

# GETTYSBURG Pennsylvania HISTORIC CROSSROADS

Borough **Newsletter** 

Volume XIII Issue 2

Fall/ Winter 2021 - 2022

#### **Borough Council**

#### Mayor

Theodore Streeter

#### **First Ward**

Wesley Heyser Patricia Lawson

#### **Second Ward**

Christopher Berger Matthew Moon

#### Third Ward

John Lawver Judith Butterfield

#### At-Large

Nicholas Redman

#### **Borough Manager**

Charles R. Gable

#### **Important Numbers**

## **Borough Hall**

(717) 334-1160

#### **Police Department**

(717) 334-1168

**Emergency** 911

## **After Hours**

Non-Emergency (717) 334-8101

#### **Public Works**

(717) 334-4666

#### **GMA**

(717) 334-6738

#### **GARA**

(717) 334-2028

#### **GBSWA**

(717) 334-1160 ext. 238#

#### GOODBYE TO ALL THAT - A Farewell Message

A Message from Mayor Theodore Streeter

On the first Monday in January 2022, I'll pass the Mayor's baton off to my successor, whomever he/she may be.

So, I want to use my last Newsletter opportunity to thank all those who helped and supported me throughout my term. It's difficult to do without sounding stale or insincere, but I assure the reader that my wishes and accolades are heartfelt.

Above all, I thank my wife, Elaine, for her encouragement and support during my frequent evening meetings, weekend commitments, parades, ceremonies, welcoming speeches, ribbon cuttings, and all the other duties that come with the Mayor's job. Her understanding and patience made my duties a lot easier. There's not a person on the borough staff that I would not be happy and privileged to work with again. I hope Gettysburg citizens realize that members of their local government devote excessive time and effort to keeping Gettysburg

afloat. I'm afraid that their dedication is often unappreciated by the public. But I see their work on a daily basis and stand in awe of their willingness to make whatever sacrifice is necessary to serve the Borough. The Gettysburg Police Department is among the finest in the Commonwealth. During my six-year tenure I have seen it evolve into a group of professional, well-trained officers who are each committed to protecting and serving the citizens of the Borough. They are led by an experienced Chief who believes in community policing and who is respected by his officers and those with whom he interacts. Lastly, the council. I was a member of Borough Council for 14 years before becoming Mayor. Much has changed in municipal government since

my time on Council. The issues local government deals with are very complex and time consuming – far beyond my ken. We all should consider ourselves lucky that we are represented by people willing to devote their time and talents to the betterment of the community.

I've enjoyed my 20+ years of Borough service, and I believe I have contributed to the betterment of Gettysburg. I would run again, but I would be 83 at the time of my inauguration. It's time to step aside for new blood. Besides, I need to work in my golf game. So, thank you all for your support. I am confident Gettysburg's current leadership will continue to work for a bright future for all who call Gettysburg home.

#### What is a Sharrow?

#### A representation of a

bicycle with two chevrons above it, marked on a roadway. It's a symbol to indicate that motor vehicles and bicycles share the lane. Vehicles may pass when there are no oncoming vehicles.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

**Gettysburg** is a Certified **GOLD Community for** Sustainability!

For Details, Visit www.SustainablePACommunity Certification.org



#### Important Dates ....

Adams County Farmers Market - Saturdays through November 27th (8:00 AM-1:00 PM) 108 North Stratton Street Municipal Election Day - Tuesday, November 2, 2021 (Polls Open 7 AM - 8 PM) Polling Locations; See Page 4 Remembrance Day Parade – Saturday, November 20, 2021 (2:00 PM)

A Gettysburg Christmas Festival - (Two Weekends!) December 3-5, 2021 and December 10-12, 2021

If anyone needs special accommodations when attending any Borough meeting, please notify the Borough Secretary at least five (5) business days prior to attending the meeting. Call (717) 334-1160 ext. 240.

## Gettysburg BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

#### **CANDIDATE'S CORNER**

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 is General Election Day in the

State of Pennsylvania. Locally, there two individuals seeking election to hold the Office of Mayor for Gettysburg Borough, and four candidates seeking election to serve on Gettysburg Borough Council. Each candidate was asked to provide a statement regarding their candidacy to help the citizens decide whom they should support in the upcoming election.



Christopher Berger
Democrat – (Incumbent)
Office Sought – Borough Council
(Ward 2)

Common sense for the common good is the focus of my public service and public safety is my top priority.



## Rita Frealing Democrat fice Sought – Mayor

Office Sought – Mayor

The Mayor of Gettysburg serves as a link between citizens, the Borough Council and the Police Department. As Mayor I intend to interact with local businesses, colleges, local and statewide organizations, and the National Military Park. Collaboration is key. Willingness to listen, and the ability to communicate are primary attributes of a successful Mayor of Gettysburg.

Having grown up on the edge of Gettysburg and now a resident, I have a background and experience to serve the borough as an articulate ambassador who is also able to work with the Borough Council and the Police Department. I was director of public liaison for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, director of communications for the PA Department of Public Welfare, and director of Dauphin County Domestic Relations. Serving as chief legal counsel and legislative director for PA Senator Vincent Hughes, deputy press secretary for Gov. Bob Casey while also working in his Office of Policy and as director of government relations for the PA State Department of Education has given me knowledge of state and local government relations. As a lawyer and officer of the court, I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution.

I served on the board of the Greater Harrisburg NAACP and worked as a news reporter for WTPA radio and TV, for WHP Channel 21, and as a weekend news anchor for WGET radio in Gettysburg. I graduated from Saint Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg High School, Penn State University and the Penn State Dickinson Law School.

As a former seasonal park ranger, I understand the importance of the history of the Battle. I also appreciate the broad spectrum of local history that can be developed in concert with the Adams County Historical Society.

During the pandemic, a primary goal has been helping local businesses stay open. I would be alert to funding opportunities, and interact with the Chamber of Commerce, the Adams Economic Alliance and Main Street Gettysburg for the benefit of the borough. Grants for police department development could also be researched to augment the current budget for equipment as recommended by the police chief.

As an active Mayor, I would be an ambassador and advocate for Gettysburg, and include all citizens of Gettysburg in their government and make sure they feel their concerns are being heard. You talk -- I listen.

NOTE: No picture provided.

