



**December
2021**

Donation: \$2.00

OLCAA of East Oak Lane

The East Oak Lane Paper

May I Have a Word?

By: Smiley Ferebee, OLCAA President

For everything, there is a season. Early winter is the time of season to retreat, reflect, and recalibrate within. East Oak Laners have gone through much - both personally and community-wise - these past couple of years. It makes me happy and proud that we have continued to navigate with respect, courage, and dignity. Let us continue to get stronger through our community organizations, such as OLCAA (Oak Lane Community Action Association), Tree Tenders, Friends

of the Library, and 6400 Block Camac Street Committee. Support our



only community center here in EOL, "The Oak Lane House" by letting the Presbyterian Church know it is needed and what good it has done for the many. Let us stay ready to mobilize should

a need arise. Late winter is a time of season to solidify your visions. Plans should be put into action for the future. Join one or more of your community organizations now, for they are a catalyst when we are "Striving to Build a Better Community." Please welcome our newest appointed OLCAA board member, Charles Reyes. You can read more about Mr. Reyes in this issue of our newsletter and visit our website for the link to a Good Morning America episode where he was featured.



Special Thanks to our Contributors!

Deb Ahrens, Sandra Camacho, Smiley Ferebee, Shelby Fisk, Clayton Fitch, Natalie Hartog, and Earlene Mitchell

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OLCAA Board of Directors

By: Smiley Ferebee, OLCAA President

The Oak Lane Community Action Association, better known as OLCAA, is made up of volunteers within our neighborhood. We meet the second Wednesday of each month; but often work on many items of community concern throughout the month, via phone calls, texts, and emails. Our board is always working for our community, even when you don't see us. I am proud of the people that I sit on the OLCAA Board with. These are people with many talents and skill sets, who are willing to share ideas, be of service, work through anomalies, and come to a unified resolve.

The following are the 2021-2022 OLCAA Board Members and Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs:

President:

Smiley Ferebee

Vice President:

Sharon Wilson, Esq.

Treasurer:

Erin Lightheart

Interim Secretary:

Michele Pemberton

Beautification Chair:

Kelly McShain Tyree

Communications Chair:

Andrea Mayo

Crime, Safety & Security Chair: Eric Brice*

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Eric Brice

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Sharon Wilson, Esq.

Housing & Zoning Chair:

Freida Williams*

Housing & Zoning

Co-Chair: Jethro Heiko

Membership Chair:

Earlene Mitchell*

Quality of Life Chair:

Sandi Hollie

Financial Secretary:

Al Mitchell*

Board Members: Iris

Brunson, Charles Reyes, and Karen Williams

* Signifies which Chairs are also Board Members

Membership Drive for 2022

By: Earlene Mitchell, OLCAA Membership Chair

The OLCAA Membership Committee is reaching out for your support again. We know that you are currently a member or were in the past and we are hopeful you will continue to support our neighborhood organization by, at a minimum, renewing your membership in the upcoming year.

As you are aware, OLCAA is our volunteer neighborhood organization and we attempt to represent the many diverse interests in the community that come together to make East Oak Lane the jewel that it is in Philadelphia.

We are in the process of updating our membership list, and you may already be or

were a dues-paying member of OLCAA. If either of these are correct, we are reaching out to you and encouraging you to renew your membership in 2022. If you would like to learn more about the benefits of membership or have a question about your membership status, kindly contact us through OLCAA's hotline number: 215-224-2777.

Our annual Snow Ball has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We hope to see you next year!





Thank you!



The past year has been difficult for everyone. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received from OLCAA and all of our East Oak Lane neighbors.



We look forward to continuing to supporting our community through compassionate home care services, adult day care, and job training. But most of all we look forward to seeing you in our Evergreen Center.

Wishing you happy holidays and a prosperous new year.



