



GETTYSBURG

Pennsylvania

... HISTORIC CROSSROADS

Borough
Newsletter

Volume XVI
Issue 1

Spring/
Summer
2024

Borough Council

Mayor

Rita C. Frealing

First Ward

Patricia Lawson
Peter Bales

Second Ward

J. Matthew Moon
Christopher Berger

Third Ward

Judith Butterfield
Alisha Sanders

At-Large

Chad-Alan Carr

Borough Manager

Charles R. Gable

Message from the Mayor's Desk

A Message from Mayor Rita C. Frealing

This seems to have been the shortest winter ever. Perhaps due to the holidays coming early, but spring is here and summer on the way. Here are some highlights from the past fall and the mild winter.

The 42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration was held on Monday, January 15th at the Christ Chapel, Gettysburg College. This celebration occurred at the beginning of a new year and was held at Gettysburg College providing testament to the culture and harmony that define this community. The Annual Heritage Festival is another event that is held in the fall that promotes the same ideals.

We celebrated Gettysburg Loves Love - *Love is in the Square* in February. The idea originated from a conversation with Amy Welsh, who worked at Community Media. During an interview, she asked me about mayoral powers and duties. In

addition to oversight of the police department one of the other powers and duties performed by the mayor are marriages. She said, 'what about a vow renewal'. That was the beginning of the event. Community Media, Destination Gettysburg, and Main Street Gettysburg held the event at which I officiated over a group vow renewal for 110 couples in front of the Gettysburg Hotel. Despite a brisk wind, all had an enjoyable time. This event happened at a time when tourism tends to lag a bit, so it helped promote the town. It was extremely popular, and we plan to make it an annual event.



PA Lt. Governor Austin Davis (left),
Gettysburg Mayor Rita C. Frealing (center),
PA Governor Josh Shapiro (right)



Gettysburg Loves Love - Kurt and Nancy
Kramer Renew Their Wedding Vows

[See Mayor - Page 2](#)

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

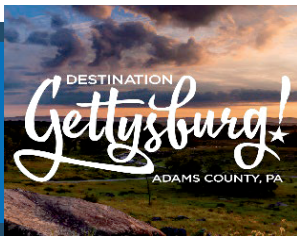
(717) 334-1160
ext. 238

Important Dates

- April 20th Electronic Recycling Event (Registration Required)
(Public Works Building - 457 East Middle Street)
- April 23rd Primary Election Day (Polls Open 7 AM – 8 PM)
- April 27th Gettysburg Farmers Market (Saturdays through October 26th)
(Gettysburg Recreation Park – 545 Long Lane) (8 AM – 1 PM)

- May 17th Paper Shred Event (Registration Required)
(Municipal Building – 59 East High Street)
- May 27th Memorial Day Parade (1 PM – 3 PM)
(Middle Street and Baltimore Street)
- July 4th A Gettysburg Fourth!
(Recreation Park – 545 Long Lane)
- July 10th – July 14th Gettysburg Bike Week

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.



New for Visitors This Spring

from Carl Whitehill
Vice President
Destination Gettysburg

This spring, Destination Gettysburg is excited to announce two new experiences for visitors and residents to enjoy. Through partnerships with many community stakeholders, a new Gettysburg Black History Trail will launch by May and take visitors and local residents on a journey that tells the stories of people, places and events that made this town an important stop on the road to freedom.

Guided by a digital trail on their mobile devices, users will physically walk in the footsteps of historical figures who impacted Gettysburg before, during and after the Civil War battle. Basil



Biggs, Abraham Brian, Jack and Julia Hopkins, Margaret Palm and Thaddeus Stevens are among the legacies honored in this collaborative community effort. The trail includes museums and historic sites across the battlefield and throughout town.

The self-guided trail's digital component will be featured alongside Destination Gettysburg's Pour Tour and Crop Hop trails. Details on how to access the Black History Trail will be announced at DestinationGettysburg.com and through social media. Residents can also look forward to exploring spring's beauty right in their backyard.

Drawing inspiration from the historic South Mountain Fruit Belt, Destination Gettysburg created the Adams County Blossom Belt to guide travelers to the dazzling blossoms that emerge each spring.

Across 20,000 acres of fruit trees, pink and white blossoms fill the countryside just outside of Gettysburg. The stops on this driving trail include family farms, markets, and places to experience beautiful blossoms up close. Blossom maps and information on springtime events can be found at DestinationGettysburg.com/blossom.

Destination Gettysburg looks to bring these experiences together – connecting local businesses – in order to create additional reasons for travelers to visit the community as well as providing local residents with an abundance of ways to enjoy what's in their own backyard.

Mayor – Contd. from Page 1

As Mayor, I really enjoy getting out into the community, attending events, and being an ambassador for Gettysburg. From fall and winter to now, I have met with local representatives about honoring Thaddeus Stevens, having the USS Gettysburg represented in the Memorial Day Parade; and the Police Chief Glenny and I secured a grant from WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital to assist the police department. I have enjoyed being part of the annual New Year's celebration in Lincoln Square, visiting the Farmers' Market, Forever Love Cat Rescue, the opening of the AGAPE Boutique store, and visiting other local businesses and restaurants. I have had the honor of attending an event at the White House, and recently went to the Pennsylvania Governors' Residence for Black History Month, where I spoke with Governor Shapiro, Lieutenant Austin Davis, and many others state officials. This is a great way to connect Gettysburg with federal and state opportunities. When I ran for Mayor, I said I would be an ambassador for Gettysburg, and it is happening.

From the Parking Department:

Street Parking Meters & Boro Surface Parking Lots will be free on the following Holidays:



- Memorial Day (5/27)
- Juneteenth (6/19)
- Independence Day (7/4)
- Labor Day (9/2)
- Columbus Day (10/14).

NOTE: The RHA parking garage is **NOT** included in free parking for holidays.

Public Works Projects

Spring Brush Pick-Up

Spring brush pick-up by the Public Works crew will take place from **Monday, May 20th - Thursday, May 23rd, 2024**. Crews will go around town twice that week picking up brush only. Please do not mix leaves and grass clippings with brush - these items can be dropped off at the Public Works Building at 457 East Middle Street. Place brush to be picked up along the curb (not in the street) or along alleys. If there are any questions regarding brush pickup, please call the Public Works Department at (717) 334-4666.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping will start in late April. Along with the regular sweeping route, residents may see temporary 'no parking' signs along streets to be swept. As soon as the sweeping is completed the signs will be removed.

