

# MPNA News

## The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

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Volume 2 – Number 90  
From MPNA President – Andy Rudin  
Tuesday, April 06, 2010

### **Polluted water, keep the kids and pets out!**

Allen Cohen first called our attention to this:

DEP Advises Residents, Anglers to Avoid Sewage-Contaminated Tookany, Frankford Creeks in Montgomery County, Philadelphia

Ongoing Sewer Overflow Releasing Untreated Sewage into Creek

NORRISTOWN -- The Department of Environmental Protection is warning residents and anglers to stay out of Tookany and Frankford creeks in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, as well as in the city of Philadelphia, because untreated sewage is overflowing from a sewer line into the waterways.

According to DEP's southeast regional director, Joe Feola, the raw sewage creates a potentially severe public health hazard.

“The ongoing raw sewage discharge into these creeks is creating a public safety and health hazard, so we are advising area residents and anglers to stay away until the problem is corrected,” Feola said. “With warmer weather, creeks make an inviting playground for children, and we are concerned that people could be sickened by sewage contamination. We are also advising residents to not let pets drink from the stream.”

The sewage overflow began during recent wet weather. Cheltenham Township, which owns and operates the sewer line, has crews working to filter and chlorinate the discharge, but this temporary measure will not adequately treat the water and remove pathogens that could cause serious health concerns.

Assistant Township Manager Bryan Havir emailed me that the leak involves a main sewer line behind the Public Works Facility near Shoemaker Road. Our Township followed up on this:

Due to an extremely high water table generated by record-breaking snowfalls, combined with heavy spring rains, the Cheltenham Township sanitary sewer system has experienced unusual surcharging, an overloading of the system.

On April 2, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) directed the Township to reduce the pressure on the sanitary lines by conducting a controlled discharge of the sanitary sewer system over a small portion of Ogontz Field into the Tookany Creek in Elkins Park. This was done to accelerate the use of sanitary facilities in about six nearby homes that have had limited use of their facilities for several weeks.

**Everyone is advised to stay out of Tookany Creek**, due to the health hazard presented by the discharge. Although Township crews are working to filter and chlorinate the discharge, these measures will not adequately treat the creek water. The Township has posted over 500 signs along the creek between Church Road and Ashmead Road/Levick Street notifying the public to stay out of the creek. Pet owners are also advised to prevent pets from drinking from the creek.

In addition, the Township has been pumping out the sanitary lines using sewer trucks just above Shoemaker Road to help relieve the pressure. The sewer trucks discharge the sewage into other sections of the system that can handle the additional flow.

The Township and PADEP are monitoring the situation closely, including regularly testing the creek water. Officials are working together to formulate both short- and long-term solutions to remedy the problem.

Questions can be directed to [Nancy K. Gibson](#), Cheltenham Township Public Information Officer, at 215-887-6200, ext. 230.

## Annual Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day

From Ruth Shaw, Melrose Parker, not representing her Township position, with this email:

Just a quick note with my professional hat *off*, to remind you that this Sunday is the Annual Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorated regionally on the Ben Franklin Parkway at 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

There is free transportation for those who choose not to drive down to Center City. The program runs from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and is held outside (sunny and 65 degrees predicted). If inclement weather, it will be held indoors at Rodeph Shalom downtown. The numbers of Holocaust Survivors is dwindling by the year. Many will be present and able to answer questions. There is a children's educational program in the morning. For information contact me at [rshaw@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:rshaw@cheltenham-township.org).

(Our own Melrose Parker Phil Kates will be playing the violin during the event. This is a very moving tribute.)

## **EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES IN CHELTENHAM**

We are on for cleaning the flower beds at the Melrose Park SEPTA station on 4/17/2010 from 10am to noon. People need to bring some tools -- rakes, pruning tools, gloves, kneeling pads etc.

The perennials we already have are plentiful. This would be a cleanup and evaluation day. We can plant annuals later in the spring. If any one has concerns or suggestions they can email our coordinator Ricki Lent at [rsimone49@aol.com](mailto:rsimone49@aol.com).

Neighborhood, school and community groups will commemorate Earth Day with more than a dozen projects scattered throughout Cheltenham Township. The projects will be held on Saturday, April 17, unless otherwise indicated. Everyone is invited to take part; no registration is needed.

In addition, an Earth Day Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Myers Elementary School, located at 7609 Montgomery Avenue in Elkins Park. Tours of the new LEED-certified school will highlight the event.

All of the Earth Day activities fall under the umbrella of the Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). For more information, contact Barb Duffy, EAC chair, at 215-885-1506. MPNA

### **The Elkins Park Library April Book Sale**

The Friends of the Elkins Park Free Library holds its next Used Book sale on Friday, April 16th, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 17th, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 18th, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., 563 East Church Road, Elkins Park. Sale includes books, CDs, audiotapes, records, videos, software, games, giftware and more. 15,000+ items in all. Too many specials to itemize. FREE. Information: 215-635-5000. 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, 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 on our website – [www.melroseparkneighbors.org](http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org) MPNA

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