



OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION

THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

April 2007- Vol. 1, Issue 10

PO Box 2926, Philadelphia, PA 19126 Tel: 215-224-2777 Website: www.eastoaklane.org



LOOK FORWARD TO THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Calendar of Events:

- OICAA Pot Luck Dinner
- Oak Lane Day
- Concert by Tree Tenders & Friends of Oak Lane Library
- Boy Scouts Troop #19 Pancake Breakfast
- Oak Lane Presbyterian Church Events

Website of Interest:

www.recyclingpays.phila.gov

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OLCAA'S Pot Luck Dinner

Sun., April 15 — 3-6 PM

We are hosting the OLCAA Pot Luck Dinner on **Sunday, April 15, 2007** between **3-6 PM** at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th Street and Oak Lane. It is a great time to come and meet your neighbors and renew friendships.

See Pg. 2

General Meeting

Wed., May 23, 7-9:30 PM

The General Meeting will be held on **Wed., May 23rd** at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th Street and Oak Lane from **7:00-9:30 PM**. The first order of business will be **the elections for the Board of Directors. There are seven (7) seats up for election** with President Kelly McShain Tyree, Secretary Carmen Jimenez, Sharon Williams Losier, Marita K. Poxon and Pamela (P.J.) Thomas **running for retention**. There will be a special election to fill an un-expired term. Those OLCAA members wishing to nominate themselves or other members for a position on the Board must do so in writing no later than **Wednesday, May 16, 2007**. Nominations can be hand-

delivered or mailed to the Committee Chair, Thurgood Matthews, 1016 W. Cheltenham Ave, Phila, PA 19126, and must include both the name and address of the Nominee and the person that is submitting the nominee. Nominations can also be mailed or hand-delivered to OLCAA's address. Members can contact the Committee Chair, Thurgood Matthews at 215-927-1387 or e-mail Tmatthews@Philadefender.org with questions

Oak Lane Day

Sat., June 9—12-5 PM

Oak Lane Day is scheduled on **Saturday, June 9, 2007** between 8th & 10th Streets on Oak Lane. Please call to volunteer your help. See Pg. 3

Concert By Tree Tenders & Oak Lane Library

Sat, May 12th—7:30-9 PM

May 12 Gilbert and Sullivan Concert 7:30 PM Korean United Church, 12th and Cheltenham Ave. **Call 215-924-1389 or 215-549-6531 for tickets.** See Pg. 2

East Oak Lane Springs into Action

By Kelly McShain Tyree

Attending the various neighborhood events, board meetings and committee meetings of OLCAA, and listening to the questions, comments and offerings of OLCAA members left on the East Oak Lane Hotline, has provided a wonderful understanding of how organized and how committed this neighborhood is in improving East Oak Lane's quality of life. So many neighbors are passionate about a specific area of interest such as: organizing blocks, planting trees, the East Oak Lane Town Watch, historic preservation, beautification, organizing and hosting events, publishing the East Oak Lane Paper...and they devote their time and energy to that specific goal. As a result, wonderful achievements are occurring in their area of interest, but they may not know what is occurring or who is responsible for the positive results being achieved by other committees. We read about it in the East Oak Lane Paper, and may see a sign or two in East Oak Lane of physical **Continue on Pg. 7**

OAK LANE DAY ! We Need You! Sat, June 9, 2007

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: This year's **Oak Lane Day** will be held on **Saturday, June 9, 2007, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**, between 8th and 10th Streets on Oak Lane Ave. (rain date Sunday, June 10 2007). Please join us for a "Victorian Stroll Through East Oak Lane," which will be this years theme. Enjoy a "Victorian" style tea party, musical entertainment, games, white elephant table, arts and crafts demonstrations, food, vendors and much more.

We need YOU! Volunteers of all ages are needed to make this happen. We need committee members, vendors, entertainers, and food as well as monetary donations to make this event a complete success. We will also be accepting white elephant items .

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Wanted: Jugglers, Storytellers, Magicians, Face Painters, Dancers, Musicians and any other family entertainment. Share your unique talents by volunteering to help make this year's event- "A Victorian Stroll through East Oak Lane" a huge success. Donate at least 2 hours or more on Sat., June 9, 2007 (rain date Sun., June 10, 2007) please call the Hotline at **215-224-2777** and press box #5 to leave a message.

