



Gettysburg

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2014

Borough Council

Mayor:

William Troxell

First Ward:

Michael Birkner
Rebecca Brown
Scot Pitzer

Second Ward:

Kyle Leinbach
Robert Krummerich
Jacob Schindel

Third Ward:

John Butterfield
Susan Naugle
Graham Weaver

Borough Manager

Charles R. Gable



Important

Numbers:

Borough 334-1160

Police Dept 334-1168

Emergency 911

After Hours

Non-Emergency

334-8101

Public Works 334-4666

GMA 334-6738

GARA 334-2028

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Michael J. Birkner*

Raking leaves on a brisk autumn afternoon sets one's mind to thoughts about cycles and seasons, including the different seasons of borough governance.

At home, the annual cascade of leaves entices us outdoors. In the municipal building, the fall season is a time of budget making. It's rarely a quick and straightforward process, for the simple reason that Gettysburg is not on easy street.

The largest share of the borough's expenditures are applied to meeting contract obligations for our police and municipal staff, obligations which have risen steadily and no matter who is running things in the borough, will continue to do so, barring layoffs, which nobody wants to see.

Compounding our challenge, Gettysburg is largely built up, and cannot tax much of the property in and surrounding our borough. Few "infill" prospects for new construction exist, beyond the 2.7 acre parcel of land just north of the railroad tracks between Carlisle and Stratton Streets. The recent reassessment of home values has caused our tax base to drop each year since the county-wide reassessment, owing to successful challenges by individual property owners to their recent re-assessment. Then there is the drip-drip-drip to our revenue base from purchases of private property by entities like the Gettysburg Foundation and the National Civil War Trust, respectively. Their enterprise on behalf of "restoration" is appealing to those who want Gettysburg to return as much as possible to its 1863 look, but it means one hit after another to the taxpaying residents of the borough.

All of this should help explain why the borough struggles to balance the budget and avoid painful tax increases. We've been dancing that dance in 2014, perhaps more vigorously than ever before. 2015 will likely present an equal or greater hill to climb.

But it is not all gloom, much less doom. Gettysburg, as I've noted previously, is not hunkering down. We are moving forward in key areas. You can see this in the new businesses (especially so restaurants) that have opened in recent years; in the remarkable, ongoing upgrades on Steinwehr Avenue (thank you Main Street, and Steinwehr Avenue BID); on significant enhancements in the third Ward, particularly evident on Washington St. and Breckinridge Street (thank you, Elm Street project for all you have done and are doing); and plans for freshening up South Street and Baltimore Street as well.

As readers of the local press have noticed, Gettysburg has been remarkably successful obtaining grants to help underwrite these and other projects, including the Gettysburg Inner Loop bicycle design. We have partnered with GMA and PENNDOT to make infrastructure improvements at great savings to borough taxpayers. These things happen because we have a visionary manager, a hard working staff, and a supportive Council whose members are full partners in the drive for improvement.

The borough budget that will be voted on in December will not make everyone happy. Like most budgets in tight times, it is a compromise. But the budget that will take us through the year 2015 I am confident will keep Gettysburg going forward, till, like a new leaf season, we go at it again.

BOROUGH of GETTYSBURG 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

\$4,347,299 General Fund Operating Expenses

\$488,482 Debt Service and \$126,903 Fire Protection

The budget is available for public review at the Borough Office, 56 E. High Street and on our website www.gettysburg-pa.gov. Council will take final action at its meeting on December 8.

See page 5 for additional budget information

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.

TWO GRANT AWARDS = \$584,000 FOR THE GETTYSBURG INNER LOOP (GIL)

It takes time, patience and perseverance to get a major project started. It has been almost 10 years since Tom Jolin, Adams County Bicycle Pedestrian, Inc. (HABPI) began work on his idea for a bicycle trail connecting destinations in the heart of Gettysburg. The efforts of HABPI, with the borough as its partner, have finally paid off with the award of two grants for phases A1 and A2 of the GIL from Rec Park at West Street to Buford Avenue at Race Horse Alley. These grants plus \$1.2 million in federal funds secured from the Adams County Transportation Planning Organization will allow full completion of both phases, to include bike lane and shared lane markings including a spur route using Springs Avenue, a safe pedestrian/bicycle crossing on Route 30 at the Post Office, a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across Stevens Run between Middle and High Streets, landscaping, wayside signs, benches, and decorative lighting.



Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) - In October, Governor Corbett announced that the borough will receive \$250,000 from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the design, engineering, final drawings and cost estimates for the project. The C2P2 grants are made possible with funding from the Keystone Recreation and Parks and Conservation Fund, the Environmental Stewardship Fund and other funding sources. Design and engineering work is expected to begin early next year with construction to follow in 2016.

Transportation Alternatives Program Grant (TAP) – On November 10, PennDot Secretary Barry Schoch announced 56 projects awarded a total of \$33 million. Gettysburg Borough was awarded \$334,236 in additional funds to cover the cost of construction of GIL Phases A1 and A2. The funds are from the 2012 federal transportation act known as *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*.

Our thanks to HABPI for their assistance with the grant applications and to Senator Rich Alloway, Rep. Dan Moul and Secretary Schoch for their support for the GIL.

Special Thanks to the Gettysburg Area School District

As part of its Middle School Project, GASD included the Gettysburg Inner Loop (GIL) in its plan. Ensuring the safe travel of students to the school was important to District leaders. They recognized that a 10-foot multi-use path along Lefever Avenue made sense for them, their students and the community. The pathway represents a major portion of the eastern side of the GIL. The Borough and its project partner, HABPI, thank Superintendent Larry Redding and the school board for their foresight and willingness to collaborate on this important project.

GRANT FILLS GAP FOR STEINWEHR

Phase 2 of Steinwehr Avenue improvements, currently in progress, will complete streetscape enhancements and improve stormwater drainage along the business corridor to National Park land. Well, maybe not totally complete!

The federal grant for Steinwehr 2 could not be used to relocate utility poles and funding was not sufficient to cover light fixtures, benches, landscaping and a proposed bus shelter. With the prospect of having utility poles in the middle of the new sidewalk, the borough applied to PennDot for a Multimodal Transportation Grant to move 16 utility poles and fill the gap. With the strong support of the Steinwehr Business Improvement District, Senator Rich Alloway and Representative Dan Moul, the application was successful. The borough will receive \$495,192 bringing the total received to complete the project to over \$4 million. The pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the corridor will enhance the experience for our visitors and the quality of life for our residents, and encourage continuing investment by business. The project is expected to be completed in early 2015.

Big Dogs, Small Dogs – Celebrating the opening of GARA's new dog park at Rec Park



STEINWHER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT REAUTHORIZED

The Steinwher Avenue Heart of Gettysburg Battlefield Improvement District (BID) was created in 2010 for a term of five years. In creating the BID, property owners agreed to pay an additional 1.94766 mills in property taxes to support the work of the BID to improve the district, visually and economically.

This year the BID developed a plan for reauthorization for another seven years beginning January 2015. The plan was provided to the owners of the 67 taxable properties within the district; and, following a public meeting held by the borough, each was given 45 days to raise objections to the continuation of the BID. Per BID requirements, reauthorization can move forward when less than 40% of affected property owners object. With only 24% submitting valid objections, Borough Council approved continuation of the BID for another seven years at its September meeting.

Businesses were facing an uncertain future, at best, when the GNMP Visitor Center moved from land adjacent to Steinwehr Avenue. The BID, by all measures, has been a real success story for the borough. With nearly \$8 million in recent investments for streetscape improvements, the BID will move from facelift phase to marketing, branding and attracting new businesses.

MAIN STREET \$21,100 DONATION WILL ENHANCE BALTIMORE STREET



A prime focus for Main Street Gettysburg is the enhancement of the historic Baltimore Street corridor to connect the downtown and Steinwehr Avenue business districts. Through its community planning retreat and conversations with business owners and managers, Main Street identified the need to maintain the historic character of Baltimore Street, increase pedestrian traffic in the corridor and encourage business development.

