



# NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

October 2021  
Volumn 17, No. 4

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*OCTOBER, 2021*

It was wonderful to see so many of you at summer events again! The PLA had a great summer, and I hope all of you did too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who volunteer and work so hard to make the PLA summer events so successful. Steve Szilvagy and Committee Members for Monday Night Concerts in the Park, Mary Jo McElroy, Chair of Pig Roast, Frank English, Onekama Day's Car Show, Paul Mueller and Kyle Miller for the Fantastic Fireworks Display, Debby Major for organizing and overseeing the PLA Arts & Crafts show, Nikki Schneider for chairing Fallfest, Pat Pomeranski for chairing Christmas in Onekama, Mary Fairgrieve for Farr and Near Friends, Jean Capper for editing the quarterly new letter and Al Taylor for advertising all the events on the PLA website and Facebook. The PLA appreciates all of you who volunteered this summer. We couldn't do it without you!

Congratulations to Lion's Club, OCH Booster Club and Onekama Businesses for successful events during Onekama Days. It was a great weekend for all of us in the community and the many visitors from near and far.

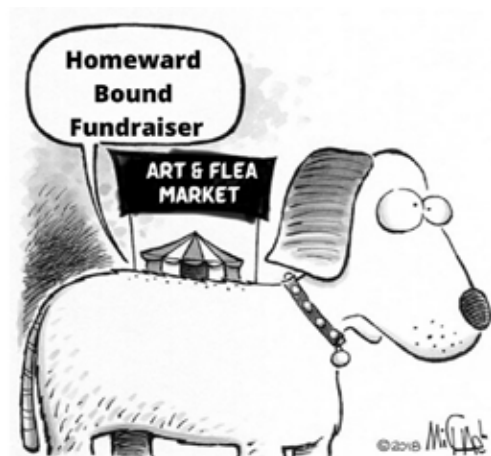
I would like to thank a special person, Jon Phillips, for his many years of dedication to the PLA. He has been Co-Chair for the Petunia Parade and served as a member of the board of directors for many years. His input on the board has been invaluable and his many hours, days and months as Co-Chair of the Petunia Parade are visible each summer, as you look along Main Street in the Village. Thank you, Jon!

The PLA is planning two more events this year. The Free Family Fall Festival is Saturday, October 9th, in the Village Park. Christmas in Onekama will be held on Saturday, November 20th, at the OCS Cafetorium followed by Celebration of Lights that evening at the Farr Center. These are two great events that everyone looks forward to and a great way to end the year. Please check the PLA website [www.onekama.info](http://www.onekama.info) or the PLA Facebook page for details.

For those of you who ask, what's there to do in Onekama or how can I help? Consider volunteering with the PLA. The PLA is a great way to meet your neighbors and have fun! Just a reminder, the PLA is responsible for all the following events: Petunia Parade, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, Onekama Day's Pig Roast & Craft Beer Tasting, Onekama Day's Fireworks, Onekama Day's Car Show, Onekama Day's Arts & Crafts Fair, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, Celebration of Lights, Christmas Lights and Banners in the Village of Onekama, Welcome Committee, Near & Farr Friends. Those of you who are interested in publicity, social media and fundraising, we always have a place for you too.

Have a wonderful and safe Fall Season.

Julie Lapinski, President PLA  
[julielapinski@gmail.com](mailto:julielapinski@gmail.com)



## FOUR FOOTED FLEA & ART MARKET

Saturday, October 9

Rain/Snow date: October 10

10am - 2pm

4850 Main Street

\$20 donation per table

Contact Nikki 312-909-0115 to sign up



**Saturday, October 9**

Registration: 12:00

Viewing & Judging: 12:15

Prizes: 12:30

Village Park

1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes

Doggie Bags for all participants

Sponsored by:



## FARM MARKET

## VENDORS NEEDED

Onekama Fall Festival

October 9th at 10am

To reserve your **FREE** spot  
in the Park

contact Nikki 312-909-0115



# ONEKAMA 150 GALA

*Grand Finale of*  
ONEKAMA OneFifty  
Thursday, October 7th, 2021  
6:00PM to 10:00PM



