget

The Board of Managers, at its October meeting, approved a 2022 MGCA budget of \$603,200. This will result in a \$250 increase in each Member's General Assessment. A 2% early-payment discount remains in place for Members who pay the assessment by March 31, 2022.

In addition to covering inflationary increases in overall operating expenses, the extra income primarily will be used to pay for necessary infrastructure projects that have been postponed in recent years. These projects include, but are not limited to, storm water runoff control, paving projects, including Markwood Avenue, and structural maintenance to the Tabernacle. Since the MGCA does not currently operate a dedicated office, some funds will also be used to create a workspace for the superintendent. We will have more details on the 2022 budget in future publications.

The Board also approved a revised General Assessment policy, based on recommendations from our attorney, intended to protect the MGCA from financial loss due to late payment and failure to pay. The policy generally provides that any balance unpaid after June 30th will be subject to a

15% penalty and 1.5% monthly interest charges. It also establishes a timeline for collection of delinquent accounts. Members experiencing financial hardship may still contact the Treasurer to arrange a special payment plan to facilitate payment of the assessment.

Real Property Inventory

Departing Board Member Barb Myers has a background in government and private sector property management, and for some time now has been working to develop a real property inventory for the MGCA.

The *real property inventory* is a comprehensive list of all MGCA physical assets, such as land, buildings, roadways, culverts and other structures. It includes items like our dump truck and snow removal equipment, with photographs and characteristics of each structure or item, such as date purchased or built, dimensions, present condition, estimated value, etc.

A real property inventory can be used to prepare an *asset management plan*, which is a detailed, forward-looking plan outlining how a community's assets will be maintained and when necessary, replaced.

An asset management plan can be used to perform a reserve study. A *reserve study* is a long-term budget planning tool. Based on the asset management plan, it seeks to estimate future costs to determine how much money should be set aside (i.e., reserved) to pay those expenses. It also looks at the community's present financial status to determine if the community is on track to meet those funding needs.

Good long-range budget planning based on an asset management plan and reserve study can help communities ensure that funds collected through regular assessments are sufficient to meet future funding needs.

Are You Meticulous?

Do you pay close attention to detail? Are you meticulous and methodical? Maybe even borderline compulsive? If so, we can use your help!

As explained in the previous article, the MGCA is developing a real property inventory, which is a detailed list of all MGCA assets, from streets and buildings to fire hydrants and parks.

Having this information available can save us \$\$\$ when we seek financing for things like the water supply and culvert projects.

So where do you fit in? The first step in developing a real property inventory is to document the characteristics of every Campmeeting asset. That involves walking through the community, systematically measuring, describing, and photographing each item and keeping a detailed record of what you're doing. That information is then entered into a database/spreadsheet.

Work on this project has already started, but we need a few volunteers to take it across the finish line. If you have some time to spare and would like more information, please email the MGCA office at office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org with the subject line INVENTORY.

October Is Fire Prevention Month

October is Fire Prevention Month, and we'd like to share some tips that are especially relevant in our community of closely spaced, 100-year-old wooden cottages.

Prevent!

- Most home fires are caused by unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Review and follow MGCA Rule #2 on use of BBQ grills, open flame devices, etc.
- Keep portable electric heaters away from combustible materials.
- Don't overload electrical circuits or run extension cords under rugs.
- Use battery-operated vs. open-flame candles.
- Properly store/dispose of oily rags; they can spontaneously ignite!
- Have chimneys inspected annually.
- Keep roofs clear of pine needles and leaves.
- Have electrical work performed by a qualified electrician.
- Follow safety protocols for storage and handling of gasoline.
- Take care when operating portable generators. Operate them only in an open, well-ventilated space away from open doors and windows (not in a garage) and do not refuel them when hot.

Prepare!

Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every level and in each bedroom.

- Test regularly per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Change batteries every six months (except long-life batteries).
- Install fire extinguishers on each floor plus in the kitchen and garage.
- Inspect them annually and know how to use them: Remember "PASS"
 - Pull (the pin).
 - Aim (the extinguisher at the base of the fire).
 - Squeeze (the handle).
 - Sweep (from side to side across base of fire until out).

Get a second-floor emergency evacuation ladder. Keep in an accessible, logical location, and make sure residents and guests know where it is and how to use it.