Thomas R. Carr Republican Office Sought – Mayor

My strengths as a candidate for mayor are rooted in the 50 years of experience serving the Gettysburg community. I was privileged to serve as a police officer in the borough for eight years (1976-1983). Policing the borough enabled me to master the capacity to approach every situation with effective communication and compassion. My period as a borough police officer also facilitates my ability to provide appropriate oversight of the police department. I have also devoted a significant amount of time (50 years) toward volunteer firefighting at the Gettysburg Fire Department. I spent two of those years (1982, 1983) as chif and am honored to be recognized as a top 10 responder for the past 8 years. The vast amount of time spent as a volunteer firefighter aided the development of crucial skills necessary for the position of mayor. My abilities to adapt under unpredictable circumstances surrounding an emergency response have allowed me to refine my skills as a leader and problem-solver. The high stress situations that I am commonly hurled into as a first responder present me with an unquestioned potential to remain sensible and confident during the decision-making process. I also spent 30 years (1984-2014) as an elected Gettysburg Magisterial District Judge. During this tenure, I swore under oath to protect, obey, and defend the constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth. This oath is a fundamental component of my life, and I can assure that impartiality will be applied to any disputes that may arise within the Borough.



Patricia Lawson

Democrat – (Incumbent)

Office Sought

Borough Council

(Ward 1)

It has been a privilege to serve the residents and business owners in Gettysburg as a member of

the Borough Council for nearly four years. I am running for re-election for a second term this November. My slogan is

Partnership, not Partisanship.

See Lawson – Contd. on Page 4



#### Chad-Alan Carr Democrat

Office Sought – Borough Council (At-Large)

Gettysburg is a great place, but we are more than a place. We are a town in the spotlight. Let's show the world that we support equality for all. We respect residents, visitors, employees, and small businesses.

Gettysburg deserves Council Members that are both passionate about this community and who work toward improving the town. In the 13 years I've lived here, I've worked with non-profits and small businesses to help them when they needed it. I have also created a community theatre here, started a theatre program for special needs here, started a program for senior citizens here, started a free after school program, helped bring a national conference here, created the first ever gay pride event here, and helped to get a non-discrimination ordinance passed in town to help protect everyone equally.

I've only just begun because I LOVE this town!

The year 2020 was difficult for everyone because of the pandemic, but it also brought racism, hate, and inequality to the forefront of almost every conversation. It's important to have difficult conversations, but we still need to listen to each other to try to understand. We will not always agree, but we can try to be empathetic towards each other's struggles. My entire life experience as a teacher and producer is cemented in my ability to bring people together to work on a common goal. For over a decade I have worked to bring peace, love, happiness, and equality to our town.

Raising property taxes is not always the answer. Exploring creative ways for bringing other types of income into the Borough will help us keep a solid and responsible police department and Borough staff that must ALL be held accountable to the taxpayers. I plan to move our community forward with inclusion, communication, transparency, and accountability.

Our unique and versatile town thrives on both tourists and local shoppers. It is important for small businesses to appeal to a wide range of consumers. Because of this, I believe it is important to reevaluate some of the restrictions that are placed upon the businesses within the Borough. Many of these restrictions inhibit the small business owner's ability to thrive. We must support small businesses...now more than ever.

We can and must do better. Together we can!

#### Brian Hodges Republican

Office Sought – Borough Council (At-Large)

Hello citizens of Gettysburg! My name is Brian Hodges, and I am a candidate for the at large seat on Gettysburg Borough Council. I would let to introduce myself to you and give



you my vision for Gettysburg. I moved to Gettysburg in March of 2005 with my wife and Mother to purchase the historic Brafferton Inn Bed and Breakfast on York St. We love downtown!

Over the years, we have purchased adjoining buildings at 34 and 38 York St, where our tenants the Union Drummer Boy and For the Historian are located. We have also done major renovations to the inn over the years, adding modern touches while still keeping the historic integrity of the old house. We host thousands of guests annually, and are sometimes the first person someone meets while traveling to Gettysburg. In 2006, my wife and I started a family and purchased a home in Ward 3. We now have three children, ages 15, 13, and 11, who all attend school in the Gettysburg area school district. We love our neighborhood and our neighbors!

This makes me uniquely qualified to be a great addition to council, owning a home in Ward 3 and a business in Ward 1. This council should absolutely have a member who owns a business on the board. No other council member or candidate can offer what I offer. I see the day to day issues Gettysburg faces, whether it is parking, traffic, infrastructure, sidewalk issues, small business problems, small tax base etc.

At this time in my life, I would like to give my time back to this community that has served me so well.

My vision for Gettysburg is quite simple. First of all we need to keep the borough safe. Public safety is my number one priority. I fully support our hard working police department and our police chief.

Secondly, I want to keep the borough clean and vibrant. I envision clean streets, fixed roadways and sidewalks, where local citizens and our visitors alike can walk, drive, and ride bikes to enjoy our beautiful, historic downtown area.

Lastly, I want the borough to be a place where people can afford to live. I want to ensure that taxes remain as low as possible, so those who are fixed incomes can still reside here. Lower tax rates will also attract economic development opportunities.

Please consider voting for me!

Lawson - Contd. from Page 2 It has been an honor to serve alongside my colleagues. We don't always agree, and our votes show that, but the mutual respect allows us to work in a collaborative manner.

The \$3.15 million (over two years) that we have received from the federal government is a lot, but after we repay funds we had to borrow from our reserve during the pandemic and focus on aging infrastructure projects we'll have a much smaller amount as we decide where to direct remaining funds.

One of our major challenges as a council is to find ways to increase revenues beyond individual tax burdens on homeowners and businesses. How can we shift some of the revenue sources beyond our own residents?

Here are some questions I ask myself during budget time. How can we provide a safe and vibrant downtown that offers services, entertainment, and commerce to its residents, as well as to a couple million visitors each year? How do we provide multiple-use and affordable housing for those who want to live in the borough? How do we become a desired place to live, where we can take advantage of our walkability to shops, restaurants, and entertainment? These are some of the challenging questions your Borough Council faces as we plan strategically for the future.

A sustainable community that prides itself on inclusivity, is also a health- minded borough that shares the road not only with vehicles, but also pedestrians and bicyclists. How do we harness the creative and intelligent ideas that so many of you have? We do this by listening to you. We remain open to ideas and find ways to engage others in the decision making of our community. We do not close doors before we have an opportunity to explore the options.

While I represent Ward I, I encourage borough residents to reach out to me. I will have regular hours this fall at the Ragged Edge on Monday mornings at 10 a.m., beginning October 4. Please stop by and tell me what is on your mind. I am also available by phone or email.

I would like the privilege of serving on the Gettysburg Borough Council another four years and being your representative. I hope I can count on your vote. Thanks.



Judith Butterfield

Republican – (Incumbent)

Office Sought – Borough Council (Ward 3)

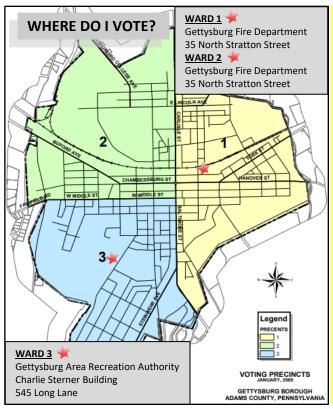
As I have said many times, I have always been interested in the workings of local government where issues that directly and immediately affect community life are addressed. I strongly believe it is the epitome of neighbor representing neighbor for the good of the Borough. The skills that I bring

to the office of council member are diligence, a history of public service in the County and Borough, and a predilection for carefully researching an issue to ensure it is resolved in the manner most beneficial to the Borough.