*At the Historic Portage Point Resort  
enjoy a festive evening of food, live music, tributes to Onekama's past 150 years*

Also Featuring:

Special Guest Speaker award-winning author & adventurer

**Loreen Niewenhuis**

who walked 1,000 miles of shoreline around the Great Lakes

Heavy hors d'oeuvres by Zupin's Catering & Cash Bar

Tickets \$35.00 per person or table for ten \$300

Purchase by check to Onekama Township, must write "Gala" in memo

Mail to Onekama Township, P.O. Box 458, Onekama, MI 48675

Questions? email [Onekama150th@gmail.com](mailto:Onekama150th@gmail.com)

[www.laketrek.com](http://www.laketrek.com)

[www.onekama.info/onekama-onefifty](http://www.onekama.info/onekama-onefifty)

## Christmas in Onekama



**Mark your calendars now for Christmas in Onekama weekend.**

Craft show - November 20th (Saturday)

10am - 3pm at Onekama Consolidated School

Chili Cook off 11am-2pm

Celebration of Lights - November 21st (Sunday) 6pm. At this time there will be a touching ceremony of the reading of names of individuals being honored and/or memorialized.

Look for more information on our website:

<https://www.onekama.info/christmas-onekama>

Pat Pomeranski, chair



## Portage Lake Garden Club report on the Fountain

In recent weeks a minor controversy has arisen related to the Garden Club's maintenance of the memorial fountain in Village Park. The park is visited by hundreds of residents and tourists each year, and the garden club's commitment is to assure that the historic fountain contributes to the park's beauty and reflects favorably on the village of Onekama. The club has cared for the fountain for over seventy years and in addition to planting seasonal flowers club members also routinely keep the basins and the merman statue clean.

During the hottest weeks of summer it is a challenge to keep algae from growing and accumulating in the basins. If left untended the algae creates an unsightly mess that detracts from the fountain's beauty. In recent years the solution has been to administer a teaspoon of hth chlorine every other week. This is the same product that is routinely used in backyard swimming pools.

A concerned citizen has recently questioned to both the village council and the state EGLE (formerly the DEQ) the use of hth chlorine in the fountain. The garden club believes that the current program is harmless to the environment and to the water quality of Portage Lake, but is taking the complaint seriously and is working closely with the village council and EGLE to resolve the issue.



## People You Should Know

### *The Innkeepers at the Canfield House*

#### *Kyle Miller and his parents, Nancy & Stefan.*

Kyle and his parents are originally from Northern Indiana, and they have vacationed in Onekama during the summers since 1985. They all fell in love with the area. It was always Kyle's dream to own the Canfield House and be part of the Onekama community. Recently the opportunity presented itself and Kyle decided to purchase the Canfield House and re-open it as a bed and breakfast. The Canfield House was built in 1900 as the summer home of lumber baron Charles Canfield, the Canfield House has been completely renovated while retaining the charm of the original house. They look forward to continuing the tradition Paul and Jane Mueller first established as the innkeepers of the Canfield House Bed & Breakfast. They opened in August and have been busy ever since. They have some great fall/winter plans that will provide their guests with some fun activities and some of these will also be offered to the public. December will find them hosting a wine tasting weekend with two Michigan wineries. In January there will be a Murder Mystery weekend. In February, something special for Valentine's Day and in March there will be a Paint & Sip event, as well as a craft event. Welcome to the neighborhood!



Main Office: (231) 757-3850 • North Office: (231) 398-9900  
3091 N. US-31 Scottville, MI 49454 3021 Schoedel Rd, Manistee, MI 49660  
Fertilization – Mowing – Seasonal Clean-up – Landscape Maintenance





## Goings on at North Point Park

On Friday 9/10/2021, Onekama Township Parks and Recreation organized and hosted the second annual program for the Manistee County Intermediate Schools Special Education Department. Parks and Recreation committee members, Michelle Ervin and Paul Mueller were assisted by members of the garden club. The students and teachers had a great time and learned about native plants, pollinators and some of the foods that come to us as a result of pollinators. The bread and honey were a big hit. The students also got a chance to help plant natives. This was a really wonderful event, that helped connect the students and teachers to gardens and nature.

