



OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION

THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

June 2006- Vol. I, Issue 6

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

Website: www.olcaa.org

Special Information:

We are happy to announce that we launched our Website: www.olcaa.com. We will update it on a regular basis and welcome advertisers. Please call our Hotline at 215-224-2777.

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OAK LANE DAY

Happily, the weatherman missed the forecast for Oak Lane Day, June 3rd, and the scattered showers predicted for that Saturday morning did not occur. Unfortunately, instead, it rained cats and dogs until well after the scheduled 11:00 a.m. start time, and well after our revised noon start time as well. Finally, sometime after 1:00 p.m., the sun broke through and our Oak Lane neighbors and their neighborhood shined. Our clothes may have been damp, but not our spirits. Oak Lane Day 2006 rose out of the puddles, so to speak!

Dependable Oak Laners Bob Harmon and Will Anderson materialized early to set up tables, grills and chairs. OLCAA and vendor tables, skirted in green and yellow, lined Oak Lane from 10th Street in front of the Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church down to Franklin Street, the corner of Jeff Frederick's art gallery, The Spot. They were drenched, dried, re-drenched and re-dried by resilient workers. Bob, Casey, Devitt and Dugan McShain and Robert Tyree mobilized to shut down the street, move tables, food and everything else that made Oak Lane Day happen. The center of activities this year was the Holy Trinity Church which sold Ukrainian foods, allowed us the use of kitchen, lawn and lavatories. Childrens games and the Moon Bounce were inviting on the

open lawn and picnic tables were shaded and pleasant under the trees alongside the churchyard where grills turned out chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers all day long.

The strains of Mark O'Donnell's bagpipe called the festivities to a start. Live music filled the street including the Bluegrass guitar of Wanamaker Lewis, known to many of us in the neighborhood as Andy Appelbaum, son of Ellen & Noyma Appelbaum. The Ukrainian electric band, The Fourth Wave, rallied on for almost two hours, more than triple their original commitment, buoying spirits and creating a lively sound-track for vendors, volunteers and many neighbors who ate scores of international dishes solicited and sold through the hard work of Oak Laners, especially Judy Becker, who chaired International and Ethnic Foods this year. More Irish music from fiddler David Miller played on while folks ate hot dogs and hamburgers from a charcoal grill, the sounds and smells sweetening the air for blocks. Life-long Oak Laner Saul Berger was pressed into service as grillmaster and rose to the occasion. Kathy Smith, (who pressed Bill and daughter into service) with Darcy Russotto, Judy Becker and Sharon Losier, seemed chained to their stations to feed the crowds. Michael Poxon did double duty frying up crab claws and teaching and

playing chess (though not at the same time). Elana Benamy showed spectacular knitwear and taught a stitch or two to all comers. Oak Lane resident Michelle Bassler brought a truckload of exotic snakes, turtles and raptors from the Academy of Natural Sciences for kids and adults to touch and see up close. People were still talking about them days later.

We had a great variety of vendors this year, ranging from Cabot Cheese and Under the Oak Cafe' to AFLAC, Citizens' Bank and Nationwide Insurance, from pocketbooks, refrigerator magnets, beta fish and body lotions to Pierce College. The Spot opened a show of Oak Lane artists including Harry Anderson, Tom Brady, Chuck Connelly, Giappo, Smokey Kittner and Jamar Nicholas which runs through the month of June. Jeff also arranged for a glass-blowing demonstration which ran *two* days.

OAK LANE DAY (Cont'd)

Marita Krivda ran the Friends of the Library table which graciously donated its proceeds to OLCAA. Evelyn Jones and JoAnne Moore-Dent with Kids in Motion sold ice cream to fund their future ventures. Charley Philips *cut short a family trip* to be with the Tree Tenders to sell T-Shirts and spread the gospel of lawn and curb trees for our verdant neighborhood.

