



# Oak Hill Association Newsletter



Winter 2010  
Volume 44

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### OK OAK HILL !

It's a new year with new possibilities and lots of good things to look forward to! Each household in Oak Hill will receive this newsletter and, with it, the opportunity to join the Association. And what is the OHA and why should you join?

It is an association of neighbors in our development who have formed a group with two essential interests: one social and one civic. Socially, we endeavor to sponsor fun activities for children--The Egg Hunt, the Halloween Parade. In the past, we have also had a Holiday Family Brunch, and a Family Block Party. For adults, our most recent and successful activity has been a Wine Party, held at a Red Bank restaurant, a rousing and sousing success! For something new, we will announce a location for Oak Hill residents to gather--no sign-up, no reservations. Last summer it was sunset at the Sea Gull's Nest on Sandy Hook and the first in 2010 will be at Racioppi's restaurant in Red Bank on Friday, February 26. Read on for more information.

The only deterrent to staging more events is a lack of volunteers to lend a helping hand. As you read through the Newsletter you will see that we have several interest Groups: Garden Club, Men's Group, and a new Playgroup just waiting to be organized. We also sponsor a neighborhood Garage Sale annually: the OHA provides signs and publicity and all you have to do is pile your expendable heirlooms on the driveway!

On the Civic side, we try to keep abreast of Township happenings, in particular, those that may affect our area, and have funds in reserve should they be needed for say, legal counsel. We communicate to our members through the Newsletter and timely emails. In the past, we have notified members about area burglaries--information not reported in local newspapers. Recently, some of our members observed suspicious vehicles hanging around and reported them to the police. This is information you need to know. Some folks feel no need to join because they mistakenly think the OHA is mostly for families with young chil-

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dren, and while that certainly is one of our main interests, it is important for all families to join and take advantage of all we have to offer.

We hold two General Meetings, Spring and Fall, and usually have an interesting speaker--perhaps someone from the Township Committee or police Department. It's a good time and place for your questions; you may even get answers! We welcome new members and encourage you to volunteer. Join a committee, become an officer, start a new group activity. It's easy, non-demanding, casual and FUN!

Vivian Breen, President

## MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Hi, my name is Pat Wotton, I am your new VP -- thanks for your vote! I have lived in Oak Hill for 15 years and I think it is the most beautiful spot in Middletown. As many of you know, my family had a crisis a few years ago and the neighborhood really came together to support my family. That friendliness is one of the many reasons I've chosen to stay in Oak Hill with my family.

Of course there are more appealing ways to meet your neighbors. I've met so many people since my dog has been walking me around the neighborhood. I highly recommend it as a way to meet other people in OH. (Just please remember to pick up after your Fido!) Another way to meet people is attend the many events the OHA has planned this year, or join an interest group. As a member of the garden club I have had so much fun with people I would not have otherwise met. We can always add more events so send us your ideas and suggestions.



## CIVIC WATCH COMMITTEE

Many of you are receiving this News Letter for the first time and are not aware of what this committee does for the Association. So to fill you in – Our members strive to stay abreast of any activity in and around Oak

Hill and for that matter the entire Township which ultimately affects our quality of life. To do this we monitor meeting agendas for Zoning and Planning Boards and attend those where subject matter appears to be appropriate.

We have in the past taken an active part in opposition to a zoning change from residential to commercial in a near-by piece of property. A portion of the dues collected annually are set aside for legal counsel and representation should something come up that the Association wishes to support or oppose. Please contact Helen Duthie 706-3486 or any Officer listed on page 5 of the News letter, if you would like to take part in this committee.

### OAK HILL ESTATES

Plans call for eleven houses to be built at the rear portion of Cedar Hill Farm near Malus Road. The January hearing for Oak Hill Estates was continued to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The developer was requested to submit revised plans to the township planner and engineer to review before the February meeting of the planning board.



### Neighborhood Quality of Life

Recently we were advised by one of our members that strange cars were parked on one of our streets for long periods of time. A man was observed sitting in the car. On the last occasion, the police were called, and they responded in about five minutes. The police were seen escorting the man and the car away, and no other cars have been seen since.

Residents are reminded that if they see any out of the ordinary activity or strangers in the neighborhood, they should immediately call the police. Do not get personally involved. Let the police investigate.

Some Oak Hill residents continue to have complaints about cars speeding on our streets as if they are on the Garden State Parkway. Speed limits on our streets are generally 25 mph. Common courtesy dictates that we never drive faster than 25 mph, as we have many walkers, joggers and people walking their dogs on our streets in the absence of sidewalks. One of our residents was struck by a car and killed in 2009, and we don't want that to happen again. Please discuss driving slower with all the members of your family and be sensitive to the safety of your neighbors. You can be of great help if you would report speed violators to the police department with the year, make, model and color of the car, and license plate # if at all possible.

