



THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

SPONSORED BY OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (OLCAA)

PO Box 2926 Philadelphia, PA 19126 (215) 224-2777 Website Under Construction Feb 2006, Vol 1 Issue 4

“THE FUTURE OF EAST OAK LANE”

BY KELLY MCSHAIN TYREE
PRESIDENT, OLCAA

Many of us experience mixed feelings when we hear a chain saw at work in our neighborhood. Emotions range from “Free firewood!” and “Well, that’s less leaves to rake.” to “Oh no, we’ve lost another tree!” or “That was a healthy one-how could they?!” On a recent walk through the neighborhood, my heart skipped a beat or two when I heard that fateful sound. I must admit almost accosting the poor tree surgeon at work at 10th ST. and 66th Ave. “Are you taking down this beautiful tree?” He replied very kindly, “No, just trimming.” I could breathe again. How wonderful it was to hear that a neighbor was responsibly trimming back branches over their roof as opposed to removing it completely- an increasing trend witnessed by concerned East Oak Laners.

Why the strong reaction? A brief personal history: Having lived in New York City for 12 years, the World Trade Center had become part of the visual tapestry of my daily life there. When suddenly taken away- the skies seemed naked and the future bleak. Those stately buildings represented far more than I’d realized and now gone a vacuum existed. Solace came with weekend trips back to East Oak Lane. The skies here were filled with towering trees not buildings: beautiful Pines, regal Oaks, magnificent Maples. Trees all rooted in the past were growing still -offering life and

shade, beauty and comfort. These were the trees of my childhood welcoming me home with their outstretched branches. I knew them as I felt they knew me for even as friends and families moved on, they remained constant.

As I waffled between the two worlds of NYC and Philadelphia, long term East Oak Laner, Charlie Philips, walked up to our family home one weekend and asked, “Would you like a new tree planted? I’m from the Oak Lane Tree Tenders.” Well, that just sealed the deal! I thought, “If this community is coming together to plant for the future than this is where I want to live.” I said goodbye to the uncertain future of NYC and home I came.

It’s several years later and thoughts of an uncertain present still exist for many- from senseless crime among unsupervised youths to confusion over World policy and where we are heading. Well, if we can measure the success of our collective future by the planting of trees, than what’s to come for East Oak Lane bodes very, very well.

This Spring, as tulips and daffodils are bursting forth and azaleas begin to bloom, at least 70 trees will be planted along Broad St. and Old York Rd. A new skyline will appear. An urban void will be filled with greenery, and a canopy of trees will offer weary travelers an oasis of comfort and hope.

Our past several newsletters to the Community have outlined how your neighborhood

organization, OLCAA, and Committees like Tree Tenders have been hard at work addressing “quality of life” issues in East Oak Lane. Soliciting grants and support from our Politicians and City Officials have taught us that we work best in partnership with one another. Neighbors are now calling our Hotline **215-224-2777** to express their support or concerns, and we are responding as each need occurs. The most wonderful calls are those where neighbors ask, “How can I help?”

The best way is to ensure that there is a light on your porch, a tree in your yard, you are honoring the original architecture of your home and you’ve introduced yourself to your neighbors. Come support the neighborhood by volunteering for Oak Lane Day, by organizing your block for beautification and safety, or by coming out on April 8th for “The Big Dig” with Tree Tenders. Thanks everyone!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
IT’S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. NOT A MEMBER, JOIN NOW. FORM IS ATTACHED

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PDAC HOLIDAY DINNER HEAVENLY BY VERNITA HALL

The theme was angels. Not the beloved doddering Clarence of "It's a Wonderful Life," nor John Travolta's uncouth "Michael," nor the fallen ones of the irreverent "Dogma," nor Denzel's suave Dudley of "The Preacher's Wife." The beautiful angel figurines of Phyllis Watts that filled the courtroom of the 35th on December 15 stood as silent sentinels, in tribute to the 380 homicide victims in the City of Brotherly Love for 2005. A sobering theme for the 23rd annual 35th Police District Holiday Dinner sponsored by PDAC, the 35th Police District Advisory Council.

