



**April 2021**

**OLCAA of East Oak Lane**

**The East Oak Lane Paper**

## May I Have a Word?

By: Smiley Ferebee

Greetings OLCAA members, neighbors, family, and friends! Our last newsletter was all about neighbors in our community who have and continue to be of service to others through their generosity of time and resources. We hope you enjoyed reading about your neighbors. Many of you have come to realize who East Oak Lane is made of. Become an OLCAA member and/or sit on our Board of Directors to find out more!

This issue will reverence

some things as a citizen. As an East Oak Laner, we need to pay special attention to May 2021. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Pennsylvania Primary takes place. Please



make sure you are aware of the protocol to be eligible to vote.

Then, OLCAA's General Membership Meeting & Board Elections will be take place on May 26<sup>th</sup> (Zoom/venue TBA). So, let us get down to business, take your cues from the information we have provided. If you have any questions, you know how to reach us.

I know we have not seen each other face-to-face in a while, but that does not mean we can't get things done together while staying safe. Remember OLCAA is "Striving to Build a Better Community."

**New OLCAA website:** [www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org) Check out our new format!

**New email address:** [olcaa.eol@gmail.com](mailto:olcaa.eol@gmail.com)

Save a tree — ask OLCAA to send your newsletter *electronically* via email.

## General Membership Meeting and Election

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Zoom Time and Place — TBA

## Block Reps Needed to Deliver Newsletter

We need you to help pass out our newsletters to your block. You don't have to be a block captain, OLCAA member, or anything else to help get worthy information out to your friends, family, and next door neighbors. Just call me at 267-237-5350 and tell me where to drop off the newsletters and how many you will need your block. Yes, that's it. In less than 15 minutes, you can make an immeasurable difference in keeping our community connected. **YOU CAN DO THIS!**



Inside this Issue:

OLCAA General Meeting and Election	2
Beautification Inspiration	2
PASSi COVID-19 Clinics	3
Mosquitoes—Don't Let Them Start	4
Board Member Nomination Form	6
Greeting from Housing & Zoning	8
6926 Old York Road	10
At the Library	12

# OLCAA General Meeting and Election 2021

By: Eric Brice, OLCAA Crime, Safety, & Security Chair

On May 26, 2021, OLCAA will conduct the annual election for Board of Directors candidates.

If you wish to serve as a member of the Board, you must download the nomination form from our website - OLCAA.org. All forms (see Page 6 of newsletter)

must be submitted by May 8, 2021.

Board terms are for 2 years. All candidates must be residents of East Oak Lane and be a member in good-standing of OLCAA for one year. OLCAA has served the community for well over 45

years under the leadership and guidance from a diverse group of concerned residents just like yourself. We need you to help us continue to drive this institution forward to make our neighborhood even better – together.

## Beautification Inspiration from our EOL Wee Ones

By: Kelly McShain Tyree, OLCAA Beautification Chair

As our East Oak Lane flora and fauna springs forth this outdoor season, and vibrant colors burst once again from below and above, we have some helpers small and large working to showcase the neighborhood's beauty! Picking up curbside trash might be seen an arduous task initially (Yuck!), but turning the dial just a bit, we might also be inspired by the joy of serving others.

Cheltenham Avenue neighbor, Sandy Tran, has highlighted just that with her divine 'NextDoor' posts. They showcase not only her own daily haul of 'trash pickins' that she personally gathers from area blocks near and around the Reservoir, but she is aided by her adorably supportive pooch named "Hiro," stylin' in his red booties! We definitely have a new beautification mascot, if he'll allow - what a charmer! Living amongst clean and green streets is a pleasure and a privilege. Small changes can make such a difference, and how heartening to read how contagious good will can be. Neighbors from many surrounding areas are now also

inspired by Sandy's work and taking more joyful ownership of picking up errant trash as a result.



