

# MPNA News

## The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

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Volume 2 – Number 39

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Wednesday, October 25, 2007

### Stream Bank Planting this coming Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

Barb Duffy emails: Hello Tookany Watershed Supporters!

Reminder: This Saturday, Oct, 27th 9am to 4pm at Wall Park-- Riparian Buffer Planting!

Bring a shovel and some friends!

Great for Community Service hours and Cedarbrook Middle School extra credit in science!

Spread the word we need many volunteers-- even if you can only come for a few hours!

*No experience necessary, the plants are volunteer friendly.*

*Please forward this message to anyone you think might be interested.*

Hope to see you at Wall Park!

Thanks, Barb Duffy, Chair, Cheltenham's Environmental Advisory Council

### Addition to an MPNA Public Meeting Answer

Tom Carboni emailed that he would like to add to what I had written as the answer to question six. Here again is the original sixth question and my summary of the answers, followed by Tom's addition:

*6. Would you explore the possibility installing more stop signs or traffic controls on various little-used, maddening, intersections? (for example, Valley & Mountain. and Valley and Coventry.)*

Mike said that Coventry and Valley was considered a serious problem and that the four-way stop sign should be installed within a month or so. Montgomery and Union was also brought up, and Mike said that was a problem with a property owner keeping bushes cut back. He said he would once again approach the owner to get the visibility improved at that intersection. Both candidates pointed out that speed bumps are not practical because of liability issues from possible resulting accidents, snow plows hitting them and emergency vehicles having to bump over them.

Tom's additional information is, "I have the following comment concerning Question 6. I am in favor of installing speed bumps at specific, very hazardous 2-way or 4-way intersections on low speed (i.e., < 35 MPH) local roads where drivers frequently ignore the stop sign. My example intersection that I brought up during the meeting is Valley Road and Sharpless Road (where I live). At this intersection Valley Road has stop signs while Sharpless Road has the right of way (no stop sign). My neighbors and I constantly observe vehicles traveling on Valley Road not stopping or sometimes not even slowing down for the stop sign, thus creating a hazardous condition for vehicles and sometimes pedestrians traveling on Sharpless Rd. My solution would be to install speed bumps on Valley Road ~ 20 feet before the stop sign and/or painted stop bar (there are no stop bars at this intersection, but should be). This approach has been used very successfully at low speed local streets in developments and problem intersections with good success and is a good deterrent for violators (i.e. misalignments, damaged shocks/rims). The purpose of placing the speed bump ~20 feet before the stop sign/bar is to allow both wheels of the vehicle to clear the bump before actually having to stop and then proceed through the intersection.

I did mention some of the drawbacks to this solution such as snow plows operations (they do plow parking lot and development roads successfully where speed bumps are commonly placed) or emergency vehicles during a response (they would eventually know where the bumps are and proceed with caution).

I do not agree entirely with Mike's opinion about liability since drivers are required maintain control of their vehicles at all times and obey traffic signs. I believe he was thinking about speed bumps on long stretches of roads (such as Ashbourne Road) rather than at stop condition intersections.”

## Intersection of Montgomery and Union

Dawn Devenny emailed, “I spoke to Mike Swavola and I was wondering if you could forward this info in the next newsletter?”

“Mike would like anyone who is concerned about the intersection of Union and Montgomery to please attend the next Public Safety meeting on November 7th. The meeting will be held at 8:30pm at the Township building. He said that Public Safety responds positively when many voices are heard.

“He is trying to get an ordinance put in place that would require residents to cut back/remove bushes that have become sight issues at certain intersections. There is currently no way to "require" that these residents do so. Mike has personally addressed many of the intersection problems with the owners of such properties. Some of the residents have trimmed the bushes back but have to be constantly reminded that they bushes can cause serious sight issues (and possible accidents) if not kept at bay - and, more disturbingly, some of these residents have just refused. Mike was particular in saying that each intersection would have to be looked at on a case by case basis, as he is not a fan of cutting down mature trees or destroying landscaping. But like the intersection of Union and Montgomery - the simple removal of just ONE bush would open up a whole new sight line and could possibly save lives.”

