

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Fall Edition 2016



Letter from the President with Autumn Cottage Maintenance Tips

We had a wonderful summer season filled with great concerts and community events. Thanks to all – residents, Campmeeting personnel, and volunteers – for making such a successful and enjoyable summer.

As we head into the fall, I wanted to share some helpful tips for autumn maintenance to keep your cottage in shape from the Do-It-Yourself Network.

- If your cottage has gutters and downspouts make sure to clean them and keep all drainage areas unblocked by leaves and debris.
- Use a screwdriver to probe the wood trim around windows, doors, railings and decks; caulk to fill the holes or completely replace the wood.
- Lower humidity and cooler (not yet cold) temperatures make fall a good time to paint the exterior of your home.
- Inspect your roof, or hire a licensed professional to examine your roof for wear and tear. If the shingles are curling, buckling or crackling, replace them. If you have a lot of damage, it's time to replace the entire roof. Also, check the flashing around skylights, pipes and chimneys. If you have any leaks or gaps, heavy snow and ice will find its way in.
- To prevent exterior water pipes from bursting when the weather gets below freezing, turn off the valves to the exterior hose bibs. Run the water until the pipes are empty. Make sure all the water is drained from the pipes, if not; the water can freeze up and damage the pipes.
- Have your wood-burning and gas-burning fireplaces/stoves inspected, cleaned and repaired

The Board of Managers and the year through which they serve

President, David Lloyd (2017)

Vice-President, George Resh (2018)

Treasurer, Sally Marisic (2018)

Secretary, Margaret Hopkins (2016)

Pam Bishop (2017)

Lisa Carr (2018)

Don Dale (2017)

Robin May (2016)

Esther Mefferd (Tabernacle Assoc'n Rep)

Ben Wiley (2018)

Committee Chairs

Buildings & Grounds – Don Dale

Communications – Margaret Hopkins

Community Activities – Robin May

Executive – David Lloyd

Finance – Sally Marisic

Nominations – Pam Bishop

Property Ownership – Pam Bishop

Parks & Recreation – Margaret Hopkins

Ad-Hoc Archive Committee – George Resh

Ad-Hoc Policy Committee – Pam Bishop

to prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Wrap water pipes that run along exterior walls with heating tape. It will save energy and prevent them from freezing.
- Clean and replace filters in your furnace or heating system. Contact a licensed heating contractor to inspect and service your gas heater or furnace to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Check your attic/crawl space to make sure the insulation is installed properly. The vapor

barrier on insulation should face down toward the living space. If it is installed incorrectly (with the vapor barrier facing up) then the insulation will trap moisture causing possible water problems.

- Trim dead branches out the trees to prevent them from coming down and causing damage in a winter storm.
- Put the raked leaves in piles along your nearest driving street for pick-up, please separate sticks and limbs from the leaves and create another pile.
- Each fall, check carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms and put in fresh batteries.

These are very important detectors to have in a home. A smoke alarm can save lives in a house fire. A carbon monoxide detector can also save lives if a home has oil or gas-burning appliances, like a furnace or water heater.

Dave Lloyd
Board President



Historic Place Plaques

Back in 2013 the MGCA Board of Managers purchased 125 bronze plaques for members to purchase, mostly for placement on homes. This inventory has been depleted for some time and the Board is considering purchasing more if there is enough interest.

The plaques are 7"x5" ovals with reverse etching. They have two countersunk holes and come with color matched wood screws.

The cost to the member for these plaques will be somewhere in the \$100-\$125 range. If you are interested in a plaque, please advise the office via e-mail or letter. Please note that you are not committing yourself to purchase a plaque - merely indicating that you may want to purchase one.

Election Results Board of Managers

The election of two new members and re-election of a current member of the MGCA Board of Managers took place at the July 30 Annual Meeting of the membership. Each of the three newly elected Board members will begin a three-year term on the Board in January 2017.

A big Thank You goes out to current Board member Robin May, who chose not to run for re-election and will be retiring from the Board at the end of her current three-year term in December 2016. We appreciate her service to MGCA, especially her role as chair of the Community Activities Committee in charge of the Heritage Festival. There was also a vacancy on the Board due to last year's retirement of long-time Board member and Superintendent of Grounds Merv Lentz.

Halloween Activities

This year the Halloween Parade will be held on Friday, October 28th. The Parade forms at the Jigger Shop at 6:00 p.m. and goes to the Fire Hall where there will be hot dogs and a cake walk for the children.

Trick-or-Treat Night is going to be Monday, October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Lebanon County.