To formally assist in maintaining area quality of life, the Beautification Committee of OLCAA has hired Mr. Landscaper once again this year for 10 mowings and cleanings throughout the growing season - located at our more public EOL spaces and corridors. Volunteers have also recently assisted in the 'Philly Spring Clean-up' event tackling: Elwood, The Oak Lane Library, the Oak Lane corridor, North 12th & North 13th Streets, plus North 66th Avenue. The Gateway Islands at N. Broad Street also got a huge "pick me up!"

Special thanks to Librarian Deb Ahrens for hosting our annual event, and to the Friends of the Library for refreshments to help fuel the "fun!" Though neighbors of every generation have picked up brooms, shovels, rakes, and pruners to assist in beautifying our shared treasures, it has truly been the smallest volunteers this spring who have brought the biggest smiles and made the toil ever so much lighter!

# PASSi COVID-19 Clinics

By: Clayton Fitch, PASSi's Development Manager

As the largest provider of linguistically attuned senior services for Asian and other limited English proficient (LEP) older adults in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Penn Asian Senior Services (PASSi) knows the impact that COVID-19 has had on the lives of seniors. PASSi also knows that the Oak Lane community has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. To help provide seniors and the East Oak Lane community with access to the COVID-19 vaccine, PASSi hosted three vaccine clinics in the month of March.

These clinics held in partnership with SunRay Drugs and Centennial Pharmacy have vaccinated nearly 650 individuals. The seniors and community residents receiving the vaccine come from all cultural backgrounds, with PASSi emphasizing the importance of reaching under-

served populations throughout the community. PASSi plans to continue holding COVID-19 vaccine clinics until everyone who is interested in receiving the vaccine is vaccinated.

As part of its second dose vaccine clinics held in mid-April, PASSi also helped community members register to vote. This year's primary and general elections will include several local offices including the District Attorney, Comptroller, and local judges.

For more information about PASSi's vaccine clinics, you can follow them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PennAsianSeniorServices>.

To register to vote visit: <http://seamaac.vote/passi>.



**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!

## Primary Election on May 18<sup>th</sup>

By: Sandra Camacho, East Oak Lane Resident

Do you know three reasons why you should vote for judges?

1. They have the power to set bail amounts, length of sentencing, and can recommend mental health and addiction support services as an alternative to jail.
2. They set the bar and can make and use their rulings to amplify issues, like criminal justice reform.
3. Judges can decide your fate. With over 40 million lawsuits filed every year, there is a chance you or a loved one may come before one.

Register to vote.  
Mail-in/Absentee ballots application  
[votespa.com](http://votespa.com)

Primary Voting Guide 2021  
[seventy.org](http://seventy.org)





# Mosquitoes - Don't Let Them Start!

By: Veronica Scarpellino, East Oak Lane Resident



As spring arrives and thoughts turn to enjoying the outdoors, now is the ideal time to prepare your property for mosquito season and help keep them at bay.

They were unbearable last year - not only as a quality of life issue, but a health issue as well.

Mosquitoes can also carry diseases like West Nile or Zika, and they can fly beyond a typical range of 300 feet to travel 1-3 miles from where they hatch.

Mosquitoes can lay eggs in puddles as small as a leaf or bottle cap. Other trouble spots include standing water in yard debris, gutters, and neglected pools and bird baths.

First, rid your property of unwanted standing water - without it, they can't breed. Next, treat remaining water (desired or chronic) with a biological mosquito control like Bti. Finally, re-treat your property all season to keep them away.

Bti is a larvicide that interrupts the life cycle of the mosquito, preventing maturation. Summit Responsible Solutions Mosquito Quick Kill, for example, is affordable in bulk at hardware stores or online.