Develop a plan and conduct fire drills with your family. Include a safe place for all to meet after a fire.

Have operable flashlights readily available.

Follow MGCA Rules on parking. All Campmeeting streets are designated as fire lanes. Keep them clear. Seconds count for emergency responders trying to reach a fire!

Display an easily readable house number sign. Reflective signs can be ordered through the Mt. Gretna Fire Company.

Call 9-1-1 at the first sign of fire. Position someone at a safe location outside to meet and direct emergency responders. If a fire is manageable, use a fire extinguisher, but don't be a hero. Be safe: get out and stay out!

Help our firefighters by doing as much as you can to prevent fires and give them the best chance to fight them successfully if needed!

Keep Those Kids Safe!

One of the great things about the Campmeeting is that parents often feel comfortable letting their kids wander throughout the community to play on their own. Unfortunately, it's all too common to see kids

speeding down and across streets with seemingly little awareness that they're sharing the road with cars and trucks.

The following article focuses on the importance of drivers operating their motor vehicles safely. The other part of the safety equation is that others who use our streets - in particular children - must do so in a safe manner.

It's important to make sure that kids understand the risk posed by motor vehicles and exercise caution when riding bikes, scooters, and skateboards or walking or running on our streets, particularly at intersections. Also, to make sure they don't pose a risk to pedestrians, they should keep their speed down when riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards on non-driving streets. Staying alert and operating with care can keep Campmeeting fun and safe for everyone!

Safe Driving in Campmeeting

Rule 6 of the MGCA Rules & Regulations states in part:

"Reckless driving and speeding within the boundaries of the Campmeeting are strictly prohibited."

The current Campmeeting speed limit is 15 mph, though the Board of Managers recently approved lowering it to 8 mph due to the close quarters in our community. The PA Code defines reckless driving as driving with *"willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property."*

Campmeeting's streets are narrow and shared with pedestrians and cyclists, and it's not unusual for kids to be darting about as well. Drivers must operate their vehicles with due care at speeds at or below the posted limit and appropriate for conditions

Most Members and visitors drive carefully and obey the speed limit. Unfortunately, some do not. Keep our streets safe for everyone. Please drive safely and don't speed!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archive Committee Update

The Archive Committee has been busy! Since being established as an ad-hoc committee, we've sorted through more than 25 boxes of records, a 4-drawer file cabinet, a safe deposit box, and a trove of Campmeeting documents stored at the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society.

As part of our process, we reviewed and categorized hundreds of individual documents so each can be filed both physically and electronically for easy storage, search, and retrieval. So far, we've divided documents into 8 categories and 35 subcategories, with hundreds of individual items within the subcategories. We've made great progress, but there's lots more to do.

Some documents we've been working with include:

- Meeting minutes from 1892-2021, not inclusive;
- Survey Maps – Some date to the early 1900's; some show original tent lot numbers;
- Maintenance records of Campmeeting buildings, water tower, water and sewer lines, and utility documents. These documents have been made available to relevant committees;
- Records for managing and maintaining the MGCA as an organization;
- MGCA Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations as far back as the 1890's; and,
- Deeds for lots in Campmeeting, including deeds between Robert Coleman and the MGCA.

We purchased archival manila file folders and Pendaflex hanging folders, made printed labels, and started the process of filing the documents both physically and electronically. Office Manager Debby Erb has been scanning and storing certain documents on a "cloud-based" Google Drive to make them accessible to authorized individuals.

We made detailed lists of meeting minutes by month/year, contracts and agreements, deeds, survey maps, rules and regulations, newsletters, and safe deposit box contents.

Unfortunately, since our collection of documents is incomplete, we don't have a continuous record of Campmeeting history throughout the years. If you are in possession of any historical Campmeeting documents, please contact the Committee so we can copy and preserve them.

Don Miller
Chair, Archives Committee



Community Activities Committee

The COVID 19 pandemic has changed things for all of us. It was no different for our committee, and we proceeded with caution in planning our 2021 events.

In the interest of safety, a decision was made to again cancel the annual MGCA picnic. We all missed this opportunity for members of the community to come together and I hope we can gather again in 2022.

