



# THE EAST OAK LANE PAPER

Sponsored by **OLCAA** (Oak Lane Community Action Association) April 2006- Vol. 1, Issue 5  
PO Box 2926, Philadelphia, PA 19126 Tel: 215-224-2777

## Calendar of Events

- **Northern Gates – Tree Planting—Apr 8th**
- **Spring Cleaning —April 22nd**
- **Meeting with City Agencies at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church—April 27 at 9:00—11:00 AM**
- **Wanted Instructors” Deadline May 1st**
- **Friends of Oak Lane Library “Garden Tour”—May 6, 7, 8**
- **OLCAA General Membership Meeting at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church—May 17 at 7:00 PM**
- **Oak Lane Day—June 3rd (June 4th Rain Date)**

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Happy Spring! What a perfect season to acknowledge the rebirth of our East Oak Lane and to celebrate the community’s spirit of revitalization and renewal. OLCAA in conjunction with The Friends of the Oak Lane Library have many exciting events on the horizon. Start marking your calendars!

## Northern Gates

*Plant 70 trees in EOL*

As promised, “**The Northern Gates**” project has begun and the islands at Broad St. and 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue are being planted. Tree lovers can join the Oak Lane Tree Tenders on **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** to complete our ambitious effort to plant over 70 trees at the Gateway to East Oak Lane. Come meet at The Oak Lane Presbyterian Church at 12<sup>th</sup> St. & Oak Lane at 8:30 am for the “**Big Dig.**” See Pg. 8

## Spring Cleaning

*Entire EOL Neighborhood*

Our first annual East Oak Lane wide “**Spring Cleaning**” will be held on Earth Day: **Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Let’s put our best face forward and join together to kick off the season of outdoor living. Get out your weed wackers, hedge trimmers, rakes, shovels, and trash bags to spruce up not only your own properties, but our common areas as well. This is a great time to organize your block for beautification.

## Tasco’s Suggestion

*May the Force Be With You*

A “**Task Force**” is being developed by OLCAA and Councilwoman Marian Tasco

to address ‘quality of life’ concerns here in East Oak Lane. State Rep. Dwight Evans also expressed interest in targeting our needs.

**Join us,** we will be meeting on **Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am** at **The Oak Lane Presbyterian Church.**

Traditionally, “problem neighborhoods” have received much attention, but quiet communities such as ours have fallen under the radar. We are thrilled to focus the attention of various City Agencies on the needs of our specific neighborhood with the boundaries being: Godfrey Ave to Cheltenham Ave., and Broad St. to N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Representatives from L&I, Noise Control, the 35<sup>th</sup> Police District, and the Managing Directors Office will attend. **Please join us, or call our Hotline at 215-224-2777 to express your concerns.**

## Garden Tour and Party

*The Friends of the Oak Lane Library & Tree Tenders*

The beauty of East Oak Lane abounds with its rich architecture and green space. The Friends of the Oak Lane Library and The Oak Lane Tree Tenders will honor our treasures by hosting “**The Garden Tour and Party of East Oak Lane**” on **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm**. Tickets are \$15. See article on Pg. 2.

## GENERAL MEETING for OLCAA!

*Vote for Board Members*

It’s time for the annual **GENERAL MEETING for OLCAA!** On **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** at the Oak

Lane Presbyterian Church.

Come and vote for the outgoing members of the Board of Directors of your neighborhood organization for East Oak Lane. Come and meet the current Board Members, say hello to friends and neighbors, join a Committee, renew your membership, or air your comments and concerns. Please consider running as a candidate yourself and contributing your talents and energy. This Community flourishes when neighbors participate. Remember, only members can vote. Send your 2006 membership form today!

## OAK LANE DAY

*Biggest Neighborhood Celebration*

Get ready for **OAK LANE DAY!** Our biggest neighborhood celebration of the year promises to be very exciting. The festivities will be held on: Oak Lane (7th-10th Sts.) **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

To make it a spectacular event- WE NEED YOU! We are soliciting Artists and Artisans to sell their wares. We need Dancers, Singers, and Musicians to entertain and to showcase the multi-cultural talents of East Oak Laners. We’re asking for neighbors to contribute their best dishes to the International Food Festival. Our most important request is for *volunteers* to help organize this wonderful day, a celebration of the beauty and multi-cultural richness of our community.



