



THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

December 2006- Vol. I, Issue 8

PO Box 2926, Philadelphia, PA 19126 Tel: 215-224-2777

Website: www.eastoaklane.org

Calendar of Events:

- **Urban Forest**—Check out what the Tree Tenders are up to
- **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church**—check out their many activities
- **OLCAA has changed the website address and we think it will be easier for everyone to remember. Check it www.eastoaklane.org**
- **OLCAA Potluck**— *this event is in the planning stage. Call our Hotline at 215-224-2777 if you wish to become a part of this committee.*



We would like to start off this Newsletter with our best Wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season to all.

This Board is working for you and as East Oak Lane Community Members we remember this is a time of giving to others and to be thankful for what we have.

May the New Year bring you good health, joy, happiness and love.

Ghost Walk

First Annual Ghost Walk

The Ghost Walk on Oct. 27th & 28th was a great success. If you weren't able to attend, keep it in mind for next year.

See Pg. 2

EOL Town Watch

We Need Volunteers

This effort is underway and we need your help.

See Pg. 2

This Holiday Season

Give to the Future

There are some initiatives happening in Phila. To improve neighborhood's

business and open spaces. See what you can do to help in this effort. **See Pg. 3**

Winterize Your Home

Keep Old Man Winter Out

The cable network DIY offers great tips to winterize your home. Check it out. **See Pg. 4**

Beautification

Holiday Gifts

Through the generosity of some neighbors, you will soon see Victorian Urns grace our neighbor. See how you can contribute. **See Pg. 5**

New Book Group

Friends of Oak Lane Library

New book group started on Nov. 27th and will go through March 5. Come join.

See Pg. 6

Oak Lane Presbyterian Church

Cultural Arts & Church Schedule

Are your children interested in playing a musical instrument? See what is being offered. Also see the Christmas and Advent schedule. **See Pg. 6**

Poor Bessie's Almanac

An Acorn Grew...

Here is another story from Grandmom Bessie.

See Pg. 7

OLCAA AT WORK FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- In partnership with the Friends of the Oak Lane Library, OLCAA hosted the first annual East Oak Lane Ghost Walk, grossing over \$1,200 for the neighborhood.

- The Education and Cultural Arts Committee, in partnership with the Mt. Airy Learning Tree, successfully launched its first semester of classes in East Oak Lane i.e. Yoga, Guitar & Banjo lessons, & Tea Seminars.

- The Oak Lane Tree Tenders pruned trees planted by the Committee throughout the neighborhood. They cleaned, and mulched the three landscaped islands at Broad & 66th Ave.

- Received a \$2,000 Grant from the Activities Fund for 2007.

- Formulated a new communication and ticketing procedure with P.O. Baynard, our Community Liaison at the 35th District, for targeting homes and businesses which are persistently not complying with City Laws and Ordinances. In tandem with the OLCAA Block Reps,

Continued on Pg. 11

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First East Oak Lane Ghost Walk

By Marita K. Poxon

East Oak Lane's first every Ghost Walk was a big success. Despite the "Dark & Stormy" night on Friday October 27th, 16 paid participants and just as many volunteers braved the elements for a wonderful evening of unearthly entertainment. Guides holding antique style lanterns guided the participants to six Victorian homes where East Oak Lane storytellers performed 6 original Ghost Stories. On Saturday October 28th, we had over 60 paid participants guided to the same spooky Victorian homes this time with a howling October wind creating the perfect atmosphere for all who ventured out.

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library and OLCAA co-sponsored and helped organize this event. All profits from the Ghost Walk have been divided equally between both organizations for the betterment of East Oak Lane.

Many weeks of planning, writing and rehearsing resulted in ghostly stories of true originality – tales that combined historical fact with imaginative, otherworldly embellishments. The storytellers & writers included:



The Story Tellers

1. Kelly McShain-Tyree (storyteller & writer) – A Tale of Ghostly Possession.
2. Dugan McShain (storyteller); Michael Poxon (writer) – The Haunted Carriage House & Box.
3. Marita Krivda Poxon (storyteller & writer) – The Osborne Ghost.
4. Darcy Rosato (storyteller & writer) – The Witches of East Oak Lane.
5. Marilyn Gaithers (storyteller & writer) – Legendary Ghosts of South Carolina.
6. T. J. Scully (storyteller & writer) – The Scully Voice from the Graveyard.

