



# Gettysburg

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **Borough Council**

#### **Mayor:**

William Troxell

#### **First Ward:**

Michael Birkner  
Rebecca Brown  
Scot Pitzer

#### **Second Ward:**

Kyle Leinbach  
Robert Krummerich  
Jacob Schindel

#### **Third Ward:**

John Butterfield  
Susan Naugle  
Graham Weaver

#### **Borough Manager**

Charles R. Gable

Everyone has a favorite season of the year, but there's no doubting that for Gettysburg, the summer is special. Tourists and day visitors abound. Outdoor dining and Saturday markets enliven the square. Community concerts, battle re-enactments, lectures, concerts and films add more flavor to life here. We are indeed privileged to call ourselves Gettysburgians.

Managing the borough, of course, takes no holiday during the summer months. Street and alley repairs and reconstruction are part of the scenery this summer, including work on Steinwehr Avenue and the rerouting of Lefever Street as the new Middle School nears completion. The first presentations have been made to Council about our capital budget, and initial negotiations with the uniformed services have commenced. Our new Borough Manager, Charles Gable, has made it a priority to be out and about the town, the better to serve the community. Nickie James, the Finance Director, is developing new practices and procedures to simplify the budget process and make it more transparent.

For its part, the Council has been working to find ways of addressing serious deficiencies with our sidewalks in many parts of the borough. As described on page three of this newsletter, thanks to the efforts of Public Works Director Dan Hilliard, we are investigating a new process for cutting sidewalks to eliminate uneven surfaces. The upshot of this work, through what is called "precision cutting", could save homeowners 70-90% of the cost of a full sidewalk replacement. This is just one of the ways in which the borough government is looking out for property owners.

I'm happy also to note that the Chesapeake Bay Trust has awarded the borough nearly \$50,000 for work on the Gettysburg Inner Loop Bicycle Trail, focusing on engineering and storm-water issues along Race Horse Alley between Washington Street and Buford Ave. (You can read more about this on page 4 of the newsletter.) We're optimistic that this enterprise will mature with further grants from various sources. Stay tuned!

A more sobering reality—one the Council will deal with not just this year, but well into the future—is the ongoing need to find new revenues to sustain the borough's infrastructure and keep up with rising personnel costs. Whatever disagreements Council members might have on budget priorities and questions relating to taxes, there's a general consensus that our staff is lean and hard working. When salaries rise, and expenses for road repairs, for example, grow, where is the money going to come from? We've seen a noticeable growth in pillow tax income in the past year, but as many of you know, it's a small piece of a large income stream from that tax. Increasing fees will help us only marginally, and I do not hear any chorus asking the Council to raise garage or parking meter fees. Gettysburg is healthy, and an exciting place to live, but we face some difficult choices in the coming months. We welcome your input as we chart the road ahead.

*Michael J. Birkner*



### **Important**

#### **Numbers:**

Borough 334-1160  
Police Dept 334-1168  
Emergency 911  
After Hours  
Non-Emergency  
334-8101  
Public Works 334-4666  
GMA 334-6738  
GARA 334-2028

### CONGRATULATIONS GETTYSBURG RESIDENTS!

Douglas Key, Operations Manager of IESI, has told Borough officials that his drivers report that over 90% of residences within the Borough recycle each week. This is great news since every pound of recycled materials benefits us all through Commonwealth incentive dollars.

*If anyone needs special accommodations when attending any borough meeting, please notify the Borough Secretary (334-1160 ext. 240) at least five (5) business days prior to attending the meeting.*

## CELEBRATING HISTORIC PRESERVATION

At its May meeting, Borough Council and the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) presented the Borough's 2014 Preservation Awards. The awards are given annually to owners of properties in the Historic District who have completed work on their properties during the previous year and who have done so in a manner which recognizes and contributes to the historic character of Gettysburg. Awards were presented in three categories – Certificate of Exceptional Merit, Certificate of Merit and Honorable Mention. Six property owners were honored at the meeting and three others were recognized in the Honorable Mention category. HARB Chairman Gary Shaffer presented awards to the following owners:

