



## Commissioner's Letter

By Paul A. McElhaney



First, I'd like to thank all in the community for their confidence and trust in electing me to serve as the new Commissioner for Ward 3 which includes not only

Belmont Hills but also the College Park section of Bala Cynwyd. It is an honor, privilege, and responsibility that I do not take lightly. The direction of the Township's future has been well-marked by those who came before me. With the cooperation of a very dedicated LMT Board of Commissioners (BOC) and an even more dedicated staff, I look forward to helping chart the Township's path in the years ahead. I welcome your feedback, comments, suggestions and critiques.

When I was deciding to run for office I was confronted with a rather large geographical question: How do you unite a Ward that is clearly divided in half by the physical reality of a former quarry? One possible answer has already presented itself: The Cynwyd Trail. On the weekend of April 26-27, 2008 the Township hosted the first Cynwyd Trail volunteer cleanup. Not only did participation of immediate neighbors help to



Photo by Max Buten

Comm. McElhaney (left) and a part of the April 2008 Cynwyd Trail cleanup crew.

bridge the divide between the two sides of my Ward, but there was a unifying effect on the entire Township since we were joined by volunteers from all over Lower Merion.

(continued on page 4)

## 2008 Scheduled Events for The Neighborhood Club's Beautification Committee

### *Seventh Annual Sidewalk Gardens Recognition*

#### **Residential and Business Categories**

*Nominate yourself; nominate a neighbor; nominate a business.*

**Nominations accepted through July 4, 2008.**

Contact Mary Anne Diamond at [jdiamond34@comcast.net](mailto: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 19, 2008.

Awards will be made at **The NCBC Annual Meeting** November 11, 2008.



Prizewinning Garden at 38 Derwen Rd.

### *Seventh Annual Fall Perennial Plants Exchange*

**Sunday, October 19, 2008**

**Cynwyd Station Park  
(Conshohocken State Rd. at  
Montgomery Ave. in Bala Cynwyd)**

***Bring Potted, Labeled Plants, and Take as Many Free Plants Home as You Bring —***

***First Come, First Served.***

Exchange: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Then join us for a Garden Lecture, **"Pruning"**

by Bartlett Tree Experts'

John Studdy

11:00 a.m. – noon



Neighbors Research Plant ID at 2007 Fall Perennial Exchange

### **President's Message** (continued from page 1)

of the community are often facilitated by a letter or a call (or many) to these women and men. Also, our Township, State, Federal and other community officials value the information, effort and feedback they receive from The Neighborhood Club members.

I recently heard Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter illustrate an early incident in his career in which the unified efforts of Philadelphia community groups, Lower Merion Township, The Neighborhood Club and other regional organizations helped to save valuable open space in Philadelphia, just beyond the Bala Cynwyd border. It is the connections The NCBC makes with officials that allow us to be an important and vital entity in protecting our community interests.

While we are able to honor only a small number of the many, we recognize the efforts of all. We are indeed thankful for the people who provide public service and we are grateful for the time they commit.



Early 20th century Union Fire Company fire engines

Photo: Courtesy of  
L.M. Historical Society

## Boy Scouts Celebrate 100 Years in Bala Cynwyd

Scout Troop Bala One will begin the celebration of its Centennial Year starting on July 4, 2008 with an outdoor cook-out following The Neighborhood Club's Parade and July 4th program. Boys and their families are invited to stop by Bala One's cookout and see the Scouts' historical display.

Scouting is going strong in Lower Merion Township, and Bala One continued its one-hundred-year tradition of service on April 26 and 27 when leaders and their parents turned out in



Boy Scouts Working on Cynwyd Trail,  
April 2008

force to help begin the Township-sponsored Cynwyd Trail project. Scouts, parents and leaders from Scout Troops Narberth 176, Bala One, Merion's Liberty Troop, and Venture Crew 176 worked side by side to clear and forge a new connecting trail between the

Cynwyd Trail and the future River Trail. Bala One has officially adopted a portion of the trail and plans to continue work with other Lower Merion Boy Scout units on the development of the site around the old Clegg's Cotton Mill that straddles the trail.