People bought their tickets on the porch of Kelly's home from Carmen Jimenez and Michael Poxon. The participants went around in small groups lead by various volunteer guides. Kelly McShain-Tyree, a professional actress, gave an Oscar level performance of Ghostly possession by Edna Wexler – the former, reclusive owner of the home. Dugan McShain, the 2nd storyteller, told a spine tingling tale of murder and ghostly revenge outside of the largest Carriage House in East Oak Lane. Marita Krivda Poxon, the 3rd storyteller, recounted her Henry James style story of tragic family jealousy inside the dimly lighted front parlor of her 1888

Victorian home. Darcy Rosato used the expansive front porch of the Paresi's home to tell her tale of New England witches transplanted to East Oak Lane. Marilyn Gaithers gave her stunning performance dressed from head to toe in white and brought to life some famous South Carolina ghosts. Finally, TJ Scully carrying an authentic kerosene lantern and gravedigger's shovel told a true tale of horror worthy of Edgar A. Poe of a Scully voice from the grave.



Some of the participants in the Ghost Walk on Kelly's front porch.

Various neighbors stepped forth to act as guides including: Joanne Balitzky, Lynn Paresi, Bob Harmon, Kathy Arbor, Devitt McShain, Robert Tyree, Evelyn Jones and Wayne White. At TJ & Judy Scully's home, the last stop on the tour, refreshments were available to all. Hilda Gross and Judy Becker arranged for fabulous donations of home baked goods from members of the Friends & OLCAA. In addition, Pathmark and ShopRite gave us donations to purchase food for the event. Hot apple cider, assorted teas and coffee warmed everyone after coming in

from the October chill.

Kathy Arbor, Ruth Ezekiel, Hilda Gross, Sharon Losier, Marita Krivda Poxon, Judy Scully, Lynn Paresi donated truly awesome deserts so that the table overflowed with treats for all.

Many thanks to Michael Poxon for delivering letters to over 100 homes in East Oak Lane. Wayne White & Michael Poxon hung posters in East Oak Lane the week before the event.

Thanks to all who volunteered and all who braved the weather to come out to hear of our East Oak Lane Ghosts. The community came together to make a very successful event. The organizers of the event are already planning next year's Ghost Walk.

EOL Town Watch Needs People

By Anthony Jones
Bernadette Tanksley

If you want to be part of **East Oak Lane Town Watch** call the **OLCAA Hot Line** by **January 10th** and let us know.

At the October meeting of the OLCAA Block Reps Task Force, Chad Ennus

Continued on Pg 3.

EOL Town Watch— Cont'd

gave us a comprehensive overview of the City's Town Watch Integrated Services (TWIS). The Service covers Patrolling Town Watch, Eyes and Ears and Safe Corridors. A basic outline has been developed for how Town Watch can operate in EOL. If we can develop a roster of 32 residents willing to take the 2 sessions, (3 to 4 hours total) Town Watch training OLCAA will be able to institute a Town Watch to cover our community. About 1/3 that number of EOL residents have expressed their intention to participate. The training is excellent for anybody who wants to be an effective monitor of the quality of life in the community. You acquire skill in how to effectively observe, document and report on questionable activity occurring in the community so that city officials have the information they need for effective intervention and follow up. In addition, Town Watch participants will find it rewarding to be an active part of the network of concerned residents in East Oak Lane.

Training is tentatively scheduled to begin Jan. 23, 2007 at Holy Trinity Church, 9th-10th & Oak Lane at 7 PM

If you are willing or if you just want to learn more call the **OLCAA Hot Line at (215) 224- 2777**. Leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you. Block Rep meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month (excluding December) you can partici-

pate by making sure your block is informed and in communication with the happenings in EOL by attending monthly Block Rep meetings.

This Holiday Season- Give to the Future

By Kelly McShain Tyree

Some fantastic forums have been held recently throughout Philadelphia which may have a profound influence on our quality of life here in East Oak Lane in the near future: The Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, targeting Business Corridors, and GreenPlan Philadelphia: "Open Space Matters," targeting opportunities in our neighborhoods to improve the beauty and quality of our public spaces. The intention of these city-wide discussions has been to identify and target public areas that have been neglected, underutilized, or poorly maintained, and to transform these corridors and spaces into opportunities for the neighborhoods to utilize and enjoy.

