

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 27

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

January 11, 2007

News from Ruth Shaw, our Main Street Manager

Ruth writes, “With no promises, we are proceeding along for both a glatt kosher restaurant (that means all levels of observant Jews will be comfortable eating there) – Max and David’s – in the Yorktown and a Thai restaurant in Elkins Park Square. HOPEFULLY they will both open in the early spring.

“In terms of the proposed streetscape improvements, there was a public meeting at the EP Library on November 29 and the meeting was well-attended by the community. The draft design was presented and reviewed. Comments made by the public were gathered and many were incorporated into the next draft design. Another public meeting will be held (date and time to be announced) to display that design. The current draft concept is available for review and comment at The Frame House and at Elkins Perk, both on High School Road in the Elkins Park East Commercial District. Enjoy lunch at the Little Dipper, Middle East Take-out or Opa Pizza while there!”

More on Trees from Cheltenham Township

Assistant Township Manager Bryan Havir calls our attention to a Tree Vitalize training program to learn how to take care of trees. The Township was awarded a grant for up to 150 street trees to be planted along the 1½ mile section of Cheltenham Avenue between Old York Road and Tookany Parkway. The trees will be planted by a contractor, but the Township wants the West Oak Lane Tree Tenders and the MPNA to take care of them.

The training includes information on tree biology, urban stresses on trees, tree identification, basic pruning and root care, planting and community organizing. The closest of the six sessions is at Temple Ambler on three Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 pm, April 17 and 24 and May 1, 2007. For more information, call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844 or choose “Tree Tenders Training” at www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org, where you can register as well. Bryan would like a copy of your registration form. Send it to Bryan Havir, Assistant Township Manager, Cheltenham Township, 8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589 215-887-6200, ext. 112; 215-887-1561 fax; bhavir@cheltenham-township.org email.

Tidbit of Trivia

Back in the dial telephone days, the prefix number 635- meant “ME 5” for Melrose 5.

Looking for Community Members for the 2007 Citizens Police Academy

The Cheltenham Police will be holding their fourth Citizens Police Academy to be held in March 2007. This is a great opportunity to get a first-hand look at the Police Department policies, procedures, training and equipment during (9) two-hour evening classes. The 10th week will culminate in a graduation ceremony. Coordinated by the Community Policing Unit, the academy offers instruction from more than a dozen officers in topics like crime scene investigation, car stops, narcotics investigations, K-9 unit, ethics, SWAT, terrorism awareness and prevention, and more. Local district justices even staged mock criminal and civil trials to depict the last link in the law enforcement chain.

The Citizens Police Academy is part of the department’s mission to build stronger connections between Cheltenham Township Residents and the Township Police.

Academy objectives include:

- ◆ Providing information about police policies, procedures, special skills, training requirements, tools of the trade and more.
- ◆ Fostering an awareness and understanding of the police environment.
- ◆ Explaining both criminal and civil aspects of the judicial system and how constitutional constraints affect law enforcement.
- ◆ Teaching civilians to be more observant of their surroundings to increase their awareness of illegal activity and to effectively report this activity to police.
- ◆ Creating a pool of potential volunteers for the Auxiliary Police and Town Watch programs.

The Citizens Police Academy's fourth term will run on Thursdays from March 15 2007 to May 17th 2007, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Cheltenham Township Police Station, located at 8230 Old York Road in Elkins Park. The Police Department is now seeking private funding assistance for the program since the federal grant that underwrote last year's session is not available.

To get an application. or make a contribution, Cheltenham Residents are urged to contact

Sgt. John P. Slavin #929
Community Policing Unit Supervisor
Cheltenham Township Police Department
215 885-1600 ext. 482
email: johnslavin@cheltenham-township.org

What is Happening at Myers School

Perhaps you read in the *Times Chronicle* about what is happening (or, better, not happening) at Meyers Elementary School. The cost estimates for the renovations have increased from \$13 million to \$20 million. Meanwhile, the cost to house the students in the temporary classrooms at the Elkins Park Middle School is \$48,000 per month. The duration of the renovation project has increased from 18 months to two years.

The next public facilities committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 16 at 8pm in Room 119. The architect is supposed to attend. The board will meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 23 in the auditorium. Meetings are held at the school administration building at Washington Lane and Ashbourne Road. The main phone number there is 215-886-9500. A list of school district phone numbers is at

<http://www.cheltenham.org/sdct/cwp/view.asp?a=2&q=415929>

Administration emails are at http://www.cheltenham.org/sdct/lib/sdct/Administration_addresses.pdf

More Email Addresses Would Be Great

The more neighbors we have on this email list, the better. So, please encourage your neighbors to email their addresses to me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net. We do not share our email list.

Donations Needed for Library Book Sales

What to do with all those books in the basement! Pickup is 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 book sales are Friday through Sunday, starting on the following Fridays at 1pm on January 12, February 23, March 23, April 10 and May 18, 2007.

Half price sales start June 1st and the final \$5 per bag sale starts June 8th.

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 household. 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

###