

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 43

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Monday, February 18, 2008

A meeting about community improvements near the Elkins Park SEPTA station:

Caryl Levin emailed, "I love the newsletter and the idea of the blog where the community can be interactive. How about including information in the Newsletter about the meeting about improvements to the area around Elkins Park station which will take place in the community room of the EP Library on Feb. 25 at 7:00.

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How about a Block Party at High School Park?

Another idea from Caryl Levin. She emailed, "I suggest an event -- block party, pot luck at High School Park this summer -- something just for people who live in Melrose Park to see each other and connect. We have had a block party at our house for the last 13 years and so (almost) everyone on the 900 block of Stratford knows everyone else. I think Melrose Ave. has one too. Probably other blocks. Maybe this summer a "block party" at High School Park would be fun. If you are interested in this email me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net.

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Earth Day 2008 is coming soon!

Earth Day is April 19, 2008. This year the Melrose Park Neighbors Association will be working around the Melrose Park SEPTA train station to beautify the floral beds there. We will be doing this only on Saturday morning, starting around 10am and we will finish by noon or 1pm. Gene Silver will be coordinating our effort. His contact information is genesilver@msn.com or 215-635-1874.

Barb Duffy emailed the following information about the bigger picture for township-side activities. The Cheltenham EAC is starting to plan Cheltenham Township's April 2008 "Earth Week".

1.) We will start our Earth Week off with many "**Earth Day Projects**" which will happen on **Saturday, April 19th** all over the township.

- Earth Day projects may include trash cleanups, gardening or buffer plantings, storm drain labeling or any hands-on project your community group comes up with that directly improves our environment in Cheltenham Township. (All projects will be approved by Township officials.)
- Who hosts these projects? Any community group or neighborhood or individual in our Township. Last year the following groups participated: Rotary Club, EP and CHS students cleaned up along Tookany Parkway, neighbors of Parkview Park picked up at that township park, Cub Scout Troop #38 gathered trash at Glenside Elementary School, Girl Scout troops spruced up at the Klienheinz Pond, Custis Woods-Twickenham Civic Association beautified the Laverock Garden, Melrose Neighborhood Association planted at Melrose Train Station, Girl Scout Cadette Troop #187 glued labels on storm drains in Cheltenham Village and the Friends of High School Park hosted a planting at their park. Plus plantings, cleanups and water monitoring went on at the local schools the week of April 16th. We welcome last year's groups to pitch in again this year, as well as new groups!
- The Township prints thousands of fliers to encourage Cheltenham residents and students to participate in these projects, plus publicized the events on Channel 42, on their website and in Township publications.

- **How can you help? Let me know if you, your community group, or neighborhood would like to host an Earth Day Project. Or just show up to participate in one of the advertised projects, check the Township website in early April for a detailed list of projects.**

2.) We will help celebrate **Arbor Day** in Cheltenham Township on **Friday, April 25th at 10:00 am in Ralph Morgan Park.**

- A native tree will be planted in the park in honor of our 20th anniversary of celebrating Arbor Day and for being recognized as a "Tree City USA" community. Local elementary school students will help plant the tree and share poems about the importance and beauty of trees.
- **How can you help? Come on out to Ralph Morgan Park and show your support!**

3.) We will be helping to organize and promote our **2nd Annual 2008 Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 26th at Cedarbrook Middle School!**

- Our 1st annual Earth Day Festival was a great success! We had close to 1000 people attending! We hope to top that this year!
- Planning by the Cedarbrook M. S. students has already started with their "Tookany Creek Watershed Projects" underway guided by teachers, Earth Force and other partners.
- The Earth Day Festival theme this year will be "Our Watershed", with the students' watershed projects being showcased.
- The festival will include other environmental displays and vendors, as well as food and music. Each of our EAC subcommittees (Energy, Buildings, Transportation and Watershed) will provide updates on ongoing or future projects, as well as educational materials to continue to promote us as a Green Sustainable Community.
- **How can you help? Come to our organizational meetings and volunteer to get the 2008 Earth Day Festival up and running! If you can't help out then mark your calendar now and plan to attend our great event. Our 1st public planning meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13th at 8 Hewett Road, Wyncote (6pm).**

Our Earth Week is only three months away! Let me know how you can help! You can contact me at beduffy@comcast.net or call me at 215-885-1506!

Thanks, Barb Duffy

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Summary of Mill Run Water Quality Data

The Philadelphia Water Department has spent over \$1,000,000 to remediate the pollution in Mill Run, the stream the flows along Coventry Avenue and New Second Street before it joins Tacony Creek by the fire tower on Tacony Creek Parkway. Fluoride indicates the presence of drinking water, which is treated with fluoride. The fecal count is the number of colonies of bacteria in the sample. An ocean beach in New Jersey can be closed if the count exceeds 200 per 100 ml of water. The PWD continues to test water at the beginning of Mill Run at the outfall at Cheltenham and Coventry. And we continue to report the results:

Philadelphia Water Department Lab Analysis of Water at Outfall

Date	Time	Location	Flouride (mg/l)	Fecal Count (#/100ml)
3/26/2007	11:40	Outfall: 7th & Cheltenham	0.14	280
5/22/2007	10:50	Outfall: 7th & Cheltenham	0.19	2500
9/25/2007	11:05	Outfall: 7th & Cheltenham	0.31	21000

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Vote for a Sustainable Cheltenham Township

The following was brought to my attention by Lorna Rosenberg. The Philadelphia Sustainability Awards are the first-ever awards in the Philadelphia region to recognize those who are leading the way to a more sustainable future. Businesses, non-profits, community organizations, individuals, schools and government agencies in the region are invited to submit nominations. Applicants demonstrate many aspects of sustainability. Nominees will be judged by a panel of [distinguished jurors](#). Each has extensive knowledge of Philadelphia and/or sustainability issues. Finalists will be highlighted and the winners will be announced at the [Philadelphia Sustainability Awards Ceremony](#) on March 3rd at the Philadelphia Flower Show!

Cheltenham Township is one of the finalists in this competition. If you would like to cast your vote to make Cheltenham a winner, go to <http://www.philadelphiasustainabilityawards.org/node/347> If that isn't the exact page, look for "From Century to Century – A Sustainable Cheltenham." The highest score is 5/5 in a drop-down menu. Vote as many times as you would like. If you have questions, you can contact Lorna at 215-635-6655.

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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

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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:

February 22-24, 2008 (**This coming weekend**)

March 28-30, 2008

April 25-27, 2008

May 30-31, 2008

June 13-26, 2008 (liquidation sales)

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This Newsletter

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

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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.

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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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