### Certificates of Exceptional Merit

#### *Accessibility and Rehabilitation*

47 Baltimore Street

Owner: Adams County Housing Authority



#### *New Construction*

114 Chambersburg Street

Owner: Adams County Rescue Mission



#### *General Commitment to the Historic District, New Construction and Adaptive Reuse*

339 Carlisle Street

Owner: Gettysburg College

### Certificates of Merit

#### *Rehabilitation of Storage Unit*

41 Delap Avenue

Owners: Brian and Pat Redding

#### *Accessibility, Rehabilitation, Paint*

117 York Street

Owner: St. James Lutheran Church

#### *Accessibility, Adaptive Reuse*

58-60 York Street

Owner: John Jumba

### Honorable Mention

#### *Door*

619 Baltimore Street

Owner: Gina LeVan

#### *Accessibility*

449-451 Baltimore Street

Owner: Gettysburg Foundation

#### *Windows*

17 Chambersburg Street

Owner: Carl and Nancy Yingling

## STEINWHER AVENUE UPDATE

The \$3.28 million upgrade of the last half of the Steinwehr Ave. commercial corridor is about to begin! The project extends from the South Washington Street intersection southwest to just beyond the last commercial establishment (General Pickett's Buffet) on the street.

The transportation and safety improvements that will be implemented include curb extensions, bicycle lanes, context-sensitive lighting, sidewalk repair, age and disability-friendly crosswalks, interpretive signage, new storm water management infrastructure and, of course, a new wearing surface on the street.

The project was approved in August 2012 and planning began immediately. Since the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle was to occur in the summer of 2013, project construction was placed on hold until after the November anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

The Gettysburg Municipal Authority and Columbia Gas began upgrades of their underground utilities in late January 2014 and finished in May. The Federal Highway Administration gave Harrisburg based Rogele, Inc. the notice to proceed on the construction phase not later than June 26<sup>th</sup> and finish by February 18<sup>th</sup>. The contractor hopes to have the job completed by the end of this year—weather permitting.

Although there will be lane closures and possible detours as construction progresses, the end is in sight. When finished, Steinwehr Ave. will be an attractive gateway corridor to our historic community.

For Steinwher Avenue construction updates - <http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/traffic-gettysburg.aspx>

## WELCOMING A NEW PATROL OFFICER



At its June meeting, the Borough Council welcomed the newest member of our police force. Michael Carricato was hired as a full-time Patrol Officer beginning June 10. He had been working part-time for the Borough since March so he is already familiar with the community and his fellow officers.

Before joining the Borough, Michael was a police officer in West York for two years. He is a veteran having served six years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard when it was still based in Gettysburg. He is a graduate of the 98<sup>th</sup> Police Academy at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Michael is enjoying the different atmosphere of policing in Gettysburg. This is his first tourist season and first experience working in a college town. His specific areas of interest in police work are DUI and narcotics enforcement.

When not policing Gettysburg, Michael enjoys riding his Harley Davidson, boating, fishing and hunting.

Next time you see Michael in his police car or on foot, give him a wave and a "Welcome to Gettysburg".

## SAFER SIDEWALKS STARTING IN WARD 1

It is the responsibility of each property owner in the Borough to assure that the sidewalk in front of their property is in good condition and free of hazards that could result in falls and injury. The Borough's Code Enforcement Officer has been checking sidewalks and has found that many do not meet the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Most of the problems are with raised sidewalks which create a tripping hazard. With over a million visitors using our sidewalks each year, it is not a problem we can continue to ignore. And, it is not just visitors who trip and fall!

*The ADA defines a 'trip hazard' as any vertical change of over 1/4 inch or more at any joint or crack. Since the ADA demands strict compliance, these trip hazards represent a potential legal liability for property owners.*

The Borough is working on a solution which will require the cooperation of each property owner if we are to meet the strict ADA standards for sidewalk safety. In May, Public Works Director Dan Hilliard arranged a demonstration of a new process for cutting sidewalks to eliminate sidewalk "lips". The process uses a special saw to cut the concrete and create a slope that meets ADA requirements. The demonstration by Precision Concrete Cutting took place on the north side of the first block of East Middle Street. The result was impressive and can be seen in the photos to the right. The cutting took about 15 minutes to complete using a patented system. You can check it out yourself just east of the District Justice Office on East Middle Street.

