
MAIN LINE ERUV

***Rabbi Shlomo Caplan, Rav Hamashgiach
Mark Zohar, Treasurer***

November 2, 2006

Dear Eruv User:

The Main Line Eruv Corporation and the Keruv Corporation are happy to announce the first major expansion since 1995.

This expansion has been in process for several years and represents an enormous expenditure of time and effort by a very dedicated group of people. There were miles and miles of ground that had to be walked in order to design a workable route; there were agreements to be reached with PECO, Lankenau, St. Charles Seminary, Saunders House, the railroad, Lower Merion Township and others; there was money to be raised and construction to be completed.

Throughout the difficult times, there was one driving force – the desire to provide a service to the broader community. The eruv is an integral part of Shabbos and a service that people have simply come to expect. As our shul stands on the threshold of moving to our new location, the eruv will serve as a means of reaching out farther into the community.

Please review the attached document. It provides some background information on the proper use of an eruv and maps to help guide you. When walking on a perimeter street, you must familiarize yourself with its intricacies. There are problem areas that you must be aware of, specific locations that must be avoided altogether and most importantly, the rule you need to keep in mind:

When walking in a *clockwise* direction around the eruv on a perimeter street, always walk on the right side of the street.

Finally, as nothing can be accomplished without resources, you will find an attached pledge card and return envelop. Everyone benefits from an eruv, whether personally or indirectly. Please recognize the benefit and send in your pledge.

