



# Gettysburg

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

## The 150<sup>th</sup> ★ ★ ★ A TIME TO SHINE!

### **Borough Council**

#### **Mayor:**

William Troxell

#### **First Ward:**

Michael Birkner  
Rebecca Brown  
Charles Teague

#### **Second Ward:**

Kyle Leinbach  
Claire Lewis  
Jacob Schindel

#### **Third Ward:**

John Butterfield  
Susan Naugle  
Graham Weaver

#### **Borough Manager**

Florence Ford

In 2011, actor Stephen Lange stood on the National Cemetery rostrum on Dedication Day and thanked those present for being “caretakers for a nation.” That description is never truer than in 2013 as the community prepares to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg this summer.

Discussions and preparations began two years ago as community leaders began to confront the challenges of increased visitation and the importance of living up to the expectations of those who will come to this important national event. With tourism as an economic driver for Gettysburg, it would be important for our future economic health to create a memorable experience – one that would encourage return visits and new visitors for years to come.

This is our time to shine! It is not going to be easy. In past years, state and federal funds were available for similar commemoration events, but that has not been the case for 2013. Our state legislators have been working to secure some financial support, but budgets are tight everywhere. What we do have is enthusiasm and community leaders willing to work together to ensure that the resources we have are ready and well-coordinated. There are over 30 events planned for the 10-day period beginning June 28 including two reenactments and a community Independence Day parade. According to the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, we can expect 200,000 visitors during those 10 days with 30,000 on peak days. Many will come to the borough to sleep, shop, visit attractions and walk the historic path of Lincoln.

As “caretakers for the nation” the residents and businesses of Gettysburg have a special role in welcoming the thousands who will come to commemorate and honor three of the most important days in our nation’s history. The investment the community makes this year to welcome our visitors will pay dividends in the future as word spreads that Gettysburg is a wonderful place to visit.



### **Important**

#### **Numbers:**

Borough 334-1160  
Police Dept 334-1168  
Emergency 911  
After Hours  
Non-Emergency  
334-8101  
Rec Park 334-2028  
Highway Dept 334-4666  
GMA 334-6738

*Some relics you can hold in your hand...others you can walk inside.*

### **THE SEMINARY RIDGE MUSEUM**

**Opening - July 1, 2013**

*150 years to the day after the Battle of Gettysburg began*

*Explore the first day of battle, care of wounded, larger issues of faith and freedom*

**Tickets now available!** Preview tours available April through June  
Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum, 111 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg  
[www.seminaryridgemuseum.org](http://www.seminaryridgemuseum.org) 717-339-1300

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

## Gettysburg CVB Prepares for "REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY"

by Carl Whitehill

The Gettysburg community has been working hard over the past several months to prepare for this summer's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration. While the sesquicentennial is truly a year-long event, at the heart of the anniversary is a 10-day commemorative event – from June 28 through July 7 called "Gettysburg 150 – Reflections of History." During these 10 days, Gettysburg and Adams County will host battle re-enactments, tributes, special tours and programs, along with the grand opening of the Seminary Ridge Museum on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Businesses and organizations throughout the Borough of Gettysburg have also been getting ready by planning for additional staff, extending hours and exploring ways to become involved in the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In February, the Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau hosted four seminars – each segmented to a specific industry in tourism. During these meetings, the CVB shared information regarding the events during the 10-day commemoration, along with the resources available to everyone as ways to prepare themselves or share with their customers. Follow-up meetings in the future, to share the latest information – are being considered because of the great feedback received by businesses.

The Gettysburg community is working to develop satellite parking areas to limit the amount of vehicles that enter the borough. A parking area has already been established at the Outlet Shoppes of Gettysburg, and more are being considered on the outskirts of Gettysburg, including HACC-Gettysburg Campus on Old Harrisburg Road. Signs on Route 15 and other major inbound roads will direct motorists to satellite parking areas, from which they will take the Freedom Transit trolleys into Gettysburg.

In March, the Gettysburg CVB plans to roll out its A.C.E. (Adams County Experience) Training Program, aimed at improving customer service as well as establishing a good knowledge base of local attractions and other visitor interests. This program, free for everyone, will help employers and their workers meet that high standard that visitors will be expecting in 2013.