A top priority for me continues to be a focus on what was formerly known as the REDDI project. Residents have voiced impatience in what many see as inordinate delays in developing such prime Borough property. While understanding that the pandemic's far-reaching financial complications have undoubtably caused many of the delays, I would hope the contracted developer, Tim Harrison of Staten Island, NY, would proceed with all acceptable haste to complete this project, which will bring growth, development, and needed tax revenues to the Borough. To that end, I would be willing to support efforts that would ease such development and would work to foster positive relations with the developer.

Recent heavy rains have compounded the challenges of handling water run-off in the Borough. I will continue to work with the Public Works Department, the Borough Engineer, and GMA to address these problems in the most fiscally responsible ways.

I am available for questions and comments at 717-337-0724 or via email at <a href="mailto:JButterfield@GettysburgPA.gov">JButterfield@GettysburgPA.gov</a> .



General Election Day

Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Polls Open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM



#### SATELLITE DISHES – A NECESSARY EVIL?

by Debra English, Director of Historic Preservation

We all love our NFL package and Netflix but for those that visit and live in the Historic District, these dishes can become unsightly evesores. When tenants transfer or providers change, new dishes are installed, and the old ones are often left behind. This can cause damage to the structure as the 'no longer in use' mounts are not being maintained and must be removed before leaks start. The old holes need to be repaired properly and new should placed be in inconspicuous location.

When installing a new dish, the anchors should be drilled into the mortar joints, and not within the brick or stone of the

structure. All efforts should be made to locate these dishes to the rear of the buildings or on a pole (not the front façade). This will minimize damage to the structure and avoid unneeded holes in the roof top or structures themselves.



#### **GETTYS SQUARE ART OASIS**

by Leona Rega, Executive Director, ACAC



The success of the **Gettys Square Art Oasis** truly one collaboration between the Borough Gettysburg, the Adams County Arts Council, and local business owners Wenk Ploughman's Cider and

Monica Oss of Open Minds. Each took an area of interest in the project and worked together to make it happen. Most of the performers are sponsored by community residents who donate money or sponsor performers. Friday and Saturday night performances are booked through referral of a local musician with contacts. An ACAC staff member is the contact and keeper of the schedule. A complete listing of schedule performances can be viewed under the 'Community Events' button located on the homepage of the Borough's website at

www.GettysburgPA.gov.

Contd. on Page 7

Any satellite dishes proposed to be mounted on the front façades or street facing sides of any structures, such as a corner lot must be reviewed through the Borough's permitting process. At a minimum, a Land Use permit and Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) permit must be submitted and approved prior to installation. Permits can be found on the Boroughs website under the "Forms and Documents" tab.

Objectives of the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) include safeguarding the view shed while maintaining property values within the Historic District and preserving Gettysburg's historic identity. Gettysburg's Design Guide, which can be found on the Borough's website www.GettysburgPA.gov under Authorities, Boards and Commissions (ABCs), in the HARB tab has information on maintenance and restoration of historic structures within the Borough limits. The Design Guide, chapter titled, "Utilities and Accessibility" on page 97 discusses satellite placement a bit more in depth. If you are a tenant, you must check with your landlord for consent prior to installation of a satellite dish; and discuss with your landlord and installer the best location for a new dish as well as removal of the dish no longer in use.

If you have any questions, please contact the Director or Historic and Environmental Preservation, Debra English, at 717-334-1160 ext. 238 or email at <a href="mailto:DEnglish@GettysburgPA.gov">DEnglish@GettysburgPA.gov</a> with any questions on permitting, placement and installation. Thank you for cooperation and interest in properties within the Gettysburg Historic District.

#### **OVERDOSE AWARENESS TASKFORCE**

Like much of the country, Adams County is currently living through from Matthew Moon, Borough Council Vice President multiple concurrent epidemic situations. In addition to our ongoing struggle with COVID-19, we still battle inequities in

mental health services, obesity, opioid overdose, and substance abuse. Each of these things on their own are hard for many of us to overcome, but when a global pandemic shows us all the places our systems can fail- from production supply chains to scarcity of services- It can all become too much for many of us to manage.

Adams County is fortunate to have an assembled task force attempting to deal with overdose. In 2016, the Criminal Justice Advisory Board partnered with Collaborating for Youth to form the Overdose Awareness Taskforce in order to combat the ongoing opioid epidemic in the area. The Adams County Overdose Awareness Task Force's Vision is "Education. Support. Saving Lives." With the dramatic increases in opioid deaths in 2020, the Taskforce is more important than ever. In Adams County alone, overdose deaths more than doubled in 2020 and EMS Naloxone treatments increased by 80%.

#### RECYCLE SATELLITE DISHES

by Debra English, Director of Historic Preservation

Working in partnership with the Borough, the Adams County Arts Council is thinking Spring and upcycling! Old satellite dishes may be dropped off during our normal business hours (Monday - Friday 9 AM – 5 PM) at 125 South Washington Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325 now through February 2022. In March, class lists will be posted where you can sign up to create your own upcycle/repurposed satellite dish into a decorative bird bath; See the Arts Councils website and events card for scheduling. They will make a wonderful addition to your yard. The Arts Council also accepts donations of stones, glass, and other mosaic materials. To follow more exciting projects and events go to Adams County Art Council's Website <a href="https://www.AdamsArts.org">www.AdamsArts.org</a> or for more information call Debra English 717-334-1160 Ext 238 or email to DEnglish@GettysburgPA.gov.









#### **SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE**

from Mark Guise, Facilities, Manager, GMA

Gettysburg Municipal Authority maintains the public sanitary sewer system. This includes sanitary sewer mains, manholes, lift stations, treatment, and other components. Private property owners are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the sanitary sewer components from their property up to and including the connection to the public sewer. Gettysburg Municipal Authority and contracted contractors perform routine maintenance of the public sanitary sewer system which includes Closed Circuit TVing, cured in place lining of the mains, rodding the sewer mains to remove potential buildup of grit, grease, or other debris to ensure main capacity and proper flow within the sanitary sewer system. When performing this maintenance, GMA or its contractors use a large truck equipped with a jetcleaning (rodder) and vacuum unit that uses high-pressure water to clean the sanitary sewer mains. This jetting may affect your home's sanitary sewer plumbing. You may experience loss of water within your traps, and possibly gurgling or bubbling of water in your toilet bowl(s). In rare cases, water can splash out of the bowl. The water that could come from this type of incident is from the bowl itself, NOT the sewer lines. The potential causes of these incidents during sanitary sewer cleaning are:

To minimize water splashing out of your toilet bowl, the best advice is to keep the bowl lid closed.