Shade Tree Planting

Public Works Crews will be planting 13 new Shade Trees throughout the Borough.

Street and Alley Improvements

Legion Alley

(between Baltimore St. & S. Washington St.)

- Complete Alley Restoration

Gilliland Alley

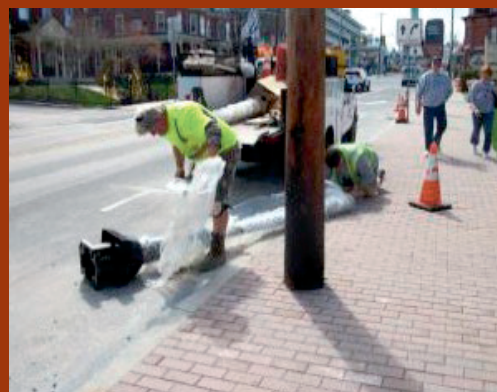
- Complete Alley Restoration

Line Painting

Cross walk and line painting will take place in July or August. Line painting is usually done at night when traffic is at its minimum.

Crack Sealing

The Public Works crew will be tar sealing cracks in the streets throughout the summer.



Message from President of Borough Council

J. Matthew Moon



I am writing this on March 8th, and it happens to be International Women's Day and so I thought I would take a moment to reflect on what I have learned about leadership in my time on Borough Council.

We are a small town, but we do so much. And we do so much *right*. We succeed where other small towns don't for reasons including our proximity to the National Park, but beyond that we thrive because of the passionate work that the people of this town do year-round to make it work. This place would not be what it is without the contributions of the intelligent and dedicated women in our midst. From our Mayor, Rita and my astounding female colleagues on council, Alisha, Judie, and Patti, to Robin (Adams County Economic Alliance) and Jill (Main Street Gettysburg) and to the many women who volunteer on our Authorities, Boards and Commissions, from the talented entrepreneurs who have transformed our business corridors, to the tireless Nancy at the YWCA, from the gifted minds at the Arts Council to the volunteer leadership of our merchant organizations like GARMA and the Chamber of Commerce, from our schools and daycares to Borough staff including Sara, Tammy, Karen, Deb, Becka, Courtney, Kara, and Mackenzie, from the Rec Park to the folks pouring at the soup kitchen, and of course to the females I live with who drive me to be better; one does not have to look far to find passionate and intelligent, caring human beings who work year round to strengthen and give vitality to our Grand Small Town. The creativity of these people is boundless.

Let us all share our gratitude and recognition of the contributions that women and girls make in this unique place and let us all commit to continuing to lift them up into positions of responsibility and watching them flourish. We succeed because all these leaders in our ranks make us succeed.

Maintenance Work

Public Works will continue working on Right-of-Way tree trimming, faded sign replacement, traffic signal maintenance, street light maintenance, cleaning storm water catch basins and pipes for MS4 regulations, and cleaning debris from Stevens Run (Tiber). Pothole issues will be repaired as they appear.

NINJA of the Year

from Jill Sellers
President and CEO – Main Street Gettysburg

Ninjas originated in the mountains of ancient Japan as dedicated practitioners of ninjutsu, a martial art, sometimes called "the art of stealth" or "the art of invisibility." While popular culture often romanticizes them in tales of international intrigue akin to legendary figures like Bruce Lee, modern ninjas primarily focus on enhancing physical fitness and self-defense capabilities. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word *ninja* originates from the Japanese characters *nin* and *ja* – *nin* initially meant "persevere," but over time its meaning evolved to "move stealthily." And, *ja* means "person." Ninjas are found in movies, television, sports, cartoons, gaming, and sometimes unsuspected places. Ninjas are indeed mysterious – invisible forces who solve problems and make the world a better place.

Gettysburg offers varied experiences, from exploring history, museums, tours, and scenic trails to encountering ghosts, enjoying parades, and attending events. It's an ideal destination for unique shopping and dining, sampling craft beer and wine, and exploring spirits. You could encounter historical reenactors, and even *ninjas*. Gettysburg relies heavily on the practice of ninjas. They move stealthily in the background to benefit others and our community. Ironically, their actions too often go unnoticed, yet their impact is undeniable. Let me highlight some of our ninja activities and where you might catch a glimpse of them at work.

Ever wonder about the immaculate cleanliness of downtown Gettysburg? Yep, ninjas. Our *From the Ground Up* volunteers meet early every Monday morning – picking up trash and cigarettes, moving almost unnoticed through the streets and sidewalks. Imagine if they didn't venture out. Would Gettysburg be welcoming and hospitable if it was dirty?

Ever think about who tends the beautiful flowers? Ninjas at work. Volunteers with the *Gettysburg Garden Club* create stunning flower baskets for the spring and summer, holiday arrangements in winter, and manage the foliage in Lincoln Square – donning gloves and spades to benefit downtown. Imagine if they didn't do those projects. Would Gettysburg be as beautiful?

Ever ponder how food programs remain stocked? You guessed it – ninjas. Volunteers collect nonperishable food items to stock *Ruth's Harvest*, *Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen*, and *Blessing Boxes* – showing up like clockwork to benefit those in need. Imagine if they didn't extend a helping hand. Would Gettysburg be a community if we didn't care for our neighbors?

Ever curious how parades or events come together? Once again, ninjas. Volunteers sign up and show up to help with *Memorial Day*, *Halloween*, and *Remembrance Day* parades, *Fourth of July*, *Salsa on the Square*, and *A Gettysburg Christmas Festival* events – donating their time, talent, and effort to benefit

our community. Imagine if they didn't help to make such things happen. Would we be Gettysburg if we didn't celebrate our history and our holidays?

Main Street Gettysburg is pleased to honor our amazing volunteers, who exemplify the spirit of ninjutsu. **We are excited to name Justin Harman as our Ninja of the Year for 2023!** Imagine if we had more ninjas. Would Gettysburg benefit if you joined us as a ninja? Contact us to find out! Please contact me anytime: (717) 337-3491, or jsellers@mainstreetgettysburg.org.



