

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 50

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Saturday, May 24, 2008

The SEPTA Bridge between Mill and Mountain

I know... two newsletters in one day... but, some neighbors want a wider distribution of a solicitation of opinion from our township's governance about the bridge over the SEPTA tracks connecting Mill and Mountain. MPNA is not taking any position on this, other than the letter probably should have been distributed more widely. For example, MPNA was never received a letter even though we are a neighborhood association and have helped to beautify the areas nearby the bridge with flowers and bushes. We had also forwarded complaints about the bridge from neighbors to the Township and SEPTA. I also never received the letter personally, even though I use the bridge once in a while.

The bridge is controversial.

Many neighbors think the bridge is ugly, poorly-maintained, a magnet for graffiti, drug and alcohol use, and so on. Other neighbors think that the bridge is used enough to justify its existence and upkeep, especially when the original Myers Elementary School becomes used again. Without the bridge, some students who walk to Meyers School would have to cross Valley twice down by the SEPTA station. Lots of cars speed by there.

By the way, a young person, maybe a Tyler student, apparently jumped in front of a SEPTA train near this bridge around 10pm on April 10th and died. I have not seen any reference this in the papers, but there were a bunch of fire engines down there, and trains were backed up for quite a while into the night.

So, there are benefits and drawbacks to having the bridge. With that in mind, I scanned the letter sent to some neighbors near the bridge. If you have an opinion, the deadline is May 30, 2008 to express it to the Township. Here is the letter:

May 16, 2008

FROM: Michael Swavola and David Kraynik

TO: All Residents the vicinity of the SEPTA Bridge between Mill Road and Mountain Avenue

RE: SEPTA Pedestrian Bridge between Mill Road and Mountain Avenue

Dear Fellow Resident:

The Township had recently contacted SEPTA regarding the condition of the above-referenced pedestrian bridge. SEPTA has agreed to make some improvements to the bridge including removal of graffiti, steel repairs at both ends of the bridge, concrete repairs, replacement of some plastic panels at both ends of the bridge with chain link fencing to improve visibility. SEPTA indicated that the graffiti will be removed as soon as possible and that the other work items indicated above will be done no later than October 1, 2008.

SEPTA has asked the Township to gauge the community's position regarding the future of the pedestrian bridge and has expressed a willingness to remove the bridge if the nearby community supports it. Please give us your feedback by responding to the attached survey. You can return the enclosed form to the Township or answer the questions via e-mail to

afelix@cheltenhamtownship.org

Please respond by **May 30, 2008**. We thank you in advance for your input and cooperation,

Michael Swavola
David Kraynik

MPNA

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

MPNA

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:

May 30-31, 2008 (**NEXT WEEKEND**)

June 13-26, 2008 (liquidation sales)

MPNA

This Newsletter

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

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

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 MPNA

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