



THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

September 2008 - Vol. 1, Issue 15

PO Box 2926, Philadelphia, PA 19126 Tel: 215-224-2777

Website: www.eastoaklane.org

Important Agency Numbers:

- Streets Department **215-686-5560** (for repaving of our streets)
- Dumpster Violations **215-686-4279** (for Apt Buildings and Businesses)
- Air & Noise Pollution **215-685-7580**(for loud music, etc.)
- The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Enforcement State Police, 6901 Woodland Ave. **215-726-6200**
- 35th Police District, Broad & Champlost **215-686-3350**
- Phila. Streets Household Hazardous Waste http://www.phila.gov/streets/hazardous_waste.html

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May General Meeting Results

By Carmen Jimenez

The result of the election of new OLCAA board members held on **Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00PM** follows: Wayne White, Evelyn Jones, Leland Kent, Alvin Mitchell, Keisha Matthews, Thurgood Matthews, Bernadette Tanksley, Al Carter, Emerson Willis and Don Graves. Thanks to all our old and new members for coming out to vote.

This board will continue to work diligently to make our community safe and vibrant.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- It is that time again. Friends of Oak Lane Library will hold the third annual Ghost Walk on **Oct 26**. For details please check the flyer on page 3 .
- Also scheduled is a Town Meeting in collaboration with the 35th police district on **Thursday, Oct. 23th at 7PM**. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Wilburt S. Richardson for allowing us to hold the meeting at the Refuge Evangelical

Church located at 11th St & Oak Lane.

Events planned for 2009:

- Pot Luck Dinner where our community can "Meet the Candidates" running in the May Primary.
- A Community Flea Market is planned for April. More details to follow.
- OLCAA General Meeting & Elections will be in May.
- Oak Lane Day celebration will be in June.

Important News By Sharon Losier President

We have two success stories that OLCAA and Neighbors made possible:

We won our protest against Lam's Market, 6349 N. Broad Street !!! It was a 2-1 decision in favor of denying the take-out permit. I'm sure that it's not over, but we definitely won this round. Thank you so much for coming down and doing your part for our neighborhood.

The City of Philadelphia through the Health Department's Office of Noise Management brought an equity law

suit against the Hopeful Gospel Church regarding their summer outdoor services that caused amplified music and speeches that often went on until the wee hours of the morning. This activity often caused much angst among the near neighbors that greatly effected their quality of life. Neighbors could not even keep their windows open in the summer if they wanted to go to bed, watch television or listen to their own music. The Court ordered the church to hire noise experts that would enable them to continue the services without disturbing the neighbors or face a \$25,000 fine. The court is also going to revisit this case in **Feb**.

2009. The near neighbors in cooperation with the City of Philadelphia and OLCAA are responsible for this victory for the quality of life in East Oak Lane.

Phila Household Hazardous **Waste Collection Event** on **Sat, Nov . 1** at the Streets Dept facility at between Castor Ave & Lewis St in Bridesburg (near Allegheny Exit of I-95). They will accept elec-tronics. Check their website listed under Important Numbers.

Great Neighbors

By Kelly McShain Tyree
Chair, Beautification Comm.

This past year, Philadelphia broke the record for the largest citywide clean-up on record for a single day. The event was the "Philly Spring Cleanup," of which our Mayor Michael Nutter was a huge proponent. What happened when folks came together to take pride in their neighborhoods?

- * 15,000 volunteers
- * 2.56 millions pounds of trash removed
- * 71 commercial corridors
- * 27 Fairmount Park sites
- * 28 Recreation Centers
- * 186 abandoned cars removed

An exciting day for the City indeed! Here in East Oak Lane, neighbors have a tradition of coming together throughout the year to care-take our corner of Philly: Oak Lane Tree Tenders planting and tending the islands at Broad & 66th Avenue, Friends of Oak Lane Library re-landscaping and grooming the branch property at 13th & Oak Lane, Block Captains organizing their streets for curbside clean-ups.