Jill Sellers is President and Chief Executive Officer of Main Street Gettysburg. She lives in Adams County with her husband Shane, and their two sons, Joshua (18) and Caleb (15).

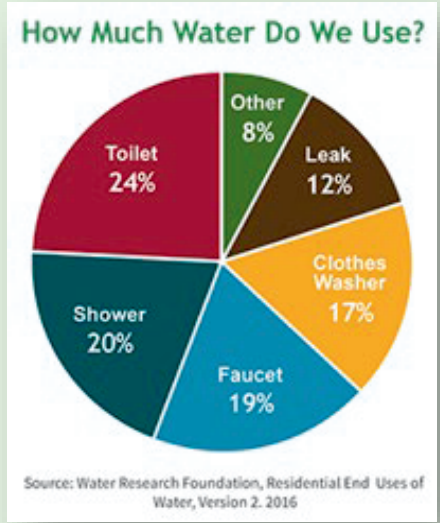


Justin Harman
MSG's Ninja of the Year

Spring Rain Barrel Workshop

The Gettysburg Borough Stormwater Authority (GBSWA) will be sponsoring a 'Rain Barrel Workshop' for Borough residents to receive a FREE rain barrel. Attendance is mandatory to receive your FREE rain barrel. Discussions will include Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater management and why rain barrels benefit your community and lessen your carbon footprint.

You will learn the benefits of using a rain barrel for water collection and conservation. These barrels can store approximately 50-65 gallons of water. This will be our 4th class with Borough Residents collecting over 35,100 gallons of water each year by using rain barrels. Adding those outside the Borough, within Adams County, we've conserved over 66,300 gallons of water. This will in turn reduce your environmental impact and your



See Barrel - Page 6

Gettysburg Historic Architectural Board (HARB)

from Debra English
Historic & Environmental Preservation Coordinator

May is dedicated to National Preservation

Month. Also known as Historic Preservation Month, the month of May celebrates all of our nation's heritage through historic places, towns, and structures. National Preservation Month allows us to support preserving such places and enjoying the stories behind our historic towns and structures. We encourage you to get out and about and walk our fabulous town and take in the unique architectural styles and character of Gettysburg.

Corporal Skelly Post No. 9 Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Pennsylvania, located at 53 East Middle Street, Gettysburg, PA is owned and restored by HGAC, Historic



Preservation Society of Gettysburg-Adams County, as an example of adaptive reuse of an historic building, and now serves as GAR's headquarters.

The Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) holds an Awards recognition in May for property owners who help to preserve and maintain our historic buildings in town. To qualify for an award, your project must be permitted through HARB and be completed by the awards deadline.



Certificate of Exception Merit – Owner goes beyond what the Board expects in maintenance of a historic building.

Certificate of Merit -- Project maintains historic features of a building, meets the intent of the Gettysburg Borough. Work is respectful of the historic building.

Certificate of Honorable Mention – Recognize the effort to maintain the historic nature of the building, structure, or property.

HARB's awards ceremony will be scheduled for May 15th at 6PM in the Troxel Council Chambers located at 59 E. High Street. Invitations will be sent out to property owners who will receive an award; and of course, the ceremony is open to the public. If you feel you deserve an award for your preservation efforts, please contact Debra English denglish@gettysburgpa.gov; and if you qualify, we can consider your project next year. Taking pride in Gettysburg's historic structures promotes tourism, increases property values, and gives a sense community. **Thank you** to all of you for the work and efforts you put into our historic district.

BLACK TIE



Art Auction Fundraiser



The Adams Rescue Mission exists to proclaim the passion of Jesus toward the hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted; to accelerate recovery and restoration to the least, last, lonely, and lost.

Join us on JUNE 7 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for a live auction of one-of-a-kind upcycled art pieces!

5:30: Open to browse art and auction items
6:30: Live Auction Begins

Food, soft drinks, and wine available for purchase

Outdoor Event



Come as you are! Your ticket will get you a bidding number to bid on your favorite items, and a black tie (no need to dress up, shorts and t-shirts and flip flops are fine!)

This is your chance to showcase your art, your business, organization, or group! Create your one-of-a-kind upcycled piece, turning trash into an artistic treasure. Be creative and feature your talents at the ARM's 8th annual Upcycled Art Show. All items will be auctioned off during a live auction at the June 7th event – proceeds supporting the Adams County Rescue Mission.

Please call (717) 334-7502 x26 to request the application/guidelines or go online to www.AdamsRescueMission.org/events to download the application.



Give Ideas to Gettysburg

from Robert Iuliano
President
Gettysburg College



Gettysburg College launched Community GIGs (Give Ideas to Gettysburg) in the fall of 2020 as students were learning in remote locations around the world. It offered our students a meaningful way to give back to the Gettysburg community during the pandemic and the program served as a prototype for experiential opportunities offering real-world experiences and skill development for career preparation.

GIGs offers free-of-charge consulting to nonprofit organizations and is unique in its mission to train students in consulting at the undergraduate level. Gettysburg College students work in teams and are coached by the collaborating offices of the Center for Career Engagement, Center for Public Service, Garthwait Leadership Center, and Innovation and



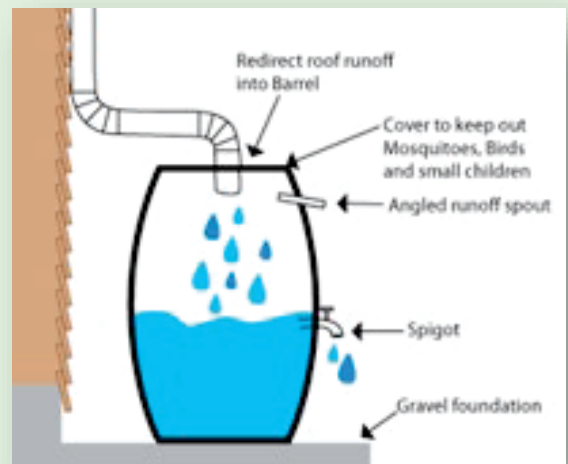
Creativity Lab. Participants learn and practice human-centered design thinking and humble consulting.

