



THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

February 2007- Vol. 1, Issue 9

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

Website: www.eastoaklane.org

There are many community events coming up. They are very important to our community.

Please participate in as many as you can. Be a part of this wonderful and historic community!

Calendar of Events:

- OICAA Pot Luck Dinner
- Oak Lane Day
- Friends of Oak Lane Library Book Discussions
- Oak Lane Presbyterian Church Cultural Arts Program
- Oak Lane Presbyterian Church Chicken Dinner
- Boy Scouts Troop #19 Pancake Breakfast
- East Oak Lane Town Watch Needs You

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

OLCAA Pot Luck Dinner Sunday, April 15 — 3-6 PM

We are hosting the OLCAA Pot Luck Dinner on Sun., Apr. 15 between 3-6PM at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church.
See Pg. 2

Welcome Sign to EOL

Our first sign is up
See our new welcome sign on Broad St. in front of CVS. More to come. **See Pg. 2**

EOL Town Watch

Tues., Feb. 27—7-9 PM
Training for Town Watch has been scheduled. Please volunteer to keep our community safe. **See Pg. 2**

Poor Bessie A listen in History

This article goes back in time to tell us the history of East Oak Lane. **See Pg. 3**

Oak Lane Day Sat., June 23—12-5 PM

Oak Lane Day is scheduled on Sat., June 23 between 8th & 10th Sts on Oak Lane Ave. Please call to volunteer your help. **See Pg. 3**

Call Me MISTER Program Opportunity for Seniors

This program is offered to black males in their senior year of high school. **See Pg. 4**

Renaissance of EOL Programs Available

There are programs that offer funding to bring back the beauty of our homes. **See Pg. 4**

Community Corner Let's Share the News.

We are calling to the community to share your news. Call the Hotline with your story. **See Pg. 5**

Tree Tenders Call Charlie for Trees.

Slater Foundation Contribution of \$1,000 received to plant trees.

Friends of Oak Lane Library Many Activities Planned

There are programs for adults as well as children. **See Pg. 6**

Oak Lane Presbyterian Church Sat., Mar 3 -- 11 AM—2 PM

Read about all the exciting activities planned this month and next. **See Pg. 6**

Boy Scouts Troop #19 Sat., May 19 — 8-11 AM

A pancake breakfast is coming soon. This is for a great cause. **See Pg. 6**

Valentines Day Cards Had did it start?

Have you ever thought how this holiday originated? Read on. **See Pg. 7**

OLCAA At Work We are happy to serve

We continue our efforts for and with the community. See what has been accomplished and advise us of your concerns and suggestions. **See Pg. 11**

Oak Lane Town Watch Restarts

By Bernadette Tanksley Convener

Training for East Oak Lane (EOL) Town Watch will occur Tuesday, February 27 from 7 to 9 PM at Holy Trinity Church, 9th-10th & Oak Lane (enter from 9th St parking lot). Jaasu Burgee, Community Specialist for Philadelphia Town Watch Integrated Services will be the trainer and our guide as we reactivate Town Watch in East Oak Lane.

Mr. Burgee attended our January Block Rep meeting and shared with us the fuller picture of what Town Watch is, what makes it work and how every resident can play a role in fighting crime and protecting our quality of life. Dr. Bettie Kleckley, Principal of Ellwood School, also attended the meeting and shared some of the needs and concerns at Ellwood and plans for a Safe Corridors program to support Ellwood students.

Hopefully, some EOL residents will be trained and commit to serving as Patrolling Town Watch and Safe Corridors participants. The real value of Town Watch however is in what is known as *Eyes and Ears*. Everyone owes it to themselves and their family to be trained in *Eyes and Ears*. Know what to look out and listen for as you move about in the neighborhood or relax in your home. Learn to recognize indicators of potential problems. Know what to do with those observations. Be in communication with your neighbors so you are not blind-sided as a victim when you could have been alert and postured for prevention.

