

Overbrook Farms  
OF Note

WINTER 2006

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERBROOK FARMS CLUB

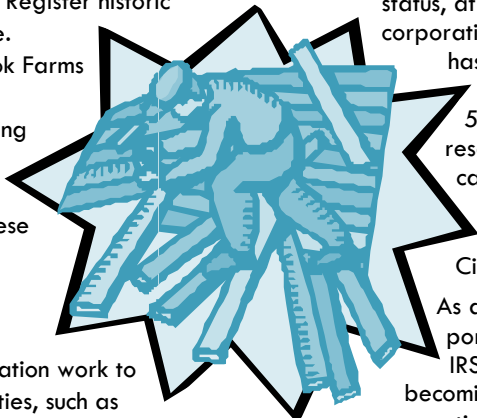
# New Historic Home Repair Fund

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia is kicking off 2006 with a program designed to help city residents with moderate or low incomes maintain or repair their historic homes.

The Historic Properties Repair Program (HPRP) is a city-funded initiative that is administered by the Preservation Alliance. HPRP assists low and moderate income homeowners with grants for exterior repairs to their homes so that the historic character of their neighborhoods can be maintained. Only owner occupied residences located in a City or National Register historic district are eligible.

Because Overbrook Farms is on the National Register, contributing homes in our neighborhood are eligible for these grants.

These grants are limited to exterior repairs and restoration work to residential properties, such as porch repairs, painting, masonry re-pointing, carpentry restoration, roofing and/or window repairs. Also, the grants are designed to bridge the gap between doing basic (non-historic) repairs and doing authentic restoration work. For example, replacing porch posts with modern ironwork



may cost \$1,000, but replacement with historic wood columns would cost \$2,500. The HPRP program would pay the difference, or \$1,500, and the homeowner would pay the base amount, or \$1,000.

The Preservation Alliance will be sending out information on their program in the

near future that will include detailed information on who is eligible for the grants, who can do the repair work and other details of how the program will be administered. Their brochure will be mailed directly to your home, so watch your mailbox for more information on this exciting program.

## Overbrook Farms Civic Foundation

To maintain the strengths of OFC, but also to take advantage of non-profit status, at its October meeting the OFC Board voted to establish a non-profit corporation. As an unincorporated community group, Overbrook Farms Club has several tools available to use in preserving this community; but, it is not a non-profit corporation, something typically referred to as a 501(c)(3). Because it is not a non-profit, OFC can lobby its elected representatives, support candidates for public office and take other politically related actions that give it a voice and some muscle. However, since it is not a non-profit, its ability to raise funds, seek grants or offer tax incentives to for-profit partners is limited. The Overbrook Farms Civic Foundation will be a powerful ally of the Overbrook Farms Club.

As a result, Overbrook Farms Civic Foundation, OFCF, was recently incorporated and is now working to obtain its not-for-profit status from the IRS. We hope that OFCF will help us fight blight in our neighborhood by becoming a tool to transform multi-unit, vacant or otherwise abandoned properties into viable single family homes, providing sources of low interest or no interest loans for home repairs, working with commercial establishments to revitalize the 63rd Street corridor and becoming involved in other community related and educational activities.

OFCF is still in its very early stages; but, we anticipate beginning fund raising in the very near future. We will be looking for community members interested in contributing time to OFCF to help us begin our fundraising efforts or to assist in planning programs.

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Save the date

**OVERBROOK FARMS HOUSE TOUR**

April 30, 2006

# President's Remarks

As many of you may now know, I was elected by the Board this past fall to replace Dennis Green as President of the Overbrook Farms Club when Dennis and Peter Rittenhouse moved to California. For those of you who do not know much about me or my views about our neighborhood, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My wife Stephanie and I moved to this community 5 1/2 years ago. We have four boys, eight and under. Our two older sons attend a public charter school in Center City.

Living in this neighborhood, we are all entrusted with a priceless piece of Philadelphia's history. We all together are stewards of this "suburb deluxe". I see the main mission of the Overbrook Farms Club as preserving our community and our neighborhood, a neighborhood that straddles the "main line," stretching from 58th Street to 66th and Woodbine to Lancaster.