See College – Page 7

Barrel – Contd. from Page 5

water bill, saving money. An earth-friendly option to collect water to hydrate your flower beds, vegetable gardens, water the grass or wash your car. This will reduce the amount of water collected in our storm drains during rain events reducing the impact of flooding. The slow discharge the barrels will provide will allow rainwater to infiltrate back into our ground water table providing a natural purifier to improve water quality. Other benefits include reducing rainwater runoff, preventing soil erosion, and providing water storage during droughts conserving water for a later use.

This class is FREE to borough residents, one barrel per household. Space is limited, if you wish to attend please email Debra English, Historic & Environmental Preservation Coordinator to reserve a spot denglish@gettysburgpa.gov or call 717-334-1160 Ext 238. Please provide your local address, name, contact number/email, number of attendees and why you would like to attend this class, bring the family! The class is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th, 2024, at 5:30-7 PM. Thank you for doing your part to make our community a better place to live.



College – Contd. from Page 6

Since its inception, with generous support from PNC Bank, 113 students in 22 teams, representing 29 different majors, have paired with nine community partners, including Healthy Adams County, Land Conservancy of Adams County, Latino Services Task Force, Children’s Advocacy Center, Adams County Farmers Market, and the Migrant Education Program. This year, Waldo’s & Company and Adams County Sexual Assault Services have joined the program. Students have worked on a wide range of projects for the organizations—from increasing awareness and support of the Land Conservancy to identifying technology barriers impeding patient access to online medical resources throughout Adams County.

While the aim of Community GIGs is to generate ideas based on the projects identified by the local community, partners dedicate a significant amount of time to the program and continue to indicate interest in implementing student suggestions in the years to come. Through its evolution, GIGs has demonstrated the value of community and college collaboration, providing insightful takeaways for all involved.

**American Battlefield Trust Conference**

*from Luke McKnight
State & Local Government Relations Associate*



From left: Back Row: Peter Carmichael, Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College; Pete Miele, Executive Director, Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center; Timothy Smith, Director of Education, Adams County Historical Society; Karl Pietrzak, President and CEO, Destination Gettysburg; Jill Sellers, President and CEO, Main Street Gettysburg; Lindsay Methlie, Director of Sales, Destination Gettysburg; Carl Whitehill, Vice President, Destination Gettysburg; Front Row, From Left: Wayne Motts, President Emeritus and Historian, Gettysburg Foundation; Steven Sims, Former Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park; David Duncan, President, American Battlefield Trust; Andrew Dalton, Executive Director, Adams County Historical Society; Stephanie Lightner, Executive Director, Gettysburg Heritage Center Melissa Winn

Later this month hundreds of American Battlefield Trust members will descend on Gettysburg for the national preservation organization’s 2024 Annual Conference. From April 25–28, they’ll enjoy tours, talks and other special gatherings at an event designed to showcase both the battlefield and the community that surrounds it.

“More than half our membership tell us that Gettysburg is their favorite battlefield to visit, and we couldn’t agree more,” said Trust President David Duncan, surrounded by many of the local partner organizations who will help make the event unforgettable. “We’re thrilled to bring members to Gettysburg and show them everything that we and our allies have achieved together. There’s no more fitting gathering place for us to pursue our collective mission of saving these sacred spaces and the legacy they preserve.”

See ABT – Page 8

RECYCLING EVENTS:

- April 20th and October 19th
Electronic Recycling
www.GettysburgPA.gov
- May 17th
Paper Shred Event
www.GettysburgPA.gov
- June 7th
Upcycled Art Auction
www.AdamsRescueMission.org



Gettysburg Garden Club

*from Maryan Daniels
President
Gettysburg Garden Club*

Spring Plant Sale

The Gettysburg Garden Club is holding its Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18th, from 9 am – 2 pm at the Gettysburg Fire Department rear parking lot. There will be a wonderful selection of pollinator-friendly perennials such as native milkweed, coneflower, daylily, hosta, iris, black-eyed Susan, penstemon, and Sheffield daisy, plus annual Mexican Sunflower, *Tithonia*, a Monarch pollinator magnet, and a nice selection of herbs.

Most of our plants are divisions from members' and friends' gardens and have been carefully tended to ensure well-rooted healthy plants. Cash, check, or credit cards are accepted. Come early for the best selection! Questions may be directed to our Club's email at GettysburgGardenClub001@gmail.com.

Spring Renovations Coming to Lincoln Square Flower Beds

The Gettysburg Garden Club plants and maintains the Lincoln Square flowerbeds. The current tulips are in a sad state of decline and will be removed once done blooming. Spring tulips have been installed since 2013 in honor of the 150th Battle Anniversary. Unfortunately, tulips do not naturalize and slowly decline requiring costly periodic removal and replacement that has been done several times.

This year's declining tulips will be removed after blooming. Soil in the beds will be renovated adding any needed amendments based on Penn State Extension Soil test results. Spring bulbs will return to daffodils that will naturalize and provide long lasting beauty. Bulbs will be planted this fall with each bed featuring different varieties and colors with progressive blooming. Club members will be planting the summer annuals in the Lincoln Square beds on May 14. The eight planters around the Square also will have summer annuals planted in May. The Downtown Flower Project's hanging baskets along Chambersburg, Baltimore, Carlisle and York Streets will be installed by Memorial Day.



Employee Spotlight



John Whitmore, AICP joined the Borough of Gettysburg on January

2nd, 2024 as the Planning Director for the Borough's Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement Department. Mr. Whitmore has worked in the planning industry for over 10 years in West Virginia where he was the City Planner for Parkersburg, WV, a Senior Planner and Interim Director of Developmental Services with the City of Morgantown, WV, and the Director of Economic Development for the City of Clarksburg, WV. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Mr. Whitmore holds a bachelor's degree in public & urban Affairs and a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning. When not in the office, Mr. Whitmore enjoys being outdoors with his family, taking time to go to the gym and going on long walks with his dog Sweetie.

ABT – Contd. from Page 7

Over the past two decades, the Trust has saved 1,277 acres associated with all three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Members have invested millions in land acquisition, landscape restoration and the development of groundbreaking interpretive technologies to bring the battlefield to life.