As a first step, Main Street created the Baltimore Street Revitalization Committee to share ideas and develop a plan of action. At the Borough Council's October meeting, the committee presented a check in the amount of \$21,100 to be used to install five decorative lights on the west side of Baltimore Street from

Steinwehr Ave. to South Street. Patricia Lawson, Main Street Board Chair, spoke on behalf of the committee and recognized the generosity of donors: **Adams County Community Foundation, Destination Gettysburg, Gettysburg Rotary Club, and the National Trust for Historic Gettysburg.** In addition to the cash donation, the **Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants (GARMA)** purchased wreaths to be placed on the lamp posts during the holiday season. The presentation also included conceptual drawings of a revitalized Baltimore Street by artist Wendy Allen, a member of the committee.

The donation will cover the cost of the energy saving LED decorative street lamps, mounting hardware for meters and electrical wiring and conduit. There are currently no street lamps on the west side of Baltimore Street.

The project resulted from the partnership between the borough and Columbia Gas to replace aging gas lines throughout the borough. It provides an opportunity to showcase how improvements on Baltimore Street will benefit Gettysburg. Columbia Gas is scheduled to complete work on the one block area early next year. The borough Public Works Department will install the lights in coordination with the gas line project.

Main Street will continue to move forward through its committee of stakeholders. The next step is to identify funding opportunities, public and private, in order to develop a master plan for enhancements to Baltimore Street from Steinwehr to Lincoln Square creating a safe, inviting and walkable corridor.

Baltimore Street Revitalization Committee Members

Ron Hankey, Chair
Nancie Gudmestad, Shriver House Museum
Elaine Henderson, Lincoln Into Art
Wendy Allen, Lincoln Into Art
Norris Flowers, Destination Gettysburg
Susan Naugle, Gettysburg Borough
Dave Sites, Realty Leasing
Emmett Patterson, JDCS Enterprises
Deb Adamik, Pres. Main Street Gettysburg

Is your business having trouble finding qualified employees? Main Street and HACC have teamed up to develop creative recruitment strategies to help local businesses find responsible employees and to educate HACC students about the skills and characteristics businesses are seeking. Any business with questions or wishing to participate should contact Deb Adamik, 717-337-3491 ext 2 or adamik@mainstreetgettysburg.org. Interested HACC students should contact Howard Alexander, 717-339-3576 or halexand@hacc.edu.

CLEARING SNOW AND ICE: Hoping it's Not like Last Winter

Borough crews will clear snow from metered areas when depths reach 5 inches. Most Property owners have 24 hours from when a snow/ice event ends to clear their sidewalks. Properties located in the following downtown business and metered areas are required to have snow and ice cleared within 12 hours.

- Lincoln Square
• Chambersburg St. to Race Horse And Bream Alleys
• Carlisle St. to Water St.
• York St. to Liberty St.
• Baltimore St. to Steinwher Ave.
• Steinwehr Av. to Washington St.
• Washington St. from Railroad to High St.
• Stratton St. from Railroad St. to High St.
• E and W Middle St. from Stratton St. to Washington St.
• E and W High St. from Stratton St. to Washington St.

SNOW CLEARING TIPS
1. Don't throw snow into the street.
2. Don't pile snow near a fire hydrant or within 5 feet of a storm drain.
3. Don't push snow out of parking lots and across the street. Snow should be piled somewhere within the parking lot.

Residents and business owners must clear a minimum of 30 inches wide (36 is better for wheelchair access). Sand or similar anti-skid material must be applied if ice cannot be cleared. Projects using urea or calcium chloride are less likely to harm sidewalks. If you have a yard, that is the ideal place to shovel or blow your snow. If you have a grass strip between your sidewalk and the curb, pile the snow there. If there is no other option, you may pile snow along the gutter line of the curb.