FOOD COMMITTEE

Wanted: Volunteers to

barbeque, bake, serve and also make specialty dishes, which will be sold at the event.

DECORATION COMMITTEE

Wanted: Volunteers are needed to help decorate this event. This is an opportunity for the creative. There is a job for everyone. Tables and chairs will need to be set up and broken down. For those of you with minimal time, early morning set up (approx. 1 hr) or afternoon break down (approx. 1hr) is available.

VENDORS

Wanted: A volunteer supervisor for vending activities. Merchants, craftsmen/craftswomen, artist, government and non-profit services are needed. No food vendors please! The cost for each table will be \$25 for non-profit use and \$35.00 for vendors. For more information and pricing please contact the OLCAA Hotline **215-224-2777**.

PUBLICITY

Wanted: Volunteers to design flyers, circulate flyers, hang posters, write news releases and more. If this is your talent please contact us.

Remember, this is an opportunity for everyone to participate. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the OLCAA Hotline. Come out and join the fun on **June 9th**.

REMEMBER — All East Oak Laners, are needed.

That means you!!!

OLCAA Pot Luck Dinner Apr 15, 2007

By Evelyn Jones
Pot Luck Chairperson

Hello Neighbors,

Just a reminder, the Pot Luck Dinner is around the corner.

See you at the Pot Luck Dinner on **Sunday, April 15, 3-6 PM** at the **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th & Oak Lane**. Come join your neighbors and friends for an enjoyable evening.

Just remember to make and share your favorite dish (for eight).

- try to win one of many door prizes,
- take the opportunity to bid on wonderful items at the silent auction,
- meet and greet candidates that are running for local, city and state offices,
- vote on the design of our next community tee shirt,
- receive community hours for volunteering (for students)

For us to better manage the dishes that will be brought, please call the OLCAA Hotline at **215-224-2777**. Please leave your name and number and what you will be bringing. Please have your dish as ready to serve as possible. We can't wait to see you. Thanks in advance for your participation in what is sure to be a great evening for all.

Concert - May 12, 2007 By Charles Phillips

Come enjoy an evening of funny, catchy songs from musicals where the entanglements of love always end happily. **The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Chester County** will delight us on **Saturday, May 12, 7:30 pm** at the Korean United Church, 12th and Cheltenham Avenue in a benefit for Tree Tenders and the Library. The performers will sing pieces from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas such as *H.M.S Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*.

Gilbert and Sullivan operettas are zany spoofs of Victorian England with catchy upbeat music and lots of rhyming lyrics. The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Chester County, organized in 1987, is a dedicated group of amateurs with high standards and lots of experience.

Tickets are \$15 for adults with children under 14 free. For tickets contact **Hilda Gross at 215-924-1389** or **Marita and Michael Poxon at 215-549-6531**. Delicious homemade refreshments are included.

Come experience some of the best show music written for the stage.

The Beautification Committee

By Kelly McShain Tyree

Neighbor, Anthony Robinson of N. Park Avenue, has been tirelessly committed to cleaning our beautiful islands at Broad & 66th Avenue over the past several months and has donated upwards of 40 hours of community service. He joins a cadre of volunteers such as: Jack Malley, Jim MacGruther, Sally McCabe, Dan Berger, Barbara Wagner, Michael Swann, Richard Stephens, Howard Page, Denise McGiboney, Delores Mangum and Michael Poxon from the Oak Lane Tree Tenders, who have been committed to keeping our newly planted islands and thoroughfares green and beautiful. Thank you to all volunteers!

Alas! Several of our planters were "removed" from the 66th Avenue bridge. The remaining 7 planters throughout the community have been further secured and planted with winter greenery until the warm weather permits planting the permanent shrubs and annuals. The good news, neighbors have fallen in love with the new additions and are asking for them to be replaced as soon as possible. We would like to expand the beautification efforts and place planters at N. 5th St. and 66th Avenue, and we have several other locations chosen which would soften and beautify our more urban thoroughfares. In order to obtain the fantastic savings we received on our

first order, we need to order an additional 10 planters at the same time. The price for these additions is: \$2,275. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mail your tax deductible donations to **"OLCAA" c/o the Beautification Committee at P.O. BOX 2926 Philadelphia, PA 19126** or leave a message with your contact information on the East Oak Lane Hotline: **215-224-2777**.