This will be the Trust's largest event of the year and since its announcement last spring, members have been excited to experience Gettysburg. The Trust's conference will be uniquely situated in downtown Gettysburg to take advantage of the array of lodging options, transportation, shops, eateries and attractions the town has to offer.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 58,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War across 155 sites in 25 states. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

Economics 101: Investing & Reinvesting in Downtown Gettysburg Station Site Development

From Jill Sellers (MSG); updated with contributions by Charles R. Gable (Borough Manager) Adapted from an MSG Op-Ed first printed in the Gettysburg Times on July 14, 2023

As the subject of downtown development continues to take the spotlight, I have heard some interesting, a few

insensitive, and many misinformed comments on the proposed Gettysburg Station Project. Let's examine the project using economic development and community impact perspectives.



1) Investment: We are blessed to live in a free market society. Investment and reinvestment are vital to a thriving economy. Investment strengthens our economic base, encourages growth, and generally boosts opportunities for all business sectors. Economics 101: Competition is a good thing.

- 2) Housing: Adams County housing is limited at every income level, from the working poor to the educated professional. Our market is highly competitive. Home prices average over \$300K and often sell above market value within 15 days or less, and rentals are scarce. Those conditions don't bode well for the average family, especially for people working in service positions, including our tourism industry, restaurants, and law enforcement. Most of our populace works outside of Adams County. The housing component of this project is desperately needed to provide housing options, to connect more people's homes with their livelihoods, and to foster a strong sense of community.
3) Design: The schematics thus far are merely stick-figures, placeholders that offer specifications to facilitate discussion about ordinances and variance applications. The actual designs will carefully consider our historic downtown in its final appearance. In the end, it will not be a cinder block building.
4) Height: The two buildings on Carlisle and Stratton Streets will be scaled to fit those streetscapes accordingly. The tall building will be in the middle, away from the street. The complex won't rise above the Gettysburg Hotel, which is already 72 feet tall on Racehorse Alley.
5) Step-backs: Thankfully, the developer is asking for a variance. According to the ordinance, a 48-foot-tall square building could be built within five feet of all streets and property lines.
6) Parking: Underground parking - how cool is that!
7) Green Space: The developer is providing a significant amount of green space and recreational access for pedestrians and bicycle traffic. Plans include shade trees and walking paths. The innovative designs are accommodating, impressive, and considerate of our downtown.



8) Traffic: Traffic impacts were considered in 2019. Additional studies are currently underway and are part of the land development process.

9) Services: Gettysburg provides services to its residents and over three million visitors annually. Consideration of additional services will be addressed during the land development phase. See Site - Page 10

Site – Contd. from Page 9 10) Taxes: Over 40% of property within the borough is tax exempt. Adding, not removing, taxable property is a win. The developer has not sought tax breaks, so the project will be immediately taxable. Additionally, the Borough stands to further benefit from the project as residents living in the new units will also pay both Per Capita Tax and Occupation Tax. The table below shows the current Borough property taxes collected on the parcels that comprise the project as compared to the potential once construction is completed.

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Current Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>Current Boro Taxes Paid</u>
16007-0125A---000	\$389,600	~ \$1000.00
16007-0125---000	\$507,100	~ \$2000.00
16007-0126---000	\$133,800	~ \$400.00
Current Annual Gettysburg Borough Taxes Collected = ~ \$3400		
<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Future Estimated Valuation</u>	<u>Future Estimated Boro Taxes Paid</u>
16007-0125A---000	\$16,065,000	~ \$41,234
16007-0125---000	\$20,910,000	~ \$82,468
16007-0126---000	\$5,525,000	~ \$16,517
Estimated Future Annual Gettysburg Borough Taxes Collected = ~ \$140,219		

NOTE: Based on Projected Development Costs

Economics 101: “As cities continue to evolve, investing and reinvesting in downtowns as economic and cultural engines will ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of communities, benefiting residents, businesses, and visitors alike.” For over 200 years, Gettysburg has endured battle, fires, innovation, recession, pandemic, and rebuilding. The Gettysburg Station redevelopment project is more than an investment project. It is an extraordinary transformation of a blighted property that will spur tremendous economic growth and serve our downtown for generations to come!



Gettysburg’s Parking Enforcement Officer’s perform routine parking enforcement throughout the Borough in accordance with the established rules and regulations governing parking laws and the Borough Code of Ordinances. George Steckert joined Gettysburg Borough’s Parking Department as a part-time Parking Enforcement Officer in March 2024. Mr. Steckert is excited to be here and serve the residents of Gettysburg. When not on duty George enjoys going on walks with his dog and spending time with his family.

Employee Spotlight



Mayor Rita C. Frealing Swears in Officer Lardarello

Alec Lardarello joined the Borough of Gettysburg’s Police Department as an Academy Cadet in July of 2023. After completing the Academy, he was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer in November of 2023. Officer Lardarello is proud to be able to protect and serve Gettysburg.



Mayor Rita C. Frealing Swears in Officer Chilcote

Joshua Chilcote joined the Borough of Gettysburg’s Police Department as an Academy Cadet in July of 2023. After completing the Academy, he was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer in December of 2023. Officer Chilcote is proud to be able to protect and serve Gettysburg.

From the Parking Department:

A new 90-day bus pilot program has been created for restaurants with a seating capacity of over 50 persons. A permit can be obtained at www.gettysburgpa.gov, to reserve meters for bus parking. If you need more information or have any questions or complaints, please contact the Parking Manager at (717) 334-1160 ext. 241.

It's Official: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Named One of the Best Small Towns in America

Adapted from an *OnlyInYourState.com* story first published by Beth Price-Williams on March 13, 2024



DenisTangneyJr/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Small towns in Pennsylvania promise us the opportunity to slow down the pace of life a little bit, embrace that friendliness of yesteryear, and enjoy a unique getaway. With the many small towns that dot the state, we might have a bit of trouble pinpointing our next daytrip or weekend getaway. If that's the case, consider planning a trip to Gettysburg, one of the best small towns to visit in America this year. The charming small Pennsylvania town earned a coveted spot on the list of the best small towns in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Perhaps the most historic and the most haunted small town in Pennsylvania, Gettysburg just made its way onto the list of the top 25 small towns to visit in the U.S. this year. Gettysburg



Flickr/Nicholas Raymond

ranks a lot higher, however, on a few of U.S. News & World Report's other lists, snagging the second spot for the best places to visit in Pennsylvania and the third slot for the best historical cities to visit in the USA.

