



The Gateway

Newsletter of The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd

The Oldest of the Main Line Civic Associations – 1906

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President's Message

Neighbors and friends,

I write to wish you the best and to provide you with a brief update of the activities of your local civic association — The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd.

First, as we reported previously, for the past several years we have worked with the Lower Merion Board of Commissioners on the City Avenue rezoning ordinance. No other piece of Township legislation passed over the past 50 years is likely to have a greater impact on our community; the residential, shopping, and commercial amenities we value and want to attract to our community and the consequences of those amenities — primarily traffic — are directly implicated by the rezoning ordinance. The rezoning ordinance was passed by the Commissioners in December 2011, but The Neighborhood Club believed that the ordinance required substantial modification, primarily to ensure that a funding mechanism would be in place to provide critically needed traffic improvements, without which we believed traffic will spill through the residential areas that border the rezoned area. We are pleased to inform you that the rezoning ordinance was amended as we requested, and we now look forward to important but measured redevelopment along City Avenue. We are particularly grateful to Commissioners McGuire, Manos, McElhaney, and Rogan for their support through this process.

Second, the Cynwyd Heritage Trail has continued to serve as an example of how

(continued on page 2)

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

community volunteerism and engagement can effect positive change. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of our neighbors, an unused part of the former R6 Septa regional rail line was converted into a running and bike path. The Trail officially opened this past fall. On May 6, The Neighborhood Club co-sponsored a run to benefit the Trail. The run was well-attended and raised much-needed funds for the Trail. Perhaps more importantly, the event drew hundreds of neighbors together on a Sunday morning. We look forward to sponsoring other events on the Trail, which has quickly become one of the most valuable and attractive aspects of our community.

Third, we are in the final stages of preparing for our annual Fourth of July event. The cost of the Fourth of July event recently has far exceeded our ticket sales and we began to explore ways to cut back on some of the games we offered for years. Those cut-backs do not appear necessary now, thanks to the fundraising of Lou Barson and members of The Neighborhood Club and the generosity of several local business owners. We are grateful for these efforts and donations; here, again, our community has come together to support an event that uniquely identifies Bala Cynwyd as a vibrant area that seamlessly honors tradition — what other area continues to host an egg toss and foot races — while encouraging dynamic civic engagement like the Trail, the Farmers Market, and countless other initiatives.

Lastly, if you have not done so already, please consider supporting The Neighborhood Club. The dues that you pay are put to good use. Please also consider attending a meeting. The Club meets the second Tuesday of every month (except July and August), usually at The Academy on the campus of the Bala Cynwyd Middle School on Bryn Mawr Avenue. Also, if you would like to receive electronic copies of our newsletter and updates from The Club, please let me know.

Again, thank you for your support!

With best regards,
John C. Grugan, President