

Gettysburg

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2011

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Important Numbers:

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

Meet the New Borough Director of Planning



On January 10, Scott Dellett joined our Borough staff as our Director of Planning. Scott is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He comes to Gettysburg from Monroeville, PA, a community 13 miles east of Pittsburgh, where he was Acting Director of Community Development and Zoning Officer. Monroeville is a home rule municipality with a population of about 30,000. His work for Monroeville included managing a \$400,000 department budget, overseeing both current and long-range planning projects, serving as liaison to the Mayor's economic development group, and working on the revision of municipal zoning ordinances.

Scott's career has also included work as a land use administrator for two Pittsburgh law firms; planner for Murrysville, PA, a 19,000-population municipality in Westmoreland County; and, prior to graduate school, over 8 years as a reporter for *The Butler Eagle*. Scott has earned certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners and is a certified instructor in Subdivision and Land Development Review and Community Planning.

As a Pittsburgh area native, he is a long-suffering fan of the Pirates and a not-so-suffering fan of the Steelers. He enjoys following University of Pittsburgh football and basketball, jogging, reading and current events.

Scott will oversee planning, zoning, code enforcement and community development for the Borough. He will assist the Borough with the updating of our comprehensive plan, the revision of various Borough ordinances, and application for grants and monitoring of grant activities.

Thanks to TNP and Gettysburg Times!

Thanks and Gratitude...
to Tom and Cindy Ford of the Times and News Publishing Company - and also to Ken Buohl and Peggy Yealy of their printing division. When the Borough an-

nounced a plan to produce a newsletter, TNP offered to print it free of charge as a service to the community. TNP helped launch our first newsletter in the fall of 2009 and continued their support with three more newsletters in 2010. Thank you!!

2011

Borough Council

Mayor:

William Troxell

First Ward:

Michael Birkner

Alice Estrada

Ted Streeter

Second Ward:

Holliday Giles

Bob Krummerich

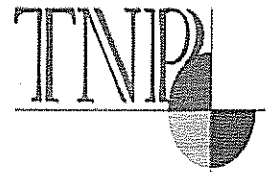
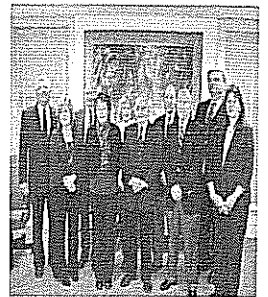
Claire Lewis

Third Ward:

John Butterfield

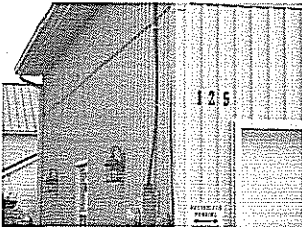
Susan Naugle

Graham Weaver



NEW BOROUGH ORDINANCES ENACTED

APRIL 1 – REAR STREET NUMBERS REQUIRED!



Our last newsletter explained the new requirement to place your street number at the rear of your property if there is access by a public street or alley. The numbers must be plainly legible and visible, at least 3" high and on a contrasting background. This new requirement, enacted by Council in July, **will go into effect on April 1, 2011**. After that date, property owners will be cited if not in compliance. The rear numbers will assist emergency responders just in time for the closure of West Middle Street and the resulting traffic congestion.

If you have any questions about placement of building numbers, contact our code enforcement department at 334-1160 extension 229 or codeenforcement@gettysburg-pa.gov.



Ice and Snow Removal

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
Carlisle St. to Water St.
Baltimore St. to Steinwehr Av.
Washington St from Railroad St. to High St.
High St. from Washington to Stratton

Chambersburg St. to Bream Alley
York St to Hanover St.
Steinwehr Av. to Washington St.
Stratton St. from Railroad to High

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. Products 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. Here are a few don'ts:

1. Don't throw snow out into the street.
2. Don't pile it 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE REC PARK



The Rec Park is pretty quiet and peaceful in winter, but this year the Charlie Sterner Building has been a hub of activity. During renovations of the Borough office, the building is the primary meeting place for the Council and its committees, authorities, boards and commissions. The Borough is also supporting the construction work at the hospital by temporarily providing parking for hospital employees. In return, the hospital is providing much needed upgrades to Rec Park parking areas. Meeting rooms in the Sterner Building are still available to the public and can be rented by contacting the Recreation Department at 334-2028.

REC PARK WINTER HOURS IN EFFECT

**Monday – Wednesday – Friday
10:00 to 2**

We have been clearing the Biser Fitness Trail so residents can continue to enjoy walking the park. Open areas are a good choice for cross-country skiing after just a few inches of snow. We thank the Gettysburg Area School District for their continuing partnership with the Borough to provide facilities for winter activities – advanced and co-ed volleyball, now in progress, and the use of the walking track.