See Gettysburg – Page 12

Patriot Rail to Start Tourist Service in Gettysburg

Adapted from a *Trains.com* story first published by Dan Cupper on January 12, 2024

Patriot Rail, a short line company that operates 32 railroads across the United States, is planning to revive passenger service on the Gettysburg & Northern (G & N) Railroad in 2025, to capitalize on the millions of tourists who pour into Gettysburg and surrounding

areas each year. G & N will join two other active Patriot Rail tourist lines, Blue Ridge Scenic Railway in Georgia and Granit State Scenic in New Hampshire, recently rebranded from its previous name, Hobo Railroad. The 25-mile-long former Reading Company branch connects Norfolk Southern's Lurgan District (part of NS's New Orleans-to-New Jersey Crescent Corridor) at Mount Holly Springs, PA, with CSX Transportation's former Western Maryland's Railway 'Dutch Line'. The line passes through a portion of Gettysburg National Military Park. David Bevins, Patriot Rail Vice President of Operations, and a licensed locomotive engineer with many years of experience with CSX Transportation, said the company plans to begin passenger service over about 8 miles between Gettysburg and Biglerville. On this stretch, the track passes fields on which the first day the Battle of Gettysburg began. Believing that the trackside geography is a rich history lesson waiting to be told to passengers, Bevins sees "opportunities to help teach the history of the Battle and the town and the area. It seemed like a logical next step for the company to look to start a scenic operation with all the beautiful scenery and tourists". Patriot rail plans

to build on experience gained in running its Blue Ridge Scenic Railway, which last year carried a record 142,000 passengers. Like those

trains, G & N tourist trains will run in push - pull

configuration. Bevins credited Destination Gettysburg, as well as Gettysburg Borough and adjacent Gettysburg College with helping to launch



GP38-2 No. 3833 works on the Gettysburg & Northern at Gardners, PA on May 30, 2023



The route has seen passenger operations before, as shown in 1997

See Train – Page 12

Gettysburg – Contd. from Page 11 While you can certainly pack a whole lot into a single day, you'll quickly find that Gettysburg is worthy of a multi-day adventure. Explore on your own, or join one of the town's guided walking or bike tours. If you're a history buff, you've definitely come to the right place. Gettysburg National Military Park, Jennie Wade House, and Eisenhower National Historic Site are all must-visits.

Many of the most historical destinations in Gettysburg are also the most haunted, including Devil's Den, where a man in a floppy hat is said to appear out of nowhere. He offers to pose for a photo then, after the camera clicks, he disappears. Other haunted spots in Gettysburg that are worth a visit include Sachs Covered Bridge, the Farnsworth House Inn, and the Jennie Wade House. Or dig into a delicious meal, with a side of the paranormal and history, at Dobbin House Tavern before checking into the Gettysburg Hotel for a comfy night's sleep.



DenisTangneyJr/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Recycle – It's the Law

*from Judith Butterfield
Vice President – Borough Council*

**PLASTICS, PAPER,
ALUMINUM, SCRAP METAL**

As we approach **Earth Day 2024 (April 22)**, it is important to remember the *simple* ways that Borough residents can contribute to a healthier environment and sustainable planet. Recycling is one of those ways! In the Gettysburg Borough, it is required, by law, that residents and businesses recycle what can be recycled per our waste hauler's (Waste Management) agreement.

Currently, we can safely recycle: **all plastics #1 - #7 (except foam**

See Recycle – Page 13

Train – Contd. from Page 11 the service. Patriot Rail has reached an agreement with Gettysburg College to use excess parking capacity in the College's overflow parking areas. Patriot Rail has sought Borough approval to refurbish the Gettysburg Train Depot located on North Washington Street, which will be utilized as the ticketing and boarding location for the train service. Initial plans call for operations on Thursday through Sundays, with more frequency during summer peak tourist season.

DID YOU KNOW?
Gettysburg is a Certified GOLD Community for Sustainability!
For Details, Visit www.SustainablePACommunity.org
Certification.org

Want to be notified of local emergencies?
Sign up for E-Alerts
It's easy! Click on E-Alert on the Borough's home page and select the types of alerts you want.
www.GettysburgPA.gov

Did You Know ...

Gettysburg has the lowest unemployment rate in ALL of Pennsylvania

Gettysburg's monthly unemployment rate rose by a tenth of a point compared to the prior month but – at 2.2% - remained the lowest in all of Pennsylvania, according to data released recently. Other Pennsylvania revelations in the new U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics metropolitan area unemployment figures: Despite the tenth-of-a point uptick for December 2023 (the most recent month available at the metro level) compared to November 2023, Gettysburg's rate is 0.5% lower than where it stood a year earlier.

Area	December 2023	1-Month Change	1-Year Change
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	3.3%	-0.1%	-0.4%
Altoona	2.8%	0.1%	-1.3%
Blomsberg-Berwick	3.1%	0.1%	-0.9%
Chambersburg-Waynsboro	2.4%	0.0%	-0.8%
East Stroudsburg	3.8%	-0.1%	-1.3%
Erie	3.3%	0.1%	-1.2%
Gettysburg	2.2%	0.1%	-0.5%
Harrisburg-Carlisle	2.4%	-0.1%	-0.8%
Johnstown	3.6%	0.1%	-1.4%
Lancaster	2.3%	0.0%	-0.6%
Lebanon	2.3%	0.0%	-0.7%
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	3.3%	0.0%	-0.2%
Pittsburgh	2.9%	0.0%	-1.2%
Reading	3.0%	-0.1%	-0.6%
Scranton-Wilkes Barre-Hazleton	3.5%	0.0%	-1.0%
State College	2.3%	0.2%	-0.9%
Williamsport	3.2%	0.2%	-1.1%
York-Hanover	2.5%	-0.1%	-0.7%
Pennsylvania	2.9%	0.0%	-0.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Figures are not seasonally adjusted

Recycle – Contd. from Page 12

cups or packing materials), aluminum foil products (cans, baking tins and foil), paper bags and cardboard (unless soiled), clean paper, and scrap metal (cookie sheets, utensils, for example). Please be sure to remove the lids from plastic bottles unless they can be recycled as is the case for several plastic single use water bottles (check the lid!).