Why is this so important for East Oak Lane? Think about our commute along Broad Street from the Roosevelt Expressway to Cheltenham Avenue. Not so pretty is it? Chain link fencing, abandoned lots, poorly maintained business and residential facades, littered bus stops, little greenery... It's certainly not like the welcoming extension at the Vine Street Expressway with its stately fencing and

landscaping, nor Kelly Drive with its abundance of trees and trails, nor the Center City Business District with its beautifully maintained planters, charming light fixtures and designer trash cans.

Well, why not bring that same sense of quality design and attention to North Broad Street and to Old York Road? These thoroughfares, extensions, and gateways are some of the most well-traveled areas and high profile corridors in Philadelphia. Money is now becoming available through the City, State and Charitable Foundations, the 'cleaning and greening' movement throughout the City and State is in full swing, and our neighborhood is organized. Planning is happening now- it is the perfect time to weigh in and change this area for the present and future! Representatives from various Committees such as Beautification, and the Oak Lane Tree Tenders have been attending, sharing concerns, and helping to design a comprehensive plan for our public spaces in this vicinity, and along the corridors. What have we learned? The benefits of preserving and beautifying our Open Public Spaces are enormous:

1. Visual: Open Spaces create an appealing environment that provides relief from built-up urban surroundings.
2. Economic: Green space enhances a city's economic prospects by increasing tourism, attracting reinvestment, and increasing property values.

3. Environmental: Trees and other plants improve air quality, and slow the formation of ground level ozone. They reduce the onset of health issues such as asthma.

4. Social: Greening reduces crime, provides neighborhood gathering spaces, and improves health by offering recreational opportunities and improving air and water.

The next question is where might we as a neighborhood focus our attention- collectively and individually? How might we give to the future residents of our neighborhood? Why not think about a "Green Plan" for the overly paved Ellwood School yard? Can we personally lobby our local politicians, City Agencies, and SEPTA to beautify our bridges, corridors and bus stops? Can we encourage neighbors not to pave over their own lawns? Can we plant a large 'back yard' tree which will create beauty and a canopy for the entire neighborhood to enjoy? Can we remove unsightly fencing that will open up the natural world for city travelers passing by? Can we volunteer to water and maintain the new Victorian Planters being installed on our own East Oak Lane bridges? Small projects and large- we can all contribute. Many blessings to all this Holiday Season!

"For our community to have an impact on the issues mentioned above, please express your concerns and hopes at www.Greenplan-Philadelphia.com within the next two weeks."

"Winterizing" Your Home to Keep Old Man Winter out in the Cold

By P.J. Thomas

Our big, East Oak Lane homes are beautiful, but we all know they can be expensive to heat during the winter months. To help cut down on expensive heating bills, DIY, the Do It Yourself cable network, recommends these important tips for homeowners. Follow these handy tips to keep Old Man Winter out in the cold where he belongs!

Inside Your Home

- If using your wood stove or fireplace, check your chimney beforehand for soot build-up. It should be cleaned before it reaches 1/4" thickness inside the chimney flu.
- Make sure fireplace and wood stove doors seal tightly, or install doors or covers to seal them.
- Close dampers, but don't forget to open them before you light the fires!
- Check all windows & doors for air leaks. Putty, caulk or add weatherstripping as needed.
- Check basement & cellars for, and seal, cracks or leaks in walls and floor.
- Clean permanent furnace filters and replace paper or disposable filters. Do this monthly through the heating system in winter months.
- Have furnace systems serviced once a year or as recommended by your manufacturer (or gas or oil company). Many

chores, such as lubricating pumps, fans & motors, draining radiators, etc., are relatively easy. You may want it professional serviced, and show you how, so you can do it afterward.

- Clean and vacuum baseboard heaters, heating ducts & vents.
- Remove or winterize air conditioners, following manufacturers' directions.
- Check hot water heaters for leaks.