Thankfully spring will be here soon, but that means those unsightly landscaper signs will be sprouting up on our lawns. Out of concern for our neighbors, do not allow your landscaper or other service companies to put signs on your lawn. We don't want Oak Hill to look like Route 35.

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## RED HILL- DWIGHT ROAD INTERSECTION

Oak Hill Association continues to receive complaints about the new realignment of this super-busy intersection and its potential for a really serious future accident. Many of us have already experienced a near-miss as we passed through this intersection. Although many of these near-misses may have been caused by careless and reckless driving by other drivers, the new configuration of the roads has created a dangerous location for accidents waiting to happen.

Everyone knows that properly designed and constructed roads can minimize and/or prevent accidents. Similarly, we know that poorly designed and constructed roads cause accidents. Our new intersection is very poorly designed, given its unique topography, sharp curves, short turn lanes, inadequate traffic lights and signage, poor lines of sight, inadequate street lighting, and vanishing lane markings.

Our association is preparing to discuss ways to improve this intersection with the Monmouth County Roads Department and the County Engineer. You can help us in this effort by:

1. Volunteer to work on our committee.
2. Tell us if you have had an accident or near-miss while passing through this intersection.
3. Let us know your ideas or suggestions for its improvement or redesign.

We would especially appreciate having an attorney volunteer to work with the committee.

Please contact Bill Butler 732-671-3438 ([butler377@verizon.net](mailto:butler377@verizon.net)) as soon as possible to volunteer for the committee, submit suggestions or ideas, and/or report a recent accident or near-miss.



### Civic Watch Dateline: Board of Education

Christina Helm has volunteered to take on the responsibility of being Oak Hill's "neighborhood observer" at Board of Education meetings. She will attend 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 25, 2010

Place: United Methodist Church on Middletown-Lincroft Road

Time: 7:30 PM

Speaker to be determined. Come and meet your neighbors and the officers of the OHA.

A double bill of refreshments and information!

## WELCOME NEWCOMERS

281 Pelican Road – Chris and Dana Rooney

212 Borden Road – Laura Hartmann, Kaitlyn 16, Jimmy, 12, Grandmother Anne Magarino

174 Borden Road - Marie and Tim Coheeny, Anthony 2, Patricia 4mos.

144 Borden Road- Jonathan and Jen Kessler, Jason 10, Evan 6, Rebecca 4

153 Hillyer Circle – Shabana and Matthew Rizzi, Hanna 5, Kiran 3

Please let us know about newcomers on your street so we can visit them. Helen Duthie 732 706 - 3486

### Babysitter Wanted

Babysitter wanted in Oak Hill neighborhood for first and third graders.

If interested please call 732-671-0906

We are considering publishing a baby sitter list. Let an officer know if you are interested.

# EVENTS AND GROUPS



## EASTER EGG HUNT

The Annual Egg Hunt will take place on **March 27th** (rain date March 28).

Bring your little bunnies to search for colorful, goodie filled eggs cleverly hidden in plain sight by our very own Oak Hill Bunny! Refreshments for all!

Same old, same old, but the kids love it!

**Date:** Saturday, March 27th (rain date March 28th)

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Place:** 10 Quail Drive

**Cost:** Free to Oak Hill members, \$5 for each guest child.

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

## PLAYGROUP



Are you interested in a joining an Oak Hill Playgroup? Would you like to meet new kids/Mom's in the neighborhood? Please contact Shabana Rizzi (shabanarizzi@hotmail.com) 732-671-2331 (ages newborn to 7 years old) or Pat Wotton (pwotton@comcast.net) 732-957-8652 (ages 8 and up).

## Halloween Parade

Mark your calendar for the gala Halloween Parade on **October 23**. At **1 pm**, a ragged troupe of Oak Hill urchins in a dazzling array of costumes will gather at the corner of Borden Rd and Lionel Court and march behind a shiny red fire truck to a destination of fun, refreshments and things to climb on!



**Date:** Saturday, October 23 (Rain Date: October 24)

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

**Time:** 1:00 pm sharp

**Cost:** Free for OHA members, \$5 per child for guests.

Any questions, please contact Karen Iturralde at 732 671-1863.

## OAK HILL ANNUAL GARAGE SALE



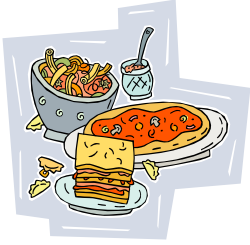
Please mark your calendars for **May 21 & 22, Friday & Saturday**, to be a part of Oak Hill's successful yearly garage sale.

