

The Pennsylvania Chautauqua – A Woodland Retreat

Rev 5/10

Culture and Community

At the turn of the century, the Chautauqua movement spread culture, entertainment, and spiritual insight among communities across the nation. Some of the Chautauquas took root; several survive today. The Pennsylvania Chautauqua was founded in 1892 at Mount Gretna, a notch in the South Mountain hills. The lovely woodland setting became a regional center for education, recreation, and enjoyment of the outdoors. The Pennsylvania Chautauqua remains a vibrant influence on Mount Gretna today. The Chautauqua is now a year-round residential community that contains a playhouse, a gift shop, park-like grounds, and a cultural tradition that takes on renewed life each summer with professionally-produced programs of music and theater and an outdoor art show.

A Woodland Stage

The home Chautauqua at Chautauqua, NY, is located on a lake. The Pennsylvania Chautauqua is located in the woods, on 80 acres of land that was purchased from 19th century iron magnate Robert Coleman, of neighboring Cornwall. As soon as the Chautauqua was chartered, the founders commissioned a Lebanon contractor, John Cilley, to build an open-sided auditorium under a huge conical roof as their centerpiece building.

In the years before World War I, the Chautauqua functioned as a summer institute for enlightenment and entertainment. Many of its offerings – lectures, concerts and variety acts – were presented in the Auditorium.

Slowly, the spontaneous local sponsorship of summer educational and cultural activities – the hallmark of the Chautauqua movement – was overtaken by the automobile, community colleges, radio, and the war. As the 1920's ended, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua became more of a community association, sponsoring a Men's Club, a Ladies Auxiliary (no longer in existence), a playground, and a summer stock theater. A. E. Scott's Mount Gretna Players opened at the Auditorium, now the Playhouse, in 1927.

The Playhouse stage was seldom dark on summer evenings. But in the 1970's, it experienced a revival, not only as a theater, but as the home of a leading summer musical festival, "Music at Gretna" which presents a series of chamber music and jazz concerts. A newcomer in 1995, the "Cicada Festival," produces an August schedule of varied "family-friendly programming" – all on the Playhouse stage.

In keeping with the religious component of the Chautauqua movement, the Playhouse stage is the setting for weekly ecumenical church services on Sunday mornings during July and August.

The Chautauqua Summer Programs Committee has extended the "stage" to other locations in the community – especially the Hall of Philosophy – to promote an increasing variety of summer season activities including a series of book reviews, lectures, art and craft classes, old-time films, card parties, and musical events.

A Century of Summers

The Pennsylvania Chautauqua opened its Centennial year in September, 1991, with a Founder's Day celebration that reaffirmed its ties of tradition and idealism to the New York Chautauqua. The Pennsylvania Chautauqua is governed by a 15-member board of managers that is responsible for preserving the Chautauqua's cultural heritage and maintaining its buildings and grounds. Homes in the Chautauqua are owned by individual homeowners on privately-purchased lots. Commonly held walkways, rights-of-way and parks are maintained by the Chautauqua.

The Mount Gretna Area Historical Society was established in 2004 to preserve the history and artifacts of the Mount Gretna area. The Society's headquarters are located in a restored cottage on the Chautauqua grounds.

In order to provide a means for tax-deductible contributions towards the continuation of the heritage and ideals of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua board of managers established the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Foundation, a 501c3 organization.

Role of the Shareholders

In its residential structure, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua most closely resembles a planned unit development or a homeowners' association. Property owners are shareholders in the Chautauqua Corporation. They have a shared responsibility for maintaining the Chautauqua's buildings and grounds. For that reason, a Chautauqua maintenance fee is included in the taxes or fees charged by the three Chautauqua-based entities — Mount Gretna Borough, the Mount Gretna Authority and the Pennsylvania Chautauqua. The Chautauqua sponsored the creation of the Borough in 1926. It encompasses only the geographical area of the Chautauqua itself. Underpinning its cultural and religious programming, the Chautauqua provides for street lighting and trash collection, as well as maintenance of its buildings and grounds. The Borough handles road maintenance, administers the building code, and arranges for police protection. The Authority provides sewer and water service. The three units work cooperatively together.

"Greater" Mount Gretna

The wider Mount Gretna community centers on the intersection of Pinch Road and State Highway 117 in the South Mountain valley. In addition to the Chautauqua/Borough, it includes four other entities, each with its own community association. They are: the Mount Gretna Campmeeting Association, Mount Gretna Heights, Stoberdale*, Timber Hills*, and Conewago Hill. The Campmeeting and Heights are part of West Cornwall Township; Timber Hills and Conewago Hill are part of South Londonderry Township. Police protection for the Chautauqua/Borough is presently provided by the Cornwall Borough Police Department and fire protection is provided by the Mount Gretna Community Volunteer Fire Company with ambulance provided by the Lawn Fire Company.