Current Board member, Margaret Hopkins, who serves as Secretary of the Board, and also chair of both the Communications and Parks & Recreation Committees, was re-elected to her second three-year term. Margaret is a fourth-generation resident of Campmeeting. Her great-grandfather built the family cottage on Glossbrenner in 1892. She works as a research project manager at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey and as an adjunct instructor for Penn State World Campus. She is a Lancaster County Master Gardener and a Lancaster County Court-appointed Special Advocate.

Newly-elected Board member Tamra Travitz retired earlier this year from 35 years of teaching middle school mathematics. Tammy and her husband Bob, a pilot, bought their first Campmeeting cottage "One Fine Landing" in 2011, followed thereafter by two more Campmeeting cottages. They have lovingly restored all three cottages and expect to make One Fine Landing their permanent residence in the near future. Tammy enjoys Mt. Gretna friends, biking, scuba diving and traveling.

Newly-elected Board member Mary Kopala fell in love with Mt. Gretna as a teenager. She and her husband, David Adams, previously lived in Bucks County, PA, and worked in New York City. They bought their cottage in Campmeeting in the Fall of 2002 and became full-time residents five years ago. Talented artists, both Mary and Dave are exhibitors at the art gallery at La Cigale. Mary is also a psychologist, retired university administrator and Professor Emerita who believes it is her responsibility to give back to her community.

Pam Bishop, Nominations Committee

English Ivy Removal

In 2015 the Board started to remove English ivy from Campmeeting trees. Some MGCA Members were wondering why. It was brought to the attention of the Board by one of our Members that English Ivy is actually considered

an invasive species. Many ecologists have warned how English ivy can take over a forest and is very damaging to the health of the tree. "In addition to forming a thick mat along the forest floor, smothering native wildflowers and seedlings and preventing natural regeneration, vines that climb trees slowly kill them from base upwards. Vigorously growing vines envelop the branches, preventing photosynthesis and causing upwardly migrating branch death. Eventually the entire tree will die. Trees heavily draped with vines are more susceptible to blowing over during storms, making them hazardous near homes, roads and public-use areas in parks." (Invasive Species Leaflet)



The Board highly recommends that MGCA Members address the problem of English ivy growing on trees on their property. It is very easy – simply cut each vine close to the ground and then again a few inches higher, removing that section of the vine. The upper portion of that cut vine will eventually die (nps.gov).

For further information, we recommend referring to the following material.

1. <http://ncforestservice.gov/publications.htm> (leaflet No. 19 on English Ivy is available as a pdf download)
2. <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/heh1.htm> (English ivy article from the National Park Service)



New Charcoal Grill

A new PILOT ROCK charcoal grill has been installed at the Heritage Park playground. The grill is permanently mounted beside the park pavilion for picnics, birthday parties, and other family events. The park style unit has 15 X 20 inches of cooking space and 4 cooking levels. It was purchased with proceeds from the 2014 Children's Carnival for park improvement.

The renovated pavilion next to the bathroom at Heritage Park is available for rental on a first-come, first-served basis. It is available from April through October, 9am to 9 pm. When renting the pavilion, you will be renting the use of the pavilion and the tables under its roof but not the surrounding park area or restrooms - the park and restrooms remain available for the use of the general public. The rental fee is \$25 along with a \$25 security deposit. For more details or to request a rental application, please contact the Campmeeting office.

Robin May,
Chair, Community Activities Committee

Interested in Throwing Quoits?

A growing number of Mt. Gretna residents and summer renters meet Saturday mornings at the quoit beds for fun and spirited competition, as well as for quality social time with neighbors from throughout the Mt. Gretna area.

Current plans are for the Saturday morning gatherings to continue into the fall and as long as

the weather permits. All Mt. Gretna residents and guests, regardless of their level of experience in throwing quoits, are invited and encouraged to join the group at 9:00 a.m. each Saturday.

The Campmeeting's quoit beds are located along Rt. 117 across from the miniature golf course.

To be added to the e-mail list for reminders about the Saturday morning quoit gatherings, contact Campmeeting resident Larry Bowman at bowmanL322@comcast.net or at (717) 964-3803.



Ralph Zimmerman (left) and Adam Gum (right) throwing quoits

Recycling Collection Dates for 2016

October: 10, 24

November: 07, 21

From the desk of the Superintendent of Grounds...