Things that cannot be recycled through our hauler should be placed in the trash: ceramic dishes, glassware, broken glass of any kind, windows, mirrors, sheet glass. Plastic bags can be recycled at most grocery stores and Walmart stores.

Got some old tax documents to shred? Feel free to drop off these and other sensitive documents at no cost during the next shred event on May 17, 2024 at 457 East Middle Street (Borough Public Works Building). Sign up for a spot by visiting the website (see link below) or by calling: 717-337-0724 on weekdays between 8 AM and 5 PM. Once registered, you will have a designated drop-off time. Residents of nearby municipalities may also drop off boxes for a small fee (\$3) for each box (medium size: like a copy paper box). For more information on paper shredding visit:

<https://www.gettysburgpa.gov/recycling/webforms/paper-shredding-event-registration>

GLASS

If looking to recycling glass, you're in luck! In 2023, Gettysburg Green Gathering has successfully launched its glass recycling program and arranges for glass recycling collection at 230 Greenmyer Lane in Gettysburg (parking lot of the Emergency Services Complex) on the first Saturday of each month from 9 AM-Noon. Drop off your clean glass jars and bottles! For more information please visit:

<https://www.gettysburggreengathering.com/gettysburg-glass-recycling-program-information>

E-CYCLING
ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONIC
DEVICES

Finally, if you have televisions, computers, and/or their peripherals, pre-register for the Borough's E-Cycling event on the website (see link below) or call 717-337-0724 on weekdays between 8 AM and 5 PM. Once registered, you can drop off those items on April 20, 2024 at 457 East Middle Street (Borough Public Works Building). For more information on electronic recycling visit:

www.gettysburgpa.gov/recycling/webforms/e-recycling-registration

Adams County FARMERS MARKET
SUSTAINABLE | LOCAL | COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

NOW AT THE GETTYSBURG REC PARK!

SATURDAYS | APRIL-OCTOBER | 8AM - 1PM



Adams County FARMERS MARKET
SUSTAINABLE | LOCAL | COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

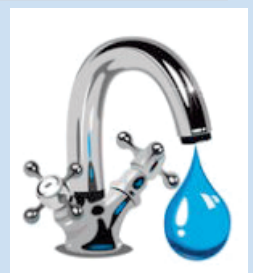
OPENING DAY!

Saturday, April 27, 2024
GETTYSBURG REC PARK
545 Long Lane
Gettysburg, PA

Periodic Plumbing Maintenance That Could Pay Dividends

from Mark Guise, Manager – Gettysburg Municipal Authority

Many people don't think about how much water they use until their bill arrives. By then, it's too late to consider what steps could reduce water usage, which in turn reduces your water bill. A quick check for leaks might save you unnecessarily high water and sewer bills.



It's important to remember that leaks don't disappear and very often become worse rapidly. Most leaks are continuous and run 24-hours a day. A majority of Gettysburg Municipal Authority (GMA) customers receive their water and sewer bill quarterly. Just because your recently received bill appeared normal or maybe slightly higher than previous bills, doesn't always mean things are fine. It will be approximately 90-days until GMA reads the meter again. Therefore, any indication of higher usage could indicate a potential small leak which could lead and equate to a very high charge. A toilet leaking 1/8 of a gallon per minute over a 90-day period can result in over 121,000 gallons of leaked water.

See Water – Page 14

What is a Sharrow?

A representation of a bicycle with two chevrons above it, marked on a roadway as a symbol to indicate that motor vehicles and cyclists are to share the lane. Cyclists may ride in the center of the lane. Vehicles may pass when no oncoming vehicles.



The Borough of Gettysburg is honored to announce the award of \$1,272,436 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the

GETTYSBURG WELCOME CENTER RECEIVES CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION

construction of the Gettysburg Welcome Center project. In February 2023, on behalf of the Borough of Gettysburg, Main Street Gettysburg submitted a Congressional Appropriation Request to both the House and Senate. Senators Bob Casey and John Fetterman, and Representative John Joyce, M.D. jointly forwarded the application for Community Project Funding under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the FY2024 Budget.

On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, the House of Representatives passed a “minibus” for six appropriations bills including Transportation-HUD, by a 339-85 vote. On Friday, March 8, 2024, the Senate cleared full-



Rendering by Connor Phiel; Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, and Associates - Architects

year appropriations for those six bills, by a 75-22 vote. President Biden signed the measure into law on March 9, 2024. Congressman Joyce personally contacted Gettysburg Borough Manager Gable and Main Street Gettysburg President Sellers to announce the appropriation. Senator Casey’s senior staff also contacted Manager Gable regarding the news. “We are grateful for this generous funding to build a legacy project in the heart of Gettysburg, which will enable the Borough to serve residents and the millions of visitors that come to Gettysburg annually,” said Borough Manager Charles Gable, “and it will be completed in time to celebrate our nation’s 250th birthday in July 2026.” The award, combined with local funding-

[See Welcome Center – Page 15](#)

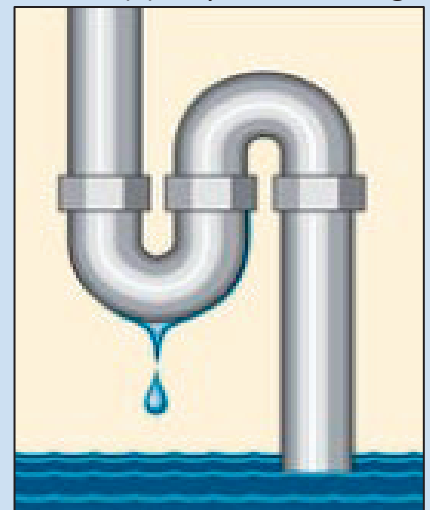
Water – Contd. from Page 13

Fortunately, it’s easy to determine if your toilet is leaking by asking yourself the following questions: (1) Do you find yourself jiggling the handle to stop noise? And (2) Do you hear strange or intermittent noises from the toilet?