The Committee hosted five Heritage Festival performances in the 2021 season; two in June and one each in July, August, and September. Our final event featured the reading of a musical comedy written by Larry McKenna, who organizes the popular Mt. Gretna Summer Concert Series. This late addition to the schedule was sponsored by Gretna Theatre in cooperation with Mt. Gretna Summer Concerts and the Heritage Festival, and allowed us to add another event to the community gatherings and entertainment we're fortunate to enjoy here in Campmeeting.

We received funds from a benefactor for Heritage Festival Programs, but this year's

COMMITTEE REPORTS

attendee contributions and program expenses were roughly equal, so the donated funds were not reduced and there was no cost to the MGCA for this season's events. We're always looking to bring new programming to the community. If you know of a performer, band, etc. that we might want to book, please let us know.

Tammy Travitz
Chair, Community Activities Committee

Property Ownership Committee Update

Welcome! New Members

Sylvia Hitz – 505 6th Street
John & Erin Lucas – 109 5th Street
Daniel Grodzinski – 205 Markwood Ave.
Jeff & Gloria Lehigh – 107 5th Street

Mount Gretna Community Library

Our library experienced success this year! We opened! Opening day was May 29th, and we were open five days a week through September 28th. As of September 9th, we had counted 773 visitors for the season, with Saturdays and evenings being our busiest times. Our membership is vast and includes neighbors from the Mt Gretna Community, Palmyra, Lebanon, and Dauphin County as well as Florida and Colorado! All are welcome.

We enjoy support from many dedicated volunteers. They not only staff the desk and help with selections and checkout but also perform cleaning, sorting, staining, light landscaping and groundskeeping, hauling of books and more. Our neighbors often remember us with book donations that we use to update our library collection, the 3 Little Free Libraries, and occasionally share with a local donation center. It's only through the dedication and support of our volunteers that we successfully provide a community library experience.

In past years we enjoyed hosting First Fridays, book reviews and children's programming. The pandemic changed and challenged these goals and offerings. However, we were able to host two book reviews this season, led by Margaret Hopkins. We wanted to conduct these in a larger,

more open space, so they were held in the Heights Community Building. Our Heights neighbors were very generous in offering this space to us and we again thank them!

With your help the library will continue to exemplify our mission-
“A place with a peaceful, friendly atmosphere that promotes the love of reading, sense of community, creativity, and inspiring conversation for all.”

Michelle Shay, Joan Sherman, Sally Marisic, and
Marcie Lloyd
Library Committee

Tabernacle Association: Bible Festival Past and Present

Campmeetings became popular throughout the United States in the last half of the 19th Century as places where Christians could gather for worship for a week or two each summer in an outdoor setting. Preaching services were held multiple times each day with an emphasis on spiritual edification and bringing lost souls to faith in Jesus Christ. In 1892, a denomination known as the United Brethren in Christ Church sought to establish a campmeeting in Mount Gretna. In 1899, a tabernacle was built to provide a sacred space for these religious services to be held.

Over the years things changed. The United Brethren in Christ Church ultimately merged into the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church relinquished control over its Campmeeting services to an ecumenical group of seventeen volunteers serving on fourteen sub-committees. Known as the Bible Festival Committee, they carry forth the original mission of providing Christian Spiritual Renewal in a Unique Victorian Setting.

The Bible Festival Committee is a sub-committee of the Tabernacle Association. The Committee plans worship services and concerts every Sunday evening throughout the summer, Friday evenings in June, and occasional mid-week programs.

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This past summer, former major league baseball player Darryl Strawberry was one of the featured preachers. Concerts included the Susquehanna Chorale, the National Christian Choir, the Lancaster British Brass Band, QuintEssentially Brass, and others. Total attendance for Bible Festival events during the summer of 2021 was about 6,400.

Financial support for the Bible Festival comes through offerings, Partners in Ministry contributors and program sponsors.

Bible Festival Committee
Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Association

Ad Hoc Tree Health & Maintenance Committee Update

TRICKY TREE REMOVAL

Local residents and passersby got quite a show last month, courtesy of Musser's Tree Service. The Tree Health & Maintenance Committee determined that a large maple tree behind the United Methodist Church needed to be removed. The tight quarters and tree location demanded careful planning and lots of skill, but the folks from Musser's came through and did a great job, with nary a scratch to the church and adjacent cottages. Hats off to the Musser's crew for their execution of this tricky job! And, thanks to MGCA members who cooperated by removing their cars from the Church parking lot to enable Musser's to complete their work safely.



