



THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

March 2009 - Vol. 1, Issue 16

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

Website: www.eastoaklane.org

Important Agency Numbers:

- Streets Department **215-686-5560** (for repaving of our streets)
- Dumpster Violations **215-686-4279** (for Apt Buildings and Businesses)
- Air & Noise Pollution **215-685-7580**(for loud music, etc.)
- The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Enforcement State Police, 6901 Woodland Ave. **215-726-6200**
- 35th Police District, Broad & Champlost **215-686-3350**
- Phila. Streets Dept. 2009 Household Hazardous Waste http://www.phila.gov/streets/hazardous_waste.html
- Information about the City and its Services go to: www.phila.gov/

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Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

The Events Committee composed of OLCAA board members and community volunteers held its first meeting to put together the events for this year.

- **Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday, April 26th—4-7 PM.** It will be held at the **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church at 11th & Oak Lane.** It will be a Garden Theme. We will invite the candidates to meet and greet, we will raffle baskets and flowers and enjoy the best home made cooking from all our great East Oak Laners.
- **May General Election for Board Members.** It is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 27 at 7PM** at the **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church.** We are looking for new board members to fill the terms of the out-

going members. If you would like to become a board member, please email use from our Website or call our Hotline **215-224-2777.** To qualify you need to be a paid OLCAA member and resided in East Oak Lane for one year. But most importantly, you need to be someone who is very much interest in keeping our community energetic, vibrant, and the best place to raise our children. We look forward to hearing from you through your membership, your willingness to become a board member and participating in the meeting.

- **Oak Lane Day—Sat, June 13.** We will change things a little by hosting a Community Flea Market together with our usual food, games, entertainment and music. Therefore, during your spring cleaning, save your items, and

rent a table to sell them. Remember, *“one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”* If you are interested in any of the events please contact Evelyn Jones at **mrsjuez@aol.com**

OLCAA Membership By Carmen Jimenez

We need all of you to join your community civic association. The *revitalized* association has been working to improve our quality of life through the efforts of the many OLCAA committees. To keep these efforts at the forefront, we need everyone in East Oak Lane to join OLCAA and hopefully one of the committees.

Please read the enclosed flyer, complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter and mail it in to help us continue the good work of this association.

2009 Award from the Preservation Alliance

By Kelly McShain Tyree,

Devitt McShain, Robert Tyree

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia has just informed us of winning this Award of Recognition for the restoration of our home. The awards are intended to celebrate recent grassroots achievements in preservation of historic residential homes. They are based on the quality of the work, how the project impacted neighborhood revitalization, and demonstrates a grassroots effort.

*Along with submitting 'before and after' photographs of the property and an essay, we also included the remarkable work of the Oak Lane Tree Tenders, the revitalization efforts of Oak Lane Community Action Association (OLCAA), as well as the preservation work of the Friends of the Oak Lane Library. **Enjoy the essay we wrote.***

Having grown up in a 38 room Colonial Tavern (c. 1683) on Cheltenham Avenue in the East Oak Lane section of Philadelphia, my brother, Devitt, and I knew what it meant to work on an "old home." Being the oldest of 9 children, our family chores consisted of leading the brothers and sisters through a series of work patrols helping our parents to sensitively restore this crazy structure we lived in. The concept of using "only authentic Philadelphia Colonial colors," was instilled in us from an early age. Working with our parents, we took for granted the knowledge and the many skills we were acquiring along the way. Years later, having traveled and lived abroad and around the country, my brother and I found ourselves back in Philly at the same time- our family owned a Victorian commercial building (c.1883), which needed attention, so we set about restoring this East Oak Lane structure. This time, my husband, Robert, joined in on the 'work weekends' home from our NYC apartment.

Having been away for years- suddenly Philadelphia was brand new again, and it was exciting to redis-



cover how beautifully designed and how well built the many Victorian, Turn-of-Century and Colonial homes were in the area. What was surprising was to recognize that many folks had seemed to lose sight of the intrinsic beauty and value of such great Philadelphia architecture and had allowed their homes to become tired and run down. As a result, many members of the community had chosen to move to the suburbs in search of "greener pastures-" or were soon planning to follow. As the restoration project of our commercial property continued and began to take shape, we realized we were starting to have an impact on the way folks were seeing the neighborhood. An excited neighbor suggested we take a look at a blighted home around the corner- an 18 room Victorian single-family home built in 1895- it hadn't been given attention in years and was rapidly losing its structural integrity. She suggested we could restore that as well. Inspired by her enthusiasm, and by the commitment of two existing neighborhood organizations dedicated to area preservation: the Oak Lane Tree Tenders and the Friends of the Oak Lane Library, we decided to join the revitalization cause by moving back to our hometown neighbor



hood of East Oak Lane, and by purchasing this Victorian relic in order to bring her back to life.

