

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 7

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

April 19, 2005

Members of the MPNA Board are Andrew Rudin, Phil Kates, Gene Silver, Michael Shectman, 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, on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org

The News:

Work Begun on Mill Run, near Cheltenham Avenue

You have probably seen the equipment at Coventry and Cheltenham. The work to repair the eroding stream banks has begun!

Melrose Park Neighbors Association Public meeting on May 2, 2005 at 7pm

Mark your calendars – Monday, May 2, 2005 at 7:00pm. The Melrose Park Neighbors Association will be holding a public meeting in the community room at the Elkins Park Free Library.

- MPNA Board member Phil Kates is organizing a short presentation of classical music just before the meeting.
- The Cheltenham Police will talk with us about security in Melrose Park and the surrounding communities.
- We need to discuss several of the topics below... an exciting meeting... trees, traffic, islands! Read about them below, and bring your ideas to the May 2nd meeting.
- Refreshments will be provided.

We have to be out of the room before 8:45pm.

EarthDay 2005 will be at 10am on Saturday, April 23 (Rain date 4/24)

Each year residents of Melrose Park get together for a few hours to clean up the neighborhood, and perhaps even plant some beautiful flowers. If you want to help out, Board member Gene Silver is coordinating this. You can email Gene at genesilver@msn.com or call him at 215-635-1874.

Plan to help out on Earth Day, April 23rd. It's a chance to come together to improve our environment and get to know one another.

Come beautify 1) Our new SEPTA Station, 2) the Pedestrian Overpass near Mill and Windsor, and

3) Apex of Montgomery and Union

- **Date:** Saturday, April 23rd, 2005 - Rain Date: Sunday, April 24th
- **Time:** 10 am start – come whenever – any time you can spare.
- **Place:** Melrose Park Train Station, southbound side (see above). The dark, mulched areas are flower beds prepared for us by SEPTA.
If we have enough volunteers, we will also ask people to clean and plant at: the Pedestrian Overpass at Windsor and Mill the corner of Mill and Union at Myers Elementary School.
- **Activities:** Cleaning, planting and getting to know your neighbors!
- **Bring:** Gloves, shovels, clippers, hand-trowels, shears, peat moss, plants, beverages for yourself and to share. The Township will provide: trash bags, cones and saw horses to help protect neighbors working. Plants to buy or bring include: perennials of many types, azaleas, rose bushes, and more. For further details on plants, contact Ricki Lent at rsimone49@aol.com

Trees for Melrose Park

Cheltenham Township needs our input on several matters. The Township has funds to plant about 23 trees in our neighborhood. If you have suggestions about where to plant them, please come to the May 2nd meeting with your ideas, or email me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net and I will forward your ideas to the Township.

\$25,000 for Calming Traffic

The Township also has about \$25,000 to invest in slowing down traffic and making streets and intersections safer in our neighborhood. Some intersections that may already qualify are at Union and Montgomery near Myers School, Oak Lane Road and Cheltenham, and Fifth and Cheltenham. If you have other suggestions, please come to the May 2nd meeting with your suggestions, or email me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net and I will forward your request.

The Islands in Old York Road

We are finally seeing some progress in dealing with the ugly concrete islands on Old York Road. They could become beautiful... as beautiful as those in front of Abington Hospital. Cheltenham Township is applying for a grant from PennDOT to use the Abington designs to rejuvenate four islands in our neighborhood. One plan is for the Melrose Park Neighbors to ‘adopt’ one of the islands. The Township will solicit other neighborhood groups to adopt the other three. What do you think? Would you like to be involved with this? If so, email me, and I will forward it on to the Township. Or, come to the May 2nd meeting with your ideas.

The Kerlin Farm

The Kerlin Farm is barely visible to us. It is a large property on the corner of Ashbourne Road and Oak Lane Road. There is a traffic light there. Going north on Oak Lane Road, you would enter the Ashbourne Country Club if you went straight. The Kerlin Farm is on your right. There is an old, abandoned farmhouse in there. You can see it from Ashbourne Road. The following is from the Cheltenham Township website:

“There is a house in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania that is over 300 years old. This farmhouse, set back from the street stands on a heavily wooded lot of several acres. Originally built upon land that was obtained in a grant to William Penn from King Charles II of England, this incredible influence on our local and national heritage has been forgotten. Reasons for this are due to the changing demographics of the area, an out of state owner, and the location of the house on the property.

This architectural time capsule is the only one of its kind in this area, due to its extraordinary and unique blend of styles. It has gone through many modifications and expansions over the centuries. The house started as a one-story, one room stone cottage on a 300acre plantation in 1682, and today is a three- story, multi-sectioned mansion on a 7.6-acre property. It is comprised of the original section and four separate additions, each representing different architectural eras. The original 17th century section built by Everard Bolton, a Founding Father of Cheltenham, is a Basic Colonial style. The first addition was built c. 1710 by Bolton’s son in a German Colonial style. The second is an Early Republic style addition built c. 1790 by the Jones family, who later became activists in the Hicksite schism. The third addition an Early Victorian style, was built in 1850 by the prominent Haines family, as well as the fourth and final addition built in 1898 in a Late Victorian style.

This property is part of the Haines family’s trilogy of historic sites, two of which, Wyck and Grumblethorpe, are located in nearby Germantown. At the time of the Civil war the site was significant to local commerce as the family, who were prominent horticulturalists, established the Cheltenham Nursery here. Several historically recognized rare plantings still thrive on the property today.”

There is a picture of the house on the website at <http://www.heidelberg-kerlinfarm.org/> If you are interested in helping to preserve this farm, please send an email to me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net

The New Commercial Services District

For the past year or two, a group of government representatives from both the Philadelphia side and the Cheltenham side of Cheltenham Avenue have been meeting to form a Commercial Services District along Cheltenham Avenue. A consultant was hired to develop a plan for revitalization. It seems that they will be initially concentrating on the area near Penrose and Cheltenham. Such a district would allow businesses to cooperate in marketing, protecting and cleaning up the district in much the same way that businesses in a mall cooperate. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Adding email addresses

Please tell your neighbors to email me to be added to this email list to share information about our neighborhood.

This Newsletter

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

Best wishes for a pleasant spring! See you on May 2nd at the Library!