## Garden Tour and Party

### East Oak Lane

Saturday—May 6 1-5 pm

*Rain Date Sunday May 7*

Visit nine residential gardens

Fabulous homemade food Buy used garden books

Plant Sale—bedding plants, hanging baskets

Plant Exchange—bring a plant from your garden

Receive a FREE plant from someone else's garden

\$15 adults \* children under 16 free

**Tickets by mail write checks to Friends of the Oak Lane Library**

Send to 6503 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19126

or Call 215-924-1389 for tickets

**A benefit for Oak Lane Tree Tenders and Friends of the Oak Lane Library**

The starting point (and same day ticket sales) is 6605 Lawnton Avenue



### **Jaye Divine** **Your Neighborhood Realtor**

- What is your home worth?
- What adds value ?
- What affects an areas values?

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### **BOYSCOUT TROOP 19** **ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



Sponsored by the Mothers of Troop 19

**Saturday, May 20th**

**Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th & Oak Lane**

**8:00—11:00 AM \*\*\* Donation: \$6.00**

**per person**

## IMPROVING YOUR CURB APPEAL

BY BEAUTICATION COMMITTEE

"Curb Appeal" is the new catch phrase (for anyone who watches HGTV) which is changing our perspective on how we see not only our own property, but how we see the homes on our street, and our neighborhood. By following some of these simple tips you can not only raise your property value, but create a safer more beautiful neighborhood as well. It's a great concept: walk across the street and take a fresh look at your home. Look at your property from every angle and ask yourself these questions:

- Do I understand the architectural style of my home?
- Are the colors and the design choices I've made in step with the style of architecture, as well as the tranquility of the neighborhood?
- Can I remove added 'siding' that may be hiding beautiful architectural details like Tudor carpentry, Victorian shingles or old millwork under the eaves?
- If living in a twin - can I work with my neighbor to choose a common color and roofing material to honor the original intention of the architect?
- Does my home need a fresh coat of paint, restoration or repair work?
- Can I place my satellite dish in the rear of house?
- Do I have unsightly chain link fence or cinder block walls visible from the street?
- Can I remove fences or walls and replace with shrubbery and trees?
- Do I have extraneous debris or abandoned vehicles that can be removed from my yard?
- Are my trash and recycling containers stored away from view of the sidewalk?
- Can I add flowers to beautify my landscaping?

How about at night, can I turn on my porch light to illuminate my property?

Simple adjustments can yield beautiful results for our homes and properties. In order to achieve 'curb appeal,' it is not necessary to embellish or to eliminate what was originally designed. Remember that the beauty of our East Oak Lane homes is already there- waiting to be restored and revealed for all to share.

## GARDEN TOUR & PARTY

Sponsored by

FRIENDS OF THE OAK LANE LIBRARY & TREE TENDERS

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006, 1-5 PM

BY MARITA KRIVDA POXON

The gardens of nine East Oak Lane homes will be featured on a Garden Tour this May to benefit the Friends of the Oak Lane Library & Tree Tenders. May is one of the most beautiful months in Oak Lane because so many of the flowering trees, shrubs, perennials and bushes are in bloom. Azaleas are particularly vivid in East Oak Lane and will be bursting with color at the time of our Garden Tour. Put on a comfortable pair of shoes and dust off that straw hat so that you can walk through our beautiful neighborhood on a day when the May sunshine will highlight the vivid colors of Spring.

The gardens that will be on the tour embrace a wide variety of designs and feature different flowering plants and trees. The Garden Tour will

start at the home of Charlie and Shirley Philips, 6605 N. Lawnton Avenue. Here you will buy tickets and get a descriptive brochure and the addresses of the nine gardens that are participating. You can go around to the gardens either walking or driving in any order that you wish. The gardens will be open between the hours of 1 - 5 PM and each garden should have a host who will explain the flowering plants and trees on his/her property. The Philips's will also host a garden party during the afternoon with homemade foods, lemonade, make your own ice-cream sundaes, and cakes available. Come exchange gardening tips on a rolling, spacious lawn behind a wonderful Victorian home while sampling delicious homemade treats. On the front porch there will be a 'bookstore' where you can purchase gardening books, cookbooks and books on interior decorating. These books have been donated to the Friends of the Oak Lane Library.

**At the Berger's home, 6655 Lawnton Avenue,** you will be able to purchase new bedding plants for your own garden. At the Dillard's home, 709 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, you can exchange a plant for another plant. So dig up and divide some of that Hosta or Iris or Black-Eyed Susan that has gotten out of control and exchange it for some new perennial plant to give your own garden a different look.