PASSi Evergreen Center Auditorium Dedicated to Im Ja Choi

By: Clayton Fitch, PASSi Managing Director

PASSi's Evergreen Center is a senior community center dedicated to providing Seniors from the East Oak Lane community a place where they can interact with their peers through social, recreational, and educational activities. Since its opening in April 2019, Evergreen Center has welcomed more than 1,000 people from the community for classes, events, and voting.

On November 19, PASSi held a ceremony to rename Evergreen Center's auditorium to Im Ja P. Choi Hall after its retired Founder and CEO, Im Ja Choi. Evergreen Center is a culmination of Ms. Choi's vision to create a space where all retired Seniors felt welcome, and that was able to meet the unique needs and interests of Asian American Seniors.

The ceremony included a Korean drum performance by Hyun Jin Cha, remarks by Ms. Choi, and a concert by renowned orchestral

performers, the Casmir Trio. PASSi was joined by members of the community and distinguished guests including Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, the Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners; Dr. Robyn Stone, Co-Director of University of Massachusetts' Leading Age LTSS Center; and Tom Snedden, Director of the Department of Aging's Pharmaceutical Assistance (PACE) Program.

Im Ja P. Choi Hall will serve as tribute to Ms. Choi's hard work and dedication to Asian American Seniors and Seniors living in East Oak Lane.



Photo above: In attendance at Ms. Choi's dedication were Sharon Wilson, OLCAA Vice President and Michele Pemberton, OLCAA Secretary. Not Pictured: Smiley Ferebee, OLCAA President; Al Mitchell, OLCAA Financial Secretary; Earlene Mitchell, OLCAA Membership Chair; and Sandi Hollie, OLCAA Quality of Life Chair

Evergreen Center Rates

Pick the Membership Tier that's right for you!

Whether you're joining or your whole family is, you can find a membership that fits your needs. You can save even more money if you pay upfront for the whole year.

Individual Membership

- Monthly: \$15 a month
- Yearly: \$100 for whole year

Family Membership (to 5 ppl)

- Monthly: \$30 a month
- Yearly: \$216 for whole year

OLCAA at Work

By: Smiley Ferebee, OLCAA President

Here in East Oak Lane, we have had some incidents of illegal dumping, illegal "for sale signs" for houses and cars, and graffiti, just to name a few. OLCAA often takes on the tasks of correcting these situations ourselves. Kelly McShain Tyree, OLCAA's Beatification Chair, is pictured here. Kelly often takes the lead on such projects of refurbishing our neighborhood to its glory. She is a volunteer who takes time out her



very busy schedule and personal life to do this on behalf of OLCAA and her neighbors. Although this project cost approximately \$300 in supplies - plus hours of woman-power - the outcome is priceless. Your membership dues help facilitate a better, more beautiful community. You can help by becoming an OLCAA member, or by donating to the Beautification Committee (or any other OLCAA committee).

Community School Coordinator Recognized for Service

By: Shelby Fisk, Mayor's Office of Education, Office of the Mayor

Congratulations to Dobbins CTE High School Community School Coordinator, Charles Reyes!

In June 2019, Charles was surprised and honored for his public service and dedication to his community during Good Morning America's live pop-up show from Philadelphia's Eakins Oval, in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Charles is a lifelong Philadelphian and father of five.

Charles has been a Community School Coordinator at Dobbins (his alma mater) since 2016, when the Mayor's Office of Education launched the initiative. Community Schools are central to Mayor Kenney's vision for public education.

During the show, Mayor Jim Kenney praised Charles' service to his community and his family and issued a mayoral proclamation declaring June 13, 2019, to be *Give Back. Make an Impact Day* in Philadelphia.

"Philadelphia is filled with incredible people like Charles,

who remember where they came from and work day in and day out to give back," said Mayor Kenney. "As a Community School Coordinator, Charles is part of a growing initiative that's very close to my heart and makes an incredible difference in the lives of students and adults. I'm proud that today's celebration highlights one of our city's loving dads as well as the brotherly and sisterly love that so many



Philadelphians show to their community. I hope that everyone watching today's show is inspired to help their hometowns through public service and volunteerism."