And what a heavenly feast it was! Volunteers staffed generously stocked steam and dessert tables from 11:30 AM Thurs. to "last out" at 1 AM Friday morning. Richly symbolic of family tradition, Sgt. Richie enjoyed an early evening dinner, while his son Ofc. Richie followed him with a "last call" supper. In all, about 350 police officers, firefighters, Northwest detectives, civilian personnel, and former 35th Districters dined, amid lovingly arranged holiday decorations and twinkling Christmas tree lights, while enjoying familiar, toe-tapping oldies spun by DJ Joe "Sonny Spins" Vecchione. (He sings great, too!)

Too tired but happy event co-chairs Phyllis Watts and Shirley Stevenson, kudos and congratulations on a superbly orchestrated event. To the many volunteers and donors, your kindness and generosity was deeply appreciated by the men and women of the 35th, and perfectly mirrored the best spirit of the holidays. And last but not least, thanks to the unnamed young officer who, in the early evening dinner crowd, settled with one discriminating and expert taste the burning question of the day---"Is that pumpkin or sweet potato pie?" It was 'tater pie, y'all!

And for the New Year, let us wish for each of our guardian angels among the police, firefighters, military, and security forces---indeed, for us all---a watchful and protecting angel on our shoulder....

Sincere thanks to all Volunteers and Donors:

Cardinal Dougherty's Christmas tree lot; Cheltenham Nursery & Rehab Center; Cousins Market (Duncannon & Mascher); Olney Fish & Fruit; Rent-A-Center (Olney Plaza); Shop Rite (Olney Plaza); Wilson's Beverages; 611 Auto Service; Bally's Pizza; Corfu Pizza; KFC; Oak Lane Diner; Old English Pizza; Helen Alston; Helen Austin; Rasheedah Bailey; Rose Cosby; Pat Eason; Bill Golden; Bill Grooms Carmen Jiménez; Delores Johnson; Evelyn Jones; Warren & Doris Person; June Robinson; Yvonne Sams; Missy Sims; Joe Vecchione; Tim & Edna Williamson; Ernest Wilson; Nicole Zachary

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE BY MARITA KRIVDA POXON

My husband and I moved back into our East Oak Lane family home in 1994. I had always known our family home was considered a Victorian building. I started to get more interested in its history and how it came to be built. I discovered a website that lists Philadelphia Architects and Buildings where you can look up your home by its address.

<http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org>

Our home was built around 1888 according to the Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, V. 3, N. 39, p. 459 (October 1, 1888). Owen Osborne built our home at 904 Oak Lane and our neighbor's home at 902 Oak Lane. The dwellings are listed as 2 stone and frame houses, 3 stories. The Architectural firm was Briean & Godwin (fl. 1886-1889). The architect was Josiah S. Briean and the engineer was Harold Godwin. They were described: "The firm have designed the plans for and superintended erection of many of the handsomest residences in the city and suburbs... Gentlemen of

the highest social and business standing whose future is bright."



On this same website when you locate your home

and its builder, the site also lists the biography, projects, biographical references & related architects connected with your home. On this website, I discovered that this firm had built dwellings all over Philadelphia as well as offices, stores and stables. It became very apparent as I looked over the records on this website that East Oak Lane has many historic buildings, a great number of them built during the last phase of the Victorian era (1880-1901). East Oak Lane has survived over the years because its residents have loved the distinctive, Victorian architecture of its buildings set on landscaped large sized lots of land.

I became interested in the exact style of Victorian Architecture that our home represented. During the time that Oak Lane homes were built, pattern books popularized house designs, house plans, and Victorian Gingerbread (spindles, mouldings, columns, & decorative brackets).

