

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 29

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

April 9, 2007

News from the Cheltenham Police

Sergeant John Slavin wants everyone to know that our police arrested the person responsible for the recent strong arm robbery cases in the Melrose Park area. Sergeant Slavin emails, “Our Officers did a great job this past weekend following up on the driveway robberies. They arrested the prime suspect and several accomplices who face a myriad of charges. During a search warrant they found fruits of the crimes from Cheltenham jobs as well as from multiple purse snatch robberies in Philadelphia, as recent as two robberies on Thursday night involving elderly female victims in the 500 block of Loretto Avenue. They also recovered a stolen gun, drugs and money.” Sgt. John P. Slavin #929, Cheltenham Township Police Department, Community Policing Unit, 8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027, (215) 885-1600 ext 482

Join me in telling our police that we appreciate their good work.

News from the Township

Main Street Manager Ruth Shaw answered my question about what elections are being held when. She emailed, “The election of commissioners for odd wards will be in 2007: 1 - Gerhard, 3 - Portner, 5 - Swavola, and 7 – McKeown. Next year, it will be 2 (Greenwald), 4 (Muldawer), and 6 (Simon)”

This means that Mike Swavola, the Melrose Park Commissioner, may be up for re-election. Please let me know what you would like to do. Some examples – email me questions for Mike that I can print in this newsletter, hopefully with his answers. We can also hold a meeting with him at the Elkins Park Library, or some other location. Or you may have even better idea. Let me know.

Also from Ruth...

- Apparently a car plowed into the front of Schwartz' Pretzels at Montgomery and Ashbourne.
- This week we are finalizing plans for the upcoming Congrats, Grad! Program, which honors the graduating seniors in our community. If you know of any seniors, please let them (and their families) know that the senior can receive a substantial discount – and perhaps a free meal – at local restaurants. Details to follow. The program runs from May 13 through June 22. If the next MPNA newsletter does not come out in time for seniors to make lunch/dinner congratulatory plans, please ask those who need more information to just email me or call me (rshaw@cheltenham-township.org or 215-887-6200 x 113).
- Cheltenham Township Main Street is proud to be a sponsor of Arts in the Park this year, to be held June 3 at High School Park.
- Main Street will use Arts in the Park as a kickoff to our Cheltenham in Bloom, which is a program designed to entice shoppers to ‘use’ Elkins Park East and West Commercial Districts for their shopping needs by encouraging shops and businesses to decorate their windows and storefronts with all types of blooms and greens, such as hanging baskets, planters, flower boxes, etc. By beautifying the neighborhood, merchants take pride in their businesses and additionally, merchants vie for a prize for the nicest storefront in the district. One prize is given to a business in Elkins Park East and one in Elkins Park West. Last year’s winners were The Frame House in Elkins

Park East, and Big John's Luncheonette in Elkins Park West. The Elkins Park Rotary is the sponsor of this program and also does the judging.

- o May 13 through June 22--Congrats, Grad! --Township-wide for graduating seniors
- o June 3--Arts in the Park --High School Park in Elkins Park, 10 am to 5 pm
- o All Summer--Cheltenham in Bloom --Beginning June 3; look for beautiful storefronts in Elkins Park Commercial Districts
- o July 4--Independence Day Parade --Sponsored by the Patriotic Association
- o August 4--Cruizin' Glenside Car Show --Sponsored by the Glenside Chamber
- o September 15--7th Annual Glenside Street Fair! --Easton Road near Glenside Avenue 10 am to 5 pm
- o September 30--Korean Children's Folk Festival --John Russell Park, 1 pm to 5 pm
- o November 23 and 24--Holiday Shopping Kickoff --FREE PARKING in all shopping districts
- o December 1--WinterFest on Wesley --Santa arrives; starts at 4:00 pm in Glenside

Earth Days – April 21 and 22

Melrose Park Neighbors Association Earth Day activities are scheduled for Saturday April 21st [rain date is Sunday the 22nd], start time 10:00 am - expect to stop no later than 2:00pm. 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 GeneSilver at 215-635-1874.

And there is more...

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Sunday April 22nd from 12 to 4 PM

From Karen Shaffran: Cheltenham is one of the few suburban communities in this country that has the potential to survive -and actually thrive- in a world faced with the dual challenges of global warming and declining oil production. This is a close-knit, walkable community with excellent light rail service and a wide array of retail establishments within its borders. Our Township Board of Commissioners has demonstrated its commitment to addressing environmental concerns through their recent vote of support for the formation of an Environmental Advisory Council. Montgomery County leaders have taken action to address global warming by appointing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force, with the goal of reducing our carbon dioxide emissions to pre-1970's levels by the year 2012. These are important steps in addressing global warming, particularly in light of the fact that the state of Pennsylvania is responsible for a full 1% of the Earth's carbon emissions.

The political will to achieve sustainability is strong in our region, but the success of any plan will depend upon the support of Cheltenham residents. Our neighbors must become educated about the challenges that are facing our community and the solutions that are available to us. A major step towards this goal will be taken at the student-organized Earth Day Festival at Cedarbrook Middle School on Sunday, April 22nd, 2007. The entire community will be invited via an advertising campaign on our local cable TV station, posters at township libraries, community centers and businesses, and flyers sent home to every student in the school district.

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

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 book sales are Friday through Sunday, starting on the following Fridays at 1pm on March 23, April 10 and May 18, 2007. Half price sales start June 1st and the final \$5 per bag sale starts June 8th.

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.

Debbie Posmontier and Ena Brown want to know when the dues are due. They 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, maybe with photos, on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org

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