

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 23

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

October 26, 2006

Voting is at Myers Elementary School on November 7, 2006

If you voted at Meyers Elementary School in past elections, you should vote there again this November. Even though the school is closed for renovations, the work won't begin until after the elections. Nancy Gibson, our Township Information Officer, says that the voting next spring will be moved temporarily to the Elkins Park Elementary School. Mike Swavola says voting will be held in the modular classrooms set up there for Myers students until the renovation is finished.

More, and Larger Fish Spotted in Mill Run

Terri Taylor wrote on October 7, 2006, "Andy! Great news: Steve was cleaning up the stream today and saw three fish--two of them were at least 6 inches!" If you don't think this is big news, remember that this section of the stream was declared as incapable of supporting life just four years ago.

More on Mill Run's Water Quality

The most recent tests by the Philadelphia Water Department were done on June 20, 2006 at the outfall at Coventry and Cheltenham and again about fifty feet downstream toward Valley. These results of tests of the water at the outfall and 50 feet downstream are as follows:

At the outfall	0.31	5,100
50 feet downstream	0.36	5,700

According to Joanne Dahme of the PWD, the larger number is fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml., which is virtually always an order of magnitude higher than the number of E. coli bacteria. The smaller number is fluoride in mg/l which that PWD uses as an indicator of drinking water (either directly through leaks or through flushing of toilets) influence since pure drinking water is controlled at 1.00 mg/l and pure ground water is in the range of 0.2 - 0.3. So, you can still see that there is some contamination.

If you have any complaints about water quality, please make sure to contact the DEP Southeast Regional Office. The individual's name that takes calls about pollution incidents (actual or suspected) is JoAnn Ache, (484) 250-5991. And you can also call 911, if you think the pollution needs immediate attention.

History of Mill Run

Mill Run originally drained water from a lake just across Cheltenham Avenue from Lakeside Avenue in North Philadelphia. That lake was surrounded by apartments that were called Lakeside Apartments until about ten years ago when the name was changed to Melrose Station Apartments. There was a gazebo on the lake on which bands played during the summer. Trolley trains rumbled

by on rails in Cheltenham Avenue. The point is that Mill Run is a fresh water stream. The lake was filled in during the early 1900s, and more apartment buildings were built on top of the fill.

What's Happening Near Coventry House?

You may have seen long, sausage-shaped pillows installed along the banks of Mill Run. Township staff contacted Coventry House. The management there said they had they had pollution detecting absorbers installed to detect oil that leaked from the underground fuel oil tank that they have removed. The tests are required by the DEP. There has been a rather loud pumping truck there from time to time, apparently pumping out wells that collect the leaked oil. So, they are just trying to find out if the pumping of their wells is keeping oil from going into Mill Run, which is all for the good.

New Community Policing Contact

Sergeant Dave Hirshbuhl has been re-assigned within the Cheltenham Police Department. Our new Community Police contact is Sergeant John Slavin. His non-emergency phone is 215-885-1600 ext. 482. His email is johnslavin@cheltenham-township.org.

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.

SEPTA Station Celebration Planned

You may remember MPNA's celebration of the new SEPTA train station for Melrose Park. Well, SEPTA is going to have theirs on Friday, November 17, starting at 7am and ending around 10:30 or 11am. I think they are interested mostly in showing appreciation to the commissioners and MPNA folks that helped make the new station a reality. They did say they would have some "gifts" for morning riders getting on at Melrose Park. Cool!

Environmental Action Committee

As one result of the Community Power Conference held last month at Arcadia University, there seems to be some interest in forming an Environmental Action Committee. Other townships have them, but we don't. An EAC tries to move the township to make environmentally-sound long-range policies. If you are interested in this, please email me.

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 – **tomorrow**, October 27, December 1, 2006 and 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 Sheckman, 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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