



Oak Hill Association Newsletter



Winter 2009
Volume 42

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is it! The BIG MAILING of the Oak Hill Association newsletter to every home in Oak Hill—approximately 1000 homes. An envelope is provided for you to join and return your dues—still only \$25 per family. The entire process is streamlined and simple, and yet our membership hovers at only around 300 families.

So...why should you join the OHA? We provide fun activities for the whole family: e.g. Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween parade. There are interest groups—Book Club, Men’s Group, Garden Club, Civic Watch Committee, a play group --even a neighborhood garage sale. We have a representative who attends Board of ED. meetings! Last Fall we hosted a successful and well-attended wine party. Even if you are a total recluse, you will receive the newsletter 3 times a year, as well as emails, all of which contain timely neighborhood news. Twice, we were able to alert our members to a rash of burglaries in our area. For some strange reason, these small crimes never seem to make it to the newspaper, so if you don’t hear it from the OHA, you don’t hear it at all---until it’s too late!

The OH Association has been in existence for over 30 years. It is a casual group, formed to provide some social settings at which neighbors can meet. We monitor Township events and keep our members as well informed as we can. We always encourage members to step up and help out. There is plenty of room at the top!

A General Membership Meeting is held in the Spring and Fall, and usually there is a speaker—someone from the Township Committee or a police officer, for example, to address topical issues and answer questions. Association officers are elected at the Fall Meeting. We maintain a substantial fund to be used for legal services etc., should that become necessary (and in the not-too-distant past it **has** been necessary). Right now, the Social Committee could use some help and fresh ideas.

Check out this issue for events and dates and, above all, send in your dues before you forget!

Vivian Breen, President

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MEMBER REGISTRATION

REMINDER

This is the time of year to register as a member of the Oak Hill Association. Please use the enclosed card and envelope, and send in your \$25 per household dues.

Want to be on our email list? Have a new email address? Want to be taken off the email list? A brand new 2009 email list of members will be created from the registration cards. We never disclose email addresses or any other member information for any reason. And we only send email we deem of interest to the general membership.



CIVIC WATCH COMMITTEE

STATUS OF COAH

Not all the New Jersey towns met the deadline for their COAH plans but even though there was concern about fulfilling its quota for affordable housing, Middletown was on time for its submission to the state.

Per public meetings, Middletown has been up to date with meeting its commitment, with 424 units constructed and 37 more approved. With new single family homes, senior housing, rentals and Regional Contribution Agreements (RCAs) the township has managed to keep up to date. Since the use of RCAs has been discontinued by the state Middletown now has to find more locations for affordable housing.

The loss of open space, over-development and the cost to taxpayers for subsidizing building and cost of infrastructure (roads, schools, sewers) is a serious issue that the communities and state still have to address. The plan for COAH is still being formed, and we will learn more in the future.

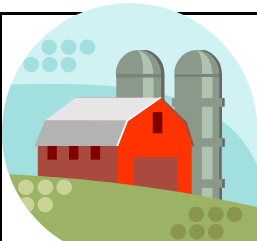
You can impact future COAH revisions. Further info is found under "Amended Master Plan" in "Middletown News", near the center of Middletown's home page <http://www.middletownnj.org/> The plan submitted by Middletown covered the following developments, nearest Oak Hill. (Members may contact Steve Miller, OHA Secretary, to receive an emailed copy of the plan.)

1. 375 housing units (including 80 affordable) at the present Avaya property (on Middletown-Lincroft Road). The present 300,000 sq foot building will be razed.
2. 37 units (including 9 affordable) units, owned by 199 Laurel Assoc. (Steiner), at corner of Laurel Ave and Holland.

Limitations at the following sites preclude them from inclusion in the affordable housing plan, at this time.

1. The Murray property (40 acres, and vacant office building at exit 114)
2. Bamm Hollow
3. DeFelice (11 farmed acres)

If you are at all civic minded and want to see our local government first hand, please join us by calling Helen Duthie at 732-706-3486.

