



1807 ~ 2007

The Georgetown Gazette

The official newsletter for the Town of Georgetown

Volume 3, Issue 1

200 Years

April 2007

Georgetown Celebrates Bi-Centennial

This year Georgetown turns 200!

Not only are we known as the oldest City in Floyd County, but Georgetown has a rich history. It began as a small sawmill and farrier outpost in 1807, six years before New Albany! The town grew up around Whiskey Run Creek, and was named for its founder, George Waltz who originally had acquired the land from the government. The first structure in the area, a log cabin, built from Blue Ash logs, was erected at the site of the Drive-in, about 1805 by Patrick Shields. Native Americans were known to frighten many early residents. The first general store in town was built by John Hanger and James Waltz. (now Walts) The town's post office



Georgetown Fire 1906, half of Main Street burned, caused by blowing train engine ashes.

(Hwy 64) burned to the ground. The fire was caused by cinders blowing from the smokestack of a passing train....Our most famous person from Georgetown is Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton, who was born here in 1890. An IU graduate, he served in WWI, became a Senator, then was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Truman. Over the years, Georgetown has been no stranger to growing pains, it took many years

to build a public water system, prior to it the town relied solely on cisterns and wells until the late 1950's. Until 1967, the only high school in Floyd County was Georgetown, the basketball games drew people from many miles. The school now educates students K-6. Some of this information was retrieved from the Floyd County Library's Indiana Room, but we would also like to thank Anna Fredericks for sharing her vast knowledge of the history of Georgetown.

Items of interest:

- 200 years of Georgetown!
- Historical Photos
- Contact Info, back page
- www.MyGwhiz.org

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The Georgetown Gazette is published periodically by the Town of Georgetown to help keep our citizens informed.

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 Or call: 812.951.3012



Georgetown Saw Mill c1894

began inside the tavern that the Walts' built and mail was delivered twice weekly by horse and buggy. In 1906 the town caught fire, and a good portion of Main St.



1943, Sen. Bates, John Beach, Rev. McKinney, Sherman Minton, Shirley Wilcox

What is a Caucus?

Interested in participating in our Caucus?

A caucus is an open political meeting in which voters publicly discuss their preference for their party nominee. Caucuses also finalize the election ballot, but differ from primaries, which are state-level elections where voters select a preference by secret ballot. They are primarily used in smaller towns, like Georgetown. Here we use the caucus system instead of the primary, to nominate candidates for contested council seats on the ballot. A contested seat is one in which there are more than one persons, from the same party entered into the race for the same seat. At a caucus meeting, sponsored by the political party of the candidates who wish to be nominated, the county chairperson presides. Any citizen of the town may attend the caucus, but to vote in the caucus, you must declare your party affiliation. Our Caucus is usually held at the Optimist Club during the first week of August and is published in the newspaper. Currently the following have filed to run in the upcoming election. Council at Large: Mike Mills D, Karla Perkins D, Aaron Striegel D, Jay Davis D, Dean Hammersmith R, Dennis Merritt D, Gary Smith R, Chris Carter D, Jeff Bird D, and James Henriott D. County Democratic Chair; Randy Stumler and County Republican Chair; Dave Matthews. No one has filed for the office of Clerk Treasurer. The deadline for filing is noon August 1st, at the Floyd County Elections Board, in New Albany.



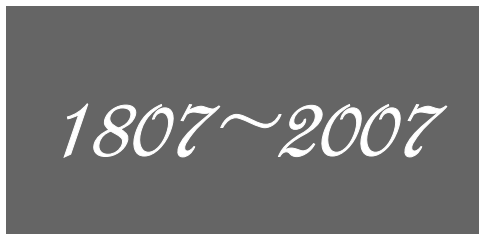
Keithley's Grocery and Confections c1900



Harlan Walts delivering the mail with his horse and buggy. c1916

Annexation Rumors

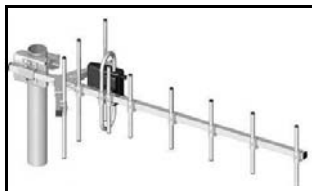
This feature is directed to the people who live in the area east of Georgetown, being considered for annexation into Georgetown. There have been several stories making the rounds, many of which are not true. If you hear one and want the facts, call Town Manager Ken Griffin at 951-3800 or Town Hall at 951-3012, and we will give you the straight scoop. A current rumor is, the only reason Georgetown wants to annex the property to the east of Town is to make residents there hook onto the Town's sewer system. That is simply not true. The Town's sewer system is not related to the Town's annexation plans. The Town Council has "put their money where their mouth is" in promising the properties being annexed will not be forced to connect to the sewer system by adopting Ordinance G-07-13 on April 19th, 2007. This ordinance states, "If [a]



property is annexed into the Town with a properly permitted and functioning septic tank, the Town Council of Georgetown cannot and shall not require said property owner to abandon their properly operating private septic tank in exchange for a mandated connection to the Town's sewer system." The ordinance goes on to declare that only the State or County Health Department can make a property owner abandon a septic tank and hook onto a sewer system. The Georgetown Town Council is considering annexing the land from the current Town boundaries east to the 64 Interstate Interchange because they believe connecting to the Interstate is crucial to the Town's future. *Interesting Note:* In researching the 200th Anniversary story we found reports from the 1950s on the creation of the Town's water system. The Town Council said the water system was crucial for the future of Georgetown. People opposed to the water system said well water was all they needed.

Broadband activated in Georgetown, Are you in?

During March Georgetown realized the goal of Broadband internet service. Three broadcast antennas were installed with possibility of adding additional at a later date. To see if your home will receive the signal visit the site www.mygwhiz.org and view the locator map. The site also gives more information for costs and email configuration for those with the services.



Water conservation Practices

- Run the clothes and dishwasher with full loads only.
- Use the shortest wash and rinse cycles and the lowest water level setting possible.
- Avoid the permanent press cycle which uses an additional 10 to 20 gallons of water.
- When hand washing clothes, or brushing teeth, don't let the water run continuously. Don't water the lawn.
- Use water saving shower heads and toilets. You can also use plastic soda bottles filled with water placed in the toilet tank to reduce water needed to fill.
- When washing the car, use a hose with a nozzle. This is a Public Service Message to help conserve natural resources

Help Save our Ash Trees!

Quarantine enacted for entire state

As of Dec. 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has placed the entire state of Indiana under quarantine for emerald ash borer (EAB), a devastating insect pest that kills ash trees. This means that while ash products may be brought into Indiana from other non-quarantined parts of the country, most ash products cannot leave without written permission from the USDA. This includes ash nursery stock, ash logs or untreated ash lumber with the bark attached, any type of firewood except pine. In addition, each time a new emerald ash borer infestation is confirmed, the county of the find is quarantined and a secondary quarantine is issued for the township. 12 counties have confirmed infestations since 2004.

For more information visit the DNR website or contact the Purdue Extension office. The Emerald ash borer (EAB), is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. Since its discovery, EAB has: Killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Maryland) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs. Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.



The EAB is bright green and iridescent in color. The adult insect is shown here on a penny, for size.

Below you can see the D shaped exit holes it leaves after emerging as an adult insect.



Stormwater Runoff and Pollution

What you can do to prevent it....

Limit the amount of impenetrable surfaces in your landscape by using surfaces like wood decks, and brick pathways. Encourage thick vegetation growth along waterways and runoff pathways to slow water flow and soak up pollutants. Use natural alternatives instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Don't hose down walkways, dry sweep paved areas and properly dispose of trash.

**10 Things you can do
to prevent pollution
and slow stormwater
runoff...**

Gutters and downspouts should be clear and draining onto vegetated or gravel filled seepage areas, not directly onto paved surfaces. Divert runoff from pavement to grassy, planted or wooded areas of your property. Compost grass clippings and leaves. Don't allow them to wash into roadways or drains. Restore bare patches in your lawn. Cultivate plants that discourage pests, minimize high maintenance grassy areas. Get involved with planning and zoning, help shape the course of development and the quality of our environment. This is a Public Service Message to help conserve natural resources.

Softball League Information

While the Spring leagues have already begun, there is still a chance for your team to get into the Summer League and also the Church League. The summer season lasts 10 weeks, beginning May 8th. The game days are going to be 2 days per week, either Monday and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays, but are yet undecided. The Church League will meet on Friday evenings. If you are interested in signing up a team, please contact Pauline at the Georgetown Town Hall. 951-3012



Proper disposal of Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local water. When walking your pet remember to pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste down the commode is the best disposal method. Leaving waste on the ground increases public health risks when the associated bacteria washes into storm drains or ground water sources, because neither are connected to treatment facilities. When the waste decays it eats up oxygen and releases ammonia into the water. Low oxygen levels combined with ammonia and warm temperatures result in toxic conditions for aquatic life. These also encourage algae growth furthering water toxicity.

THE TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
POST OFFICE BOX 127
GEORGETOWN, IN 47122



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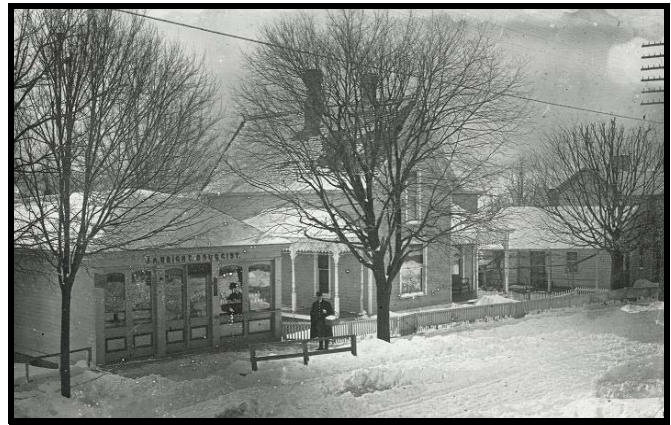
GEORGETOWN
IN 47122
FIRST CLASS
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CAR-RT SORT

mailing label here

What's Happening? Visit Georgetown on the Internet at www.MyGwhiz.com

Did you know that the MyGwhiz.org site is an informational site for the Town of Georgetown? Launched in January, it holds many answers to common local questions. In addition it will be updated periodically with current event news as well as Council Minutes that are posted. On one page of the site, you will find a coverage map noting Broad-band capabilities. Other pages include historical info and pictures, like those seen in this newsletter. Have some important local news to share? Send us an email from the site and we will consider it for addition to the web page.



A wintery scene outside Wright's Drugstore, Main Street, c1905

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Mark your Calendar!

- May 1st Brush Collection Day (bundles must be under 4 feet length)
 - May 10th Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation, East of town
 - May 17th Town Council Meeting
 - May 28th Memorial Day, Town Offices Closed, no trash collections
 - May 29th Garbage/recycling pick-ups resume (normal schedule +Holiday's)
 - June 5th Brush Day (bundles must be under 4 feet in length)
 - July 4th Holiday, Town Offices Closed, no trash collections
 - July 5th Garbage/recycling pick-ups resume (normal schedule +Holiday's)
 - Aug 1st Caucus Day
 - Oct 9th Fall Junk Day
 - Nov 6th Election Day
- Town Office 951-3012