



The Gateway

Newsletter of The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd

The Oldest of the Main Line Civic Associations – 1906

P.O. Box 717, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004 • www.balacynwyd.org

Anne M. Greenhalgh, *President* — 610.664.3298

Casey O'Bannon, *Editor* — 610.668.0734

President's Message

Dear neighbors and friends,



I am writing to ask you to save the date, Saturday, July 4th, 2009 and to join us at our annual Independence Day celebration, sponsored by The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd.

Line up at 8:45 p.m. at the Union Fire Association and walk the familiar parade route with neighborhood children riding decorated bicycles, marchers in costumes, clowns, floats, fire trucks, police, and public officials. Wind your way to Bala Cynwyd Playground for the patriotic program, including music provided by Elaine Watts and The Summer Sounds Pop Band, a salute to the flag led by Boy Scout Troop Bala One, and a round of applause for our Citizen and our Merchant of the Year. Watch children enjoying the moon bounce, trackless train, extreme rock wall, bungee run, tubs of fun, obstacle course, carnival games, face painting, caricature portraits, pony rides, petting zoo, and exotic animals! Join in the foot races for all ages and the ever-popular egg toss. Win a t-shirt, decorated with an award winning design drawn by one of our students at Cynwyd Elementary.

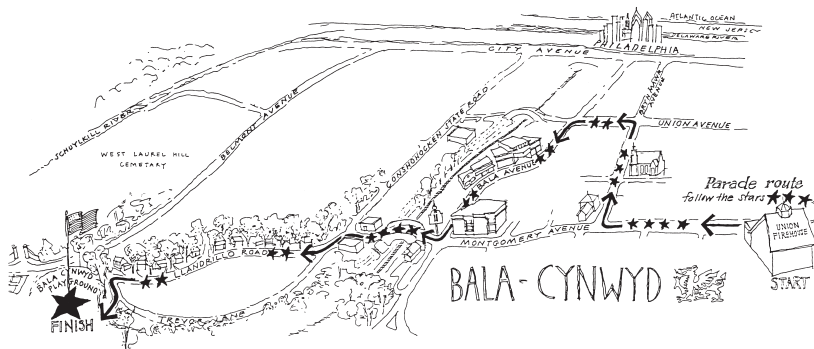
Whether or not you can participate, please support the celebration. For every \$30 household membership, roughly \$8.25 goes to support the event. But this amount represents only 38% of the total cost of the celebration. The Neighborhood Club relies on generous sponsors, both local businesses and indi-

Independence Day Celebration Sparkles on the 4th

The Neighborhood Club will sponsor the annual Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 4, 2009. Registration for the annual parade will begin at 8:45 a.m. at the Union Fire House on Montgomery Ave. The parade will take the same route as in previous years. (See Mimi Winkler's fine map below.) The parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Fire House and end at the Bala Cynwyd Playground.

You can purchase bracelets for \$15 each, or two for \$25. Each bracelet will allow the wearer to enjoy all of the games and rides as many times as desired for the flat price. Don't miss this bargain! You can purchase sets of tickets in small denominations as well.

Come join us and celebrate the 4th!



President's Message (continued)

viduals, to underwrite the bulk of the expenses for this wonderful community event. Your membership, sponsorship, and participation are all critical to the event's ongoing success — especially, in these challenging economic times. If you can make a contribution to our Independence Day Celebration, I would be most grateful to you.

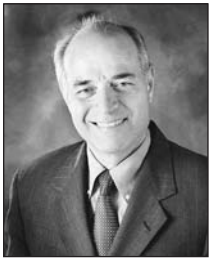
To pay your household or business membership dues or to give additional support to the Independence Day Celebration, you can send a check to P.O. Box 717, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 or you can pay online at www.balacynwyd.org/Organization/Donations.

Thank you for your membership, your support, and your community spirit!

Anne M. Greenhalgh
President

Commissioner's Letter

Greetings, neighbors! In the previous edition of *The Gateway*, Board President and Ward 13 (Cynwyd) Commissioner Bruce



Reed turned his attention to the Township as a whole and the 2010 budget process — appropriately enough, since at the end of 2008 it appeared that 2009 would be a very challenging year for the Township both operationally and financially. That, in turn, spelled challenges for 2010. The modest, 2% Township Real Estate Tax increase for 2009 was intended in part to level-out the

effect of flat or declining general revenues, and Commissioner Reed presented an excellent summary of the process that led to the '09 budget.