* Do not have associations.

Mount Gretna Borough

The Mount Gretna Borough, which governs the same geographic area as the Pennsylvania Chautauqua, was incorporated in 1926 as the municipal governing body whose responsibilities are twenty four hour police protection, code enforcement, building permits, maintenance of streets and storm sewers, leaf and brush collection, traffic and parking control and snow removal. The Borough Council consists of five elected officials who meet the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom, located to the rear the Mount Gretna Post Office. Police protection is provided via contract with Cornwall Borough Police Department.

Any questions concerning Authority and Chautauqua fees, assessments and Borough real estate taxes or ordinances should be directed to the office.

The Borough and the Pennsylvania Chautauqua hold joint responsibility for street lighting, trash collection, recycling and large item collection. Schedules for items listed below are provided via mail once per year and are available on the Borough's website at www.mtgretna.com.

- Leaves are collected twice in the fall and once in the spring.
- Brush is collected twice in the fall and spring. Special collections of brush may be necessary due to storm damage.
- Large items, such as appliances, furniture, tires, etc. with the exception of hazardous materials, are collected one time a year in June.
- Garbage is collected every Monday with the exception of holidays per schedule.
- Recyclables are collected every other Monday per schedule.
- For hazardous materials disposal contact Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority at 717.867.5790. For a complete listing of recyclables, hazardous materials and additional information visit the GLRA website at www.goglra.org.

Due to the narrow streets within the Borough, and the many visitors to plays, music programs and other activities, parking is often a challenge. During the summer months parking restrictions are implemented by the Borough.

Columbia, Princeton, Muhlenberg, Harvard and Pennsylvania Avenues from Princeton to Lehigh are designated for resident parking only. All Chautauqua residents are issued two permanent parking tags to be displayed in their car. Two additional temporary permits are also issued to residents within the impact area for use by their visitors and guests.

The Chautauqua and Borough encourage property owners, if possible, to provide provisions for off street parking. Owners who desire guidance should contact the Director of Public Works at the Borough Office.

Borough ordinances regulating the most common issues:

- Traffic and Parking --ordinances # 100, 102 & 154

Ordinances #100 regulates traffic and parking in the Borough of Mount Gretna, and provides for imposing penalties.

Ordinance #102 prohibits driving and parking of trucks over 5,000 pounds gross vehicle weight within the Borough.

Ordinance #154 creates a “residents only” parking by permit district for the Borough. Restricted parking is in effect during the summer season for the following streets: Columbia, Harvard, Muhlenberg, and Pennsylvania (from Princeton to Lehigh Avenues) and Princeton Avenues.

- Pets and Animals -- ordinances # 110 & 123

Ordinance #110 prohibits owner and custodians from allowing dogs and/or cats to run at large (leashes). Owners are required to clean up after and maintain dogs and/or cats in a manner not disturbing to the public i.e. noise, offensive odors, and/or unsanitary conditions. Also prohibits non-domesticated animals within the Borough and provides for penalty for violations.

Ordinance #123 prohibits any dog and/or cat from defiling, corrupting or otherwise desecrating the property of another.

- Nuisances -- ordinances # 103 & 122 (such as storage or parking of abandoned vehicles, loitering, unnecessary noise, etc.)

Ordinance #103 prohibits any dangerous structure on public or private property, and requires the removal of such nuisance or dangerous structure by the owner or occupier of such property.

Ordinance #122 prohibits nuisances detrimental to the health and /or safety of Borough residents. It is unlawful to accumulate garbage/rubbish, construction materials, etc. on any private or public property within the Borough. It is unlawful to discharge any firearm or make any unusual noise. The ordinance also prohibits the parking or storing of any abandoned or junked vehicle of any kind without current license plate and/or state inspection other than in a completely enclosed building.

- Building Codes/Permits -- Pennsylvania Construction Code Act 45 of 1999 as enacted by Gretna ordinance #163

Ordinance #163 implements the Pennsylvania Construction Code 45 of 1999 and to enact the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC).

- Variance Requests

Requests for a variance are to be submitted to the Borough Code Enforcement Officer.

Borough ordinances and variance applications are available in the Borough office for review, by appointment only. Copies of ordinances may be obtained for a fee.