Outside Your Home

- Check chimney and chimney cap for signs of smoke or water damage or leaks.
- Inspect the roof for loose, damaged or missing pieces. (Tip: use a pair of binoculars. It's safer than climbing up on a ladder).
- Check chimney for loose masonry. Put away or cover outdoor furniture & barbecues. Check porch, patio & deck supports & foundations for rot, missing connections or other problems.
- Add slip-proof strips to steps, stairs or other slippery spots.
- Reset exterior light timers and make sure all outdoor lights are working.
- Check exterior walls for missing or loose siding. Caulk if necessary.
- Look for deteriorating finishes. Minor problems can be patched to preserve the wood. Put bigger jobs,

such as scraping & refinishing painted or stained areas, on the calendar for next spring or summer.

- Use storm windows or 3M plastic window covering to cut down on drafts.
- Drain and shut off sprinkler systems and other exterior water lines to avoid frozen and broken pipes. Leave all taps slightly open.
- Insulate exterior spigots and other pipes that are subject to freezing but can't be drained or shut off. Drain water hose and place in storage area.
- Make sure dirt or piles of wood don't come into contact with or touch siding. That can bring termites and carpenter ants into the house.
- Seal driveway and walkway cracks, if needed, before ground freezes regularly.

Winter Solstice & Evergreen Trees

By Marita K. Poxon

On Dec. 21st, we will experience the shortest day and longest night of the year. That day the daylight is the shortest and the sun has its lowest arc in the sky. The day is called the Winter Solstice and it has an ancient history that predates our Christmas celebrations. Ancient peoples noticed that certain bushes and trees remained green even while others withered and died in the cold winter chill. These evergreens took on a special meaning and people decorated their

boughs of evergreens and fir trees. The Celts and Druids of Great Britain used holly and mistletoe as symbols of everlasting life. These evergreens inside homes and outside of doors were ancient symbols of hope for the return of Spring. In time, the ancient Winter Solstice was overlaid with the observance of Christmas. PA German settlements put up Christmas trees in America as early as 1747. New England puritans condemned holly, mistletoe and Christmas trees as "heathen traditions." But it was really Queen Victoria and Prince Albert who made Christmas trees popular in America since they were sketched around a decorated tree with their large family. In 1851, when Catskill farmer, Mark Carr took two sleds filled with evergreen trees to New York City and promptly sold them all, the Christmas tree market was born. Today to prevent deforestation, we have artificial trees. Some localities call their decorated evergreens "Holiday Trees" to be respectful of their communities' diversity. The celebration of the Winter Solstice reminds us of the ancient roots of using decorated evergreens to act as harbingers of the Spring. Evergreen trees remind us that our gardens will be green again. So when you put up mistletoe or place a holiday wreath on your front door you are celebrating an ancient solstice ceremony.

News from the Urban Forest

By Charles Philips

1. **Tree Tenders Meeting 7:30 pm January 16, 2007** (Tuesday) at Dan and Carolyn Berger's house, 6655 Lawnton Avenue, entrance on left side. Agenda: funds raised, spring bare root planting, Spring Concert, soliciting tree locations for fall 07, island care.

2. **Tending the Gateway.** Now that the Gateway at Broad and 66th Avenue is finished, it requires tending-- to pick up the trash.. Would **YOU** like to **clean the islands?** It takes less than an hour. Call Charlie Philips for details and available times. 215-924-1722.

3. To **get one or more trees for the fall** call Charlie at 215-924-1722. Tree Tenders are now looking for places for the 50 trees to be planted in the fall of 2007. These trees (planted) are worth \$500 but the cost to homeowners is only \$40 and to businesses is \$75.

4. Tree Tenders have purchased a large decorative urn for flowers to be placed on one of the bridges at 66 Avenue or Oak Lane. Others have been purchased for these bridges, though some are still available for a donation of about \$250. Call the OLCAA hot line 215-224-2777 if you wish to contribute one or money toward one. Look for two

in front of the Library purchased by Friends of the Oak Lane Library.

5. We have received a **\$1,400 contribution** for tree planting from a foundation which wishes to remain anonymous, our first request! We will hear from several other foundations by the January meeting.