At its June Council meeting, the council unanimously gave approval for Precision Concrete Cutting to provide an assessment of all the sidewalks in Ward 1 of the Borough. Ward 1 comprises the east sides of Baltimore Street, Lincoln Square and Carlisle Street and all properties to the east of that line. It was chosen as a starting point because it contains both major pedestrian corridors and lots of tripping hazards. The assessment will identify each property and include a ranking of the hazard, an estimate of the size of the area to be cut and an estimated cost. The assessment will also identify damaged sidewalks where the cutting process cannot be used and other repairs or replacement will be needed. That would apply to sidewalks that are broken up, seriously cracked or raised too high to be cut. After the assessment is completed, the Borough will contact affected property owners to determine if they wish to participate in the program. It is estimated that this cutting process will save 70-90% compared to the cost of sidewalk replacement. Cutting may also save a tree that would otherwise need to be removed at additional cost to the property owner.

Sidewalks not in compliance with ADA standards will need to be repaired. Ultimately, it will be up to the property owner to decide how they want to fix the problem.



## INNER LOOP PROJECT AWARDED CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST GRANT

The Borough has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$47,262 by the Chesapeake Bay Trust for work on the Gettysburg Inner Loop Bicycle Trail (GIL). The Borough requested funds from the Trust's *Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns Program* to complete design and engineering of features central to stormwater run-off on the section of the Loop using Race Horse Alley. The area has poor drainage and is prone to flooding. The alley crosses Stevens Run which is a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. The grant is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.



The work will be completed by the Borough's contracted engineering firm, C. S. Davidson, Inc. and will contribute to the final design of the Race Horse Alley greenway section of the GIL. The GIL proposal represents a partnership between the Borough and Healthy Adams Bicycle Pedestrian, Inc. to create a safe bicycle route through the heart of Gettysburg with connections to key destinations inside and outside the Borough. Current efforts are focused on the western side of the Loop. For more information, check out the Gettysburg Inner Loop Greenway Master Plan available on the Borough's website.

## AND SPEAKING OF THE BAY . . .

### GRASS CLIPPINGS AND STORMWATER RUNOFF

The weekly grass mowing season may be behind us, but it is not too late to consider how we can keep grass clippings out of our stormwater system and out of our streams.

Grass clippings contain phosphorus which, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is a major pollutant carried by stormwater into our streams and into the Chesapeake Bay. According to a Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition study, one bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain enough phosphorus to produce 30 to 50 pounds of algae.

What can you do to reduce this pollutant? Consider changing your lawn care practices to keep clippings out of the streets.

- Mow in a direction that will throw clippings onto the lawn where they will act as a fertilizer – not on the street.
- Use a mulching mower blade and set your mower for a height of 2-3 inches to hide the clippings.
- Don't sweep or blow clippings onto the street.
- Keep lawn fertilizer use to a minimum and keep the fertilizer off the street.

Clippings can also clog storm grates and drains causing flooded streets. By controlling clippings, you can help the Bay and avoid future problems for the Borough.

### Did You Know?

**The Borough's stormwater system flows into Rock Creek which, has been designated as a "critical watershed" by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. "The watershed does not meet standards for aquatic life use. Causes for these impairments include agriculture, industry, development and urban land uses."**

### SIGNS AND SIDEWALKS

**Sandwich boards** are a great way to attract customers to a business as long as they do not present a hazard to pedestrians using our sidewalks. Signs placed in the middle of the sidewalk are a problem. **There must be at least 4 feet of open sidewalk for pedestrian travel –more is better!** Other requirements are:

- Must be no less than 3 but no more than 4 feet in height
- Only one per business is allowed
- Wheeled signs must be in a locked in position when used
- May not exceed 12 sq ft.
- May only be displayed when the business is open

## MAIN STREET PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP



**Congratulations** to Deborah Adamik, President of Main Street Gettysburg, for being named the Outstanding Main Street Manager of the Year by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC). The award was presented at the PDC annual dinner on June 2<sup>ND</sup>. This recognition follows the announcement earlier this year that Main Street Gettysburg was a top 10 finalist for the 2014 Great American Main Street Award.

Deb was chosen for her exemplary work out of nearly 100 managers of Main Street and Elm Street programs across Pennsylvania. The award recognizes Deb's work to promote the goals of PDC's community revitalization mission. Her accomplishments on behalf of Main Street and the Borough include opening and operation of the Will's House until its purchase by the National Park Service, catalyst and support for developing the Seminary Ridge Museum, coordination of the community steering committee leading up to the successful 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration in 2013, and assistance to the Steinwher BID to revitalize the Steinwher Business District.