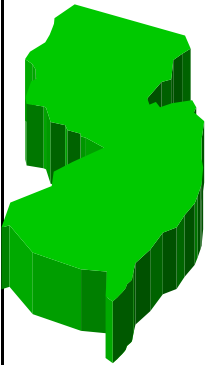


SUPPORT THE DeFELICE FARM MARKET

We all pass by the DeFelice farm at the corner of Red Hill and Dwight Roads and see their yummy produce. Last fall an OHA member 'confoundedkate' sent an email encouraging us to support our neighbors, the DeFelices: *"...They have home grown tomatoes, peppers, string beans, eggplant, mums, pumpkins....etc. The mums are big, healthy & colorful. As we all know, it is imperative that we support any local farmers....and this one in particular since it impacts our quality of life. So please pass the word to your friends and neighbors.....support the DeFelices.....and keep the land as farmland and not condos!!!!"*

Gary DeFelice responds: "Could you please forward my thanks to 'confoundedkate' and all the members, neighbors, and friends of the Oak Hill Association that supported the farm this year. Everyone's enthusiasm, smiles and support were encouraging this year and extremely appreciated by myself and the family. It is through that encouragement that we begin to prepare for next year. The work is hard but the reward of knowing that the neighbors appreciate us and what we do, makes it seem that much easier. Hopefully the future brings satisfaction for us all. Have a safe and blessed Holiday season and winter, and we hope to see everyone during Strawberry season."

The New Jersey Taxpayers' Association (NJTA)



Press Release: NEW JERSEY CIVIC AND BUSINESS LEADERS ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF NEW JERSEY TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE - Alliance dedicated to restoring fiscal responsibility in New Jersey

Under the leadership of the **New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA)**, New Jersey civic and business leaders announced the formation of the **New Jersey Taxpayers Alliance**, a non-partisan, grass-roots organization dedicated to achieving real and sustainable tax reform in New Jersey. Comprised primarily of civic, business and professional associations, the Alliance's mission is to educate and inform New Jersey taxpayers about sound fiscal policy; provide state policymakers with objective, non-partisan research about the impact of specific tax, regulatory and spending policies; and advocate for the adoption of rational public fiscal policy as it relates to individuals, non-profit organizations, small businesses and corporations.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, New Jersey residents are the highest taxed citizens in the entire nation. This alarming statistic can be directly attributed to wasteful spending, corruption, mismanagement and inefficient structural practices by New Jersey's State, county and local governments.

To date, the following organizations have joined the Alliance: Americans for Tax Reform, Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey, Excellent Education for Everyone, GRAND Institute, National Taxpayers Union, New Jersey Gasoline - C-Store - Automotive Association, New Jersey Restaurant Association, New Jersey Society of CPA's and the New Jersey Taxpayers Association. Many other organizations are considering joining.

Individuals can participate by joining the NJTA directly. To join, go to www.njtaxes.org. There is a \$20 annual Membership fee or you can register for free on the "Home" page by just typing in your email address. (Neil Coleman – ncoleman25@comcast.net – 732-615-0391)

Civic Watch

Dateline:

Board of Education



Alex Benson is our neighborhood eyes and ears at Board of Education meetings. He attends the meetings and reports items of interest to Oak Hill members.

If you already are or would like to be involved in this or any other township meetings or business, please report any news to one of the board members on page 5, and we will get the word out to OHA members.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009

Place: TBD

Time: 7:30 pm

Speaker: The OHA Board will meet in April and will firm up the details of this meeting, including location and speaker(s).

Do you have a suggestion of a speaker or topic you would like to hear? Please let any board member (listed on page 5) know.

EVENTS AND GROUPS



EASTER EGG HUNT

Oak Hill's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Saturday, April 4, 2009** at Vivian and Jack Breen's house at 10 Quail Drive. Bring your children and some baskets for collecting eggs. We will break up the yard into two groups, preschoolers and school-age, so that every child finds some eggs. We may even get a visit from the Easter Bunny!!

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2009

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: 10 Quail Drive

Rain Date: Sunday April 5, 2009 at 1:00 PM

Call Vivian Breen at 732-671-4638 if the weather is "iffy"

PLAYGROUP



The playgroup took a hiatus for the cold winter months and will regroup in the spring. The playgroup meets weekly at Tatum Park on Red Hill Rd. at 3:15pm. In the past we have met on Wednesdays but the day is to be determined with current attendees. The age of the children currently attending range from babies to 7 years old. All are welcome. Moms get a chance to talk and socialize while kids play. Call or email Laura Campbell for information. dutchcampbells@yahoo.com or 732-275-1676.

Halloween Parade

Our annual Halloween parade will be held on **Saturday, October 24th**. Come dressed in your favorite costume and follow the fire engine to the parade finish where the kids can climb aboard the fire truck, participate in some fun activities and enjoy the refreshments. Don't miss out on this most popular event.



OAK HILL ANNUAL GARAGE SALE



We had another great response to our annual Oak Hill Garage Sale, last spring.

We are all set to do Spring 2009. Please mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday **May 15 and May 16, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

We need a few Volunteers to make some "Great Signs."