Pictures Courtesy of Linda Campbell and Hal Myers

Buildings and Grounds



Water Supply Update

Work continues on the Campmeeting water supply project. Additional tests are being conducted to assess the quality of water produced by well #2, which is currently unused. The tests will help us decide if we should incorporate well #2 into our system as an additional water source. Initial results are encouraging, but more tests are needed before we can make a final decision.

Our engineering firm, HRG, submitted all project plans and drawings to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in July, and we hope to receive DEP approval in the coming months. Once the plans are approved, HRG will put the project out to qualified contractors for bid. The bidding process will likely take several months.

Once we receive DEP approval, we can also take steps to secure financing. We continue to view PennVest, the Commonwealth agency that assists communities with funding of water supply projects, as our best option for a low-interest loan. Due to the complexity and technical nature of the loan application process, we plan to enlist HRG to ensure that all of the t's are crossed and i's are dotted on our application. Financing through PennVest could save us hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest over the course of a loan as compared to other financing sources.

Obviously, there are many variables, but our best estimate is that we could break ground on the project in late Summer of 2022 with completion sometime in the Fall.

Campmeeting Superintendent – Part 1

The following article is a modified version of an email sent to all Members on 10/01/2021.

Introduction

In July of this year, the Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee approached the Board of Managers (BoM) about the possibility of hiring a superintendent to oversee the care and maintenance of our community. Since then, exploration of this issue has been ongoing. This is the first of several communications intended to help Members understand this issue and how it will affect the way our community is maintained in the future.

From the By-Laws

The MGCA By-Laws state, “The Buildings and Grounds Committee shall superintend the improvements and expenditures for the Campmeeting buildings, roads, walks and walkways; the cleaning, lighting, and maintenance of the grove; the operation, maintenance and extension of the water plant and sewage system; and the removal of garbage and rubbish.” So, the B&G Committee is responsible for maintaining our community infrastructure.

However, the By-Laws also state, “For the proper execution of their duties, on the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee, the Board of Managers shall employ a Superintendent and assign such duties as may seem proper and may appoint such additional persons for other duties as they may deem necessary.” This provision implicitly acknowledges that the job may be too much for the all-volunteer Committee to handle alone, and anticipates that the Board may need to employ one or more individuals to oversee (i.e., superintend) and perform the work.

A Brief History

Throughout its history, the MGCA has routinely employed a superintendent or caretaker. This person often had at least one paid, part-time assistant. In fact, at one time the MGCA employed more than ten Members who worked around the community on a part-time basis. As more cottages became permanent residences,

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Member expectations and demands on infrastructure increased and the job of keeping the community running smoothly became more challenging.

In 2018, after an unsuccessful attempt to hire a successor for retiring Superintendent of Grounds, Ed Neidigh, the Board contracted with Cheyney Property Maintenance to perform landscape maintenance, pedestrian street snow removal, and certain other jobs on a limited hourly basis. That left many tasks and planning/administrative functions to be handled by a handful of volunteer B&G Committee members and our Office Manager.

In the three years since its implementation, this arrangement has proven to be less than ideal. The demands on our volunteers have been too great (sometimes at all hours of the night), certain tasks exceeded the scope of what our contractor was hired to perform, and some jobs have simply not been getting done. Additionally, some of our more knowledgeable volunteers will have less time in the future to devote to B&G Committee work.

Conditional Approval

After wrestling with the issue, the B&G Committee concluded that the best way to ensure proper care of our community going forward was to again employ a paid superintendent. The Board of Managers agreed, and in September approved employing a full-time superintendent and several part-time helpers, starting in January 2022, and subject to approval of the 2022 MGCA budget.

Until Next Time...

In our next communication we'll provide more detail on the role of the superintendent and will look at other considerations - including economic - in making the proposed change. In the meantime, to provide some perspective on the scope of the job, we've attached a list of tasks and responsibilities derived from the superintendent job description. Please forgive any formatting inconsistencies or repetition as we adapted it to this publication.