We also have individual neighbors stepping up for the common good. An amazing neighborhood story from this past Summer is regarding the property at 970 W. Cheltenham Avenue at Lakeside Drive-

the 'Asbury Mansion.' The castle-like structure with its once impressive rolling lawns, located right at one of the entrances to our neighborhood, had fallen into hard times over the past few years. The last owner had stopped caring for the property and the new owner, an investor, had erected a "For Sale" sign and was seeking a buyer. Meanwhile, the property was an eyesore with trash and debris everywhere. A passionate East Oak Lane preservationist, Marita Krivda Poxon, not only hounded the realtor to mow the lawn and ensure that the architectural treasure was being protected, but she personally hired a worker to help her clean up the debris. Together they collected 20 bags of trash! Mrs. Poxon had no personal ownership in the property at 970 W. Cheltenham Avenue, but she recognized how blight could negatively affect the morale and the property values of her neighbors, so she took "ownership" of the problem by rolling up her sleeves and cleaning up a mess left by others so that the entire community could benefit.

The Cheltenham Avenue property is still for sale- please share that information with any potential buyers and future East Oak Laner's who

would respect, restore and care for this impressive historic home & property of one of Oak Lane's original founder's, T. Henry Asbury.



These neighborhood stories are so inspiring. If you have a 'great neighbor' story, please let us all know. We'd love to publish how people in our community are stepping up to make East Oak Lane the special place that it is. Send your submissions to:

East Oak Lane Paper
c/o OLCAA
PO Box 2777
Philadelphia, PA 19126

Drive by the 66th Avenue Bridge to see our neighborhood's Victorian Urns with new Fall plantings of ornamental grasses, variegated ivy and winter pansies. Sponsored by the Beautification Committee

Email Message
from the Advisory
Council for Philadelphia Green

Subject: Fisher Park

Roots took 1st place in the 2008 City Gardens Contest!

In the midst of all the strife out there, can your neighborhood life get any better than this? Now in its 6th year, the community garden Roots, located in Fisher Park, took 1st place in its category of mid-sized, combination vegetable and flower community garden in the PHS (Pennsylvania Horticulture Society) City Gardens contest! This is a BIG DEAL, considering how many gardens are competing for this coveted position, and also considering all of the challenges that these gardeners face keeping the garden maintained, actively attended and secure in such a public place. As always, Roots gardeners invite park users to visit and tour around inside the fence. Visitors are welcome to snip herbs from the herb circle for their use, but not to take any produce from the individual plots because they are for the consumption of their tenders, who pay a fee each year to borrow a garden bed.

We are very proud of this community effort that continues to beautify Fisher Park and to unify our neighborhood. Please come and see for yourself how peaceful and pretty the setting is.

Best regards to everyone.
Laura Sweeney



3RD ANNUAL EAST OAK LANE GHOST WALK
Spooky Stories of Oak Lane Ghosts



Sunday October 26, 2008

5:30 – 8:30 PM

Tours leave every half hour

5 ORIGINAL UNEARTHLY GHOST TALES

TOURS START AT:

904 OAK LANE

CORNER OF 10TH STREET & OAK LANE

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$6 for children

Refreshments Served at Final Home

Sponsored by:

Friends of the Oak Lane Library

Call: 215-549-6531 for more information

FRIENDS OF THE OAK LANE LIBRARY

By T. Michael Poxon

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library are looking for more members of the community to participate in our ongoing activities. The Friends meet every third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the Community Room of the Library.

Our meetings for the remainder of 2008 are:

Wed, Oct. 15 at 7 PM

Wed, Nov. 19 7 PM

Wed, Dec. 17 7 PM

Please join us to help us plan events for our community. Help us with our future landscaping projects for the Library grounds and with our future, exciting events for the new year. All our welcome.

The Friends will sponsor Tai Chi classes for adults on Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 PM in the Community Room of the Library. These classes are free and are open to the community. Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese form of very gentle exercise with great health benefits. Tai Chi can greatly improve muscle tone and balance. Shirley Philips and Ella Schwartz have spearheaded this program for the Friends. Classes will start mid-October. Call

215-549-6531 for more information. There is a limit of 10-12 adults for each session.

The Friends are also pleased to report that Richard Stephens has been elected the new Treasurer of the Friends

The Friends will sponsor a Book Discussion Group 2008-2009. Our topic this year is:

BOOKS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

These are the books that set the world on a different course, for better or for worse. They encompass the classics of philosophy, politics, sociology & science. These books brought about reforms and revolutions; toppled governments; started wars. They changed people's hearts and minds; altered people's lives. Even today, these books continue to stir passions and cause controversy.

Uncle Tom's Cabin: Or, Life Among the Lowly.

Harriet Beecher Stowe. (Leader: Marita Krivda)

Discussion: Monday, November 10, 2008. 7 PM Library Community Room.