Earth Day 2007

Dawn Shellenberger

On **Sunday, April 22, 2007**, the 37th annual observance of Earth Day will be held to increase public awareness of the environment. On this upcoming Earth Day and every other day as we go about our daily lives, we can do much towards helping the environment by taking to heart and acting on three little words -- REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. There are many opportunities available to us to prevent or reduce waste and pollution if we will only take them.

As a congregation, OLPC and its members are already carrying out a number of activities designed to reduce waste and at the same time help others. There are a number of items that we collect at the church for recycling or reuse besides the glass, metal and mixed paper that should be left at curbside for recycling every other week on regular city trash pickup days. These

include plastics, canceled stamps and tabs from beverage cans. Used clothing, books, and household items can also be donated for sale at the Presbyterian Women's Annual Spring Fair in May, the proceeds of which go directly to support church mission activities.

There is also much that we as families and individuals can do at home, at work or school, and in our community to help protect our environment -- things like conserving water and energy, composting, planting trees, and picking up and disposing of trash properly.

On the third Saturday of every month from 9-11 AM, OLPC's Church and Community Committee collects #1 and #2 plastics for recycling and takes them to the Greater Olney Community Council's collection center in the parking lot of Cousins Supermarket at Mascher & Duncannon Sts. **Spring collection days are April 21, May 19 and June 16, 2007.**

The Philadelphia Streets Department also has a number of recycling events this Spring that might interest you. Information on these and other City recycling program activities can be obtained from the program's website www.recyclingpays.phila.gov

Household Hazardous Waste Collections will take place on **Sat., May 5, 9AM to 3PM** at the Streets Department's

Training Center at State Rd. and Ashburner St. in Northeast Philadelphia and on **Saturday, June 9, 9AM to 3 PM** at the Northwest Transfer Station at Domino Lane and Umbria St. in Roxborough. Computer electronics will be accepted at both events.

Free, two-hour Recycling through Composting Workshops will be held on **Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 PM** at the Falls of Schuylkill Branch of the Free Library at 3501 Midvale Ave. and on **Wed., May 16 at 6:30 PM** at the Logan Branch of the Free Library at 1333 Wagner Ave.

On **Sat., April 21, 2007**, the Commonwealth of PA Keep PA Beautiful and numerous other public and private organizations will conduct the **4th Annual Great Pennsylvania Cleanup**, a statewide effort to remove litter and trash from roadways, parks, riverbanks and open spaces. Themed **"Let's Pick It Up, PA,"** this year's initiative includes a focus on **Litter-Free School Zones**, a new program launched by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. To find out about local cleanup events on that day, visit the **Great PA Cleanup** website www.greatpacleanup.org or call their toll-free hotline at **1-888-548-8372**.

You may also call EPA Region 3's Hotline at **1-800-438-2474** or the EPA Region 3 Library at **215-814-5254** for info on printed or online environmental resources.

CHUCK CONNELLY: AN ARTIST PAINTS EAST OAK LANE

By T Michael Poxon

Can you imagine the stir that arose when neighbors discovered that a painting exhibition entitled "**East Oak Lane**" was opening in a New York City art gallery?

On March 8, 2007 New Yorkers could view scenes from Phila's East Oak Lane neighborhood when Chuck Connelly's one man show of his paintings opened at the DFN Gallery in the hot art neighborhood of Chelsea, Manhattan. Chuck Connelly's paintings celebrate Philadelphia's hushed old houses in this unique part of our city. See, www.dfngallery.com and select Chuck Connelly to view some of the pictures. The show is entitled "**East Oak Lane**" and it runs from March 8 to April 7, 2007. (The catalogue can be obtained from Michael Poxon. (215-549-6531) (on behalf of the artist) or the DFN Gallery. In addition, the catalogue is available for viewing on Chuck's own website, www.chuckconnelly.com. I strongly recommend all to purchase their own copy and support the artist. There is also a full page advertisement in the premier art magazine, Art in America, pg 74, March 2007 issue announcing the East Oak Lane show of Chuck Connelly, and an anticipatory preview in the magazine, American Art Collector, March 2007, issue #17, pg 162 in which Mr. Connelly characterizes his adopted East Oak Lane as an amiable "ghost

town" (because it is so quiet, and perhaps because some houses could use a fresh coat of paint.) Look for the article in the Philadelphia Inquirer when it comes out.