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**Walking Track at the High School Free to Borough Residents - \$5 all others
Monday and Wednesday 7 - 8:30 Until April 13 (closed Feb. 21)**

Master Plan for the Park

We were very excited to be awarded a \$20,000 grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to develop a Master Plan for the Gettysburg Area Recreation Park. This is a 50/50 match with the Borough providing an equal amount using Community Development Block Grant Funds. DCNR will assist the Borough in selecting a firm to conduct the study which will include public forums, surveys and stakeholder interviews; analysis of information and data; site development drawings and a base map of the park. The resulting final report will provide the Borough with cost estimates for future park upgrades putting the Borough in a better position to seek outside funding to improve park facilities and make more effective use of available space.

Peer to Peer Effort at a Dead End?

The Borough has a long history of providing recreation services and facilities to area residents. But the cost of those services has been increasingly difficult to sustain. Over the past 5 years, the Recreation Dep't budget has been cut by more than 70%.

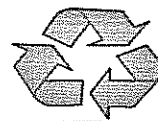
In 2009, Cumberland Township applied to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for peer-to-peer technical assistance to explore the possibility of establishing a recreation commission that would manage recreation services on a regional basis. The concept of pulling resources to provide quality recreation services for all ages and abilities has been successful in other areas of the State.

The Borough and the townships of Cumberland, Freedom, Franklin, Mt. Joy and Straban; the Gettysburg Area School District; and the Adams County Office of Planning and Development came to the table to create an intergovernmental agreement of cooperation. The Adams County Commissioners offered a contribution to help get the effort started. With a signed agreement, DCNR would provide additional funding to help with the cost of a fulltime recreation director to develop programs and build revenue. It looked promising. But, one-by-one, municipalities dropped out, unwilling to share in the cost of providing recreation services for their residents, leaving only the Borough and Cumberland Township.

In her final report, consultant Sue Landes recognized the generous support of the Rec Park by Cumberland Township. She noted that the combined population of Cumberland and the Borough "is more than large enough to support the operation of a recreation commission ... The two municipalities working together can make a recreation commission very successful." For now, Cumberland Supervisors have tabled a decision until April. (To view the final report, visit the Borough website)



RECYCLING



Waste Management informed the Borough in 2009 that they have switched their recycling center to a high-tech center that can accept additional materials. The following can be placed in your recycle bin:

Residents are required to recycle:

Aluminum cans, tin and steel cans, carefully rinsed

Newspapers

Glass containers such as jars and bottles (remove lids). Rinse carefully.

Narrow-neck plastic containers (other than for motor oil) that carry plastic resin identification code 1 through 7 (bottles and jugs). Rinse carefully.

Wide-mouth containers such as peanut butter, margarine/butter tubs, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, whipped topping, and EMPTY prescription bottles. (code 1-7)
Rinse carefully.

Optional:

Brown paper bags, Colored paper, junk mail, newspaper inserts

Magazines, catalogs, and telephone books

Cardboard, chipboard, and paperboard boxes, broken down to fit within the bin
(including cereal boxes without liners, shoe boxes, etc.)

Computer printouts (clean paper)

Aerosol cans (emptied of contents)

Office paper (including typing, fax, copy, letterhead, NCR) and envelopes (no staples)

Non-metallic wrapping paper

Plastic nursery flower pots, carefully rinsed.

NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR RECYCLING (DO NOT PLACE IN RECYCLING BINS)

Aluminum foil

Auto glass or ceramics

Batteries (Take them to Staples)

Film canisters

Light bulbs (Take to Home Depot in Hanover)

Plate glass, porcelain, or mirrors

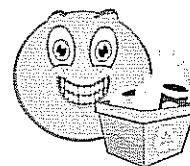
Painted or treated wood

Paper towels and plastic wrap

Plastic grocery bags (Please return to your supermarket)

CD's and VCR tapes (plastic outer covers can be placed in bins)

Styrofoam cups, containers, and packing materials



Computer components are accepted by Staples (for a fee) for recycling.

Television sets will be accepted for recycling (for a fee) at Hanover Transfer Station. Waste Management will pick them up as a weekly large item, but they will not be recycled.

Pizza boxes must be grease-free to be recycled.

Help us cut future costs by emailing your name and address to newsletter@gettysburg-pa.gov to receive the newsletter by email and in color!

COMMUNITY NEWS

VOLUNTEERS—STEP UP!

Are you willing to step up to clean up? The Borough and Main Street Gettysburg are seeking volunteers willing to spend a few hours per week to help keep Gettysburg's sidewalks clean.