UNDERSTANDING LOCAL TAXES

The York Adams Tax Bureau (YATB) has been chosen by Adams County to collect both the earned income tax and local services tax from residents for both the borough and the Gettysburg Area School

District. YATB has asked the borough to share the following information about local taxes.

In Pennsylvania, in addition to the state personal income tax collected by the PA Department of Revenue, municipalities, school districts and the county may each levy several different types of taxes. These include:

Real Estate Tax - levied by the county, school district and municipality on real estate owned within their jurisdictions. Each taxing authority will levy a different millage rate, and bills are mailed in the spring for county and municipal tax and in the summer for school district tax. This tax may or may not be paid through a mortgage company. The current tax rate for the borough is 3.6203 mills. The borough has a locally elected real estate tax collector who collects this tax.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Millage Rate. Rows include Borough (3.8703), County (3.9193), and School District (10.4853). Includes sub-rows for Fire Tax, Library, and Public Safety.

Earned Income Tax - levied by the municipality and school district where you reside. It is a tax on gross wages and net profits. The current tax rate for borough residents is 1.7%. The tax is shared between the borough (.5%) and school district (1.2%). If a person works within Pennsylvania the employer is required to withhold the tax and remit it to the collector where the employer is located. YATB collects the tax for Adams County. If a person is self-employed or works out-of-state, the tax must be estimated and paid quarterly. (Due dates: April 30, July 30, Oct 30 and Jan 30) An annual Individual Earned Income Tax Return must be filed with the YATB by April 15 following the end of the tax year. A return must be filed even if a person has no earned income. Only permanently retired or disabled individuals are exempt from filing.

Local Services Tax (LST) - levied by the borough and the school district on individuals who work in the borough. This occupational privilege tax collected by YATB is \$52.00 per year (\$47 to the borough and \$5 to the school district), withheld by the employer at no more than \$1.00 per week. Low income exemptions may apply.

Other Taxes - Per Capita Tax is an annual head tax of \$5.00 and an Occupation Assessment Tax of 30 mills. The borough has enacted a Fire Protection Services Tax of .25 mills. All of these taxes are also collected by the borough's elected tax collector.



Individual Annual Earned Income Tax forms and payments may be filed online at www.palite.org. Additional forms and information may be found at www.yatb.com.

Questions? Email info@yatb.com or call 717-334-4000. The YATB office is located at 240 West Street.

2015 PROPOSED BOROUGH BUDGET

2015 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

% OF BUDGET	CATEGORY	BUDGET
1.05%	Legislative	\$24,816
5.1%	Executive	\$119,111
5.8%	Finance	\$250,895
0.6%	Tax Collection	\$24,600
2.0%	Human Resources/Secretary	\$87,261
9.0%	General Government	\$391,447
36.1%	Police	\$1,570,972
1.7%	Fire	\$73,100
1.8%	Code Enforcement	\$77,875
4.8%	Planning	\$209,833
0.1%	Health	\$1,500
20.4%	Public Works	\$888,606
1.8%	Street Lighting	\$80,000
0.9%	Sidewalks and Crosswalks	\$37,400
0.2%	Storm Sewers and Drains	\$10,000
0.3%	Bridges	\$13,300
3.4%	Roads and Alleys	\$147,000
5.1%	Parking	\$219,909
1.6%	Parks and Recreation	\$71,399
0.5%	Shade Tree	\$20,275
0.6%	Community Development	\$28,000
TOTAL BUDGET		\$4,347,299
		2.6128 mil tax

2015 DEBT SERVICE
\$488,482
1.0075 mil tax
Annual principal and interest on borough debt.

2015 FIRE PROTECTION
\$126,903
.2500 mil tax
Provided to the Gettysburg Fire Department for fire protection services

OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES	
Capital Projects Fund	\$1,305,045
<i>Various capital projects funded primarily by grants</i>	
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$148,060
<i>Funded by the State gasoline tax for work on public streets</i>	
Community Development Block Grant Fund	\$108,204
<i>Federal funds available to "entitlement" communities – funds will be used for making sidewalk ramps ADA compliant</i>	
Stahle Charity Fund	\$50
<i>Interest on a fund established to assist needy families</i>	

TOTAL 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

\$7,015,690

(Estimate based on fund balances/ transfers)

3.8703 mil tax

NO tax increase from last year!