If you are interested in volunteering that day at the Philips's host house, please call Shirley (215-924-1722) since we need people to help serve food and keep an eye on the ice cream table. We could also use some energetic people to help us clean up.

**The cost of admission is \$15 for adults; children under 16 are free.** The money raised will help us buy much needed educational materials for the Oak Lane Library and help plant more trees to further beautify our leafy, green neighborhood assuring us of future springs filled with budding flowers and trees.

## SPRING CLEAN UP

HOUSING & ZONING  
BY PJ THOMAS

The first organized **East Oak Lane Clean Up Day**, supported by OLCAA and Philadelphia More Beautiful (PMBC), is scheduled for **7 am—10:30 am on Sat, April 22, 2006**. Special trash trucks will begin picking up debris at 12 PM on that day. Please, no bulk items such as appliances, furniture, tires, and no hazardous materials like gasoline and motor oil. Bring all bags to the end of your blocks for pickup.

As you know, the community has just a few formal block captains. I am asking if each of you will serve as the **representative on this day** or ask one of your neighbors if you are unavailable. Our PMBC Rep, Yvonne Tyler, will provide trash bags and brooms, but must show accountability for these items. Ms. Tyler will drop the supplies off at your home and your neighbors will come to you for supplies on the day of cleaning. I've requested a few signs, too, so if you will put those up on each corner, that would be most helpful. (Just remember to remove them.) We're very excited about this and know it will be the momentum for a successful Garden Tour & Party and Oak Lane Day. Jaye, my co-chair and I thank you in advance for all your help.



## CALL TO ARMS FOR OAK LANE DAY

BY T.J. SCULLY

**Oak Lane Day** is sooner than you think! We need volunteers to make sure the event is fun, well-attended, well-staffed and makes plenty of money to fund our activities throughout the year. Lots of the volunteer efforts need to be made now to help the planning.

Can you make a phone call? --to check with local churches to see if they can lend tables and chairs on **June 3rd or 4th** (if it rains); --to check with local funeral homes to see if they have chairs to lend; -- to check with local businesses to see if they can donate food or drinks to sell; --to see if a friend or neighbor can volunteer to do the same and keep the ball rolling?

Can you pick up loaned tables and chairs? Set them up on Oak Lane Day? Take them down? Get someone else to help take them down? Can you volunteer to make a dish for International Food Sales? --ask someone else to make a dish; --volunteer a shift to serve the dish on the Day; --Can YOU Organize International Foods for Oak Lane Day!

Can you think of a good idea for Children's Games? Can you make that game? Can you get someone to help you do it? Can you serve a shift running Children's Games? Can you call Larry Plotkin to see if he can volunteer to serve as Chess Master and simultaneously play the whole neighborhood and beat them all?

Can you call a crafter and ask them to rent a table from OLCAA? Do you know the phone number of a crafter so someone else can call them? As you see some of these jobs are little and some are

not-so-little. Some of these jobs need to be done on Oak Lane Day and some of them need to be done NOW! If you answered yes to any of the above questions or know someone else who should, call T. J. Scully at 215.510.2906 or better yet e-mail him at [TJSCULLY@comcast.net](mailto:TJSCULLY@comcast.net)

The next Oak Lane Day meeting is **Monday, April 10th at 7 PM**, meeting at T.J. Scully's, 1014 Oak Lane. Please join us. Thanks for your support!

## PLASTICS RECYCLING

As a service to the East Oak Lane community, the Church and Community Committee of the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church collects #1 and #2 plastics the third Saturday of every month and transports them to the Greater Olney Community Council Recycling Committee's collection center in the parking lot of Cousin's Supermarket at Mascher & Duncan Streets across from Olney High School..

Only #1 and #2 plastic containers with a narrow top and wider bottom such as water, milk, juice and soda bottles and detergent and bath product containers are accepted. We cannot accept container lids or caps, plastic bags, take-out food containers, plant pots, buckets, or food or automotive product containers. Bring the plastics (clean, crushed and placed in trash bags, please) to the church at 11th St. & Oak Lane between 9-11 AM (rain or shine) Saturdays in 2006: Apr 15, May 20, Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug. 19, Sept 17, Oct. 21, Nov 18 and Dec 16.

