

MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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F A L L I S S U E 2 0 1 2

PRESIDENT'S WORD

By Kevin Murphy



The past two years as President of the Merion Civic Association have been a life altering experience. I have really learned a lot

and met new and interesting members of our community along the way. I hope that in some small way my efforts within the Merion Civic Association, not just as President but over the past 13 years, has made an impact in the community that I am proud to call home. It truly has been an honor to serve the residents of Merion.

There have been many events both locally and nationally that have impacted the citizens of Merion. As we all know, the art collection of the Barnes Museum leaving Merion was a great disappointment. Many feel as if we have lost a huge part of Merion's

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PRESIDENT'S WORD

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history with the move to Philadelphia. Looking forward, the plans for the grounds and to enhance the Arboretum at the Barnes will hopefully make a place that the community will enjoy.

The purchase of the former Episcopal Academy by St. Joseph's University has also affected our Merion community. There have been many challenges between the goals of SJU and the impact on the neighborhood. St. Joseph's has been a neighbor and participant in the Civic Association for many years. Recognizing that they will be here for many more decades, we hope to redevelop a relationship with the University so that their college community and our civic community can work together on issues that impact both of us.

Redistricting is a national topic that will impact many in Lower Merion Township. Merion will soon have a new Congressman, Chaka Fattah, who came to a well-attended civic association meeting to introduce himself. As our guest, he began to establish a solid relationship with the Merion community for the years to come.

Lastly, the redevelopment of City Avenue will greatly impact Merion. This has been a topic within the Township that has caused much discussion. As the Township moves forward with their plans, we hope to have input and relay the concerns of Merion residents. We are optimistic that with open lines of communication, the Township will integrate the ideas brought forth from our civic.

With all of that said, I moved to Merion to raise a family, to send my children to one of the best school districts in the country and to get involved in a community that has a bright future. We live in a beautiful, safe and friendly environment which is due to our concerned citizens. I feel very fortunate to be a resident of Merion.

Looking forward, Scott Kalner is Merion Civic Association's incoming President. Scott will continue to look out for the best interests of the Merion Community. Scott has been an advocate for our schools and is active in the Township as a participant in the Comprehensive Plan and currently chairs the Historical Architectural Review Board. He is well qualified for the job. I wish Scott luck and will do what I can to assist him as Merion Civic celebrates 100 years in existence. As we reach this milestone, check with Civic Board members that you know to see if there's something that you can do to help. The time commitment is not huge but the impact is significant.

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