Since Oak Lane has such a diversity of rchitectural styles, I wanted to be able to differentiate our home from the numerous other Victorian structures in Oak Lane. Victorian architecture has many styles which tend to overlap. Most styles were revivals from the past. Some styles assigned to Victorian homes include: Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Stick/Eastlake and Shingle.



Gothic Revival - Decorative elements of churches are used along with steeply pitched roofs, dormers & gingerbread trim. Second Empire (Renaissance Revival) - It is distinguished by the mansard roof decorated with dormer windows, colored roof tile, and iron crestings.

Queen Anne - It is the most predominant style built asymmetrical, varied roof lines, second story bay windows, turrets, balconies, towers, stained glass, wrap around porches, gabled roof, shingled insets and painted in a rainbow of dark colors.

Stick/Eastlake Style - It is distinguished by square bays, flat roof lines, free-style decoration, applied wood, and enormous, overhanging second story porches.

Shingle Style - The home is covered almost completely with wood shingles. It has steeply pitched roofs, spacious porches, rough-surfaced stone as a contrasting material, turrets, verandas and little external decoration.



Because many Victorians were designed from pattern books, another style commonly

found is Eclectic - a home in which several influences are combined. I feel that our home would be best described as Eclectic - a combination of the Queen Anne and the Shingle Style of architecture.

East Oak Lane's future depends on all of us. We must continue to be willing to live with our Victorian treasures and preserve their character. We should be proud that we live in a beautiful neighborhood filled with Victorian architecture and we should become committed to the historic preservation of East Oak Lane.

Dig a little into the history of your home using the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings website to discover your home's historic lineage.

TALES FROM URBAN FOREST

BY CHARLES PHILIPS



WILL YOU DIG?

Please help in the biggest tree planting we have ever undertaken— 50 trees — on

Saturday April 8, 8:30-noon. Join your neighbors in this festive event to make Oak Lane green. Come to a Tree Tenders meeting, sign up at the library, or call 215-924-1722 to register.

Oak Lane Tree Tender Meetings

Tuesday, **February 21**, 7:30 pm at the Poxon's, 904 Oak Lane.

Tuesday **March 14**, 7:30 pm at Kelly McShain Tyree's 6813 N. 10th St.

Tree planting for the **Gateway project** (planting the 3 traffic islands at Broad St and 66th Avenue) is on schedule. The expectation is that a contract will be concluded in early February and trees in the ground by April 1. Much of the work will be done by local people, employees of Awbury Landscape Services.

Tree Tenders **Brown Bag Lunch Series** at the Horticultural Society (free):

Tuesday, **February 7th** - Winter Tree Identification

Tuesday, **February 14th** -Love Your Tree - Urban Tree Stresses and How to Avoid Them

Tuesday, **February 21st** - Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place in the Right Way

All programs will be held from 12-1 pm in the 5th floor auditorium of PHS, 100 N. 20th Street (20th and Arch Streets). Attend all three and receive a Tree Tenders T-Shirt. RSVP to Carol at 215-988-1625 **Urban Sustainability Forum** at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 6-8:30

pm at 1900 Ben Franklin Parkway in the auditorium. Free. RSVP suggested. Roland Wall 215-299-1108.

Feb 6 - SPECIAL EVENING WITH Jaime Lerner former Mayor of the "Worlds Most Sustainable City", Curitiba, Brazil

Feb 16 - Directing the Flow: Managing Philadelphia's Water

March 16 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Revisioning Waste Management in Philadelphia

April 20 - Greene Country Town: The Future of Philadelphia Land Use Planning

May 18 - Redeveloping Healthy Philadelphia Neighborhoods

June 15 - Goals and Actions for a Sustainable Philadelphia

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

CRIME AND SAFETY NOTES

BY VERNITA HALL

Olney Town Meeting

On Monday, Jan. 23, 2006 the Greater Olney Community Council (GOCC) hosted a special Town Meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The topics focused on the recent surge in street crime, particularly crimes committed with handguns in Olney. The forum included presentations from GOCC chair Kathy Harris; Crime Prevention Officer Barbara Blackford and Capt. McCloskey, 35th District; Inspector Joe Sullivan, Northwest Division; Anthony Murphy and Jasuu Burgee, Town Watch Integrated Services; Stef Carp, District Attorney's office; and Dr. Walt Palmer, father of a recent shooting victim at the 7-11 on Champlost Ave.

