

OEY Tribune



Old East York
Neighborhood Association

OEY Events

Festive Friday

Friday, Nov 9—7 pm
The Johnson's
25 N Harlan St.

Holiday Spirits Open House

Friday, Dec 7th
8 to 11 pm
OEY's annual holiday
celebration. (see Social
Segment for more
information)

2008 Festive Fridays

Can you host?
E-mail
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...more at
www.OldEastYork.com

**The Old East York
Neighborhood
Association exists to
serve the Old East
York community
in order to
preserve, enhance,
and celebrate the
unique qualities of
Old East York.**

The Social Segment

By Craig Thomas and Jan Schaefer

November's Festive Friday

The date for November's Festive Friday has been pushed up a week. So, please join Lynn & Dave Johnson at their lovely 25 N. Harlan St. home on Friday, November 9th at 7 pm. As always, please bring an appetizer and/or an adult beverage to share.

Host homes are also needed for the fourth year of this popular event. If you can open your home please e-mail us at info@oldeastyork.com.

What Historic Preservation Is and Is Not

By Tom Schaefer

As you read OEYNA's mission statement, our neighborhood's preservation - both physically and culturally - is an important part of what we do. Most agree that the way OEY looks and feels are reasons why we enjoy living here in the first place. It is true, to the core, that well-designed, well-planned communities have countless positive effects upon residents. Unfortunately, few of today's housing tracts (including many "planned" ones) ever meld to become a place like OEY, and like OEY has been for over 100 years!

So, congratulations, you already live in a special place. But you already knew that. The topic of preservation comes into play when we address the hard issues of how we can keep OEY special. Historic Preservation is a real, effective mechanism to do that. Unfortunately, it's very misunderstood; and it hasn't helped that it has been mantled with negative connotations, and usually by folks who know little about it.

Throughout next year, we'll examine historic preservation issues so residents can decide their merit for themselves.

Holiday Spirits, December 7, 8 to 11 pm

Once again, OEYNA brings you Holiday Spirits, an evening to enjoy the warmth of the holiday season with new neighbors and old neighborhood friends.

Our hosts, Jim and Cheerlee Leavens, Susan Robertson, and Steve Converse, will graciously open their homes, providing a variety of beverages and delectable fare.

Tickets, available in early November, will be \$15 or two for \$25). For ticket information, e-mail us at info@oldeastyork.com or call Jan at 755-1846.

Let's start with two misconceptions:

1) Old East York is already protected because it is on the National Register of Historic Places. Absolutely false!! Register status is an honor, but it affords no protection. So why is it a status to which so many communities aspire? Income-producing commercial properties (like both sides of E. Market St.) are eligible for low interest loans and tax incentives that save owners money. Moreover, many clever communities have found ways to make their Register status increase their property values. We'll save additional reasons for later.

2) If your house is on the Register, the government is going to tell you what color to paint your front door. This is one of my favorites; especially because it is so hackneyed; and so UNTRUE!!!! Preservationists will never propose such regulations. Know why? Because paint can be painted over! Paint color is NOT, REPEAT, NOT a preservation issue! Do you know who WILL regulate colors? Developers who build "exclusive," over-priced McMansions, then set up "neighborhood associations," (not like ours, by the way) to control their investment's snob appeal until they can get their money out and move on.

The Association Corner

by Dawn Lutz, Craig Thomas, and Tom Schaefer

Welcoming New Residents

We have prepared a packet of helpful information about services available in this area as well as activities sponsored by OEYNA. Since Jan. 2, 2007, Earl & Bev Williams, David Fernandez, Tom & Jan Schaefer, Lauren Farah, Joan Gunning, Duane Bell and Dorcas Arigo have taken part in delivering packets to our newest residents. We would like to thank everyone for their help.

If you have a new neighbor, or if you would like to make a visit or two, call Dawn Lutz at 757-1343.

Many Thanks To...

David Fernandez, Lynn & Dave Johnson, the Leavens family, Brenda Kreeger, Marcie Moore and Alicia Overmiller on their continued assistance in newsletter delivery.

If you know of a neighbor who is *not* receiving this newsletter, please e-mail info@oldeastyork.com.

A Condensed History of OEY – Part II

Our first article emphasized limestone's role in OEY's subsequent development. Commonly, limestone areas, like our own York/Kreutz Creek Valley, are laced with streams and well-developed underground water systems. A boon to our first European settlers, these waters also benefited those who lived long before William Penn took title to his New World estate.

It is likely humankind first entered our region sometime between 13,000- 9,000 B.C. Known as Paleo-Indians, these people were nomadic and possessed few tools. Scant signs exist of their travels through south central Pennsylvania. By the Woodland Period's (1000 B.C. - 1550 A.D.) end, these peoples developed into well-structured tribes that lived in large, agriculturally-oriented villages, supplemented their diets with hunting and fishing, and enjoyed sophisticated material cultures, languages, and spiritual understandings. By the time of contact with European settlers, our neighborhood lay within the realm of the Susquehannocks and later, the Iroquois Confederacy.

Did Indians live here? No. The Iroquois lived in the Finger Lakes region but hunted here. The prime Susquehannock settlements were on the Susquehanna's east shore, south of Washington Boro. Their last village, sited within the present Lauxmont Farms, is now gravely threatened by development.

Did Indians traverse OEY? Very much so! Although no artifacts have been recovered here, it is certain that hunting and fishing parties thoroughly explored our area. Why? Remember the streams? It was quite common for Indian parties to gather or camp at stream intersections, like the

one just west of North Hills Rd. and Industrial Hwy.: the meeting point of the stream behind Wallace St., and Mill Creek to our west. A bit farther west, a third stream joins this Codorus Creek (itself an Indian name) tributary. Although the line of I-83, the railroad bridge, milling activities, etc. (all future topics) have all but obliterated our ancient landscape, there still might be a stray arrowhead or two nearby.

Next: Part III, OEY's Indian Trail

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