The next day, several volunteers helped plant 200 natives. It is going to be really exciting to see them grow. A special thanks to Matt LaMore, of Black Cap Farms, who not only lent his expertise, but provided the plants to the Park at cost.

These recent plantings are a result of a decision to return the park to open prairie. To help restore the ecosystem, commission members are looking to apply for a \$1,000 grant through the Wildflower Association of Michigan. These efforts are being made by the Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Committee and the Onekama Township Board with the help of the Portage Lake Garden Club, Manistee Conservation District, Portage Lake Watershed, and Black Cap Farms.



## **Watershed Workshops October 23rd & November 13th**

*By Lara Treemore-Spears*

During winter 2021, volunteers around Portage Lake came together to apply for a \$40,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, Water Resources Division. The grant will fund conceptual design of a water quality improvement project that the EGLE Nonpoint Source Program or other funders would support, and curriculum and equipment for middle school students to study water quality. Nonpoint source pollution is the term for contaminants that have a negative effect on water quality, but that do not come from an easily identified and confined place. Examples include sediment eroded from improperly managed land, oil and grit from roads, and chemicals carried by storm water runoff. The goal of the project is to envision and strategize next steps for community action in watershed conservation, restoration, education and monitoring.

The project kicked-off strong with a “visioning” activity at the Village Park during Onekama Days on Saturday, August 7th, 2021, only 10 days after the grant was awarded to the Village of Onekama. People who stopped by the booth showed their support by placing sticky dots on images and concepts that positively impact water quality. Everyone was invited to share their opinion, including kids. Dot colors allowed organizers to track how many residents, non-residents and children participated; 65% were local adults. Support was strong for trails, trout streams and land protection, followed by public art and nature education, whether people were local or from out-of-town. All ideas received enthusiastic support.

The project team hopes to see YOU at one of the public workshops to build upon these concepts. Together the community will envision and design projects that can be implemented in Onekama at these events:

Saturday, October 23rd at the Onekama School Cafeteria from 10 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, November 3rd, remote meeting online from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 13th, at the Onekama School Cafeteria from 10 a.m. to noon

Partners in this effort include the Village of Onekama, Onekama Schools, Portage Lake Watershed Forever, West Shore Community College, Onekama Township and others. Follow the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Facebook page (@portagelakewatershedforever) and other local social media outlets or check <https://www.onekama.info/village> for more information and remote meeting connection details. For more information contact the Village of Onekama.

## **Summary of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever**

**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
May 25, 2021**

Education and Outreach Committee-

Lara Treemore-Spears reported that the committee is holding boat washes to educate the public about the importance of not transferring invasive species from lake to lake. The first event is Thursday, May 22 with others scheduled for June 26 and July 10. Renee Mallison, Executive Director of the Manistee Co. Conservation District, expressed interest in helping out with these projects.

Al Taylor reported on education efforts through the PLWF Facebook page.

Water quality & environmental monitoring committee –

To follow up on a meeting between Armin Schlieffarth and Mary Reed of the PLWF and Dave Meister and Shelli Johnston of Onekama Twp earlier this year and at Armin's request Lara Treemore-Spears proposed that the PLWF attempt to clarify the relationship between this committee, the PLWF and Onekama Township with regard to lake management. She presented several ideas in a draft letter to be considered by the board.

Old Business-

Committee membership and expenditure authority. As has been discussed at past board meetings, the PLWF needs to expand the membership of several committees to include more than just PLWF board members. Armin Schlieffarth asked that, before the next board meeting, board members give him names of people that are willing to serve on the PLWF standing and adhoc committees. This will allow the board to designate committee chairs and members and to discuss how to handle allowing committees to authorize expenditures.



