

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 21

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

May 16, 2006

Melrose Park Neighbors Meeting

Graffiti

Our general meeting on May 8 started at 7pm. Since MPNA has been sending our MPNA alerts there has been a decrease in crime in Melrose Park, which may be just a coincidence. However, Sergeant David Hirschbuhl of Cheltenham's Community Police Unit described a recent 500% increase in graffiti. All graffiti are photographed by the police and the cost of removal is assessed so that the criminals can pay building owners for damages. Often, building owners use Tagaway and Taginator paints to cover graffiti because they contain Teflon to make it harder for new graffiti to stick.

It is not just young kids that are doing this. One suspect is 30 years old and has done more than 20 different graffiti. The graffiti on the Union Avenue Bridge was done by a "professional." Vandals were nice enough to throw their spray paint in the recycling bins! They were fingerprinted but with no results.

Some graffiti are coded advertisements for locations that are selling drugs. Cheltenham police have been aggressively walking the SEPTA tracks looking for vandals, and riding the train to Fern Rock and back. Our township has 84 police officers. If you spot any suspicious activity, call 911 right away.

Scam artists

Scam artists have been working Northeast Philadelphia. They could start their scams here. In one of the scams, they knock on your door saying they are in the neighborhood resurfacing driveways. They offer a cheap price, but then spray motor oil instead of resurfacing your driveway. It looks like a great resurfacing job until the first rain. They often bully older people to pay more and more. Other scams involve roofing, gutter work, and even, "Can you give my son a glass of water?" If they knock on your door, do not let them in under any circumstances. Lock them out and call 911.

Noise Pollution

Albert asked that people interested in reducing noise in the township contact him to review measures other neighborhoods have taken against excess noise from things like chippers, the giant suction truck at Coventry House removing oil that apparently leaked from an underground tank, lawn mowers, dogs, trimmers, motorcycles, Mister Softee trucks, etc. There is good information on neighborhood at www.nonoise.org. Neighbors can write to him to express interest in working on this at albert@fried-cas.com.

Earth Day

Drought resistant plants are still needed. A secure ring has been installed at the station for a new MPNA hose and hose holder. Officer Hirshbuhl recommends a bike lock made of very hard steel wire and may donate one to MPNA. Approval from SEPTA is needed for a sign near the plantings which would state "Plantings by the Melrose Park Neighbors Association" with reference to our website. Albert will work on it.

Mill Run

When they recently tested the water in Mill Run near Coventry and Cheltenham, Andy Rudin and Alex Posmontier noticed a coating of grease on the water, probably from a restaurant. Assistant Township Manager Bryan Havir says that the Philadelphia Water Department discovered a leak into the stream underground. Apparently it has been repaired because the stream no longer has as much grease on it.

Mosquitoes

One of the attendees said that the mini-park at Glenwood, near Myers, is a source of ticks and mosquitoes. She asked if the Township was going to spray for mosquitoes this year. Andy said he would look into it. He emailed Bryan Havir who said there were no plans for spraying because no dead crows with West Nile virus had been found this year. Bryan suggested that Andy call the Montgomery County Health Department because they are now responsible for the spraying. Here is the summary of what Andy found.

If you know of a source of mosquitoes, such as a stagnant pool of water, call the Willow Grove office of the County Health Department at 215-784-5415. If they cannot handle the problem, they will refer the job to the Norristown Office. Steve Geloff runs the program there, but don't call him. Call the Willow Grove number. Someone else at the meeting pointed out that bats eat up to 400 mosquitoes a night.

Wildlife habitat registration

53,000 backyards and schoolyards are registered with the National Wildlife Federation. This costs \$15 and involves meeting certain criteria. Andy Rudin has registered his back yard, and called the NWF to ask about registering all of Melrose Park. We are probably eligible because we compost, recycle, have lots of trees, etc. Everyone at the meeting agreed this would be a good idea, so Andy will do it and then issue a press release. See www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/createhabitat.cfm.

Arts in the Park

The Friends of High School Park (www.highschoolpark.org/) is sponsoring the 11th annual Arts in the Park on Sunday June 4, with a rain date of June 11. 10 am to 5 pm. *Free Admission!* Lots of fun! Juried Craft Show and Festival. Thousands of visitors enjoy a day-long celebration of high-quality arts and crafts, entertainment, food and fun for the whole family in a lovely outdoor setting! Browse and shop for jewelry, ceramics, fiber and apparel, printers, Judaica, wood workers and many others.

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

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.

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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