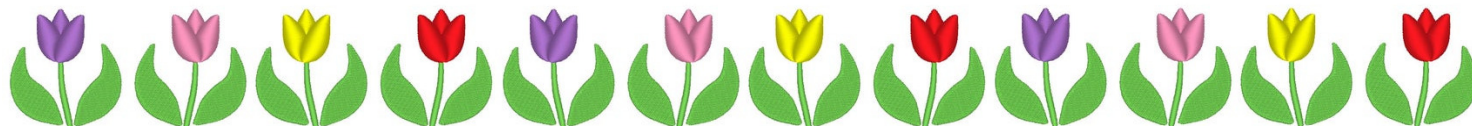
Bti is safe for children, animals, birds, and frogs. It is equally effective on the native species and the prolific, daytime-biting tiger mosquitoes. We all need to

work together - effectiveness requires collective diligence.

In 2015, WHYY featured successful mosquito mitigation efforts in Mt. Airy, highlighting a lesson we can borrow: secured "bait buckets" of treated water to entice egg laying.

With universal use of a Bti product throughout mosquito season, we may be able to enjoy spending time outside again this summer!

\*Any reference to a specific product, process, or service does not constitute or imply an endorsement by OLCAA of the product, process, or service, or its producer or provider. The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily state or reflect those of OLCAA or any of its Board Members.



## Community Champion Nomination Form

By: **Who Wrote This?**

The North Central Cluster Community Council, in partnership with the North Central Cluster of Libraries (David Cohen/Ogontz, Joseph E. Coleman, Logan, Nicetown-Tioga, East Oak Lane and West Oak Lane), is looking to honor community members who are warriors, relentlessly going above and beyond to serve the residents of their neighborhoods.

After a year of living with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we want to take this opportunity to bring joy to our community by uplifting the work of amazing people

during this time. Each of us knows someone who has worked diligently to give back to our communities, under the threat of the COVID-19 Virus, without seeking recognition. We would like to honor 12 of these individuals: two represented by each of our six Cluster Libraries. We will be honoring Community Champions at a virtual event on June 26, 2021.

To honor the Community Champions across these six neighborhoods, we need your help to find them. Please fill out the short nomination form, or, if

you prefer, paper nomination forms can be dropped off at your local library or mailed to the Joseph E. Coleman Library, 68 W. Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 by 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 7, 2021. You can also email nominations to [ncccommunitychampions@gmail.com](mailto:ncccommunitychampions@gmail.com).

If you have questions, please reach out to Toni Hoagland at (215) 685-2156.



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Thrilled to Joyously showcase the unique architectural gems, fantastic local amenities, and abundance of green living at Philadelphia's Northern Gates. A 3rd generation resident of East Oak Lane, I KNOW and LOVE this Region! My Theatre and Preservation background offers vitality, design expertise, and shines a spotlight on the innate value of your Home. Whether 'ready for its close-up,' or in need of TLC- every step my Team and I are ready to support, educate, and advocate for you and your family. Call or Text my Cell, or Email me today to schedule an assessment; or to discuss your next 'Dream Home' objectives!

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## OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEMBER NOMINATION FORM

*Candidates for the OLCAA Board of Directors must be full members of OLCAA and must have resided within East Oak Lane for a minimum of **one year** prior to the election date.*

*Full members of OLCAA may nominate candidates for the Board, or may self-nominate, by submitting this completed form to OLCAA by the deadline. Mailing address: OLCAA, P.O. Box 2926, Phila., PA 19141 (Please print clearly)*

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. For how long has the candidate resided in East Oak Lane? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. What skills, experience, or interests does the candidate offer to the OLCAA Board of

Directors and the community? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. In what ways has the candidate demonstrated service to East Oak Lane to date?