### New Business-

Lara Treemore-Spears presented an opportunity to partner with the Benzie Conservation

District on a webinar about mudpuppies, wood turtles and other species of conservation concern. Lara Treemore-Spears moved and Gene Lagerquist supported that the PLWF authorize an expenditure of up to \$300 for a speaker's fee to Herpetological Resource and Management LLC from the Education and Publicity budget line. During discussion, Gene Lagerquist said that the Spirit of the Woods Conversation Club would be willing to provide \$100 of the speaker's fee.



## 2021 PIG ROAST A "BLAZING" SUCCESS

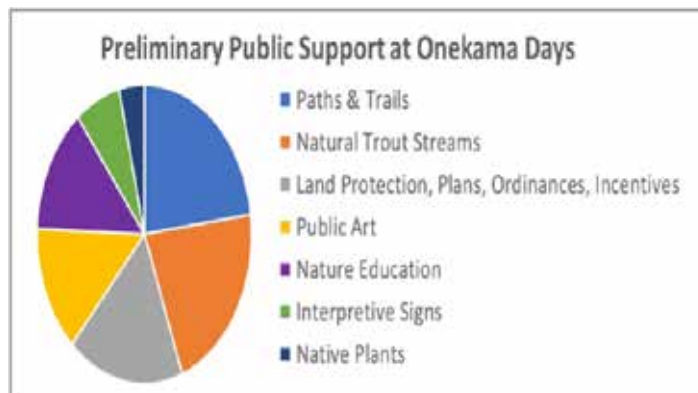
If you showed up after seven PM on August 7 to get a roasted pork sandwich and the fixings, you were probably too late! After serving 335 meals, volunteers for the Portage Lake Association's tenth "Pig Out for Students" were sold out. The crowd of people in town for the event were treated to pork on a wheat or white bun topped with barbeque sauce, creamy coleslaw, bacon-y beans, and an array of delicious desserts.

Event chairman Mary Jo McElroy was quick to applaud the volunteers who helped with the event as part of Onekama Days. "Without members of the OCS School Board, Dave and Elaine Maylen and their friend Cindy, husband Jeff McClune, Bee Capper, and a gal named Lori, this community meal would not have been as smooth nor as profitable," said McElroy. The desserts ran the gamut from cookies to brownies to caramel corn to cake and everything was delivered in baggies for the carry out dinner.

The USDA pig was obtained from a farm in Lake City, Michigan and then transported to the Schoedel farm on (not coincidentally) Schoedel Road. Charlie Schoedel, his wife, and son get their process approved by the health department before bringing the cooked swine to the Onekama Village Park.

Historically, about 250 meals are served during this annual event. A cold and rainy evening in August 2017 resulted in selling only 161 meals. So, when the buns ran out and three roasters of baked beans had been devoured, the last dozen customers accepted pork, coleslaw, and dessert at a discounted price.

Profits from the pig roast are donated to Onekama Consolidated Schools students for class trips, special projects, and scholarships for post-high school education.



## ***PETUNIA SLEUTHING!!***

Late this summer, the Petunia Parade Committee received this question from several community volunteers: “why are the petunias on the eastern end of Main Street so different from those on the western end?” Indeed, the most noticeable difference was the sparseness (aka puny) appearance of petunias especially in front of the old Shirley’s parking lot. So, we got to work on our Sherlock Holmes investigation.

Our first question was “what exactly do petunias need and want?” According to the University of Minnesota Extension, the type of petunias that we use “need at least 5 or 6 hours of good sunlight; they’ll perform even better when located in full sun all day. The more shade they receive, the fewer flowers they’ll produce. While soil needn’t be terribly rich to grow good petunias, it must drain decently. It’s always useful to improve garden soil by conditioning it with organic matter, such as peat moss, compost, or manure.” Since we replenished all petunia plots with Dairy Doo in May, we felt pretty good about that factor, assuming all plots received their fair share.

But what could be causing the differences? Through observation and discussion, we hypothesized four variables that could be root causes of differences we saw this year.

Uneven sunlight along the petunia route; however, because some of the shadier sites seem better than some sunny sites, we did not think this was a major factor. Added to that is the fact that we cannot change the sunlight and it’s the same as prior years in terms of sun versus shade.