**For a list of all Gettysburg 150<sup>th</sup> events and other information, visit  
[www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com](http://www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com)**

### 150th Questionnaire: We would like to hear from you!

1. As a resident, what is your biggest concern with the 150th? Second biggest?
2. Will you be staying in town the last week in June and the first week of July?
3. Would you be interested in attending a public meeting to address resident questions and concerns regarding the 150th?

Please include your name and address. Send your response to:  
newsletter@gettysburg-pa.gov or mail or drop off at Borough Hall, 59 East High Street.

### Volunteers Needed to Spruce Up Downtown for the 150<sup>th</sup>

Wondering what you can do to help Gettysburg shine for the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration? The "From the Ground Up" street clean-up effort will operate again this year starting in April. Volunteers meet on Monday mornings in front of the Majestic Theater and spend 1 to 2 hours picking up and sweeping up trash on borough sidewalks and streets. Children under 14 are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Clean-ups are not held on Monday holidays or if it is raining.



Contact Susan Naugle at 334-1142 or [snaugle@gettysburg-pa.gov](mailto:snaugle@gettysburg-pa.gov).

## Borough Historic Preservation

The Gettysburg Borough Historic Preservation Awards recognize the commitment of borough property owners to the future of the community through their attention and respect of historic preservation. Their attention to detail contributes to the fabric of the community for future generations of residents and visitors. Awards are presented in May to celebrate National Preservation Month, which has been established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to promote historic places and local preservation efforts. The Historical Architectural Review Board welcomes nominations from residents and business owners.

Awards are presented each May to property owners that demonstrate outstanding performance in maintaining and rehabilitating buildings and properties in the Historic District based on the guiding principles in the Gettysburg Design Guide and accepted historic preservation practices.

### There are three certificate levels:

*Certificate of Exceptional Merit – A project where a property owner goes beyond what the Board expects in maintenance of a historic building or property or, in the case of new construction in the Historic District, the property owner's effort to design a building that is compatible with surrounding properties. The new building may include design features that are similar to those found on nearby historic buildings, referencing the Gettysburg Borough Historic Design Guide.*

*Certificate of Merit – A project that maintains historic features of a building and property and meets the intent of the Gettysburg Borough Historic Design Guide; the work is respectful of the historic building or property.*

*Certificate of Honorable Mention – A project that the Board recognizes the property owner's effort to maintain the historic nature of the building, structure or property.*

### Below are the categories for the Borough Historic Preservation Awards:

Accessibility, Adaptive Reuse, Attention to Detail, General Commitment to the Borough Historic District, Infill, New Construction, Rehabilitation, Restoration, Roof, Paint and Signage.

### Will the Borough be Ready?

Gettysburg Borough and Main Street Gettysburg have been planning and working with our partners to identify what we need in order to provide quality service during the 150<sup>th</sup>. The list is long. Most are necessities like additional parking, portable rest rooms, and increased law enforcement. A few are niceties like benches and trash receptacles and an additional newsletter to keep residents informed. Much of the plan will need to be implemented whether or not we get the requested funding from the Commonwealth.

One of our goals is to encourage residents and visitors alike to walk, ride the trolley (It's FREE), or bike. We have identified five parking areas for visitors to the borough - National Cemetery North Parking Lot, Middle School area, Rec Park, Parking Deck and HACC. That will provide about 2,000 parking spaces. With the exception of Rec Park, all have access to a Freedom Transit stop or are within walking distance of shops and attractions. All lots will provide restroom services requiring 50 to 60 portable stations.

Waste Management has stepped up to provide four trash compactor units and Sunday pick-up. Chief Dougherty is assembling additional resources for law enforcement and traffic control. Public Works Director Dan Hilliard will deploy staff as needed to clean streets, direct traffic and keep us running as smoothly as possible

Will there be challenges? Yes! Will traffic back up from time-to-time? Yes! Will we get frustrated? Probably! But, if we keep our good humor and greet our visitors with a friendly smile and helpful attitude, the 150<sup>th</sup> will be an event everyone will enjoy.

