

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 96
From MPNA President – Andy Rudin
Thursday, May 20, 2010

An Evening with the Cops

Last night, Officer Jeff Murphy discussed crime prevention with a group of residents in the community room of the Elkins Park Free Library. I thought his presentation was well done. Here are some highlights:

Cheltenham has eight square miles. The police department, which started in 1903, has divided our township into 12 sectors. One police cruiser is assigned to two sectors, so during the day each of six cruisers will patrol two sectors. Their average response time after we call in suspicious activity is 2 to 3 minutes.

There are 84 sworn officers. Only Abington and Lower Merion have more sworn officers in Montgomery County. Sixteen are trained for bicycle patrolling. Five are full time bikers, including Officer Murphy. He says he sees so much more on a bike than from a cruiser.

Transients commit 90% of the crime in out township. Crime is down 11.3% from 2008 to 2009. All the statistics are posted on the police department website. www.cheltenhamtownship.org/police. All reported crimes in Melrose Park are listed in http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/police/neighborhood_alerts_program.htm#Melrose_Park_Section. The State Police summarize the crime statistics.

Although thefts from autos are down 16.4%, there is a current rise in that type of crime. 87% of the vehicles involved in such thefts were left unlocked by the owners.

A burglary means someone crossed the threshold into someone's house. Otherwise, the crime is called a theft. Burglaries are up 12.5%. Officer Murphy explained that most house alarms are turned off by the owners.

If you are going to leave your home, for vacation for example, you can call 215-885-1600. Ask for extension 462 or 460. They will take down several pieces of information about your home. Is the alarm on? Is someone going to check your home once in while? When are you leaving and returning? And so on. The resulting card goes into the cruiser that patrols your neighborhood. They will keep an eye on your home while you are away.

Violent crime has dropped in each of the past three years from 41 in 2008 to 36 in 2009.

Caring Families of Cheltenham

From Dawn Devenny and Gail Leventhal:

Hi Neighbors! As most of you already know, summer is a big time of need for families and children. That is why we would like to bring back and operate *CARING FAMILIES OF CHELTENHAM* as a neighborhood effort to assist families in Cheltenham Township.

This is not a huge time or money commitment! NO MEETINGS (though we may choose to meet for coffee occasionally ;) We would just like to mobilize as many neighbors as we can to join our yahoo site and to collectively give ideas, food & clothing donations, suggestions and contacts to help local families with their different levels of needs.

We are already a generous community! We just need YOUR help to organize and harness this existing energy of community giving and compassion!

Please send us a quick email if you are interested in being a part of this community group. We can then send you a formal invitation to the site where we will list the various "needs" of our neighbors. You can choose to help when you can how you can.

The more neighbors, Grandparents, Moms, Dads and children the better!

Also - feel free to pass this on to anyone in Cheltenham Township who you think would like to participate! *If you know of a family in need please email us!*

Thank you! Sincerely,

Dawn Devenny

dawndev@comcast.net

Gail Leventhal

& gailleventhal@comcast.net

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Arts in the Park

June 6 - Arts in the Park - 15th Annual Juried Craft Show and Festival sponsored by the Friends of High School Park will benefit native plant restoration at High School Park in Elkins Park. This fundraiser features 50 artisans, live music all day, plant sale and fun for the whole family with children's arts and crafts, face- painting, wagon rides, native plant scavenger hunt, moonbounce, delicious food and 50/50 raffle. High School Road, Elkins Park. 215-782-8082, www.highschoolpark.org, \$3 adult suggested donation; children free. (rain date June 13) 10am-5pm

Interested in volunteering? See all of your neighbors and friends and help a support our community park! If you have a few hours available between 10 and 5pm on Sunday, or Saturday for set up please let us know. There are many different places to volunteer- kids activities, plant sale, artist check in, bake sale and more! Contact saistrop@gmail.com for more information.

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East Cheltenham Fourth of July Parade

The parade is actually on July 3rd this year and starts at 11am at the Cheltenham Elementary School (Front and Ashbourne). Children's games begin a 2pm at Beryl Road and Tookany Creek Parkway. From the website for the East Cheltenham Community Council <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze3jmnk/eastcheltcommcouncil/id1.html>

“Our parade goes as far back as 1933. Although we do not have any records that go back that far, we do have some trophies that were given out back then. As part of our activities, we have a children’s parade that lets anyone who wants put their child in the parade. Each year we choose a theme to help things along. This year’s theme is Halloween In July. We give out Prizes for the best following the theme. Our main parade consists of bands, fire companies, local sports clubs, churches and synagogues, dance groups, and not lest local politicians.”

For more information contact John Lutz, Event Coordinator, 215-663-9593 MPNA

This Newsletter

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at 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. This newsletter is available or will be soon on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org MPNA

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