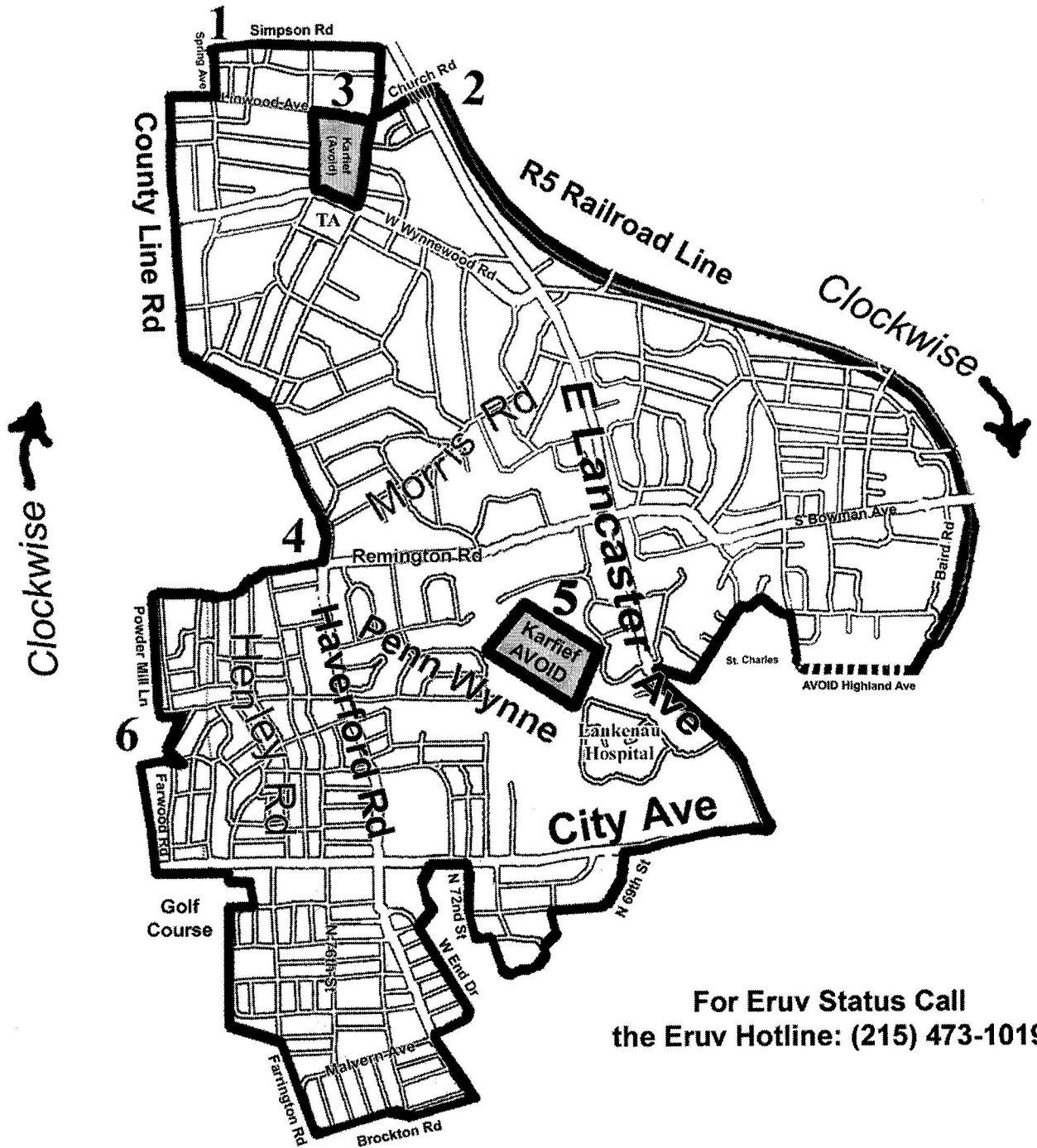
Sincerely,



Mark Zohar,
Treasurer

Main Line Eruv

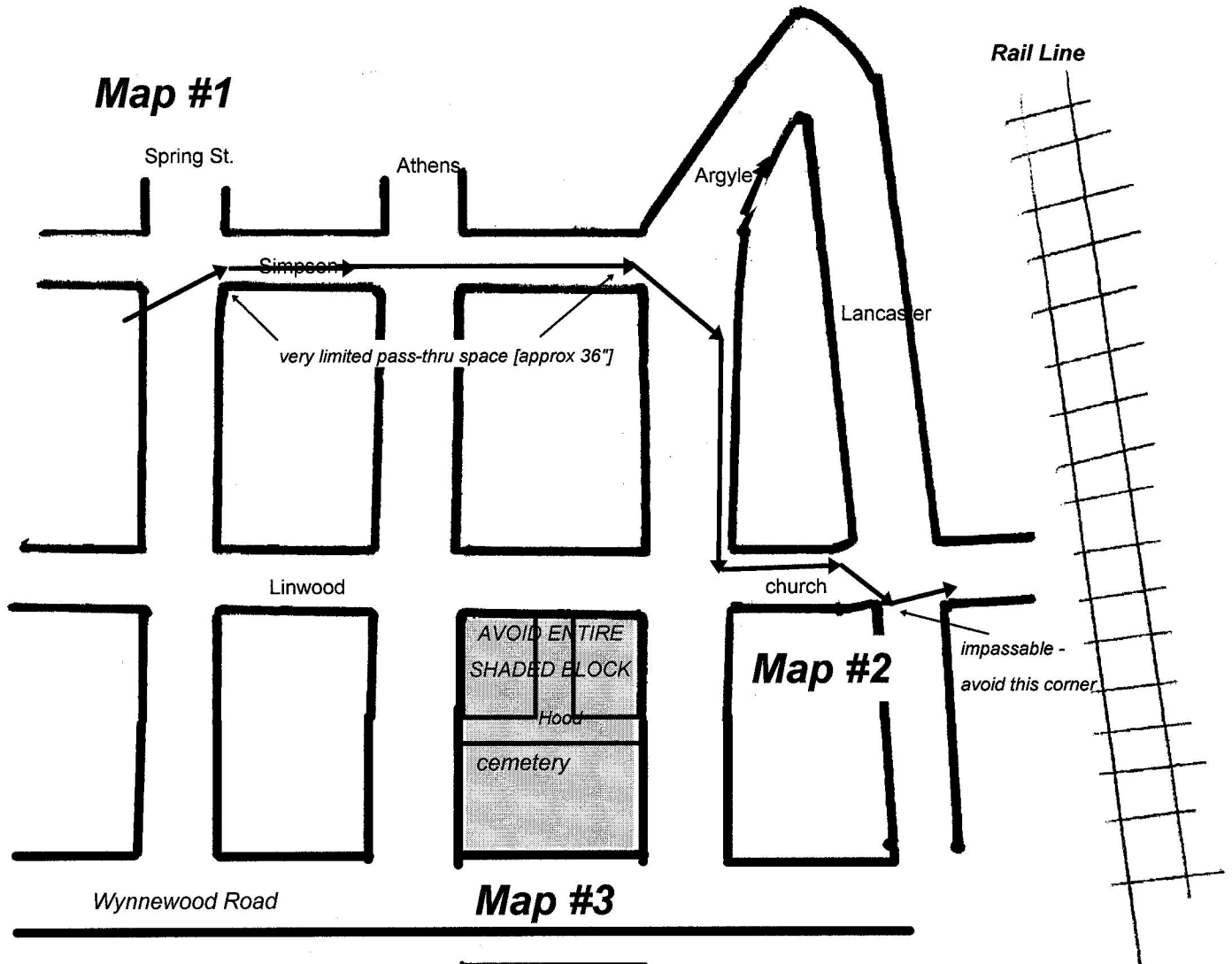
When walking in a clockwise direction around the eruv on a perimeter street [heavy black line], always walk on the right side of the street.