Watering. Our reliable watering fellow, Steve Hall, assured us that he loves all plots equally, watering them in the wee hours of the morning unless there is a vehicle parked along the street. There are some plots that receive extra watering by the home or business owners – the best example is between Mill and Zosel where Dode VanBrocklin sprinkles that stretch almost every day, and the petunias are fabulous (see photo). We have great drainage in the soil, so that’s not an issue. Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses (where we purchase our plants) told us they had to remove their hanging petunias this year because they wilted out so early. They suggested it might be due to intense rainfall in a short period of time (certainly what we experienced on August 28 and 29).



Fertilizing. All petunias receive a dose of the recommended fertilizer three times per season. The fertilizer is mixed into the watering truck and released in the usual manner of watering. However, we did hear rumors of some plots receiving additional doses of Preen by over-zealous weeder.

Visitors stepping into the flowers. This is most noticeable in front of Shirley’s parking lot when customers to EZ Market make a mad dash into the local grocery store. We also heard that some vehicles are left running during that dash, so that the exhaust fumes are directly on the petunias for a short while.

So that’s where we are now, still asking ourselves questions. If you, the reader, have any insight or advice, please email me at [maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net). The committee welcomes all input and has already started planning for 2022!



## Monday Night Concerts in the Park

*by Steve Szilvagy, Concert Chair*

They almost didn't happen again this year. At the beginning of May I informed the PLA Board of my intention to step down as chair of the Concert Committee. Then in early June, the State of Michigan officials okayed open-air public gatherings like our Concerts in the Park and we began a process of pulling together this summer's lineups. Thanks to members of the Concert Committee for stepping up; Mike Lubert for taking on the Bucketeers and their donation collecting, and Greg Bower for managing deployment of the concert signs. Thanks to them we were able to get the concerts back on track.

Our first concert, June 28 brought back our old friends, **Miriam Pico and David Chown**, along with woodwind virtuoso, **Laurie Sears** in a concert enjoyed by about 250 enthusiastic fans. On July 5, under threatening skies, the **Schrock Brothers Band with Peter Madcat Ruth** thrilled the crowd of about 350 folks, managing to continue playing with a light rain falling, thanks to some hastily deployed trash bags over their loudspeakers.

Monday July 12 brought sunny and pleasant weather and the largest crowd of the summer, as over 500 fans of **Jake Slater as Elvis** arrived early and lingered to talk with their idol. In their first concert in over a year, the **Benzie Playboys** brought their zydeco rhythms to a crowd of at least 450 dancers on July 19; their concert extended well past 9:30 because everyone was having such a great time!

The July 26 concert featuring folk singer, and local artist Ben Traverse was truncated by rain at the 8 pm hour, but Ben continued to sing for the crowd of about 30 (200 pre-rain) under the Park's picnic shelter. We had much nicer weather on August 2 for the triumphal return of **Peter, Paul and Mary Remembered**, featuring Doc and Donna Probes, Jim Hawley and bassist David Swan. Our crowd was about 400 people who enjoyed singing along all those familiar folk songs.

The rains returned next week (August 9) so the Magic show featuring Michael Trixx and the concert with **Wally Pleasant** was held in the Onekama School Auditorium. After the magic show was over, about half

the audience left, making our smallest crowd of about 100 folks.

Finally, August 16 brought beautiful summer weather to enjoy **Feral Cats**, consisting of Phil Coryell and Monte Klein, entertaining about 200 fans who loved the mix of blues, jazz and folk put out by this accomplished duo.

Although our crowds this summer were a little smaller than they have been in the past, folks were enthusiastic and generous, giving donations which nearly covered our costs for the season. It was encouraging to see that, after a summer's absence, folks really seemed to value these Monday Night Concerts.

As for my part in these productions, I still plan to step down from the Concert Chair's duties, although I will be able to assist whomever decides to pick up the reins of this committee. If you enjoy people and know the value to the community of these concerts, I heartily encourage you to contact the PLA Board to volunteer your help for this Committee. You'll have a lot of fun!