As Dobbins' Community Schools

Coordinator, Charles creates partnerships and expands programs and services that benefit students, families, and neighbors. This includes a weekly Fresh for All free food distribution in partnership with Philabundance, which delivers 2,500 pounds of fresh produce to the school each week for students, families, and neighbors to take home. Philabundance nominated Charles for the Good Morning America spotlight.

"The whole school and community looks up to Charles as a leader and provider. He is there six or more days a week providing countless opportunities to lift up his community," said Philabundance Programs Manager Hilary Stiebel. "His upbeat demeanor and energy is motivating, inspiring and provides a foundation for change. Congrats, Charles—you deserve this recognition!"

Read the original article at <https://tinyurl.com/2m3hepj9>



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IMPORTANT!

Just a reminder to members and non-members of East Oak Lane. It's that time of the year to re-new or join OLCAA.

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31, 2022.

We need your support!





Hello East Oak Lane - it's Gilda from Corfu Pizza here at 6730 Old York Road in beautiful East Oak Lane. Met many of you at the Library this summer, and met some more neighbors this fall when you came to get pizza. Hope to meet more this winter with our "WINTER SPECIAL." Spend \$20.00 in one order and get a free pasta meal plus garlic bread. *Coupon below.* From our staff here at Corfu Pizza and myself, we wish you Season's Greetings and the Merriest of Holidays.

Coupon

Winter Special!

**Spend \$20.00 in one order
and get a FREE pasta meal
plus garlic bread**

Use code 'EOL' when ordering online at
www.corfupizzatogo.com or bring this
physical coupon in.

Coupon expires 3/31/2022





Photographer: photopodimages.com

HOLLER - Part 2

By: Sandra Camacho, EOL Resident

The holiday shopping season is here - consider these shopping safety tips.

RETAIL SHOPPING

- Keep your purse close to your body or your wallet in an inside coat pocket.
- Don't argue or fight over an item.
- If possible, shop early and before it gets dark.
- Be patient when looking for a parking space.
- Parking lots can be dangerous, so be on guard. Park in well-lit areas and as close as possible to the store's front entrance.

- Store packages in the trunk of your car and out of plain sight.

- Save your receipts and monitor your credit card activity for unauthorized purchases.

INTERNET SHOPPING

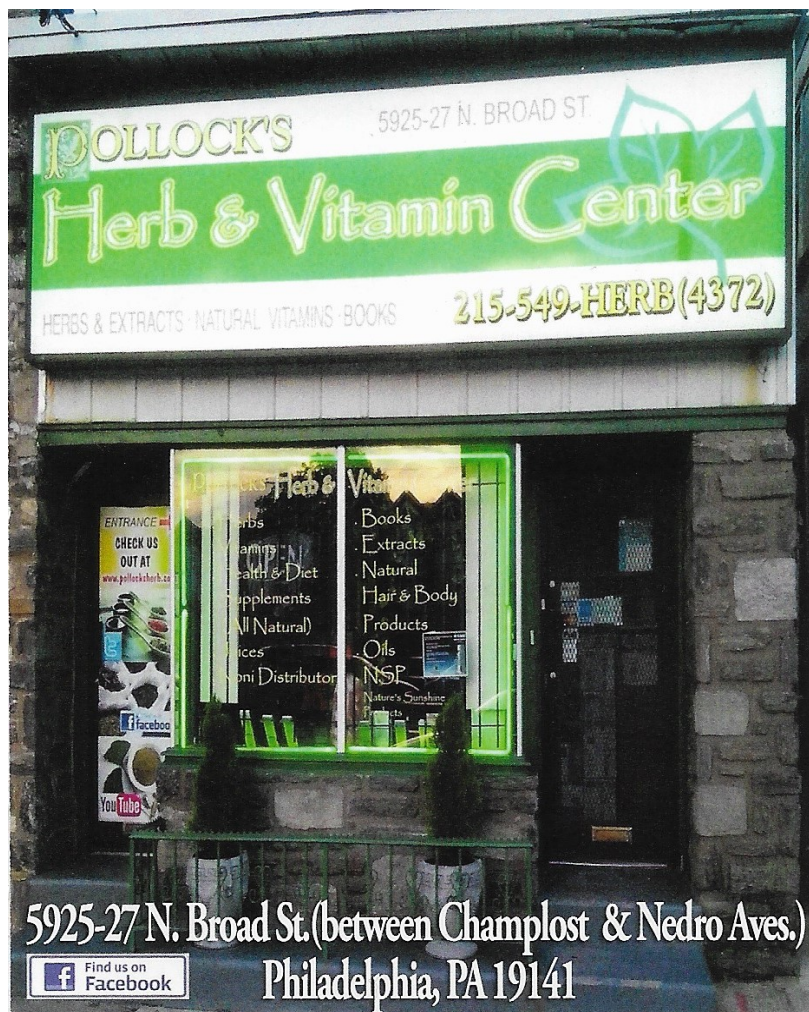
- Stick to retailers you know and have shopped with before.
- Research a business you haven't purchased from before by checking customer reviews and the Better Business Bureau.
- Check a webpage's security by looking for the lock icon in the URL field and making sure the URL starts with "https", not just "http." The