Chuck Connelly's biography is impressive and his resume is listed on the dfn gallery web site. He was a hot item in the 80s and 90s in New York. One of the paintings from his first show was purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Dr Atkins, of the Atkins diet, became his mentor, and purchased many of his paintings. Richard Price, the Oscar award winning screenwriter of **The Color of Money** and **Rain Man** chose as his next project a screen play based on the plot twists of Dostoevsky's The Gambler, and adapted to the New York art world. The screen play is loosely based on Chuck Connelly. It was called "**Life Lessons**." It is one of the three stories in the film, **New York Stories**, which came out in 1989. In this film three directors directed three short stories. Martin Scorsese directed Nick Nolte who was playing the Connelly character as a Neo-expressionist painter. There are great shots of Nolte as Mr. Connelly working on a large canvas, in a huge loft space and also scenes of 80s gallery scene. This short story, "**Life Lessons**", includes shots of artworks by Chuck Connelly, Richard Phillips, Judy Pfaff and others seen in a collector's house; (the art collection was advised by Holly Solomon). Chuck Connelly's hands are used for the character

played by Nick Nolte. Also, there is a great close-up of Connelly painting.

Dean Buck, whose gray two-story carriage house is among the paintings, Marita Krivda Poxon and Michael Poxon, whose brown and red Oak Lane House captured the artist's eye also and Kelly McShain Tyree with her New York actress friends attended the opening night with the artist and his family. Soon the gallery was packed with invited guests, elbow to elbow, all admiring paintings of the houses of East Oak Lane, and a series of paintings of the interior of the artist's house on 12th street.

Chuck Connelly moved to East Oak Lane in 1999 and bought a house here next to some artist friends of his. He walks through the quiet streets, as he has no car, and grew to admire the houses. One may have noticed the artist or his model friend walking about on a fine spring day taking pictures of the houses for points of reference. Now all becomes clear. A dedicated artist lives in our community, working every day at his craft, painting images of our homes. Why has he done this? Chuck Connelly enjoyed the Oak Lane Day festivities, the people he met, and the quiet tranquil atmosphere.

What sort of man is Chuck Connelly? He is originally from Pittsburgh. He attended Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia then moved up to New York City where he lived for about twenty years before returning to East Oak Lane. He is a tall, affable, gentle genius, much like the stage persona of Nick Nolte, troubled from time to time by the drink, capable of critiquing a friend

or stranger to the point of estrangement, a keen observer of human nature and his surroundings, jealous of his privacy, intolerant of non-productive roommates, and steeled with an impish sense of humor and positive personality that carries him along. He has an eye for the beautiful ladies, and although he is divorced from his beautiful Parisian wife, she appeared at the opening of his East Oak Lane solo show at the DFN Gallery on March 8th. He is one of those rare individuals who can support himself with his art, and he is successful at what he does. The subject matter of his paintings varies. At one point he found it profitable to paint portraits of Rapper Artists, until he was overtaken by others with a different point of view. He will work on commissions, and has painted a Philadelphia society lady and several pets. The mythical characters of his dreams have been reproduced on canvas. The paintings keep coming even if he has no commission. His paintings of houses on 13th, 12th, 68th Ave, 69th Ave, and Oak Lane mark an important point in the history of East Oak Lane. Will they encourage other artists to move into the community? Or will speculators buy up the grand old homes and flip them after minimal renovation? Will neighbors be encouraged to repaint, restore and rehabilitate their own homes this summer? Walk quietly down our tree-lined lanes and you may find yourself nodding to a famous painter out for a stroll.

Friends of Oak Lane Library

By P. Michael Poxon
President

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library is the co-sponsor of an upcoming cultural event. Along with East Oak Lane Tree Tenders, a concert will be given the evening of **May 12th, 2007** at the Korean United Presbyterian Church.