Dr. Palmer delivered powerful messages:

- Communities have to be vigilant and watch all the time. Communities must enhance the peace.
- Take charge of the children in your household. Make sure their

conduct is appropriate *inside* of the home, so it will be appropriate *outside* of the home.

- Parents must get involved in the schools.
- The success in your community is the fewer number of times you have to call the police.
- *Be watchful, be mindful.*

Ofc. Blackford cited two examples of the power of the press, and the effectiveness of putting a spotlight on criminal behavior. Two recent crime sprees seem to have been suspended after the Olney Times posted front page articles describing the thefts. Also, call 215-683-guns if you know of someone with a gun who should not have one. The GRRIP program (Gun Recovery Reward Information Program) gives rewards up to \$5000 for guns turned in. She further cautions that robberies have increased in the Front and Olney area, and that there has been a general increase in burglaries.

The President of Town Watch, Anthony Murphy, strongly encouraged neighborhood community involvement.

Recent Article

The homicide rate in 2005 totaled 380, the highest level since 1997. 82% of the homicide victims are Black. "A spike in shootings among the young is one reason homicide numbers are so high."¹ Budget reductions since 2004 have reduced police manpower from 7000 to about 6400. The homicide rate in 2004 was 330. Coincidence?

Part One crimes are the most serious criminal offenses. This category includes the eight most serious felonies: murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, theft, and arson. These have decreased 25% between 1995 and 2004.

Compstat, short for computer statistics, is a theory of policing brought to Philadelphia from New York in 1998 by Police Commissioner John Timoney. Police commanders scrutinize weekly crime statistics. There are four major elements:

- **Real time data.** The location of crimes is delivered overnight by

computer. Helps police to quickly discern patterns and active spots, and deploy officers accordingly.

- **Accountability.** Police captains and inspectors must answer for crimes in their districts.
- **Community policing.** Outreach to the community is key. Police alert local groups, who "alert the community. Cops call it "target hardening."
- **Focus on minor crimes.** More attention is paid to smaller violations (loitering, curfew violations, vandalism, gambling) on the theory that it may prevent serious crime.

Reference articles:

¹ "A Cop's Dilemma," Simone Weichselbaum. *Philadelphia Daily News*, 1/13/06.

"Good News in Crime Numbers," Tom Ferrick Jr. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1/22/06.



The police urgently need our partnership, our eyes and ears, to help keep our streets and homes safe.

"Be watchful, be mindful."

OAK LANE LIBRARY OF THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILA BY T. MICHAEL POXON

Please note: Next Meeting of the Friends of the Oak Lane Library is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 pm** at the Library, 12th Street and Oak Lane. We hope to learn of the restoration of Saturday hours. Please say hello to the new staff members the next time you visit the library.

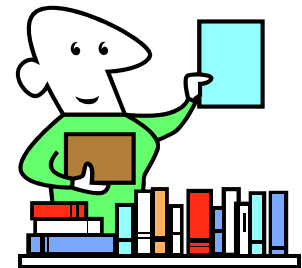
Book Club Open Meeting with Refreshments

Please note: Next Meeting of the Book Club is scheduled for February 22nd at 7:00 pm.

The following book will be the subject of discussion: "*Stealing God's Thunder: Benjamin Franklin's Lightning Rod and the Invention of America*" by Philip Dray. Michael Poxon shall lead the discussion of the book whose major themes are the Age of Enlightenment, Experimentation and Philosophy; the scientific thinkers and experimenters of the 18th century; and the role played by Benjamin Franklin in removing electrical phenomena from the realm of religion and mythology and transferring it to the fields of philosophy and naturalism.