Bala One is the oldest organized Boy Scout Troop in America. At The Neighborhood Club's July 4th celebration, Bala One will be recruiting boys 11 to 16 for the troop. One lucky young man at the July 4th celebration will receive a free week at summer camp with Bala One in the Pocono Mountains on Ressa Falls Scout Reservation. For more information call Scoutmaster Bill Swyer at 610-667-3641 or email Al Vitiello at SafeSchools4Kids@aol.com.



Union Fire Association  
Active Members Club  
VACATION RAFFLE

\$3,000.00 Gift Certificate

from

ROSENBLUTH VACATIONS

Tickets: \$5.00 each or

5 for \$20.00

**DRAWING: JULY 4<sup>th</sup> at 12PM at the  
BALA CYNWYD JULY 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration**  
located at the  
Bala Cynwyd Playground.

For additional information please email [raffle@station28.org](mailto:raffle@station28.org)  
[www.station28.org](http://www.station28.org)  
610-664-9112

Gift Certificate cannot be exchanged for cash value, must be redeemed for a vacation until gift certificate is used in its entirety.

Thank you for supporting the Union Fire Association

## 2008 Summer Solstice Event Cancelled

To the disappointment of numerous friends and neighbors, there will be no Fifth Annual Summer Solstice event in Merion-Cynwyd. Many of us have come to look forward with eagerness to this event that entertained us all, from newborns to nonagenarians.

The township closed off Levering Mill Rd. from Bala Ave. to Montgomery, and we arrived to celebrate the longest day of the year by walking, riding bikes or scooters, pushing baby carriages — whatever — but we were there to honor our community and each other. We knew that merchants would have booths set up to display their wares and that our terrific restaurants would have a wide variety of food to serve as our evening meal. Our smallest of citizens were entertained by Union Fire's Moon Bounce, and all of us listened raptly to live music provided by a succession of bands. We all departed reluctantly, with a warmer feeling about this marvelous community that we call home.

Well, the sad thing is that 2008 found us with a shortage of folks to organize and effect this beloved undertaking. We lost one of our mainstays to business relocation, and another to incapacitating injury.

Some of you, upon hearing that there will be no Summer Solstice gathering this year, inquired about how we can resurrect it next year. Well, there is only one way: VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES! If you are willing to work to perpetuate this neighborhood event in June 2009, contact Phyllis Faber Kelley, 610.667.1017 or [pfk411@verizon.net](mailto:pfk411@verizon.net). We will see what we can do.

## News Flash!

Earn \$\$\$\$ at The NCBC  
July Fourth Celebration

\$35 for helping

Committee Chair Greenhalgh

\$20 for playing in our marching band

Contact Anne Greenhalgh

greenhaa@wharton.upenn.edu

215.898.6058 • 610.664.3298

## Upcoming Meetings

Please join us at the Lower Merion Academy on Bryn Mawr Avenue, adjacent to the Bala Cynwyd Middle School. Following are the dates of near-term meetings:

**10 June 2008**

**9 Sept. 2008**

*Contact information for NCBC  
Officers and Directors is available  
at our website: [www.balacynwyd.org](http://www.balacynwyd.org)*



*The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd Parade, c. 1917  
(Bryn Mawr at Levering Mill)*

Photo: Courtesy of  
L.M. Historical Society

## Commissioner's Letter *(continued from page 2)*

To say the weekend was a success would be an understatement. Brush was cleared and chipped. Trash was collected and moved to a central pickup place. Boy Scouts from several different troops blazed a path into one of the most difficult areas. The cherry on top of the weekend was the gardening work that occurred at the Cynwyd Station. The planting space that is normally enhanced in the spring was expanded, and now there is also a new garden across the tracks. The Cynwyd Trail cleanup has demonstrated how great the community and the people who make up our community truly are.



Photo by Max Buten

*Mary Anne Diamond (left) oversees April  
2008 Cynwyd Station Garden Expansion.*

The Township has made progress recently both in the ROHO (Rock Hill Overlay Ordinance) district and the "M" (Manufacturing Ordinance) district, the latter being the area along the Schuylkill River at the foot of Righters Ferry Rd. After much work and many meetings, the BOC adopted an amendment to the Rock Hill Overlay Ordinance, and voted a new

"M" District Ordinance overlay. The goal of the amendments is to help spark development in these districts that have so long lain fallow. The vision is of vital new residential areas, and hopefully, in the coming months we will see fruits of many people's hard work in the form of submission of development plans to the Township.