### Something to Consider!

*The Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration could add as much as \$750 million to the local economy.*

## Gettysburg Municipal Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion

The \$18 million upgrade and expansion of the Gettysburg Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed and placed into full operation last fall. Gettysburg is one of the more than 160 treatment facilities in Pennsylvania that required upgrades to meet increasingly stringent state and federal water quality standards in connection with the Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort.

The Gettysburg treatment facility on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street was upgraded to a capacity of 3 million gallons per day (3 MGD) by utilizing Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) technology that did not require expansion of the plant site. The design controlled project construction costs by utilizing existing tankage. The SBRs, along with the upgraded existing Oxidation Ditch process, utilize well-established biological nutrient removal (BNR) technology to reduce harmful phosphorus and nitrogen from effluent that flows into Rock Creek, which is a tributary of the Potomac River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

The project also includes a new Headworks Building, housing wastewater screening and grit removal equipment and upgraded raw sewage pumping and sludge processing and storage facilities. A new, state-of-the-art, computerized process control system allows automatic control and monitoring of the treatment process.

The project was completed on time and within budget. Costs were supported by a \$5 million grant from H2O-PA.



### TOP CODE VIOLATIONS FOR 2012

Code enforcement is an important local government responsibility especially in high density areas like boroughs. It assures that properties will be maintained in a safe condition and not allowed to deteriorate to the point of blight. Declining property values would not be good for the borough or its residents.

The borough continues to contract with Commonwealth Code Inspection Services for our code enforcement. In 2012, there were a total of 751 violations. The overall compliance rate was an excellent 93%. Only 68 citations had to be filed and fines totaled \$3,275.

The top two violations were for weeds and refuse, which includes rubbish and garbage. These two violations represented over 48% of all violations in 2012. Here are tips on how you can avoid receiving an enforcement letter:

#1 WEEDS 264 violations – Mow your grass and cut your weeds before they get taller than 8 inches.

#2 RUBBISH/GARBAGE 101 violations – Keep refuse in covered containers and not piled or scattered on the sidewalk, yard or porch. Move collected brush to the curb up to 2 weeks before the borough's twice yearly brush pick-up.

#### **Spring Brush Clean-up Begins May 28**

Place brush at the edge of the alley, street or sidewalk. Do not block storm drains. Crews will make two trips that week. Leaves do not have to be separated for pick-up in the spring.

#### **What is RUBBISH?**

Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, yard trimmings, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass, crockery and dust and other similar materials.

#### **What is GARBAGE?**

The animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

### 2013 Street Repairs

Most repairs this year will be limited to base repair and crack sealing by our Public Works crew followed by microsurfacing in late summer. Any street closures will be brief. The streets and alleys designated for repair are:

**Streets:** *McMillan, Howard (McMillan to Prince), Third, West Lincoln and Constitution*

**Alleys:** *Hazel, Little, Hospital, Jacobs, Wall, Legion, Ackerson, Dobbin (Hospital to Court) and Wye Alley (Fifth to Sixth)*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT REC PARK

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR REC PARK!

The Borough of Gettysburg and Cumberland Township have joined forces to create a joint recreation authority with the sole purpose of maintaining recreation facilities and providing quality recreation programs for area residents. The new governmental entity will be called the Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority. GARA for short! GARA will be led by a seven-member board appointed by the township and borough. One of its first activities will be to hire a full-time recreation professional to guide the transition from borough to authority, provide day-to-day management and develop new and better programs for residents of all ages. The goal is to officially create the authority this spring and immediately begin the transition of full management to GARA.

Both the township and borough will contribute financially to the authority based on population. The authority will also generate its own revenue from programs, facility rentals and donations. There may also be funding available from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to help with the director's salary during the first four years of operation. GARA will assume operation and management of parks owned by the two municipalities. Ownership of land and buildings will remain with the municipalities.

The township and borough will be holding a joint public meeting to explain how GARA will operate and to hear public comment on the proposal. The date, time and location will be announced through local media. Residents of Gettysburg and Cumberland Township and the greater Gettysburg Area are invited to attend.

Strawberry Hill Nature Camp at Rec Park



Sesquicentennial Camp "Mystery from History"

July 1-3, 2013

Gettysburg Area Recreation Park

4-5 year olds

Half-day camp - 9 am - 12 noon \$70 members, \$95 for non-members

6-12 year olds

Full-day camps - 9 am - 3 pm \$115 members, \$140 non-members

For more information, call 642-5840 or www.strawberryhill.org

THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Join us on Sunday evenings at 7 pm at the Park Amphitheater to enjoy our talented local performers.

