



December 2018

OLCAA of East Oak Lane

The East Oak Lane Paper

## A Word from our President

By Sharon Wilson, Esq.

As the cold weather rolls in memories of Spiderman, Black Panther and a fantastic Oak Lane Day, a supervised Halloween patrol and community meetings all fade away as OLCAA now rolls up its sleeves for our Winter activities.

WE WANT YOUR BLOOD...and your coats, hats, gloves and new socks. Let's make sure that we don't forget the less fortunate among us as we prepare for our **Blood and Coat Drive** on December 8 at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. This is our 9th annual drive and we want you to join us in the spirit of giving so that we may all enjoy the season. All donations go to needy families at the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, homeless men at Whosoever Gospel Mission and to Seniors in the nursing homes located in East Oak Lane.

We can't let the snow roll in without letting the **SNOW**



**BALL** roll out. Get your ticket to eat, mingle and listen to good music with your friends, family and neighbors. Tickets are always reasonably priced and the proceeds are used to fund OLCAA's activities for the upcoming year. We put the "fun" in fundraising to make it even easier to support your community organization. Come sample the serious spread of food, open bar and lively music which are all included in your ticket price. Help out, save money, support your community and have fun. This year, the **SNOW BALL** will be held on Friday, January 18, 2019. You

can purchase tickets from any board member.

In our favorite show of appreciation for all our OLCAA members, the **MEMBERS ONLY DINNER** is back!! All OLCAA members are invited to bring a dish to share with their neighbors and OLCAA supplies the extras. We make a point to highlight some of the inspiring stories of service to the community that our members have made. Our dinner will be held in April. Current and prospective members are welcome! If you are not a member, you can join that night.

You can get more information on any of our events as they are posted on the website, or you can call the Hotline at (215) 224-2777 to request information.

**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!

**9th Annual Snow Ball! Friday, January 18 from 7:00 — 11:00 PM**

Tickets: Eric Brice (215) 519-4805, Andrea Mayo (215) 549-2465 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 Rd. & Park Ave. Bring bags or boxes! For additional info, call 215-220-1920.

### Special Thanks to our Contributors!

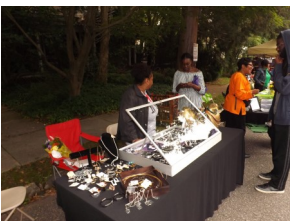
Sharon Wilson, Eric Brice, Earlene Mitchell, Deb Abrens, Smiley Ferebee, Peggy and Jon Weston, Kelly McShain Tyree, Freda Williams, Bernadette Tanksley, T. Michael Poxon

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# Welcome Back Oak Lane Day!

By Smiley Ferebee, Chair



We heard you and responded! On Saturday, September 22, 2018, our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Oak Lane Day Festival (OLD) was held on the 6600 block of Lawnton Avenue.

Activities for children and adults alike made for a fun filled family-oriented day. There was live entertainment from DJ Lady B, The Singing Painter, Bristow Family Band and Acoustic Keys. Folks enjoyed being able to interact with “The Mural Arts Van.” East Oak Laners loved the Big Mouth Food Truck so much that they sold out of food. Let’s not forget that T. Michael Poxon of the Friends of the Library was seen holding a whale of a sandwich in one hand, while beating everyone at multiple games of chess.

The “Hollie Project,” headed up by Sandi Hollie, turned out to be a one-woman show. She purchased items and filled and delivered those care packages to approximately 25 neighbors who could not make it to OLD. Block Captain Connie Vales, along with her block, donated 50 bags filled with starter school supplies to Ellwood School and 30

more of those bags were given out at OLD. Officer Hoppe of the 35<sup>th</sup> Police District came fully equipped with his Cadets, better known as the “Explorers,” a new program for young people at the police academy. They were in full uniform and were there to be of service to East Oak Lane. Special thanks go out to our own Boy Scout Troop 19 for their assistance in setting up our tents. Spider Man and Black Panther were there too, just in case any of their nemeses tried to crash the festival.

