



**The OLCAA Board  
would like to wish the  
happiest of holidays  
to all of our members,  
neighbors and  
community partners!  
Thank you for your  
continuous support!**



**December  
2019**

**OLCAA of East Oak Lane**

**The East Oak Lane Paper**

**New OLCAA website: [www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org) New email address: [olcaa.eol@gmail.com](mailto:olcaa.eol@gmail.com)**

Save a tree – ask OLCAA to send your newsletter *electronically* via email – in color, with links!

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Ball! Saturday, January 18 from 7:00 – 11:00 PM**

Tickets: Eric Brice (215) 519-4805 or OLCAA Hotline (215) 224-2777



**Free Fresh Fruits and Veggies giveaway, on Thursdays from 10–11 AM**

Einstein Fresh for All at Einstein Medical Center, W. Tabor Road & Park Avenue  
Bring bags or boxes! For additional info, call 215-220-1920.

**Special Thanks to our  
Contributors!**

Harriet Atkerson, Eric Brice,  
Smiley Ferebee, Earlene Mitchell,  
Kim T. Robertson

**THIS ISSUE**

**Production Staff**

Ken Pezanowski (Editor), Smiley  
Ferebee, Andrea Mayo

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# The 10th Annual Snow Ball

By: Smiley Ferebee

This is a very special year for all of us here in East Oak Lane! On Saturday, January 18, 2020, OLCAA will host its annual “Snow Ball.” The Snow Ball will be held this year at PASSI’s brand new “Evergreen Center” at 6926 Old York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19126, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The brand new venue is much larger, easier to access, and there is plenty of parking.

It’s hard to believe that it has been 10 years now that OLCAA has been hosting this upscale event. But, it’s not hard to believe that East Oak Laners have shown their support by attending the “Snow Ball” each year. That kind of support means those who attend are aware that OLCAA makes every attempt to enhance our

quality of life, through such fundraisers, by always caring for our community through its various committees. We have planned a “Snow Ball” this year filled with some new live entertainment, tasty bites, and an endless wine bar to enjoy, all of which are included with your ticket.

We also will be taking a moment to acknowledge our “Spirit of East Oak Lane” award recipients. They are as follows: Charlie and Rosemary Hatcher, Jules Whaley, Marvita Krivda-Poxon, and our youngest recipients thus far, Masters Kameron and Kris Bradford. All of whom continually take care of us here in East Oak Lane, behind the scenes and out of the limelight.

So, let’s get ready to have a good time! Let’s dance, have great conversations, and meet new people, all while supporting a valuable cause. Open seating and reserved tables are available for you to enjoy with your block, co-workers, family, or friends. Tickets are now on sale. Please contact Eric Brice at 215-519-4805 or call the OLCAA hotline at 215-224-2777.

*OLCAA is a RCO & 501c(3) registered non-profit organization.*



## Event Space Available

6635 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street

(Next to the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11<sup>th</sup> and Oak Lane)

Do you need an **indoor or outdoor** venue for any of the following?

- Weddings, Showers, Rehearsal Dinners
- Book Clubs, Literary Readings
- Recitals, Art Shows, Dramatic Performances
- Family Reunions, Birthdays, Special Occasions
- Worship Services
- Community Meetings
- Retreats
- Workshops
- Social Clubs

Long-term office space is also available. Contact us for a tour!

Contact: Harriett Atkerson @ 215-888-9018 or Jon Weston @ 215-224-4547  
[papermanjdw@aol.com](mailto:papermanjdw@aol.com)



**More than Medicine**

**Want to advertise in our newsletter?**

Call us at 215-224-2777 or see the **Contact Us** page on [www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org).

Thank you for your support!



10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
*Snow Ball*

Saturday, January 18, 2020

7:00 – 11:00 PM

Penn Asian Senior Services  
6926 Old York Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19126

\$35 per person

Reserved Tables Available

**Live Entertainment!**

Join Us for Dancing,  
Wine, Light Fare & Much More!  
\*\* Cocktail Attire Required \*\*



For tickets call:  
Eric Brice at 215-519-4805  
OLCAA Hotline: 215-224-2777  
olcaa.eol@gmail.com

OLCAA is a registered non-profit organization

# Oak Lane Day 2019

By: Kim T. Robertson

On September 21, 2019, OLCAA held its 47th annual "Oak Lane Day" on the 6600 block of Lawnton Avenue in East Oak Lane.