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4. Name any OLCAA committees or other East Oak Lane activities with which the candidate is affiliated. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name of Nominating Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Years of Acquaintance:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contact us at the OLCAA Hotline: 215-224-2777 Website: [www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org)

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Grilled Tuna Steak - \$18

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#### **SIDES (individual)**

Corn on the Cob - \$3

Cornbread - \$3

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# Greetings from Housing and Zoning

By: Freida Williams, OLCAA Housing & Zoning Chair

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## Zoning Legislation

Please keep your eyes and ears open to virtual City Council meetings. You can listen via WURD radio 900 AM or 96.1 FM, or go to Public Access Channels 40 or 64 according to your cable provider, at 10:00 p.m. or thereabouts, Thursdays to follow the sessions. Public comment is invited regarding introduced bills and resolutions. Several zoning bills are being introduced and passed. Zoning is about land use and, to some extent, population management. Zoning may be designation as Residential (Single, Attached, Detached, Multi-Family) and Commercial. Mixed Use, and Industrial, with specifications and changes to height, depth, front side, and back yard setbacks and square footage requirements. Exemptions, variances, special exceptions, and overlays can carve out or exempt certain plots of land for uses other than provided in the zoning code.

The number of single-family owner-occupied dwellings are becoming reduced as a result of the conversion of single family homes, legally and illegally, into multi-family, group homes, and rooming spaces. Residents of multi-family, apartment, and residential facilities are members of the community and offer their own allegiance and desire to contribute and maintain their residential areas of choice. Zoning does impact the residential patterns,

neighborhood composition, growth development, and environment effects. Particularly in the current climate of homelessness, rising home prices, and a focus on affordability, access, and generational wealth transfers. The zoning code and mapping provides for land use and allocation of geographic space according to the city's vision for growth and development. Those decisions should not be left solely to government employees and private consultants, which is why it is important to keep your eyes on proposed changes and to participate by making your view known to City Council, the City Planning Commission, and to attend RCO meetings in response to proposed zoning changes and requests.

Council President Darrell Clarke presented Resolution #210038, which was passed in City Council and signed by the Mayor to create a Zoning Review Commission. The Commission will review and make recommendations for the zoning process and the granting of zoning variances, impact of zoning on gentrification, affordable housing supply, environmental, and parking considerations, and the RCO process among other areas. No information as to the composition of the Commission, a start date, or duration for the study, or options for citizen input are specified. The most recent

Zoning Review Commission made recommendations, which resulted in changes to the Zoning Code in 2017.

Housing and Zoning will follow up with Council President Clarke's office and you can as well. He can be reached at [darrell.clarke@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.clarke@gmail.com) or 215-686-3442. Go to [www.phlcouncil.com](http://www.phlcouncil.com) and select legislation to search for Resolution #210038.

## FEMA Spoke to EOL

On March 31, Representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) participated in a virtual information session. Carly Jaiszewski advised that the Center City Convention Center would be shutting down in April and a new FEMA Vaccine Center would be opening on Saturday, April 10.

FEMA is invited, at the State's request, and does not control nor select the vaccines provided. Carly agreed to share concerns about mobile vaccines, in-home administration, and closer vaccine sites. They also shared that CCT service, via Septa, may be utilized for transportation to vaccine appointments.

Esperanza Community Vaccination Center, Philadelphia's second federally supported vaccination clinic, will open to the public in the Hunting Park neighborhood. The entrance to the Esperanza

Continued on Page 10



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# Greetings from Housing and Zoning

By: Freida Williams, OLCAA Housing & Zoning Chair

Continued from Page 8

Community Vaccination Center is located along the south side of West Bristol Street, at 4261 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140.

The Esperanza Community Vaccination Center will be open six days a week, eight hours per day, for eight weeks. The hours of operation will be: Monday and Tuesday 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Fridays – Closed, Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Esperanza Community

Vaccination Center will initially administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The City will prioritize eligible Philadelphia residents who have signed up on the Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form.

There will also be walk-up appointments at designated times at the Esperanza Community Vaccination Center. To check current vaccine eligibility, please visit the Philadelphia Department of Public Health website. The Health Department telephone is 215-685-5488.

This site is accessible by pedestrians, SEPTA public transit and Customized Community Transportation (CCT) services, rideshare, taxi, and personal vehicles. Parking facilities are available and drop-off and pick-up zones have been established. This clinic will provide services for individuals including mobility assistance and language interpretation services in many different languages, including American Sign Language.