As we approach mid-year 2009 it would be appropriate once again to remind ourselves that, while some indicators predict a gradual and encouraging emergence from the recent, devastatingly steep downward slide taken by the economy, we are not yet out of the woods, and cost control and effective management of resources continue to be the key focus of Township Manager Doug Cleland and Finance Director Dean Dortone. Mr. Dortone, at about the time you receive this Newsletter, will be preparing to present his mid-year assessment of 2009 and his updated projections for 2009 and beyond. I urge you to give some attention to this as it will aid in your understanding of the views that the various Commissioners express as the process moves forward to a formal budget presentation in the fall. It will also inform the dialogue that Commissioners Reed, McElhaney, and I will conduct with The Neighborhood Club as we seek your input on the budget going forward. The mid-year assessment will also reveal how the Township is doing on the revenue side, and in this area the general hope is that things will be better than expected rather than worse, as not all sectors have fared equally badly in recent months.

The good news, with which you may already be familiar, is that, because of the Township's excellent history of fiscal responsibility and outstanding management practices, Standard and Poor's and Moody's again gave the Township an AAA rating, and did so at a time when both those rating agencies were expressing major concerns regarding municipal creditworthiness throughout the country. That left Lower Merion Township in the enviable position of continuing to be able to attract the lowest interest rates in the market when it issues bonds. As a result, in April, in a fast and furious online bidding session — which had to be extended nine times beyond its original concluding time — eager bidders bid interest rates down 51 times in a roughly 22-minute period. The outcome was the Township's ability to borrow roughly \$27 million at the astoundingly low annual interest rate of 3.13%, at a time when many financial institutions were virtually not lending money to anybody. On top of that, approximately \$20 million (of the \$27 million) was used to restructure existing debt, saving the Township \$1.4 million in interest payments over the next several years.

The balance of approximately \$7 million was needed to complete capital projects currently under way.

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail is now at the design stage and will soon be ready to commence a visioning process with the residents and the FOCHT. With good luck on bid results and good weather, initial construction of the trail should commence in the spring of 2010.

Finally, also in April, The Neighborhood Club held an information-packed workshop focusing on present and future development in the Bala Cynwyd-Belmont Hills catchment area. Guest speakers included Harris Steinberg, head of the University of Pennsylvania's "Penn Praxis" group, Township Director of Building and Planning Bob Duncan, and Mike Devine, Development Director for O'Neill Property Group, who presented his future plans for the O'Neill property at 600 Righters Ferry Road. This workshop included overviews by Mr. Duncan of the forthcoming City Avenue Special Services District's proposed zoning overlay for the City Avenue corridor from the river to 63rd Street, extending up Bala Avenue to Montgomery Avenue, as well as future plans of the O'Neill Property Group on Rock Hill Road. This very comprehensive overview gave attendees an opportunity to express concerns about and suggest measures that might be taken to regulate the fairly dense development that lay on the horizon, and at the same time gave presenters an opportunity to discuss measures taken through various ordinances and zoning amendments to make development possible without sacrificing the character of the residential community that is so highly prized (and properly so) by residents. Look for more on this in future "Gateway" editions.

See you on July 4th!

— George T. Manos

***Many thanks to our hard-working
off-Board committee chairs:***

Mary Anne Diamond,
Beautification Committee

Fred Fischer
Web Site

Jerry Francis
Historic Preservation

Phillip Rodbell
TreeVitalize

***Contact information for NCBC Officers and Directors
is available at our website: www.balacynwyd.org***

**2009 Scheduled Events for
The Neighborhood Club's Beautification Committee**

***Eighth Annual Sidewalk
Gardens Recognition***

Residential and Business Categories
*Nominate yourself; nominate a neighbor;
nominate a business.*

Nominations accepted through July 4, 2009.

Contact Mary Anne Diamond at
jdiamond34@comcast.net or at
610.667.5080

Gardens will be evaluated July 5–20th.

Winners will be announced in
The NCBC fall newsletter
and at the Beautification Committee's
Fall Perennial Exchange
October 18, 2009.

Awards will be made at
The NCBC Annual Meeting
November 10, 2009.