We now have about 1/3 of the minimum 32 people signed up for the training. While this is enough for the

Eyes and Ears training session in February we cannot have meaningful coverage without at least 32 people from throughout East Oak Lane. Make plans to be present for the training **Tuesday evening February 27th**. Call the OLCAA Hotline (**215 224 2777**) to request further information or to let us know you plan to attend. A full count will allow us to move forward together with a solid well-coordinated coverage and communication network.

OLCAA Pot Luck Dinner

Apr 15, 2007

By Evelyn Jones
Pot Luck Chairperson

Hello Neighbors,

Last year OLCAA sponsored a very successful neighborhood Pot Luck dinner. The rains came pouring down that evening, and still, over seventy-five brave souls came out and enjoyed a delicious array of foods. Those brave souls were able to get some phenomenal deals at our "Silent Auction," as well as win great door prizes. A good time was had by all. The attendees suggested that we do it again. **Therefore**, OLCAA will again sponsor another neighborhood **Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday, April 15, 2007, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm** at the **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th & Oak Lane**. Come join your neighbors and friends for an evening of "chatting & great food". Spring is in the air, and we would love to see you there.

We're asking you 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)

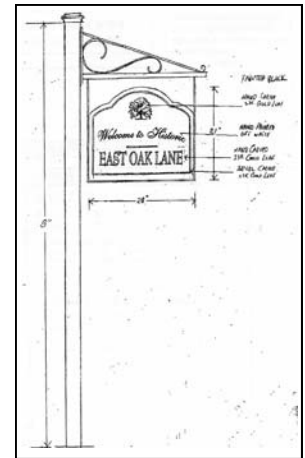
For us to better manage the dishes that will be brought, we are requesting that you please call the OLCAA number at 215-224-2777. Please leave your name and number and what you will be bringing. Please have your dish as ready to serve as possible. We can't wait to see you. Thanks in advance for your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

The Beautification Committee



"Ruth Bannon, of Ruth Bannon Signs, showcases our newest addition to the neighborhood with OLCAA president, Kelly McShain Tyree. Funding for this sign was made possible through a generous grant

of \$1,995 from the "Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation."



Proposed sign marking five (5) additional major gateways to East Oak Lane:

- Godfrey Avenue & N. 11th St.,
- Godfrey Avenue & N. 7th St.,
- Cheltenham Avenue and N. 5th St.,
- Cheltenham Ave. & Oak Lane,
- Cheltenham & 70th Ave. The cost of each sign is \$945. Currently seeking tax deductible donations from area neighbors and businesses for the new installations.

Please contact the Beautification Committee on the Hotline at: 215-224-2777, or mail your donation with your complete contact information to:

OLCAA
c/o The Beautification Committee
P.O. Box 2926
Philadelphia, PA 19126

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

OAK LANE DAY !!!

We
Need
You!



Sat—June 23, 2007

This year **Oak Lane Day** will be held on **Saturday, June 23, 2007, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**, between 8th and 10th Streets on Oak Lane Ave. (rain date Sunday, June 24 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 after April 1, 2007.

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. If you can donate at least 2 hours or more of your time on Saturday June 23, 2007 (rain date Sunday, June 24, 2007) please contact Jo Anne L. Moore-Dent a

olcaa.edarts@yahoo.com or call the OLCAA 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.

As you can see, there is a opportunity for everyone to participate. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the OLCAA hot line. Let's celebrate our neighborhood. Come out and join the fun.

All East Oak Laners, are needed.



Poor Bessie's Almanac (Things you should know about Oak Lane)

By Janet McShain

My Granma Bessie taught me to question, to wonder, and to try and figure things out. So when I discovered my old "English Long House" on Cheltenham Avenue, I questioned, wondered and tried to figure out why that big old place would have been built back in the 17th century? Who would have lived there, and what was its purpose? I soon found out that the first settlers in 1683 came with a purpose- to build a mill to create an economic venture, which would sustain the community. The Society of Traders' was formed in England and included many of our first landowners. William Penn came here on "The Welcome" with the parts for a 'grist mill' and with the man who would put them together to build their first mill. His name was Richard Townsend and he chose this area of East Oak Lane as a good place to build it because of its incredible waterways, woodlands, and pathways.