Judy Lustig found a former Oak Laner to make "I Like Oak Lane" T-shirts, in a slightly revised buff and green format which sold well. They are still available in sizes small to extra-large at a cost of only \$10.00. Call 215-224-6242 to buy your own or for gifts. Judy also organized the plant sales with varieties of perennials, marigolds, galardia, zinnias, which she hand picked from discount growers greenhouses. Some she prepared in arrangements and hanging baskets; sales were steady and successful. Sally McCabe, our red-haired neighbor who works for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, arranged for some additional donations. She and Allegra Mucha manned the sales table with Judy for the better part of *two* days.

Kids asked again and again when would the Moon Bounce open (Sunday!), but face-painting by Alonzo and Marliese Johnson dwarfed even that sure-fire attraction in popularity. Carmen and Nazario Jimenez oversaw their home-made ring-toss, dart boards and toilet-paper throws and every kid seemed to be wearing,

tossing and twirling bunches of trinkets they won at those games. Newly-elected Board Member, Keisha Matthews, signed on to run a children's crafts table. Our long-time friend, State Senator Dwight Evans, braved the weather and certainly made us feel, rough though it was, the weather was not insurmountable. He came early, before the sunshine, and *did not take credit when the sun finally shined*.

Because the weather shortened the day, food, prizes and musical talent overflowed the short time allotted. Impresario Kelly McShain Tyree, with phone firmly planted in ear made call after call, re-arranging schedules on Saturday and finally arranged for the talent to re-appear on Sunday for the first ever TWO DAY Oak Lane Day. Earlene Mitchell sat down and counted the money, locked up the tickets and closed us up for the day.

Sunday, back we came for day two, reset the tables, refired the grills, pumped up the moon bounce and filled the air with music for a reprise of the day with smaller crowds but better weather and a chance to DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN! Kelly rallied the curate of Holy Trinity, her loyal OLCAA troops and some of the musicians as well to make it happen again. We were introduced to Mweelrea a young Ceilidh band and more of us got to see a live glass-blowing demon-

stration right near the food stands. Darcy returned for a second day, Carmen switched venues to the food area and vendors and Oak Laners had a longer time to party, mingle, spend a little more money so vendors and OLCAA could make the best of a bad situation. OLCAA and our neighbors worked very hard, had a lot of fun, learned a lot about ourselves and each other and made OLCAA a little money by the bye. These are group efforts for sure. They require lots of work. Long before the day, Kathy Smith and Judy Lustig worked to bring focus and planning to the table at each of many meetings. Vernita Hall wore that hat later in the day.

Everyone mentioned by name did yeomen's jobs, many more whose name I missed (shame on me!) worked very hard indeed, both on the day and in the weeks and, dare I say, *months* before. To our old friend, PepsiCo, through the intervention of Wrenton Wright, we owe a debt of gratitude for banners and donated soft drinks; to Dietz & Watson, which provided cases of hot dogs free of charge, we say a hearty thank you; Wendy's provided paper goods galore, *gratis, merci*; Trader Joe's sent exotic and delicious condiments to enrich the flavors of our day, please accept our thanks; to our friends Steve and Teddy Makris at The Oak Lane Diner we say thank you very much for a generous supply of pies and cakes for dessert; to An au Rheum,

the Korean grocery at Cheltenham Avenue and Old York Road which provided trays of appetizers and pastries, thanks indeed; to Sign-a-Rama we owe thanks for an all purpose OLCAA banner, which you will see again and again; the City of Philadelphia Department of Recreation and the Managing Director's Office provided us with a terrific, simple sound system, thank you, thank you. Judy Lustig and Kathy Smith were tireless in moving the planning stages ahead, we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Some of our neighbors deserve more than a nod, ***they deserve a standing ovation because they were heroes of the day***:

***Rev. Austin Mohrbacher** not only donated the use of Holy Trinity Church hall, kitchen, lawns, but rallied a number of his parishoners to help make our day more festive and agreed to repeat the performance the next day with almost no notice.