All members of the Oak Lane Community are welcome and urged to attend. The Ben Franklin exhibition at the National Constitution Center at 6th and Arch has much to offer that would supplement material found in the book. Those who attend the exhibition and report what they learn will be most welcome. Readers who inspect the exhibition will find their appreciation for the material discussed in the book raised significantly.

This month is designated by the City of Philadelphia as the month to read a work by Ben Franklin. Last month the members of the book club read Ben Franklin's Autobiography. The assigned book, *Stealing God's Thunder*, is now available in paperback.



**NEWLY ELECTED
PRESIDENT JUDGE
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
BY CARMEN JIMENEZ**



The newly elected President Judge of Common Pleas Court is a long-time resident of East Oak Lane. Yes, we are talking

about our own C. Darnell Jones, II. President Judge Jones has been a judge of the Common Pleas Court since his appointment by Gov. Robert Casey in 1987. Before that he was the Chief of the Family Court Division at the Defender Association of Philadelphia where he met his lovely wife Evelyn Jones. They have five great children who participate together with Evelyn in many activities sponsored by OLCAA and Ellwood Elementary School.

President Judge Jones has been teaching since 1991 in law school, graduate school and continuing legal and judicial education. He currently teaches Handling Capital Cases and Criminal Evidence for the National Judicial College. Judge Jones was sworn in as President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District (Philadelphia County) on January 20th in the presence of 200 colleagues, friends and family members in a City Hall courtroom. He will hold this prestigious position for five years. Jones wants to use his former Family Court experience to rid the public perception that judges are callous and separate families.

According to the Philadelphia Tribune, Jones said he hopes to make Philadelphia's court system a leader in judicial education and plans to institute statewide judicial education in handling death penalty trials.

President Judge Jones continues to say "I could not be happier in my life's chosen profession than I am being a judge." He said, "It is about being able to serve people in a way that is best suited to the way I am, how I am, my eagerness for learning, teaching and helping. It is just the right fit for me as a career."

We are fortunate having such a distinguished resident in East Oak Lane. Congratulations from OLCAA, all of its residents and continued success in your professional career.

OAK LANE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Interested in quilting, knitting or other needle crafts?

Join us at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church on Tuesday mornings from 10 am to Noon. Here is an opportunity to work on a project or to socialize with other craft enthusiasts. Beginners are welcomed!!!

OAK LANE DAY 2006

On January 20th, the Oak Lane day Committee held its kick-off meeting in the home of T.J. Scully, who will chair the event. Six Board members and nine volunteers brainstormed in a very enthusiastic, chatty and imaginative session, reviewing past successes of Oak Lane Day and floating ambitious new ideas.

Mark your calendars! Oak Lane Day will be held near 10th Street

and Oak Lane on **June 3, 2006**, the first Saturday of June, with a rain date, if needed, on the following day. Many of those present generously agreed to take on assignments and all agreed that more volunteers will be needed to fill the many jobs, large and small, which need to be done before the big day. OLCAA members Casey and Dugan McShain have agreed to circulate the petition to get neighbors' consent for the street closing, to solicit area businesses for prize donations and to obtain loans or rental prices of tables and chairs for food and crafters. Neighbor Marliese Johnson will be exploring children's activities and games. Board member TJ Scully will be reporting information back to the committee about sources of donations and President Kelly McShain Tyree will negotiate for police services for the day. Resident Tree Tender extraordinaire Charlie Philips, together with Board member and former Oak Lane Day Chair, Cathy Smith, will be taking point positions at contacting volunteers as the Day draws nearer.

