

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 119
From MPNA President – Andy Rudin
Monday, April 11, 2011

The Saga of March 10

Here is what neighbors have pieced together. The Philadelphia Police were traveling on Cheltenham Avenue when they saw two masked men robbing the tobacco store to the east of Melrose Hardware. They called the Cheltenham Police. The cops caught the two guys right at the corner of Oak and Crest Avenues. That's where we live. Tyson Blount and Raymond Boozer stole several cartons of cigarettes while brandishing plastic guns. One or both came through the back yard a couple houses away. So what, you may ask? We were totally impressed that twelve... count 'em... twelve Philadelphia and Cheltenham police cruisers were parked here and there and everywhere! Good work, we say! MPNA

All You Can Eat Library System Support

Support your Township library system! Come to the all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with pancakes, sausage and beverage at Applebee's (323 Old York Rd in Jenkintown) on Saturday, April 30 from 8 to 10 am. Tickets are \$7.50 per person and \$4.75 for children 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance at any branch or at Applebee's on the day of the event. MPNA

Cheltenham Township Joins America in Bloom

Cheltenham Township has joined America in Bloom (AIB), a national community-development program that fosters civic pride and economic development. AIB coaches towns on ways to become more livable and sustainable through a framework of grassroots efforts. AIB judges will visit the community in August to evaluate it in eight categories:

- Community involvement
- Tidiness
- Environmental awareness
- Heritage preservation
- Landscaped areas
- Floral displays
- Urban forestry
- Turf and groundcover areas.

Ultimately, Cheltenham will compete for prestigious AIB awards. Cheltenham's Economic Development Task Force, partnering with the Friends of High School Park, the Environmental

Advisory Council and other community groups, will spearhead "Cheltenham Charm," the township's AIB campaign. The first project will beautify eight township parks with new plantings surrounding the park entrance signs. All plants will be native perennials that are deer resistant, low maintenance and long blooming with at least three seasons of interest. Anyone interesting joining the volunteer planting crew this June, or in more information about Cheltenham Charm, should contact Asst. Township Manager Bryan T. Havir at 215-887-6200, ext. 112. MPNA

Summer Teen Program Registration Underway

Cheltenham teens ages 12 to 15 can avoid the doldrums this summer, thanks to the Summer Teen Enrichment Program. Packed with activities to keep them engaged and entertained, the program runs weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from June 27 through August 12, based at the La Mott Community Center. Educational trips, sports, camping, visits to amusement parks, swimming and life-skill activities, including community service projects and fund-raisers, are all on tap. The cost for the seven-week program is \$850 per teen, which includes admission and transportation for all trips. The fee may be paid in two installments with the final \$425 due by May 27. The program is limited to 40 participants who must be Cheltenham Township residents. Registration is available weekdays at both La Mott and Rowland Community Centers from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. until May 27. For more information about the Summer Teen Enrichment Program, contact the La Mott Community Center at 215-635-3255. MPNA

Easton Road Phase III Construction Begins April 11

Cheltenham Township announces the launch of the third and final phase of the Easton Road Streetscape and Traffic Calming Enhancement Project during the week of April 11. Construction will begin with curb and sidewalk improvements along Easton Road between Springhouse Lane and Limekiln Pike. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained throughout the duration. The project should be completed with the installation of roadway banners and decorative streetlights in August. A PennDOT Community Transportation Initiative Grant of \$1.4 million provided the majority of the funding. Earlier improvements to Easton Road, also funded with nearly \$1.75 million in grants, targeted Wesley Plaza and the area between the SEPTA overpass and Springhouse Lane in Downtown Glenside. Improvements included pedestrian streetlights, embossed crosswalks, new traffic lights, granite curbs, sidewalk pavers, attractive refuse and recycling containers, pedestrian benches and traffic-calming measures. The project is part of Cheltenham Township's economic development initiative. For more information, call 215-887-6200, ext. 214. MPNA

Good Friday Closings - April 22

The Cheltenham Township Administration Building, located at 8230 Old York Road in Elkins Park, will be closed on Friday, April 22 in observance of the Good Friday holiday.

There will be no special collection of non-combustible items on Friday, April 22. In addition, the township's Public Works Facility, located at 8101 Old York Road in Elkins Park, and the Waverly Road Compost Facility, located on Waverly Road between Church Road and Cheltenham Avenue in Laverock, will be closed Saturday, April 23. No non-combustible items or bagged garden debris will be accepted that day.

Finally, the township's four libraries -- East Cheltenham, Elkins Park, Glenside and La Mott -- will be closed from Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24. 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 Shectman, Jim Muldoon, Debbie Posmontier and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email me atandrewrudin@earthlink.net. This newsletter is available or will be soon on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org MPNA

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