Maintenance is an important factor in optimizing performance/integrity of a sewer system. We apologize for any inconvenience created.

- Air movement from the jetting and cleaning operations,
- Increased jetting pressure; needed to clean sewer lines with a steep grade,
- A plugged roof vent, and
   The size and complexity o
- The size and complexity of the home's wastewater ventilation system.

Taskforce - Contd. from Page 5

The multi-faceted approach to educating

the public as to the dangers of overdose involves every tool the community can muster. In partnership with several associations, the Borough, the County, and our many varied police agencies seek to give people the tools they need to avoid accidental death and get into a recovery program, should one wish to do so. Further, Pennsylvania has made it a priority to get Narcan (Naloxone) into the hands of everyone who might be at risk- and frankly, everyone might be at risk. Opioids, the most common and prevalent cause of overdose death, are so common in our households, that anyone could overdose if they are not aware of the risks of the pain management medications they have been prescribed, or the content of their recreational street drugs.

In addition to these efforts, the task force also organizes multiple medication take-back events throughout the county. These events perform the crucial tasks of getting unused, unstable, and potentially drugs out of the houses and hands of the population and give us a safe alternative to flushing our old drugs, which pollute our water tables and food chains with these same dangerous chemical compounds.

Gettysburg's next medicine take back will be October 23, 10 AM- 2PM at the Housing Authority building on east High Street, across from the Borough Office. Narcan will be available for free, should you wish to keep it handy, and the hope is that you will take advantage of that if you or a loved one could be at risk of overdose. The Pennsylvania Physician General has also issued a standing order that anyone can get Narcan at any pharmacy in the commonwealth without a prescription. If you are privately insured, the cost may or may not be covered, so taking advantage of events like the take-back are especially advantageous.

In these difficult times, it is important to remember that should you need it, help is available. Psychological services, addiction recovery, and the opportunity to heal are within reach.

#### **BUDGET SEASON & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

from Wesley K. Heyser, Borough Council President

The business of the Council during the last quarter of each year focuses on adopting a budget. The debate always boils down to what services members believe the borough should provide and how those services shall be paid for. Opinions differ. We often compromise before reaching a conclusion. This year, as we discuss and debate the 2022



budget, we enter a process with both benefits and new restrictions because of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress. The Borough is receiving a much larger sum than originally expected - totaling just over \$3.1 million to be allocated over a six-year period. However, accepting these funds means that the council cannot lower taxes below 2019 levels (a condition of the legislation).

While these funds are restricted, the good news is that borough residents and taxpayers will receive services - a direct result of these federal dollars. We have begun the civil service process to hire a patrol officer in the police department, a position that was furloughed due to pandemic revenue shortfalls. Likewise, we have interviewed candidates and are in the process of restoring the three public works positions that were left vacant as workers retired from our crew in 2020. All of these positions can be paid for with ARPA funds through 2026.

In 2021, the Council addressed several items that were brought to its attention. Matters that the Council dealt with in 2021 included adopting body cameras for use by police officers (thanks to a donation), seating a new human relations commission (HRC), revising zoning to better address vacation rentals and homestays, adding handicapped parking spaces and adopting a new capital improvement plan in anticipation of potential large influxes of federal funds.

The oft-ignored difficulty of any municipal government is setting priorities, as time limitations prohibit us from addressing every concern. As we look forward to 2022, we have several priorities that would benefit the residents and taxpayers of our borough. A review of the <u>Gettysburg Design Guide</u> and associated regulations for the historic district may result in some revisions, specifically related to replacement materials that have the same appearance as historic materials, such as simulated slate roofs and synthetic trim boards. The design guide was last revised in 1997 and deserves our attention. While protecting the historic district to maintain appropriate aesthetics that support our tourism economy, we must also ensure that regulations are realistic in serving our residents and taxpayers who need a functional area to live and work.

The council was approached in 2021 regarding supporting a trap-neuter-release (TNR) program to deal with the cat population in the borough. This effort requires support if these cat colonies are to be brought under control. Indications from other local municipalities are that this project will involve a budget allocation to get started that will likely taper off over the years as the cat colonies stabilize.

Finally, a review of the fire codes in the borough is a priority due to the densely packed nature of the buildings within our borough. Several incidents in the past few years have brought to light regulation shortcomings and code enforcement needs. A core mission of the borough council is to provide for the safety of its residents, and life safety initiatives are key to that mission.

Certainly, other items will come up during the year, and as always, the council will do its best to be responsive to our residents and taxpayers.

Art Oasis – Contd. from Page 5

possibly due to a pilot program implemented by Gettysburg Borough to help create additional outdoor spaces to advance social distancing efforts necessitated in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Art Oasis is part of the 'Parklet Program'. Here are some successes and challenges to the Parklets as identified by the ACAC:

#### Successes

- Two to four musical performances each week Thursday-Sunday, from a vast genre of performers. Some weekends host multiple events on the same day.
- An increase of interest from musicians/artists/performers wanting to book well into 2022.
- Tourists stop as they pass and locals make it an outing with friends.
- Audiences of approximately 30 people at one time
- All ages are represented (college students, seniors, parents with kids and ages between).
- Community groups utilize the space for visibility and experience (Gettysburg Community Theatre summer camp, Cordle studios, Carrie Conklins voice students, Music Together program, and the Hanover, YWCA Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event and FREE Yoga.)
- Engagement of all ages clapping, dancing and singing on the sidewalk in a safe environment making memories of Gettysburg night life.
- College students making the Arts Oasis a stop in their weekend plans and coming in groups.
- Photos of the interactions are posted on social media promoting downtown Gettysburg.
- Local businesses around the square are patronized in the evening hours from 6 - 10pm (Ploughman's Taproom, Cigar Shop, Chocolate Mart, and Christmas Haus, Gettysburg Hotel.)
- People dinning outside are enjoying the music.
- The space has been a vision of life and vibrancy for the center of downtown.
- Locals are praising the square publicly in editorials to the editor of the Gettysburg Times and verbally to friends and family.

#### **Challenges**

- Keeping the plants watered and healthy.
- Slow start to building the weekly audience and knowledge of the Arts Oasis schedule.
- Fine arts instructors providing demonstrations for the good will of the community. Most ask to be paid for a demonstration.
- Many shops and restaurants close early and miss patrons from the music.
- Cost sharing additional permits for artists who wish to display and sell their art.
- Staff on site-for all events.
- Hosting events that need electric outside of the hours of accessibility to Open Minds as equipment is locked in their space(s).
- Seating there is a need to have additional benches in the area for people to sit.