"s" means the site is safer and more secure.

CHILDREN & SHOPPING

- If shopping with children, teach them how to ask a security guard or employee for help, if they become separated from you or are lost.
- Please don't drink and drive. Buckle up for safety and manage road rage. Don't carry a gun, unless you are legally registered to carry one.

Have a joyous and safe holiday season and don't forget to "HOLLER, if you want to be heard."



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Our Holiday Menu is here!

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Holiday Menu 2021

Starters

- SEASONAL VEGETABLE CRUDITÉ | \$18
Rosemary Hummus
- CRISPY SWEET POTATO LATKES | \$36
Apple Chutney
- CRISPY VEGETARIAN SPRING ROLLS (1 DOZ) | \$30
Sweet Chili Garlic Sauce
- CRISPY ARANCINI (1 DOZ) | \$26
Risotto Balls with Sundried Tomatoes,
Asiago Cheese, and Pesto Aioli
- CRISPY BEEF BRISKET ARANCINI (1 DOZ) | \$36
Risotto Balls with Braised Beef Brisket, and Au
Jus
- SMOKED TROUT DIP (1 PT) | \$25
Cream Cheese and Herbs with Garlic Crostini
- SEARED MINI FISH CAKE (1 DOZ) | \$32
House Made Tartar
- APPLEWOOD BACON WRAPPED SCALLOPS (1 DOZ) | \$48
Port Wine Sauce
- PAN SEARED LUMP CRAB CAKES (1 DOZ) | \$60
Lemon Dill Aioli
- FRENCH VEGETABLE TARTLET (1 DOZ) | \$90
Butter Poached Shrimp
- KOSHER PIGS IN A BLANKET (1 DOZ) | \$20
Truffle Honey Mustard
- MINI MEATBALLS (1 DOZ) | \$32
Marinara, Parsley, and Parmesan Cheese

First Course

- ROASTED BEET & FETA CHEESE SALAD | \$17
Shaved Red Onions, Red Wine Vinaigrette
- PEAR AND BLUE CHEESE SALAD | \$17
Toasted Walnuts, Baby Arugula, White
Balsamic Vinaigrette
- WILD MUSHROOM BISQUE (1 QT) | \$12
Garlic Croutons
- SWEET POTATO BISQUE (1 QT) | \$14
Brussel Sprouts, Candied Pumpkin
Seeds

Sides

- GARLIC POTATO PURÉE | \$25
- ROASTED CHILI-HONEY GLAZED CARROTS | \$25
- GRILLED HARICOT VERTS | \$22
Golden Raisins and Toasted Almonds
- HERB WILD RICE | \$25
Cranberries and Toasted Walnuts
- ROASTED BROCCOLI | \$22
Parmesan and Red Pepper Flakes