There was a carnival for the children with a clown, stilt walker, face painting, magician, and a video game bus sponsored by Bobby Gunns. We also featured our "All About Philly"



tent, which included pictures of boxers and singers from Philly, like "Smokin" Joe Frazier, Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins and "Terrible" Tim Witherspoon. Also, pictures of Patti LaBelle, Sisters Sledge, and Maze were featured in the tent. The display included some biography information as well.

We would like to thank our fashion model, Vilise Jones, who walked the runway for us in a few stylish outfits, notably her "Lady in Red" ensemble. Many thanks to our singer Ms. Vivian Lewis.

OLCAA would like to thank the many vendors that participated with both retail and informational tables.

We certainly must thank the school that I chose to adopt, Philadelphia Military Academy, for allowing us to borrow their color guard and marching team. The Principal, Mrs. Goodwin, and Lt. Gallagher really came through for our event with such short notice.

Lastly, special thanks to the 35th District police, 63rd fire battalion, Isabella Fitzgerald, Cherelle Parker, PASSI and the "Forever 40" Dance Troupe, Laurel Square, and our many team supporters and sponsors.



# Einstein and Philabundance Fresh for All

By: Eric Brice

Einstein continues to serve the community by providing FREE vegetables and fruit through our Fresh for All partnership with Philabundance. Every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Tabor Road and Park Avenue, we distribute 3,000+ pounds of produce to 175+ area residents. Please let your family, friends and neighbors know!

If anyone wants to help, please volunteer by signing up at [einsteinfreshforall@einstein.edu](mailto:einsteinfreshforall@einstein.edu).



Volunteers from PJM Interconnection Co.

# Our First Year and a Half at The Oak Lane House

By: Harriett Atkerson

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It has been a wonderful experience to serve with the members of the Task Force for The Oak Lane House (TOLH). The energy and commitment of the members of this very dedicated group is astounding and inspirational. As Chair of this group, I can tell you first hand that whenever there was a need for work, ideas, generation of funds, volunteer hours, these people were ready to jump in and do the work, for which I am most grateful! My sincere thanks goes to Jacqueline Williams, Terrine Datts, Peggy Weston, Dr. Sadiki Che Baye, Lynette Townsend, Jon Weston, and Gerry Shambaugh for their steady and ever-present support of the programs, renovations, and financial support of this wonderful space. I would also like to thank Al and Earlene Mitchell, Eric Brice, and Martha Lewis for their hard work and input, because they were among the Founding members who made this dream come true.

Since opening a year and a half ago, we have hosted wedding receptions, birthday parties, anniversary parties, baby showers, jazz concerts, Christmas concerts, cookouts, gardening space for families,

organizational meetings, and workshops. We are the home base for the Oak Lane Community Action Association, the Buffalo Soldiers, the National Federation of Black Veterans, the Boy Scouts-Troop 19, our Chess Club, and we are sharing this amazing space with the 35<sup>th</sup> Police District as a meeting place for their Town Hall Meetings and other functions involving their work in our community. Once a year, we host the Hospitality Network, a shelter program for families in need. This was one of the most joyful uses of the building, because this amazing house was most appreciated by our guests who felt very much at home during their stay. It truly was a “home away from home” for them. Someone once asked me if this house was needed as a community center. I can state a resounding, “Yes,” loudly and clearly!

It is imperative that I thank my church family for agreeing to make this house a community center that would serve the needs of families, children, adults, seniors, and organized groups in our neighborhood, because we had no public space to meet and share our lives. The open-

ing of this house was a wonderful way to do as the Creator asks us to do, “To take care of his sheep.” The original Task Force was formed back in 2012 when I first proposed the idea upon the resignation of our past Pastor, Alonzo Johnson, who was the last pastor to actually live in the house. The original Task Force Committee was formed and included Jacqueline Williams, Terrine Datts, Jim Cephas, and yours truly. The initial work on the building began with great enthusiasm, but the actual completion was done by Founding members of the Task Force in the spring of 2018. The culmination of this project has been a work of love, because of our dedication to our neighbors and to our very beautiful community. With the blessings and well wishes of all, we continue to welcome each person who enter the doors of this warm and spacious home.

As we move into the New Year, we will be welcoming a new Property Chair for the church and The Oak Lane House, Stafford Freeman, who is a lieutenant and Chaplain on the Philadelphia Fire Department, working

Continued on Page 11

# Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

By: Eric Brice

Continued on Page 10

The holiday season is a time when people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes. People are often in a rush buying gifts, decorating their homes, visiting friends, or traveling. There is a large increase in the number of people that are out and about shopping at the malls and grocery stores, packing the parking lots, grabbing taxis, filling up the seats on rapid transit, and waiting in lines at ATMs.