After a long winter you probably have items that are building up around the house that would be a wonderful buy for garage sale shoppers. It's your time to move out the old and hopefully bring in

the new.

Call **Ronnie Lander 732 671-9395**, [r.j.lander@comcast.net](mailto:r.j.lander@comcast.net) to be part of this annual Oak Hill event!

# MORE EVENTS AND GROUPS



## WINTER FAMILY NIGHT

To help you with your cabin fever, Oak Hill will be having its first Winter Family Night. It's actually a lot less formal than it sounds. For anyone interested, let's plan on meeting at Racioppi's (by Red Bank train station where we had our last two wine tasting events). No reservations necessary.

Children are welcome. In fact, for those of you with children 12 and under, the Association will pay for their pizza (parents pay for beverages). Adults can either order off the regular menu or from a \$30 prix fix menu. For those (adults) who would like wine or beer with your meal, you may bring your own.

**Date:** Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6 pm

**Location:** Racioppi's, Red Bank

For more information, contact Rita McKinney or Vivian Breen (numbers below).

## 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](mailto:stevemiller@comcast.net)

## BLOCK PARTY

What better way to make your neighbors into friends than with food and fun? That's why you are invited to a block party! Please join us for an **evening** of fun and friendship on **Saturday, June 12 @ 5pm**. We're planning on having games for the kids and music for the adults.



We are still researching caterers and are trying to keep it in the \$12-\$14 per person. We are still scouting the neighborhood for a good location. If you have a block you can recommend, let us know. Do you have any special talents that you would like to entertain us with at the party? Would you like to be on the planning committee?

Do you have the following that could be used for the party: tables, chairs, coolers? In order for this to be a success we need ideas and help. So please contact Pat Wotton ([pwotton@comcast.net](mailto:pwotton@comcast.net)) 732-957-8652.

## Association Officers And Committee Heads

PRESIDENT	Vivian Breen	671-4638	NEWCOMERS	Helen Duthie	706-3486
VICE PRESIDENT	Pat Wotton	957-8652	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	706-3486	SOCIAL COMMITTEE	Rita McKinney	671-7404
	Helen Duthie	706-3486		Pat Wotton	957-8652
	Charla Tewksbury	275-6794		Bill Butler	671-3438
				Karen Iturralde	671-1863
ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP	Steve Miller	671-5917	PRESERVATION	Bill Butler	671-3438

# EVEN MORE EVENTS AND GROUPS



## SUNSET ON THE HOOK

What could be more moving than patriotic music playing to the setting sun as the flag is lowered over Sandy Hook Bay? We have done this several times now, and each one is a treat!

Pencil in **Tuesday, June 22** for dinner at the Sea Gull's Nest on Sandy Hook. No reservations needed; just bring yourself and your family. The Sea Gull's Nest serves an array of inexpensive "box lunch" type sandwiches and salads, and of course there is a bar. We socialize with neighbors, order dinner on our own, then wait for the sun to set.



## GARDEN CLUB

On Feb 5th the Garden Club attended the Orchid Show at Dearborn Farms, Holmdel, and was treated to a private tour. Unfortunately, the newsletter didn't make it out early enough to announce this beforehand.

In April, Garden Club will be making Tea Cup Flower Arrangements for Hospice Care. We could always use extra hands.

Please contact Marie Logioco @ 732.671.7042 or Virginia Hickey @ 732.671.2064. New members are always welcome as well as guests.



## WINE PARTY

On Sunday, November 8, 2009, social-minded residents of Oak Hill attended a festive wine Party held at Racioppi's wonderful restaurant in Red Bank. The restaurant was closed to the public but open to a happy crowd of more than 50 Oak Hillers who imbibed good wine and delicious nibbles.

This was the second such event and seemed to be enjoyed greatly by all. Truly worth repeating!

**So hold the date!**

**Sunday, October 3, 2010** is being penciled in for a reprise at Racioppi's.



## Newsletter Editor Wanted

It's time for someone new to take on the editor's job. Learn Microsoft Publisher (as I did) or choose your own simpler format in Word. Give Pat Miller a call on 671-5917 if this interests you.

## NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE, continued

All residents are requested to comply with the schedule for the spring pick up dates for brush and leaves. If for any reason you miss the pick up date, be considerate and take your winter debris to the recycling center on Kanas Lane.

In Oak Hill we are blessed to have many majestic trees that beautify our area and make it a desirable place to live with above average property values. Out of consideration for our neighbors take care of the trees on your property. Avoid cutting down trees unless they are diseased and/or in danger of falling down. If necessary to cut down any trees, plant new trees on a one for one basis.

LET US KEEP OAK HILL BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE !!!!!