*45 East Dartmouth Rd. winner of
2008 Sidewalk Garden Recognition*



*181 Summit Rd. winner of 2008
Residential Sidewalk Garden Recognition*

***Eighth Annual Fall Perennial
Plants Exchange***

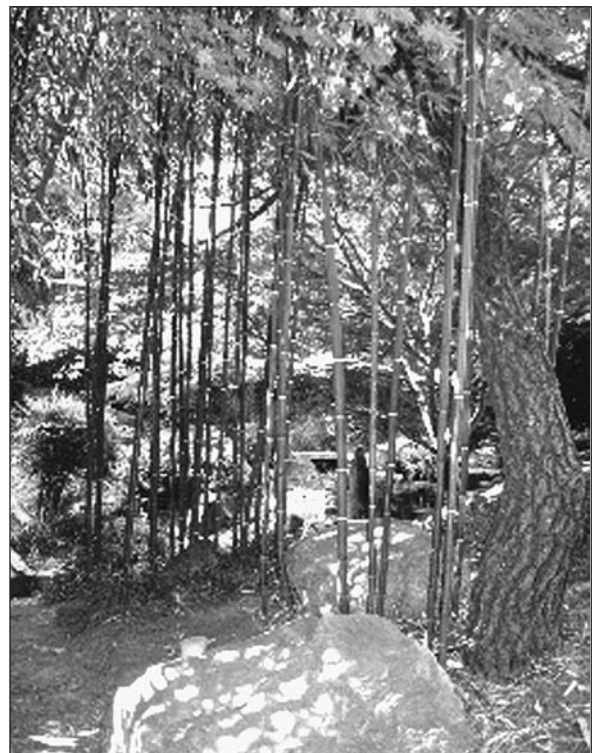
**New This Year: Native Plant Focus —
Saving Biodiversity One Suburban Yard at a Time.**

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Cynwyd Station Park (Conshohocken State Rd.
at Montgomery Ave. in Bala Cynwyd)
Exchange: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Bring potted, labeled plants, and take
as many free plants home as you bring.**

First Come, First Served.



*Pagoda Building Japanese Garden
100 Presidential Boulevard.
Winner Business Category
2008 Sidewalk Garden Recognition*

Fall Clean-up Day at Cynwyd Park

Sunday, October 18, 2009 • 9 am – noon
Trevor Lane and Llandrillo Road
(will coincide with Cynwyd Trail Workday)

***This is a great opportunity for the whole family
to have fun while doing a community service!***

Bring drop cloths, rakes, gloves, clippers.

Contract Awarded for the Cynwyd Train Station Project

The Lower Merion Historical Society has selected a new General Contractor, Ned Stumpo of Stumpo Construction Inc. of Conshohocken, PA to complete the Phase I renovations to the Cynwyd Train Station.

Founded in 1951, they are a third generation family from Belmont Hills, who specialize in residential, commercial and institutional construction. The scope of their work shifts to the interior mechanicals (plumbing, electrical, HVAC, fire suppression, etc.) and build-out of the office and apartment areas. The exterior stabilization, wood and brick finishes, and storm water control still need to be done. Mobilization has begun and the project is expected to take 4 to 5 months to complete.

The previous General Contractor, Jim Easter of JECB Construction, LLC passed away in early December 2008. JECB Construction had completed the labor-intensive interior stabilization of the building. The stone foundation walls have been rebuilt, the worn and damaged beams have been repaired/replaced, and the bearing walls have been shored up and leveled.

After a 5-month suspension of work, The Lower Merion Historical Society and Broadlands Financial Group, LLC are ready to restart the project with a new set of challenges and opportunities.

“The Historical Society is pleased with every aspect of the selection of the Stumpo family to complete this project. When work is completed, the Cynwyd Train Station will become a contributing asset to the adjoining Cynwyd Heritage Trail and to the community,” said Jerry Francis, President of the Historical Society.

Upcoming Meetings

NCBC Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 7:30 p.m. at the Lower Merion Academy (next to Bala Cynwyd Middle School) on Bryn Mawr Ave.

Why not join us for any or all of the following meetings?

June 9, 2009

Sept. 8, 2009

Oct. 13, 2009



The Lower Merion Academy, where NCBC meetings are held.

**Please visit our website
www.balacynwyd.org**

**The NCBC website
is a resource for:**

- ✓ The monthly agenda
- ✓ Minutes of previous meetings
- ✓ Past copies of *The Gateway!*
- ✓ Contact information for Board members
- ✓ Community Links
- ✓ PAYPAL — to pay dues electronically!



Thanks to Ilene McCaffrey

The Board of The Neighborhood Club salutes the service of Ilene McCaffrey who served the office of Treasurer for several years. Ilene has chosen to dedicate more time to other important volunteer causes. We applaud Ilene for her dedication to the community and wish her well!