## How to Complain to Cheltenham Township

Ellen Hart of Crest Avenue wants the 400 block of Cheltenham Avenue cleaned up. Several of us went for a walk there, including Ruth Shaw, Melrose Park neighbor and Main Street Manager. She emailed the following information to Ellen:

"For any sidewalk infraction: write an email or a letter to Nick Gallo ([ngallo@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:ngallo@cheltenham-township.org)) as he is the Sidewalk Guru. Rudy also said that individual properties are not marked for violation; rather, the entire block is marked for violation. That means that all of the properties on that block will get a notice regarding the condition of the sidewalk and that it needs to be brought up to code. This policy has been in place for at least a decade.

For any trash violation IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: as a resident, you can go into the store and request that the store owner remove it, citing poor business practice or however you feel. So long as the trash is not the property/business owner's (e.g., it was dumped there by someone other than the property/business owner—then s/he has to remove it), if they do not remove it, you can write an email or letter to Mark McDonnell ([mmcdonnell@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:mmcdonnell@cheltenham-township.org)) as he is the Public Works Guru and the Public Works Department will pick it up when they pass that way. Attach a photograph of the bags in the public right-of-way.

For any sign violations: write an email or letter to David M. Lynch, Director, Engineering, Zoning and Inspections ([dlynch@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:dlynch@cheltenham-township.org)) as he is the Enforcement Agent for illegal signage. Attach photographs of the problems.

For increased visibility for the signage into Melrose Park Playground Park and (clean steps): write an email or letter to John Hoover, Director of Parks & Recreation. Attach a photograph of the condition of the sign.

For trash on private property: write an email or a letter to Zeke Blahy ([mblahy@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:mblahy@cheltenham-township.org)) as he is the Property Maintenance Ordinance Guru and he will determine if a violation notice can go out. Attach a photo of those properties which you would like him to see."

## What you can get from the Elkins Park Free Library

Your library card is worth more than your credit card. From our local library, you can get:

- Books
- Magazines
- VHS and DVD videos
- Cassette and CD audio books and music
- Ancestry.com
- Connected to the Internet via many computers
- Help with research

From the Montgomery County Library, using your library card, you can get:

- Learning Express Library, which is a comprehensive, interactive online learning platform of practice tests and tutorial course series
- *Ask Here PA* is Pennsylvania's new statewide live chat reference service and is a free service to all residents of Pennsylvania, offering live chat reference 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
- Databases on art, auto repair, biography, business, children's resources, education, find-a-book, general reference (my personal favorite is Ebsco Host, and there are seven others), health and science, literature, and one for newspapers, magazines and websites
- Audio books (Audio-to-Go) downloadable onto your personal player
- The list goes on.

The Elkins Park Free Library website is [www.cheltenhamlibraries.org/elkins\\_park/elkins\\_park.php](http://www.cheltenhamlibraries.org/elkins_park/elkins_park.php)

The Friends of the Elkins Park Free Library website is [www.elkinsparklibrary.org](http://www.elkinsparklibrary.org)

A list of activities at all Township libraries is at [www.cheltenhamlibraries.org/library\\_events.php](http://www.cheltenhamlibraries.org/library_events.php)

## The 2008 Entertainment Book is here

Support the Friends of the Elkins Park Free Library! Buy your 2008 Entertainment savings book!

Everybody knows the ENTERTAINMENT BOOK - full of 50% and 2-for-1 discounts on restaurants, movies, sporting events and more. Books are super easy to use - people enjoy saving money while supporting a good cause! Fundraiser supporters can purchase the Entertainment book at \$5 less than regular retail price.

- Cost -- \$25 (Checks payable to Friends of EP Free Library)
- Can be used immediately
- Available at the circulation desk in the library
- Dine...Shop...Travel....SAVE up to 50%
- Quickly pays for itself with hundreds of exclusive offers.
- Available for cities all over the USA – send them as gifts
- Get One Free when you sell 5 Entertainment books online
  - Our group's number is 876487
  - Log on to the Seller's Section at [fundraising.entertainment.com](http://fundraising.entertainment.com)

For questions or orders, contact Norma (215-635-1771, pm) or by email at [mrotman2@comcast](mailto:mrotman2@comcast)

## 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:

October 26-28, 2007

November 30 - December 2, 2007

January 18-20, 2008  
February 22-24, 2008  
March 28-30, 2008  
April 25-27, 2008  
May 30-31, 2008  
June 13-26, 2008 (liquidation sales)

## **This Newsletter**

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto: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. The membership cycle is the calendar year.

## **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](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net). This newsletter is available or will be soon, maybe with photos, on our website – [www.melroseparkneighbors.org](http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org)

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