

Mt Gretna Campmeeting Association Newsletter May 2009

President's Message: Dr. Jeffrey Hurst

Dear Neighbors,

As President of the Association, one of the things that I am honored to do is provide some introductory comments for the newsletter. As you are well aware, we have chosen to publish a newsletter as a result of a request from the 2008 annual meeting. With this activity, we are judiciously doing enough newsletters to ensure you get sufficient information without contributing to what can be information overload. This can be especially onerous in the late spring when many organizations are producing and distributing newsletters. Our eventual long-term goal is to publish the newsletter on our website, which is currently under development. Short term, it will be distributed manually with an evolution towards email distribution and eventual publication on the website. For those who might not have access to the website, we will provide printed copies. With respect to the website, there is active involvement from the board and community to again ensure it is appropriate for our community. To paraphrase one of the infamous Murphy's Laws: "Nothing is as easy as it looks," but be assured that the project is moving forward.

With spring and summer, our population mix changes as does the community dynamic, since some properties become used for rental, some sometimes become "party houses," and others serve as family retreats. One of my favorite comments is we live in a community of like-minded individuals where there is mutual respect for each other and the eclectic series of activities that individuals undertake. While other portions of Mt. Gretna have eliminated a quiet time, we as part of our heritage have chosen to keep this period from Jul 15 through August 31 as a period of reflection and a chance to enjoy the community. We ask that during this period you be considerate of your neighbors. If you have concerns with a neighbor, the best approach is to talk with your neighbor rather than drop off a note on my porch like the ones I got last year which said "My neighbor is making noise and you need to talk to them but don't tell them I told you."

I look forward to seeing many of you in the next few months and urge you to support the various programs and activities sponsored by the Association ranging from the Heritage Festival to the Community Library. Best wishes for a pleasant and productive summer.

Heritage Festival: Pat Allwein

The 2009 Heritage Festival will open, as usual, with Pastime. Pastime is an a cappella doo-wop group which has been opening the Heritage Festival for as long as most of us can remember. Because the following week is the Fourth of July, there will be no Heritage Festival program. We will return on July 11 with the Goose Creek Boys. This will be a very up-beat program of mostly gospel music perhaps with a little county or blue-grass thrown in. We will be having two programs the next week. Larry McKenna will be here on July 17. Larry is a high school music teacher who sings everything from Jimmy Buffet to Frank Sinatra. He will be bringing some of his students to perform with him. The next night, July 18, the Shuey Brothers will be back bringing their modern bluegrass music and their wacky humor. The Heritage Festival will close on July 25 with the Lebanon Swing Band. This is always a really good show and will be held following the annual picnic. All the shows are at the Tabernacle and start at 7:00. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be collected to help offset the cost of the programs.

Grounds: Merv Lentz, Superintendent of Grounds

Water Considerations:

Campmeeting water is tested monthly for bacteria counts and daily for PH and chlorine content. These testing results are evaluated by the Pure Test Water Laboratory, Myerstown, PA. The results are forwarded to the Department of Environmental Protection. If the testing indicates a problem, then residents are notified.

Trash, Rubbish, Garbage:

Regular collections take place every Monday. If a national holiday occurs on a Monday, the collection takes place the Tuesday following. Recyclables are collected in the same manner except that this takes place biweekly (June 1, 2009, etc.) Large items such as furniture, appliances, and the like require additional costs.

Street Maintenance:

Spot paving, line painting, etc., are scheduled for May/June.

Tabernacle:

The Tabernacle is inspected annually by a structural engineer. In 2009, all seems fine. The Tabernacle and the Library are sprayed three times a year to control pests.

Trees:

The trees are inspected and evaluated by a certified arborist every year. If a tree or a large branch is deemed risky, trimming or removals are addressed accordingly. If a risky tree or branch is on a property owner's property, then he or she will be notified. Gypsy moth spraying may or may not take place in 2009. We are not certain at this point in time.

Recent property transfers:

Andy and Joanne Benton purchased 210 Glossbrenner Ave, from Tony Santiago and Shawn Lines.