Yes, I want to support the "SUNDAY IN THE PARK" SERIES!

\_\_ Sponsor \$200 or more \_\_ Supporter \$100 - \$199

\_\_ Patron \$99 - \$49 \_\_ Friend Under \$49

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to GETTYSBURG AREA RECREATION PARK Mail to: 59 East High Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325

BISER TRAIL IMPROVMENTS CONTINUE

Thanks to a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the South Mountain Partnership, the Biser Trail Connector for the Gettysburg Inner Loop Bicycle Trail was widened to 10 feet last fall. Remaining grant funds will be used to install trash receptacles, bike racks, benches and trail bollards. In addition, the Borough's Public Works Department is upgrading the entrance to the trail on West Street to correct some storm water problems and meet ADA requirements. The improvements will add an attractive entrance to the trail and park.



Widened Trail at West Street



Volunteers help the borough finish the trail.



Borough Workers install curbing at entrance.

### Sidewalk Safety

It doesn't take long for tourists to know what borough residents have known for years—we have some very dangerous sidewalks! Around town, trees have been removed in preparation for sidewalk repair. These trees, many of which have been part of the viewscape for years, are being removed because their growing roots have buckled adjacent sidewalks causing extensive damage and a safety hazard to pedestrians. Recently a woman tripped and fell on an uplifted sidewalk in the first block of Carlisle Street. She suffered a bruised forehead and the embarrassment of needing assistance to get to her feet but the incident underscored the fact that it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain sidewalks and curbs in a safe and passable manner.

Part 2 of Chapter 21 of the Borough's Code of Ordinances addresses the responsibility of property owners and establishes reconstruction and repair guidelines.

***It is the responsibility of the owner or owners of parcels adjacent to streets in the borough to grade, pave and curb the sidewalks; maintain the sidewalks in a safe and passable condition; and to replace the same when unsafe and worn out.***

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 also establishes limits for buckling sidewalks – ***"no more than ¼ inch difference in height between two adjacent sections of sidewalk"*** - so that mobility impaired individuals can travel the streets safely and without undue effort.

As part of code enforcement, the borough will notify property owners that a sidewalk needs to be repaired or replaced and provide 30 days to schedule the repairs. The borough may also make the repairs after 15 days notice and then bill the owner for the actual cost plus 10%.

If you are a property owner with a sidewalk, take a look to see if it warrants replacement or repair. If you have questions, call the Borough Secretary at 334-1160, ext. 240 and she will send someone to assist in determining what action needs to be taken. Don't take the chance of being held liable for someone's fall on your unsafe sidewalk!



### Blight Infects Downtown Trees

You may have noticed something missing downtown – trees, lots of them! Borough crews, with temperatures in the teens on some days, removed 33 trees this winter. Most of the trees were pear trees, with almost half taken down on the first block of Chambersburg Street. The primary reason: Fire Blight.

Fire Blight, which affects apple and pear trees, is caused by bacteria that starts by attacking the blossoms and then moves up the twigs and branches. Last year the disease was evident as leaves turned brown and wilted; twigs shriveled and blackened; and the ends curled. Left untreated, cankers and oozing patches can form on branches. The disease is contagious and can be fatal. The trees had to go!



Twenty-eight trees will be planted in mid-April to replace those removed. Borough crews have made necessary sidewalk repairs to correct unsafe conditions. The new trees will be better suited to an urban environment and will include native species. According to Wayne Mayers, Chair of the Shade Tree Commission, trees chosen include Linden, Frontier Elm, Honey Locust, Ivory Silk Lilac, Crepe Myrtle, London Plane and Ginkgo.

While those few days of beautiful white flowers will be missed, we can now enjoy the wonderful architecture of our downtown buildings and new, healthy trees in the spring.

