

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 15
From MPNA President – Andy Rudin
October 8, 2005

Elkins Park Library Community Room 7:00pm Monday, Oct. 10

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introductions

2. Township Traffic Issue Has Been Resolved

- Joseph Gruver checked the Oak Lane & Asbury with the homeowners at Oak Lane and Asbury and delivered an enforcement notice.
- Philadelphia is solely responsible for the traffic signal at Cheltenham Avenue and Oak Lane Road, but they have been notified.

Read below in the News section the full description of Township Manager David Kraynik's follow-up to neighbors complaints, which he read in this newsletter. Thanks, Dave.

3. Adding email addresses

How can we gather more email addresses from our neighbors? Please ask your neighbors and friends to email me (andrewrudin@earthlink.net) to be added to this email list to share information about our neighborhood. We don't share our email list with anyone.

4. Community Policing Issues

As with our May meeting, Sergeant David Hirschbuhl will be at the October 10 meeting. You may have questions to ask him. The MPNA directors also have a couple of questions:

- How can we calm any future noisy parties at 506 Oak Lane?
- How can we best protect our replacement for the hose that was stolen from the Melrose Park train station?

- Can we start a type of neighborhood alert system in which the police let us know where they suspect trouble, and they we can email MPNA members to be on the lookout for strange behavior in that area? Those interested in this type of modified town alert system can email Bob Schaffer at dart2300@aol.com.

5. New Video, Book and T-shirt about the History of Cheltenham

You may have read in the *Times Chronicle* about Cheltenham Elementary school teacher Lise Marlowe's students. They produced a book, video and T-shirt about the history of Cheltenham. Mrs. Marlowe will try to be at this meeting. She writes, "We also have an upcoming event to celebrate Lucretia Mott's life, she passed away 125 years ago this November and we're dedicating a mural at the La Mott Community Center that my students painted, it's an amazing piece of art, we're hoping for a large crowd, so we would love for your committee to come, it's free and open to the public, I'll bring flyers so you can pass them out."

6. Other business:

7. Adjourn, snack and talk with neighbors.

The News

School Renovation at Myers Elementary

Nancy Hellendall writes, "There will be meetings October 18 and Nov 22 at 7:30 pm at the School administration building to review the plans for the **\$12 million dollar** renovation to Myers elementary school. The plans as they are call for increasing parking on the property and putting a 5,000 sq ft gymnasium on the mill road side of the building in the playground-where the giant slide is. It will take up approx 1/3 of the playground.

Parents are concerned because of the significant decrease in playground space already at this site and this will decrease it further. Also the design presents security issues both during and after school since the new building removes site lines and creates nooks and crannys to hide in."

Any questions please e-mail her back at nanken@aol.com

Township Traffic Issues

Township Manager Dave Kraynik reads this MPNA newsletter thoroughly. Due to our Issue #13, Dave has caused the following things to happen: "I asked the Police Chief about the sight obstruction at Oak Lane and Asbury." Joseph Gruver responded, " We have not had this complaint. I am aware that Code Enforcement took care of a sidewalk obstruction at the southern intersection of Asbury Ave.

(7300 blk.) but our office has not had anything for the intersection. We will check it out.” He did and wrote, “I checked the Oak Lane & Asbury complaint yesterday and it is valid. I met with the homeowners at Oak Lane and Asbury this afternoon, delivered an enforcement notice, and explained to them what needs to be done to comply. They have until October 14 to bring the sight distance into compliance before enforcement action will commence. Hopefully they will take care of it before the meeting on the 10th.”

On another issue, Dave found out from Rudy Kastenhuber that “As per the response below, the traffic signals at both Cheltenham and Oak Lane and Cheltenham and New Second are the jurisdiction of the City of Philadelphia. By copy of this email, I am asking our Public Works Coordinator Rudy Kastenhuber to contact the city and urge them to schedule upgrades of the signals at both intersections. The traffic signal at Oak Lane and New Second was upgraded by the township in 2002.” Rudy Kastenhuber responded, “Philadelphia is solely responsible for the traffic signal at Cheltenham Ave. and Oak Lane Rd.. Cheltenham's only involvement is that we pay 1/2 the electric for Cheltenham Ave. signals. I will check out the location and make sure that Phila. Streets Dept. is notified if there is a signal down. I could also ask them if they have any plans for signal upgrades for Cheltenham Ave.”

Zoning Hearing Board Meetings about the New Church on Ashbourne Road

Karin Helstrom of the Elkins Park Neighbors Association (www.epna.org) association writes:

“We do not know how many meetings will be required to complete this appeal, but it is likely to run through December. The Township calendar schedules Zoning Hearing Board meetings twice each month. Time consuming appeals are usually heard on the second date. Each month the Board will announce the date and place of the next meeting, but most likely the meetings will be at Curtis Hall on:

- Thursday - October 27
- Wednesday - November 23
- Wednesday - December 21.

When the hearings are completed, the Board will have 45 days to issue its decision.”

Forum on Election Reform

Tom Petersen calls our attention to the Election Reform Network, which invites you to attend “A Forum on Election Reform: Is your vote being counted?” Come to this important Forum on Election Reform. Learn what it takes to safeguard our elections and strengthen our democratic process in Montgomery County and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1 pm, Saturday, October 29th – Grace Presbyterian Church, corner of Old York Road and Vista Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Free Admission

Speakers:

- * Rebecca Mercuri, Ph.D., computer scientist and electronic voting expert; originator of the concept of the voter verified paper ballot for electronic vote machines
- * Ryan O'Donnell, Director of Communications, FairVote.
- * MaryBeth Kuznik, a founding member of VotePA and long-time poll worker
- * Additional speakers from national, state and local citizens organizations, including Common Cause

Topics:

- * Openness and Public Accountability of Elections Officials: No Decisions On Voting Machines Without Citizen Input
- * A Voter-Verified Paper Record of all votes cast through electronic vote machines to ensure accurate audits and recounts, if necessary
- * Full Access to Polling Places for the Disabled, in compliance with federal law
- * Lawful and efficient administration of Provisional Ballots
- * Public Disclosure of the County's Plan for compliance with the Help America Vote Act.

Visit us on the web at: www.electionreformnetwork.org

Election Reform Network, 7426 Barclay Rd., Cheltenham, PA 19012 Tel: 215-782-8218

e-mail: info@electionreformnetwork.org

Your help needed for an enjoyable Fall Planting at Melrose Park Station, Thursday, October 27th!

MPNA members are responsible for the beautiful plantings around the inbound Melrose Park SEPTA station. Come join your neighbors and till the soil a bit, by planting bulbs and more. We will have bulbs, but you are welcomed to bring additional plants, digging tools, clippers, etc. Come for any time -- even 30 minutes -- will make a difference and lead to a lovelier spring:

- Place: Melrose Park Station, southbound side
- Date: Thursday, Oct. 27th (rain date, Friday, Oct 28th, same time)
- Time: Any time you can spare between 4:30 and 6:30 pm

Halloween

There is going to be an alternate Halloween celebration in Curtis Hall. John Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation is coordinating this event. His email address is jhoover@cheltenham-township.org.

This Newsletter

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net.

MPNA memberships

Membership in MPNA helps pay for plantings, signage, and many other things. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, \$20 per family. Send your contribution to MPNA Board member Jim Muldoon, 106 Parkview Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012.

MPNA Board

Members of the MPNA Board are Andrew Rudin, Phil Kates, Gene Silver, Michael Sheckman, Jim Muldoon and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net. This newsletter is available or will be soon, maybe with photos, on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org