Mike and Michelle Marino purchased 109 First Street from the Alice McKeone Estate.

Playground: Stephanie Bost

This year we are working on the revitalization of our community playground! We invite you to join us Friday evening, June 5 at 7pm in the Tabernacle for the award winning Southern Gospel group Kevin Spencer and Friends of Ohio and Local Contemporary Christian group Wing and A Prayer! This is one of a three-part fundraiser we are running to raise funds needed to make improvements. Tickets for the show are \$10 and can be purchased the night of the show; seating is first come first served. A great family fun event will be our Children's Carnival, which will be held Saturday June 6, from 4-6pm in the playground. The playground is located across from the Roller Rink off route 117. Join us for games, food, prizes, balloons, and lots of FUN!

Ad Hoc: Mike Allwein

On February 5, 2009, the Ad Hoc Committee met for the last time to recommend revisions of the proposed Charter and By-laws. This was our seventh meeting, totaling 12 hours of discussion and changes.

In summary, two years ago (2007) the Law Firm of Leboeuf, Lamb, Greene, and MacRae LLP from Harrisburg did the foundation work (pro-bono) on the Charter and By-laws. No cost incurred to the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association. This work was done by a motion of the Board of Managers, who believed the current Charter and By-laws should be reviewed by someone with a legal background, since we had no knowledge of any prior review by any attorney. The Board felt, as I am sure many would, that it would be prudent to have a professional with prior legal background on By-laws perform this task.

While a much more detailed and organized work, it was generic in contents and areas needed to be tailored to our organization.

On September 18, 2007, the Board of Managers after revisions from numerous late hour board meetings, approved the first reading, and on November 20, 2007, approved the second reading.

This version of the approved Charter and By-laws was mailed to homeowners prior to the 2008 Annual Meeting.

During the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Campmeeting Association, it was suggested to organize an Ad Hoc committee, print out a side-by-side comparison, and review the work and make suggestions. This work was completed by the Ad Hoc committee in February of 09.

After an extended February Board Meeting, the changes were read to the Board Members along with community members in attendance.

Board members had until the next meeting to review the work done by the Ad-Hoc committee. At the March and April B.O.M. meetings after discussion and changes the first reading was completed.

As of this writing, the second reading is anticipated for the May Board of Managers meeting with a vote likely after its completion.

I wish to thank the Ad-Hoc committee members (Pat Allwein, Linda Campbell, Madelaine Gray, Dave Hartman from the community, and Board Members Bruce Gettle and Merv Lentz) for taking time from their personal lives and schedules to accomplish this task. I also wish to thank the Board of Managers (2007-2009) for time spent on readings and revisions during many late meetings.

On June 15 at 7 pm, community members are invited to the Tabernacle to discuss any inquires they have on the Charter and By-laws.

Website: Stephanie Bost

We are developing a community website for the Campmeeting. Hopefully web development will be complete later this summer. Stay tuned, and watch the message board across from the library or at the tabernacle for updates.

Campmeeting Yard Sale: Bruce Gettle

The Mt. Gretna Campmeeting annual yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 23, from 8 am-2 pm. There will be maps showing the addresses where the yard sales are being held.

Campmeeting Picnic: Bruce Gettle

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, July 25, after the Campmeeting business meeting. Desserts and salads from the residents are always welcomed. Watch for details in early June.

Nominations: Bruce Gettle

The Board of Managers is looking for a few people to serve on the nomination committee. The purpose of the committee is to find residents who would be willing to be candidates for the Board of Managers. People interested in serving on the committee should call Bruce Gettle at 813-5319 by May 18.

Odds and Ends: Stephanie Bost

A few quick last minute entries; a gentle reminder to all pet owners we have ordinances that require pets be leashed and poop scoop laws are in place.

Any special summer announcements can be posted at the kiosks in Campmeeting; one is across from the Library, the other at the Tabernacle.

Please sign up for email minutes of the monthly Board of Managers meetings and for email newsletters. Keep abreast of community happenings and do so by being "green."

Have a safe and fun summer.