We are grateful to our sponsors, Einstein Health Care Network, Lindy Communities (Bromley House), York Nursing & Rehabilitation, Laurel Square Nursing Home, Raymour & Flanigan of Jenkintown, Trader Joe’s of Jenkintown, Herr’s Potato Chips, Pepsi Cola Co., and The Wedge. Special thanks to Erin & Eric Lightheart and Manny Reider who reside on Lawnton Avenue and acted as OLD block hosts. Many thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who donated their time and resources this year.

Many neighbors expressed that having OLD on Lawnton Avenue gave them a warm cozy family feeling. In fact, most attendees requested that it be held there next year.

What do you think? Would your block like to host OLD 2019? Contact us at 215-224-7777 or [olcaa.eol@gmail.com](mailto:olcaa.eol@gmail.com). OLCAA would love to hear from you!



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**Thank you for your support!**



# East Oak Lane's Holiday Blood/Coat Drive Tradition

By Peggy Runde Weston

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Blood Drive / Coat Drive / Sock Drive was held on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. We changed the timing of the drive to the weekend in hopes that we might get participation by more neighbors. It is the organization's way of helping our neighborhood get in the "giving mood" with donations that help families and senior citizens in our extended neighborhood and hospital patients throughout the city. The American Red Cross (ARC) has a great need for blood donations during

the holiday season. Each pint of blood donated can help up to 3 patients when it is split into its factors.

As in past years, we collected gently worn coats for adults and children plus scarves, hats, caps, gloves and mittens. The clothing was again distributed to needy families by the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, Germantown & Cheltenham Avenues, which provides meals and counseling services. We have collected a minimum of 150 coats each year and we are always so grateful

for the generosity of East Oak Laners.

Those who had no coats to share brought new socks for adults. They were donated to senior citizens at the nursing homes in East Oak Lane and to homeless men at Whosoever Gospel Mission on Cheltenham Avenue.

Watch for announcements next year for this annual East Oak Lane event.

## Take a Bite Out of Crime

By Eric Brice, Crime, Safety & Security Chair

The OLCAA Crime, Safety & Security Committee would like to thank all of you for your continued support. All East Oak Lane residents are welcome to join our neighborhood watch team which simply consists of 'Eyes-n-Ears' reporting and neighborhood patrols.

The 35th District Police Crime Prevention Officer is offering free Home Security

Audits for residents who want information on how to protect their homes from burglary.

If you are interested in this program, please call the OLCAA hotline 215-224-2777 or email [olcaa.col@gmail.com](mailto:olcaa.col@gmail.com) for more information.

Due to the rise in property crime and drug

activity in our community, we will be hosting 35th Police District Captain Ernest Ransom at a community meeting in East Oak Lane coming up very soon. Stay tuned for further details.

Remember to lock your cars, and report anything out of the ordinary!

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**Non-Seniors are only \$20 per month!**

## Opening in January, 2019

PASSi has been diligently working to renovate its south building into a 15,000 sq. ft. Asian-focused Senior Community Center. This new center will provide innovative programming to promote vibrant lifestyles and cultural inclusion so that the diverse community members can become involved with the many others who are socially isolated. This modern Center will feature:

- Heated swimming pool
- Fitness center
- Atrium cafe
- Authentic Asian cuisine
- Auditorium for concerts
- Many activities and programs



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### **PASSi Services**

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**Penn Asian Jubilee Daycare  
Center (PAJC)**

**Penn Asian Vocational Institute  
(PAVI)**

**Penn Asian Social Services**

### **PENN ASIAN SENIOR SERVICES**

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[www.passi.us](http://www.passi.us)





By Peggy Runde Weston

East Oak Lane  
Cooks

TASTY Preheat YUM Let cool

All proceeds benefit OLCAA.

By Smiley Ferebee, Chair and Jon Weston, Co-Chair

**MARTHA'S KITCHEN & RESTAURANT**  
Sun-11a-8p, Closed Monday, Tue-Thur 11a-9p, Fri & Sat 11a-11p  
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# Ellwood Update

By Bernadette Tanksley

Our new Ellwood Principal, Ms. Zaida Alfaro, seems to have hit the ground running.