"From the Ground Up" was started by the late Sam Mudd as a way for citizens to give back to the community. He believed we all benefit when citizens, government and businesses work together to create a community that we can all be proud of.

Want to join the effort? Call Susan Naugle at 334-1142 or email snaugle@gettysburg-pa.gov for information.

MEET OFFICER LAUGHMAN

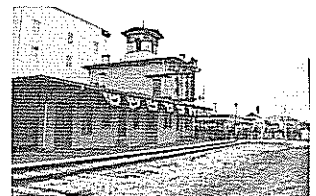


In each edition we plan to introduce you to the members of our police force. These are the men and women who respond to a multitude of events and crises – both large and small. We thought you would like to know who they are. Officer William (Bill) Laughman has spent the last 44 years doing police work. He started with the Gettysburg Borough Police Department in 1966, went to Cumberland Township as their chief in 1969 and returned to Gettysburg in 1975. Before police work, Bill spent 6 years in the Army with the 101st Airborne Division 2nd Ranger Battalion.

As the most senior officer on the force, he has seen lots of changes in law enforcement. What he likes best about being an officer is the opportunity to help people. What he likes least is keeping up with ever-changing laws and requirements. Bill enjoys off-duty time spent with his family. Bill has been married for 48 years. He has 2 daughters and one son and four grandchildren – all living in the area. He also enjoys maintaining his koi pond and attempting to outwit the occasional blue heron.

TRAIN STATION UPDATE

The historic Gettysburg Train Station, owned by the Borough, has been leased to the Convention and Visitors Bureau. They will move their Visitor Information Center there in Feb. and will have the building open to the public. The Borough of Gettysburg will maintain ownership of the Station, however, as they await Congressional approval of National Park Boundaries to move forward on the sale of the Station to the Gettysburg National Military Park. Hours will be 10-5 daily and 10-3 Sunday. In March-May the hours will be 9-5 daily and 10-3 Sunday.



LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!



Now that winter is here, consult the Borough Website, www.gettysburg-pa.gov, for up-to-date information on snow plowing schedules and sidewalk snow removal rules. It is not, however, too early to "Think Spring"! Spring Brush Pickup will be **May 23-27**.

Highway Dept. is Now Public Works

STREET PROJECTS – The latest word

Steinwehr Avenue – This project will impact the first block of Steinwehr from Baltimore Street to S. Washington Street. Columbia Gas added an additional crew to complete work to move gas lines to the rear of properties. In January, Clearwater Construction, from Mercer PA, began sidewalk reconstruction and installation of new light standards, benches, parking meters, trash bins, recycling containers, trees, ADA compliant curb ramps, safer crosswalks and traffic calming devices. This project is funded with \$2.5 million from a Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative Grant. Steinwehr Avenue will remain open; however, a closure is planned for the last block of S. Washington Street. Use of sidewalks will be difficult during construction work. The project is expected to be completed within 150 days, by late June 2011.

Middle Street - This PennDot project, delayed from 2010, will be ugly! This is a complete street rebuild that will close W. Middle Street (PA 116) to vehicle traffic for 56 days beginning in July. It is estimated that 10,000 vehicles travel this road each day. PennDot will divert traffic onto Route 30. Traffic going north and south will be able to cross W. Middle using Washington and West Streets. Congestion and delays will be unavoidable. It will be great when it is done!

Before PennDot starts, the Gettysburg Municipal Authority (GMA) will replace sewer and water mains and laterals under W. Middle. Some of these pipes are 50 to 60 years old and would likely be damaged by the street rebuilding. GMA made the wise decision to upgrade their system before the PennDot work begins. Construction began in late January and will finish by June 12. Work will be completed one block at a time with one lane open for traffic. GMA Director Mark Guise recommends "property owners along W. Middle should consult with their plumber to evaluate the condition of their pipes from the curb to the foundation. This is a perfect time for property owners to replace lines, if needed." Letters have gone out to all property owners and residents and GMA held a meeting in November to explain the project. If you have questions about how the GMA phase will affect you, contact Mark Guise at 334-6738 or at mguise@gettysburgma.com.

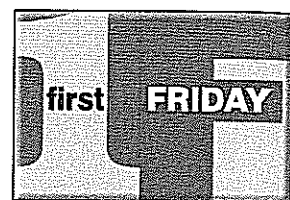
Washington Street – This project will start soon and be completed within 100 days. It will begin with construction of ADA compliant ramps at all intersections and end in April with badly needed resurfacing of S. Washington St. Parking will be restricted in some areas and traffic will be limited to one lane at times.

New Trucks for Public Works

The Public Works Department proudly shows off its new trucks which were purchased with funds from the \$3.6 million bond that the Borough sold last May.