***Darcy Russotto** worked tirelessly before the event, took the week off from work to prepare and buy food for the event and served food on both days. Did I mention that *she took off a week from work to make the event happen!*

***Saul Berger** stopped by a meeting the Wednesday before

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Kelly McShain Tyree

There's a wonderful adage, "To whom much is given, much is expected." As East Oak Laners, we've been given so much! We live in a diverse neighborhood of many cultures, we live with beautiful examples of Philadelphia architecture, and we experience bucolic settings of mature trees and green spaces throughout our community. Not many neighborhoods can boast of such attributes as ours. So the question remains, given so much, what "is expected" of ourselves and of our neighbors?

Questions about community expectations have been cropping up everywhere, from our 'Task Force' organization meeting in April, from our 'General Meeting' for OLCAA in May, from OLCAA Board Meetings, various Committee Meetings, and from the many phone calls received on our East Oak Lane Hotline. Neighbors are expressing their expectations and hopes for a better 'quality of life.' Three major expectations have come to light: a higher standard for property maintenance for homes and businesses; a desire for commercial properties to better serve the needs of the community; and a better policy and increased enforcement regarding NOISE ISSUES!

Neighbors from Broad St. to 5th St., from Godfrey to Cheltenham Ave.

are asking for a greater respect for their rights to "peace and quiet." Requests are pouring in for better policies and enforcement against noise perpetrators as varied as: passing cars with loud music and heavy bases setting off car alarms as they pass, churches conducting amplified services disrupting their family life, and illegal scooters manned by unsupervised children. The community is expressing that they have "earned the right" to expect more. These concerned neighbors expect much of themselves- they are willing to give back to their community by becoming Block Representatives for OLCAA, by joining neighborhood Committees, or by participating in events such as our Garden Tours, Music Concerts, Potluck Dinners, or Oak Lane Day. For this supportive and active community to expect more for their families in return, seems to be justified and appropriate.

The simplest solutions for our community concerns seem to be a greater sensitivity by all of us in terms of how we might be affecting others. Another solution, in terms of the Sound Violations, is to establish and enforce 'Noise Reduction Policies' sanctioned by the Community and by our City Agencies. As an organization of neighbors, OLCAA will be asking you to support these community policies aimed at improving 'quality of life' for all. We are committed to celebrating the wonderful

spirit and vitality of East Oak Lane, and to attracting great neighbors to this community. Please join us. If you are approached by a Block Representative of OLCAA, please listen, please evaluate how your support might enhance the entire neighborhood, and please respond with action. If you are experiencing an issue first hand, please contact your Block Rep or call our Hotline (215-224-2777) with specific information such as dates and times of disruptions, license plate numbers, addresses, or photographs.

Thanks for your support and best wishes for a joyous Summer!

POOR BESSIE'S ALMANAC (THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OAK LANE)

BY JANET MCSHAIN,
POOR BESSIE'S
GRANDDAUGHTER

"Oak Lane Day 2006" was a very expectant one, long anticipated as a reenactment of Oak Lane Day's of the 1970's and 80's when the whole community came out-booths lined both sides of the street from 7th up to 10th on Oak Lane, which included pottery, origami, macramé and handmade clothing. Many artisans were from our neighborhood, all excited about our "Community Action." Parades down 66th Ave. over to Oak Lane to start it off, with Murray, the

proprietor of the pizza shop, on horseback and everyone dressed in "Olde Oak Lane" attire including straw hats of the 1800's...The "Oak Lane Village" (which we wanted it known as) was alive with 'Dunking Booths,' 'Lemons with Peppermint Sticks,' 'Roasted Pigs,' and entertainment for all the thousands who attended. It was the big social event of those years and everyone who had a hand in it was welcome at the "After Party" held at a crowded house with lots of tired, jubilant workers dancing, singing and talking of ideas for next year.

This year it rained on Oak lane- but didn't damper the spirits to make a difference. People came out to celebrate our new beginning. In fact, as a result, 2 days were filled with International Food and entertainment, the sharing of all we are-multi-cultural and creative- some new and young neighbors, others who hardly remember all of the parties and camping trips of Old Oak Lane because it was so long ago.