The task of restoring "6813 N. 10th Street" seemed enormous and daunting: 6 layers of wallpaper on every ceiling and wall of the 18 rooms, plaster crumbling, antiquated plumbing, hardwood floors stained and warped, holes in the roof, rusting gutters, a crumbling chimney, and 33 coats of cracking and peeling paint covering the decorative cedar shakes as well as the ornate detail of the wrap around porch. The landscaping was severely overgrown and the 6 towering specimen trees needed extensive pruning to protect the house from their falling limbs. But, with advice from the Oak Lane Tree Tenders, and with emotional support from preservation-minded neighbors passionate about saving this once beautiful home and property, we dove in once again armed with the skills learned from our parents. Devitt, Robert and I worked on the carpentry, stripping, plastering and painting, while Apple Roofing replaced the failing asphalt roof with 'Grand Manor' shingles and installed copper gutters and downspouts.

Thirty-three coats of paint were stripped from the exterior to reveal the intricate Victorian patterns and designs of the façade. The house was painted with an original Victorian color, 'Montgomery White,' to bring out the beauty of the existing Wissahickon Schist, and to blend in organically with the neighboring homes. The original wood framed windows were reglazed, and the window shutters (stored in the cellar for decades) were restored and reinstalled. Once the floors were refinished- this relic finally became our home!

During our project, the physical transformation of our home seemed to mirror the transformation and renewed sense of hope in our community. Since beginning our task, more neighbors

Continued on Page 4

Tree Tenders Plant 55 Trees in 2008



Oak Lane Tree Tenders planted 55 trees, planted a garden at the Library, planted roses at Ellwood School and rehabilitated the two islands at Broad Street and 66th Avenue during 2008. Tree Tenders were helped by LaSalle University (students, faculty, administrators and alumni), by students from Saul Agricultural High School, by students from Girls High School, and by staffers of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). We also participated in Oak Lane Day, selling bird houses and T shirts, and distributing literature. (A committee of Oak Lane Community Action Association 215-924-1722 cphilips@temple.edu)

FREE Street Trees—\$25 Rebate on Backyard Trees

Oak Lane Tree Tenders is pleased to offer FREE trees planted at the street or within 10 feet of the pavement. This is made possible thru a grant of trees from the TreeVitalize program, a state-private initiative. Please email cphilips@temple.edu or call 215-924-1722 as soon as possible but before March 25 to schedule a Tree Tender to take your order. You must agree to care for the tree, including watering it during the growing season. These trees will

be planted in the fall of 2009.

In a different program, funded by Oak Lane Tree Tenders, homeowners who plant a tree in their back yard can get a \$25 rebate on providing a sales slip and picture of the planted tree. This is limited to the first 20 neighbors who respond. The trees can be planted either in the spring or fall. These can be large or small trees, and include fruit or nut trees. Send your sales slip and picture to Charles Philips, Oak Lane Tree Tenders, 6605 Lawnton Ave. Phila. PA 19126.



Instructions on planting a tree are available at www.philadelphiahorticulturalsociety.org. Select Philadelphia Green at the top, then VIDEO at right "planting a tree". Most useful will be "container tree".

Garden Tour & Plant Sale

Tree Tenders will sponsor a garden tour and plant sale **on Saturday, May 2**. More details to follow. Contact Judy Lustig at 215-224-6242 for details.



FREE TAX PREP WITH THE BENEFITS BANK

By Dawn Shellenberger

Every year The Benefit Bank (TBB) closes the gap between public funds and people in need.* Every year Millions of Americans go without because they are not receiving all of the benefits for which they are eligible. Designed to bring people closer to stability and closer to self-sufficiency, this free web-based system simplifies and centralizes the process of applying for many state and federal benefits for low and moderate-income individuals and families. Community and faith-based organizations, social service agencies, food pantries, job training programs, and homeless shelters are among the groups using The Benefit Bank to help people file Federal and State Income Taxes and apply for publicly sponsored programs like CHIP, Food Stamps, LIHEAP, and more - at one convenient location and at no cost. Visit the TBB web site at: <http://thebenefitbank.com/>.