### Consider Volunteering

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

## Race Horse Alley Parking Garage Update

Next time you pass the Race Horse Alley Parking Garage, notice how the entrance and exits have been changed to allow drivers a more speedy entrance and exit. Entrance into the garage is now restricted to using the east portal (labeled "Monthly and Hourly Entrance") with one automated ticket machine. Egress can only be obtained by using one of the two payment machines located at the west end of the garage. One of the machines is labeled "No Cash" and will only accept key cards, passes and credit and debit cards. The other payment machine, labeled "Full Service Lane", will accept all the above plus cash. This new procedure has been successfully tested over the past several months and has worked very well. As usual, if a driver has a problem exiting the garage, the "Help" button can be activated and you'll receive assistance.

During the 10 day period that we'll be commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, it is estimated that between 20,000-30,000 tourists per day will be visiting the borough. Parking will be a major challenge and we anticipate that the 367 parking spots in the garage will be fully utilized. During a "normal" year, utilization of the parking garage runs from about 65% in the peak summer months to about 25% during the winter season. At the rate of 75 cents per hour, approximately \$300,000 was generated by use of the parking deck last year and, with a greater influx of tourists in 2013, revenues should be greater.

In light of the significant revenue generated by the parking garage, we are continually looking at rate structures that will benefit residents and transit users alike. This can be achieved by increasing the hourly rate or by increasing the utilization rate or a combination of both. Use the Race Horse Alley Parking Garage! It is the best parking deal downtown!

## Making Plans for Bike Week

With all the events focused on the Sesquicentennial, it is easy to forget about events that have chosen Gettysburg as an annual destination. One of those is the annual Gettysburg Bike Week which will be held for four days from July 11 to 14. Events are scheduled for three locations including in the borough at The American Civil War Wax Museum. We can count on thousands of bikers rumbling through our streets and visiting our businesses and restaurants. Noise, however, is an issue with many residents. The Borough Council's Public Safety Committee has identified six steps for creating more harmony and keeping the peace:

1. Work with organizers to assure that promotional materials emphasize the importance of keeping Gettysburg peaceful.
2. Encourage organizers to emphasize the "don't rev your engine" message.
3. Instruct our police officers to issue reminders and citations, if needed, when vehicles are not in compliance with borough, state and federal laws with regard to mufflers. And, do that year-round.
4. Assure that the sponsors of the Parade of Chrome send a clear message that illegal mufflers are not welcome.
5. When needed, use spotters with radios to alert patrol officers of possible violations.
6. Encourage organizers and sponsors to post signs at the entrance to the borough with messages like "Please Ride Quiet and Safe" or "Throttle Down While in Town."

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

**Saturday, May 18, 2013  
7:00 am to 4:00 pm**

*Lots to see, lots to buy, food, fun  
in downtown Gettysburg*



### **Shop in Town!**

*Look for the First Friday Flag!*

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

**April 5   May 3   June 7   July 5   Aug 2   Sept 6**



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

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**Main Street Façade Improvement Program**

Commercial properties located in Gettysburg's Historic District may be eligible for a financial incentive to rehabilitate the façade of the building. Reimbursements range from \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000 and must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the applicant. Types of eligible projects are window replacements, restoration or painting of wood siding, re-pointing of brick, and upgrading signage. The program is administered by Main Street Gettysburg. Applications are available at their downtown office at 116 Baltimore Street.

*For more information, contact Main Street at 337-3491 or at [info@mainstreetgettysburg.org](mailto:info@mainstreetgettysburg.org).*

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



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**June 8-16, 2013**



The Gettysburg Festival celebrates our historical town with arts; culture and cuisine by offering 50+ spectacular events, with more than half free and open to the public.

- The Lettermen
- Author Jeff Shaara
- American Brass
- Tribute to the Beach Boys
- Edible Arts Tour
- Blues, Beer and BBQ

**One of today's hottest Country Music Stars**  
**You will be wowed by this award winner!**

The community's Fringe Festival will highlight the area's talented artists, skilled craftsmen, retailers and many historic buildings.

For more information visit  
[www.gettysburgfestival.org](http://www.gettysburgfestival.org) or 717-334-0853

**Primary Election Day is May 21.**  
 Polls are open from 7 am until 8 pm.

Ward 1: Gettysburg Fire Hall  
 Ward 2: College Union Building, Room 126  
 Ward 3: Sterner Building at Rec Park