## "WANTED"

### INSTRUCTORS & TALENTED NEIGHBORS

BY JOANNE DENT  
& EVELYN JONES

Y.I.M. (Youth In Motion) and Stepping Stones (Adult Side of the Program) are the two newest programs of OLCAA's Education & Cultural Arts Committee. This committee in collaboration with The Mt Airy Learning Tree invite you to share your individual and unique talents by instructing classes in the Oak Lane community beginning, Fall 2006.

If you have a specialty, or consider yourself an expert in any particular area (art, yoga, dance, cooking, finance, minor home repairs, knitting, organizing, scrap booking and the likes) we would like to encourage you to participate as an instructor in our community.

For More Details, or To Register: please go to [www.mtairylearningtree.org](http://www.mtairylearningtree.org) and Access: **"So You Want to Teach a Class"**

Please indicate our location in the bio when completing the application, or call our hotline at 215-224-2777 and press mailbox number #5. Leave your name and number for Jo Anne or Evelyn and a brief description of your class. Most classes will run in the evening for approximately 4-6 wks.

**Deadline May 1, 2006**

## Y.I.M. (WHY I Am) YOUTH IN MOTION

(SPONSORED BY OLCAA  
& EDUCATION &  
CULTURAL ARTS  
COMMITTEE)

People get ready, there's a train a comin'. It's Y.I.M., "Youth In Motion", introduced by OLCAA's Education & Culture Committee. Youth In Motion derived from a collaboration of the E&C committee's desire to involve the youth of East Oak Lane in the revitalization of the community. When young people ask, "What is Y.I.M.," we want to explain to them "why they are" an important ingredient to making East Oak Lane the envy of other communities in our city.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a youth summit was held in Dec., 2006. At this summit, the youths suggested things that they would enjoy doing in the neighborhood. Y.I.M. is presently working on events taken from their suggestions; such as movie night, game night, career mentoring/seminars, self defense classes and crafts. If you are not a member of OLCAA, please consider joining so that you don't miss out on the wonderful and exciting events that are posted in our members newsletter. Dates will be announced in upcoming issues.

Calling all youth of the East Oak Lane Community. Get on board and make your move to claim your neighborhood. Take pride in your community. Don't get left out during the planning of the revitalization of East Oak Lane. Be heard and be counted. You are the future of our community!

## NEWS FROM THE URBAN FOREST

BY CHARLES PHILIPS

### 1) Sixteen trees planted in East & West Oak Lane

Over 20 Oak Lane Tree Tenders and West Oak Lane Tree Tenders joined forces to plant bare root trees on 71<sup>st</sup> Street near the Corn Bread and Coffee Café in West Oak Lane, and at Ellwood School, Lawnton Ave, 70<sup>th</sup> Ave, Camac St, 13<sup>th</sup> St, 8<sup>th</sup> St and Fairhill St. in East Oak Lane. The sun was bright but the air nippy as they set out after fortification with coffee and donuts. A lunch after the work provided time for people to get better acquainted. We really appreciated the van driven by Philadelphia Horticultural Society Garden Tender Sally McCabe, and the truck driven by OARC business manager Al Dorman, both Oak Lane residents.

**2) WILL YOU DIG?** Please help in the biggest tree planting we have ever undertaken—50 trees—on **Saturday April 8, 8:30-noon.** Register at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11<sup>th</sup> and Oak Lane at 8:30. **Lunch** and an Oak Lane Tree Tenders **T-shirt** will be provided. Join your neighbors in this festive event to make Oak Lane greener. Most of the trees will be planted along Old York Road from the Wedge Building to 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

**3. Oak Lane Tree Tender Meetings**  
**7:30 pm April 20<sup>th</sup>** Thursday—Philips, 6605 Lawnton Ave

**7:30 pm May 23<sup>rd</sup>** Tuesday—Jack Malley, 1203 W. Medary

**4. The Gateway is happening!**

Diamond saws will start **cutting concrete** at the 3 traffic islands at Broad Street and 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue on April 14, and the cutting is finished a week later. At the same time the crew under landscaper Ken Kolodziej cut about 25 tree pits for our April 8 planting along Old York Road. The project should be finished with about 25 trees (and other greenery) planted by the time you read this. Walk or drive by!

This project started with a 1999 design by Mary Ann Hunter (a volunteer for the Community Design Collaborative) for Oak Lane Tree Tenders. The scope increased from one island to three over several years. About a year ago Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation under John E. Kitchen funded the project as part of a larger Pennsylvania grant for revitalization of the Northwest obtained through the office of Representative Dwight Evans.