In the meantime, we need more volunteers to help, first and foremost, by volunteering themselves, by finding others to volunteer, by soliciting sponsors for ads on Oak Lane Day T-Shirts, by finding talented crafters to rent tables and sell their wares, by donating international foods for sale, by cooking and selling hot dogs, ribs, chicken and so on, by finding magicians, jugglers, singers, musicians, cooking demonstrators, animal handlers, science demonstrators and anyone else who might educate, entertain or otherwise help us celebrate the rebirth of this vital, multicultural organization which has done so much to enhance the spirit this neighborhood and

present it to the rest of the City for so many years. (Deep breath!)

We specifically need to find leaders to coordinate: 1) Food and Beverage Sales; 2) Neighbor-made International Foods; 3) Rental of the craft tables; 4) The Entertainment Committee; and 5) The Set-up Committee. We count ourselves fortunate to have City, corporate and education officials in our neighborhood who can doubtless help make this day a success.

Because so much needs to be done, soon, and to keep the momentum rolling, the committee has decided to meet twice a month. Every Oak Lane neighbor is invited to attend and participate in planning and carrying out this day. Our first February meeting will be on **Monday, Feb. 13 at 7 PM** in the home of Casey McShain, 821 Oak Lane, Tel: 201-914-0581. Our second February meeting will be on **Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 PM** in the home of Marliese Johnson, 6634 N. 11th Street, Tel: 215-424-2340.

Contact T. J. Scully with questions, ideas, offers of help by calling 215-224-6242(home) or 215-510-2906 (cell), or better yet e-mail tjscully@comcast.net. *We thank you for your support!*

EDUCATION & CULTURAL ARTS

BY JOANNE L. MOORE-DENT,
CHAIR & EVELYN JONES

On Saturday December 3, 2006 the Education & Cultural Arts Program of OLCAA held its first Youth Summit at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church located at 11th & Oak Lane. In attendance were 25+ young adults, who represented a cross sector of the youth in our neighborhood. They came together to meet, eat, take

a survey, and share their ideas about the kinds of activities they were interested in having in the community. For their participation, their names were entered into a contest to win one of two DVD Disc Players donated by **Joseph & JoAnne Dent of East Oak Lane**. Congratulations to our two lucky winners!!



Also Kudos and many thanks to our neighboring partners "Pizza Hut" located at Broad Street & 66th Ave, who donated the food; the "Oak Lane Library" located at 12th & Oak Lane who supplied the books and giveaways; the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church; the Youth Committee; Boy Scout Troop Number 19 who are always ready and willing to help; and the parents, neighbors and friends who helped to make this a successful event.

A special "Thanks" to all of the youth who participated in the summit. Your voice has been heard. Here are the survey results: Top Contenders: Arts & Crafts, Football, Basketball, Video, Movie Night, Ice Skating, Theater/ Drama, Camping, Teen Night Out and Swim Club.

ATTENTION: Calling all East Oak Lane Instructors!!

The Education & Cultural Arts Committee of OLCAA and The Mt Airy Learning Tree have joined together to form a new collaboration to offer classes and activities in and around our neighborhood beginning the fall 2006. If you like to teach, have a specialty, or are an expert in any particular (art, yoga, cooking,

finance, home repairs, knitting, etc.) we would like to encourage you to participate as an instructor. **Please call our hotline at 215-224-2777 and press mailbox # 5.** Leave your name, number and a brief description of your class. Most classes will be held once a week for up to 6 weeks. ***The deadline to register is May 1, 2006.***

GARDENING NEWS BY CAROLYN BERGER

February 2nd, Ground Hog Day, approaches. If sunny, the Ground Hog will see its shadow. Tradition tells us that we can then look forward to 6 more weeks of winter.

As I type this in January, Philadelphia has had a mild winter. The Snow Drops in my garden have been blooming for over a week. They can even bloom through the snow.

Snow Drops naturalize. I can guarantee, they will spread to other places in the garden.

After the Snow Drops other winter blooming flowers appear. The waxy yellow Winter Aconite and the variously colored crocus. Winter Aconite produces a ripe seed pod 2 weeks after blooming. The seed pod is at the top of the plant. The pod can be snapped off revealing ripe, brown seeds. Scatter them on the ground and they will root. In 2 years the new plants will bear flowers.