Don Dale
Chair, B&G Committee

Zoning Update

In the Spring 2021 newsletter we reported that West Cornwall Township (where Campmeeting is located) is in the process of updating its zoning ordinances. Among many action items they will consider are the following which relate to Campmeeting:

- Creating new Zoning District designation(s) for older neighborhoods of the township, such as Mt. Gretna Campmeeting, where the majority of lots and structures do not conform to the current regulations.
- Addressing short-term rental of residential dwellings.
- Updating parking, driveway, and access drive regulations.

The Township Planning Commission and Supervisors will hold a series of public meetings (tentatively starting October 27th; confirmed dates will be posted on the Township website) to establish goals, review draft proposals, and ultimately adopt a new zoning ordinance. Most meetings will address Township zoning issues as a whole, but some meetings may be held to focus on the unique needs of historic districts such as the Campmeeting. We expect that representatives from the MGCA will participate in all meetings.

Many Township residents have already written to the Township to express their views on these and other zoning issues. And while MGCA representatives will present the views of the Association, as a property owner you are welcome and encouraged to express your opinion to the West Cornwall Township Supervisors directly as well.

Mt. Gretna's Campmeeting began in the late 1800s as a seasonal, transitory retreat with unique spiritual, educational, and cultural features and events, many of which continue today. Campmeeting built and still maintains its own community-owned infrastructure, including its streets and sewer, and water systems. We hope that any Township zoning changes preserve our community's heritage and allow it to continue to flourish and evolve.

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You can write to the West Cornwall Supervisors at:
wctwp@comcast.net or
West Cornwall Township Supervisors
73 S. Zinns Mills Road
Lebanon, PA 17042

For additional or updated information, check the West Cornwall Township website (www.westcornwalltwp.com) or call the Township office at 717-272-9841.



English Ivy Removal

Although it can be lovely, English Ivy is an invasive species that can be very damaging to trees. Its rootlets burrow under the bark, causing fungus and decay and creating opportunities for disease. Vines that climb trees slowly kill them from the base upwards, enveloping the branches, preventing photosynthesis, and causing upwardly migrating branch death. Eventually the entire tree can die. Trees heavily draped with vines are more susceptible to blowing over during storms and collecting heavy snow and ice in the winter.

The Tree Health & Maintenance Committee recommends that MGCA Members address the

problem of English Ivy growing on trees on their property. The simplest solution is to cut the vines a few feet from the ground and then again, a few inches higher, removing a section of the vines. This will starve the upper portion of nutrients and it will eventually die.

A more complete, permanent solution is as follows:

1. Remove leaves and small vines to expose larger vines attached to the tree trunk. Do this from the ground up to about three feet.
2. Cut larger vines with a lopper or saw to create a band of vine-free tree trunk. If necessary, use a pry bar or screwdriver to pull vines away from the tree trunk. Try to avoid damaging the tree and its bark.
3. Remove as much vine root growth as possible. Bag all vines and dispose of them with regular trash. New plants can grow from cut or broken stems.
4. Remove new leaves several times a year to starve the roots. This will become easier each year, preventing ivy from climbing back up the tree and eventually killing the ivy plant.

Taking these simple steps to kill English Ivy on trees on your property will keep more Campmeeting trees healthy for years to come.

B&G Committee

Pinch Road Drainage Ditch

Please do your part to prevent leaves and debris from finding their way into the Pinch Road drainage ditch. And by all means, please don't intentionally dispose of your leaves or green waste there! Leaves and debris can clog the culverts that pass beneath Bell, Mills, and Boehm Avenues and Hwy. 117, causing the ditch to overflow. This has happened in the past, causing the area around the Mt. Gretna Post Office and Borough Office to be flooded.

Culvert Project Update

We expected work to replace the 1st Street and Kauffman Avenue culverts to start in mid-September, but as with many things these days it was slightly delayed. However, the project will soon be underway. The Kauffman parking lot is

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being used to store equipment and materials during the job, and the concrete headwalls and



culverts were delivered late last month.

Trees and shrubs will be removed from the work area on October 26th and 27th, and our contractor, B.R. Kreider & Son, Inc., expects to begin major excavation in mid to late November.