Mount Gretna Authority

The Authority was established in 1974 for the operation of the wastewater treatment plant and collection system and the public wells and distribution system. The wastewater treatment plant serves the greater Mount Gretna area. The water system serves Borough residences with domestic water and fire protection from ground water sources (wells). The Authority also supplies emergency water for domestic use and fire protection to the Mount Gretna Campmeeting and the Mount Gretna Heights via interconnections. All wastewater and water operations are regulated by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

If a sewer blockage or water leak occurs, Authority maintenance personnel should be called prior to a plumber via the twenty four hour emergency number, as it may be the Authority's responsibility.

The Authority board consists of five appointed members who meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Authority/Borough/Chautauqua office, located in the lower level of the Post Office building.

For emergencies, contact:

Police and Fire ----- 911
Cornwall Borough Police Office -----717.274.2071
Authority/Borough office-----717.964.3270
24-hour emergency number
Borough, Chautauqua, and Sewer and Water-----717.964.3231
Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority -----717.867.5790

Organizations/Events

Mount Gretna Playhouse

The Mount Gretna Playhouse, located at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Carnegie Avenues in the Chautauqua, is under a long-term lease agreement between the Mount Gretna Arts Council and the Pennsylvania Chautauqua. Management of the Playhouse is the responsibility of The Playhouse Operating Committee, a six-member Board of Managers plus Facilities Manager, who all serve in a volunteer status. The POC is responsible for:

- (A) Managing leases with the Playhouse tenants (Gretna Theatre, Music at Gretna, the Cicada Festival) and/or any other special events;
- (b) Overseeing day-to-day operations and maintenance of the Playhouse;
- (c) Coordinating Playhouse-related activities and issues with the community;
- (d) Establishing endowment funds for the on-going maintenance of the Playhouse, and for supporting the arts in the Mount Gretna community.

Mount Gretna Area Historical Society

The Mount Gretna Area Historical Society was founded in June 2004 to preserve the heritage of the entire Mount Gretna community. Its purpose is to discover, gather, and preserve historical information and artifacts relative to the heritage of the community, and to promote programs for educational purposes. Artifacts, documents, photographs, recorded oral history, audio, video tape and related materials will be collected and made available to the general public for research purposes and general viewing in a museum setting. An historical cottage located next to the Mount Gretna Playhouse at 206 Pennsylvania Avenue has been renovated to provide such a setting. The Board of Trustees of the Historical Society invites community membership through contacting the Society at 964-1105 or at P.O. Box 362, Mount Gretna, PA 17064.

Mount Gretna Winterites

The Winterites is a social organization organized by and for those who “winter-over” in Mount Gretna. They present a variety of programs that deal with aspects of health, cooking, fitness, gardening, nutrition, and public affairs, as well as travel and hobby talks by members and friends. The organization is open to all Mount Gretna residents. Winterites meet at 1:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month in the Mount Gretna Fire Hall from October through April, except for January. Interested persons may contact the Winterites at P.O. Box 45, Mount Gretna, PA 17064.

Mount Gretna Outdoor Art Show *"Under the Trees of Old Chautauqua"*

In an effort to promote the arts and as a community fundraiser, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua sponsors an Art Show on the third full weekend in August. Originally established over thirty years ago as a means for local artist to exhibit their work, the Mount Gretna Art Show has grown to national status and is proud to be considered as one of the best shows in the country. All proceeds benefit many of our community projects.

The show is held on the Chautauqua grounds, attracting approximately 15,000 to 20,000 patrons each August. The show features 275 juried artists and crafters from all over the United States. In an effort to encourage the arts among young people, a Kids' Art Show is held on Saturday morning. Motivated, aspiring artists of all ages are featured in the Emerging Artists' area. Local restaurants and caterers provide for the culinary arts with an offering of gourmet food and beverages.

Outstanding musicians, Jazz, Bluegrass, Folk and Pop, provide a very pleasing family atmosphere. Strolling performers delight children of all ages.

The admission fee is \$7.00 per person 12 years and older. Children under 12 years are admitted free. Mount Gretna residents receive two (2) complimentary admission passes per household. Mount Gretna residents may also purchase advance tickets at a discount of \$1.00 per ticket..

Nearly 200 volunteers are needed to operate this major event. Volunteers communicate with artists, prepare mailings and registration packets, and operate admission gates and information booths, booth sit for exhibitors and park vehicles. Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact the office.

Artists and craft persons are invited to submit an application via www.Zapplication.org
Deadline for applying is April 1st.

