

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 31

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

April 20, 2007

In Newsletter #30 I forgot to include the following information about an event at the Elkins Park Free Library:

“What’s Cookin’?” Sunday, May 6th

For 4 delicious hours on the first Sunday in May, “foodies,” plus folks who love to cook, and those who simply enjoy browsing through cookbooks will be treated to the inside story on all things food at the annual Spring Event sponsored by the Friends of the Elkins Park Library.

“What’s Cookin’?” brings together local food luminaries Andrew Schloss and Davida Berger in an afternoon of food-talk, cooking demonstrations, tasting and audience participation, and, as an added attraction, a buffet of delicious refreshments.

Starting the program Andrew Schloss, author of 10 cookbooks, chef, acclaimed cooking teacher, and radio and TV personality, will “create a cookbook” and demonstrate the culinary skills that have gained him recognition locally and nationally in all areas of the food industry.

Davida Berger, VP of *Curds & Whey*, will provide an inside peek on managing a gourmet food retail shop *and* popular catering service, and will introduce her two stars, Catering Manager and Chef Annemarie Silva and Executive Chef Chip Williams, who will each prepare something scrumptious for the audience to share.

The event, which takes place at the Elkins Park Free Library from noon to 4 pm on Sunday, May 6th, is the Friends annual spring fund-raiser on behalf of the library. Notes Ena Brown, event chairman, “It is the mission of the Friends to augment the library’s budget, and our annual Spring Event has, over the past years, succeeded in raising funds while providing an afternoon of entertainment for everyone who has attended our events. Given the appeal of this year’s theme, food, and the popularity of our guest speakers, we know that this year’s event will be another winner.”

Admission to “What’s Cookin’?” is \$10 per person. The Elkins Park Free Library is located at 563 E. Church Road, Elkins Park, PA

EarthDay is Saturday!!! And the weather forecast is delicious!

The weather this weekend is supposed to be much more pleasant than the past few weeks. Saturday and Sunday are supposed to be 74°F and sunny. The Melrose Park Neighbors Association Earth Day activities are scheduled for Saturday April 21st start time 10am - expect to stop no later than 2pm. The primary area will be the Melrose Park SEPTA train station to clean up of flower beds and area and some planting. Please bring any extra plants from your garden that are draught tolerant. Work gloves and garden tools will come in handy. Depending on the number of volunteers and energy, we may also do some work at the park at Coventry and New Second. This year, our Earth Day activities will be coordinated by Gene Silver at 215-635-1874.

And there is more...

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Sunday April 22nd from 12 to 4 PM

Sunday is supposed to be 74° and mostly sunny!

From Karen Shaffran: There will be a student-organized Earth Day Festival at Cedarbrook Middle School on Sunday, April 22nd, 2007. We anticipate hundreds of attendees at the festival, which will begin at noon at Cedarbrook Middle School in Wyncote. A variety of musical entertainment and a “green” fashion show will kick off the event, followed by a presentation of the global warming slideshow featured in the Academy award-winning film *An Inconvenient Truth*. After the slideshow, we will hold a panel discussion of local environmental issues and solutions organized and moderated by students from the Environmental Task Force at Cheltenham High School.

The entire school will be transformed into an exhibition hall for the day, featuring informational displays and hands-on activities designed by students to showcase environmental issues and solutions, alternative energies, and green products. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the EPA’s Energy Star program, register for PECO wind energy, discover the many public transit options in Cheltenham, test drive hybrid vehicles courtesy of Sloane Toyota of Glenside, and learn about carbon offsetting from Native Energy. There will be a juried Trash Art Contest, and we will be collecting used cell phones and old sneakers for recycling. Throughout the day, free babysitting and children’s activities will be offered. Snacks will be available for purchase courtesy of the PTO.

This Festival will be a celebration of our community’s natural and human resources and our spirit of collaboration, as well as an important step towards achieving the vision of Cheltenham as a model sustainable community. The entire community is encouraged to join in the celebration and become a part of the exciting green future of Cheltenham Township.

For more information, please contact Karen Shaffran: kshaffran@cheltenham.org

The MPNA Website now has a history of the MPNA

You can visit the MPNA website for complete articles. If you have suggestions or corrections, please let me know. Here are a couple paragraphs from the two parts of our history:

Picture Melrose Park about 60 or 70 years ago: Sparsely settled, large imposing mansions in the grand manner surrounded by enormous tracts undeveloped land. The railroad comprised the township transportation system and stopped every two or three blocks to discharge and pick up passengers. The patriarchs supervised their large acreage and the matriarchs met occasionally for tea. When winter came, the citizens hibernated. Social activities centered around the family and life was comfortable - but sometimes very lonely. There seemed to be a need for communication with one’s neighbor, a reaching out for relationships beyond the family. So, with man’s instinctive urge to herd together, the Melrose Park Improvement Association came into existence....

So that was for the Melrose Park Improvement Association. Now for the Melrose Park Neighbors Association:

The Melrose Park Improvement Association was dormant for many years. Around 1990, Andrew Rudin saw it listed in a publication from Nancy Gibson, the Information Officer within Cheltenham Township’s administration building. Around this time, Howard Sitron, who used to live on Chestnut Avenue, wanted to organize neighbors around the issue of our polluted stream, called Mill Run, which flows along Coventry Avenue and New Second Street. Andy Rudin helped Howard organize a meeting at Howard’s home. Most of the effort was in cleaning stuff out of the stream around each Earth Day.

Then, when State Representative Lawrence Curry was campaigning door to door, Andy confronted him with the problem with stream pollution. Larry told Andy that another neighbor, Albert Fried-Cassorla, was also interested in the stream pollution and had organized a meeting about it at his home. Andy attended the meeting....

News from the Township

I emailed a mistake in the last newsletter (#29). Township Manager David Kraynik corrected me about the timing of the elections of our commissioners. The correct information is as follows:

The election of commissioners for odd wards will be in 2007: 1 - Gerhard, 3 - Portner, 5 - Swavola, and 7 - McKeown. In 2009 (not 2008), it will be 2 (Greenwald), 4 (Muldawer), and 6 (Simon).

More Email Addresses Would Be Great

The more neighbors we have on this email list, the better. So, please encourage your neighbors to email their addresses to me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net. We do not share our email list.

Donations Needed for Library Book Sales

What to do with all those books in the basement! Pickup is 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 next book sale is Friday through Sunday, starting on Friday April 20th, 2007 at 7pm to 9pm. The sale continues on Saturday from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday from 1pm to 4pm. The next sale will be May 18-20, with a half-price liquidation from June 1-6 and a bag sale liquidation from June 8-13.

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 household. Send your contribution to MPNA Board member Jim Muldoon, 106 Parkview Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012.

Dues for existing members are due at the beginning of each calendar year.

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 on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org

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