The firm doing the tree and shrub removal has asked that the entire Kauffman Avenue parking lot be clear of all vehicles on October 26th and 27th. The MGCA will send an email reminder to not park in the Kauffman lot on those dates.

There will be times when vehicular traffic will be unable to pass through the work areas on 1st Street and Kauffman Avenue. When any of those streets are unusable, “Road Closed” signs will be placed at appropriate locations to alert drivers that access is restricted. If both streets are closed, Bell, Mills, Boehm, and Markwood Avenues, as well as 6th and 8th Streets, can serve as alternate routes in and out of Campmeeting. Please comply with all “One Way” and “Foot Traffic Only” signs, and please don’t speed!

For more information, check the MGCA website (mtgretnacampmeeting.com):

- Culvert Update #1 under the News & Events tab
- Culvert Project Updates in the spring and summer Campmeeting newsletters
- Detailed project drawings/information can be found under the Board of Managers tab beginning on page 39 of the attachments to the July Board meeting

Storm Water Management Projects

MILLS AVENUE

The Campmeeting has a system of shallow, flat-bottomed, east/west ditches that capture stormwater runoff as it runs downhill through the community. Most of the water in these ditches flows to the west into the stone-lined ditch that runs along Pinch Road.

Over the years, sections of some of these east/west ditches have been paved over for driveways and roadways. At those locations, water that should flow to the Pinch Road ditch is shunted back onto streets and flows northward, causing damage to streets and sometimes to property.

The B&G Committee has identified the problem areas and has undertaken a project to restore the proper flow of stormwater through the ditches and out of the community. Work will start on Mills Avenue this fall and will proceed northward. If initial work proves to be effective, work in the northern areas may be reduced or unnecessary.

MATTHEWS AVENUE

Directing stormwater runoff out of the community is one option, but it’s even better if water can be absorbed into the ground before it becomes a problem. With that in mind, the B&G Committee has been working with Jay Noble, Executive (Artistic) Director of the Mount Gretna School of Art & Four Pillars artist residency, to design and install an area that will absorb and slow the flow of stormwater. Jay has experience in design and installation of riparian buffers - in layman’s terms stream bank and floodplain restoration - in Lancaster County farms.

The plan involves transforming Matthews Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets (an unpaved section of non-driving street) into a native plant woodland garden designed to capture and manage stormwater during heavy rains. Absorption of water will be enhanced in the garden area, and in heavy rains, some water will collect for a short period. Water that is not absorbed or collected will flow downhill in a more controlled fashion. Other than during heavy rains, there should be no standing water.

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Installation of the garden will go fairly quickly, but due to the technique to be used (called “*succession planting*”) it won’t be very appealing at first. But be patient! This is a long-term project! In three to five years, the native grasses, shrubs, and trees will be well established and the area will look more natural and appealing.

Once work begins, the area will be permanently closed to all foot and vehicular traffic, and signs will be posted to alert pedestrians and drivers to that fact. Consideration was given to including a footpath through the area, but in the interest of reducing cost and complexity, a footpath is not part of the final plan.

The B&G Committee would like to thank Jay Noble for volunteering his time, skills, and energy to plan and execute this project. If you see him working at the site or around the neighborhood, please offer him your thanks as well!

Downed Entry Pillars

For years they stood like brick and stone sentinels at entries to the Campmeeting, but in the span of a few weeks, two had fallen. This past summer, two of the masonry pillars at Bell and Mills Avenues were knocked over by large trucks attempting to negotiate the tight turns from/onto Pinch Road. No one was injured in either mishap.

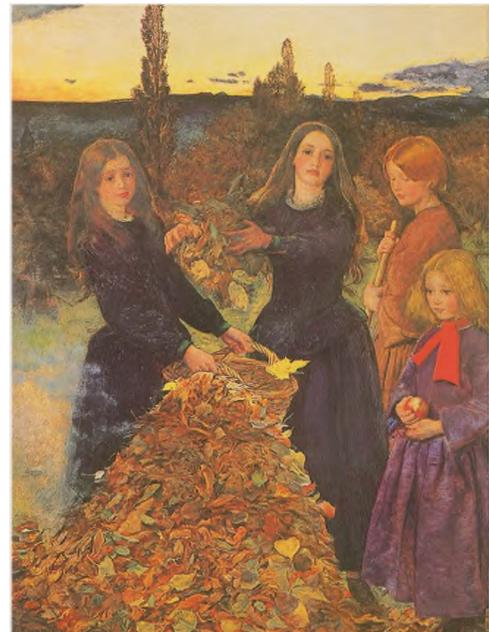
The southernmost Mills Avenue pillar broke into pieces when it fell onto the roadway. The northernmost Bell Avenue pillar was knocked over, but stayed in one piece when it fell onto soft earth and grass. The B&G Committee is exploring options to reconstruct the Mills Avenue pillar. Since large vehicles will need access for the upcoming water tank replacement project, the Committee plans to move the downed Bell Avenue pillar from the area and reinstall it once the water tank project is finished.

