

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Borough of Marietta Newsletter, Summer 2016

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate important information about borough business, town council, seasonal topics, and upcoming Marietta events. This newsletter will honor and celebrate our unique, historic, river town community. It will work to create strong, healthy and appreciative communications among all of us. Brief interviews with a wide range of citizens will enhance our perspective of life in Marietta. Business and organization features will highlight their respective valuable contributions to the community.

## MARIETTA'S MARY LOU AND JIM POWELL: FIFTY YEARS OF WALKING TOGETHER

By Judith Kennedy

While sitting with Mary Lou and Jim Powell, the quote, "Every Life is a Novel," rings so true. This tiny article cannot contain the many stories within each of their lives. For Jim, there are stories within stories as he is a highly acclaimed, Canadian born, mystery writer and Mary Lou is his first reader and confidante. Mary Lou is a native born Mariettan and former Wyeth employee. What comes to mind with the Powells is that couples who walk together stay

together. Jim and Mary Lou have walked along the Susquehanna River and the Front St. neighborhood on a nearly daily basis since 1965.

As we sat at Shank's Tavern over a meal, Mary Lou and Jim said, "This is where we met. . . . When Kitty Shank ran the Tavern" and when mutual associations brought Jim to Marietta. Mary Lou's family and the Shank have been lifelong friends.

Mary Lou Fletcher was born in what was known as "Irish Town". She attended Zion Lutheran Church when she was a child and has been a life-long member ever since. She can remember German POWs who worked at the depot repairing airplane parts when she was a young child. They would arrive in canvas covered trucks and would wave to Mary Lou. She says she just waved back as she didn't know who exactly they were or why she shouldn't wave. (pg 3)

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
2nd Tuesdays at 7 pm - Borough Hall

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
3rd Tuesdays at 7pm - Borough Hall

**ZONING HEARING BOARD**  
Meets as necessary.



## HOUSE NUMBERS ARE VITAL IN EMERGENCIES

Emergency response teams cannot find you if your house number is not clearly displayed. Believe it or not, a majority are not visible from the street. It's even worse at night. A badly displayed number can cost you precious time in an emergency.

The number should be visible from both directions of travel. Trees, bushes or other debris could block visibility from the road. Numbers

should be placed near the front door within a radius of the porch light and above eye level. Avoid placing numbers away from the front door such as above garage doors.

Mailbox: Do not use your mailbox as the only means of identification for your house. If your mailbox is not in front of your house or near your driveway, emergency ... (see page 2)



# Contact Info

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## THE MARIETTA SPECIAL FIRE POLICE ARE KEY TO THE SAFETY ON THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY

Special Fire Police are sworn officers of Pennsylvania Local Government. Special Fire Police have full power to regulate traffic and keep crowds under control at or in the vicinity of any fire, roadway incident, motor vehicle accident, disaster, or public event to prevent interference with the work of firefighters and emergency responders, and exercise other police powers as are necessary to ensure the safety of the public.

Currently, the Special Fire Police are in need of a new vehicle to transport equipment. The vehicle will cost a minimum of \$8000. If you wish to donate to this cause all funds are being directed to the Borough Office. Thank You!

Did you know people who fail to obey a special fire police officer's instructions or indications relating to traffic flow commits an offense and shall, upon conviction, pay fines & are subject to suspension of their driving privileges?

(Title 35- Act of 1941, P.L. 137, No.74)  
(Title 75 Sections 3327 and 3102)

**HOUSE NUMBERS (CONT):** responders cannot locate you if you do not have your house number on your house or on a post or sign in your yard. Remember to mark your mailbox on both sides.



movie night  
in the park

Friday, July 29

War Memorial Park

8:15 PM Concessions

8:45 Movie

Suggested Donation \$1

## RENTAL PROPERTY INSPECTION AMNESTY

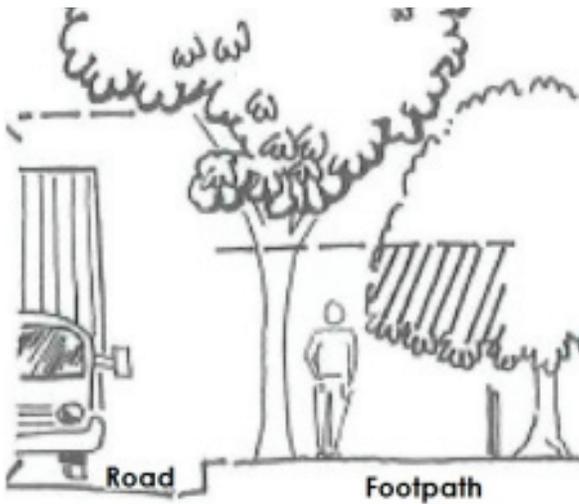
The Borough of Marietta requires all properties that are not owner occupied to undergo an annual safety rental inspection and obtain a rental permit. It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of properties not currently being inspected and permitted. In an effort to address this situation and update our list, the Borough is offering an "Amnesty" time frame in which the initial inspection and permit will be cost free to the property owner. This time frame will run from August 1, 2016 - October 1, 2016. After October 1, 2016 the inspection and permit will be full cost to all non owner occupied properties within the Borough. Take advantage of this one time program by calling the Borough office and scheduling your inspection at 426-4143 Ext. 6.

## MARIETTA ON THE MOVE!

Can you guess where this photo was taken?



