

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 19

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

April 19, 2006

What do we do with those trees the Township gave us?

We keep them. If you have tried to transplant them, as some of us have done, they usually seem to die.

Melrose Park Neighbors Meeting

Yes, once again, an opportunity for us to get together and share information (and maybe a tiny, little bit of gossip). We can come up with ideas about slowing down traffic, protecting our kids, calming those barking dogs, cleaning up the winter junk on the sides of our roads.... You name it. Come to the next meeting of the Melrose Park Neighbors Association at the Elkins Park Free Library, 7pm, Monday May 8, 2006. Bring eats and drinks to share. Sergeant Dave Hirschbuhl will be there to discuss what is happening around Melrose Park from a community police point of view.

Bring a neighbor. Our association is only as good as all of us.

Ahhh! Beautiful Spring!

Flowers are blooming, and the birds are chirping, and the Melrose Park Neighbors Association Earth Day 2006 project will be held at the inbound side of the Melrose Park SEPTA Station starting at 10:30am on Saturday, April 22. We are going to plant and organize flowers there, plus talk, joke, befriend the occasional dog, etc. Rain date is the same time and place on Sunday, April 23. Please bring gloves, gardening tools, and perennial plants, perhaps from your own garden. We are interested in black-eyed susans, bee balm, day lilies, and iris plants among others. (For gardeners, the plants that do best in this location are drought-resistant perennials.)

Board member Gene Silver is the MPNA coordinator of this event. His phone number is 215-635-1874 or genesilver@msn.com.

What is Happening at the Ashbourne Country Club?

Charles Taylor of the Matrix Companies responded to Jim Muldoon's request for information about the developments at the Ashbourne Country Club. Here is his emailed response.

Phase I – Golf Course Improvements

This phase sees the construction of one entire new golf hole, as well as the construction of a new green for one hole, and new tee for another. The changes are required so that we can “grab” the land necessary near the front of the property for the construction of a new clubhouse, as well as all of the space needed for the boulevard entrance for the residential development. This phase, as you may have noticed if you drive by, is already well under way and is, in fact, nearing completion. It is our plan to have all new golf improvements finished and fully sodded so that good healthy grass is present by the fall of 2006. In addition to these improvements, the club is working on a wide array of in-house improvements to bring the golf course back to its old glory. These include bunker work, irrigation/drainage, construction of new steps to tees, cleaning out of debris areas, etc.

Phase II – Golf Clubhouse Construction

Phase II has been through the land development process in town where all the relevant records and renderings can be viewed. We have yet to pull permits, but will soon, on a new 10,000SF clubhouse which will be the home of the golf club when we reopen in 2007. This beautiful new building will sit on the current 10th hole (par 3) which is on the left as you drive in roughly where the tennis courts are now. The club will continue to operate as a fully private country club which will service the region as well as, hopefully, attract a fair number of the residents who will be moving into the property. We expect to break ground on site work for this project as early as June, start the building itself in September and finish it in the first quarter of 2007.

Phase III – Residential Development

This phase has not changed much since the presentations you probably saw when we were in for zoning. To be sure, we've been very busy engineering the site (storm water management, utilities, boulevard design, etc.) but we've yet to finalize these plans and submit for land development. The plans still call for a total of 300 units split between condominium and rental types, and between 3 buildings. Final design will follow sometime in the coming 3 months at which point I'd be happy to share with you where the plans have 'landed' so to speak. We envision, and our market analyses still firmly project, that the units will be high end in nature. The views, which will include direct views of downtown Philadelphia, and of the golf course, will be magnificent.

Jim...I hope this helps for your next meeting. We, at Matrix, continue to want to be good neighbors and that starts with good communication. So I appreciate your inviting me to speak to your group. When we have more solid information on the residential development I'd be happy to come to a meeting.

Regards, Charlie Taylor

Cheltenham In Bloom

From our Main Street Manager (and Melrose Parker), Ruth Littner Shaw...

The third annual Cheltenham in Bloom, Cheltenham Township Main Street's premier event for the Elkins Park East and Elkins Park West Commercial Districts kicks off Sunday, May 7.