**5) Tree Tenders Spring Training** Wednesdays **May 10, 17, 24, 5:45-8:45 pm** for Philadelphia (There are also different trainings for Bucks & Montgomery Counties) Call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844. Since 1993 over 1500 volunteers have been trained from 100 Philly neighborhoods. Free, registration required.

**6) Urban Sustainability Forum** at the Academy of Natural Sciences, all three meetings at 6-8:30 pm at 1900 Ben Franklin Parkway in the auditorium. Free. RSVP suggested. Roland Wall 215-299-1108.

**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

**See Our Ad on Page 8.** Oak Lane Tree Tenders, a committee of OLCAA, 6605 Lawnton Avenue, 215-924-1722.

### OAK LANE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EASTER SERVICES

**April 9<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday**  
*Worship Service at OLPC at 11:00 AM*

**April 13<sup>th</sup> : Maudy**  
*Thursday Evening Meal and Worship Service*

Light meal served at 6PM  
Service begins at 7:30 PM

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:**  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
All youth are invited to OLPC's annual Easter celebration. A continental breakfast will be served at **9:30 AM.** Then there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn at 10:00 AM.**

The Church Sunday School Staff is looking forward to serving and fellowshiping with members and guests. Please come and celebrate with us on this glorious, resurrected day.

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE at**  
**Oak Lane**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
**at 11:00 AM**

## START THE SPRING RIGHT. MAKE YOUR OWN COMPOST

BY CAROL BERGER

Help save the environment and money. Compost enriches the soil. It returns to the soil what plants have used. It is made from waste materials from garden and kitchen. In the early Spring cleaning leaves from your lawn and under bushes provides the starting layer of a compost pile. Leaves are the largest contributor to compost. They decompose more rapidly if shredded. A lawn mower can do the shredding.

The compost can be piled in an obscure part of your garden. One suggestion: set aside two square areas each 4X4 feet. A layer of leaves 6 inches thick starts the pile. Another layer of fruit and vegetable parings is 1½ inches thick. Alternate these layers. Add a 2 inch layer of soil to the top and shape the pile to be concave to capture rain. Important: keep it moist.

An edging around the piles will prevent them from spreading.

Turning the pile over speeds up decomposition. The more often the pile is turned the quicker it will decompose.

## OAK LANE BRANCH OF THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

BY T MICHAEL POXON

At the March 15th meeting of the Friends of the Oak Lane Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Friends approved the request of the new children's librarian for a number of items for the children's area, including a "reading rug" on which the children may sit while listening to stories, and magazine racks to display children's magazines and dolls of famous critters.

A request now goes out to the community to supply copies of their alumni magazines. The Friends of the Library will see that at least one copy of each college alumni magazine is available for

the community. If this succeeds the Friends will follow up with a collection of course catalogues from colleges.

Finally, the Friends of the Library honored long time community leader and organizer Hilda Gross who was celebrating her ninetieth birthday that night. Hilda Gross was honored with a rose bush, two dozen roses, a silver pin with an opal, and a tasty lemon cake from the Night Kitchen Bakery in Chestnut Hill.

Hilda Gross has organized many of the garden parties and house tours and helped raise thousands of dollars for the Friends of the Library and the Oak Lane Library and the Tree Tenders over the years.

The request is now made also for donations of Gardening Books and Home Repair Books and Home Decorating and Cook Books for sale at the May 6th Garden Party and Oak Lane Garden Tour.

Please drop off donations to Shirly Philips, 6605 N. Lawnton Avenue by May 4th.

Next meeting of The Friends is **Wednesday, April 19th**, at 7 PM in the Library.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

The next two Philadelphia Streets Dept.'s Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off

Events are scheduled **for Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Streets Dept.'s Training Center at State Road and Ashburner Street in Northeast Philadelphia.**

**Saturday, June 10th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Northwest Transfer Station at Domino Lane and Umbria Street in Roxborough.** Computers and other electronics will be accepted at both events. For more information to the Streets Dept.'s HHW website: [http://www.phila.gov/streets/hazardous\\_waste.html](http://www.phila.gov/streets/hazardous_waste.html)

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

BY JANET MCSHAIN  
POOR BESSIE'S  
GRANDDAUGHTER

What's in a name? Oak Lane, East Oak Lane, Oak Lane Park, Oak Lane Manor, West Oak Lane- what is the name of our neighborhood, what are our boundaries, and why are people so confused?