Oak Lane Tree Tenders
6605 Lawnton Avenue
19126 215-924-1722

The Beautification Committee

By Kelly McShain Tyree

Thanks to the generous donations of many East Oak Lane neighbors, the community will receive a wonderful Holiday gift. This December, 8 beautiful Victorian Urns will be permanently installed on the two neighborhood bridges: the 66th Avenue Bridge at N. 10th St., as well as the Oak Lane Bridge at Verbena St. The Urns will bear dedication plaques with the names of the families who contributed to this project.



The high quality Urns will be planted with evergreens and annuals and will last for generations--volunteers for watering are being sought.

The first "Welcome to East Oak Lane" sign will be installed this December at the intersection of 66th Avenue & N. Broad St. A \$2000 grant for this sign was donated to the Beautification Committee, by the Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation (OARC). The property owner for CVS graciously consented to allow our community to place the sign on their NE corner. In the future, we are also hoping to install a 60" Victorian Bench for the bus stop there.

If you are interested in donating money for an Urn, for plantings, for a Victorian Bench, or for a "Welcome to Historic East Oak Lane" sign to be placed at the gateways to our community, please contact the Beautification Committee at 215-224-2777, or mail your donation to "OLCAA", P.O. Box 2926 Philadelphia, PA 19126 (c/o The Beautification Committee). You will receive a dedication plaque for donations of \$200 or more. Locations are currently under review for future signs.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!



Very Important Information

- Graffiti Abatement Team: 215-686-0000. Request that they 'powerwash' any graffiti from tagged properties unless already a painted surface.
- For the 66th Ave and the Oak Lane Bridge please call the Beautification Committee on Hotline: 224-2777.
- For Septa Bridges and Underpasses please call: 215-580-7334
- For graffiti on Mailboxes call the US Postal Service at: 215-895-8610.
- For graffiti on street signs and traffic signs call: 215-686-5560
- Abandoned Vehicle Program: 215-683-CARS
- The Dumpster Violation Unit: 215-685-4279
- Air and Noise Pollution: 215-685-7580
- Street Repair: 215-686-5560 (such as: repaving 66th Avenue)
- Street Signs: 215-686-5560 or fax: 215-868-5067

We also ask that neighbors call the OLCAA Hotline so we may know what issues are occurring in the Community and can follow up with the Agencies. Leave specific information On Hotline.

Friends of Oak Lane Library

By Shirley Philips

Friends of the Oak Lane Library is again sponsoring a book group on four Monday evenings in the Community Room of the library at 12th St and Oak Lane. Discussions begin at **7 PM** and refreshments will be served.

This year's book group will feature Pennsylvania Writers. Diverse peoples, communities and landscapes make up the Keystone state. Are there common threads that tie them together? What characterizes PA and makes it unique? How do different writers describe our state? This program explores PA through a variety of literary work.



Michael Chabon's *Wonder Boys: A Novel* (1995) - **at 7 PM on Mon, Nov 27**

Diane McKinney-Whetstone's *Leaving Cecil Street* (2004) - **at 7 PM Mon, Jan 8**

John O'Hara's *Appointment in Samarra* (1934) - **at 7 PM Mon, Feb 5**

August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* — **at 7 PM Mon, Mar 5**

These have been very enjoyable and informative in the past, and we are hoping you will join us. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors and acquaintances on another level

The Friends of Oak Lane Library will celebrate the Library's Anniversary on Thursday, Dec. 7th

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library will not meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be on Wed., Jan 17, 2007, in the Community Room of the library at 12th St and Oak Lane.

News from Oak Lane Presbyterian Church

The Oak Lane Cultural Arts Program - Our first three months of rebuilding our community youth orchestra has been both rewarding and fun. We welcomed back many of our past members and also some new families. There is no better gift for parents to give their children than the gift of music. Music inspires creativity, nurtures the imagination, and rewards the participant in so many tiny miraculous ways that continue to baffle scientists the world over. Our orchestral program is instrumental in developing the minds of our youth. We are reaching out to find other children to take advantage of this amazing program and the wonderful instruction and leadership we receive from our new music director, **Mr. Darrell Tiller**. He has been an inspiration and a great resource for the program. We thank him for taking the challenge and helping us to grow. We now have 23 participants in the program.