Leaf Vac Update

As reported in the spring newsletter, the Board authorized the purchase of a large, truck-mountable vacuum/shredder and a smaller walk-behind vacuum/shredder to increase the speed and efficiency of leaf collection. The Building &

Grounds Committee expected to have the new equipment in service this fall, but supply chain issues have delayed production of engines for both machines and their delivery has been delayed. At present, we don’t know when the new machines will be available.

Fall Leaf Collection



STARTS: 3rd Monday in October (October 18, 2021)

ENDS: 1st Friday in December (December 3, 2021)

(Periodic collection of green waste continues throughout the year.)

Please make two separate piles:

- LEAVES - Includes leaves and pine needles only.
- GREEN WASTE - Includes sticks, branches, pine cones, root balls from potted plants, etc.

Commingled piles will not be collected! When possible, please locate your piles on streets where the collection crew has vehicular access. Please keep material to be collected free of foreign objects and pet waste.

Members may also dispose of leaves and green waste in designated locations behind the garages at the north end of 1st Street, with their

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regular trash, or if bagged, in the MGCA dumpsters (no large branches in the dumpsters).

TIP: Save yourself some raking and consider leaving some leaves on the ground. This provides much-needed nutrients for trees and can reduce the amount of money we spend applying nutrients in the spring.



“New” Campmeeting Garage

The MGCA has historically stored its snow removal equipment and some tools in its garage on the east side near the north end of 1st Street. If you walk or drive past that area, you’ve probably noticed that one of the old garages has been demolished and another is being erected in its place. Here’s why.

The old MGCA garage was in poor condition and had characteristics that made it inconvenient to use. The Member who owned the adjacent, red and green, metal-sheathed garage (which is in excellent shape) found that it was not meeting his particular needs. He proposed to trade his newer garage to the MGCA in return for \$7,500 plus the MGCA’s old garage and associated land, with the intention of building a new garage on the site.

The proposed swap was reviewed and recommended by the B&G Committee and approved by the Board in January. The properties changed hands in August and work on the new garage started shortly thereafter. The end result was a win/win, with the MGCA getting a great price on a newer, much improved garage and a Member with a garage that meets his needs.

Disposal of Oversized Items

Members who wish to dispose of oversized items must call our trash hauler, TNT, and make individual arrangements. TNT has recently been asking customers to place their oversized items in the vicinity of the MGCA dumpsters for pickup. Unfortunately, unless they are alerted and the items are marked in some way, our Building & Grounds Committee can’t distinguish between items to be collected by TNT and “unauthorized” items illegally dumped near the dumpsters.

If TNT asks you to put your oversized items near the dumpster for pickup, please identify them as “FOR TNT PICKUP,” notify the MGCA office, and wait until the evening before scheduled pickup to place your items. Taking these simple steps will keep our B&G Committee volunteers from doing unnecessary work trying to identify illegal dumpers.

TNT Sanitation: 717-866-2322

MGCA Office: 717-964-3040;

office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org

Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

Upcoming Special Events

October 28 – Trick or Treat Open House

November 21 – Tentative date for Thanksgiving Breakfast

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent/Advent Bible Study begins.

Wanted: Used Bicycles and Sewing Machines

MGCA Members Scott Shreve and his wife Barb work with a youth group at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, PA. The group is collecting used bicycles and sewing machines to send overseas in support of Pedals for Progress and Sewing Peace (www.PedalsforProgress.org). Since 1991, P4P has sent more than 162,000 used bicycles and over 5,000 used sewing machines to developing countries where they are sorely needed and highly valued. If you have an operable or repairable bike or sewing machine to donate, contact Scott at (717) 273-1571 for more information or pickup.