**Bill Butler**

If you would like to serve your community and be part of this committee, please call Bill at (732) 671 - 3438 or email [butler377@comcast.net](mailto:butler377@comcast.net).



## A Strange Little Street

### Oak Hill History by Randall Gabrielan

A drive along Crawfords Corner-Everett Road south of Red Hill Road passes a side street hardly anyone has been on, West Nut Swamp Road. It is a short straight run to a dead end on the Garden State Parkway, but it is a clue to the old make-up of the neighborhood.

Before the Parkway, there was no Dwight Road. Then Nut Swamp Road ran a westerly course to end at the aforementioned border street, but it was split by the Parkway. Along that street was the present 210 Balantine Road, perhaps the oldest house in the area, but hardly recognizable as such without looking carefully. When the Parkway opened in 1954, Exit 114 had not yet been built. The segment of Dwight north of the curve was a post-Parkway extension made necessary to provide a connection with Red Hill Road. The wooded state of West Nut Swamp Road suggests the look of the area prior to development and is a reminder that the natural landscape of New Jersey is a wooded forest.

#### Lost and Found

**Found:** A shy, adult orange-striped cat December 29 in our backyard on Laird Road. It is being fed and watered, and we hope it will be reunited with its family.

Bernie & Liz Doering, 732-533-5313

As the neighborhood is still getting used to the new Red Hill Road connection, think back to when local streets had an even greater disruption. Look at this West Nut Swamp Road reminder of the old days when the present Oak Hill was then part of the forgotten Nut Swamp and the shrunken Everett neighborhoods.

### Oak Hill Gives Back

This new program we are starting is a simple way for Oak Hill residents to help out their favorite charity by enlisting the aid of fellow neighbors. Essentially, you become a collection point for items that your charity needs and then ensure that the items are delivered to the charity.

So far, we have compiled the list below. We encourage you to participate in any of these initiatives or start your own collection. To start your own, please contact Rita McKinney ([rdas@comcast.net](mailto:rdas@comcast.net)).

**Ongoing food drive** (Keyport Food Pantry; coordinator: Rita) Contact Rita (via email) and she will put you on the list. During the last week of each month, Rita will collect the food (or you can drop it off at 14 Lyon Road) and take it to the food pantry.

**Old TVs and computers that still work, gently used furniture** (Affordable Housing Alliance; coordinator: Rita) Contact Rita (via email) and she'll make arrangements to pick up the items from your house for this low-income housing organization. Easy, no cost way to get rid of large items.

**Gently used twin sheets & hotel toiletries** (Habcore, a shelter for mentally disabled, homeless shelter; coordinator: Rita) Contact Rita (via email) and she'll make arrangements to pick up the items from your house or you can drop them off at 14 Lyon Road.

**Old blankets and towels** (SPCA; Coordinator: Lynn Basile [lbbasile@aol.com](mailto:lbbasile@aol.com)) Contact Lynn (via email) and she'll make arrangements to pick up the items from your house or you can drop them off at 216 Borden Road.

**Computers (> 1GHZ processor), monitors, & peripherals** (Family Resource Association, to help disabled overcome reading, writing, & vision limitations; Coordinator: Steve Miller [stevemiller@comcast.net](mailto:stevemiller@comcast.net)) Contact Steve (via email) to arrange drop-off; we clean viruses & private data from PCs before donating.

As you can see, the items are relatively inexpensive or cost nothing, or are something we were going to throw away anyway. But if each of us can champion our favorite charity and get the neighborhood collectively to chip in, what a difference we can make! Not to mention that this is a nice way to get our children involved. Let's make 2010 a year of giving for Oak Hill residents.

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**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**

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## 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Winter Family Night (Dinner)	Friday, February 26th	Racioppi's Kitchen, Red Bank	6:00pm
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, March 27th (Rain date March 28th)	The Breen's'- 10 Quail Drive	1:00 - 4:00pm
Garage Sale	Friday and Saturday, May 21th and 22th	Throughout the Neighborhood	9:00am – 3:00pm
Spring General Meeting	Tuesday, May 25th	Middletown United Methodist Church	7:30pm
Block Party	Saturday, June 12th	Outdoor Oak Hill, TBD	5:00pm
Sunset on the Hook	Tuesday, June 22nd	Sea Gull's Nest, Sandy Hook	Shortly before sunset - 6:00pm?
Wine Party	Sunday, October 3rd	Racioppi's Kitchen, Red Bank	6:30 - 9:00pm
Fall General Meeting and Officer Election	Tuesday, October 26th	Middletown United Methodist Church	7:30pm
Halloween Parade	Saturday, October 23rd (Rain date Oct 24th)	Starts at Borden & Lionel	1:00pm

**Please register as a 2010 OHA member using the enclosed form and addressed envelope!**