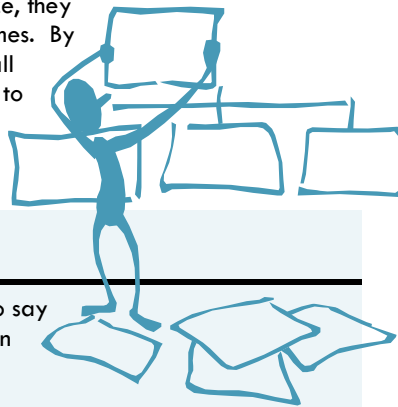
The Club's role in our community is two-fold:

1) preserve the physical buildings, and

2) preserve and foster the sense of community.

There is something intrinsic in the design of the buildings and the layout of the homes that translates into what our community is about, the sidewalks, large front porches, generous parlors, all speak to a way of living. Making significant changes to the exterior of our homes, or having homes demolished, changes not only the visual esthetic of our community, but fundamentally alters what it means to live in a neighborhood like ours. By preserving the buildings as close as possible to their original construction and design, we are maintaining the original esthetics planned for this development, not to mention capturing and preserving a piece of history.

This raises the issue of preserving the zoning or use of these houses. Despite their size, they are homes. By doing all we can to keep



our homes zoned and used as single family structures we preserve a way of living that many other neighborhoods in this city have lost. I feel very strongly about keeping out incursions of businesses, boarding houses, junk yards and other non-residential uses. By doing all we can to keep our neighborhood as it was originally planned, it invites others to move here to raise their families, encourages our current families to stay and fosters the idea that the children growing up here now will want to return and raise their families in the future.

Preserving our neighborhood and fostering a sense of community is up to us all. We all can participate. We have an aggressive agenda and welcome anyone able and willing to step up and lend a hand. I hope to see you all out and around our neighborhood, whether helping out down at Morris Park, sprucing up our neighborhood during Spring Clean-up, standing by our side during zoning hearings or even just inviting friends to our neighborhood with you on April 30th.

Terry

## Comings and Goings

The Overbrook Farms Club Board of Directors is sad to say good-bye to its immediate past President Dennis Green and Board Member Phil Goldblum, both of whom recently moved from the neighborhood.

Dennis was a strong leader for our community and the Board. He energized the Board and sought out new members willing to take on responsibilities and move forward with new projects. He also was instrumental in tying our community to local political leaders and gaining support from our elected representatives. Dennis also was able to bring Saint Joseph's University into the neighborhood to help us deal with problem boarding houses, unruly apartment buildings and rowdy students. Before the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Dennis was a fixture, voicing our community's opposition to boarding houses and multi-unit housing. Dennis' leadership and friendship will be sorely missed; but, we wish him well in sunny California.

Phil Goldblum and his wife Amy Eckert were also instrumental in moving our community forward. The work they put into their home alone brought many to our neighborhood to marvel at its wonderful architecture. Originally designed as a single family home, over the years 6396 Overbrook was split into a twin. Phil and Amy painstakingly restored their home to its single family grandeur, becoming a fixture on the annual house tour. Phil was also instrumental in getting Overbrook Farms Club established on the Internet with its own website and constructing a list-serve that was instrumental in keeping us all connected through email (this feature will return).

Stepping up to the Board to fill in Dennis' and Phil's positions are Kevin Mauer from the 6300 block of City Avenue and Adjoa Love-Dorsey from the 5900 block of Overbrook Avenue. We are looking forward to their contributions. Please welcome them to the Board.

Overbrook Farms Club		
Directors	Board Members	
<b>President</b> Terry M. Henry	Larry Andreozzi	Adjoa Love-Dorsey
<b>Vice President</b> Huntley Hardison	Sharon Curtis	Kevin Mauer
<b>Treasurer</b> Wes LaBlanc	Melanie Ellison-Roach	Keven Parker
<b>Secretary</b> Amy Taylor	Margaret Gardner	Jean Tracy
<b>Recording Secretary</b> Carol Tinari	Michael Lemley	Paul Winter

### Board Nominations for 2005/2006

Margaret Gardner  
Nominated for a second term ending 2009

Huntley Hardison  
Nominated for a second term ending 2009

Adjoa Love-Dorsey  
Nominated for a first term ending 2010

Kevin Mauer  
Nominated for a first term ending 2010

Keven Parker  
Nominated for a first term ending 2009

Amy Taylor  
Nominated for a first term ending 2009

## Vandalism in Morris Park

During the past two years the Morris Park Restoration Association, with the support of the Friends' Central School, the Overbrook Farms Club and the Fairmount Park Commission, have worked to restore Morris Park. This 150 acre woodland had become neglected, misused, eroded, and overgrown with invasive plants. But now, this devoted group of volunteers has restored the trail along Indian Creek connecting our neighborhood with Papa Playground. They have built new storm water step-pools to reduce erosion from the storm drains, and have removed many invasive plants, replacing them with native species of flowers,

shrubs, and trees.