At the southwest corner of East Oak Lane (where Godfrey Ave. is today), at the lowest point was a stream called, "Rock Run," an east branch of the Wingo-hocking Creek. It emptied into the Frankford Creek and was fed by a natural spring from 65th & Old York Road. This stream was the dividing line between Townsend's 200 acres on the south, and Samuel Carpenter's 500 acres on the north (there was an old wooden water wheel at 12th & Godfrey still there in the 1890's). Carpenter was the wealthiest merchant in Penn's time and wisely knew the economic venture of the Society of Traders depended on this mill succeeding. Naturally, the mill needed easy access for the settlers to get to it, so putting it on the Lenni Lenape Indian Trail at the crossroads was a wise decision. The East-West path became known as Mill Street and later as Church Lane (it still intersects Broad St. today as Green Lane, below the post office). This road went from Germantown over to Frankford, crossing Adam's Avenue Bridge. The people brought their grain on horseback, then by cart, along the two paths.

As the need developed, the farmers would gather to wait for their flour to be ground, as they came from further and further distances- Continued on Pg. 5

Renaissance of East Oak Lane

By Kelly McShain Tyree

As president of the Oak Lane Community Action Association over the past two years, I have been thrilled and humbled by the community-wide efforts to bring spirit and vitality to our great neighborhood. Blocks organizing, fantastic cultural and educational events, the East Oak Lane Paper, tree plantings, beautification projects ...a true renaissance of East Oak Lane is evident. Well, the neighborhood now has an added incentive to go further with our revitalization work- a financial one. For homeowners, homebuyers or landlords looking to raise values and ensure a healthy and growing community, a zero-interest loan program for up to \$25,000 has recently become available to encourage reconverting multi-unit houses back to the single-family homes for which they were originally intended.

Protecting and raising property values, along with preserving and restoring our great architecture, have been important subjects raised by many in the community. Now, the Multi-Unit Conversion Program can be utilized by property owners to assist in their restoration projects. Rep. Mike McGeehan, who helped launch this program along with State Rep. Dwight Evans, shed some light on the importance of this plan: "In way, way too many cases, converting a single-family home into a multiple-unit dwelling has resulted in the property rapidly deteriorating. That leads to a vicious cycle in which the quality of life in the neighborhood goes down, along with property values. That prompts more people in single-family homes to move out and often absentee investors come in and convert these properties

into rentals, and on and on." State Rep. Dwight Evans adds, "the battle to revitalize neighborhoods happens block by block, and house by house. This pilot will be an important tool for communities to use in rebuilding."

Current Zoning Ordinances prohibit the conversion of East Oak Lane housing stock into multi-unit dwellings without special permission from the courts and from the community. Rightfully, there is much opposition to allowing such conversions. Over the years, properties 'slipped through the cracks' and the neighborhood began to suffer as a result, but now the trend is reversing. How might East Oak Lane property owners participate? If you're someone who has just purchased, or you have lived in your property for years- now might be the time to rethink your home. Just stay sensitive to the original architecture while restoring, and your home values will rise exponentially. If you are selling your home- consider a reconversion before you sell. A single family home tends to sell for a higher price than a multi-unit. Also, find a buyer who intends to live in the property as opposed to rent it out. Your neighbors will thank you for your consideration.

East Oak Lane is blessed with a wealth of housing stock that caters to all financial and family needs: singles, twins, row homes, along with the many commercial apartment buildings available for renters. The diversity and balance of homes and rental units makes for an exciting and vibrant community. Encouraging a sense of 'ownership' for all residents of the neighborhood, whether owning or renting, is the key to East Oak Lane's continued reviv-

talization. Adding value to our homes and to the neighborhood, raising the quality of life for the entire community, inviting others in to share in the good work being accomplished... East Oak Lane is a wonderful place to call home!