Many stores extend hours late into the night. People head to the stores after work, then at closing time, you see them emerging with the dazed eyes of sleepwalkers. Amazingly, the

mall parking lots then empty out in record time and within minutes become deserted. Without fail, there are always a handful of people wandering the lots alone, looking for where they parked their cars or digging through handfuls of shopping bags searching for their lost car keys.

To normal, law-abiding people, all this kind of holiday hoopla and pressure is just part of the festive mood of the season. All the gaiety, unfortunately, also tends to cause people to let their innate sense of caution temporarily fall by the wayside.

The hustle and bustle going on over the holidays gives thieves

what they want, almost as much as an unlocked bank vault, and that is the opportunity to become invisible. By being as nondescript as possible, they can move through big crowds of rushed and distracted people without anyone noticing them. They can pickpocket and shoplift and when their victims realize that they had been robbed, they will have no idea who did it.



## OLCAA Welcomes New Businesses to EOL

By: Kim T. Robertson

OLCAA would like to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Le'Suer, the new owners of "Corfu" Pizza, located at 6730 Old York Road. Jesse is a native of West Philly. He wants everyone to know that the recipes will not be changed. Chris, the former owner, made sure she passed on her special skills that made Corfu's food delicious. Corfu will now open at 12:00 p.m. on Sundays. Jesse said to remind all of you Eagle fans to continue to place your order by phone (215) 924-6570 or you can get \$5 off your first online order at [corfupizzatogo.com](http://corfupizzatogo.com) or text CORFUP to 33733.

We also welcome David Chen, owner of "Super Clean Laundromat Express," located at 6835 Old York Road. The laundromat has 78 washers and 88 dryers, and these machines are described as "very efficient" by today's standards. They offer a drop-off service. Hours are 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. every day with the last wash at 10:00 p.m. Free dry with wash and they offer loadable laundry cards. There is free parking and snack machines inside.





**Oak Lane Community Action Association**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**NEW MEMBER**       **RENEWAL**       **DONATION**

*The membership term runs from May 1 through April 30 of the following year.*

Select your membership below; Includes subscription to OLCAA's newsletter (**add \$1.00 for mailed copy**):

**Full**

- Individual \$15
- Household (2 voting members) \$25
- Student (under 23) \$6
- Senior (65+) \$10

**Associate**

- East Oak Lane Business/Organization
- Non-East Oak Lane resident \$25
- This household has more than one OLCAA member. (Help us reduce mailings!)

I/We wish to make an additional contribution of:

- \$500+ (Oak Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$100-499 (Maple Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$50-99 (Willow Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$1-49 (Spruce Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print clearly)*

**Make check or money order payable to:**

**Oak Lane Community Action Assn.**  
Fill in this form online and save. Email it to us as an attachment (Use as the *Subject* line: **Membership**). Mail us your payment.  
  
Or mail completed form with payment to:  
**OLCAA P.O. Box 2926 Phila., PA 19141**

**Member or Donor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information on:  Placing ads in the newsletter     Contributing to OLCAA Committees (*Select from below*):

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Development      | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Events           | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime, Safety, & Security            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me email security alerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Zoning |  |

I would like to earmark my additional OLCAA donation to the committee(s) checked above:

I would prefer to receive the newsletter select below:

- Via email
- Printed copy mailed to me **add \$1.00** to my membership

Join us!

How did you learn about OLCAA?  Newsletter     OLCAA website     Word of mouth

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

OLCAA is classified as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contact us at the OLCAA Hotline: **215-224-2777** Website: **www.olcaa.org** Email **olcaa.eol@gmail.com**

# Penn Asian Senior Services

Providing Exceptional Services in 17 Asian Languages Since 2004

## Key services we offer

### Who we serve

Senior or Elderly family member. Eligible community member who needs support to live independently and securely within their family and locality.

