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June 2011

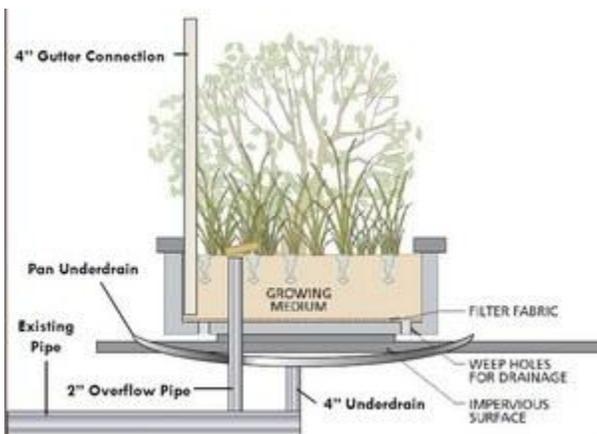
Hi Friend of the Historical Society,

## **Mini Grant Awarded to the Historical Society**

On February 5th, volunteers from East Falls, Manayunk, Roxborough, Shawmont and Lower Merion all gathered at *Bourbon Blue* in Manayunk for the *Hang Out To Help Out* event organized by The Schuylkill Project and the Manayunk Development Corporation. This event raised about \$3,000 and proceeds were distributed to ten local organizations, including the Historical Society. Our \$400 grant will be invested to support two sustainable stormwater projects at the Cynwyd Train Station. Special thanks and appreciation goes out to Kay Sykora and Annie Scott of the Schuylkill Project.



## **Sustainable Stormwater Projects**



Since the sub-leasing of the Cynwyd Train Station to the Historical Society in 2008, we have been working to revitalize the almost-demolished 1890 PRR train station at the head of the [Cynwyd Heritage Trail](#) into a historically-accurate, high performance green community center. The project is being overseen by the Historic Commission of Lower Merion as well as a LEED Accredited Professional. [Visit the site](#) to learn more about the elements of the green renovation of the building.

Simultaneously, we are working to rejuvenate the adjacent Cynwyd Station Park, which, for the past few decades, has been taken over by invasive species and soil erosion. On

April 2nd students from Bryn Mawr College, and on May 14th students from the Phelps School in Malvern donated a half-day of service to this project. We hope to install a sustainable landscaping/green infrastructure to control the invasive species as well as the stormwater runoff that is polluting Vine Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River. The runoff also threatens the stability of the station's foundation by leaking into the basement. Designs for a sustainable water landscape are currently being designed by students of the Engineering School at Villanova University as well as an innovative rainwater harvesting

system, designed specifically for the station pro bono by North Street Design, LLC. More details on this initiative will be in our July issue of *Milestones*.

## ***Making the Academy Beautiful***

Bala Cynwyd has a wonderful resource in The *Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd (NCBC)*. Founded in 1906, this civic association continues to be pro-active in performing its mission to the community. Their Beautification Committee, chaired by Betsy Meyers, keeps Bala Cynwyd green by establishing and maintaining public gardens and recognizing private gardens planted and tended by local residents and merchants; and works with the township by actively participating in such programs as Park Friends. Recently, these volunteers have been planting gardens around the Lower Merion Academy. Pictured are two of these volunteers, Sudie Herdman and Eleanor Powell planting mountain laurels along the front side of the Academy building. Also, mark your calendar for Bala Cynwyd's July 4th Parade and Celebration, an annual event sponsored by the NCBC since 1916!



## ***Get Ready, Get Set, and Go...***

The May meeting of Cub Scout Pack 581 was held at the Lower Merion Academy. It featured their running of the annual *Pinewood Derby*, one of the most popular and successful family activities in Cub Scouting. The *Pinewood Derby* cars are small wooden models that Cub Scouts make with help from their families. The cars are powered by gravity and run down a track. In attendance for this year's competition were Al Vitiello, the Unit Commissioner, and Pack Leader Steve Sigel, along with 15 Cub Scouts and their families. Also cheering on the Cub Scouts were members of Boy Scout Troop Bala 1, the oldest Boy Scout Troop in America, with Scout Master Bill Swyer and Assistant Scout Masters Kevin Collison and Maxx Vitiello.



## ***Building Photographs - To preserve Today for tomorrow's history***

Our June pictures are from [www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/](http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/), where it is part of our future history:



This was the ranch house of Emily and Henrietta Deubler, sisters who were teachers in the Lower Merion schools. A phased permit has been issued to rebuild the house. Phase 1 is underway, with the building taken down to the first floor joists. It doesn't require the permits that are needed for a full teardown, but the effect is the same: none of the old house will be visible when the job is done.

There are more photos of this despoiled house on our [Building Photographs web](#)

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The July issue will answer the question: What is Shutter Green, Cherry Chocolate, and Cheery Yellow?

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## ***Favorite Links***

- [Lower Merion Historical Society's Website](#)
  - Our [Preserve America Website](#)
  - [Membership Information](#)
    - [Buy Our Books](#)

### ***MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

The Lower Merion Historical Society is an organization dedicated to *Preserving Our Past For The Future*. This is accomplished by stewardship of local history, education of the community, preservation of historic resources and outreach to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth.

