

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 17

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

November 27, 2005

History of Cheltenham and Camp William Penn

Bill Chambres assures us all that Camp William Penn is not going to continue live in the fog of the past. Bill is the Editor-in-Chief of the Historic La Mott Web site (www.historic-lamott-pa.com). Bill emailed, “The site will be loaded with the names of the nearly 11,000 men trained at Camp William Penn. These names will be in a searchable database by last name, first name, regiment, and regimental company. It will also list all of those killed or wounded in action.

“Additionally, other information pertinent to these men and the general Cheltenham Avenue area has already been researched, written and is ready for inclusion on the site. Once this is done, the entire site will be burned onto CDs or DVDs and these disks will be shipped free or charge and royalty free so that they may be copied and distributed, to all of the 501 School districts in PA. Disks will also go to each of the State Historical Societies; all of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities; each of the State Senators and Representatives; and each of the PA Senators in Washington. All toll, slightly more than 1,000 of these packages will be given out so that the entire State can begin to become aware of this area.”

Bulbs and Trees Planted at Melrose Park Train Station

Albert reports that, “On Thursday, October 27th, members of Melrose Park Neighbors Association got together and planted dozens of Spring bulbs. Ricki Lent purchased the flowers on our behalf, with MPNA funds. Then we planted dozens of tulips and daffodils, which should produce a lovely display after the snows melt. Those participating included Ricki Lent, Lynne Bloom, Gene Silver, Mike Swavola and Albert Fried-Cassorla. We also did an experiment – planting three redbud saplings. These had been grown by several neighbors to help beautify the neighborhood. We are uncertain as to whether they trees will survive. Roots were preserved to whatever extend possible, but small roots and surrounding soil had to be eliminated. Two saplings were planted on the northbound side of the MPNA station, and one on the southbound side.”

Mill Run

Alex Posmontier is the fourth high school student to study Mill Run with me. He is doing tests on the water right now, as part of a science fair project. Interestingly, in Mill Run by the golf course near where Mill Run empties into Tacony Creek by the fire training tower, we found a Caddisfly larva, which is a Class 1 sensitive organism found in good quality water (Order Trichoptera). Also, I put three minnows, which are plentiful down there, into water coming out of the outfall near Cheltenham Avenue. I assume the water is least healthy by the outfall at Coventry and Cheltenham, and most healthy as it flows by the golf course. The minnows lived for a week, and were still very, very active when I released them by the outfall. This was my idea, not Alex's. Alex's project studies bottom living insects and water chemistry only.

World Fair Day

For your datebook: May 21, 2006 will be World Fair Day a High School Park. Cindy Goldberg is involved.

Cheltenham Emergency Management

Ken Hellendall emailed to say, "I am a resident of Melrose Park and Cheltenham's Emergency Management Coordinator. If your group would be interested in a short power point presentation on what the Emergency Management team is doing, please let me know and we can work out a time. Thanks, and as a fellow Melrose Parker – Keep up the great work. Ken Hellendall, 215-635-7498 – Home." Perhaps we could see his presentation at our next neighbors meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board Meetings about the New Church on Ashbourne Road

Karin Helstrom of the Elkins Park Neighbors Association (www.epna.org) association writes:

"We do not know how many meetings will be required to complete this appeal, but it is likely to run through December. The Township calendar schedules Zoning Hearing Board meetings twice each month. Time consuming appeals are usually heard on the second date. Each month the Board will announce the date and place of the next meeting, but most likely the meetings will be at Curtis Hall on Wednesday - December 21. When the hearings are completed, the Board will have 45 days to issue its decision."

Petition about Scouts and Gays

David Flacks is organizing a petition drive to get Cheltenham to "honor its non-discrimination laws and suspend its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America, the Cradle of Liberty Council (the local chapter of the BSA) and all affiliated troops, and decline use of Township facilities, until such time as the BSA and Cradle of Liberty Council publicly and credibly end their policy of excluding gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and nontheistic youth and adults."

He says that the meeting of the Commissioners is fast approaching (Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm), and I'd like to get all of our signed petitions to the township manager by this coming Friday. If you are interested in supporting his effort, check out <http://new.PetitionOnline.com/chelttpw/petition.html>.

This Newsletter

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

Ashbourne Farmers' Market

The Ashbourne Farmers' Market has now opened. Pizza shop, book and magazine store, lots of fresh meats, fish, produce, and much more. Joyce and I have twice had sushi from the store on the corner. It is excellent, and a meal for the two of us is only about \$8.

MPNA memberships

Membership in MPNA helps pay for plantings, signage, and many other things. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, \$20 per family. 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