Enrollment is currently 299, a significant increase over the projected enrollment of 270. Both kindergartens are at capacity with 30 scholars each.

Attendance incentives instituted this year resulted in Ellwood being one of two schools in Network 7 to achieve a double-digit jump in attendance during the month of September. Seventy-six percent of students attended 95% of the time. Let's keep that figure climbing! The Harvest Festival Parade on October 31 had 53 families represented.

Long awaited Library upgrades are in process. As of this writing, it was anticipated that there would be a ribbon cutting scheduled for late November or early December and posted on the OLCAA website to encourage community attendance.

A food drive to help families during the holiday season ran from November 5 to 16 with community participation promoted through the OLCAA website.

The School Advisory Committee (SAC) has met twice this school year. More parent participation is encouraged. Parents arriving at report card conferences on November 7, 8 and 9 saw photos of their Ellwood Scholars engaged in home

activities reflecting some of the "how to help at home" tips published by Ms. Alfaro through the monthly Ellwood School calendar.

Watch the OLCAA website for details and current updates on goings on at Ellwood.

## More Mechanical Leaf Collection?

By Jon Weston

Oak Laners were quite upset at the early scheduling of the mechanical leaf collections in early November, just as it was in past years. Our neighborhood was on the schedule for 3 days for the whole area and the sweepers only made one pass per street. There was chatter about this on the Nextdoor community bulletin board website and the idea of a petition was born. The Quality of Life Committee has developed one that will go to Carlton Williams, Philadelphia Streets Commissioner, and Cherelle Parker,

9<sup>th</sup> District Councilperson this spring in time to affect the fall scheduling of leaf collection. Neighbors will get an opportunity to participate in action plans at all OLCAA activities, as well as those at The Oak Lane House at 6635 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Upon Board approval, the petition will ask for later mechanical leaf collection when more of the leaves will have been shed from all the wonderful trees we have or 2 collection sessions weeks apart.

Check the OLCAA website for updates.



## *Season's Greetings from Raymour & Flanigan!*

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Oak Lane Community  
Action Association's

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

Friday, January 18, 2019

7:00 – 11:00 PM

Penn Asian Senior Services

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Philadelphia, PA 19126

\$30 per person    Open Seating

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Eric Brice

215-519-4805

**Co-Chair:**

Andrea Mayo

215-549-2465

**Hotline:** 215-224-2777

olcaa.eol@gmail.com

# Greetings from Housing and Zoning!

By Freida Williams, Chair

The mission of the Housing and Zoning Committee (H&Z) is to address issues of zoning compliance and to monitor and address issues of structure safety and maintenance of residential and historic buildings in East Oak Lane. Additionally, H&Z seeks to help residents be aware of compliance in the maintenance and upgrading of their property. As the arm of OLCAA, a **Registered Community Organization**, Housing and Zoning meets with applicants, and conducts community meetings, commonly called **RCO Meetings** with applicants who request variances and special exceptions to the zoning regulations in this community.

A non-RCO Community Meeting was arranged at the request of Councilwoman Cherelle Parker in January 2018, re: **6835 Old York Road** (pink building) with developer Bob Eisenberg and David Chen, lessee. Following are highlights from the meeting. The property is currently zoned for commercial purposes. A change in ownership or lessee allows for occupancy by virtually any legal enterprise within a specific time frame. Permits are required for demolition, construction, signage and dumpsters.

#### Developer Proposals:

- Construction Duration: 4 months
- Demolition Hours:  
7:00 am – 6:00 pm

- Security Measures: LED Lighting
- Hours of Operation:  
6:00 am – 12:00 am
- Number of Parking Spaces: 20
- Number of Employees:  
Undetermined (Possibly 2)
- Equipment: 96 Washers, 80 Dryers
- Price Structure: single fee for washing and drying, separate fee for dryers, fee for wash and fold service
- Other Notes: onsite children's bookshelf and consideration of a mural on the side wall

#### Community Requests:

- Onsite Security: security cameras for front side and rear of building;  
**NO 24 Hour Operation**
- Neutral building exterior, wide glass windows, decorative fencing, retention of side garden area, landscaping
- Community member employment and membership in Oak Lane Business Association