Main Street Gettysburg was established by the Borough in 1984 as *Downtown Gettysburg* to assist with community and economic development issues and strategies. When Deb was named executive director in 2007, she brought 30 years of experience in strategic planning, organizational development and leadership consulting. Prior to joining Main Street, Deb had her own consulting business and worked with Dickinson and Gettysburg colleges. She serves on several local boards including the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Board, the Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District, Destination Gettysburg, and the Community Development Committee of the Borough of Gettysburg. In 2005, Adamik received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Adams County Chamber of Commerce.

Learn more about Main Street Gettysburg at [www.mainstreetgettysburg.org](http://www.mainstreetgettysburg.org).

## 31<sup>st</sup> NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTY ON AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>



Neighborhoods throughout Gettysburg are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "**31<sup>st</sup> Annual National Night Out**" crime and drug prevention event. This "block party" event will be held on Tuesday, August 5 from 5 to 7 pm in the first block of Breckenridge Street. Rain date is August 12.

National Night Out is designed to: Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-fire department community partnerships; send the message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!

Residents in *Olde Getty Place* and in all of Gettysburg are asked to turn on their outside lights on August 5 and spend an evening outside with neighbors. The fire department will be on hand, along with the police department. There will be food, drink, musical entertainment, give-a-ways for the kids, and lots of fun for everyone!

If you are interested in having a stand at the event or would like to perform, please contact Stephanie McIlwee at 334-1518 ext 229, or email at [smcilwee@adamscha.org](mailto:smcilwee@adamscha.org).

Over the past five years, through the Elm Street Program, there have been great improvements to the neighborhood known as *Olde Getty Place*, and they have just begun! Annual Halloween and Christmas Parades in Gettysburg are coordinated by *Olde Getty Place* and generously sponsored by Gettysburg Eagles Aerie #1562.

**Consider Volunteering** We are always eager to talk with citizens who are interested in serving on one the Borough's authorities, boards and commissions. Contact Rebecca Brown at 334-2304 or [bbrown@gettysburg-pa.gov](mailto:bbrown@gettysburg-pa.gov)

**PARKS AND RECREATION FUN**

The Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority (GARA) has lots of activities planned for the summer.

For more information visit the GARA website at [www.gara-recpark.info](http://www.gara-recpark.info).

• **The RED, WHITE & BLUE - 5K Color Run**      **Sept. 13, 2014**      **9 AM to 12 NOON**

This special event is designed to promote WELLNESS by getting people together in a fun-filled environment. At each kilometer you get drenched in a different color – head to toe with non-toxic corn starch. We suggest a white t-shirt for maximum effect! And, plan to stick around for music, dancing and light snacks. Part of the proceeds will support the Wounded Warriors Project. Open to all ages. Cost is \$25 per person. Register at ACTIVE.com

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although similar in design, this is NOT a sanctioned "Color Run" or a "Color Me Rad" event.

• **SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS**      **Now thru August 15**

Hike, paddle, and climb your way through a summer of adventure. Camps are sponsored by Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve and GARA. Open to children who will enter grades 1-7 this fall. Campers receive a free breakfast and lunch each day.

Full-day camps	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	\$135/wk
Before Camp Care	7:00 am – 8:30 am	\$ 30/wk
After Camp Care	4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	\$ 30/wk



To register, go to [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org) or, www. [www.gara-recpark.info](http://www.gara-recpark.info)

• **ADAMS COUNTY WELLNESS CHALLENGE**      **Starting in September**

Jointly sponsored by GARA, Wellspan and the YWCA, the Challenge is designed primarily for organizations and companies interested in encouraging employees to participate in social and fun activities that also improve health and well-being. A total of 18 events are planned throughout the County during September and October.

For more information, call GARA at 334-2028.

**NEW USES FOR ARMORY BUILDING**

Many area residents remember the National Guard Armory Building on West Confederate Avenue as a place where area kids, big and small, played basketball on its huge main floor. The building was vacated by the National Guard several years ago and has been purchased by the Gettysburg Foundation for use by the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP).

*A Bit of History . . . . .*

The Armory housed 50 prisoners of war during WWII until camp facilities could be constructed along Emmitsburg Road on the Pickett's Charge field. The POWs provided labor to harvest apples and process the fruit at local plants.

The Armory was constructed in 1938 in the "art deco" style popular in the 20s and 30s. It is because of this unique style that the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The basketball court remains but, in the coming years, the Foundation will transform the building into office space for GNMP administrative, law enforcement and resource management staff. The first phase of the project will be to relocate the Park's cannon carriage shop to the three-bay garage behind the Armory. The Foundation will maintain the historic character and exterior style of the building as it transforms the interior space.