"Old Oak Lane" was the title of an article I recently read about our neighborhood. It had been written in 1899. The article was not introducing a new name to the mix, thank goodness, but was acknowledging the old history of our area.

In the mid 1800's, a gentleman named Mercer had renamed Martin's Mill Road as "Oak Lane" after an old favorite tree had fallen on his property near 10<sup>th</sup> St., north of the lane. The "Oak Lane Railroad Station" opened at Verbenia and Oak Lane, and as a result, the railroad town that developed around that corner became known as "Oak Lane."

In the late 1800's, T. Henry Asbury built many new houses north of the road, Oak Lane, and the area name spilled over into Montgomery County. A new train station was built on the other side of the county line but was still

called Oak Lane Station (now Melrose Park Station).

The "Old" part of "Old Oak Lane" from the article's title I had read, referred to the fact that we had some very early settlers at this north edge of Philadelphia County. They settled at the crossroads of the Lenni Lenape Trail and Mill Road from 1683.

William Penn named our Township "Bristol", preferring English, Irish, or Welsh names over the Indian names like "Tacony". Penn sent a surveyor, Holmes, to lay out his plan for real estate and economic development.

The 1681 map by Holmes shows our neighborhood to have the names of the first landowners: Carpenter, Townsend, Songhurst and other Quakers. They were part of the "Society of Traders" formed in England to bring economic stability to the new settlement.

Their plan was to build a mill, and Richard Townsend brought the parts for the mill with him on the "Welcome" along with Penn. They set it up here in 1683 at the cross roads near the Lenni Lenape Trail (around where 11<sup>th</sup> and Godfrey is today).

Samuel Carpenter, the money behind the mill, owned 500 acres north of it (1684), and Townsend owned the 200 acres below it. John

Songhurst, a Quaker preacher, owned the land north of Carpenter between Oak Lane and Cheltenham Ave. These three large properties went east to a Bristol Street (today used as the railroad line). These large landowners rented or sold smaller parcels of land to many early settlers, one of which was Griffith Miles who later bought Carpenter's plantation in 1695. As a result, by 1700, the area became known as "Milestown."

By the mid 1700's, when York Road had been straightened out from the Indian Trail and fanned from here, our area was also known as "Branchtown." The legal name was still "Bristol Township" until 1854, however, when the City of Philadelphia consolidated all of the townships.

This was the time when the title, "Oak Lane," developed and has stuck ever since. The road, Oak Lane, goes from Old York Road to Cheltenham Ave and does not exist at all in the adjoining neighborhood of "West Oak Lane," so why do they share our name? This neighboring community west of Broad St., adopted our name only recently, choosing to drop their former name, "Pittville." Our name, "East Oak Lane," developed in response to that.

Many people are

still confused today as to where "Oak Lane" is and to what our "Old Oak Lane" is all about. Our neighborhood's borders were defined formally in the 1970's by the Oak Lane Community Action Association, as the area from Godfrey Ave. to Cheltenham Ave., and from 5<sup>th</sup> St. to Broad St. Oak Lane was settled in 1683 as *Bristol Township*, between German Township (Wister St.) and Oxford Township (Tookany Creek).

So, what's in a name? As Grandmom Bessie used to say, "Your name is everything, be proud of it and respect it." Let's define and celebrate our name and place in Philadelphia's history.

**SO, WHAT IS OUR NAME NOW? ARE WE "OAK LANE" OR "EAST OAK LANE?"**

In our spirit of revitalization, we are defining our community for not only ourselves, but for our place in Philadelphia. Beautiful wood-carved signs with gold leaf will soon be marking our places of entrance to the neighborhood. Will the signs read "Welcome to Oak Lane," as it has been since the 1800's, or "Welcome to East Oak Lane?" Come and vote at the **General Meeting** for OLCAA on Wednesday, **May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. Remember, only members can vote. Have you joined OLCAA for 2006? If no, send your membership form today!



Please Help  
**Plant 50 Trees in Oak Lane**  
**Saturday April 8, 2006**  
**8:30am-noon Lunch Provided**  
**Register at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Street and Oak Lane**  
**Dress warmly Bring a shovel if you can**

Oak Lane Tree Tenders  
 A committee of Oak Lane Community Action Association  
 6605 Lawnton Avenue Phila PA 19126 215-924-1722  
 A TreeVitalize / Pennsylvania Horticultural Society project

E-mail: nedgram1@verizon.net  
 Pager: 215-705-2799

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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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have any questions please contact:**

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

Joanne Balitsky - Membership

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