By the time you read this article forsythias will soon be in flower. Yellow flowers cover the bush with nary a leaf to be seen.

Forsythia should be planted in full sun for maximum flowering. The leaves appear as the flowers die off.

My favorite early bloomers, the Snow Drop and the Aconite last for several weeks giving springtime cheer even when the Ground Hog predicts the worse.

HINT:

To prevent most garden weeds from germinating, scatter Corn Gluten Meal on the ground in early spring when the ground is wet. This is an organic, non-polluting, degradable material available from garden centers. It is particularly useful on lawns for it does not affect grasses.

NEWLY ELECTED JUDGE



Also newly sworn on January 17th at the Academy of Music to the Municipal Court is a long time resident of East Oak Lane,

Judge Nazario Jimenez.

His family and friends attended the swearing in ceremony and luncheon and are very proud of this great accomplishment. Judge Jimenez's chamber is in the Criminal Justice Center and in addition to presiding in many courtrooms at the CJC, he can be seen presiding at Preliminary Hearings at our own 35th Police District. We extend our most sincere congratulations and continued success in your judicial career.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This Committee has been working feverously getting this OLCAA publication out to our Members, The Friends of the Oak Lane Library members and to the entire East Oak Lane Community.

We have been soliciting our local politicians to help in this

great effort and they are coming to our aid.

We, as a Committee, are also soliciting help by getting local and neighborhood companies to advertise in this publication and they have said overwhelmingly YES!!! Call us at 215-224-2777 to place an ad.

We are also working on our website and looking for advertisers. Call!!!

In addition, to this advertisement, we have changed the name of this Publication to "The East Oak Lane Paper" to better represent our Community.

HOUSING NEWS.....YOU CAN USE!

BY JAYE DIVINE
CO-CHAIR, HOUSING & ZONING COMMITTEE

As promised OLCAA's Housing and Zoning Committee is committed to sharing information and resources with our neighbors. This one could impact your bottom line. For East Oak Lane residents in zip codes 19126 and 19141, who use oil to heat their homes, I'd like to direct your attention to the Jan. 27, 2006 article that ran in the Philadelphia Inquirer entitled "Philadelphia's unlikely energy source". In summary, it stated that U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah (D. PA) brokered a deal which will enable some families in the Philadelphia region to save as much as 40% on their home heating oil costs. **To you and me that means paying \$288 instead of \$482 for 200 gallons of oil.** Make sense? The article states that 7,602 households that use oil in Philadelphia and in Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware and Chester counties have exhausted their aid from LIHEAP, the federal-state Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This oil subsidy is

intended to help those households.

Some politicians have criticized Fattah because the source of the oil is Venezuela, the world's 5th largest oil exporter, whose president, Hugo Chavez is antagonistic toward President Bush. However families in Boston, hit hard by the increasing oil prices, have already benefited from this program thanks to their democratic representatives. In the Inquirer article Representative Fattah was quoted as saying, "He hopes this action would inspire U.S. oil companies to offer subsidized heating oil." None have! In fact, many companies recently, reported record profits. **Good looking out Representative Fattah!**

To determine if your family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the LIHEAP grant you can contact your local energy center directly or the **Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) at (215) 988-0952** or www.ecasavesenergy.org. Jerry Bennett, director of programs at ECA said, "This discount program is a wonderful opportunity for Philadelphia clients to pay 60% of the retail price for oil. The program ends in April so get scheduled before the deadline. If eligible, you will receive a letter to present to your oil company stating that the other 40% will be paid for by the Citizens Energy Group. Also, be sure to order your 200 gallons at once, it is a one-time delivery!"

Nearby energy centers are the Greater Philadelphia Asian Social Services Center (GPASS) at 4943 N. 5th Street (near Rockland), in the Logan section at (215) 456-1662 and Germantown Settlement at 218 W. Cheltenham Avenue at (215) 849-3104.

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