

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 297

Monday, October 29, 2018

MPNA President – Caryl Levin

Newsletter editor – Andy Rudin

Prescription Drug Take Back

There's no need to keep unused prescription drugs in perpetuity—in fact, there's every reason not to. In the past 10 years, prescription drug abuse has quadrupled and now results in more deaths than all illicit street drugs combined. To discourage theft and reduce the flow of prescription drugs in circulation, you have to get rid of them—but you have to do so properly.

If you toss prescription medicines in the trash or flush them down the toilet, they can make their way into groundwater and rivers, and ultimately harm wildlife. Here's how to dispose of them properly:

Place the drugs in a sealed container such as the original bottle or a zip-lock bag (liquids should remain in the original container) and remove any personal information or obscure it with a permanent marker. Then place it in a secure prescription drug take-back box. There are three permanent boxes in our area; all will be open tomorrow for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

There is a permanent drop box in the lobby of the Cheltenham Township Police Department (8230 Old York Rd., Elkins Park; 215-885-1600) that is open from 6 a.m. to midnight daily. This information is from Representative Steve McCarter.

"Oldies But Goodies, a Theatrical Exploration of Plays & Stories"

Coventry House, Wed. Nov. 14th at 7pm

Actress and comedienne Gloria Salmansohn

\$10pp made out to Coventry House - Mail to:

Hanna Russo, 7301 Coventry Ave. Apt. #601, Elkins Park, Pa. 19027

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215-782-8848

Lanternfly Followup

Hello Andy --

You left me a phone message on Oct. 4 inquiring about talk given the previous evening about an invasive insect, and you asked for more info for your neighborhood.

I sincerely apologize for not getting back to you sooner. October has been a whirlwind of travel and commitments, and I am only just now getting back to normal.

I live in Oreland, in Upper Dublin Township, near Ft. Washington. My kids, now in their 30s, went through the Cheltenham school system and attended E.P. School. I know your area fairly well.

The talk you heard about was given at the Upper Dublin township building by a Penn State Extension agent by the name of Emily Swackhamer. The invasive insect that she described is the 'spotted lanternfly'. You can find the most reliable and comprehensive info on this insect by searching the web for 'penn state extension spotted lanternfly'. The only nice thing about this insect is the name. Unknown in the Americas until it was discovered in Berks County not far from Reading in approx. 2014, it has been expanding its range steadily since then. It is found now in about 13 PA counties, including Montgomery, Philadelphia, Bucks and others nearby. It has leapt the river into New Jersey and gone across our borders to the north and south. Movement of materials out of infected areas is banned by PA Dept of Ag. The fly has the potential to cause serious losses to PA agriculture. In a homeowner context, the insects aggregate in large numbers and become gross pests.

The identification, habitat, lifestyle and etc of the lanternfly can be found in the web search I indicated. To my knowledge, one of the most useful steps that a homeowner or active township citizen can take is to **cut down all Ailanthus altissima trees that one can find**. Then treat the stumps with concentrated Roundup to prevent stump sprouting. This tree is the favored host of the insect. Removing it greatly reduces lanternfly numbers. It has been planted by a few homeowners, perhaps, but as an invasive is much more likely to be found growing on disturbed vacant land, road grades and shoulders. The grades of the PA turnpike west from about Ft. Washington have pretty good stands.

The insects themselves can be killed by spraying with insecticidal soap from a mechanical or handheld pump sprayer. I've gotten such soap at Primex in Glenside, and other garden stores will also have it. The soap is just like old time hand soap - pretty harmless to humans.

I've ridden the SEPTA regional rails through your area. Ailanthus forms a good bit of the cover along the railroad grade in some places. I am quite concerned that when the flies find this they'll ride the trains and colonize the grade down into center city, and thence north and south along the seaboard on Amtrak grades and trains.

Lanternflies are just entering our area, with confirmed identifications in Upper Dublin township, in Flourtown, in Ambler, near Ft. Washington St. Park, and in Wyndmoor, (near the Cheltenham avenue boundary of Laverock) and maybe even closer to you. If they are not in E.P. now, next year ought to cinch it. Numbers will be low the first year, but could grow to overwhelming in a few years.

Again, my apologies for the delay. Good luck with you learnings and your efforts to inform you community. Good luck with any actions taken. Call again if you have any questions: 610 937 1622.

Best wishes, Mike Haas, - Monday, October 29, 2018

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Remember Amazon Smile

If you buy stuff from Amazon.com, shop with <http://smile.amazon.com/> and choose the Melrose Park Neighbors Association to receive your donations. Without any charge to you, MPNA gets 0.05% of any order you place with <http://smile.amazon.com/>. It's just like the normal Amazon website. Your opening web page is the same, your wish list is the same, everything is the same as with amazon.com, except you support MPNA at no cost or extra effort on your part.

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This Newsletter

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at

andrewrudin@earthlink.net

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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 president Caryl Levin, 922 Stratford Avenue, Elkins Park, PA 19027. The membership cycle is the calendar year.

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MPNA Board

Members of the MPNA Board are President Caryl Levin, Cindy Blackwood, Ricki Lent, Phil Kates, Michael Shectman, Jim Muldoon, Debbie Posmontier, Andrew Rudin and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you

are interested in helping out with MPNA, please call Caryl Levin at 215-635-7078 or email caryllevin@gmail.com or me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net. This and other past newsletters are available on our website – www.melrosparkneighbors.org MPNA

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