Inspired by a wildly successful program from the township's twin town Cheltenham, England, the event invites businesses in the districts to compete with the best hanging baskets, window boxes, ornamental plant containers or other floral arrangements that beautify the area from May 7 through 13. The Elkins Park Rotary will serve as the judge and award a prize in each district.

Cheltenham in Bloom starts with an event on Sunday, May 7 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at High School Park, located at High School Road and Montgomery Avenue in Elkins Park. Local eateries will offer food and informational exhibits will examine environmental issues.

In addition, all week shoppers can take advantage of sidewalk sales and special discounts from the Elkins Park East and West businesses while enjoying the beauty of Cheltenham in Bloom. What better way to welcome spring.

At the Yorktown

Also from Ruth Shaw, Cosi Coffee and Restaurant has opened in the Yorktown, and sells especially delicious foods. I have already eaten there three times. While they do not serve alcohol, they serve excellent coffee, on par with the other coffee shop from Seattle (and not the Township), and have many interesting food selections, all yummy. They open at 7:00 am, and close at 10:00 pm weeknights, 11:00 pm weekends. You now can vary your morning commute habits, alternating between Elkins Perk's coffee, Big John's coffee and Cosi coffee, and still support the Elkins Park/Melrose Park commercial areas!

Community Supported Agriculture

Melrose Parkers Bob Tabak and Ruth Loew have been members of community supported agriculture for over three years and have enjoyed fresh berries, cherries, Swiss chard, peas, fresh picked corn, melons, heirloom tomatoes, and other produce--over the season 40-50 different items. Herrcastle Farms is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) family farm in the Lancaster area that delivers a grocery bag or more of fresh produce every week from June to October. They are mainly organic or use minimal pest controls and over the season deliver delicious fruits, veggies, herbs, and fresh cider, depending on what is in season. People pay in advance for a share of the farm's harvest (or two households can share a delivery). Ed and Judy Herrmann deliver what is ripe that week on a weeknight to Melrose Park House (next to the Melrose Park train station) and to other Phila. area locations on other days, including Glenside. Contact Herrcastle at haeusa19@epix.net or phone 717-284-3203.

Community Garden??

Brian Gralnick lives on Mountain Avenue near Prospect. He is very interested in starting a community garden in the area and would like to speak with others that have similar interests. He is more than willing to take the lead on this project. Feel free email him at bgralnick@gmail.com

IS IT TRASH OR TREASURE?

Bring that piece you've been wondering about ---- is it trash or treasure? Find out at the Elkins Park Free Library on Sunday, April 30, 2006, Noon – 4:00 PM

Meet experts in various fields, including glassware, porcelain, antique jewelry, prints, maps, stamps/coins, silver, books, decorative arts:

- Donald Cresswell: rare books, prints, & maps
- Cindy Charleston: 18th & 19th century fine arts & paintings
- Jon Edelman: coins, stamps, paper money, antique jewelry
- Gary Kaufheil: glassware, porcelain, "generalist"
- Walter Ritchie: decorative arts: pottery, porcelain, silver, silverplate, glass

Admission:

- \$10.00/person (in advance) with one piece for evaluation
- \$12.00/person (at door) with one piece for evaluation
- \$5.00 each additional piece
- \$5.00 to attend and browse

They strongly encourage advance registration. Light refreshments will be served. Additional information: call 215-635-3648, or visit www.elkinsparklibrary.org

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR USED BOOK SALES AT THE EP LIBRARY

Pickup Available – Just call 215-635-5000.

WANTED - CD's Video Tapes, Audio Tapes, Vintage Magazines, Comic Books, Software, LP Phonograph Records & ALL KINDS OF BOOKS.

NOT WANTED - Reader's Digest Condensed Books, Old Textbooks & Law Books, Scratched Phonograph Records, Older Encyclopedias, Underlined or Highlighted Books, Partial Sets of Reference Books, Moldy, Water-damaged Books.

All donations of books, videos & CDs are tax-deductible

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 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, maybe with photos, on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org

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