Under Mr. Tiller's guidance, we have purchased a number of string instruments for the program. This allows us to offer families

the loan of instruments at a very low price and with a flexible payment schedule. If you know of anyone who would like to join the orchestra and does not have an instrument, please tell them to contact us.

Anyone who would like to enroll in our program may do so any Thursday, from 6 -7 PM at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 6637 N. 11th Street (at Oak Lane). Those who wish to have special consultations before choosing an instrument may call and schedule an appointment with Mr. Tiller.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated to do mailing, to contribute monetarily, to sit on the board of directors, and to help find grants to support this magnificent program.

Everything we do for our children in this and other community programs helps to structure their lives, while teaching them a life-long skill in a safe environment and giving many benefits invisible to the eye. The Cultural Arts Program fosters good peer and adult relationships, builds confidence and self-image and gives opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills, all while learning an instrument in a top-quality after-school program.

By Harriett Atkerson
215-888-9018 or
215-424-4446
Off Hrs: 8:30 to 12:30 PM



Christmas and Advent Schedule at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church

Sun, Dec 10 - Second Sunday in Advent:

11:00 AM—Worship Service

3:00 PM—Presbyterian Women of Oak Lane Christmas Tea

An afternoon with friends, praying, laughing, singing, eating, sharing and thanking God. Please bring a donation of mittens for a child. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped \$5 gift.

Sun, Dec 17 - Third Sunday in Advent:

11:00 AM—Worship Service

Fri, December 22:

7:00 PM Christmas Play - *A Christmas Down Under*

To meet General Satan, Sergeant Slander and Major Worries, and to find out what they have to do with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, you will have to come and see the play on **Friday, December 22nd at 7:00 PM** in the auditorium at OLPC. Admission is free.

Sun, December 24 - Fourth Sunday in Advent:

11:00 AM—Special Service of Lessons and Carols, with Children's Choir & Chancel Choir

11:00 PM—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

For more information, please call the church office at 215-424-4446.

Poor Bessie's Almanac (Things you should know about Oak Lane)
By Janet McShain

An Acorn Grew...

There's been an interest in growing things in our Oak Lane for a very long time. Since there's a new interest in our "Green Planning" for the city neighborhoods, here are two neighbor gardeners you should know about. They both were connected to our "Old Milestown School (1761)" which is now called Ellwood. George deBenneville (1703-1793) and Benjamin Lay (1677-1758) were friends, they both were gardeners, both were teachers and were both connected to our old public school from the middle of the 18th Century.

DeBenneville was the adopted son of Queen Anne, educated in Germany, and became the first doctor in Philadelphia County. He rented from Bernard Reaser from 1755-58 at 1035

Cheltenham Avenue, then bought a house from Joseph Spencer in 1758 where he laid out the DeBenneville Cemetery (below the Post Office at Godfrey Ave) on Green Lane. He was the first apostle and founder of "Universalism" and taught and preached at the old Milestown School. He was trained in Pharmacy and grew his own garden using his knowledge of plants for medicines. He had been a missionary of Indians in Oley, PA, and I'm sure he used much of their knowledge of herbs in his cures as well. Next to him on Old York Road was the cave of Benjamin Lay (on the "Griffith Miles" property), who came here in 1732. The cottage/cave was built by himself with a timbered roof thatched with straw. He built a separate cave right next door for his wife, Sarah Lay. They owned a library of 200 books, cultivated bees and planted an orchard of Walnut trees. He lived solely on fruits and vegetables, and entertained Benjamin Franklin and Governor

Richard Penn among others. Lay wrote a book, printed by Benjamin Franklin, denouncing slavery and gave it to the school children of the neighborhood. He had been a Sunday school teacher of the slaves in Barbados before coming here. When he died he gave L40 for the education of poor children.

Between these two great leaders in the community, we have a strong connection to horticulture and social awareness in our history. Let's tell the story of our past and of our ongoing connection to quality education and green space.

Grandmom Bessie taught me the value of a garden, the joy of working in one and the pleasure of sharing it. The practical value of eating one's own organic produce needs to be developed and taught to our children. We always had a compost, an orchard, and grew vegetables here in the city. We can do more. On the

Ellwood property, the third schoolhouse, shaped as an octagon was torn down in



1875, to be replaced by a Victorian structure (now also gone). The community made sure that they kept "friendly shade trees where children could play under them at recess." When the fourth school building was built, several decades ago, the trees and green space were paved over by asphalt- where are those "friendly trees" now? As neighbors have done from our beginnings here, let's plant those acorns for our future.