Mount Gretna Outdoor Art Show
PO Box 637
Mount Gretna, PA 17064

Phone: (717) 964-3270

email: mtgretnaart@comcast.net

Mount Gretna Men's Club Tennis

The Mount Gretna Men's Club operates tennis facilities in the Chautauqua area plus other recreational venues including a picnic area and shuffleboard sites. The Club also sponsors an area wide men's tennis tournament in June. Volunteers are welcomed to assist with a food stand at the tournament and to help with the Mount Gretna Art Show Pancake Breakfast in August, which is a major fund-raiser for the Club. Three types of membership are open to Chautauqua residents: Senior and Junior Tennis and a Family Club category that excludes tennis. The season begins in April and closes the last week in October. Contact the Mount Gretna Men's Club, Mount Gretna, PA 17064.

Mount Gretna Chautauqua Summer Programs Committee

Each summer, beginning in June and continuing through August, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua provides programs featuring educational, musical, historical, cultural, religious, and entertainment subjects. This series is developed by the Summer Programs Committee of the Chautauqua Board of Managers, with ideas often suggested by residents or participants at previous programs.

There are concerts, lectures, craft demonstrations, book reviews, fine art, exercise classes - the list is endless -on virtually every day of the week. Complete listings of the offerings will be available in various community locations and publications. Each Fourth of July, a special band concert is held in the Playhouse with the traditional gathering of family and friends.

Chautauqua residents are encouraged to attend and participate in all the summer programs.

The Mount Gretna Arts Council

The Arts Council is a volunteer organization comprised of Mount Gretna area residents who endeavor to support the arts in the Mount Gretna community. Its major fund-raising event, the Summer Premier held in late May, features a sneak peek at the programs being prepared by Music at Gretna, Gretna Theatre, Cicada Festival, the Heritage Festival, the Chautauqua Summer Programs, and other entertainment sources around town. The Arts Council also awards scholarships to promising young students preparing to enter higher education in the arts. A complete Calendar of Summer Events is published annually by the Mount Gretna Arts Council and lists all the Gretna events. A copy is mailed to all Mount Gretna residents, with additional copies available at local businesses.

The Chautauqua Playground

The Chautauqua Playground is located at the corner of Lehigh and Pennsylvania Avenues and is managed and operated by the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Board of Managers. It is open to the public, with supervised activities aimed toward children from 6 to 16 years of age. Activities are scheduled daily from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM during the month of July and the first week in August. Parents are encouraged to participate in many activities, and residents with special expertise are welcomed to present specialized programs.

Mt. Gretna Community Directory

Mount Gretna Community Directory

Government Services

Mount Gretna Borough	964-3270
24 hour emergency & answering service	964-3231
Mount Gretna Volunteer Fire Company	964-3511
Mount Gretna Water & Sewer Authority	964-3270
US Post Office, Mount Gretna	964-3804
Mount Gretna Services	
Colebrook Tavern and Restaurant	964-3551
Collins Grocery	964-3166
Dianna Lynn's Hair Salon	964-2062
Gretna Computer Consulting	964-1106
Mount Gretna Area Historical Society	964-1105
Mount Gretna Hide-A-Way	964-3170
Mount Gretna Inn	964-3234
Mount Gretna Lake & Beach / Miniature Golf	964-3130
Mount Gretna Pizzeria	964-1853
Mount Gretna Realty	964-2100
Mount Gretna Roller Rink	964-3631
Nissley, Roland, Architect	964-2235
Penn Realty	964-3800
Le Sorelle	964-3771
The Jigger Shop	964-9686
Timbers Restaurant & Dinner Theater	964-3601

Organizations/Groups/Clubs

Gretna Music	361-1808
Gretna Theatre/Gretna Productions, Inc.	964-3322
Box Office	964-3627
Mount Gretna Bible Festival	653-8588
Mount Gretna Cicada Festival	964-2046
Mount Gretna Community Gardens	964-3481
Mount Gretna Duplicate Bridge Club	964-3515
Mount Gretna Heritage Festival	964-3040
Mount Gretna Men's Club/Tennis courts	964-2143
Mount Gretna Outdoor Art Show	964-3270
Mount Gretna Tabernacle Association	964-3040
Mount Gretna Winterites	964-3498
PA Chautauqua Playground	964-3270
PA Chautauqua Summer Programs	964-1830
United Methodist Church	964-3241

Misc. Contacts

Lawn Fire Company	964-2369
Rental of Chautauqua Board Room	964-3270
Rental of Hall of Philosophy	964-2101
Rental of Fire Company Social Hall	964-1106
Rental of Heights Community Building	964-3453
Rental of Tabernacle	964-3040

