

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 18

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

March 30, 2006

Ahhh! Beautiful Spring!

Flowers are blooming, and the birds are chirping, and the Melrose Park Neighbors Association Earth Day 2006 project will be held at the inbound side of the Melrose Park SEPTA Station starting at 10:30am on Saturday, April 22. We are going to plant and organize flowers there, plus talk, joke, befriend the occasional dog, etc. Rain date is the same time and place on Sunday, April 23. Please bring gloves, gardening tools, and perennial plants, perhaps from your own garden. We are interested in black-eyed susans, bee balm, day lilies, and iris plants among others. (For gardeners, the plants that do best in this location are drought-resistant perennials.)

Board member Gene Silver is the MPNA coordinator of this event. His phone number is 215-635-1874 or genesilver@msn.com.

Melrose Park Neighbors Meeting

Yes, once again, an opportunity for us to get together and share information (and maybe a tiny, little bit of gossip). We can come up with ideas about slowing down traffic, protecting our kids, calming those barking dogs, cleaning up the winter junk on the sides of our roads.... You name it. Come to the next meeting of the Melrose Park Neighbors Association at the Elkins Park Free Library, 7pm, Monday May 8, 2006. Bring eats and drinks to share. Sergeant Dave Hirschbuhl will be there to discuss what is happening around Melrose Park from a community police point of view.

Bring a neighbor. Our association is only as good as all of us.

Where are those MPNA Alerts?

Good question. We sent one out a couple days ago. But, Sergeant Hirschbuhl told me a few weeks ago that there has not been much troublesome activity in Melrose Park, to which I replied that our MPNA Alerts must have scared them away. He then told me the following:

“We have a new Anonymous Crime Tip System that just went live. It has two ways to report things like Drugs and other on-going things with complete anonymity. The phone number is 215-885-1600 ext 777. Its a voicemail system monitored by a detective sergeant. No police officer will answer that line. And the other way is to go to the township's web site and click on the link for the Tip Line. It's a web form that will not transmit Email information.”

Of course, the MPNA Alert system is still alive. As warm weather approaches, we may need it.

IS IT TRASH OR TREASURE?

Bring that piece you've been wondering about ---- is it trash or treasure? Find out at the Elkins Park Free Library on Sunday, April 30, 2006, Noon – 4:00 PM

Meet experts in various fields, including glassware, porcelain, antique jewelry, prints, maps, stamps/coins, silver, books, decorative arts:

- Donald Cresswell: rare books, prints, & maps
- Cindy Charleston: 18th & 19th century fine arts & paintings
- Jon Edelman: coins, stamps, paper money, antique jewelry
- Gary Kauftheil: glassware, porcelain, "generalist"
- Walter Ritchie: decorative arts: pottery, porcelain, silver, silverplate, glass

Admission:

- \$10.00/person (in advance) with one piece for evaluation
- \$12.00/person (at door) with one piece for evaluation
- \$5.00 each additional piece
- \$5.00 to attend and browse

They strongly encourage advance registration. Light refreshments will be served. Additional information: call 215-635-3648, or visit www.elkinsparklibrary.org

Paisley Haze

MPNA Board member Phil Kates brings to our attention a local quintet of young people that plays good music. Check out <http://www.paisleyhaze.net/> Zach lives on Mulberry Lane in EP

Analyzing Water Quality in Mill Run

For a Cheltenham High School science project, Alex Posmontier of Oak Avenue has just finished another study of the water quality in Mill Run. He is the fourth high school student to work on the stream since MPNA began advocating for its cleanup. His science project won him second prize. His presentation was excellent. Most important, Alex found that the water quality has improved in Mill Run. It still is polluted.

On October 3, 2005 the Philadelphia Water Department tested the stream as it comes out of the tunnels under Cheltenham Avenue at Coventry. Right at the outfall, they found 3,900 colonies of fecal coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters of stream water. Worse, fifty feet downstream, they found 4,800. Don't swim in or drink it yet!