Individuals wanting more information about the reconversion program can contact the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency at: 1-800-342-2397.

Male High School Senior Want to go to College, Read On...

Do you know any black males in their senior year of high school who want to go to college out of state for FREE. The black colleges are looking for future black male teachers and will send them to universities/college for 4years FREE. This is for MALES ONLY. Have the parents fill out this application. Read the Mission Statement. There are about 10 different colleges or universities. Send this to your friends also. Cut and paste one of these links into your browser. www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.htm

The Call Me MISTER program combines the special strengths and resources of Clemson University with the individualized instructional programs offered by four historically black colleges in South Carolina: Benedict College, Claflin University, Morris College and South Carolina State University. To provide even greater opportunity and access, students have the option of first attending one of our two-year partner colleges before transferring to one of the four-year institutions to complete their baccalaureate degree. In addition, the project has limited enrollment in the middle school Master of Art in Teaching program.

Please click on the participating schools on the menu to the left to learn more about these schools' programs.

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/benedict.htm> Benedict College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/claflin.htm Claflin University

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/clemson.htm Clemson University

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/morris.htm Morris College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/southcarolinastate.htm South Carolina State University

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/greenvilletech.htm Greenville Tech. College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/midlands.htm Midlands Technical College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/orangeburgcalhountech.htm Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/tricountytech.htm Tri-County Technical College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/tridenttech.htm Trident Technical College

www.callmemister.clemson.edu/policies.htm Policies

Lee L. Kellough III, P.E. Energy Management Organization, Manager-Transmission Engineering Svcs, Parkwood II Bldg., Ste 300, The Woodlands, TX 77380. Off: 281-297-3633 Cell: 936-718-2332.

Poor Bessie (Con'd)

a tavern was a necessity for warmth, camaraderie, and later for overnight accommodations. Samuel Carpenter understood this when he built the "English Long House" close to the mill at 11th & Cheltenham. It was complete with "an



"Inglenook-" a warming bench within the fire place, a crane for cooking stews, a cistern for watering horses in the courtyard, and rooms for staying overnight with 10 fireplaces. It was built as an "ordinary-" a tavern, also used for meetings, for post, for elections, or whatever the community needed, like funerals, auctions, or social gatherings.

"Bristol Township" was the first name, which included the mill, the tavern and the homes of the new settlers up to County Line now Cheltenham Avenue. When Richard Townsend built the mill for William Penn, he started the reason for this economic hub and it spread from there. Carpenter sold his property to Griffith Miles in 1695, the town became known as Milestown, an impor-

tant crossroads with many travelers going in and out of Philadelphia. The Lenni Lenape Trail was expanded into King's Road going to New York, being surveyed in 1711 along 11th Street. The mill was rebuilt after a "freshet" destroyed it in 1700. The Quakers collected money for Townsend and as a result it was improved and expanded to become a stone mill complete with a weather vane with the initials W.P., S.C., and C.P. (William Penn, Samuel Carpenter, and Caleb Pusey) and was located on Church Rd. near York Road. The crossroads became known as "Branchtown" because of the many roads going from here branching out to the North, NE, and NW, including Stenton, Limekiln, Easton, 2nd St. Pike, Adam's Ave., York Road and Martin's Mill Road (now Oak Lane). The York Road was resurveyed and straightened again and again as traffic increased until 1802 when it became the Willow Grove Turnpike located where it is today. The area gradually lost its identification of "Bristol" after 1700, when the other Bristol of Buck's County developed up the Delaware River. Eventually, our town was incorporated into the City in 1854 about the time the railroad came through into "Oak Lane" as a stop on the railroad. Whether known as Bristol, Milestown, Branchtown, or the East Oak Lane of today, it was the first settled town, with the first mill, and the first important crossroads of Penn's time. There certainly was a reason why our neighborhood was chosen, it's the best,

and always was the first "northern gateway" to Philadelphia. We can certainly be very proud of it. We still have much to question, wonder and figure out for our future of our historic neighborhood.