\$500,000

the

which

community

room,

facility

aesthetics

itself was

Main Street Gettysburg

has announced a capital

campaign to secure

match funds to build

Welcome Center at 340 Baltimore Street - a prime, central location for much-needed public amenities downtown,

will

locals, businesses, and visitors. The project will provide accessible, ADA

- compliant restrooms,

as transportation, visitor, and event information. The design will balance the need for a modern with

in

grant

Gettysburg

benefit

meeting well

the

the

of

generously

historic district. The site



## donated to the Borough - thus no land costs for the project. The total cost of construction, estimated at \$1.5 million will be funded by both a grant and local financial contributions. Main Street Gettysburg will again participate in Adams County

#### **DESIGN CONCEPTS:**

- 1. Public bathrooms are vital for downtown residents, visitors, and businesses. The facilities will be ADAcompliant and fully accessible for everyone, encouraging and allowing people to remain in our historic downtown to enjoy our amenities, businesses, restaurants, etc.
- 2. A centralized space for the community to come together is critical to serve our diverse population of both residents and visitors. It is centrally located between Steinwehr Avenue and Lincoln Square). This project will facilitate the joining of people and ideas. We are working on partnerships with the Borough, National Park Service, and local organizations to make opportunities for connections.

Community Foundation Giving Spree this year. Donors can give to over 90 local non-profit organizations through the annual Giving Spree. Donations are increased by the Stretch Pool created by these Sponsors: J. William Warehime Foundation Fund, Thomas E. & Florence B. Metz Fund, Sharon C. Magraw, and Knouse Foods Fund. To contribute to the Gettysburg Welcome Center capital campaign, visit www.AdamsCountyCF.org on November 5th, or please consider

anytime online at www.MainStreetGettysburg.org Please call Main Street Gettysburg at

**Giving Spree** November 5, 2021 717-337-3491 for more information. ACCFGivingSpree.org

Through volunteer support, Main Street Gettysburg will also host a series of open house events when people can visit the current space and see the proposed design ideas. Those dates are October 19<sup>th</sup> (alternate 20<sup>th</sup>), 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

## Gettysburg BOROUGH NEWSLETTER



Main Street Gettysburg is excited to bring *A Gettysburg Christmas Festival* back to town for two weekends this year! Join us on December 3-5 and December 10-12. This year's festival will feature 2021-pandemic-appropriate activities, promotions, and traditional small-town holiday charm.

Our amazing volunteers are already busy with decorations and activities to promote the holidays in historic downtown

Gettysburg. We encourage locals, visitors, and businesses to enjoy all that town has to offer: food, vendors, games, photo stations – and much more!

**Human Foosball** is back! We're all set up at 340 Baltimore Street, the future home of the Gettysburg Welcome Center. Get your teams together!

#### THIS IS SO.MUCH.FUN!!!!

Through #ShopGettysburgFirst, Main Street Gettysburg is helping to bring people to Gettysburg businesses for holiday-shopping



MSG is accredited through the Pennsylvania Downtown Center and has received national awards and recognition for its innovative approach and collaboration with its host municipality.



**GETTYSBURGPRO** is an economic development initiative introduced by MSG.

needs, either in-person or online. Main Street Gettysburg also offers a comprehensive business listing for downtown Gettysburg at <a href="www.GettysburgPRO.com">www.GettysburgPRO.com</a>. Businesses are signing up to sponsor events and host promotions during the festival weekends. Participation can be a day, a weekend or both weekends. Participating events will be listed on the Festival's official website at <a href="www.AGettysburgChristmasFestival.com">www.AGettysburgChristmasFestival.com</a>, and Main Street Gettysburg will promote the Festival and the individual events. Businesses who plan to participate can contact Main Street Gettysburg at <a href="maintenance-info@mainstreetgettysburg.org">info@mainstreetgettysburg.org</a>.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome to join in the fun! Visit <a href="www.mainstreetgettysburg.org">www.mainstreetgettysburg.org</a> or call 717-337-3491 for more information. We are excited to welcome people to experience Gettysburg during the holidays!

## PUBLIC WORKS FALL/WINTER WORK

#### **Fall Brush Pickup**

Fall brush pick up by Public Works crew will take place the week of November 1st- 5th. We will go around town twice that week picking up brush only. Please do not mix leaves and grass clippings with brush. Those items can be dropped off at the Public Works Building at 457 East Middle Street. Leaves and grass clippings can also be put in bags and placed with regular garbage pickup, if, you do not exceed more than 5 bags or 1 tote and 2 bags including regular garbage. Place brush to be picked up along curb (not in the street), or along alleys. If there are any questions regarding brush pickup, please the Public Works Department at 717-334-4666.

#### Public Works Crew (from left)

Brady Arndt

Laborer – CDL A

Logan Carbaugh

Laborer – CDL A **Robbie Harbaugh** 

PW Director

Bradley LaBure

Foreman

Wayne Heflin

Laborer – CDL A Randy Heflin

Laborer – CDL B

Ty Wilkinson

Mechanic

#### Leaf Pickup and Street Sweeping



The Public Works crew will begin street sweeping leaves along the curbs beginning in November. As the leaves begin to fall more rapidly and residents rake their leaves into piles, we will go around town collecting the leaves. Place the piles of leaves along the curb (not in the street) or along the alley. Please do not mix in brush with the piles of leaves. Leaf collection will continue until the end of the year.

## Winter Means Snow and Ice SNOW/ICE CLEARING TIPS

- 1. Clear a minimum of 30 inches wide.
- 2. Don't throw snow out into the street.
- 3. Don't pile snow near a fire hydrant or within 5 feet of a storm drain.
- 4. Don't push snow out of parking lots and across the street. Snow should be piled somewhere within the parking lot.
- 5. Apply sand or similar anti-skid if ice cannot be cleared.
- 6. Products using urea or calcium chloride are less likely to harm sidewalks.

## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC) BEGINS ITS WORK

from Janet Morgan-Riggs

In December 2020 Borough Council passed an ordinance designed to

assure that all who live and/or work in the Borough have access to the full benefits of citizenship and equal opportunity in the areas of employment, housing and commercial property, and public accommodation. Specifically, the ordinance prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex (including sex assigned at birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and gender transition and/or transgender), religion, religious creed or belief, ancestry, national origin, familial status, marital status, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability or handicap, or the use of service or assistance animals or the handler or trainer of such service animals.