DC Bike Rental



# SIDEWALK OBSTRUCTION AND UNSIGHTLY WEEDS

The borough code indicates that homeowners are responsible for keeping sidewalks uninhibited. That includes a seven foot clearance above walkways and 15 foot above roads. Additionally, please be aware that the streets crew will not be pulling weeds in front of your house along the roadway. That is also the homeowner's responsibility. With a little attention to these details, Marietta will be more walkable and beautiful!

## COVER STORY (CONT)

She also remembers walking the length of town with her childhood friends to go to the Marietta Theater to see Roy Rogers and Gene Autry movies. She recalls people in those days sitting on their front porches saying hello and chatting with everyone. Although she is not recommending it today, Mary Lou recalls that everyone would swim in the river when she was a child. She recalls plentiful fish and many fishermen in those days. Jim even has fascinating stories about the carp. "Chinese fish," he says were placed in irrigation troughs to sell. Mary Lou expressed a felt sense of neighborliness and community during the days of her early years. She recalls that "everyone knew everyone and would say hello and were very friendly."

Jim arrived in Marietta around 1965 because he had associations with several families here. As a Canadian writer from Toronto, Canada, he had lived and worked in Paris as a teacher and in New York after graduating from the University of Toronto (St. Michael's College). Today, Jim continues to be a mystery writer with a humorous, imaginative and satirical

*When asked what advice they might give Mariettans about a lasting and loving companionship, they both agree that "if you want to be compatible with someone, there must be a give and take."*

wit. He has over one hundred short story publications, several published books and prestigious awards including the Arthur Ellis Award of the Best Short Story of the Year. His forthcoming book is entitled, *The Sting of the Hoop-Snake*. His website can be found at [James-Powell.com](http://James-Powell.com). Jim says, "Mary Lou is always my first reader." She types, looks for errors and sometimes catches a snag in Jim's plots. These tasks come easily, as she was a secretary in the Chemistry Department at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

When asked what advice they might give Mariettans about a lasting and loving companionship, they both agree that "if you want to be compatible with someone, there must be a give and take." People need to be flexible in order to get along, express interest in each other, and be willing to be helpful. Perhaps this is good advice for all of us as we continue to create a healthy community in Marietta. Perhaps turn off the TV, step away from the computer and the phone, go for a walk, and linger long enough to hear a wealth of rich stories from the interesting people of Marietta.



# MARIETTA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Storm drains in Marietta flow directly to the Susquehanna River; a sacred resource that we all cherish.** This water does not go to a treatment plant so we must be careful not to allow harmful contaminants to enter the water supply system.

Everything that rain washes off your roof, yard and driveway such as trash that is not in proper containers, used motor oil, paint, pesticides or fertilizers, for example, goes into our nearby creeks and river.

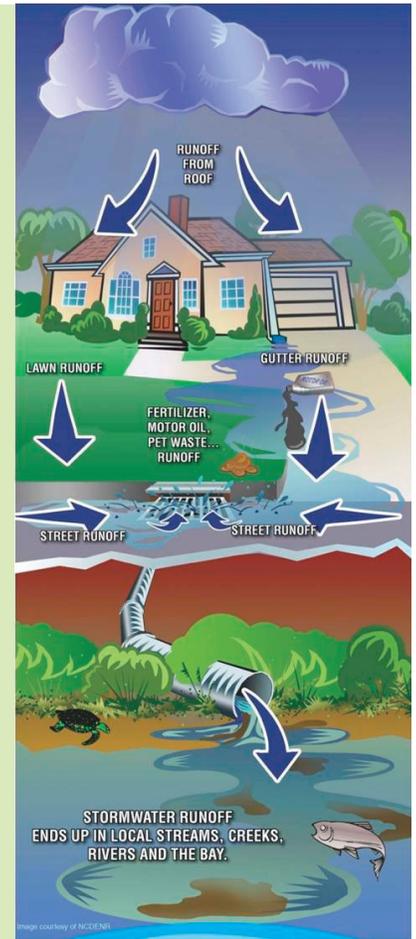
You may be wondering who is really affected by this runoff? Well, we all are. Starting with the fish that may die or be contaminated. Those of us who fish in the Susquehanna and nearby creeks are then consuming

fish that may be toxic to our health. Additionally, the rest of the food chain feels the ripple effects of our actions.

**Remember:**

- Properly dispose of hazardous waste, chemicals and the like.
- Make sure trash is contained in containers with lids that can't be blown over in storms.
- Don't litter! It all ends up in the natural resources that we love.
- Be cautious about how oil and other fluids are changed.
- Use less fertilizer and pesticides.

For more info on your storm water management program call your coordinator at: 717.426.4143 x6



Another Classic  
 Marietta Event:  
 PIG IRON FEST  
 Mark Your Calendar  
 SUNDAY,  
 SEPTEMBER 25th

## A NEW PLACE:

Opening only a few weeks ago, The Marietta WORKSPACE is one of the newest businesses in town. "We hope to attract many of the residents both here and in neighboring communities by providing a shared work setting where members will enjoy access to open office space, internet connection, printing, coffee, and a common conference room," says Owner, Bev Kreider. "We are now accepting full and part time members to join



our network of free-lancers and business owners at 42 W Market Street (Second floor) in Marietta, PA. For more information and membership cost info, email: [MariettaWORKSPACE@gmail.com](mailto:MariettaWORKSPACE@gmail.com).