

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 53

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Monday, November 10, 2008

Eat and Support Your Library at the Same Time

If you eat at the Mio Pomodoro restaurant (formerly Jonathans) at the Jenkintown Train Station tomorrow evening (Tuesday, November 11, 2008), 20% of your meal cost will be donated to the Elkins Park Free Library and other libraries in the Township system. You gotta eat sometime!! Why not eat and support your library at the same time? Reservations for parties of eight or more. The Mio Pomodoro is opens from 4:30pm. Their website is www.miopomodoro.com.

MPNA

Last High School Park Workday Weekend!

This weekend is the last chance this fall to get out in High School Park for our workdays. We still have some work to do before we wrap up the fall season and need YOUR help. Work days are a great opportunity to contribute to you community park and meet some great people. Hope to see you on:

- Saturday, November 15 10-12 noon
- Sunday, November 16 1-3

All work parties begin at the shed, located near Montgomery Avenue. Remember, always wear long pants and long sleeves, and bring work gloves if you have them, otherwise we'll provide them. Your help is always appreciated! For more information, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Gina Craigo at 215-663-5911. MPNA

Review the new Ecological Restoration Master Plan for High School & Ogontz Parks

Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 7:00- 8:30pm Curtis Hall, Church Road & Greenwood Avenue, Wyncote, PA Please attend this important public meeting. Learn about native plant restoration plans, park signage, landscaping & other improvements. Offer your feedback. The plan is a true milestone and will direct our restoration of the parks for the next 10 years! This is a great community achievement. Refreshments will be served. The first 25 people will receive a gift from the Friends of High School Park. For more information please call FHSP 215-782-8082 or email info@fhsp.org

For more information, contact:

Gina Craigo, Admin and Volunteer Coordinator, Friends of High School Park
PO Box 11263, Elkins Park, PA 19027, 215.782.8082, www.highschoolpark.org

MPNA

Volunteers Needed for George Perley Bird Sanctuary Tree and Shrub Planting

- Date: Saturday, November 15th
- Rain date: (downpour only) Sunday, November 16th
- Time: 9am to 4pm
- Come for a few hours or stay all day!
- Bring: Gloves, shovel and a friend!

- Mark all tools with your name!

Cheltenham Township has secured a grant from the Montgomery County Conservation District under the Tree Vitalize Watershed Grant Program. The grant was awarded to the Township in order to enhance and improve the riparian buffer along Tookany Creek in the George Perley Bird Sanctuary (Rices Mill Road and Glenside Avenue).

The enhancements will include planting native trees and shrubs along the creek. These additional plantings will help to improve the quality of our creek water by filtering out pollutants as well as help to slow the creek water during flood events. These goals are part of our "Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan". For more information about the plan, check out the Township website at www.cheltenhamtownship.org

Please come and help plant the riparian buffer. No experience is needed! We will teach you how to plant the trees and shrubs. All of the plants are "volunteer friendly"-- so young, old and anyone in-between can volunteer. Bring family, friends and neighbors! The more volunteers we have, the faster the work will be completed and the sooner, our healthy buffer will start growing.

NO Registration—just show up! If you have any questions about the planting, please contact Barb Duffy at 215-885-1506. **Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council** MPNA

Melrose Park Traffic Problem Analysis by Dawn Devenny

The following email is from Dawn Deveney, who is very interested in traffic in Melrose Park. Her email is chris_dev@comcast.net.

"Hi Andrew,

I just wanted to give you an update to pass along regarding the troublesome intersections in the neighborhood. I started last year by gathering info from the MPNA about which intersections felt "unsafe".

Intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Union (crossing the bridge toward Myers Elementary). The stop sign is back a few feet and the bushes on the property there make it hard to see left. You have to pull your car into the intersection to see left and usually pray that you do not get hit by a Septa bus! I took recommendations to the public safety meetings (as advised by Commissioner Mike Swavola) to put a 4 way stop sign there and/or create an ordinance requiring residents to keep bushes trimmed. (This would also help with the troublesome bamboo on the corner property of Lafayette & Ashbourne).

Intersection of West and Melrose - dangerous for the children because of speeding cars. Recommendation - 4 way stop sign/speed bump.

Exiting the MP Train Station (Northbound side) - impossible to see left as the brick wall blocks all sight. Recommendation: Convex Traffic Safety mirror placed across the street so sight is clear.

The first two intersections: According to Deputy Chief O'Brien of Cheltenham police Highway Safety Patrol - both intersections meet the Federal Guideline measurements for sight distance allowance and are posted 25mph zones. Therefore they will not place a four-way stop sign/speed bump. They would like to remind all citizens to adhere to the 25mph speed limit because in those two zones it should allow enough "reaction time" to oncoming cars, people crossing the street, etc. And they have also asked the neighbors at 7700 Union to trim the bushes back.

Exiting the Melrose Park Train Station - the Highway Safety Patrol and Public Works are in fact going to formally submit traffic pattern recommendations to SEPTA since they own that property. If SEPTA does not respond and/or make the necessary changes then Cheltenham Twp will post it as a right turn only intersection.

He also said that the police will continue to monitor these specific intersections.

Lessons learned:

1) The Federal Guidelines will not necessarily allow for stop signs where speeding is the real issue.

- 2) The Township is vehemently opposed to stop signs for aesthetic reasons ("we do not want to look like the city").
- 3) The chances of an ordinance requiring bushes to be trimmed/removed is slim to none as it would be "incredibly hard" to enforce.
- 4) Public Safety meetings can be long!" MPNA

A New Melrose Park Blog

Kevin Derr of Crest Avenue has just set up a Melrose Park Blog at Wordpress. The address is <http://melrosepark.wordpress.com/> He thought with winter coming on this might be a way for the neighborhood to chat without being outside, though, he says he would rather see people outside and talking, thought the blog might be useful. It would also be a place to post upcoming events and such.

Kevin goes on to say, "The whole thing is designed to be interactive. A place to carry on a conversation that is public. So, a topic is posted, and then people can comment raise other issues and the like. The first topic I posted was what would be a nice addition to the community. Now people can chime in and say, this is what I would like to see.... You can stop by the web site and see what is going on, you can also subscribe to receive any thing posted on the page. Either way, the simplest is to stop by the web page, the idea is to have people come back and leave comments, respond to what others have said and so on."

Kevin Derr - hkderr@gmail.com MPNA

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. The dates for the coming book sales are:
November 22-23, 2008 and...
January 10-11, February 21-22, March 21-22, April 18-19 and May 16-17, 2009 MPNA

This Newsletter

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

MPNA memberships

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

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 MPNA

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