## 6926 Old York Road

By: Smiley Ferebee, OLCAA President

Have you wondered what the function of that building is on Old York Road, with the big parking lot and beautiful Asian-themed mural on the wall is? That building belongs to Penn Asian Senior Services, also known as PASSi. They have been here in East Oak Lane for several years now.

Some of you have attended their “Autumn Festivals,” participated in their U.S. Census taking initiative, OLCAA community meetings and events. Most recently, you may have received your COVID-19 vaccine there. OLCAA had the opportunity to help get the word out to East Oak Lane for the clinics. As a volunteer at the clinics, many recipients expressed to me how grateful they were for the convenience of location, the ease of not having to climb steps, and not

waiting in long lines. I was in awe of the diversity of people, such as multi-generational families or persons with physical and emotional special needs, who were seeking health care at their clinics and getting just that respectfully and generously in an organized calm fashion from friendly volunteers.

Let us acknowledge the high caliber of caregivers who work there! PASSi’s motto is, “Care that goes beyond language and culture.” Many thanks to Jenny Bedin, Paul Som, Naimul Islam, Insook Seol, Clayton Fitch, Ken Yang, and CEO and Founder Imja Choi, for they have expressed both verbally, and in action, that they are an OLCAA community partner and are here to be of service to the East Oak Lane community.

Clayton Fitch, Development Manager at PASSi, offered this, “This [past] Thanksgiving, Penn Asian Senior Services helped to donate seven turkeys to our partners at OLCAA. We were grateful to have the opportunity to share the turkeys, which were donated by Senator Sharif Street, with the seniors we serve and our neighbors in the East Oak Lane community. As a longtime partner with OLCAA, we are appreciative of all their work to support the East Oak Lane neighborhood.”



Pictured L-R: Naimul Islam, Smiley Ferebee, Jenny Bedin, Clayton Fitch



# HAPPY EARTH DAY TO MY "SUN," GEORGIE FEREBEE AT OAK LANE DAY



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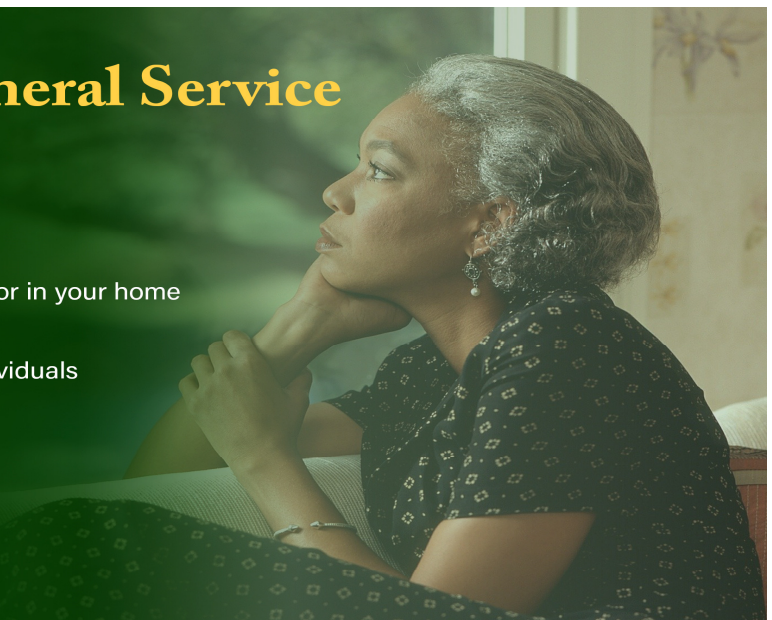
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# At the Library

By: Deborah Abrams, Oak Lane Branch Librarian

The Oak Lane Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia remains closed to the public. We are fulfilling materials holds and offering curbside service. Check out our page for all services: <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/locations/oak-lane-library>

The primary reason we cannot open to the public is that we currently do not have a Municipal Guard on staff. Mr. Skip (Jules Moore), our beloved guard for so many years, retired on February 1. Due to the City budget crisis, we have been given no date when a new guard will be hired and trained for our Branch.