During spring 2021, Borough Council appointed six individuals to a Human Relations Commission (HRC) charged with the

implementation of this ordinance: Jennie Dillon (secretary), Pastor Jay Eckman, Scott Hancock (alternate), Taurean Moses (vice chair), Janet Riggs (chair), and Janelle Wertzberger. We hold our public business meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 in Borough Hall. In addition to receiving training, our first order of business was to establish a clear mission which we approved at our September meeting:

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) works toward the elimination of discrimination by fostering greater understanding of the rights and duties of Gettysburg residents, employees, and employers.

- Everyone who lives and works in Gettysburg is protected from unlawful discrimination by a nondiscrimination ordinance passed in 2020. The ordinance (§1-1301 - §1-1316) ensures more protections than does the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.
- We provide information and education to residents, businesses, employers, and institutions about their rights and duties under the ordinance.
- We **facilitate the mediation of complaints** about discrimination related to employment, public accommodation, and housing and commercial property.

We are currently preparing materials for distribution in the community that will increase awareness of the ordinance and educate individuals, businesses, landlords, and organizations about it. In addition, we will soon make information available on the Borough website for those who wish to file a complaint about discrimination: <a href="https://www.gettysburgpa.gov/human-relations-commission-hrc">https://www.gettysburgpa.gov/human-relations-commission-hrc</a>. We are grateful to representatives of Mediation Services of Adams County who have offered to provide us with training and will serve as an organization to which we can refer complaints of alleged discrimination for mediation. Once we have fully established our basic processes and materials, HRC members will be available to speak with groups about the ordinance and the duties and responsibilities we all have as Borough citizens.

I felt a great sense of pride in our Borough when Borough Council approved this ordinance, and we members of the HRC are pleased to play a role in its implementation. If anyone has suggestions or questions for our group, please feel free to be in touch with me at <a href="mailto:riggs@gettysburg.edu">riggs@gettysburg.edu</a>.



ALL ARE CREATED EQUAL



Lincoln Into Art
www.LincolnIntoArt.com
329 Baltimore Street

### GETTYSBURG AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY (GARA)

from Erin Peddigree Executive Director

Fall at the Gettysburg Rec Park means fall



baseball, football practices, breezy walks, and for me, preparing next year's budget. An important part of the Rec Park's budget are grants that we plan on applying for and hope to receive. One section most grants ask you to include is the mission statement or history of the organization. For someone who enjoys researching, this is one of my favorite parts of grant writing.

The Gettysburg Rec Park has a long history of community involvement. The Gettysburg Playground Association was created in 1941 due to the growing national interest in parks and recreation. Throughout the years the park provided programs activities such as weekly dances, sports leagues, art classes, fitness lessons, and so much more. Community members I often speak with talk about how their first job as a youth was working for one of the Rec Park programs. Over the years playgrounds, pavilions, sports fields, and restrooms were added to the park in part by generous donations from organizations and community members. Take a walk around the park and the names on the pavilions and fields are named after some those community members.

See GARA – Contd. on Page 11

GARA – Contd. from Page 10 Even today, the additions and upgrades to the park are a collaboration of the Gettysburg Borough, Cumberland Township, rental fees, donations, and grants. A large portion of the Rec Park budget goes to maintaining the buildings and fields built by community members years ago. However, with age, many of the structures need major repairs, such as replacing the restrooms, paving the parking lots, and buying new maintenance equipment.

To help fund the needed upgrades, the park is planning to apply for several grants. The Rec Park also has collaborated with other community organizations for successful fundraising events, such as A Gettysburg Fourth Community Independence Day Celebration. Gettysburg Rec Park has also again been included in the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree to be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



## Operating Vacation Rentals in Gettysburg



There are important considerations for operating a Vacation Rental in Gettysburg, including:

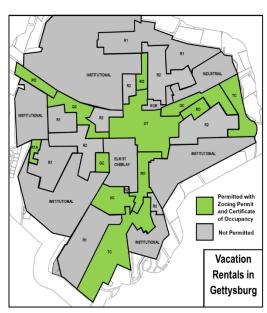
- 1. Are Vacation Rentals permitted in my zoning district?
- 2. Is my building up to commercial building code standards for a lodging use, according to the Pennsylvania Uniformed Construction Code?
- 3. Am I prepared for my property to be converted to a commercial property in relation to property taxes?
- 4. Am I prepared to report and remit monthly hotel tax to Adams County?
- 5. Am I able to manage or hire a manager for my rental to prevent nuisance complaints such as noise, trash, and parking?

#### What is a Vacation Rental?

Also known as Airbnb's, vacation rentals are a type of commercial lodging where a dwelling is rented for compensation for periods of less than 30 days per booking.

What is a Certificate of Use and Occupancy?

Any time a new use or business is planned within a building, the Pennsylvania Uniformed Construction Code requires a Certificate of Occupancy, which certifies that the space complies with all applicable building and safety codes. Most vacation rentals involve a change of use from residential or a different commercial use, and are required a Certificate of Use and Occupancy to be considered legally operating.



As of October 12, 2021 Gettysburg Zoning has changed in relation to Vacation Rentals. Here's what you need to know.

If you are currently operating or are considering operating a vacation rental in a zoning district that permits that use, you must obtain a Land Use permit and a Certificate of Use and Occupancy to be considered a legally operating use.

If you are currently operating a vacation rental that was legally operating with a Land Use Permit and a Certificate of Use and Occupancy for a lodging/vacation rental use, your operation was grandfathered in to the zoning change even if you are located in a district that no longer permits that use. Meaning you are legally nonconforming and may continue that use. Upon the cessation of the vacation rental use in that location for a period of one year or more, it will no longer be permitted in that location.

If you are operating a vacation rental in a zoning district that no longer permits that use and you did not apply for a Land Use permit and a Certificate of Use and Occupancy before August 23, 2021, you are not permitted to continue that use in that location without first gaining the proper zoning relief from the Zoning Hearing Board.

For more information about Vacation Rental regulations in Gettysburg and to start the permitting process, visit www.gettysburgpa.gov and click on 'Permits & Licenses'

## GETTYSBURG BOROUGH STORM WATER AUTHORITY

from Debra English Environmental Preservation Director

#### <u>Definitions of the Most Often-Used Terms</u> <u>in the "World of Stormwater"</u>

#### **Illicit Discharge**

What is it? Why is it important? Illicit discharge is any discharge that enters the Borough's storm water system that is not entirely composed of storm water. This would include such items as household waste/products, automotive fluids and oils, paints, cooking grease and oils, cement, pesticides, and car wash products. You can help by disposing and recycling household wastes, washing your car in the grass and avoid using chemical pesticides on your Preventing illicit discharge is lawns. important because in general, anything we put on our property and in our streets eventually finds its way to our streams and rivers!

#### **Impervious Areas**

What are they? An impervious area does not allow or allows only with great difficulty, the absorption of water into the ground. Impervious areas include but are not limited to: Roofs, additional outdoor living spaces, patios, garages, storage sheds and similar structures, parking or driveway areas, any private streets or sidewalks or other areas that are determined to be impervious by GBSWA or the Borough's Storm Water ordinance.