When OLCAA started in our Living Room on 13th St., everyone had been super excited about the idea to celebrate "Oak Lane Day"- not just a block party, the first thought, but an idea to take it to the

Continued on Pg. 4

POOR BESSIE'S ALMANAC CONTINUED

that original idea again- it was truly a spark to get the whole "Oak Lane" having fun and growing again and seeing our uniqueness.

Back in Woodridge, D.C. in the 40's, I remember church picnics and cruising down the Potomac to Marshall Hall with 4th of July celebrations, parades around the Elementary School- but nothing of the caliber of Oak Lane Day with the effort of so many people to have a whole Town celebration.

Back in William Penn's time, the community felt the need to see each other, reconnect, and share produce, stories, and have fun. There used to be "Market Days" 2 times a year-everyone came out in May and November. The idea for a big 'Town Day' is not new- we have a history in our Philadelphia County of 2 special ones; The first was back when George Washington lived in Germantown, when the capitol of the U.S. was there (1797). The whole community was out in numbers and gave a real "Germantown Day" in his honor. The second was when General Lafayette, the celebrated hero of the Revolution, was visiting and toured the U.S. in 1825. He arrived in Germantown with a cannon salute and people lining both sides of the Avenue. All day long the festivities went on, people were remembering the past and the fight to keep community values. The soldiers, who were fighting along side Lafay-

ette and Washington for their freedom, reminisced about the effort of all working together for something big.

As Grandmom Bessie would say, "there's two sides to every fight so let's get together to listen to both." And when the Indians in our area were asked about their Lenni Lenape trail- they said there was room for all to take a "nap" on the road and share space. So let's take a "nap" after a job shared and well done, but let's get up to work for another Oak Lane Day next year. We certainly don't need a Washington or a Lafayette for a reason- just the greatness of our own Oak Lane heritage and diversity.

Community members of neighbors- if we can help, we'd like to be there. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with neighborhood maintenance, please the Committees of OLCAA.

Tips for "Improving Your Curb Appeal" can be found on our Website at: www.OLCAA.org

OAK LANE DAY (Cont'd)

Oak Lane Day and wound up grilling without break for the whole day. The festival would not have worked without his efforts.

***Carmen Jimenez** got a short break from her prodigious duties as secretary of OLCAA, editor of this *Paper* and chair of the communications committee and jumped into the fray of children's games and serving food. She was almost everywhere on Oak Lane Day. I swear, no one asked her, but she saw a need and jumped in both feet forward.

*Last but not least, OLCAA President Kelly McShain Tyree was not almost everywhere on Oak Lane Day, *she was everywhere*, counting money, paying money, making phone calls, greeting visitors and making hard and good decisions on both days, not to mention doing the work of three stout hearts in the many, many, weeks leading up to the day. She made phone call after phone call, came to dozens if not scores of meetings, dealt with the city bureaucracy and arranged the incredible lineup of entertainers for the day. **CHEERS!**

As the applause dies down for the workers who made Oak Lane Day happen this year, let me say I have been privileged to work shoulder-to-shoulder with this crew.

I hope to see you all next year.

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

NEWS FROM THE URBAN FOREST

BY CHARLES PHILIPS

Tree Tenders Meeting 7:30 pm Sept. 12 (Tuesday) at Allegra Mucha's house 6727 Lawnton Ave. Agenda: fundraising, soliciting tree locations, fall trimming/cleanup. This meeting marks the 10th anniversary of Oak Lane Tree Tenders.

The **Northern Gateway** is finished! Enjoy every time you pass. 3 traffic islands at Broad Street and 66th Avenue have about 25 trees, numerous shrubs and flowers, and some attractive brick paving. This is the realization of a 7 year dream. Funding was provided by Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation.

Oak Lane Tree Tenders planted 50 trees along Old York Road and Broad Street in April, and 16 trees in East and West Oak Lane in cooperation with West Oak Lane Tree Tenders in March. We have planted over 300 trees since 1996.