If you answered ‘yes’ to either question, your toilet is most likely leaking. Toilets generally leak for two reasons: (1) The float assembly is not shutting off the water allowing water to continue to run and escape into the overflow pipe. This problem can often be remedied by adjusting the float. (2) If the flush flapper is worn or just plainly not seating properly, this will allow water to leak into the toilet bowl. Here is how you can check for possible flapper leakage by using food color or dye tablets:

- Drop the food color or dye tablet into the toilet tank. **DO NOT FLUSH.**
- Wait 15 to 20 minutes.
- If color appears in the toilet, you know the toilet is leaking and necessary repairs should be made.

Tips can be found at www.GettysburgGMA.com; Click the FAQ tab.



GETTYSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY URGES ALL OWNERS TO GIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THEIR PLUMBING AND FIXTURES; MAKE IMMEDIATE CORRECTION OF ALL LEAKS. NO ALLOWANCE/REFUND WILL BE MADE BY THE AUTHORITY FOR WATER USED, STOLEN OR WASTED AFTER HAVING PASSED THROUGH THE WATER METER.

Welcome Center – Contd. from Page 14

raising will provide for construction to begin later this year in 2024.

The Gettysburg Welcome Center is a \$1.5 million public facility project, which will create greater accessibility and walkability throughout the historic district. The project is in the center of downtown and will provide tourism, transportation, event, and volunteer information, as well as public restrooms. Plans include ADA-compliant facilities. The building

Compliments of: Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, and Associates Architects



site at 340 Baltimore Street was generously donated to the Borough for this purpose by Tim Shields, founder of Future Stake, Inc. The structure had been a private residence before the Borough owning it.

To ensure ongoing and perpetual operational sustainability after construction is complete, Main Street Gettysburg has partnered with the Adams County Community Foundation to create an endowment fund. The endowment goal is \$1 million.

To donate to the Gettysburg Welcome Center Endowment Fund, contact Main Street Gettysburg at 717-337-3491, or online at www.mainstreetgettysburg.org/donate; or Adams County Community Foundation at 717-337-0060 or online at www.adamscountycf.org.

Destination Gettysburg contributes \$100,000 to the Gettysburg Welcome Center Operational Endowment. From Left to Right: Karl Pietrzak (President, Destination Gettysburg); Nate Mares (Chairman, Destination Gettysburg); Ralph Serpe (President, Adams County Community Foundation); Jill Sellers (President, Main Street Gettysburg)



SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT THE RECREATION PARK

from Erin Peddigree, Executive Director, GARA



Spring means a renewal for many reasons, but especially after the winter months; Everyone is ready to outside and enjoy the outdoors. There are many activities happening at GARA this spring. The park is home to Little League Baseball, AYSO Soccer, Soccer Shots, and Gettysburg Midget Flag Football. The Park is filled with activities.

Last year and again this year GARA has seen an increase in bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. The skate park and bicycle pump track has been full of kids young and old. Sadly, however, also seen is an increase in beer cans, cigarette butts, and the use of foul language in the skate park. GARA receives complaints weekly about the skate park from not only residents but from families visiting Gettysburg looking for a fun outdoor activity. The skate park is the only free skate park in the area. GARA asks everyone to continue to enjoy the skate park but be respectful. GARA asks that everyone please help in keeping the park clean and make it a safe and fun time for all ages.

GARA has volunteer groups this year helping to make the park beautiful. Brownie Troop 20288 is making birdhouses and have made birdfeeders that have been placed throughout the park. The Troop will also be planting a pollinator garden while learning about water conservation, and will be planting anti-erosion plants along the Winebrenner entrance. There are two Eagle Scout projects in the park this year. The benches in the dog park have already been repainted and the concrete pavers cleaned by one Eagle Scout. GARA will also have a Gaga Pit built in the park later this spring. A Gaga pit is an octagon enclosure with a foam ball. The object of the game is to hit your opponent below the knees to eliminate them from the pit.

See GARA – Page 16

Code Enforcement

from Pete Griffioen, Code Compliance Officer

In establishing Code Enforcement priorities for 2024, the Borough looked back at the calls and emails received with complaints in 2022 and 2023. Definite themes emerged. Targeted enforcement will occur throughout spring/summer on the following:

Weeds

Weeds were a top complaint in both 2022 and 2023 and will be a focus of targeted enforcement this year. To stay in compliance, remember: All premises and exterior areas must be maintained free from weeds or plant growth (includes grass) in excess of eight (8) inches.

Sidewalk Clearances

The Borough is receiving complaints about sidewalk clearance with increasing frequency. This year focus will be on sidewalk encroachments such as portable signs, merchandise, hedges and shrubs, and any other moveable (or trim-able) object that could impede pedestrian passage.

Address Numbers

All properties are required to post address numbers on their buildings that are visible from the opposite side of the public street. This applies to alleys as well, so if your property fronts a street and has alley access you must post address numbers on the front and the back of your house or building.

Code Enforcement can be reached for questions or comments at 717-334-1160 ext. 229.

GARA - Contd. from Page 15 The Gettysburg Green Gathering is holding their tree sale again this year where a tree can be purchased and planted in the Rec Park. The Rec Park has lost many trees over the years to disease, strong winds, and storms. The trees will help continue to make the park beautiful now and for generations to come. The Gettysburg Green Gathering will also be planting a butterfly garden by the Winebrenner entrance to the park.

GARA thanks all those who have volunteered and sent donations throughout the past year. It is the community support that helps keep the park running. We received many comments how the park has been the place to go for exercise and entertainment over the past year. Stop by for an afternoon and enjoy Rec Park.



Borough of Gettysburg
59 E. High Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- WARD 1
Gettysburg Fire Department
Community Room (Rear)
35 North Stratton Street
WARD 2
Gettysburg College Union Building (CUB)
242 West Lincon Avenue
WARD 3
Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority (GARA)
Charlie Sterner Building
545 Long Lane

Primary Election Day
Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024
Polls Open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