The upcoming months will undoubtedly be very busy and exciting with continuing restoration work on the Cynwyd Station, accompanied by more efforts at cleaning up the Cynwyd Trail. We hope to see many of our friends and neighbors out for the next cleanup on Saturday, June 15.

Once again I thank everyone for their support and invite all to feel free to contact me at any time. I am looking forward to The Neighborhood Club's Fourth of July celebration, where I can greet those that I have already had the pleasure of meeting as well as making the acquaintance of those that I have yet to meet.

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

Jake Albert	Max Buten	Mary Anne Diamond
Jerry Francis	Anne Greenhalgh	Chris Leswing
Bill Swyer	Al Vitiello	Mimi Converse Winkler

## Support the July 4th Celebration

Once again, The Neighborhood Club has prepared a wonderful July 4th celebration. Show your support for your community and country by purchasing an ad or sponsoring an event. Your contribution will help make this year's celebration a real success.

Return the form below with your name and camera-ready ad and your contribution payable to:

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD — JULY 4th**

Ilene W. McCaffrey  
 July 4, 2008 Program Book  
 610 Oxford Rd.  
 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

To secure a spot in the program booklet, return this form **by Monday, June 16, 2008.**

For more information, call: *Ilene Wolf McCaffrey, Program Book Chair*, 215.765.4600, ext 230; or *Anne M. Greenhalgh, Celebration Chair*, 610.664.3298.



Photo: Courtesy of L.M. Historical Society  
 "Miss Liberty" at Cynwyd Public School,  
 1917 NCBC July Fourth Celebration



### PROGRAM BOOKLET AD FORM

*Please place the enclosed camera-ready ad in the July 4th Program Booklet at the following rates:*

- Red, White and Blue Sponsor .....  \$ 50
- Business Card, ¼ Page .....  \$ 125
- ½ Page .....  \$ 150
- Full Page .....  \$ 200
- Inside Cover .....  \$ 300
- Back Cover .....  \$ 350

*Please list me in the Program Booklet as an Event Sponsor at the following rates:*

- Petting Zoo .....  \$ 650
- Carousel .....  \$ 650
- Extreme Rock Wall .....  \$ 600
- Marching Band .....  \$ 500
- Trackless Train .....  \$ 500
- Field Band .....  \$ 400
- Pony Rides .....  \$ 400
- Moon Bounce .....  \$ 350
- Antique Cars .....  \$ 350
- Bungee Run .....  \$ 250
- Carnival Games .....  \$ 250
- Face Painting .....  \$ 125
- Jugglers .....  \$ 125
- Stilt Walkers .....  \$ 125
- Clowns .....  \$ 125

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_



Newsletter of The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd  
P.O. Box 717, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004  
[www.balacynwyd.org](http://www.balacynwyd.org)

Presorted Std  
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Permit No. 50  
Bala Cynwyd, PA

## Cynwyd Trail

### Cleanup Day

Sunday, June 15, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come out with Dad to provide a lasting tribute to the community.

Meet at Cynwyd Station Park.

For details see Cynwyd Trail at:

[www.lowermerion.org](http://www.lowermerion.org)

or contact Chris Leswing

[cleswing@lowermerion.org](mailto:cleswing@lowermerion.org)

610.645.6116

### Mark Your Calendar:

July 4 NCBC Community Celebration

Oct. 19 Fall Perennial Plants Exchange

## The Community Needs Your Support!

We are grateful to those of you who have paid NCBC dues for 2008.

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 2008 dues now?

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

Mary Anne Diamond, Beautification  
Fred Fischer, Web Site  
Phillip Rodbell, TreeVitalize



## 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 2008 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Leadership Opportunity

From time to time we have one or more vacancies on The Neighborhood Club Board of Directors. If you are interested in being considered for such a position, please let us know. You can find our contact information at [www.balacynwyd.org](http://www.balacynwyd.org).