<u>Meeting Notification</u>: GBSWA meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. Agendas are posted online. All meetings are open to the public and start at 5:30 PM in the Troxel Council Chambers at 59 East High Street.

Many people ask what their annual storm water fee pays for. Fees paid underwrite many very expensive infrastructure projects – infrastructure that in many cases is over 100 years old. These fees also help meet federally mandated storm water pollution reduction efforts. The following is a list of some of the recent projects paid for from storm water fees:

- <u>Gettys Street</u> Completed in April 2021 this project replaced 365 feet of deteriorated piping at a cost of approximately \$50,000.
- South Street A multi-faceted infrastructure project. The stormwater component of this project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2021 with an estimated cost of \$165,000. This includes a second phase of storm drain replacement which will occur from Schimmelfennig Alley to Baltimore Street.
- 3. <u>Culp's Run</u> The detailed engineering phase of this project estimated at an approximately \$111.000 has been substantially completed. We have begun the process of seeking outside grant funding for the construction phase estimated at \$775,000. To date we have received a generous funding commitment from Adams County (CAP County Action Plan Grant) for \$189K. We are in the process of applying to public and private grant agencies/foundations that fund clean water and/or stream restoration efforts such as Culps Run. If funding is successful, this project is scheduled for completion in 2023. The National Park Service has been an important and valuable partner. During the summer of 2021, the NPS completed an archeological study as an in-kind contribution to this project saving the Stormwater Authority more than \$35k.

#### **South Street Construction Schedule:**

October - November 2021:

Storm Water infrastructure improvements

November 2021 – January 2022:

Decorative Street lighting / Electrical improvements January – April 2022:

Curbs and Sidewalks replaced

April – May 2022:

Street Construction/Paving completed

The most asked question is: Does stone count as impervious area?

Yes!!! If the area covered by loose stone surface materials such as gravel, stone/or crushed stone, is

intended for storage or travel by vehicles or pedestrians it shall be considered impervious. Why? Because a short period of time these stone materials become compacted, and the area eventually becomes impervious.

A Construction Reminder when it comes to Stormwater - Construction permits for increased impervious areas under 800 square feet, to include additional decking, sheds, additions, parking, pools, etc. shall be permitted through the Borough's permitting process. However, impervious areas greater than 800 square feet will need to be designed by an engineer and reviewed through the Borough's engineer for approval. Please consult the Borough's website: www.GettysburgPA.gov for more detail.

#### **GETTYSBURG RECYCLES**

from Judie Butterfield Borough Council – Ward 3

#### **Recycling in a Pandemic World**

The coronavirus pandemic has caused the Borough's contracted trash hauler, Waste Connections, Inc. to make

#### **Recycling Special Events**

#### **Document Shredding Event**

On Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, we held the Borough's first-ever public document shredding event. It was unexpectedly successful so we will look toward possibly holding another one in six months. We collected, for recycling, 246 boxes of documents totaling 8,610 lbs.

See Recycling - Contd. on Page 13

Recycling – Contd. from Page 12 a few adjustments in their trash and recycling requirements. This is due to the labor shortage that has plagued many industries during this difficult time. The company is working to combat the problem, but it does cause occasional changes to scheduled times resulting in delays.

The challenges of finding employee candidates because of the pandemic also results in the company's asking that all trash in the totes be bagged to prevent litter when the totes are emptied into the trucks. Reduced crew sizes make it difficult for workers to chase down unbagged wind-blown litter.

The less expensive bag/tag option to the wheeled tote is still in place, as is the single weekly large item pickup. Residents should call customer service at 717-709-1700 to inquire about buying the bags or scheduling a pick-up.

A list of currently permitted recyclables can be found on the Borough's website, <a href="www.gettysburgpa.gov/recycling">www.gettysburgpa.gov/recycling</a>. Also on the website on the same page is a link to a booklet maintained by the County listing recycling options for many common items and materials. Remember, Commonwealth law requires that all residents, businesses, and institutions in the Borough recycle.







One hundred twenty-six people participated in the two-hour event. It went very smoothly! There was no charge to those who lived in Gettysburg Borough, but a small \$2 per box fee was collected from residents of neighboring municipalities. This fee for non-Borough residents brought in enough cash to cover the cost of what was charged by the shredding company to Gettysburg Borough. There was even a \$150 surplus after that bill was paid.

#### **Covered Device Recycling & Drop-Off**

The Commonwealth continues to prohibit the placement of TVs and computer peripherals in the ordinary trash. As a service to Gettysburg Borough residents, drop-off events are held periodically to collect and recycle these materials. The next one will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with the usual rules of pre-registration.

Our Autumn covered device drop-off was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Public Works building as always. To prevent a traffic backup situation, timed appointments were secured. According to organizer Judie Butterfield, seventy-two vehicles drove through the event. This event could not be possible without the volunteer efforts of Borough staff who give their time on a Saturday and expect no compensation in return. Thank you to Robbie Harbaugh (Public Works Director), Bradley LaBure (Public Works Foreman), Sara Stull (asst. Borough Manager), Tammy Murdorff (Staff Accountant), Charles Gable (Borough Manager), Karen Mesher (Administrative Asst.), Chris Berger (Borough Council – Ward 2), Judie Butterfield (Borough Council – Ward 3), Larry Weikert (Police Sgt.), and John Butterfield (former Borough Council Member).

## ARE GRASS AND WEEDS CAUSING DAMAGE TO YOUR SIDEWALK?

from Carly Marshall, Planning Director







Like anything exposed to the elements, concrete and asphalt are subject to environmental stressors. Cold and heat fluctuations cause expansion and contraction, which gradually weakens concrete. Water also can find its way into cracks and under concrete, expanding cracks and causing heaving when frozen. Once cracks form, weeds are close behind.

Cracks formed form deterioration, as well as the spaces between sidewalk slabs or between the sidewalk and the curb, can hold enough soil and nutrients for grass and weeds to thrive. Those small, protected spaces also hold onto moisture

and warmth a little longer than flat, exposed surfaces, creating a perfect incubator for seeds. As root systems grow and develop, the tips of plant roots act as feelers, seeking out the past of least resistance for expansion. These root tips can detect microscopic cracks in the concrete and eventually, molecule by molecule, the plant's growth can force its way into the slab and create a surface crack. Once established, weeds and grass grow quickly, pushing against weakened concrete and causing more breaks and cracks, and making room for more weeds.

If left unchecked, a flourishing weed population can break apart sidewalks and driveways, creating trip hazards and necessitating costly repairs.