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 failure to mount a present challenge to Member use of MGCA Property 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.

From the Office of the MGCA

Board of Managers Meetings

The MGCA Board of Managers meets monthly via ZOOM™ on the third Tuesday of the month. Members will receive an email invitation (sent to the primary email address on file at the MGCA office) to join these ZOOM™ meetings. Additional individuals interested in attending should request the meeting link from the office in advance of the meeting dates. The recorded session is posted to the MGCA website within 24-hours. The video is located within the "Board of Managers" ribbon, by clicking on the "Board Meeting Minutes" drop-down menu. Members are encouraged to view these meetings and to submit questions/comments to office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org within 10-days of the video's posting. All questions/comments are addressed at the next Board meeting and included with the official meeting record. Meeting minutes are the official record for the MGCA archives; the ZOOM™ video is deleted once the minutes are approved by the Board.

The Board is currently exploring what may be required to conduct hybrid meetings, which would allow both in-person and online participation.

Be Respectful of Quiet Hours

Traditional quiet hours are from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday and all day on Sunday year-round—**please no leaf blowers on Sundays!**

COMMITTEE ROSTER

(Names in italics are MGCA Members who do not serve on the Board of Managers)

MGCA Board of Managers

Kevin Burd, President
(2023)
Barb Myers, Vice-President
(2021)
Sally Marisic, Treasurer
(2021)
Pat Wilmsen, Secretary
(2022)
Don Dale (2022)
Jenn Kantmann (2023)
Joe Lamont (2021)
Ted Martin (2023)
Tammy Travitz (2022)
Open Seat (2021)
Esther Mefferd (Tabernacle
Representative)

Executive

Kevin Burd—Chair
Sally Marisic
Barb Myers
Pat Wilmsen

Buildings & Grounds

Don Dale—Chair
Joe Lamont
Doug Lorenzen
Katcha Neale
Kevin Skovira
Bob Travitz
Pat Wilmsen
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Doug Cheyney, Cheyney
Property Maintenance

Communications

Kevin Burd—Chair
Sally Marisic
Hal Myers
Christine Slotznick
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff

Community Activities

Tammy Travitz—Chair
Jennifer Kantmann
Esther Mefferd
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio

Finance/Audit

Sally Marisic—Chair
Kevin Burd
Ted Martin
Barb Myers
Pat Wilmsen

Nominations/Election

Esther Mefferd—Chair
Ted Martin
Barb Myers
Tammy Travitz
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio

Property Ownership

Barb Myers—Chair
Pat Brosious
Kevin Burd
Susan Hoyt
Pat Wilmsen

Ad Hoc Archives

Don Miller – Chair
Carole Miller
Barb Myers
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Executive Committee

Ad Hoc Grants & Funding Sources

Sally Marisic – Chair
Ted Martin
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Finance Committee

Ad Hoc Library

Sally Marisic, Chair
Margaret Hopkins
Marcie Lloyd
Joan Sherman, Community Rep
Michelle Shay, Community Rep
Kevin Burd, Ex-officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Community Activities
Committee

Ad Hoc Policy & Procedure

Hal Myers – Chair
Linda Campbell
Jennifer Kantmann
Sally Marisic
Ted Martin
Katcha Neale
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Deborah Erb, MGCA Staff
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the
Executive Committee

Ad Hoc Tree Health & Maintenance

Pat Wilmsen – Chair
Ann Bering
Deborah Griffith
Chet Johns
Emily Johns
Kathleen McKenna
Katcha Neale
Kevin Burd, Ex Officio
Note: This committee is a
sub-committee of the B&G
Committee

Board of Trustees, Mt. Gretna Tabernacle

Association
Ted Martin—President
Esther Mefferd—Vice-
President
Tom Heberling—Secretary
David Pierce--Treasurer
Kevin Burd
Don Dale
Bob Kettering
Sally Marisic
Barb Myers
Pat Wilmsen

Board Contact Information:

P.O. Box 428
Mount Gretna, PA 17064
(717) 964-3040
www.mtgretnacampmeeting.com
office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org