Friends of Cynwyd Heritage Trail Request Neighborhood Support for Upcoming Workday

Greetings from the Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail. We are so thankful for the volunteer effort that so many residents of the Township have contributed to the cleaning and clearing of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail, including many Bala Cynwyd residents. Thank you for your hard work! The Township has valued the impact of volunteer efforts at \$50,000 of avoided costs and has an expectation of additional savings from volunteer support of an additional \$30,000 of effort prior to the construction of the trail. We continue to need volunteer support at our clean up days. This is hard but satisfying work. We need to expand our current core group of volunteers, so we will be reaching out to all of the neighborhood civic associations in the Township asking that they organize a group to work at one of the remaining work weekends for 2009. The remaining dates for 2009 are: June 20 and 21, September 12 and 13, October 17 and 18, November 14 and 15, and December 5 and 6.

We hope to have the Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd as the most active presence at several of the upcoming workdays. Thank you again for your continued support. Please contact Kathy Burns for further information at burnscollison@yahoo.com

Support the July 4th Celebration

Once again, The Neighborhood Club is preparing a wonderful July 4th celebration. Show your support for your community and country by purchasing an ad or sponsoring an event. We need your help this year more than ever.

Return this form with your name, phone number, email address, camera-ready copy and your contribution payable to:

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD — JULY 4th

Katherine Schieffelin
July 4, 2009 Program Book
 333 Trevor Lane
 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
 610-804-1437 (cell)

To secure a spot in the program booklet, return this form by Friday, June 12, 2009.

For more information, call Katherine Schieffelin, Program Book Chair, (610) 804-1437,
 Katherineschieffelin@yahoo.com or Anne M. Greenhalgh, President, NCBC (610) 664-3298.



PROGRAM BOOKLET AD FORM

To place a camera-ready ad in the July 4th Program Booklet, please select one of the options below:

- Red, White and Blue Sponsor, ¼ Page** \$ 100
- ½ Page** \$ 150
- Full Page** \$ 200
- Inside Cover** \$ 350
- Back Cover** \$ 400

To sponsor an event for \$250, please select your choice below. Event sponsors will receive a full page ad in the program, signage at the event, and grateful acknowledgement on the NCBC website and the NCBC newsletter.

- Jugglers, Stilt Walkers, and Clowns** \$ 250
- Antique Cars** \$ 250
- Marching Band** \$ 250
- Field Band** \$ 250
- Pony Rides** \$ 250
- Petting Zoo** \$ 250
- Exotic Animals** \$ 250
- Moon Bounce** \$ 250
- Trackless Train** \$ 250
- Extreme Rock Wall** \$ 250
- Obstacle Course** \$ 250
- Carousel** \$ 250
- Tubs of Fun** \$ 250
- Bungee Run** \$ 250
- Carnival Games** \$ 250
- Face Painting and Caricatures** \$ 250

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ **E-MAIL** _____

CONTACT PERSON _____



Newsletter of The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd
P.O. Box 717, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004
www.balacynwyd.org

Presorted Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 50
Bala Cynwyd, PA

*Thanks to the following neighbors
and friends who contributed to
this issue of The Gateway:*

- Mary Anne Diamond
- Jerry Francis
- Anne Greenhalgh
- Phyllis Faber Kelley
- Katherine Schiefflin
- Mimi Winkler
- Nancy Winkler

The Community Needs Your Support!

We are grateful to those of you who have paid NCBC dues for 2009.

Your civic association's honor system translates into numerous benefits to all residents of Bala Cynwyd, regardless of annual dues status. However, we need your dues to help us strengthen the community in a way that is valuable to all. Our Board members and Committee Chairs contribute their time and energy. Won't you please help us by submitting your 2009 dues now?

To pay by credit card, please visit our website: www.BalaCynwyd.org.

NOTICE: The Neighborhood Club is working to send newsletters electronically. In the near future anyone who has provided an email address to The Club will receive their newsletter via email. We hope you like this greener and less costly delivery.



The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd Membership Form

Your dues help to

- Alert you to neighborhood discussions of critical topics
- Preserve the residential character of Bala Cynwyd
- Support appropriate commercial development
- Monitor zoning, traffic, and safety on our streets
- Provide community-building events like the July 4th celebration

Please send your 2009 dues to: The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd
P.O. Box 717, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Household (\$30) Business (\$50) Contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Interested in Becoming a Director of The Neighborhood Club?

Please send a resume or letter of interest to:
The NCBC, Attn: Nominations, P.O. Box 717, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004