**In Need of Community Services? Dial 2-1-1**

If you, a family member or someone you know needs emotional support or help from a local agency or program to get through a difficult time, you can dial 2-1-1 and be connected to a trained Helpline Specialist. Whether it involves a mental health issue, death of a loved one or a need for food or heating assistance, 2-1-1 will provide compassion, support and information about services available in the Gettysburg area. Services are available 24 hours, 7 days per week. Visit the 2-1-1 website at <https://pa211.communityos.org>.

## FREEDOM TRANSIT'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS SECURED



A sustainability committee of Norris Flowers of Destination Gettysburg, Robin Fitzpatrick of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation and Carrie Stuart of the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce worked on securing the local match needed from local businesses and organizations. The funding identified in the plan secured the required local match to sustain service at the current level for the next three years.

A study was commissioned by the National Park Service with Volpe, The National Transportation Systems Center, to evaluate the performance and economic benefits to the community of the Freedom Transit service. While the report process is in final stages, early reports demonstrate that for each dollar spent on the service returns more than \$17 of economic benefit to the community. The final report is expected this summer.

Federal and State laws require that local match is collected to support the program. The local match requirement averages to be about 7.5% of the total program. The local match requirement is different and is in addition to the fares collected from passengers and local organizations.

The current fare for boarding is \$1.00. The summer schedules went into effect in May. Bus schedules and information can be found at [www.ridethetrolley.com](http://www.ridethetrolley.com). Have a smartphone or mobile device? Use the QR code and get real-time bus information on the go!



## STREET AND ALLEY WORK UPDATE

Anyone who lives in Pennsylvania knows that we have 2 seasons—winter and “road repair” and we’re in the middle of

“road repair” right now! Here is a short update on what you might expect as you travel through Gettysburg this summer.

Columbia Gas is replacing steel and cast iron pipes with plastic piping. They are also moving their lines from under the street to under the sidewalk. They will replace all sidewalks that they disturb. This will save property owners considerable money particularly if the sidewalk no longer meets the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Gas lines on **Stratton Street from Lincoln Avenue to Barlow Street** should be under repair now. Columbia Gas will also move gas lines from the street to the sidewalk along **Hanover Street**. Intersections that are impacted by gas line movement will also be resurfaced.

**Queen Street** will have the surface milled with base repairs made by our Public Works Dept. Stewart and Tate, Inc. from York, PA. will then lay the asphalt surface. Work will be block-by-block with sections closed for short periods of time. The work also includes new sidewalk ramps.

**East Middle Street** will have base repairs in August with asphalt applied over “soft” areas. All work will be done by our Public Works Department.

**West Legion, Mayor and Cannery Alleys** will have the old asphalt removed with new asphalt installed. Renovation will occur during the August-September timeframe.

As usual the Borough is constrained by funding when doing street and alley repairs. Asphalt costs \$60.00 per ton and each of the 3 alleys worked on will use about 100 tons. A paver used to lay the asphalt rents for \$200.00 per hour and a roller used to smooth and compact freshly laid asphalt costs \$83.00 per hour. Trucks to haul the asphalt are \$86.00 per hour. The total alley and street repair budget for 2014 is \$155,000.00.

An update on Steinwehr Avenue can be found on page 2. During the summer months, adjust your travel to avoid street and alley repair and start your travel a few minutes early to compensate for short-term closures.

### **DON'T MISS FALL DOWNTOWN ANTIQUE SHOW**

**Saturday, September 27, 2014  
7:00 am to 4:00 pm**

***Lots to see, lots to buy, food, fun!  
Sponsored by GARMA***



Borough of Gettysburg  
59 E High Street  
Gettysburg PA 17325  
717-334-1160

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The Gettysburg Festival Presents . . .



**Shop in Town!**  
4 to 8 pm



*Look for the First Friday Flag!*

August 1	Peaches
September 5	Apples
October 3	Salsa on the Square
November 7	Salute the Troops
December 5	Cookie Walk

[www.gettysburgretailmerchants.com](http://www.gettysburgretailmerchants.com)

Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014

Visit [www.gettysburgfestival.org](http://www.gettysburgfestival.org)  
for details and tickets

[www.gettysburg-pa.gov](http://www.gettysburg-pa.gov)  
made easy