First Friday
Gettysburg
Style



First Friday - Gettysburg Style has become a monthly tradition and business opportunity since its inception nearly nine years ago under the auspices of the Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association (GARMA). Area stores and restaurants are encouraged to extend their business hours, offer special sales and promotions, and host special events or hospitality in their establishments the 1st Friday of every month. You may have noticed the special 1st Friday flags flying outside participating businesses and have seen the matching logo in special advertising sections in the local media over the years.

Join us for First Friday on the First Friday of every month. Members of GARMA will be offering special discounts and promotions that you will not want to miss!

www.gettysburgretailmerchants.com

Save the Dates:

February 4th
March 4th
April 1st
May 6th

June 3rd
July 1st
August 5th
Sept. 2nd

Two Collectors for One EIT

You should have recently received your Earned Income Tax Return from the York Adams Tax Bureau (YATB). You will also be receiving a bill from a second collection agency called Centax. YATB is collecting a 1.2 percent for the schools and Centax is collecting .5 percent for the borough. In 2012 you will only pay to YATB, for both the schools and the borough.

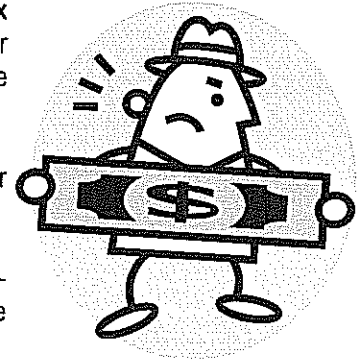
You are paying two different agencies in 2011 for a simple reason - the Borough Council previously switched from YATB to CENTAX. We did this to offer taxpayers a better and more seamless job of collecting your taxes. The schools, however, stayed with YATB.

After we named Centax as the Borough EIT tax collector, a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania program known generally as Act 32 became law. For your tax paying purposes, Act 32 moved responsibility for hiring tax collection agencies away from smaller individual boroughs and townships to larger areas, such as counties. The Legislature passed Act 32 to recoup some of the estimated \$100 to \$260 million in unpaid taxes throughout the state. Everyone paying what they rightfully owe should lower or help maintain current tax rates. Well, that's the rationale.

Gettysburg residents now fall under the higher authority of the **Adams County Tax Collection Committee**, which selected YATB as the agency for collecting our taxes. The Borough sent representatives to the TCC meetings and YATB was the overwhelming choice. Gettysburg was obligated to return to YATB in 2012.

With luck, we'll have an easier time for employers and better collection efforts for municipalities as everyone pays into one collection agency.

For links explaining all your local taxes, school, property, EIT, etc. click on the Gettysburg Borough Web Page and look at the lower right for the links on taxes. Note that some of these descriptions are in the process of being updated.



Communicating With Your Council

Did you know that 75% of voters polled during November's election said they were angry or discontented with their government? All Council members wish to serve you to the best of their ability. But we must hear from you to be truly responsive. Express your sentiments, speak your minds. Local governments often have a far greater impact on our day to day lives than national politics.

There are more than a few ways you can communicate with us. You can email us. Each of us is connected to email and those addresses can be found on our web site: www.gettysburg-pa.gov. You can call us day or night, as our phone numbers are listed on the website as well. You can write us an old-fashioned letter via snail mail. This is still a very effective communication tool! And of course you can come to the Council meetings scheduled every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. There is an opportunity for Public Comment both before and after our business meetings. If you come to a committee meeting, you can be part of the discussion. Committees are scheduled as follows:

Community Development 4th Wed. at 4 PM
 Finance 2nd Thur. at 5 PM
 Public Safety/Public Works 2nd Tue. at 3 PM

Of course comments do not always need to be complaints; on a rare occasion we get a compliment which absolutely makes our day. We know that democracy works best with an engaged public so speak up, we are listening.



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

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ridethetrolley.com

Borough Building Renovations

On Budget and On Schedule! In mid-January staff moved back into the renovated second floor. The Police Department has temporarily moved into council chambers to allow first floor renovations to begin. The roof is repaired (leaking skylights are gone) and a new HVAC system and emergency generator are in place, as is the new upgraded communication system. Exterior work continues. Most of the historic windows have been rehabilitated and returned, preserving the historical integrity of the building. For now, the entrance remains at the front of the building, but will eventually return to the east side. We are open for business during normal work hours. For staff, every day presents a new challenge. Thanks for your patience as we complete these necessary upgrades. We expect work to be completed by April 15, 2011. A date has not been set for our open house. Watch for details in our next newsletter.

Police Contact Numbers

911: *emergency or life threatening situations where police presence is needed immediately*
334-8101: *situations not considered an emergency but needing police action*
334-1168: *general information or questions during normal business hours*