Governing Bodies of Mount Gretna

Chautauqua Board of Managers

Peggy O'Neil — President	Fred Buch
John Feather— 1st V.P.	Linda Bell
Kathie Erdman — 2nd V.P.	Allan Feldman
Kathy Snavely — Secretary	Bob Moritz
Mike Bell — Treasurer	Jack Anderson
Larry Roush	Earl Lenington
Shawn Harbaugh	Barney Myer
John Noullet	Keith Kilgore – Solicitor

Mount Gretna Borough Council

Charles Allwein — President	Mike Bell
John Hambright — Vice President	Dale Grundon
Linda Bell — Sec/Treasurer	Virginia Minnich
William Care — Director of Public Works	Keith Kilgore Solicitor
Joseph Shay — Mayor	Bruce Harris, Police Chief of Cornwall Borough *

* Not a member of The Borough Council

Mount Gretna Authority

W. Barney Myer — Chairman	Drew Allwein
Charles Allwein — General Manager	Edward Kosoff
Linda Bell — Sec/Treasurer	Earl Lenington - Treasurer
Fred Seltzer – Vice Chairperson	Keith Kilgore - Solicitor
William Care — Director of Public Works	

Medical Care in Lebanon County

Good Samaritan Hospital

Individuals needing medical care in Lebanon County, either elective or emergency, may seek medical attention at the hospital, located at Fourth and Walnut Streets in Lebanon, phone 270-7500. Good Samaritan Hospital is a general community hospital with especially good nursing staff and friendly atmosphere. The hospital offers high-tech diagnostic testing such as magnetic resonance imaging and radiation therapy, as well as general laboratory testing. The recently opened cardiovascular unit and cardiac rehabilitation unit offer the most advanced services in the area. The hospital will be happy to provide a list of family physicians, specialists and other health related resources, such as physical therapy, weight loss etc.

Priority Care

Located in Quentin Circle shopping center, Priority Care is available for after-hours and weekend needs when your physician is not available. Phone number is 270-5677, in any emergency, please call 911.

Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Penn State Children's Hospital

Located on route 322, and University Drive in Hershey Pa., 800-243-1455, the Medical Center is affiliated with Penn State's School of Medicine. Its many services include open heart surgery, neurosurgery, transplants, trauma and burn centers.

The Lebanon Veteran's Administration Medical Center

Located on Evergreen Road in Lebanon, 272-6621, veterans can find a full range of outpatient and inpatient medical services at Lebanon VAMC. Their specialty services are limited and you might be referred to a distant VA hospital if you need specialized care.

Philhaven Hospital

Patients with emotional or psychological issues are generally referred to Phillhaven, located on Butler Road, between Mount Gretna and Route 322, phone 273-8871. It offers outpatient and inpatient individual and group therapy, as well as adolescent programs and drug and alcohol counseling.

Nearby Churches

Chautauqua

Each Sunday during July and August services are conducted at 10 a.m. in the Chautauqua Auditorium. Guest speakers are from various denominations. The schedule is listed in the Summer Events calendar and posted at the Community Bulletin Board and at the Chautauqua Auditorium.

Methodist

Mount Gretna United Methodist Church
Fourth and Boehm Avenues
Mount Gretna, Pa 964-3241

Brethren

Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren
Route 241 (Mount Wilson)
RD #1, Box 1250
Lebanon, Pa 867-1433

United Church of Christ

Quentin United Church of Christ
Corner of Routes 419 and 72
Quentin, Pa 273-6114

Catholic

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Route 419 and Cornwall Roads
Cornwall, Pa 273-1574

Lutheran

St. Mark Lutheran Church
200 E. Main St.
Annville, Pa 867-4011

Schools

Cornwall Elementary- PO Box 308, Burd Coleman Road, Cornwall, Pa 17016. (717) 273-4571. (Grades K through 5)

Registration during the school year is done at the elementary building in Cornwall. During the summer months registration is at the District Office.

105 E Evergreen Rd, Lebanon, Pa

Cedar Crest Middle School- (Grades 6 through 8). Registration at Middle School Office, 101 E. Evergreen Road, Lebanon, Pa. (717) 272-2032.

Cedar Crest High School – (Grades 9 through 12). Registration at the High School Office, 115 E Evergreen Road, Lebanon, Pa. (717) 272-2033.

Lebanon Catholic High School- 1400 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, Pa. (717) 273-3731. Registration at the school. During the summer, hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and during the school term, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mt.Gretna Methodist Nursery School – Fourth and Boehm Sts.
Mt.Gretna, Pa (717) 964-2208.