The new Curtis Dog Park the 1st Annual Cheltenham Dog Walk

Diane Kolb is proud and happy to report that the Curtis Dog Park Committee has secured the funds to build the new CURTIS DOG PARK at the lower meadow of Curtis Arboretum!! We hope to begin construction in the spring - but we NEED YOUR HELP!! What a wonderful place this will be in our township!

The 1st Annual Cheltenham Dog Walk

Grab your pooch and read on... The Curtis Dog Park Committee presents... THE 1ST ANNUAL CHELTENHAM DOG WALK! SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH 10 am to NOON along Tookany Parkway, from Central Ave to the Pond and back. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$10 for each dog/walker before April 1st. \$15 day of the walk. Fill out the PREGRISTRATION FORM and sent it in with your contribution before April 1st and save \$5. Form will be available on our web site www.curtisdogpark.org or in any township library after March 1st.

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

Elkins Park Neighbors Association

Karin Helstrom of the EPNA reports on March 28th:

“We were ready to present our case last week when the church presented a new site plan and claims that their revised plan requires 187 fewer parking places. It seems the ordinance the commissioners passed for them determines parking requirements by square footage or by fixed seats. Since the gym is large, they added 200 bleachers to the gym, thus pushing it into the seat calculation category and thus requiring fewer seats. Never mind that they can now accommodate 200 spectators. They also changed several of their classrooms into offices, which also require fewer parking places. In the end, however, the building size has not changed and is still larger than Enon Tabernacle Baptist on Cheltenham Avenue.”

The next meeting is on April 19 at 7:30pm.

Do your children play outdoors in our neighborhood?

Albert Fried-Cassorla writes:

I don't think kids will ever play baseball, football, stickball and basketball in the streets the way we did as kids. But it's something we might encourage. So I wrote the following mini-article. Let me know what you think, when you get a chance. Most kids today play indoors in organized sports, as opposed to playing in the streets or nearby ball courts and fields. Yet playing outdoors correlates positively with childhood health. See the link below to a relevant article. <http://www.personalmd.com/news.jsp?nid=529954>

Your MPNA Board would like to know:

- Do your children play outdoors?
- If so, where, when, and what types of sports?
- Is the safety of our neighborhood one of the things that makes you feel good about allowing them to play outdoors?
- What changes might make you more willing to encourage your kids to play outdoors?

Please send your thoughts and comments, and we will make them a part of our newsletter. Thank you!

Myers Elementary School Plans

According to the Times Chronicle, the construction on Myers has been delayed until September so that the public can provide more feedback about the project. Myers' website is www.myerselementary.typepad.com/. They have an email newsletter called Myers Wires to which you can subscribe. At our meeting in October 2005, Nancy Hellendall, from the Committee for a Better Myers, described the new \$12 million building addition. Nancy emailed the following update:

“The latest site plans are on the blogspot- www.cbbm.blogspot.com

The district is planning on housing the displaced Myers children for 1 1/2 -2 years at the Elkins park school either putting a pre-fab modular school (leased) in the track field or on the upper soccer field - near the roller hockey courts. If down below the track will be off limits to the community during school hours. Both locations have plusses and minuses for their use. The present cost estimates for this are approx 1.7 million to lease the modular unit for 18 months. This does not include the cost of site preparation that would be required or hooking up of utilities.

The Myers renovation is moving along with construction scheduled to start in Sept/Oct. The architect presented on the LEEDS portion of the school-environmental plans and the school will be the 4th "green" building in the Delaware valley when it is complete. The district is trying to get a silver certificate for the school. One of the many bonuses to this is that the school will receive commissioning prior to opening, which means all systems must be up and running properly prior to the school opening."

World Fair Day Postponed Indefinitely

Gene Silver writes: Please make a note that in the next news letter [No 18, I imagine] you should indicate that World Fair Day has been indefinitely postponed. The best explanation, as far as I can determine, is that it became a victim of school district budget constraints, for this school year. I will keep you posted with any updates.

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 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

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