The Benefit Bank Self-Serve Edition is a completely free online tax service. The online application is a fast, easy, and completely free way to file your federal return and selected state return. There is no software to download -- use any computer that has an internet connection.

With The Benefit Bank you can:

- Receive your tax refund in as few as 7-10 days by e-filing your return and using direct deposit.
- File your taxes any hour of the day or night.
- Know that your return is secure. The Benefit Bank is an authorized IRS e-File Provider.

The Benefit Bank is only available to taxpayers who have a 2008 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$56,000 or less.

2009 Award from the Preservation Alliance Continued

have committed to restoring their homes, hundreds of trees have been planted by volunteers, our Oak Lane 'Carnegie' Library has been restored, public beautification projects have sprouted up, and our neighborhood civic association, OLCAA, has been reinvigorated and has demonstrated a commitment to protect the character of East Oak Lane. Our newly restored home has not only served as a host to many neighborhood meetings and gatherings, but the completion of this vision has inspired our opening of 'Under the Oak Café' in our newly restored commercial property right around the corner, which has been warmly embraced and supported by the community. A spirit of vitality seems palpable as emerging artists are moving to the area, young families are settling in, and second and third generation East Oak Laners, who had left the neighborhood, are now moving back. What's old is new again.



We hope our project will inspire home owners to take a second look at their tired but beautiful relics, and understand and experience the transformative effects of restoration and preservation in their communities.

Oak Lane Presbyterian Church News

The Oak Lane Summer Camp is in its seventh year and will run from **Jun 22 - Aug 21, 2009**. Camp hours are **8:30 AM-3:30 PM**. We have extended hours (for an additional \$5) from 7:00 -8:30 AM and 3:30-6:00PM. Weekly rates are reasonable. Activities include trips, arts & crafts, computers, karate, chess, music, dance, daily library visits, outdoor activities, and cookouts to name a few. Our main thrust is enhancing reading and writing skills. The program participates in the Eagles Bookmobile. We are a Philadelphia Reads sponsor. The campers also receive free books to keep for their home library.



Registration information: parents may submit applications between the hours of 3-6PM, Mon-Fri at the church until June 19. Applications are also available in the Auditorium. For more information call the **office at (215) 424-4446 or Ms. Bowe at (267) 259-4520**.

Working together we can achieve much. Participate in your community programs to make it a stronger and pleasant place to live!

Women's Self Defense Clinic

Mark Your Calendars!
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009
at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
\$20 (pre-registration) or \$30 at the door



This clinic for women of all ages is taught by Grandmaster, Dr. Timothy Robinson. Learn how to be prepared for today's society. Registration forms are available at the church or call **267-290-6918 / 215-776-5397** OR email Dr. Robinson at Ramatcwl@aol.com

Call To East Oak Lane Residents For News

We would like to include news about the people in our community. It can be a student who has received an award or scholarship. An important event in your life you would like to share. Contact us on the Hotline **215-224-2777** or on the Website: www.eastoaklane.org

LOOKING FOR AN INTIMATE PLACE TO HOST YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT?



The Gathering Place and The Event Place are unique rental venues that offer a wonderful setting for hosting various types of Special Events and Celebrated Occasions including: **Birthdays Parties, Receptions, Showers and Intimate Weddings, Social Affairs, Corporate Events, Club and Organizational Gatherings, Art Exhibitions, Book Signings, Educational Workshops, Seminars, Networking Events and much, much, more.....**

For more information, contact us at:

The Gathering Place
6755-57 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119
215.848.0677

www.thegatheringplace6755.net

The Event Place
723 Oak Lane Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19126
215.549.4045

www.theeventplace.net

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR RENTAL

Vote for your neighbor
Sharon Williams Losier

Running for **Common Pleas Judge**
 City of Philadelphia



President, Oak Lane Community Action Association

Tuesday, May 19, 2009



T. J. Scully

Call your neighbor —HDTV is easy at

GERHARD'S

The Finest in Appliances & Services

290 Keswick Avenue

Glenside, PA 19038

215-884-8650

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT

February 14th, 2009

Marita Krivda Poxon

Friends of the Oak Lane Library



Eva Young, Piano, & her trio of musicians

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library held a marvelous Valentine's Day Concert on Saturday, February 14th, 2009 at the Korean United Church at 12th & Cheltenham Avenue. Michael Poxon organized the event which featured four classically trained musicians who played a medley of classical music with love as its theme. Eva Young, a gifted, concert pianist led the musicians who included Michael Ronstadt, a young cellist, Dr. Jong-Goo Kim, a gifted violinist, and Dr. Noel Archambeault, a trained opera singer. Over 70 East Oak Lane residents along with many other friends came to the event. After the splendid music, the Friends hosted a reception which featured donated food in the Church's community room. Hilda Gross solicited a great variety of home made deserts and other items from generous local kitchens as well as from vendors such as Whole Foods & Trader Joes. Michael Poxon also had a raffle with baskets made by Cathy Arbor. Our Oak Lane Librarian, Deborah Ahrens, sold raffle tickets ahead of time at the library and manned the Raffle table the night of the concert. Richard Stephens along with Judge Jimenez & his wife set up the concert hall and arranged all

the community room tables for the reception. Thanks go to everyone that helped out and made this evening a social as well as a financial success for the Friends of the Oak Lane Library.



Deborah Ahrens, Librarian, & Michael Poxon President, Friends of the Oak Lane Library

Fresh, Organic Food only a Bicycle Ride Away?

By Kelly McShain Tyree

Creekside Coop is coming to the area in the site of the former Ashbourne Market at Elkins Park Train Station. They are planning for a Fall opening and are currently running an ambitious membership drive of 1250 families by March 31st. They currently have 900 families. Check out their website at Creekside.Coop for more information.



WeaversWay Coop is also seeking members for it's new West Oak Lane location at 72nd & Ogontz. The High School children from Martin Luther High School will be selling their fresh produce from

their urban farm at this location once a week during the growing season. Stop in to check out their offerings and consider becoming a member.

Both WeaversWay Coop and Creekside Coop will offer reciprocity with one another, so joining either one will offer a win-win situation for East Oak Lane residents.

DINING OUT FOR LIFE 2009

By Dawn Shellenberger

On Thursday, April 30, 2009, over 200 restaurants across the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys will be participating in Dining Out for Life -- an annual event benefiting HIV and AIDS services throughout the region, including ActionAIDS, AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey, AIDS Activity Office - Lehigh Valley Hospital, AIDS Delaware, Family & Community Service of Delaware County, Planned Parenthood Association of Bucks County and Planned Parenthood of Chester County. Participating restaurants will be donating 33% of the money they take in on that day to the fight against HIV and AIDS. All you have to do to help is to dine at one of these restaurants on that day or make a direct donation to ActionAIDS/Dining Out for Life. For more information on this event, which was started here in Philadelphia in 1991 and has since grown to include organizations and restaurants participating in over 45 cities across North America, please go to the Philadelphia Dining Out for Life. Website [<http://www.diningoutforlife.com/philadelphia>]. The site will be updated by March 9th to include all of the restaurants participating this year.

**Friends of the Oak Lane Branch
of the Free Library of Philadelphia Membership Form**

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
Marilyn Lassiter - Membership
6612 N. 13^h Street, Philadelphia, PA 19126
Or Call: M.Poxon 215-549-6531**

**THE COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF
THE AWBURY ARBORETUM with PHS & The City Gardening Series
will present a free workshop**

SPRING PRUNING FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Saturday, March 21, 2009 *** 10:00-11:00 am

Awbury Recreation Center-- 6101 Ardleigh Street

(ACCESSIBLE BY XH BUS ROUTE)

Early spring is a good time to do some needed pruning. At this workshop landscape architect

Michael LoFurno provides information on what pruning can be done in
the early spring.

Refreshments will be served

**This is a free workshop but you must RSVP at 215-224-5872 or
leoatAwbury@hotmail.com by March 17, 2009. Please leave your
name on the answering machine!**

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

Date Mailed: _____

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

- 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:** _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR OF OLCAA?

- Newsletter Other—explain

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

- Contributing to OLCAA**
Donations are tax-deductible



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