Shirley Philips is looking for volunteers to assist with our **Summer Reading Program for Kids**. This year we hope to have a reading list to assist kids in selecting good books for summer reading.

Marita K. Poxon intends to lead a book discussion on the One Book One Philadelphia selection:

Carlos Eire. Waiting for Snow in Havana. 2003

Wednesday April 25th, 2007, 7 PM Community Room. Oak Lane Library.

Join our lively discussion & meet your neighbors

The next regular meeting of the Friends of the Free Library will be **Wednesday April 18th, 2007** and our May meeting will be **Wednesday May 16th at 7 PM**.

News from Urban Forest

By Charles Phillips



Oak Lane Tree Tenders is taking orders for trees until April 17 for fall planting. Call 215-924-1722. \$40 per tree for homeowners (including planting!) (businesses \$75) for a tree worth \$300 to \$500. (including planting!) (businesses \$75) for a tree worth \$300 to \$500.

Next meeting - April 12 at Rich and Juanita Stephens 6303 N. Camac, **7:30 pm**.

Tree planting Saturday April 14, 8:45am (rain date April 15, 1pm) 6605 Lawnton Avenue.

Oak Lane Tree Tenders, a committee of OLCAA, 6605 Lawnton Ave. 19126 215-924-1722

shade it, dress it up when the leaves come out? Now go inside and look out to the street. If you would you like to see less of the street, plant a tree or trees. Look out to the backyard, too.

This is a great time—trees are available inexpensively—planted! **Oak Lane Tree Tenders is taking orders for trees until April 17** for fall planting. Call 215-924-1722. \$40 per tree for homeowners (including planting!) (businesses \$75) for a tree worth \$300 to \$500. This is made possible through TreeVitalize, a program of the PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources, private funders, and the volunteer labor of your neighbors.

For a tree for the back yard (you buy and plant it) there is a 25% rebate up to \$25 offered by TreeVitalize. Coupons are available at the Oak Lane Library or by calling 215-924-1722.

Increase Your Real Estate 10%

Perhaps you and your family would enjoy more trees. They're beautiful! They scrub carbon dioxide from the air, exchanging it for oxygen. They filter the air, absorb water and sounds, shade and cool the house. They add 10% to the value of your house. They are a very low cost upgrade with relatively low maintenance.

Do this for yourself. go across the street and look at your house. Is it bare, undressed? Or do you have trees that will

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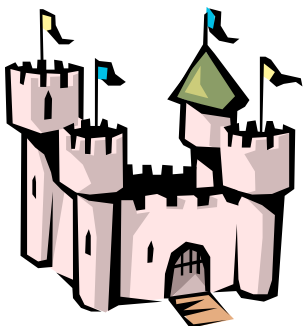
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THE PRESERVATION & REPAIR OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

By Marita K. Poxon, MS
Historic Preservation
Committee

My old Victorian Home built in 1888 has a pair of exquisite stained glass windows which I have been told are from the studio of Tiffany – meaning they were crafted by a stained glass maker who studied in the New York studio of Tiffany, the famous American stained glass maker. When I moved back into my former family home, these windows were beginning to show serious signs of deterioration. I noticed that one of my windows' stained glass panels was bulging and the lead bracing attached by tie-wires to the frame was disconnecting. I had heard a story that one day a former neighbor of my family came down her front stairs to find that one of her exquisite stained glass windows had fallen out and smashed to the point where it was destroyed. I knew that I did not want my windows to fall out one day and be destroyed. My husband located a fabulous woman stained glass artist, Emily Selvin, at an open gallery day at her Spring Garden Street art studio. Emily came to look at our windows, took on the job of restoration and in the process fell in love with our 1880s bejeweled windows in the great floral tradition of the Tiffany Glass Company. The saga of having our windows restored by this creative artist has made me under-

stand that so many of the great Victorian homes in East Oak Lane have stained glass windows. There are many of our homes whose windows need restoration or they will face the sad fate of my neighbor's windows.