Recently we have noticed disturbing evidence of misuse. For example, the one redundant trail that was closed by Fairmount Park has been re-opened, and as part of that act of vandalism, dozens of plantings bought and planted by the students of Friends' Central have been uprooted. Groups of paint ball enthusiasts have been using the park for their games and illegal dumping of party trash and landscaping debris (by both professionals and our own neighbors) is ongoing.

OFC is offering a reward for information leading to

the fining or conviction of persons who misuse the park. We encourage residents to do two things. First, call 911 when they see abusive activity in the park. Second, relay the information and the police report number to Huntley Hardison (memphis\_slim87@hotmail.com) or Dan and Tom Gasiewski (MPRA-owner@yahoo.com). We will follow up with the 19<sup>th</sup> Police District.

With watchfulness, and by properly reporting misuse, we can preserve this beautiful natural woodland, as well as our neighborhood and quality of life.

## Mothers & Others

Overbrook Farms has a small group of mothers (fathers and other caregivers are welcome too!) who have been meeting to discuss neighborhood, schooling and parenting issues.

The Mothers group has sponsored a neighborhood Easter egg hunt and a summer "block party". If you are interested in joining our group for conversation or to help plan events, please contact Stephanie Kindt (215) 878-4522 or Maureen Edozie (215) 878-8748.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 28th, 7:30 PM at The Overbrook Farms Country Store located on 63rd Street. Hope to see you there.

## Overbrook Farms Open House

Many of us walk our tree-lined blocks filled with wonder: I wonder if they use their sun-porch in winter? I wonder how a small family fills up that home? That house is almost the same as mine – I wonder what they did with the hall? If you wonder . . . or if you generally find house tours entertaining and instructive, here's an opportunity. Eight to ten homes and 3 historic churches will be open for Overbrook Farms' Open House on Sunday, April 30th. The self-guided walking and driving tour lasts from 1 to 5 p.m. When you're ready for a respite during the afternoon, sit down to enjoy the delightful Victorian tea that is included in the tour price. Co-sponsored by Philadelphia Open House and the Overbrook Farms Club, the event will raise money for the Friends of Independence National Historical Park and beautification projects in our neighborhood. Tickets, available in advance from Philadelphia Open House, are \$35; they are \$40 on the day of the tour. (A \$3 fee per

transaction – not per ticket – applies to credit card purchases.) For further information on this and other tours, or to purchase tickets, contact Philadelphia Open House at 215-928-1188.

Neighbors are needed as docents to greet visitors to the homes. In exchange for working one shift, docents can spend the other shift taking the tour. Contact Eileen Doyle at 215-871-5523 or Debra Cianfrani at 215-452-5754 to volunteer. Docents are invited to enjoy the afternoon tea at a price of \$7, to help cover the cost – still a modest amount for a lovely afternoon.

As a guide and a keepsake, each tour-goer receives a booklet containing the neighborhood history, descriptions of the tour houses and photos. To purchase an ad in the booklet (\$50 for business card, \$100 for a 1/2 page, \$300 for a full page), contact Simone Carson at 215 877-0640.

## Horticultural Corner

Herbs have long been prized for their scents, medicinal properties and culinary uses. I have come to value herbs for their ornamental attributes as well and now use them as bedding plants and in annual containers. Here are a few ideas which could really add some zing to your plantings too.

Eucalyptus - in a sunny, dry spot, every variety of eucalyptus will color a bed or container with steely, grey foliage. The tiny leaves of 'Silver Dollar' delicately flow in the breeze; larger leafed forms can grow to four feet in a single growing season. And of course, the scent of eucalyptus is captivating.

Fennel - especially bronze fennel - is dramatic when planted in beds. This billowy plant will grow to three feet, produces tiny yellow bell flowers in late summer, will deter deer and attract swallowtail butterflies.

Silver Thyme is a fragrant herb to grow in the cracks of walkways. The scent spills over when walked on. Also useful on a slope, it is evergreen, produces small lavender blossoms in summer and can spill out of containers if left untamed.

Garlic Chives - in late summer this herb blooms starry white flowers above tall green stems. The seed heads are great cut and dried while the flat leaves can be harvested year long for use in soups, salads and dips.