Tree Tender Training by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will be given on September 13, 20 and 27, 5:45-7:45pm at PHS 100 N. 20th Street. This is a fun, well run course covering tree planting, care, identification, and advocacy. It's free and they serve pizza! Call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844 right away to reserve a place for yourself.

If you would **like a tree** or trees in front of your home or business call 215-924-1722. We ask \$40 for homeowners and \$75 for businesses

and institutions to cover costs of planting. Planting would be in spring and fall of 2007.

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION VICTORIAN GINGERBREAD DECORATION

BY MARITA KRIVDA
POXON

Ever since I was a child in East Oak Lane, I have heard the word "gingerbread" applied to the woodwork on my old 1888 Victorian home. But why is woodwork on houses called this?

Everyone knows that gingerbread houses can be made of dough and covered with candy & icing during the Christmas season. However, gingerbread goes back in history. Originally it was a kind of cake or cookie flavored with molasses and ginger. It could be cut into gingerbread men or letters of the alphabet to teach children reading. Many times these designs were gilded. Sailors described the carved and gilded decorations of a ship as "gingerbread". It started to mean showy, tasteless, or gaudy architectural detail. So the term gingerbread passed from the realm of baking into the realm of shipbuilding and architecture. Today the term gingerbread house is used in architecture to describe a highly decorated Victorian home. In baking it continues to describe a small, candy-covered gingerbread house.

Many of the great Victorian homes in East Oak Lane are in the Queen Anne style of architecture which is characterized by asymmetry and by an emphasis on a variety of architectural detail. Many Oak Lane homes are clad in an exuberance of wood – wooden shingles, wooden corbels, wooden spandrels, and wooden balusters – that is the epitome of Victorian gingerbread decoration. This type of decoration was made affordable in the late 1800's by new technologies for rapid and easy milling of decorative woodwork. Gingerbread is the term used for the wooden decorative elements that appear on Queen Anne style & other Victorian buildings.

Shingles form the surface of many Victorian homes. Shingles are shaped wooden boards, commonly made from cedar, cut into cookie-cutter designs, installed with overlapping edges as exterior siding.

Corbels are carved wooden supports that rest beneath beams and act as architectural accents. Traditionally, these are painted in multiple colors to contrast with the color of the house shingles.

Spandrels are decorative trim units that span the edges of a porch, gable or rail. They can be highly carved with elaborate fretwork with wooden beads. They can form an ornamental spindle rail on a gable. These are painted in colors to contrast with the house.

Balusters are vase-shaped wooden support legs for railings. These are turned into elaborate shapes forming the dra-

matic designs on Victorian porches, balconies and staircases.

Because Victorian gingerbread decorative design is made from wood, it requires frequent painting and upkeep. It is well worth the effort to scrape and paint this decorative woodwork because it preserves the character of the Victorian house design. However, if you might need to replace wooden trim or add trim that had been removed in the past, many companies today are milling wooden gingerbread in Victorian designs. In a quick search of the web, I found a great number of traditional millwork designers that reproduce the exterior decoration of Victorian homes. One in particular, Vintage Wood Works, looks authentic (www.vintagewoodworks.com)

I hope the next time you bite into a gingerbread cookie or admire a gingerbread cookie house you will remember that East Oak Lane abounds in Victorian Gingerbread decorative woodwork. The loving care that East Oak Laners take in painting our gingerbread houses in bright, vivid paint color shows our pride in our Victorian heritage. Take a walk through East Oak Lane and admire our "Gingerbread."

GINGERBREAD DECORATION (Cont'd)

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SUCCESSFUL GARDEN TOUR MAY 6, 2006

BY MARITA K. POXON

Tra La! It's May!

The Lusty Month of May!