In doing some reading about the preservation and repair of stained and leaded glass, I learned something really important for East Oak Laners & their Victorian era homes. Much American stained glass installed at the heyday of Victorian Stained Glass making has passed or will approach very soon its 100th anniversary. This is important information for all East Oak Laners with stained glass windows. The windows in our home had never been properly repaired in the sixty years my family owned our home. Stained and leaded glass in windows, transoms, and other elements of historic buildings has got to be repaired every 100 years or it can self-destruct. Ms. Selvin along with a team of skilled craftspeople removed our stained glass windows from their original wooden windows, crated them, and began the 6 months long process of restoration. They were reinstalled without a single "jewel" being damaged. A "jewel" is a rock-like piece of stained glass of which there are many hundreds decorating the surface of our windows. They are the glory of our Victorian home and I suspect many more windows in

East Oak Lane need the same happy ending story. They need to be repaired and shined up to reflect the glory of each one of their homes. Here are a few facts I learned on preservation web site about Historic Stained and Leaded Glass:

America's glass industry boomed during the second half of the 19th Century. The 60 years between 1870-1930 were the high point for stained glass in the US.

Signatures: Many glass studios affixed signature plates to their work. They are often at the lower right hand corner and can help date the window.

Stylistic Elements:

The style of a window may point to the architectural style of the building - Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau, Prairie School etc. The imagery, flowers and figures may establish an

historical context for the windows.

Glass: For windows, glass with bold, deep colors along with jewels, drapery glass and rippled glass is typical of Victorian glass until 1905. Leaded beveled plate glass was popular from 1890-1920.

If you desire to learn more about stained glass, you can read more at:


<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/brief33.htm>

To view restorations and work done by Emily Selvin go to her website:

www.selvinglass.com

I hope this Fairy Tale ending for our Victorian stained glass windows inspires other East Oak Laners to restore the great glory of their homes. When the daylight shines through these windows, their great, restored beauty will make you marvel at the extraordinary talent of past American glass artists.





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Concerned Neighbor

Greetings neighbors, I write with all due respect, concern and love. There are many good things happening in our neighborhood and I am proud to say I live in East Oak Lane! I'm sure you're equally proud of your accomplishments and being part of East Oak Lane. In fact, this is one of the most prominent neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Let me add, there are a lot of wonderful East Oak Lane citizens trying to maintain and raise the stature of our neighborhood. Many wonderful Philadelphians are and have been a part of our neighborhood....

Unfortunately, as in all families, neighborhoods and communities we have young members drifting astray. That be-

ing said, one nice day in February I saw five of our young men standing on the corner smoking pot or crack in broad daylight. I also saw graffiti spray painted on the tree right outside my house and fire hydrant on my corner, as well as Chinese Restaurant wall. I asked a few young men about the spray painting and they assured me they would tell the perpetrators not to do it again.

Then I saw three young men smoking pot or crack on the corner. Shortly thereafter a fourth young man drove up and joined them. Although standing on the corner is a nuisance they were not loud or destructive. About 15 minutes later kids under 12 came by with an older young man. Then one of the young men did the unthinkable in passing the

pot or crack to what looked to be a 10 yrs old girl for a drag. At this point I went out and told them their actions were unacceptable & a disgrace

So why am I writing:

- I would like the residents of the community actively involved with their young family members. No longer is this someone else's news or reality.
- All property owners & renters **join OLCAA.**
- I want community members talking to young men standing on corners smoking drugs and tell them that they and we worked hard to create a better life in this community and we don't let the community streets turned into a drug war zone.
- I want neighbors advising parents when they see their young men and children behaving poorly in the street.
- Also talk to them, stop turning a blind eye to their activities. They are good, just a little off course and they will respect you helping them back on course.
- When necessary call 911, get the number of person answering the call and report the crime. Finally, become a Block Rep and/or join EOL Town Watch.

Spring into Action (Cont'd)

change, but we don't know the faces behind the work, nor perhaps the depth of community involvement and interest.

Now that Spring has arrived, we can step outside of our homes once again, say hello to one another and acknowledge and celebrate one another's journeys and successes at the wonderful neighborhood events occurring over the next several months: **'The Potluck,' the 'Gilbert and Sullivan Spring Concert,' the 'General Meeting and Elections,' and 'Oak Lane Day!'**

We are asking, of course, for your involvement: whether baking a cake or donating a basket to raffle at the Potluck, purchasing a concert ticket to support our Library and Tree Tenders, volunteering for and attending Oak Lane Day, or running for the board and voting at the elections. Let's be supportive!

