

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

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Wednesday, July 18, 2018

MPNA President Caryl Levin

Newsletter editor Andy Rudin

Cheltenham Township's Playground Carnival

Carnival games, prizes, inflatable amusement rides and more! That's what awaits you at Cheltenham Township's Playground Carnival on Friday, July 27 (rain date July 28) at Wall Park from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. There will also be hamburgers, hot dogs and soda, so come for dinner!

Commissioner Dan Norris - Wishing everyone a good summer!

There are many issues that the Board of Commissioners and Township staff deal with on an ongoing basis in addition to the routine aspects of running a township. I welcome your input, suggestions, requests for assistance and ideas. It is my honor to serve the residents of Cheltenham and this year also as the President of the Board of Commissioners.

1) It is always appropriate to take a moment and **thank our many great volunteer groups** (Our wonderful volunteer Fire Companies- protecting our homes and saving our tax dollars; Melrose Park Neighbors Association(MPNA); Cheltenham Arts Center; Library Friends groups and the Friends of High School Park for another successful Arts Day); which contribute in so many different ways to make Cheltenham strong.

2) **Sale of Sewer system:** The Commissioners approved the sale of the sanitary sewer system to Aqua Pa for \$50.25 million. After deliberating this for years, fiscal and managerial problems were the primary motivators to sell. With this sale, we will be able to direct our attention and capital to other priorities, attract new business to the Township and better manage our remaining debt obligations. It is our expectation that home lateral inspections will be suspended pending approval by DEP (PA Department of Environmental Protection) and review of the sale by the PUC (Public Utility Commission). The review by the PUC normally takes 9 months to a year. Aqua has plans to spend \$50 million over the next 10 years to improve Cheltenham's wastewater system.

3) **Sanitary Sewer Replacement-** Interceptor 'A': a 3.2 mile pipe along Tookany Creek from Old York Road to Central Avenue is in the process of being replaced at a cost of \$8.5 million. As part of this work, the 'black pipe' has already been removed! No additional sewer work is contemplated until Aqua takes over as owner.

4) **Traffic calming review:** A year ago I reported the addition of a 4-way stop sign at Windsor & Woodlawn. With the active support of local residents, we are in the process of reviewing additional options throughout the Township to encourage drivers to slow down and obey speed limits. A citizens committee- Safer Streets Cheltenham- has formed and is actively working with the Police Department and Township staff and Commissioners to consider all options. Four new electric speed monitoring signs were recently acquired to assist in this endeavor.

5) **Cheltenham Mall:** A major restructuring of the mall space is now open with new stores (some still in process): LA Fitness, Marshalls, Old Navy, Chipotle, PETCO, and Five-Below. A new sidewalk (previous blacktop, enables the water to drain better) (in our Sustainability Plan) has been completed along Shoppers Lane connecting Washington Lane to route 309.

6) **Cedarbrook Middle School:** Now completed and looking forward to welcoming the returning students.

7) **Elkins Estate-** (Dominican Retreat): Landmark Developers has purchased the property and proposes to operate it as a hospitality venue. When completed, the

Estate will include a boutique hotel, event and conference center, restaurant, spa, and public gardens. This is an exciting opportunity for the Township.

8) **Curtis Hall**- The Commissioners approved a catering management contract agreement with Jeffrey A. Miller Catering as exclusive caterer for weekend events at Curtis Hall. In addition to his professional expertise in managing numerous historic properties, significant capital improvements are planned.

9) **Operations & Financial Review**: The Township is exploring the opportunity to work with the state Dept of Community and Economic Development on a comprehensive review of our operations and review of our financial plan to find ways to save money and improve operations. The Township does receive a full CPA audit each year but this is an opportunity to do a comprehensive review of our operation with outside expertise.

10) **Firearm Regulation**: The Commissioners adopted an ordinance amending the Townships existing firearm regulations. Residents are now legally required to report lost or stolen firearms within 72 hours of the discovery and will receive penalties for failure to do so. This was supported by our Chief of Police John Frye and Im proud to have led this small but symbolic effort to address the proliferation of guns in our society.

11) **Shop locally whenever possible**. Your dollars spent at Creekside Co-op or local restaurants and stores stay within the township and help to create local jobs, pay Cheltenham business taxes and limit future tax increases.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with and for you.

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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.melroseparkneighbors.org

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