That Lovely Month when ev'ryone goes

Blissfully Astray. (Lyric from Camelot)

Members of the Friends of the Oak Lane Library and the East Oak Lane Tree Tenders got into the spirit of this famous lyric from Camelot enjoying a fabulous day of garden beauty & a sumptuous garden party. Over 150 people supported the event on May 6th and walked/drove to an array of eight gardens in full bloom and open for tours. The weather cooperated with bright sunshine illuminating the exotic Camellia bushes, peonies, fragrant viburnum, dogwood trees and brilliantly colored azaleas in their full glory. The Philips' host home

had manicured its garden to perfection. It was the spectacular starting point for the tour and also the location of the Garden

Party itself. Hilda Gross organized the donation of an amazing assortment of home made tea sandwiches, salads, delicate appetizers, and a fabulous assortment of cakes & cookies. Various local groups and stores donated food, beverages, ice cream, and paper plates & cups. The make your own ice cream sundae table was a big success. Everything was artfully arranged with tables & chairs set up on the slopping lawn. There was even an Irish Harp player who entertained the Garden Party audience with delightful music.



Each owner meticulously groomed his/her garden for the Tour goers and was present answering numerous questions about specific flowers, shrubs and trees. Lots of gardening lore and wisdom was exchanged all day. At the Bergers' home at 6655 Lawnton Avenue, annual and perennial plants were sold in an award-winning garden filled with 18 trees including a Dawn Redwood and a Sequoia tree. At 709 64th Avenue, many plants were exchanged in a setting of indigenous Pennsylvania plants that act as a magnet for birds, butterflies and wildlife.



Elizabeth McGusty's garden at 6727 N. 7th Street was spectacular as always with her meandering trails bordered with azaleas and mature boxwood hedges. The gardens of Dr. Soapes with its oriental motif & gazebo, the Scullys with its raised vegetable beds and exotic perennials, and the Poxons with its groomed lawn & flowering trees – all these gardens were in their full glory. The street-side garden at 7th and Oak Lane had great, immediate impact on the passersby with its native local stones and flowering shrubs.

The Garden Tour was a very great success and raised needed funds for the Oak Lane Library and Tree Tenders. A hearty thanks goes out to all who participated and supported this highly successful community event. And thank the Good Lord above for providing spectacular weather for our Month of May Garden tour.

SUMMER CLEANING

The next community wide cleanup scheduled through Philadelphia More Beautiful is on August 12th.

As we did in April, clean up you property as well as common areas and use the push brushes handed out back in April.

Please place the debris at the corner of your street for easy pickup by the sanitation workers.

HOLY TRINITY BRYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

During the month of July we offer you our usual Sunday Liturgy at 9 AM, (no sermon) and then coffee, a presentation and then the opportunity of this joyful of contact with God when "two or three gathered together." The presentation will be made by several people with some music on a set theme will probably last 40 minutes. Then we meet in groups of no more than 10 people in the rectory. This will provide the opportunity to experience what can happen when a small group share their own unique experience of living the gospel.

Other themes will include strengthening your family, building a bridge, strengthening bridges and building better relationships and the role of the church in this process.

If you are interested in participating please call Rev. Austin Mohrbacher at 215-

The teacher's union honored our own community activist, Ruth Ezekiel at a luncheon for her years of service to the union. Congratulations, Ruth and also thanks for your many years of service to the community of East Oak Lane.

HELP RETAIN OUR HOMES VALUABLE

BY PJ THOMAS

What makes the homes in one neighborhood more valuable than another? Listed below



are some tips that will help make your home more appealing. These simple ideas will help to improve our community and in the long run increase the market price of its homes.

First Impressions are lasting impressions.

The first thing a prospective buyer sees is the front entrance of your home. Make sure the yard and landscaping are well manicured. Flowers add a nice touch. Repaint the exterior of your home if necessary. Avoid loud colors that won't blend in with the neighborhood.

Your window to the world—Use draperies with white linings, it will look nicer from the street. Clean windows give your home a bright, open and welcoming feel.

Use simple tricks to give the illusion of more space—

Buyers always want storage space. Make sure your home is well organized and uncluttered. Dispose of the things you are not using. Have a garage sale. Remember, your junk can be another's treasure.