MANAGER'S CORNER

The first six months of my tenure here in Gettysburg has been both rewarding and challenging. Community members have been most kind and generous. Thank you for all the well wishes and visits to my home bearing gifts of 'welcome'. The single biggest challenge for me professionally has been the financial condition of the borough. Visitors tend to view Gettysburg as a well-to-do community, benefiting from the vast tourist industry that exists here. That may be true in certain sectors, but is not the case with regard to financing your municipal government. Other than parking revenue, visitors contribute very little to the borough coffers. As a result, the 7600 residents of this community must find ways to support the infrastructure (roads, bridges, storm drains, etc.) that millions of people use in any given year. The full budget of the borough is available for your review on the borough's website. On the positive side, Gettysburg's rich history and international prominence makes it an attractive place for the state and federal government to invest grant money. The borough will realize over \$1.5 million in grant money this coming year – an enviable position for any town. These funds will be used to support many worthy projects, but cannot be used as operating funds. Gettysburg is recognized across the state, country, and indeed, the world, as an effective and attractive community. It is considered a model for others, a nice place to live, work and play. That is not possible without qualified elected officials and a good staff. Our staff is highly competent and hard working. They are dedicated public servants who too often are castigated in the press or by some in the general public. They have stepped up to provide continuous service to Gettysburg through the course of the past year – a year of turbulence and transition in leadership. They deserve a collective 'thank you' for that and should be commended for their efforts.

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.

CDBG FUNDS TO BE USED FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Gettysburg will once again receive funds from the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This year's allocation is **\$110,601** (slightly more than last year). Pennsylvania received over \$38.1 million (slightly less than last year) with 85% divided among entitlement communities.

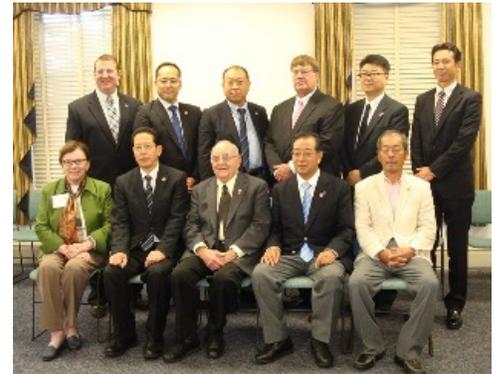
CDBG funds must be used in specific ways to benefit underserved populations to include persons with disabilities. As in past years, the borough has proposed using the funds to bring sidewalk street ramps into compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) with 18% of the funds to cover the cost of administering the program. The borough receives assistance from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development to administer the program.

Prior to submitting an application for the funds, the borough conducted two public hearings – one on October 9 and the second on November 10 - as required by the grant. The borough will have three years in which to use the funds for sidewalk improvements. CDBG funds are restricted and are not part of the borough's General Fund Budget. However, reimbursement to the borough for staff time to administer the grant is a small source of revenue.

BOROUGH HOSTS DELEGATION FROM JAPAN

On October 21, 1600, Sekigahara, Japan was the site of the "most significant battle in Japanese history". It was a battle of East versus West, of powerful shoguns (generals), of over 160,000 soldiers; and it resulted in a death toll ranging from 5,000 to 32,000. The Eastern forces were victorious, ushering in the last shogunate to rule Japan and a long period of peace.

Just shy of 414 years later, Mayor Bill Troxell, speaking in Council Chambers, welcomed a delegation of 10 representing that historic Japanese town. They were here to learn about how Gettysburg honors and manages its own historic civil war battle. The delegation included the town's Mayor, Vice Governor of the Prefecture and other Prefecture officials.