For Eruv Status Call
the Eruv Hotline: (215) 473-1019

Please note: special problem areas are indicated by the numbers shown on this map; they are further detailed in subsequent maps comparably numbered.

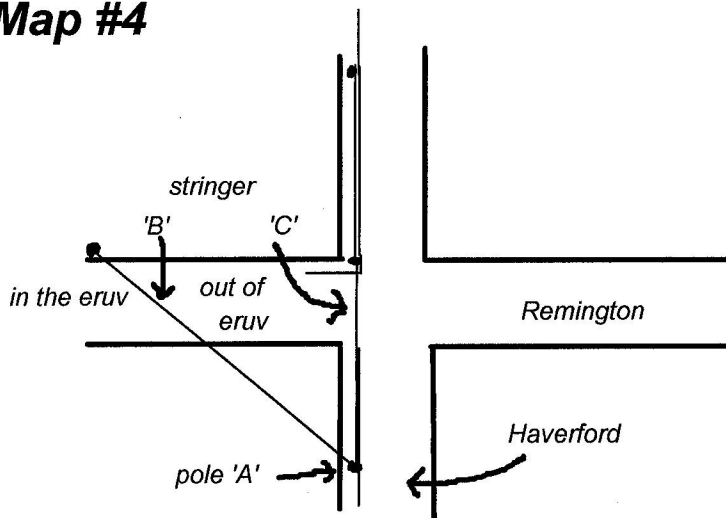
Map #1



Map #3

Torah Academy

Map #4



when heading down haverford [toward City Line] remain on left side of street until you get past pole 'A' afterwhich both sides of the street are available.

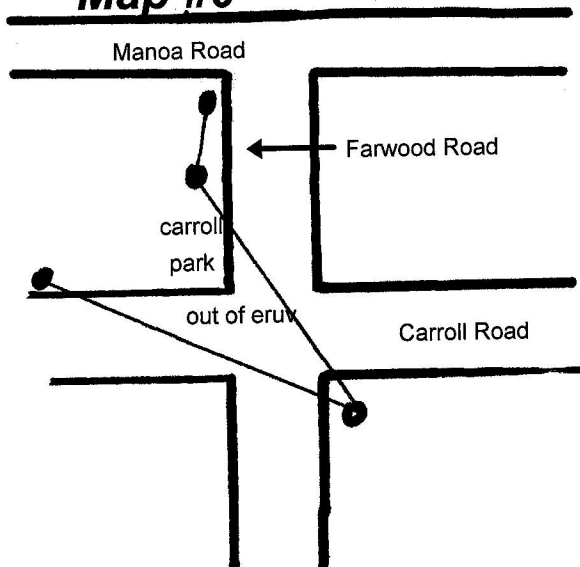
Important to note: you cannot carry between stringer 'B' and Stringer 'C'.

map #5

Karfief area - avoid area enclosed in black lines



Map #6



WHAT IS AN ERUV?

The word Eruv, in the vernacular, has come to mean the enclosure of a specific area for the purpose of permitting carrying on Shabbos. Technically the enclosure used in most instances is called a Tzuras Hapesach, (literally “the form of a doorway.”) This Tzuras Hapesach generally consists of wires running from telephone poles which form the lintel or “Kaneh” and upright moldings attached to telephone poles which are the sideposts or “lechis.

