

# MPNA News

## The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

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Volume 2 – Number 44

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Wednesday, March 05, 2008

### **More on our Historic Paddock and Speakeasy**

Josie Ingber emailed, the following:

Hi Andrew, I'm responding to the emails about Melrose Park "Speak Easy" that a few people wrote in about. My brother who still lives in Elkins Park sent me the MPNA website where he saw the inquiries.

From 1954-1964 our family lived at 7602 Coventry Ave right across the street from "The Paddock" which is what we called the combination of horse stables, tavern, etc. To most people who passed by it, it was just a stable of horses you could see from the street, with their names above each stall. Or just a bar to the "adults" who frequented it at night. However, to my twin brother and younger sister who were fortunate to go beyond the stables through the "gate" it was a magical place that to this day "haunts" me.

Our godmother, who lived with us, befriended the guard who sat in a small dark little office right past the "gate" to the right of the stables and he let us all pass through. I remember the only light coming from his office was the light of the little black and white TV he had turned on in the background.

Our first "reward" after entering was getting a coke out of the big old coke machine with the big metal hand you had to push down really hard to open the door which would then allow you to grab a cold coca cola out of one of the compartments.

After that we started "exploring". My favorite spot was the outside bar which curved along the outside wall. There were some small metal tables/chairs but the main attraction for us was the collection of old stagecoaches that we could climb up and sit on. Then there was the tavern. To us it looked like an old castle. The steps leading up to the tavern had on each side of the entrance a big statue of a knight or something that looked like that. It had a certain old musty smell that some old bars have and to this day when ever I smell that I am immediately taken back to the Paddock Tavern.

Then beyond the tavern more towards the woods the environment became more like an old Western town with tombstones etc. I don't think a week goes by that I don't think about the Paddock and how special that place was to us.

I also remember the night the big trailer came to take the horses away. All that remained was Jackie the mule who they kept for the kids to feed and play with. She often managed to get out and end up on our neighbor's lawn.

I've been trying for a very long time to find out what the real story of this place was. I had emailed the Jenkintown Historical Society but they had no record of anything; just someone who remembered it.

Sorry for the long email but I've been waiting so long to talk about this place with someone else who remembered it like we did, If anyone knows more about the history of this place, please forward them my email address. Much appreciated. Thank you.

Josie Ingber [josieingber@yahoo.com](mailto:josieingber@yahoo.com) Cupertino, CA

## The Primary is Coming!

Sherry Riesner excerpted/edited the following from the Montgomery County website, but should apply to all PA counties): 2008 Voting and Registration calendar

<http://voterservices.montcopa.org/voterservices/cwp/view,A,1459,Q,56778,voterservicesNav,%7C.asp>

For Spring Primary, April 22, 2008

### **Voter Registration Applications:**

“Individuals must be registered and enrolled in a political party to vote in that party's primary. However, all registered electors are entitled to vote on constitutional amendments and ballot questions and in all special elections that might be held concurrently with a primary.”

If you are registered Independent and wish to vote for a candidate in the upcoming PA Presidential Primary on April 22, 2008 you may fill out a voter registration application and select a party.

**To change address or name or party identification– you must fill out a voter reg. application**

**Last Day to Register Before the Primary.....March 24, 2008**

Absentee Ballots

Last Day for Absentee Ballot Applications.....April 15, 2008

Last Day for completed Absentee Ballots.....April 18 @ 5:00 pm

Voter registration forms can be obtained at most public offices: Municipal buildings, post offices, liquor stores, etc. All first time voters, including those who are voting in a new precinct for the first time, will be required to present identification.

I'm not sure anybody has contacted you about this, I recall Bryan Havir saying you were made aware, but we're trying to solicit feedback through a survey for the High School Park/Ogontz Park Master Plan. Could you pass on the following information to your membership: [MPNA](#)

## Cheltenham Program on English Knot Gardens

From Nancy Gibson, our Township Information Officer... “The Cheltenham Township Twinning Committee, which fosters connections and strengthens the bonds of friendship between Cheltenham, USA, and Cheltenham, UK, sponsors ...

### **What ‘Knot’ To Do:**

A History of English Knot Gardens & their Application in Today's Landscape  
presented by Suzanne Hopkins from the Penn State Montgomery County Master Gardener Volunteer  
Speakers Bureau

Wednesday, April 2 @ 7:30PM

Curtis Hall, Church Road & Greenwood Avenue, Wyncote

Refreshments and giveaways also on tap!

Information: Nancy Gibson, 215-887-6200, ext. 230

[MPNA](#)

## Planning for High School Park

Gina Craig, Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of High School Park, emailed the following:

Recently, Cheltenham Township and the Friends of High School Park successfully obtained a state grant to complete a Master Plan for the two parks. The High School Park portion of the plan will focus primarily upon existing environmental features and future ecological restoration while the Ogontz Park portion will focus upon existing and future recreational use. The Master Plan will also contain an ecological restoration plan for the

Tookany Creek and its' riparian buffer area. The master plan will have very specific recommendations to preserve what the community likes about the parks and to initiate projects to improve park features.

In order to ensure that the community has a chance to provide their input, there is a community outreach component of the plan. High School Park has always existed as a direct result of neighbor's input and we want to continue in that way. **Please complete the *brief community survey*** available off the homepage of [www.highschoolpark.org](http://www.highschoolpark.org). The deadline is March 26, 2008.

Thanks so much, Andy. We appreciate any support you may be able to offer. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

**Gina Craigo, Admin and Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Friends of High School Park**  
**PO Box 11263**  
**Elkins Park, PA 19027**  
**215.782.8082**  
[www.highschoolpark.org](http://www.highschoolpark.org)      MPNA

## **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](mailto: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 included 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 two months away! Let me know how you can help! You can contact me at [beduffy@comcast.net](mailto:beduffy@comcast.net) or call me at 215-885-1506!

Thanks, Barb Duffy

MPNA

## The Cresheim Trail

How would you and your family like to start walking the Tacony Parkway trail at Central Avenue, near the tennis courts and soccer field, to end up in, well, who knows... a great walking distance away!

The complete report is at:

[http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/cresheimtrail/Complete\\_Draft\\_Report\\_-\\_For\\_printing\\_in-house\\_-\\_01-21-08.pdf](http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/cresheimtrail/Complete_Draft_Report_-_For_printing_in-house_-_01-21-08.pdf)

A map of the trail is at:

<http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/cresheimtrail/Map.pdf>

## 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](mailto: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:

March 28-30, 2008

April 25-27, 2008

May 30-31, 2008

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](mailto: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 Sheckman, Jim Muldoon and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email me at [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net). This newsletter is available or will be soon, maybe with photos, on our website – [www.melroseparkneighbors.org](http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org) MPNA

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