Sekigahara is located in the center of Japan in Gifu Prefecture. It has a population of almost 8,000 residents and is located near the center of Japan. Along with the Mayor, the group heard remarks from Manager Charles Gable on managing a community visited by millions of tourists, Norris Flowers from Destination Gettysburg on tourism and marketing, and Randy Phiel on conducting battle reenactments and how those reenactments impact the area economy. Mayor Troxell and Judie and John Butterfield coordinated the day long visit for the borough which included stops at the Gettysburg Foundation, GNMP and Gettysburg College.

RECYCLING TIPS AND UPDATES

- The Rescue Mission is no longer accepting "anything with a cord" unless it works and can be sold in its Thrift Shop.

REASON: The community response overwhelmed their capacity to meet the need. Unfortunately, if it's broken it goes in the trash. The Mission will continue to recycle TVs, stereos and computers.

- Wire hangers are NOT recyclable through IESI. JC Cleaners on Railroad Street will take them to reuse.
- Fluorescent bulbs are NOT recyclable. With no other options available, they can go in the trash.
- Paperboard (cereal and similar food boxes, rinsed juice and dairy cartons) and corrugated cardboard (includes pizza boxes but not the greasy part) are recyclable. Boxes should be flattened and cardboard bundled if it does not fit in the recycling bin.
- PAPER – All that junk mail means \$\$ for the borough. Please recycle all office type paper, old phone books, magazines, catalogues, newspaper, etc. The borough is awarded reimbursement by the State based on the weight of recyclables. Paper is heavy.
- Check weather forecast: If the forecast calls for high wind or rain, keep you recycling inside until the next scheduled pickup, if possible
- Our award for 2013 was over \$8,800 thanks to your efforts. **Keep up the good work!**



SIDEWALK CUTTING PROJECT TO BEGIN SPRING 2015

ATTENTION WARD 1 PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS!

The assessment by Precision Concrete Cutting of all sidewalks in Ward 1 is complete. The survey identified 1,193 trip hazards and another 120 more serious deficiencies that violate the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The total estimated cost for standard repair or replacement of all trip hazards is \$374, 840. Repairs using sidewalk cutting is estimated at \$90,930 – a savings of 76%.

In early 2015, the borough will begin notifying property owners if repairs are needed. For those sidewalks where sidewalk cutting will correct the problem, information will include the cost for Precision Concrete to complete the work. Property owners will be given the option of having the work done through the borough’s cutting contract, agreeing to pay the cost, **or** making repairs on their own. Borough staff is also working on a loan program to help low-income property owners.

Property owners who choose not to participate with the program and those with sidewalks needing more extensive repair will be responsible for fixing the sidewalks. The borough’s Code Enforcement Officer will track the progress of repairs and monitor compliance. Borough Ordinance Chapter 21, Part 2, Section 21-201 places the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance with the owner of “lots abutting upon any of the streets’ to repair and keep in “safe and passable condition”.

A WORD ABOUT STRAY AND FERAL CATS

Our code enforcement officer reports he is receiving an increasing number of complaints from residents about stray and feral cats in the borough. We ask that residents not only be mindful of leaving food waste where it is accessible to wild animals but we also urge folks to keep their pet inside the home. Any resident caught harboring or providing shelter for stray cats is, by Ordinance, considered the owner of the cat and therefore responsible for the care and actions of the animal. More information can be found in Chapter 2 Part 4 of the Borough Ordinance at www.gettysburg-pa.gov.

The Borough and Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants (GARMA) Invite you for the Holidays

- **FREE PARKING - Noon until 8 PM from Thanksgiving to New Years where signs are posted on meters (Two hour limits still apply!)**
- **Santa’s Shanty on Lincoln Square**
- **First Friday Cookie Walk December 5**
- **\$1,000.00 GARMA Shopping Spree**



DOWNTOWN FLOWERS – BEAUTIFUL!