Homecare Services

Skilled Home Health Care

PACE (Medicare & Medicaid Services)

Training and Development

### Counties we serve

Philadelphia  
Bucks  
Montgomery  
Delaware and  
West Chester

### Self-assessment (How to determine eligibility)

- ✓ Individual with complex Medical conditions
- ✓ Medicare and Medicaid eligible
- ✓ Appraised as 'homebound'
- ✓ Under supervision of a Primary Care Physician for last 3 months

### Where to seek assistance

- ✓ Penn Asian Senior Services
- ✓ Local county Social Security office
- ✓ Local health center & hospitals
- ✓ Community leaders
- ✓ PA Department of Aging [www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov)

Language specific support for Asian immigrants through the application process

Questions?  
215-572-1234

Friends or family members can be a paid caregiver (HHA)



PENN ASIAN SENIOR SERVICES

**PASSi**



Contact us  
6926 Old York Road,  
Philadelphia, PA 1926  
# 215-572-1234  
Fax: 215-572-1102

# Happier Holidays, and a Brighter, Shiny New Year Ahead

By: Kelly McShain Tyree

Engaged East Oak Lane neighbors have been sharing their concerns and reporting issues regarding trash and debris sightings in and around our community. Witnessing visitors driving through and discarding trash from moving vehicles may cause a 'deep sigh,' and may not feel controllable, but certainly, reinforcing our high expectations for our local culture of caring for one another's quality of life wherever we can, certainly is. Vigilance starts with every block, and adopting areas is quite effective. The neighborhood's civic association, OLCAA, does hire Mr. Landscaper to 'assist' maintenance on some of our major public thoroughfares (Broad Street Islands, Cheltenham Avenue Underpass, also along Godfrey Avenue's Great Wall), but homeowners,

business owners, churches, and apartment building managers can truly help control litter, and best help shape culture towards showcasing our neighborhood in its best light. OLCAA also helps sponsor the Beautification Committee's efforts with Philly Spring Clean-up - 7 years running now! We make major headway, but it is the daily and weekly maintenance that remains so important.

To assist in our supportive collective efforts, here are our recommendations. Directly after weekly trash/recycling pick-up, please peruse the entire street and remove any remaining curbside debris. Adopt a specific untended area and stay consistent. Dog-walkers are on the front lines, so thanks for picking up errant trash along with your pet droppings. Homeowners near

bus stops, you are angels for helping the cause with 'extra duties.' Kindly assist a neighbor who may be struggling to maintain a debris-free property. Contact apartment building managers and business owners directly to reinforce your high expectations for no visible debris. If issues persist, please call or write to Philly 311 and log specific addresses and concerns. Also, please share your issue and your 311-complaint number with OLCAA via email or per Hotline. Follow up! Support OLCAA, Oak Lane Tree Tenders and Friends of the Oak Lane Library in their organized efforts to improve quality of life. Finally, 'keep the faith' that you are not alone! We all love this 'Community of Caring Neighbors,' and it's so worth the efforts.

## Christmas Scramble Challenge

Answer Key on Page 11

1. ANSAT SLCUA
2. URDHPLO
3. GSIHEL
4. LEOMTETSI
5. CASRELOR
6. URIFT AEKC
7. RFYTSO HET SAWNMON
8. WETIH AHSMCITRS
9. RHOTN OPEL
10. YGAUTHN LTSI
11. GNEGOG
12. WOT RFECNH SNEH
13. LTETLI RMRDEMU YBO
14. TANRCERKCU
15. ATSL INETMU HIOGNPSP
16. FITG RWPA
17. EIERREDN SAEGM
18. BERDEMEC

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_

# Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

By: Eric Brice

Continued from Page 6

In most communities, the police work additional hours during November and December. They are kept busy by the increase in traffic accidents, home fires, bar fights, and family disputes. Also, during the month of December, more people die of natural causes than any other time of the year. Police often have to change their regular routines and leave the nightly patrol through neighborhoods to answer emergency calls.

## Thieves Feed on Opportunities

Thieves know that the police are overloaded during the holiday season and they take full advantage of it. They thrive on the fact that the police and stores' loss prevention staff have their hands full with amateur thieves who are hauled to jail for trying to steal from the electronics departments or waiting for the parents of pre-teens who pocketed the latest video game.

In the meantime, the professional thieves are busy breaking into cars in the parking lots to steal gifts, cell phones, and electronics, or stalking and robbing or scamming unsuspecting people who are alone. Some thieves prefer burglarizing homes. They spend their time walking neighborhoods, looking for houses which have the appearance that the homeowners are away. Darkened homes nestled between neighbors with front yards bursting with holiday lights will draw their attention.