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

Date Mailed: _____

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

- New member
- Renewal

Choose a membership category:

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Student \$ 6
- Senior (65+) \$ 6
- Business/Organization \$50
- Associate Non-Resident \$25

**Please call the Communications
Committee to place an AD
215-224-2777
Option #2**



I/We wish to make an additional contribution of:

- \$50-99 (Willow Club) \$ _____
 - \$100-499 (Maple Club) \$ _____
 - \$500+ (Oak Club) \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
- Total amount enclosed: \$ _____**

**I would like more information on
Committees of OLCAA:**

- Beautification
- Civic Action
- Communications
- Education & Culture
- Historic Preservation
- Hospitality & Membership
- Housing & Zoning
- Oak Lane Tree Tenders
- Town Watch

Contributing to OLCAA
Donations are tax-deductible

Membership Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Make checks payable to: Oak Lane Community Action Assn.
Mail to: OLCAA P.O. Box 2926 Phila., PA 19126
Web site: at: www.eastoaklane.org
Contact us at: 215-224-2777



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Poor Bessie's Almanac

(Things you should know about Oak Lane)

By Janet McShain

Grandmom Bessie seemed to get through the winter, planning garden and sewing her Easter clothes. She didn't complain- just enjoyed the winter through her big glass windows. Heat was not a problem, and she had plenty of canned foods and evaporated milk. I'm writing this the last week of winter, enjoying and watching the first birds of spring getting ready for their nesting, pulling worms from under the compost surroundings of each tree. I've been raking leaves from the daffodils, tulips and crocuses and enjoying every minute of this first 70 degree day.

Birth is in the air and there's a great relief and hope for longer days and for developing plans that seem to have been on hold. I'm reminded of the preparation William Penn and friends had to make for their long voyage over here. Richard Townsend, the first purchaser of land in Pennsylvania, was Penn's personal friend. He was born in 1645, married Ann Hutchins in 1677, had one baby in 1678 (who died shortly after while in London- the year Pennsylvania was granted to Penn), had another baby, Hannah, in 1680 who came with them on the ship "Welcome" along with William Penn. The voyage had lasted two months, starting July 16, 1682, and arriving at Upland on August 28, 1682. Five days later while anchored, his son James was born on September 2,

1682, so I suppose you could say he's the first Pennsylvania born and the "youngest East Oak Laner." I'm sure the Townsend's were grateful to be here for that birth- and after 31 persons had been lost at sea due to smallpox.

When the Townsend's settled in our East Oak Lane is near conjecture, but his father built the first mill near the Post Office at Broad & Godfrey by 1683. Now, if I know what it's like with a young family, you build the nest first before the babies come. In their case, I bet that was the first thing on their agenda- to get a dry place for those two young children. There's a picture of Townsend's first house, a low one-story log house, but where in relation to the mill, I do not know. I do know that Richard Townsend had plenty of food to feed his young family here in this "Green Country Town." There's also a story of his capturing a deer after it had been surprised and ran into a tree.

My freezer is stocked with food, I only have to go to the supermarket for my milk, however, I'm sitting here grateful I got through the winter. I'm wondering if the birds are aware and thankful, or do they just hear the worms wiggling, smell the sunflower seeds and figure just another bug filled warm day. Thankfully, that first hopeful, energetic and faith filled young Townsend family came to our old East Oak Lane and were able to survive that first winter to help build on their dream of William Penn. The Townsend family survived well, he was a Quaker Preacher who lived until 1731, his wife 1732. He had three

more children and 5 out of 6 children lived to be married. And so begins just another promising spring in East Oak Lane.