To make a complaint or report regarding properties that raise your curiosity or concern regarding usage, questionable construction, and/or property maintenance, call 311 and be sure to write the complaint/service number. Note the service time (usually 20-30 business days) and call back for the results - i.e. Was an inspection made? Who is the inspector? Date of inspection? The

results? The next step? Possible responses are: citation for failure to obtain proper license, STOP WORK order, and referral to Equity Court based on failure to comply with previously issued orders. Bring your complaint, if not addressed, to the H & Z meeting or to the OLCAA Board Meeting as a Community Concern. You can make an anonymous complaint.

On October 24, 2018, a RCO Meeting was held regarding a **REQUEST for ZONING VARIANCE** by community residents Mr. and Mrs. Thompson to their property at **1224 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue**, to allow two parking pads on the front lawn. The request was supported by vote of the community members in attendance.

FYI: the Housing and Zoning Committee usually meets at 6:30 pm, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, at the Oak Lane House, 6635 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street. We welcome new members. We hope to provide a Community Workshop in the spring. Please check the OLCAA website: [OLCAA.org](http://OLCAA.org) or call the OLCAA Hotline to inquire at 215-224-2777.

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# At the Library

By Deb Ahrens, Branch Manager, Oak Lane Library

## Events at the Oak Lane Library, Free Library of Philadelphia

**Mon., Dec. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Writer's Group, H. Victoria Hargro Atkerson, Leader. Topic: Writing with a Purpose + Group's Holiday Party

**Wed., Dec. 5 @ 6:30 p.m.:** Bibliophiles Reading Group meets to celebrate the season and select titles for 2019! Refreshments will be served!

**Fri., Dec. 7 from 3-4:30 p.m.:** 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for the Oak Lane Library Building. Cake and festivity!

**Mon., Dec. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.:** Pajama Storytime with Ms. Karen.

**Wed., Jan 2 @ 6:30 p.m.:** Bibliophiles Reading Group. Title TBD.

**Mon., Jan. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Writer's Group, H. Victoria Hargro Atkinson, Leader. Special Speaker: Dr. Sadiki Che'Baye, local author of "Raw Food for Thought: The Things We Must Eat"

**Wed., Jan. 30 @ 5:30 p.m.:** Rain Check Workshop. Sign up for a rain barrel!

Upcoming! **Wed., April 10 from 4-5 p.m.** Wes Mathews, Philadelphia's Youth Poet Laureate.

**ONE BOOK ONE PHILADELPHIA PROGRAMMING \* January 17-March 12**

## Featured title: The novel "SING UNBURIED SING" by Jesmyn Ward

*...is a book about love, home, time, and justice. Part ghost story, part road novel, it is "a harrowing panorama of the rural South" (Los Angeles Review of Books), and the story of one family reeling across generations from unresolved loss.*

## Monday Night at the Movies: O Brother, Where Art Thou?

PG13. Refreshments will be provided. January 21, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.

## Make Personal Amulets

Create your own personally meaningful amulet to take home. For teens and adults. Monday, January 28, 2019 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

## Monday Sounds for All: The Blues

Join Weez the Peeples Collective Duo for a concert to chase the winter blues away. February 4, 2019 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

## Book Discussion: Sing, Unburied, Sing

Join us to talk about the book all of Philadelphia is reading. For adults and teens. Light refreshments will be available. Wednesday, February 6, 2019 from 6:30-8 p.m.

## Read to a Therapy Dog: Linus the Beagle is all ears!

Read aloud to this excellent listener. For school-age kids; space may be limited. Program supported by Friends of Oak

Lane Library.

Monday, February 11, 2019 from 4-5 p.m.

## Monday Night at the Movies: Down in the Delta

PG13. Refreshments will be provided. February 25, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.

