

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 13
From MPNA President – Andy Rudin
September 15, 2005

The News:

Adding email addresses

The more Melrose Park neighbors that receive this emailed newsletter, the stronger our association will be. 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.

Next MPNA Public Meeting is at 7:00pm on Monday, October 10.

Our next public meeting will be in the Community Room at the Elkins Park Free Library starting at 7:00pm on Monday, October 10, 2005. Our community police contact, Sergeant David Hirschbuhl said that he would like to be at all our meetings. I hope he will be able to attend this one. Encourage your friends and neighbors to attend.

Community Policing Issues

As with our May meeting, Sergeant David Hirschbuhl will be at the October 10 meeting. The MPNA directors have a couple questions for him:

- 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?

Joanne Eisensmidts emailed that Gusto Pizza had been defaced by graffiti. She went into the business to ask when they were going to remove it but there was a language barrier. She didn't think that they comprehended what she was talking about. How do we help out? Interested neighbors can email Joanne at jeisensmidts@comcast.net

Bob Schaffer of the 600 block of Elkins Avenue is interested in neighborhood town watch. He may be at our October 10 meeting. Those interested in town watch can email Bob at dart2300@aol.com.

What other concerns do you have? You can bring them to the meeting, or email them to me so I can put them in our agenda.

More on the West Oak Lane Church of God

An organization has formed to fight the building of this church on Ashbourne Road between the Elkins Park Post Office and the Cheltenham School District administration building. The organization is called the Elkins Park Neighbors Association. Their website is www.epna.org/ The next public meeting concerns zoning and will be held at Curtis Hall on September 21, 2005 starting at 7:30pm.

What Happened to Cheltenham High School?

A recent issue of *Philadelphia Magazine* rated the top 50 private and 50 public schools in our region. Cheltenham High School rated 25th out of 50 public schools. The instructional spending per student was \$8,480. Verbal SAT scores averaged 516. Math averaged 537. The average teacher salary was \$68,718. Only five out of the fifty had higher average teacher salaries. Four of those five had higher ratings than Cheltenham. The student to faculty ratio was 14:1. Fifteen of the 24 more highly rated public schools had higher ratios (more students per faculty member). 92% of the students went on to higher education. Ten of the 24 more highly rated schools had higher percentages. Six of the fifty public schools were rated as “underperforming,” and Cheltenham was one of them. The other five were rated poorer than our high school. I was told that Cheltenham once rated fifth.

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

Business in or near Melrose Park

According to Ruth Shaw, the Township Main Street Manager (and Melrose Park resident),

- “The long-awaited Ashbourne Farmers’ Market has an anticipated opening date of October 7. All Township processes have been completed, and they are just awaiting their own contractors’ completion of work.
- “Construction is beginning for business at the Blockbuster location. I have heard that it will be a bank but this is unconfirmed.
- “Plate has opened at Trilogy (read: a great new restaurant has opened at the old Cedarbrook Apartments).
- Don’t forget to patronize (and matronize!) La Terrasse on the Square, in Elkins Park Square (8080 Old York Road).”
- Assistant Township Manager Bryan Havar reports that the Township is in the process of picking a design consultant to transform the commercial services district around the Elkins Park train station.

Celebrations

- The Glenside Street Fair will be held September 24, rain date of September 25, 10-5 along Easton Road in Glenside. This year, there will be live bands for the whole time, more than fifty craft vendors and eight food vendors.
- The fair will be preceded by a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Wesley Plaza in Glenside.
- The Korean Folk Festival will be held September 25 at Russell Park.

More on the Noise from 506 Oak Lane

No recent noise! For resolution of future problems from the other side of Cheltenham Avenue, here is a list of contacts from the area of the City of Philadelphia that joins our neighborhood to the South:

- The area is the 203rd Pennsylvania Legislative District represented by State Representative Dwight Evans. Eric Hardaway of his office was most helpful. His work number is 215-549-0220. His email is ehardawa@pahouse.net.
- The area is the 35th police district of Philadelphia. The 35th is at 5960 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19141-1802 35th operations: 215.686-3350 215.686-3351 FAX: 215.924-9540. Eric Hardaway asked that the 35th's Community Relations Officer visit 506 Oak Lane. That officer is P/O Kathy Thompson (215)-686-3350 Fax is (215)-548-1880.
- The area the 61st Philadelphia ward. Its ward leader is Bob McGowen, who works for [Shirley M. Kitchen](#) (D) 1701 W. Lehigh Ave. Suite 104, Philadelphia, 19132 215-227-6161 or 119 W. Tabor Rd., Philadelphia, 19120 215-457-9033 or email kitchen@dem.pasen.gov
- The area is in Philadelphia's 9th City Council District, represented by Councilwoman Marian Tasco, City Hall, Room 577, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3290, (215) 686-3454 or (215) 686-3455, FAX: (215) 686-1938. Marian.Tasco@phila.gov
- Unfortunately, the area is outside of Cheltenham, but our police can call their police. The Cheltenham Police non-emergency number is 215-884-3200. Sergeant David Hirschbuhl of the Cheltenham community police unit can be emailed at dhirschbuhl@cheltenham-township.org or his phone is number 215-1600 extension 482. He prefers email because he can answer them from home.

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