Rosemary - there are so many varieties of rosemary, it's difficult to pick even one or two to recommend. 'Salem' makes a great hedge/foliage choice - it can grow to two feet with glossy green needlelike leaves and small blue flowers. Many forms labeled 'prostrata' will spill out of containers and all add remarkable flavor in soups, with shell fish and in herbal bouquets.

*Ginny Duerr is a garden designer/horticulturist and a graduate of The Arboretum School of The Barnes Foundation*

## Upcoming Events

<b>March 26</b>	King David Symphonic Psalm Overbrook Presbyterian Church 4:00 PM
<b>April 6</b>	Overbrook Farms Annual History Night Overbrook Presbyterian Church 7:00 PM
<b>April 22</b>	Community Clean-up 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM Meet at the Overbrook Train Station
<b>April 30</b>	Overbrook Farms House Tour Contact Philadelphia Open House 215-928-1188.
<b>June 22</b>	OFC General Meeting Overbrook Presbyterian Church 7:00 PM

To submit a Calendar Event, please send an email message with complete information to [ofclub@verizon.net](mailto:ofclub@verizon.net). We reserve the right to make final decisions about submissions.

## ADVERTISE

### IN THE OFC NEWSLETTER

- **REACH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN OVERBROOK FARMS**
- **GET SEEN BY OUR GROWING POPULATION OF HOMEBUYERS**

Published three times per year, the newsletter is distributed free to more than 700 homeowners and businesses in historic Overbrook Farms.

For information and rates, please contact us:

Overbrook Farms Club  
6376 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 477-9250  
[ofclub@verizon.net](mailto:ofclub@verizon.net)

## Papa Playground Gets a Facelift

Check out the brand new equipment just installed at Papa Playground (66th and Lansdowne).

The old broken equipment is gone and we have a new tot lot and big kids play area. The new rubberized surface will be poured sometime in the spring when weather permits.

Many thanks to the Papa Playground Advisory Committee led by Luther Collins for their hard work and to the amazing support given by Councilman Michael Nutter! The Advisory Committee worked tirelessly to acquire the new equipment as well as keep programming running at Papa.

## Overbrook Farms History Night

A fascinating program including some of the architects and history from the time Overbrook Farms was developed will take place on Thursday, April 6th, at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Join your neighbors for dessert at 7; presentation at 7:30. Look for program details to follow, or email [jean.tracy@verizon.net](mailto:jean.tracy@verizon.net).



## LITTLE LEAGUE AT PAPA PLAYGROUND!

Ages: 4 to 14

To register go to Papa Playground Recreation Center and complete the form on a Tuesday or Thursday beginning February 6th. Registration schedule:

- T - Ball (ages 4-6) - \$45
- Coach Pitch (ages 7-8) - \$55
- Minors (ages 9-10) - \$65
- Majors (ages 11-14) - \$75

To make a donation, offer coaching assistance or for more information contact:

Judy Kelly - 215-685-0141  
Jeff Bowker - 215 477-0379  
or visit the website:  
[www.salkids.org](http://www.salkids.org)



## King David Symphonic Psalm Performed

Arthur Honegger's King David Symphonic Psalm, after a Drama by Rene' Morax (original 1921 Version) will be performed at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, featuring the Overbrook Presbyterian Choir and Orchestra. Conducted by Dennis Elwell (former Overbrook Farms resident), and narrated by David K. McMillan (Pastor Emeritus, Overbrook Presbyterian Church).

Sunday, March 26th, 2006, 4:00 PM  
Free will offering. Infant childcare provided.

Watch for news about spring clean up at Papa Playground.

Come out and help get the park ready for the little leaguers! Take a magical walk through Morris Park and end up at Papa!

### HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY OBSERVED	COLLECTION
President's Day Monday, February 20	Tuesday, February 21
Memorial Day Monday, May 29	Tuesday, May 30
Labor Day Monday, September 4	Tuesday, September 5
Columbus Day Monday, October 9	Tuesday, October 10
Christmas Day Monday, December 25	Tuesday, December 26

**ALL HOLIDAYS:** Trash and recycling collection will be one day behind schedule for the remainder of the week

**Of Note is published seasonally.  
Designed and edited by  
Melanie Ellison-Roach**

### THE OVERBROOK FARMS CLUB

#### CONTACT US:

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Working to preserve and protect  
the historic fabric of the community  
and maintain our quality of life.