Non-Violent Resistance (Satyagraha)

Mohandas K. Gandhi. (Leader: Shirley Philips)

Discussion: Monday, January 19, 2009. 7 PM Library Community Room.

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects

Mary Wollstonecraft. (Leaders: Michael Poxon & Marita Krivda)

Discussion: Monday, March 2, 2009. 7 PM Library Community Room.

Silent Spring

Rachel Carson. (Leader: Charlie Philips)

Discussion: Monday, April 20, 2009. 7 PM Library Community Room.

Community- Classes & Events at Oak Lane Pres- byterian Church

Annual Fish Fry.

At The Oak Lane Presbyterian Church -11th St & Oak Lane. **Friday, Oct. 24th, 1:00 to 7:00 PM**

Order ahead by calling the church office at 215-424-4446 between the hours of 9AM and noon.

More details forthcoming at
www.oaklane.pcusa.cc

Women's Self Defense Clinic

Saturday, October 11, 2008 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 6637 N. 11th St., **\$50 preregistered; \$60 at the door.**

This clinic is for women of all ages to learn how to be prepared for today's society. Do not miss out on an experience of a lifetime—self defense made easy!

This workshop is taught by Grandmaster, Dr. Timothy Robinson, 9th degree black belt. Contact him to register at 267-290-6918 or 215-776-5397 or Ramatcwl@aol.com

Oak Lane Cultural Arts Program

offers orchestral instrument instruction (Mon./Tues.), line dance classes (Mon. 7:30 PM), yoga classes (Sat. 11:00 AM), karate classes (Wed. & Fri. 6:30 PM, Sat. 1:00 PM) and more. All classes held at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 6637 N. 11th Street. For more information call the church office at 215-424-4446 or go to www.oaklane.pcusa.cc.

Annual Spaghetti

Dinner: The mothers of Boy Scout Troop 19 are having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner featuring beef and turkey sauces on **Friday, October 10th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM** at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 6637 N. 11th Street, downstairs in the Social Room. The cost is \$7 (eat in or take out). Come to help support the Boy Scouts and have a filling meal.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 19



BRAVE

OAK LANE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11TH AND OAK LANE

SATURDAY

10AM TO 11:30AM

A. Mitchell Scoutmaster 215-927-0231

TRUSTWORTHY | LOYAL | HELPFUL | FRIENDLY | COURTEOUS | KIND | OBEDIENT | CHEERFUL | THRIFTY | BRAVE | CLEAN | REVERENT

words to live by

Dear Parents,

You may be asking yourself, **“What is Scouting?”** In short, the Boy Scouts of America offers **your son** the fun of learning and experiencing new things in a safe, wholesome environment. Through Scouting you can help your son build character, values and self-confidence which will help him to make the right decisions throughout his life.

Boy Scouts is something **you can do with your son**. It brings you closer together by helping you see each other in new ways. Parents help to tailor and deliver programs so **you stay connected with your son** as he grows.

The Boy Scouts of America is the **proven investment** in building character and values in boys who will become the leaders of tomorrow.



Boy Scouts of America

AN EVENING ON BROADWAY CONCERT AT KUC CHUCH

September 19
By Marita K. Poxon



On Friday evening, September 19th, 2008, the Friends of the Oak Lane Library organized a fantastic concert for our community. The Concert took place at the Korean United Church at 12th Street and Cheltenham Avenue. Pastor Sun, the minister of the church, allowed the community to use the auditorium and the basement dining area. The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County gave their second concert in East Oak Lane and this time they did songs from Broadway musicals. Eight singers from the group entertained over 60 East Oak Lane residents and friends with a selection from tried and true Broadway shows such as *The King & I* to today's shows including *Wicked*, *Chicago* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Of course they included a few signature Gilbert & Sullivan songs which are their specialty.

After the show, the community enjoyed a wonderful selection of deserts, fresh fruit, quiches donated by *Under the Oak Café*, and a

variety of beverages. The tables were draped in fall colors and laden with treats for everyone. All those who attended had a chance to speak with the singers and connect with their neighbors while enjoying wonderful food prepared in imaginative East Oak Lane Kitchens.

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library would like to thank Michael Poxon, Rich Stephens, Judy Lustig, Hilda Gross, Ruth Ezekiel, and Deborah Ahrens, our Oak Lane Librarian, for their hard work in making this evening a success. The Friends would also like to thank Mr. Young Jai Lee, President, More Bank, 470 West Cheltenham Avenue, Phila, PA 19126 who sponsored the concert.