Unclutter your yard

- Remove faded or broken lawn furniture. Kids all grown up? Take down that swing set and replace it with beautiful patio furniture. An uncluttered lawn helps potential buyers to see a home's true worth.

Repairs - Nothing says, "money pit" louder than an older home. But, an older home is priceless in terms of the vintage hardware, moldings and other historic features it offers. Spend a little time each month repairing doors, windows, screens, and downspouts. Deferred maintenance is more expensive in the long run. Cosmetic touches cost very little and are a great investment.

Take Pride—Say good things about your neighborhood. If you believe your community is of value, then others will too.

Need help with home repairs? Call Philadelphia Home Improvement Loan (PHL) Program for low fixed rate loans. Borrow up to \$25,000. 3% APR and 5% APR. No points or application fee. Terms up to 20 years.

THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Community members of East Oak Lane are taking advantage of our new Hotline (215-224-2777) to communicate how much they value the look and feel of a well-manicured neighborhood. Folks are interested in living in a community where they can experience long and lovely walks, as well as a place where they feel safe and confident to raise their families.

The OLCAA Committees are responding to neighbors' requests by partnering with both the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative of the Mayor's Office, as well as the Office of Councilwoman Marian Tasco. We have collectively set in motion a new process aimed to increase awareness of the responsibilities of property owners. OLCAA will be sending out 'gentle reminders' to properties in question regarding lawn or hedge maintenance, rubbish removal, illegal or unsightly fence removal, dangerous tree limbs, or the architectural maintenance of buildings. A friendly suggestion is



sometimes all that is needed- we all want to promote a better 'quality of life' for ourselves and for our neighbors. In the cases where issues persist, the Councilwoman and the Mayor's Office is prepared to become directly involved.

If there are special circumstances regarding an unkempt property, please call our Hotline if you receive a notice. We are a community of neighbors- if we can help, we'd like to be there. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with neighborhood maintenance, please contact the Committees of OLCAA.

Tips for "Improving Your Curb Appeal" can be found on our Website at: www.OLCAA.org

HOLY TRINITY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY REV MOHRBACHER

It was a great pleasure for me to see so many people using our facilities as a part of your Society's reach out to the community here at Oak Lane. I was thankful for the wonderful mix of people, the culture variety, the artists, the smells of picnic foods and people enjoying their ethnicity in diversity on our grounds. I felt good about it for I believe that churches should reach out to help and strength any good effort to build up local community.

Your Society reached out to the people and their joyful enthusiasm was the response. We need affairs like this in our society wound by the world threat of terrorism. We need to celebrate the goodness that our land offers us, to share the fruits of our labor. Such activities shows the good side of the people and our good desires. On both Saturday and Sunday your efforts added the "SPECIAL QUALITY." It was here to enjoy.

In the beginning a new ethnic group can add barriers and fears leading to suspicion and stiffness in our life. Some times it takes centuries to overcome. **We don't need that.** It puts a damper in the way of our happiness. I clearly saw this breaking down on our property and was glad that Holy Trinity Church could participate.

In the near future we hope to offer small group activities at Holy Trinity which can help add quality to the lives of resident. May God bless us all!



Jaye Divine
Your Neighborhood Realtor

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- What adds value ?
- What affects an areas values?

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OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (OLCAA) MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Calendar Year 2006

- 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
- Safety & Crime

Membership Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Contributing to OLCAA

Donations are tax-deductible

Make checks payable to: Oak Lane Community Action Assn.

Mail to: OLCAA P.O. Box 2926 Phila., PA 19126

Web site: at: Under Construction-Available Shortly

Contact us at: 215-224-2777

**Friends of the Oak Lane Branch
of the Free Library of Philadelphia Membership Form
c/o Joanne Balitsky, 6342 N. 6th St., Phila, PA 19126**

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** _____

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If you have any questions please contact:

Complete form and return with your check payable to Friends of Oak Lane Library
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