



Girls LACROSSE ALL-STARS PAGE 29

# Main Line Life



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50¢

**MAIN LINE MYSTERY**

If you have a sweet tooth for some sweet corn, then there's a good chance you will know where this week's Main Line Mystery is. Also check out the five-day planner to see if the hot weather will be around for the weekend.

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**SAVING BARNES**

While Montgomery County is offering a \$50 million carrot to keep the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Lower Merion Township may soon remove another reason to move the great art collection to the city.

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**PLENTY OF OPINION**

Read a good book lately? Managing Editor Tom Murtry has a suggestion. Also check out Letters to the Editor and Main Line Voices for plenty of Main Line opinion.

• PAGE 4 & 5 •

**HONORED**

Lower Merion Township Secretary Ellen Trainer was selected to receive a Legion of Honor Award from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, a national organization based in Philadelphia that recognizes "selfless service to humanity."

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**BRIDGE WORK?**

Tredyffrin Township Supervisor Bill Derlavin is calling on the township staff to consider whether a critical bridge in Berwyn should be replaced.

• PAGE 9 •

**FINAL PLANS**

The Merion-based Akiba Hebrew Academy is leaving its longtime home in Merion next year to become the anchor tenant in a new Jewish educational center on the property formerly owned by the American College in Bryn Mawr.

• PAGE 9 •

**PEOPLE**

It seemed as if the Philadelphia Charity Ball's annual Debutante Tea had been transported to the French Riviera.

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## New policy set for LM 'rainy days'

■ Board approves changes that set limits at both ends.

By Cheryl Allison

Returning to an issue that was a hot topic at budget time last December, Lower Merion commissioners are poised to set a new rainy day fund policy.

The most significant change is that there would not only be a floor below which reserve funds would not dip, but also a ceiling above which they should not rise.

Meeting in committee Tuesday night, commissioners voted 9-1 to accept a resolution setting a new fund balance policy. Commissioner Brian Gordon cast the "no" vote, but convinced that the target range is high enough to ensure the township holds onto its coveted AAA bond rating. (Commissioners Ricco Bardo, Jane DeHaven and Lewis Gould were absent. Commissioner Phil Rosenzweig left the meeting early.) The vote is to be formalized at the board's regular meeting July 18.

Other commissioners agreed that the policy is a stronger formula for fiscal stability than the guideline that has been in effect since 2002. The policy came under fire last winter, when some township committees questioned the need for a proposed 3-percent tax rate increase. Township Manager Douglas Cleland's proposed 2007 budget called for the hike, even though the projected general fund revenue was about 22 percent.

With no-floor cut standard to say

See **POLICY**, Page 11



Six-year-old Geline King of Berwyn has Misty by her side as she reads.

## Reading to Raise the Woof!

Kids and animals are perfect together at Easttown Library

By Erica Peot

For Main Line students with nothing but time on their hands this summer, the Easttown Library and Information Center has a program that will keep them busy. And at the same time, help a good cause.

The library has teamed up with Main Line Animal Rescue (MLAR), First Priority Bank of Malvern, Corporate Planning Group, and Delaware Valley Financial Group, and is sponsoring *Reading to Raise the Woof!*

*Reading to Raise the Woof!* is a summer reading program where adults and children will be reading to help homeless animals. The program will run through Aug. 10 and

participants will donate 30 cents for every book read this summer.

"We were given the goal of 11,000 books or \$55,000," said Bucky Sheridan, the youth services director at the Easttown Library and Information Center.

More than 600 children and 35 adolescent volunteers are expected to participate in the program. The goal of *Reading to Raise the Woof!* is to help strengthen participants' literacy skills while helping the community.

"There is repeated research that shows children who read during the summer maintain the reading levels they are at and in fact excel," said Sheridan. "Children who

See **LIBRARY**, Page 12



Caryn Harris and Pepper from Main Line Animal Rescue take part in Easttown Library's *Reading to Raise the Woof!* with Christin Weidman.

## Plenty of blame to go around in Radnor probe

■ Report: 'Policies, controls and procedures' were among the causes of the recent incidents.

By Sam Strike

The attorney who investigated two occasions of administrative grade-changing and a large-scale mid-year cheating incident at Radnor High School says both were the result of a "perfect storm."

Michael Levin, who also served as Radnor Township School District special counsel during last year's collective-bargaining negotiations, writes in his report, part of which was released to the public last week, that a dearth of "policies, controls and procedures" were among the causes of the recent incidents.

The cheating and grade-changing are essentially unrelated except that they were both investigated by Levin, that they were both exposed by chance, and that they are the latest in a series of continuous and significant occurrences that have cast a pall over the school district.

According to the released report, which has gone through wordsmithing and editing by Levin and the Radnor School Board, student theft of an Advanced Placement notebook exam before it was to be given was evidently discovered by a parent, who anonymously e-mailed district administrators and a teacher to say that the teacher's computer account had been breached.

It was "apparent" that exposed one of the two students whose grade changes were sanctioned, or made, by either then-interim principal Joseph Casella or superintendent of schools Dr. Gary Cooper or both.

According to the report, the student was "bragging" that Cooper had changed his grades, and "as a result, the rest is history," Levin wrote.

He concludes that there was no protocol being followed and no rationale existing that upheld the grade

See **RADNOR**, Page 11

## U of P eyes spot in Tredyffrin for office space

By Daniel Krutik

The University of Pennsylvania wants to build a medical facility in Tredyffrin Township, near the intersection of Chestnutbrook Boulevard and Swedesford Road.

At a planning commission meeting last month, university representatives presented preliminary sketches of the facility, which would contain two medical buildings.

The first building would have a radiology suite on the first floor and clinical and educational space on the second and third floors.

The second building, to be constructed once the first building is up and running, would contain two to four outpatient surgery sites as well as some patient exam rooms.

University reps said the facility would be a "community-based" medical training center, which would link up with Penn Medicine at Radnor and with other Penn primary care sites in the area.

The University of Pennsylvania is the third party to come up with a proposal for this site, which is located at 1001 Chestnutbrook Boulevard. The first two proposals, by O'Neill Properties and Marston Hotels, were withdrawn.

O'Neill wanted to build a housing development, and Marston wanted to build a hotel with between 330 and 360 rooms.

Penn's proposal is still in the preliminary stages, and planning commission members have concerns with some aspects of the site plan.

Traffic was their number one concern. Because the site

See **TREDYFFRIN**, Page 11

**Here's another bright idea from PECO.**

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## *Reading to Raise the Woof!*

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