Community Corner

Did you know that one of our own members of OLCAA has announced his candidacy for one of the vacancies on the PA Supreme Court. President Judge C. Darnell Jones, II who has resided in EOL for 18 years with his wife and five children, recently announced that he is seeking a seat on the State Supreme Court. This is a statewide election. The primary will be May 15th. Much more about his candidacy will follow. Let's get out and support our neighbor!

News from Urban Forest

Tree Tenders Mtg 7:30 pm Feb 15, 2007 -

at the Wagner's house, 6812 Verbena. Agenda: funds raised, spring bare root planting, Spring Concert, soliciting tree locations for fall 07, island care.

A total of **62 trees** will be planted in Oak Lane this spring, 38 of them with our own hands. Won't you **join us** in planting trees? Call 215-924-1722 to volunteer.

Greenplan Philadelphia is a City sponsored partnership to develop a comprehensive plan for open space in Phila. It is exciting to see high level attention to greening and open space. There is a conference on **Shade Trees** on Feb 12, 8:30 am—4:30 pm. For details & RSVP call Regina Cobbs 215-988-8896 or RSVP email rcobbs@pennhort.org

Tending Gateway. Gateway at Broad and 66th Ave is finished, it requires tending.. Would **you** like to **clean the islands?** It takes less than an hour. Call Charlie Philips 215-924-1722.

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Friends of Oak Lane Library

By T. Michael Poxon,
President



Early in January, the Friends of the Oak Lane Library installed two handsome Victorian black planters on their own matching pedestals at the main entrance to the Library. Kelly McShain Tyree and her brother Devitt installed the planters in the exact spot where planters had been in years past. Michael Poxon and Johnny Williams planted handsome variegated English boxwood shrubs in them. Primex Garden Center in Glenside donated these handsome shrubs to the Oak Lane Library as a gift to our community. The Boxwood shrubs emit a wonderful aroma as you enter the Library.

Primex Garden Center is located nearby at 435 West Glenside Avenue, Glenside, PA

THANK YOU PRIMEX!!!

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library next book discussions will be:

John O'Hara's *Appointment in Samarra* (1934) - Discussion Leader—Michael Poxon **at 7 PM Monday, Feb 5—In Library Community Room**

August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* — Discussion leaders—Kelly McShain & Robert Tyree **at 7 PM Mon, Mar 5—In Library Community Room**

The Friends will sponsor the following speaker:

Brett Mandell, Director, Philadelphia Forward. Topic: Phila Business Privilege Tax. Wed, March 14th, at 7 PM. Library Community Room.

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library would like to organize a Junior Great Book Group this summer. Anyone interested in becoming a Junior Great Book Discussion leader should contact: Shirley Philips: (215-924-1722) or come to the next meeting of the Friends.

The Friends of the Oak Lane Library's next meeting is: **Wednesday February 21st, 2007 at 7 PM** in the Library Community Room.



A further note of activities at the Oak Lane Library sponsored by LEAP:

- **February 7th 3:30 PM** Kids Read Poetry
- **February 14th 3:30 PM** Kids Make Valentine Day Crafts
- **February 23rd 3:30 PM** Pencil Puzzles for Kids

News from Oak Lane Presbyterian Church

February is Black History Month, and the Oak Lane Cultural Arts Program will celebrate the culmination of this month with a program **on Saturday March 3, 2007** at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church—11AM to 2 PM.

There will be **poetry, singing, storytelling, African dancing and drumming, a panel discussion, vendors and much more.** We urge everyone to come out and help us celebrate. To raise money for our cultural arts program, we will be selling **chicken dinners for \$7.50** in the Social Hall on the lower level. Orders for meals are being taken now, so get your orders in early. Choose one from each category:

- Fried or Baked Chicken
- Macaroni & Cheese or Macaroni Salad
- Greens or String Beans
- Corn Bread or White Bread
- Pie or Cake

Contact Persons are:

Harriett Akerson @ 215-888-9018 and Allegra Mucha @ 215-548-4360.