We also wish to thank all of the community who donated fantastic treats which were enjoyed. All the goodies that were left after the event were given to the children and teenagers of the KUC Church. The proceeds from this concert will support the ongoing work of the Friends to landscape the grounds of the Oak Lane Library & purchase additional books for our Library.

2008 Oak Lane Day Report

What a wonderful day we had to celebrate Oak Lane Day on June 14th.

It was sunny, hot and humid and the food, activities, entertainment and camaraderie were great. We are so fortunate to have the cooperation and support from our community churches. Thanks to Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church for allowing us to use their building and grounds again this year. Father Austin could not have been more hospitable. We also have Rev. Johnson from Oak Lane Presbyterian Church to thank for entertaining us with their various youth groups. Korean United Church of Philadelphia and Gracepoint Church were so instrumental in putting together our lovely program booklet, entertainment and a generous donation to OLCAA. Rev. Jae Sung Kim and Rev. Robert Kim and their congregation are part of our community and we are very fortunate to have their support.



We want to thank all the committee members for putting this event together. They are Evelyn Jones and Keisha Matthews co-chairs, Emerson Willis, Jean Savage, Patty Hahm, Earlene Mitchell, Renel Sample, Sharon Losier, Cathy Smith, Edward "Smitty" Smith, Judy Becker, Kelly McShain Tyree,

Karen Hamilton, George Choe, and Sung Wi.

Thanks to our volunteers Wayne White, Darcy Russotto, Saul Berger, Andrea Jones, Bernadette Tanksley, Thurgood Matthews, Al Mitchell and the members from the Korean United Church of Phila. and Gracepoint Church. Andrea Jones, Dawn Shellenberger, Michael Poxon, Jane Sadden, Pricilla Strapp, Christne Madden, Mellisa Wallace, Rachel Poller, Linda Melvin, Lisa G.

Thanks also goes out to our youth Fernando and Antonia Jones, Thelma, Brittany and TJ Matthews, Miles Smith, Brandon Klevence, David and Chris Losier, Bruce Dixon, Dante Jarred, Charles Aaron, Rudy, Jamal and Kahlial Willis, and Boys Scout/Cub Scouts Troop #19. Thanks to those who distributed flyers and gave monetary and food donations.

We apologize if we left out anyone's name.

Again, we have proven to ourselves and to those outside of East Oak Lane, what a wonderful, beautiful, diverse and committed community we have.

We hope everyone had a great day and we look forward to a better event in June 2009.



**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOST
YOUR NEXT EVENT?**



The Event Place is a unique venue that offers a wonderful setting for hosting various types of Special Events and Celebrated Occasions including: Birthday Parties, Receptions, Showers and Intimate Weddings, Social Affairs, Corporate Events, Club and Organizational Gatherings, Art Exhibitions, Book Signings, Educational Workshops, Seminars, Networking Events and much, much, more.....

For more information, contact us at:

The Event Place
723 Oak Lane Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19126
215.549.4045
www.theeventplace.net
 (Accommodates up to 50 guests)

LOOKING FOR A NEWER, LARGER SPACE TO HOST YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT?



The Gathering Place is a new multi-room venue unique venue that offers a wonderful setting for hosting various types of Special Events and Celebrated Occasions including: Birthday Parties, Receptions, Showers and Intimate Weddings, Social Affairs, Corporate Events, Club and Organizational Gatherings, Art Exhibitions, Book Signings, Educational Workshops, Seminars, Networking Events and much, much, more.....

For more information, contact us at:

The Gathering Place
6755-57 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119
215.848.0677
www.thegatheringplace6755.net
 (Accommodates up to 125 guests)

**Friends of the Oak Lane Branch
of the Free Library of Philadelphia Membership Form**

Membership New Renewal

- Individual \$10.00 Family \$12.00 Senior/Student \$7.00 Patron \$25.00
- Business/Institution \$50.00
- Additional Contribution Amount: _____ Total Amount: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

If you have any questions please contact:

Complete form and return with your check payable to: **Friends of Oak Lane Library**
Marilyn Lassiter - Membership
6612 N. 13^h Street, Philadelphia, PA 19126
Or Call: M.Poxon 215-549-6531

**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
- Events
- Communications
- Town Watch
- Historic Preservation
- Hospitality & Membership
- Housing & Zoning
- Oak Lane Tree Tenders

Membership Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR OF OLCAA?

- Newsletter Other—explain

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

- Contributing to OLCAA**
Donations are tax-deductible



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