

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 40

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Monday, November 14, 2007

Burglary at 7539 Mill Road

Right after I sent out our latest MPNAlert (#13 on November 9, 2007) Christos Christou emailed,

“Our home at 7539 Mill Road was burglarized November 9, 2007 while we were out between 5:15 and 8:45pm. They used a ladder to access the second floor and took a small and strange assortment of things. Please alert the neighborhood to this break in and caution against keeping any ladders or other tools hidden out in the yard. No one was hurt, thank God.

“The police and a Detective from the CPD came to our house after we called 911. They made a report and they checked for fingerprints. One of the stolen items was an important piece of a equipment (a Garmin GPS), stolen from our pilot friend that is visiting from Africa, with important flight information that is useless here in the US. It is so unfortunate and sad that this has occurred. That's about it. We are trying to recover from it all and I hope that our neighborhood does not experience more burglaries.”

I emailed Sergeant John Slavin about this burglary. He replied,

“Please update the alert info to include securing 2nd floor areas. Advise everyone to secure 2nd floor windows and doors. Second floor entry is suspected in a few of the breakins. In addition, residents are reminded to remove ladders etc from next to their homes. Burglars often look for ladders and tools that can help them gain access to a house and as always, report suspicious activity immediately to Police.”

Look out for these thieves. They are active in our neighborhood. Call 9-1-1 to report suspicious behavior.

Troublesome Intersections

Notice that we have a few new 4-way stop intersections. Dawn Devenny emailed to say that Mike Swavola wanted all of us to compile a list of the specific intersections that are still troublesome in Melrose Park. If anyone has any input they can email it to her and she will present it to Mike at an upcoming Public Safety meeting. Reply to dawndev@comcast.net

Farmers' Market in Glenside

Open Saturdays May 5th through December 15th, 9 AM to 1 PM, at the Glenside Train Station. From their website...

“On Saturday, November 17th - When it rains, it pours! Stop by the market on the 17th, and try for a chance to win your own rain barrel to catch it in! We will be featuring special guest Sue Harris, who will be doing a workshop on rain barrels. Sue is the Montgomery County Watershed Specialist, and comes to us from the Montgomery County Conservation district office in Collegeville, PA. Not only will she be able to enlighten us on the practice of using a water barrel, and answering your questions, but she will be raffling off a free rain barrel! Please stop by and check it out.”

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

A Weavers' Way Co-op in Elkins Park?

The following is from the 11-07 e-newsletter of the Weavers Way Co-op in Mt. Airy and was referred to me by two Melrose Parkers:

“We are working with neighbors in Elkins Park to explore the possibility of helping them open a new co-op in that neighborhood. Want to find out more? We'll be holding a meeting to discuss the possibilities at Elkins Park Library, corner of Old York and Church Roads, Elkins Park, on Wednesday, December 12, from 7- 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Weavers Way Co-op : 559 Carpenter Lane Philadelphia, PA 19119 info@weaversway.coop PH. 215-843-2350 Mon-Fri 9-8 Sat-Sun 9-6”

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) 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) 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) 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) 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.

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

For questions or orders, contact Norma (215-635-1771, pm) or by email at 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:

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

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. This newsletter is available or will be soon, maybe with photos, on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org

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