Keep your sidewalk in good shape by being aggressive about weed control. Pull or kill weeds before they have a chance to go to seed. Dispose of all weed fragments, especially those containing seeds, so they don't get a second chance to ruin your sidewalk.

# 'DISTIGUISHED SERVICE AWARD' PRESENTED TO GETTYSBURG BOROUGH MANAGER CHARLES R. GABLE



Gettysburg Borough is proud to announce that Borough Manager Charles R. Gable has been awarded the prestigious Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' <u>Distinguished Service Award</u>. The award, presented at the October Fall Leadership Conference in Erie, recognized Manager Gable's proactive response to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic to the municipality and for taking appropriate and proactive actions to respond to it.

The award recognizes that when the pandemic hit and restrictive government shutdowns began in March 2020, Charles Gable expected directional and COVID-19 information to flow from the State to County to Borough. However, when it did not happen, he realized that an actionable pandemic emergency plan did not exist. He was (along with the County, State and Country) in unchartered territory. Charles pivoted quickly and worked with the Chief of Police and Main Street Gettysburg to answer the question .... "What do we do?" People wanted to know who is in charge, what is coming next, and how do we prepare to handle the future?

The Award noted that Charles stepped into the leadership role and initiated and supported the following (as described in the award proclamation):



Recognizing the seriousness of the situation both financially and for health and safety concerns, Charles recognized the need to take immediate, comprehensive, and locally focused action. In doing so, he took on the task himself, disregarding the amount of personal time and efforts required "beyond the call of duty".



Prepare Prevent Protect

#### What is Main Street Gettysburg Cares?

A COVID-19 Pandemic response action plan - An economic revitalization program that provides essential funding, guidance, and products to help downtown shops and restaurants plan and prepare to protect the medical and economic health of the community as Gettysburg enters various phases of reopening.

The award noted Gable should be recognized for his ability to serve the Gettysburg community by initiating a Borough-focused COVID-19 Emergency Taskforce (which also served the broader Adams County community) consisting of the predominant local service agencies, initiating a food accessibility plan through the local ministerium and Human Services Director, and coordinating with Main Street Gettysburg to create the *Main Street Gettysburg Cares Program* - a comprehensive program of free information and connections to local/regional resources regarding COVID-19 management criteria, which included grant availability for local businesses,

and sanitation supplies (which were very scarce at the time). 126 businesses signed up for the free program. Borough staff and a team of MSG volunteers made homemade sanitizer in the Borough cafeteria, marshalled an army of volunteers (affectionately named the 1000 mask brigade who sewed face coverings - which were not commercially available at the time), and created CDC required posters and social distancing signs – all free for local businesses – none of which was easily available at the time.

The award not only honored Borough Manager Gable, but it brought state and national attention to Gettysburg's efforts to address the challenges brought to municipalities by the pandemic. Gettysburg's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic was lauded as a model to follow for other municipalities across the state and country. This program is described in a YouTube video, which can be viewed at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH6Moolxg2">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH6Moolxg2</a>!

When asked about being selected for the Distinguished Service Award, Gable said, "I'm honored and humbled to receive this recognition, however, the real recipients of this award are the multitude of volunteers who worked diligently to respond to an unprecedented emergency. This effort was and is a collaboration of ideas - None of which would have been possible without people working seamlessly together as one united team. For their extraordinary work, I want to especially thank the Borough staff and community volunteers Martha Tozzi, Wendy Allen, and Nancy Kramer for all their hard work, love, and dedication".

### **GETTYSBURG BOROUGH STORM** WATER **AUTHORITY**





### What is MS4?

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program was implemented by EPA in the late 1990's.

The Borough's MS4 Program is permitted by the Commonwealth and designed to protect our rivers, lakes and streams from polluted stormwater runoff.

The program uses public education, outreach events, written procedures, and proactive monitoring to create the long-term changes in behavior necessary to improve our waterways.

## Why is stormwater management important?

In short, stormwater is important because it can lead to pollution, erosion, flooding and many other environmental and health issues if not properly understood and maintained. Even houses that are not beside a creek or lake can contribute to problems.

### Why do we pay Storm Water Fees?

Storm water fees are used to help control floodwater, repair and replace infrastructure, public education activities, and for environmental construction projects that repair stream banks and floodplains – which helps to filter pollutants and reduce flooding impacts from severe storms.

The Municipal Authorities Act 53 provides the authority and power for the GBSWA to administer and assess fees in connection with the operation and maintenance of the Authority's Storm Water System and the Borough's MS4 Program.

### Permit Requirements of new and existing impervious construction:

Permits are required when adding new impervious areas or modifying existing impervious areas. Minor storm water management plans with regulated activities that involve less than 800 square feet of impervious surface since the date of the SWM ordinance will be required to submit application through the Simplified Approach - application can be found on the Borough's website www.gettysburgpa.gov. Other permits may apply.

All projects over 800 square feet of impervious area, as of the date of the ordinance, will be required to submit engineered plans for review.

#### NATURAL vs. URBAN STORMWATER DRAINAGE



Stormwater infiltrates into the ground Water hits impervious surface and Plants and trees work to absorb stormwater

runs off roofs, streets, parking lots etc. Runoff goes into the sewers

#### For more information:

The Rates Rules and Regulations and the Storm Water Ordinance may be found on the Borough's website at www.gettysburgpa.gov

# GETTYSBURG BOROUGH STORM WATER AUTHORITY



PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S. POSTAGE PAID EDDM RETAIL

#### **Public Meetings:**

The GBSWA meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. All meetings start at 5:30 PM in the Troxell Council Chambers, located at 59 East High Street. All meetings are open to the public.

#### LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

### What is Impervious Area?

An Area that does not allow, or allows only with great difficulty, the absorption of water into the ground. Impervious areas (IA), include but are not limited to: roofs, additional outdoor living spaces, patios, garages, storage sheds and similar structures, park or driveways areas, and any private streets, sidewalks or other improved area that are determined to be impervious by GBSWA, the Boroughs' Storm water Ordinance, or its engineer.

<u>Lot Coverage</u> - The percentage of the lot covered by impervious area.

## Lot Coverage Sketch Plan Example:

Your site plan should include the following existing and proposed items:

- Building Footprint
- · Impervious Areas
- · Direction of flow from downspouts
- Property lines

Please include area dimensions, such as shown in the example below:

### What is an Illicit Discharge?

Illicit discharge is any discharge that enters the MS4 system that is not entirely composed of stormwater. This would include such items as: Household products, automotive fluids and oils, paints, cooking grease and oils, cement, pesticides, and car wash water to name a few.

How can you help? You can help by disposing and recycling household wastes, washing your car in the grass and avoid using chemical pesticides on your lawn.

Please report suspected illicit discharges to: 717-334-1160



Barrow County Georgia