Call Ronnie Lander 732-671-9395 or r.j.lander@comcast.net to be part of this annual Oak Hill event!

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2009 (Rain Date: October 25, 2009 at 1:00 pm)

Place: Starts at Borden & Lionel, goes down Borden & cross over Pelican and finish on Borden

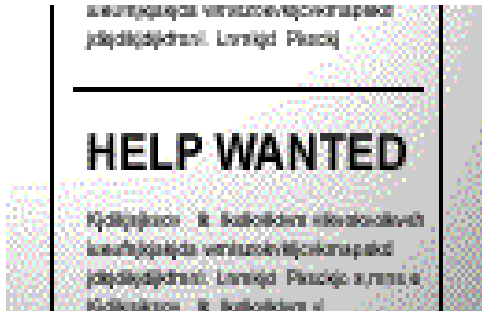
Time: 1:00 p.m. sharp

Cost: \$0

Any questions, please contact Laura Campbell at dutchcampbells@yahoo.com or 732-275-1676 or Allison LaRosa at 732 957-0335,

MORE EVENTS AND GROUPS

LOOK FOR NEW SOCIAL EVENTS THIS YEAR!



You will see some of the same events this year, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Halloween Parade, but some other events will be replaced with new ones. We like to mix things up and keep it fresh! Last year's wine party was a real hit!

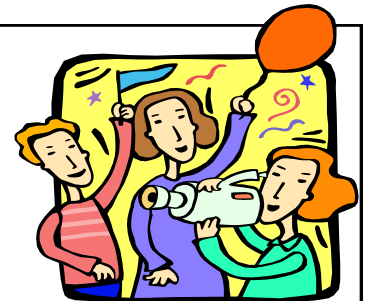
We can do this as long as we have members signing up to attend as well as volunteering to help organize them. Volunteers are very much needed. If you haven't joined the association, it's well worth it! Don't forget to fill out the interest information on the registration form! The family events are lots of fun!

OAK HILL ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP



Oak Hill men and wives participate, once or twice per month, in a wide variety of fun activities. We run local trips and visits to NY City. Local dinners and shows are always popular. Come to our monthly breakfast, and/or join our email list for current activities (open to any OHA member). Contact Steve Miller (732-671-5917) or stevemiller@comcast.net

FAMILY FUN DAY New Event for 2009



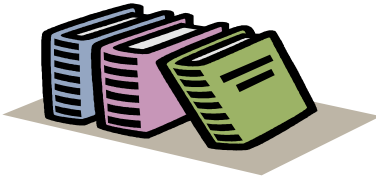
We would like to have an outdoor neighborhood party this spring or summer. To join the committee to help organize please call Laura Campbell at 275-1676. You can help with the creative event planning, theme, ordering, or help the day of with setting up. All types of help are welcome and appreciated

Association Officers And Committee Heads

PRESIDENT	Vivian Breen	671-4638	NEW COMERS	Helen Duthie	706-3486
VICE PRESIDENT	Laura Campbell	275-1676	GARDEN CLUB	Marie Logioco	671-7042
TREASURER	Jack Nolan	671-8062	BOOK CLUB	Karen Sabella	671-5706
SECRETARY	Steve Miller	671-5917	NEWSLETTER	Pat Miller	671-5917
CIVIC WATCH	Don Duthie Helen Duthie Charla Tewksbury	706-3486 706-3486 275-6794	SOCIAL COMMITTEE	Laura Campbell Allison LaRosa Bill Butler Patrice Nybro	275-1676 957-3335 671-3438 615-9245
ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP	Steve Miller	671-5917	PRESERVATION	Bill Butler	671-3438

EVEN MORE EVENTS AND GROUPS

BOOK CLUB



The Oak Hill Book Club meets monthly in members' homes to discuss the latest books, fiction and nonfiction. In February, we are reading "The Magician's Assistant," by Ann Patchett. In March the book is "The Reluctant Fundamentalist," by Moshin Hamid.

For more information, call Karen Sabella 732-672-5706.

OAK HILL JOINS THE DIGITAL AGE

Ana Santos has created an attractive web site, where we are also posting late-breaking information:

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/oak-hill>

OR:

<http://home.comcast.net/~oak-hill>

Be sure to record your email address on your membership card with your \$25 dues payment. Future email distribution will be limited to members. We rely upon email for immediate notification of important issues affecting Oak Hill homeowners. (Both email and street addresses are restricted for only official business of Oak Hill Association.)

During 2009 we intend to continue paper distribution of the OHA newsletter. However, the high cost of paper distribution is directing us to use electronic distribution where it makes sense. In 2010, we expect to provide members an electronic newsletter option, instead of a paper copy of the newsletter.