September is here and the building and grounds staff will be turning its attention to readying the Campmeeting for fall clean up. Just a few reminders to make fall clean up as smooth as possible for everyone. Please be sure to separate your sticks, tree limbs and pine cones from your leaves if this applies and create two

separate piles. The leaves are kept in Campmeeting until West Cornwall staff picks them up for mulching. This service is paid for as part of your Township property tax. The remaining green waste is taken to the Lebanon Landfill at an additional cost to Campmeeting property owners as part of the yearly assessment fee. The better job we do of separating the two, the more money we can save.

Our goal every year is to have all leaves cleaned up by the end of November. No one wants piles of leaves in the streets and a plowable snow. Last year the weather cooperated well into January before the first snow but this is not always the case.

During the months of October and November B&G is not only cleaning residences green waste but we are also cleaning the common areas such as the parks and playground areas. If you don't see us picking up green waste, rest assured we are working somewhere in Campmeeting. Last year we had a few complaints about leaves not being picked up promptly but I will point out that all leaves were off the streets by the end of November. We did have some property owners wait until December to rake. There is never a guarantee for prompt pick up at this point.

If you have a need for tree service, Campmeeting uses Climb High Tree Service, owned and operated by Brian Weaver. His number is 717-507-0819. You must call and schedule your own work.

Trash pick-up continues to have issues as far as cottages being missed. Our trash contractor is TNT Sanitation. In the past 6 weeks there has been some turnover in their work force. TNT requests that if your trash has been missed to call them directly. Your trash will be picked up within 24 hours and the driver will be informed as to where your trash is located so it is not missed again. Their number is 717-866-2322.

This past summer we started a 3 year plan

to reclaim areas in Campmeeting that have been neglected and allowed to become over grown. Our list is lengthy so if an area near your cottage has not been cleaned, rest assured we do have plans to clean it in the near future.

Hopefully by the end of September the Tabernacle rehab will be completed. In the spring our water tank will be cleaned and painted and some street paving will take place.

Some MGCA Members call the Mt. Gretna Borough office or Bill Care with problems or concerns in the Campmeeting grounds. Please do not call them regarding Campmeeting issues as they have no means to address our problems. As always, if you need to contact me my work number is 717-454-7693; please call or text.

Ed Neidigh,
Superintendent of Grounds

Preview of New Website

The MGCA has been extremely fortunate to have one of its members, Kristi Donahue, design a new website for us. We have been working to edit the pages to make sure all the information is current and hope to have the site live soon. In the meantime - take a look at our new front page!

Welcome to Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Online

Our website is used for reporting news, meetings, services and governance of our community.

- Read the minutes and financial reports from our Board of Managers meetings.
- Review our Campmeeting rules and regulations and find links to local government resources.
- Get details on our community services: water/sewage, refuse and recycling, leaf collection.
- Find dates of annual meetings and Campmeeting events.
- View Campmeeting street maps. Find local hiking trails, historic documents, and more.

Property Transfers

Five property transfers have occurred since the last newsletter.

1. 114 Otterbein Avenue was purchased by Duane & Mary Zehring from Richard Smoker.
2. Kelsey Lytle & Thomas Blackburn have purchased 309 8th Street from Harold Blackburn.
3. The estate of Marion Miller has sold the property at 206 Castle to Matt & Allison Schlegelmilch and Terry & Michelle Wiley.
4. Debra Masser has purchased 209 5th Street from Bill Merritt.
5. The "Tree House" at 605 5th Street was sold by Richard & Mary Zesiger to Andrea George.

Tabernacle Renovations

In preparation for the 2017 season and 125th Anniversary celebration of Campmeeting, the MGCA Board of Managers and the Tabernacle Association recently approved the restoration and painting of the Tabernacle.

Much of the work is geared to improving the rest rooms located at the rear of the building. Both the men and women's bathrooms will have new commodes and bathroom doors. In addition, the walls and ceiling of the bathrooms will be painted.

Other work includes repair of the damaged stage floor, installation of new Code Compliant stairs on each side of the stage, and sanding, cleaning and painting of the entire stage area.

In addition, some of the wood siding will be repaired and/or replaced.

Legacy Buildings, LLC, Manheim, will perform the work scheduled to begin in mid-September, weather permitting.

The restoration and painting should be completed this fall and as early as the end of October.

Shhhhh

Though the summer quiet hours are over, the Campmeeting maintains year-round quiet hours all day Sunday, and from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. the rest of the week. This does mean that leaf blowers are not permitted to be used on Sundays. We have received numerous complaints with regard to the Sunday use of leaf blowers - the Board will issue fines in accordance with the Rules & Regulations if the rule is not followed. Thanks for your cooperation!



**Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mt. Gretna Campmeeting

LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES