



# Gettysburg

## TIMES

## Sunshine lawsuit goes before judge

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER  
Times Staff Writer

The fate of a Sunshine Act lawsuit between Gettysburg Borough Council and a town businesswoman will now be decided by an Adams County judge.

Gettysburg Signs Express co-owner Debra Golden filed paperwork in court last week, countering a list of objections that the borough government filed June 5.

The lawsuit centers around the state's Sunshine Law, which regulates open government meetings. Golden argues that the borough's ordinance committee has been holding "illegal" meetings and deliberating behind closed-doors for almost a year.

But the borough is denying that it has violated the law, arguing that it isn't required to advertise the meetings or open them to the general public.

Adams County Judge John Kuhn will decide whether the lawsuit is legitimate enough to continue in court, or he may just throw it out entirely. No timetable has been set for his decision.

Borough Manager John D. Lawver Jr. said last week that there are no plans to disband the ordinance committee, pending the outcome of the lawsuit. The committee formed last year to overhaul the town's outdated ordinance book, and includes council members John Butterfield, Ted Streeter and Susan Naugle.

"It's not on hiatus," Lawver

said. "We just haven't had everyone altogether to meet."

The Pittsburgh-based law firm representing the borough is claiming that the suit is "legally insufficient," and is citing legal technicalities as rationale for dismissing the case. In paperwork filed June 5, the legal team of Campbell, Durrant, Beatty, Polombo & Miller wrote: "Golden is not entitled to participate in the ordinance drafting process and is not entitled to access draft ordinances."

The firm, which represents the borough in other personnel matters, argues that the complaint should be "dismissed" and that the court "lacks jurisdiction" over the matter. According to Lawver, the firm is paid between \$125-\$195 an hour, depending on the lawyer.

Borough Solicitor Harold Eastman was named in the suit; however, Golden has agreed to drop him from the case.

Town officials are not commenting on the matter, citing the municipality's policy of not discussing legal matters. In the past, officials have said that the ordinance committee — made up of three people — does not contain a quorum of Borough Council, so it is not subject to the Sunshine Law. There are nine seats on Borough Council, so a quorum is made up of five members. Eventually, town officials have explained, every ordinance that is drafted by the committee is forwarded to the full board for review and deliberation, at a public meeting.



BILL SCHWARTZ/GETTYSBURG TIMES

**FESTIVAL FAVORITES** — Three Fairies from the Children's Theater production of *Sleeping Beauty* perform on the Main Stage for the Gettysburg Festival Saturday afternoon. They are,

from left: Flora, played by Hannah Wehler; Fauna, played by Sarah Bodvin; and Merriweather, played by Madison Maloney. (More Gettysburg Festival photos on Page B12)

## FREEDOM TRANSIT: A look at the Lincoln Line

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER  
Times Staff Writer

Adams County Transit Authority Director Geoff Spangler calls the Lincoln Line of the Freedom Transit system the "bread and butter" of his agency's operations.

That's because the line appeals to Gettysburg's two million annual tourists, with stops at the new Battlefield Visitor Center and other popular destinations along Steinwehr Avenue.

"It's our primary route," Spangler said regarding the Lincoln Line, or Red Line on the

agency's maps.

"It follows the footsteps of President Lincoln when he got off the train, and traveled south on Baltimore Street toward the National Cemetery," said Spangler.

ACTA is operating the Freedom Transit fixed-loop bus system. Free rides are being offered on the Freedom Transit today, in preparation for the system's grand opening celebration on Thursday, July 2.

At the top of every hour, the Lincoln Line departs from the shuttle transfer area along the first block of Carlisle Street in down-

town Gettysburg. From there, the bus stops at the Adams County Courthouse, the intersection of Breckenridge and Baltimore streets, the National Cemetery east gate, GNMP Visitor Center, the National Cemetery west gate, the Medal of Honor site and Veterans Park, the Adams County Library and Wills House.

During the peak season, up to three shuttles will be running simultaneously on the Lincoln Line, with stops at the Visitor Center every 20 minutes.

Motorists are encouraged to park at the town's Race Horse Alley Parking Plaza or Visitor Center.

"It's something that visitors really need, because once they get here, they don't know where to go," said Spangler, adding that the mass transit system was envisioned in the town's Interpretive Plan.

Shuttles begin as early as 8

a.m. on the Lincoln Line, and run as late as 10 p.m. Round trips all three lines — including the Gray and Blue line — take approximately 60 minutes. The Gray and Blue lines, named after the Union and Confederate armies in the Battle of Gettysburg, are geared toward the area's commercial and medical districts.

A ribbon-cutting is planned for Thursday, July 2 at noon near the Wills House on Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. The ceremony will be attended by local and regional dignitaries, including U.S. Congressman Todd Platts, and GNMP Supt. John Latschar.

Fares for a single trip are \$1, which includes a free transfer at the Carlisle Street loading area. A day-long pass is \$3; a 10-ride pass is \$9; and a month-long pass is \$30. Exact change must be used. Seniors age 65 and older may ride for free, as long as they obtain a pass from ACTA.

## Todd Platts to hold town meeting tonight in boro

BY JOHN MESSEDER  
Times Staff Writer

Congressman Todd Platts, R-19, will host a public town meeting tonight at 7 in the Gettysburg campus of Harrisburg Area Community College.

The campus is in the shopping center across from the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, next to the Weis Market, on Old Harrisburg Road.

The meeting offers "constituents of the 19th Congressional District the oppor-

tunity to share their concerns regarding issues before the United States Congress and the federal government," Platts said in a prepared announcement.

Platts witnessed the signing of a bill he co-sponsored to give the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco products.

Earlier this month, he was appointed to membership on the House Armed Services Committee, replacing New York Rep. John McHugh. McHugh resigned his position when he was nominated by President Barack Obama for appointment as Secretary of the Army.

Platts resigned his membership in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to accept the Armed Services committee position. He also is a member of the Committee on Education and Labor, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Congressional District 19 residents are encouraged to attend the town meeting, or to contact the congressman or his staff at his offices — in Gettysburg at 22 Chambersburg St., 717-338-1919, or York at 2209 E. Market St., 717-600-1919. Residents also may send e-mail through the congressman's web site at [www.house.gov/platts](http://www.house.gov/platts) to ask questions or discuss issues.

Readers may contact John Messeder at [jmesseder@gburgtimes.com](mailto:jmesseder@gburgtimes.com).

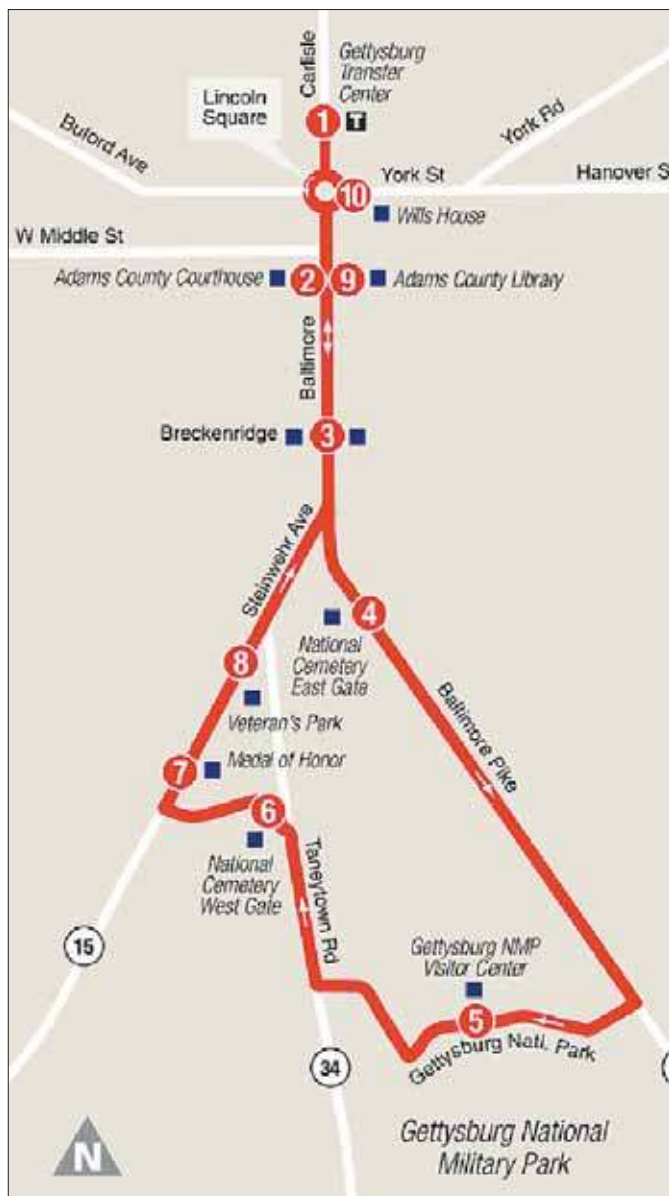


PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAMS COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Lincoln Line on the Freedom Transit bus system is geared toward tourists, with stops at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center and other related attractions.

## Boro reviews sketches of huge Lincoln statue

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER  
Times Staff Writer

Drawings of a proposed Abraham Lincoln statue have been released to some members of Gettysburg Borough Council, generating mixed opinions about the conceptual design.

"They sent a rendition," Borough Council President Dick Peterson said regarding Utah-based sculptor Stanley Watts.

"It was in fine detail," added Peterson. "Nothing could be concluded with the drawings, because we don't know if it'll look exactly like that."

Watts is designing a 9-foot tall bronze statue of America's 16th president, and hopes to donate it to the borough in time for Lincoln bicentennial events in November 2009.

"Nothing is set in stone," said Peterson. "I think that Mr. Watts is looking for feedback. It's something that we'll take under consideration, and review as a council."

Councilman John Butterfield (See STATUE, Page A5)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Salt Lake City sculptor Stanley Watts recently released conceptual designs of his proposed Lincoln statue to Gettysburg Borough Council.

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