Guitar Classes

We are blessed to have Mr. Wanamaker Lewis, a master of the guitar, joining our Cultural Arts program. Mr. Lewis will be teaching the guitar in small group sessions, for students ages 13 to adults, on Wednesdays 4—8 PM. To schedule lessons with Mr. Lewis, please call 215-424-4446. (Follow the prompts for the Cultural Arts Program and leave a voice message.) For those of you who do not know Mr. Lewis, he has performed at Carnegie Hall, for Philadanco and locally at the Keswick Theatre. These are but a few of his many accomplishments. With his mastery of the guitar, he will be teaching popular music, jazz, flamenco, and classical styles, using his remarkable gifts & talents. We happily welcome Mr. Lewis.

Presbyterian Women of Oak Lane

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, February 17th at 10:00 AM** at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. The theme will be African American History, with food and stories. All women are welcome.

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

The Boy Scouts Troop #19 will hold a Pancake Breakfast at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church on **Sat, May 19th from 8 - 11 AM.** Donation \$6. Please come and support the Scouts.

VALENTINES DAY CARDS

By Marita K. Poxon
Historic Preservation
Committee

Valentines Day evokes wonderful memories from my childhood. When I was in elementary school, our teacher would make a Valentines Day mailbox around the end of January. It would be covered with bright paper on which were applied red hearts on cut-out lace doilies, cupids, doves and other icons of Valentines day. My class of around 20 students would put our homemade & "5 & 10" Cent Store Valentines into the box for weeks before February 14th. There was always great anticipation on Valentines Day when the box was opened and the Valentines delivered. We would then find out how many Valentines we had received and if we had any secret Valentines. Now many years later as I contemplate sending out my Valentines via the US mail and electronically over the Internet, I have done some research on how this Holiday began. For February 14th is a day when Americans exchange more than

one billion Valentine cards second only to Christmas in volume.

The true origins of Valentines Day are shrouded in legend. The Romans celebrated a holiday on February 14th to honor the goddess Juno, the Goddess of marriage. Women submitted their names to a box and men would draw out one name. These two would be a couple for the holiday. At that time, it was believed that birds chose their mates for the coming season on February 14th. In another legend, the martyr, Valentinus, sent a letter of affection to his jailer's daughter on the eve of his execution signed "from your Valentine." Valentines Day was a celebration of love and fertility. Christianity took over this day and named the Roman, Valentinus, St. Valentine. Church authorities hoped to discourage rituals that encouraged overt sensuality. However, when the Renaissance of the 14th Century arrived, celebrations of earthly love rather than religious faith resumed. The earliest known Valentines were poems composed for the European courts. The Roman custom of men and women drawing lots for Valentines resumed and again celebrated secular love. Valentines Day poetry con-

nected the dawning of Spring with love, sexuality and procreation.



By the time of the 17th Century, lotteries became less common and the selection of one person as a Valentine was more deliberate. It was customary to present a gift along with the Valentine poem ranging from love knots to opulent jewelry. By the mid-18th century, costly Valentine gifts were replaced by elaborate love messages on handwritten cards. The artistic embellished their love poems with lace and drawings. Some were sent anonymously. Valentines cards, as we know them today really developed in the Victorian era when commercially printed Valentine cards superseded handmade cards. Cards were produced in tens of thousands with effusively, sentimental or whimsically humorous words. The paper cards had attached to them over the top embel-

ishments including lace, ribbons, dried flowers, real bird feathers and spun glass hearts. Today's Valentines Day cards pale in comparison to those of the Victorian era. People spend more money on chocolates, flowers, dinners & jewelry than on the

Valentines Day card itself. However, people still are looking to find their one true love, that special person who might become their mate for life. So today, even as in Victorian days, a Valentine card represents a search for true love.