Having the kids off from school is another concern because of the number of unsupervised teens hanging around without anything to do. Homes within some neighborhoods are broken into more times by a small minority of young male and female teens who are prone to bad behavior and live in or near the neighborhood. They often choose a home and then hang out to see when the homeowners leave each day. They might be so brazen and ring the doorbell, then pretend to try to sell something if anyone answers. Don't be fooled into assuming your neighborhood is immune from this problem.

## How to Keep From Becoming a Holiday Crime Victim

These tips can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

Try to shop during the day, but if you do shop at night, do not do it alone.

Dress both casually and comfortably.

Avoid wearing any expensive jewelry.

Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. Consider bringing a security travel pouch.

Always carry your driver's license or identification along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use. But, don't keep them together, carry your ID, credit cards and cash separate in your possession.

Recognize when you are

rushed, distracted and stressed out, and stay alert to what is going on around you.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Keep it in your front pocket.

Pay for purchases with a check or credit card whenever possible.

If you discover that a credit card is missing, notify the credit card company as soon as possible. Don't assume that you misplaced it and will find it later.

Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.

Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, terminals, bus stops, on buses, and other rapid transit.

Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion if you are approached.

Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you, including working in teams, with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Let someone else know where you are going to be at a given time and when you expect to return, especially if you are going somewhere unfamiliar.

Never set your bags on the ground or on the floor, especially when dining out.

# Our First Year and a Half at The Oak Lane House

By: Harriett Atkerson

Continued from Page 5

around the corner at our own Fire Station. Stafford grew up in our church and is familiar with all aspects of our community center. Help me to welcome him and his leadership as we make this well-prepared transition in January of 2020. Over the past year, Stafford has worked as my co-chair to get an up-close and personal view of the work that he is to assume in the coming year. As I step away from my 6 year tenure as chairperson, which is our tradition in the Presbyterian Church, I am mindful of the many people who helped us get to this place and space in time. It has been

my pleasure to serve in this capacity, and it was thrilling to see my dream of this Community Center actualize and become a vital part of this community's life. With my heartfelt appreciation, I thank all the people who helped out and supported the idea of this Community Center. May the Creator bless each of you and all the residents of the Oak Lane Community of which I feel blessed to be able to experience living here and knowing our wonderful neighbors.

On behalf of the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, the Oak Lane Task Force, and all the

users of the house, we wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and many blessings for the New Year. Anyone who wishes to have additional information about The Oak Lane House may contact our church office at 215-424-4446, or our soon-to-be Property Chair, Stafford Freeman at 215-431-4891.



# Boy Scouts of America East Oak Lane's Troop 19

By: Earlene Mitchell



East Oak Lane's Troop 19 is always recruiting new males between 11 and 17 years of age. We also welcome their parents/guardians to come out and join us on Saturdays at the Oak Lane

Presbyterian Church, 6637 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For more information about joining or donating, please contact Mr. Al Mitchell at 215-927-0231.



Answer Key:

1. SANTA CLAUS
2. RUDOLPH
3. SLEIGH
4. MISTLETOE
5. CAROLERS
6. FRUIT CAKE
7. FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
8. WHITE CHRISTMAS
9. NORTH POLE
10. NAUGHTY LIST
11. EGGNOG
12. TWO FRENCH HENS
13. LITTLE DRUMMER BOY
14. NUTCRACKER
15. LAST MINUTE SHOPPING
16. GIFT WRAP
17. REINDEER GAMES
18. DECEMBER

**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](mailto:olcaa.eol@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org)

*Striving to build a better neighborhood*

Thwart a thief! Remember — lock your car doors!

Stymie a scammer — verify before revealing your personal information!

**OLCAA Calendar**

2019	Board Meetings	Events
DEC*	11	7 - Holiday Blood/Clothing Drive
2020		
JAN	8	18 - Snow Ball
FEB	12	
MAR	11	
APR*	8	4 - Philly Spring Cleanup 18 - Members Only Dinner
MAY	13	27 - General Membership Mtg.
JUN	10	
JUL	8	
AUG*	12	
SEPT	9	TBA - Oak Lane Day
OCT	14	
NOV	11	

\* Newsletter issues



memories happy bright  
mistletoe  
Love angel wonder  
understanding Spirit  
peace TRADITION  
respect holiday kwanza  
good tidings  
HAPPINESS CHERISH  
CELEBRATE Season  
joy SNOW family values  
acceptance CHRISTMAS  
jingle compassion  
greetings goodwill  
YULETIDE Hanukkah

**Your OLCAA member-  
ship funds our efforts.**  
Thank you for your  
support!