Thanks to the Gettysburg Garden Club and the generosity of donors, downtown Gettysburg looked spectacular this summer. The Club works with Musselman’s Greenhouse to plant the 43 baskets and 8 planters, install and take down the baskets, and store them between seasons. Club members plant and maintain the square center display throughout the spring, summer and fall. Their latest project was to purchase and plant new bulbs for spring. The borough Public Works Department waters the flowers daily with the cost reimbursed by the Club.

The Downtown Flower Project began in 2001 as a project of the Rotary Club. Rotary purchased the baskets and the watering cart. Responsibility for the flowers passed to Main Street Gettysburg and, finally in 2008, to the Garden Club. The Club raises the funds needed to make the Downtown Flower Project possible. The average cost to plant and maintain each basket for the season is \$162. The Club is seeking individuals and businesses to sponsor a basket. Without sufficient public support this project will be in jeopardy.



Donations to support the Downtown Flower Project for 2015 can be sent to the Gettysburg Garden Club, c/o Caryl O’Gara, Treasurer, 220 Kingsgate Court, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE
FROM GMA**



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

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Mark Guise, Manager of the Gettysburg Municipal Authority, reminds all residential water users that meter readings are taken approximately every 90 days. It is very important that you regularly monitor all fixtures including; toilets, indoor and outdoor spigots and all plumbing connections to make sure there are no leaks; and make any needed repairs quickly. If you are away from home for an extended period, consider having someone check your home during your absence. Also remember, with the cold season approaching, to check and close all basement openings and windows to eliminate cold drafts which can lead to frozen pipes and leaks. A minor or serious undetected leak can result in a very high water and sewer bill. It is GMA's policy that all metered water must be billed and paid.

If you have any questions about your water or sewer service, call GMA at 334-6738.

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Christmas Tree Pick-up

- * Collection from curbside and alley will begin after Christmas and continue through January.
- * **Borough residents** may drop trees at the Borough Garage on E. Middle Street during normal business hours.
- * Trees are ground for mulch so make sure all decorations are removed.



**STAMP OUT BREAST CANCER –
ONE BRICK AT A TIME**

In October, **Main Street Gettysburg** kicked off a campaign to raise awareness and funds for the **Pink Journey of Lights** project. The Pink Out Cancer Fund provides financial assistance to cancer patients diagnosed with breast, ovarian, uterine and cervical cancers. Main Street is offering engraved bricks as a way to leave a legacy for someone who has fought or continues to battle these cancers.

Engraved bricks for Pink Journey are available at a discounted price of \$125 and Main Street will donate \$25 from each brick to the Pink Journey of Lights Breast Cancer Fundraiser. Pink Journey bricks will be available through December 31, 2014. Engraved bricks will be placed in Gettysburg's Lincoln Square as a legacy to your loved one for generations to come.

Orders can be placed at www.mainstreetgettysburg.org/bricks or by calling 717-337-3491. Donations are tax deductible.



**www.gettysburg-pa.gov
made easy!**



**5th Annual Olde Getty Place
Christmas Parade
December 6 at 7 pm**



The Fifth Annual *Olde Getty Place* Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, December 6 beginning at 7:00 pm. Battlefield Harley Davidson HOG Chapter members will lead this holiday parade. The parade will form at the Gettysburg Middle School on LeFever Street beginning at 6:00 pm. All participants must have registered prior to the parade.

This year's parade, which is the official start of the holiday season in Gettysburg, promises to be the best yet. The parade is a great community event featuring music, dancing, floats and walking and/or marching groups. At the end of the parade, Mayor Troxell will officially light the town's Christmas tree on Lincoln Square.

The Christmas Parade will travel north on Baltimore Street to Lincoln Square and onto York Street to Liberty and back to LeFever Street. Judges for the event will be on the square. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category. The parade will be emceed by a 107.7 radio personality.

The Gettysburg Elm Street program (*Olde Getty Place*) is proud to coordinate both the Halloween and Christmas parades for the Gettysburg community. For more information, please contact Stephanie McIlwee at 334-1518 ext. 229. The Christmas Parade is completely sponsored through the generosity of the Gettysburg Eagles Aerie #1562.