Dessert

- HOUSE MADE APPLE PIE | \$25

Entrees

- CHEESE TORTELLINI | \$48
Rosemary Butternut Squash Sauce,
Crispy Bacon, Asparagus
- BALSAMIC CRANBERRY WHOLE ROASTED
CHICKEN | \$52
- BOURBON GLAZED TURKEY BREAST | \$42
- SMOKED CHAMBERD GLAZED DUCK | \$75
- ROASTED NORWEGIAN SALMON | \$42
Lemon-Dill Beurre Blanc
- ROASTED BUTTERFISH | \$48
Tomato-Olive-Caper Saute
- SPIRAL PINEAPPLE GLAZED HAM | \$45
- BRAISED BEEF SHORT RIBS | \$65
Red Wine Demi



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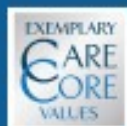
- 24-Hour Skilled Nursing Center
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At the Library

By: Deb Ahrens, Branch Manager and Natalie Hartog, Children's Librarian

Hello from Oak Lane Library!

We are so excited to announce that we are now open to the public three afternoons a week: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm-6:00 pm and Fridays from 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. No appointments are needed; come in to browse for materials or use our computers. Hold item pick-up outside our front door is still available every weekday; call us at 215-685-2847 to schedule a pickup.

Plus, a reminder that the library system is now fine-free; if you have overdue materials, return them without fear of a fine! Payments are only due if you lose or damage your items.

We know the community is wondering why Oak Lane's hours are still so limited: simply, we do not have a full-time Municipal Guard (who also serves as the Custodian). Free Library locations must have a guard to be open to the public. But there has been a city-wide hiring freeze since March 2020. If you would like to

advocate on our behalf for faster filling of this position, please contact Ms. Jennifer Maguire-Wright, Interim Director, Executive Office, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. (Copying: Councilwoman Cherelle Parker, 1536 Wadsworth Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150).

The Free Library system has a new initiative thanks to a federal Emergency Connectivity Fund grant. No Internet at home? Borrow a Wi-Fi hotspot or tablet (while supplies last) until June 2022 for free Internet. Call 1-833-TALK-FLP (825-5357) for more info!

There is an Oak Lane Library book group, known as the Bibliophiles. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 2 to discuss Barack Obama's memoir, "A Promised Land." Call the library at 215-685-2847 to have us set aside a copy for you to pick up. Don't wait - the book is 700 pages long!

Stay tuned for an announcement by our wonderful Friends

of the Oak Lane Library about opportunities to browse – and buy – in their used book room. Check our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/freelibraryoak for updates on this and other upcoming events!

Best wishes from the staff of the Oak Lane Library for the holiday season and the New Year!



Photo above: Friends of the Oak Lane Library members Marita Krivda and Kelly McShain Tyree had a great time placing holiday bright bows on our Victorian urns in front of the Oak Lane Branch- Free Library of Philadelphia. Our Oak Lane Library opened 110 years ago - December 1911.



In loving memory of Mom.
Always on my mind, forever in my heart.

Smiley R. Ferebee

Frances Matilda Beckett
December 2, 1931–April 14, 2013

In Loving Memory

Contact us!

Join us!

**Oak Lane Community
Action Association**

P.O. Box 2926

Philadelphia, PA 19141

Phone: 215-224-2777

Email: olcaa.eol@gmail.com

Website: www.olcaa.org

Striving to build a better neighborhood

Thwart a thief! Remember — lock your car doors!

Stymie a scammer! Always verify before revealing your personal information!



Volunteer Opportunities

Oak Lane Community Action Association (OLCAA) wants to connect to all its neighbors. We are seeking Block Reps to pass out the OLCAA Newsletter and other information about our community. You don't have to be a block captain or even an OLCAA member. Just one block. Contact Smiley at 267-237-5350.



**Want to advertise in our
next newsletter?**

Call us at 215-224-2777 or
see the Contact Us page on

www.olcaa.org

THIS ISSUE

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