Oak Lane Presbyterian Church Events



April 5th -MAUNDY THURSDAY: EVENING MEAL AND WORSHIP SERVICE—The women of Oak Lane will serve a light meal (soup and sandwiches) before the Maundy Thursday worship service at OLPC. You are invited to start the evening in the **Social Room at 6 PM** before going to the Sanctuary for the **worship service at 7:30 PM.**

April 6th -GOOD FRIDAY JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE at Oxford Presbyterian Church (Stenton & Gowen Aves.) **1- 3 PM**

April 8th-EASTER EGG HUNT —All youth are invited to OLPC's annual Easter celebration. A continental breakfast will be served at **9:30 AM.** Then there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn (weather permitting) at 10 AM.** The Church Sunday School Staff is looking forward to serving and fellowshiping with members and guests. Please come and celebrate with us on this glorious, resurrected day.

April 8th-EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at OLPC at **11:00 AM**

Mark your calendars for the **Annual May Fair** to be held at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, May 12th from 9 AM - 5 PM.**

On behalf of the Oak Lane Cultural Arts Program, we would like to thank all the participants and supporters for a wonderful day of celebration. A special thanks to the Boy Scouts, OLCAA, The Oak Lane Firehouse, God's Community Choir, The Oak Lane Cultural Arts African Drummers and Dancers, Kim Smith, Melvin Booker, Helen Hampton, Beverly Woods, E. J. Lankford, Pam Moore, Billy Atkerson, Joann M. Dent for her hard work and her wonderful slide presentation, and we thank Congresswoman Marian Tasco for dropping by to see our program and to give us encouraging words. Our job would not be complete without thanking the wonderful volunteers who prepared and served the chicken dinners and were instrumental in raising \$1,010 for our orchestral program. Our volunteers in the kitchen were: Miriam Baker, Theresa Purnell, Myra Houston, Angela Millwood, Charlene Clark, Cathy Smith, Bernice Mims, Nicole Atkerson-Knight. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Rev. Alonzo Johnson, Jaymin DeShield, Gerry Shambaugh, Wrenton Wright, Allegra Muncha, The Church and Community Committee, The Christian Education Committee and the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church for their continuous support. Others showed their support by making monetary donations: Charlie & Shirley Phillips, Ruth Ezekiel and Mary Plummer; your gifts are greatly appreciated and needed to continue this wonderful culturally rich program for our children. We thank you for

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OLCAA AT WORK

- Sent formal notice to 1300 Block on Chelton Ave. to remove the commercial sign, from their residential property. L&I investigating the illegal business.
- 6700 Block on 11th St. has been cited by L&I due to exterior condition of property and will return for internal inspection.
- Sent letter objecting to conversion of single family home to a multi-unit at 1003 Godfrey Ave.
- Testified at Zoning court opposing conversion of single family home to multi-unit at 6214 Camac
- Tasco's Office sent an official letter to Rev. Bowden of The Hopeful Gospel Mission, after OLCAA;s attempts to meet and discuss the poor quality of life issues reported from

the surrounding neighbors went unanswered.

- 6814-20 Old York Rd was issued a stop-work order by L&I until permits and architectural drawings are supplied. Restoration work on the burnt out building has commenced.
- The Block Rep/Town watch Committees hosted Jasuu Burgee, from Town Watch Integrated Services and launched the official East Oak Lane Town Watch. Almost 30 neighbors representing the four quadrants of the community attended the Eyes and Ears Training. Patrolling Training will follow this Spring for interested Neighbors.
- OLCAA's Educational and Cultural Arts Committee-worked with the Oak Lane Cultural Arts Program to host a Black History Celebration a Oak Lane Presbyterian Church.

- The Communications Committee worked to raise revenue for the East Oak Lane Paper and the East Oak Lane Website by soliciting advertisements from area businesses and services.

an instrument to register by **June 21, 2007**. Registration fee for new students is \$30.00 and lessons are \$10.00 per session. Registration for all classes will begin the first Thursday in June

Oak Lane Presbyterian Church Cont'd

your generosity. We would also like to thank Jim Cephas, a talented and very gifted fine artist, for displaying his artwork for all to enjoy.

Starting the first week of July, we will begin our summer program and will be including all orchestral instruments. We invite all children and youth who are interested in studying

Boy Scouts Troop #19

Sat., May 19 — 8-11 AM

A pancake breakfast to benefit Boy Scout Troop #19 is a way to help our boys and a great community event.

It will be held on **Sat., May 19th** at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th Street and Oak Lane from **8-11 AM**. Come support the Troop!



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