## Song and Myth Scavenger Hunt

Hunt your way through the library, using clues about song and myth, to receive fabulous prizes. Any time the library is open (January 17 – March 12)

Oak Lane Branch Library  
6614 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19126  
215-685-2848



# Friends of the Oak Lane Library in Action

By T. Michael Poxon

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library will have a USED BOOK SALE on November 30 and December 3, 2018 during normal business hours, and a Birthday Party at the Oak Lane Library on December 7, 2018 from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM for students and all visitors.

T. Michael Poxon, Marita Krivda Poxon and Deb Ahrens, Librarian, spoke at the memorial service for Shirley Philips. Mr. Poxon thanked those who made donations to the Friends of the Oak Lane Library in

memory of Shirley Philips. Looking forward to 2019, the Friends will support an event for the ONE BOOK ONE PHILADELPHIA when the book is announced. Our Librarian, Deb Ahrens, is on the selection committee, a great honor for our Branch.

Our new treasurer, Rosemary Feild, has stepped up to replace Dorothy Mora, who served capably for two years. We look forward to more events in 2019 and wish all our friends and neighbors a

Happy Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year. Please stop by the library and check out an item, be it a book, or a movie or a DVD. The Friends usually meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Library at 6:30 PM. Check with the librarian to confirm the date, as there are occasional times when we reschedule the day of the meeting.



## Seasonal Gifts of East Oak Lane

By Kelly McShain Tyree

Each Season brings such joy and renewal to our darling neighborhood of East Oak Lane, but fall showcases its inherent beauty like no other! Caught in a live painting where towering Oaks and Maples, or harvest time Fruit Trees, offer ever-changing colors and textures, we breathe more deeply and step more briskly towards our daily activities. Falling leaves poetically remind us of time's passages. We may 'harrumph' at the idea of spending another Saturday with rakes in hand, but as we connect with neighbors in solidarity and hasten the heartbeat through unexpected exercise, we are surprised once again how exhilarating it can be to gather crisp fallen leaves and chuckle through tasks with family. Computer keyboards and watching football on a big screen are for another day. Time together, nurturing respect and love for nature on our properties, on our blocks, in our neighborhood, contribute so much to the delicate balance of our surrounding region, allowing for physical, mental and spiritual health to more deeply flourish.

Winter's muted landscape shares its own quieter beauty. Following summer's vibrant greens, and fall's crimsons and oranges, time gives way again to mushroom greys, pale straw yellows, muddy browns, snow whites, and cerulean sky blues. Bark textures appear more pronounced with fresh eyes unveiling gifted

layers from our natural world. We will dream again of spring's pale pink and lavender promises soon enough. But for now, the logs are ready for crackling with our own kindling gathered from Saturday chores, the rakes stored once again in the shed and celebration and contemplation season descends. How Blessed we are to live in a supportive and contributing Community of such character and grace, which serves the souls of so many.

*"Fall" - watercolor on paper, 11x15"*  
Artist, Janet McShain



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

By Earlene Mitchell

Boy Scout Troop 19 of East Oak Lane is extremely proud to announce that Master Gabriel Totesau is an Eagle Scout and had his Eagle Court of Honor on October 27, 2018 at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church (OLPC), 6637 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19126. Also,

Master Isaiah Willis made Eagle Scout on September 27, 2018 and his Eagle Court of Honor will be held in April 2019 at OLPC. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in scouting.

For more information about the Boy Scout Troop 19 of EOL,

please contact Scout Master Al Mitchell at 215-927-0231.



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Oak Lane Community Action Association

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

*Striving to build a better neighborhood*

Disappoint a thief. Remember — lock your car doors!

Stymie a scammer — verify before revealing your personal information

**OLCAA Calendar 2018-2019**

2018-2019	Board Meetings	Events
JUN	13	
JUL	11	
RETREAT	Aug 4	
AUG*	None	
SEPT	12	22—Oak Lane Day
OCT	10	
NOV	14	
DEC*	12	8—Blood & Coat Drive
2019		
JAN	9	18—Snow Ball
FEB	13	
MAR	13	Workshops
APR*	10	Members Only Dinner Spring Cleanup
MAY	8	
GENERAL	May 15	

\* Newsletter issues

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**

**THIS ISSUE**

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our efforts. Thank you for your  
support!**