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(215) 635-7200
 Fax (215) 635-7212
 dapplebaum@fsalaw.com

OLCAA AT WORK

- OLCAA will submit a monthly list to the 35th for their Sanitation Officer to investigate (SWEEP).
- Worked with the 35th District, the Montgomery County Police Dept, and SEPTA to increase patrolling around Melrose Park Train Station due to two recent muggings.
- Graffiti was painted off the two bridges on 66th Ave. and on Oak Lane on three separate occasions. Block Reps called the Hotline and the graffiti was immediately removed. Spoke to one of the suspects (witnessed by neighbors), and asked him to 'keep an eye out' for any perpetrators- made him aware

that the neighborhood and the Police Department were on top of the situation.

- The Block Rep Task Force in conjunction with the East Oak Lane Town Watch, offered two educational seminars for the community. Town Watch launched our new Eyes and Ears Program, as well as the Patrolling Program. The second seminar focused on u n d e r s t a n d i n g Meghan's Law- the rights of those who may be impacted in Philadelphia.
- The Block Rep Committee formulated a one page brochure/OLCAA membership form outlining the attributes of both East Oak Lane and of our organization, for present and future home owners.

- Continued to work with Sonia Collazo, of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, regarding their ongoing case against the Hopeful Gospel Church on Old York Rd. Along with the ongoing noise issues coming from the Church, adjacent neighbors and Block Reps have reported that their has been increased disruptive, unsupervised and criminal activity occurring by local teenagers on the Church property as well. The 35th has been notified.
- The Communication Committee continues to update and improve the East Oak Lane/OLCAA Website for the community. We have a new website address: www.eastoaklane.org.

Membership By Carmen Jimenez

OLCAA wants to continue its efforts of the past year to keep our East Oak Lane community the way it was when our stately Victorian homes were built back in the 1800's. We want our green spaces to grow and have a safe environment for our children to enjoy for years to come. This organization is committed to this effort. We need you to help in this endeavor by becoming a member of the organization. Please complete the membership form attached and mail it to our PO Box 2926, Philadelphia, PA 19126.

Thank you.



**Friends of the Oak Lane Branch
of the Free Library of Philadelphia Membership Form
c/o Joanne Balitzky, 6342 N. 6th St., Phila, PA 19126**

Membership New Renewal

Individual \$10.00 Family \$12.00 Senior/Student \$7.00 Patron \$25.00

Business/Institution \$50.00

Additional Contribution Amount: _____ Total Amount: _____

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Email _____

If you have any questions please contact:

Complete form and return with your check payable to Friends of Oak Lane Library
Joanne Balitzky - Membership
6342 N. 6th Street Philadelphia, PA 19126

**OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (OLCAA)
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*(Full Membership for residents of, or own businesses located in, East Oak Lane;
and will receive a free subscription to OLCAA's bimonthly newsletter.)*

May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007

- New member**
- Renewal**

Choose a membership category:

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Student \$ 6
- Senior (65+) \$ 6
- Business/Organization \$50
- Associate Non-Resident \$25

**Please call the Communications
Committee to place an AD
215-224-2777
Option #2**



I/We wish to make an additional contribution of:

- \$50-99 (Willow Club) \$ _____
 - \$100-499 (Maple Club) \$ _____
 - \$500+ (Oak Club) \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
- Total amount enclosed: \$ _____**

**I would like more information on
Committees of OLCAA:**

- Beautification
- Civic Action
- Communications
- Education & Culture
- Historic Preservation
- Hospitality & Membership
- Housing & Zoning
- Oak Lane Tree Tenders
- Town Watch

Membership Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

- Contributing to OLCAA**
Donations are tax-deductible

*Make checks payable to: Oak Lane Community Action Assn.
Mail to: OLCAA P.O. Box 2926 Phila., PA 19126
Web site: at: www.eastoaklane.org
Contact us at: 215-224-2777*



PO Box 2926
Philadelphia, PA 19126

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