In addition to the Tzuras Hapesach, which renders the entire area a Reshus Hayachid (private domain), there must also be an Eruv Chatzeiros (lit. . combining of courtyards). This is a procedure which allows us to treat the entire area as being under common ownership. Additionally, a lease agreement has been arranged with the city and townships granting permission.

In order to avoid confusion, in this manual we will abide by the popular usage of the term, referring to the Tzuras Hapesach as the Eruv.

WHAT DOES AN ERUV ACCOMPLISH?

An Eruv is meant to enhance the enjoyment and honor of Shabbos by permitting us to carry within the borders of the Eruv. In earlier times, an Eruv was a vital part of Shabbos observance, since many of the amenities which we have today within our houses, were situated outside their houses (e.g. bathrooms and communal cholent ovens). Although not the necessity it used to be, an Eruv does serve two very important functions. Firstly, it saves those who do carry on Shabbos from this aveirah. Secondly, it allows those who are homebound - the infirm and parents caring for infants - to go to shul and to visit friends on Shabbos.

WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT

This booklet contains a map showing the boundaries of the Eruv. It is essential that everyone familiarize himself/herself with the precise limits of the Eruv so that no one, chas v'shalom, carries outside of its perimeter.

You will note that as the Eruv runs along certain streets, one side of the

street may be in the Eruv while the other side is out of the Eruv. Furthermore, since the telephone poles holding the Tzuras Hapesach are on the sidewalk, there are cases where only the inside of the sidewalk is in the Eruv and one must be extremely careful not to carry on the street side of the wire (see additional maps). It is strongly recommended that you limit carrying on these streets to the extent absolutely necessary. (Sometimes the inside of the sidewalk will be out of the Eruv and the outside will be in. In these cases we considered the entire sidewalk to be out of the Eruv.)

WHO'S IN AND WHO'S OUT

Determining the course that an eruv will follow is a very complicated process requiring literally years of work. The decisions are constrained by halachic issues, terrain, cooperation of a great many government and public institutions as well as individual residents. Satisfying all these factors sometimes results in certain people being left out of the eruv. This is always a difficult decision but the facts usually leave no workable or practical alternative.

However, as resources grow and demands shifts, we will be looking to make the changes that will one day include people currently outside the eruv.

IS IT UP OR DOWN?

Once the Eruv is up, it's up, right? Wrong. Due to factors beyond our control .primarily adverse weather and vandalism .the Eruv may become pasul (not Kosher). Thus the Eruv must be checked each week and Eruv Yom Kippur and repaired if necessary.

For you to ascertain if the Eruv is up you must call (215) 473-1019 each Friday (and Erev Yom Kippur) sometime after noon. A recorded message will relate the status of the Eruv. You may also add yourself to an e-mail notification list by e-mailing Bethhamedrosh@verizon.net and requesting that your name be added.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE THE ERUV IS DOWN ON SHABBOS

If you notice the eruv is down on Shabbos, *you may no longer carry*. However, people who are not aware that the eruv is down are not considered to be violating the shabbos, since they are under the impression that the eruv is kosher; they are relying on a chazaka [the assumption of the status quo]. Therefore, it is best not to tell others that the eruv is down.

This of course does not answer the question of what to do if you are already carrying and you see the eruv is down. That question is too complicated to answer within the limitations of this document. Rabbi Caplan will address this at a special forum to be announced in the near future.

WHAT THE ERUV DOES NOT PERMIT

The purpose of an Eruv is to enhance the observance of Shabbos and to facilitate our service of HaShem in general. The Eruv will permit those who might otherwise be homebound to come to shul to daven and to enjoy the Oneg Shabbos with friends.

Relying on the Eruv to engage in sports activities diminishes the sanctity of the Shabbos and is antithetical to the purpose of the Eruv. The Eruv was not made with this purpose in mind nor does halacha permit such activities.

Similarly, the Eruv does not permit the carrying of an umbrella or any objects which are muktzeh on Shabbos. Bike riding is forbidden on Shabbos regardless of the Eruv.

IN CASE OF ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

This eruv is under the supervision of Rabbi Shlomo Caplan. Rabbi Caplan's first concern is that the eruv be used properly and correctly and within halachic limits. If questions arise, please do not hesitate to call Rabbi Caplan with your questions [H: 610-658-1967].