Steve Miller

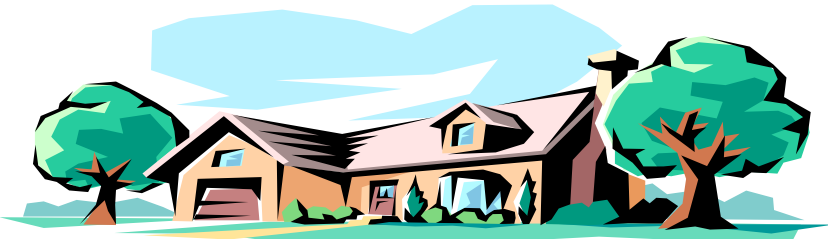
Secretary, Oak Hill Association

GARDEN CLUB



GET A JUMP START ON YOUR GARDEN: The Oak Hill Garden Club has some exciting events planned for the 2009 season. The annual ORCHID SHOW at Dearborn Farms in Holmdel is February 5-8, 9-6 pm.

The Garden Club meets once a month (usually fourth Friday of each month) unless otherwise noted. Some special events planned. We also plan to do some "Garden Hopping". New members welcome! Please call Marie Logioco at 732-671-7042 or Virginia Hickey at 732-671-2604. BRING A FRIEND!



NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

AKA OAK HILL "SQUEAKY WHEEL" COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that there are no outstanding Oak Hill "quality of life" issues at this time. In the past, this group has dealt with issues such as the poor timing of the new light at the corner of Dwight and Red Hill Roads, resulting in unacceptable traffic build-up, and the destruction of trees in our neighborhood.

The light was studied and fixed, and during the winter, we see no tree-cutting activity. We are most interested in preserving our sylvan environment and keeping the "oak" in Oak Hill. If you would like to serve your community and be part of this committee, please call Bill Butler at telephone (732) 671 - 3438 or email butler377@comcast.net.



THE OAK HILL LONG BRANCH CONNECTION

by Randall Gabrielan

Norman Munro, a successful New York publisher of popular material, founded in 1889 an exclusive Long Branch summer home colony that he called Norwood Park. A motor yachtsman, Munro also named his fastest craft the Norwood. Norwood Park was planned to organize an elevated lifestyle, so the grounds included recreational facilities and attractive trails. Munro also built a casino, or social hall, and an observation tower, likely the tallest structure inland in the county at the time.

Munro died prematurely in 1894 after an appendicitis operation leaving a widow, Henrietta, a son Henry and daughter Norma. Their Norwood Park home, named *Normahurst* for the latter, was destroyed by fire in 1902. Murry Guggenheim built a mansion on the site, now his namesake library at Monmouth University. Mrs. Henrietta Munro bought a large farm from the Osborns the next year and appeared to be ready for a change of summer life style following improvements she made to the place.

Her stay in the future Oak Hill was relatively brief, about the same as in Long Branch. She sold the place in 1914 to Edward Lentilhon, a New York businessman who also operated Deepdale Farm. He stayed for some decades and may even be remembered by old-timers. When the farm was developed for residences in the 1960s, the Deepdale name was retained for what become one of the most appealing sections of Oak Hill.

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Time
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4th	The Breen's'- 10 Quail Drive	1:00 - 4:00pm
Garage Sale	Friday and Saturday, May 15th and 16th	Throughout the Neighborhood	9:00am – 3:00pm
Spring General Meeting	Tuesday, May 19th	Location TBA	7:30pm
Family Fun Day	Spring or Summer, TBD	Outdoors, TBD	
Fall General Meeting and Officer Election	Tuesday, October 13th	Location TBA	7:30pm
Halloween Parade	Saturday, October 24th	Starts at Borden & Lionel	1:00pm
Another Social Event like Last Year's Wine Tasting ???	TBD	TBD	

Oak Hill Association

151 Borden Road
Middletown, NJ 07748

Newsletter Contributions
Phone: 732-671-5917
Email: patmiller@comcast.net

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TIME VALUE DATED MATERIAL

Calendar of Events

- Easter Egg Hunt, Sat, April 4, 2009 (Rain date Apr 5)
- Garage Sale, Fri-Sat, May 15 and 16, 2009
- General Membership Meeting, Tues, May 19, 2009
- Fall General Meeting, Tues, October 13, 2009
- Halloween Parade, Sat, Oct 24, 2009 (Rain date Oct 25)

Please register as a 2009 OHA member using the enclosed form and addressed envelope!