This year's One Book, One Philadelphia - the Philly-area wide collective read - selection is "***The Tradition***," a collection of poems by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jericho Brown. "Challenging fears and beliefs handed down through generations, these powerful poems explore experiences of Blackness, queerness, masculinity, family, spirituality, and the natural world." <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/programs/onebook/obop21/>

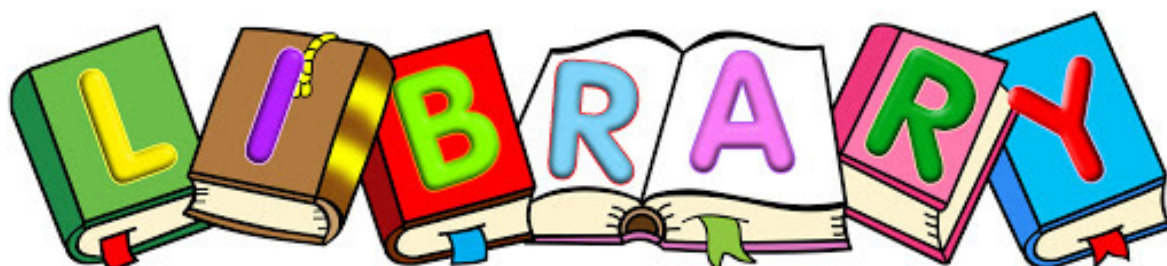
The following One Book, One Philadelphia programs are all virtual, co-sponsored by branches in our "cluster," and may be accessed through the Oak Lane Library's Facebook

page: [www.facebook.com/freelibraryoak](https://www.facebook.com/freelibraryoak)

Next up is Summer Reading! For the Free Library of Philadelphia, this annual program runs from June 7 - August 13 and will be primarily virtual. There will be virtual story times, science programs, and monthly giveaway bags including books, crafts, and more! Please stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates.

East Oak Lane, thank you for supporting the Oak Lane Branch of The Free Library of Philadelphia!

Date	Time	Event
April 20	6:00 PM	Masks Off workshop
April 23	7:00 PM	Spoken Word Workshop - Jaylene Clark Owens
May 8	4:00 PM	Take the Mic Teen Workshop - Coming of Age as a Warrior, Healer, Poet
May 13	4:00 PM	POET X Book Discussion
May 18	6:30 PM	TRADITION Book Discussion *OAK LANE LIBRARY will be distributing copies of the book for this discussion, facilitated by a member of the OBOP committee. Call us at 215-685-2847 to reserve a copy!
May 19	10:00 AM	Centering Black Joy through Dance for Children and Families
May 19	4:00 PM	Take the Mic Teen Workshop: Queerness and the Culture Clash
May 25	6:30 PM	Boundless Love: Interfaith Panel







## Oak Lane Community Action Association

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

*The membership term runs from January 1st to December 31st each 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 \$75
- ☐ 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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Fill in this form online and save. Email it to us as an attachment (Use as the *Subject* line: **Membership**). Mail us your payment.

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

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

Email:																			
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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 **I added \$1.00** to my membership

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

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**





**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*

*Join us!*

Thwart a thief! Remember to lock your car doors!

Stymie a scammer — verify before revealing your personal information!

**OLCAA Calendar**

2021	Board Meetings	Events
JAN*	13	
FEB	10	
MAR	10	
APR*	14	
MAY	12	General Meeting and Election - 26
JUN	9	
JUL	14	
AUG*	11	
SEPT	8	
OCT	13	
NOV	10	
DEC*	8	

\* Newsletter issues

**Special Thanks to our  
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 **Einstein**  
HEALTHCARE NETWORK  
**More than Medicine**

**THIS ISSUE**

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**Your OLCAA  
membership supports  
community concerns.**

Thank you!

 **SPRING**