Correction... Ghost Walk

We inadvertently did not include all the people who contributed home baked goods for the Ghost Walk. Please accept our apology.

They were Shirley Phillips, Cathy Arbour, Marilyn Baltz, Betty Smith, Judy Reider, Pam Moore, Ella Schwartz, Carol Weinbaum, Florence Bailey, Sharon Losier, Cathy Smith and Lila Berger. Thank you!

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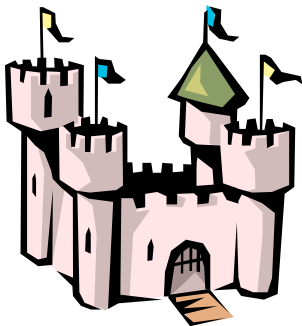
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SEE OUR
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**OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (OLCAA)
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007

- 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**



OAK LANE COMMUNITY
ACTION ASSOCIATION

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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OLCAA AT WORK

- Attended GreenPlan Philadelphia "Open Space Matters" forum to address the beauty and maintenance of public spaces in our community and help design a comprehensive plan for the future.
- Attended "Business Opportunities on Neighborhood Corridors" forum sponsored by the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. Brought attention to the business opportunities along Northern Broad St. and Old York Rd. Also communicated our need for the City to better address blight along our corridors, in order to attract quality businesses which better serve the needs of the community.
- Raised over \$2,000 through the generous
 - donations of East Oak Lane neighbors and businesses, to purchase 8 Victorian Urns for the two bridges located along 66th Avenue at N. 10th St., and along Oak Lane at N. 8th St. These Urns will be permanently installed and planted with evergreens and annuals for the present and future generations of the neighborhood. Dedication plaques will denote the contributors (of \$200 or more).
 - Permanently installed 8 Victorian Planters on two neighborhood bridges-secured permission and was issued permits through the Phila Streets Department under Commissioner Clarena I.W. Tolson. Also, installed 2 Victorian Planters at the Oak Lane Library.
 - Contacted SEPTA to step up maintenance of the interior of the railroad tracks from Cheltenham Avenue to Oak Lane. Report # 317365 (11/28/06).
 - Worked with neighbors, as well as Eric Hardaway of Dwight Evans' Office, to address the blighted condition of 970 W. Cheltenham Ave. Eric Hardaway, and Board Members, Sharon Williams Losier and Kelly McShain Tyree, testified in court and won the case for L&I to demand immediate property restoration or face fines. L&I will also inspect the interior conditions of the building
 - Met with Police Officers-Baynard and Blackford to address monthly disturbances and quality of life issues. Officer Baynard will patrol the area in conjunction with SWEEP and L&I, to investigate properties not adhering to local Laws and Ordinances. Spoke with Captain McCloskey who committed to increased patrolling where incidents have occurred.
- Contacted the Highway Division of the Streets Department regarding repaving 66th Avenue. To make this a priority for the City, please continue to call at: 215-686-5560.
- Attended Hearings for Office of Housing and Community Development asking citizens for their input for funding programs this next year. Communicated our appreciation for their funding non-profit Commercial Development Corporations, such as OARC, who are working with our community for revitalization and greening projects.
- Called abandoned car removal hotline for the RV camper left at 9th St. at Oak Lane.

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

Membership New Renewal

Individual \$10.00 Family \$12.00 Senior/Student \$7.00 Patron \$25.00

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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
Joanne Balitzky - Membership
6342 N. 6th Street Philadelphia, PA 19126



COME: To Learn More and Sign Up
At Block Rep Meetings
The 4th Tuesday of the Month

Holy Trinity Church, 9th-10th & Oak Lane at 7 PM
[Enter from 9th Street Parking Lot]

TRAIN FOR: Patrolling Town Watch
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CALL: Oak Lane Community Action Association (OLCAA)
HOTLINE: 215-224-2777
For a List of Training Dates



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