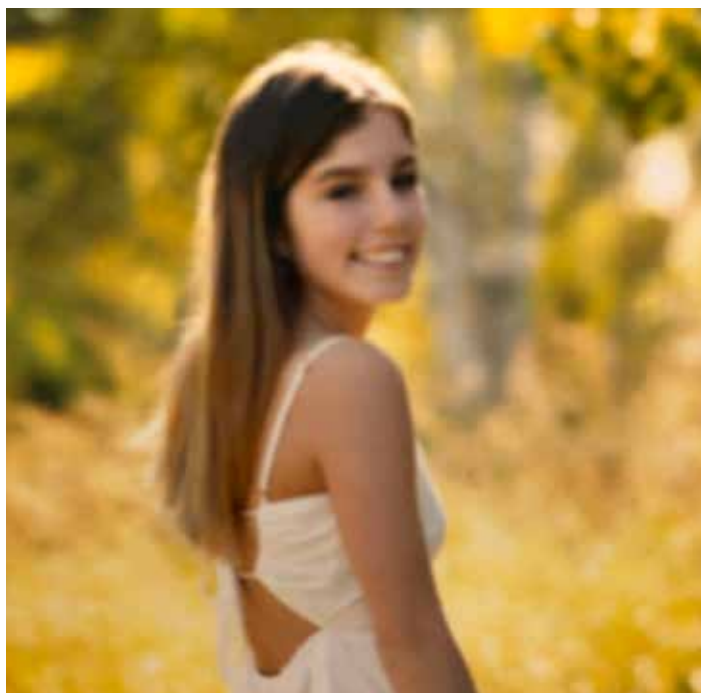
## Beach Sweep 2021

It was a glorious sunny day without wind.

The Garden Club, once again, participated in the Great Lakes beach sweep. Headed by Carol Tamulis, it was a great success. There were 27 participants including a Mom and her son who only came to see the wonderful beach and then stayed to help. We also had several spouses and a couple friends which is terrific.

The collective collection totaled 74 pounds, great job team!

## SCHOLARSHIPS



Sara and Jenna Bromley are the recipients of this year's scholarships from the Portage Lake Association. Ted, Jennifer, Sara and Jenna want to thank the PLA again for the scholarships. They are very much appreciated by the girls. Jenna is going to Calvin University in Grand Rapids, and she is studying nursing. Sara is going to Hope College in Holland, and she is undecided at this point. Both girls are enjoying their studies and are adjusting well to college life! We wish them the best in their future endeavors.



The Green Buoy won the Portage Lake Garden Club's annual Civic Beautification Award. The award is given out yearly to a business or organization to recognize them for enhancing the appearance of Onekama Village and Township. It is chaired by Alice Mesaros, a long time Garden Club member who is a master gardener, as well as an expert on Garden Shows. Wendy and David Kamaloski appreciated receiving this award. Check out some of the pictures. A well deserved award.





## **Summary of Portage Lake Harbor Commission Special Meeting July 29, 2021**

Meeting Purpose: 1) to review feedback and overall evaluation of the channel Celebration on 7-17-21;

2) attend to open issues; 3) discuss Commission's ongoing priority; and 4) prepare for membership and officer votes at next meeting.

Feedback on the Celebration has been very favorable, with both the Corps, and Mrozinski family commenting how everything was so well done and very sincere. Comments from elsewhere in the community have been favorable as well. The Harbor Commission thanks the many who volunteered to help make this a memorable celebration.

Open items from the Celebration include 1) how to get Simons compensated for the out of pocket cost (\$2300) of minting the commemorative coins, 2) how to market the balance of coins after the planned distribution to school kids, 3) need for "No-Wake" signage at the Portage Lake end of the Channel and 4) improvement needed to the path leading on to the South Channel pier[revetment]

Regarding cost of the coins: it was the unanimous position of the Harbor Commission that Simons should be reimbursed as a priority. Ed Bradford Onekama Township Treasurer, was in attendance during this discussion and laid out the process for quickly compensating Simons, and Simons will initiate that process.

Regarding marketing of the coins, in addition to help from local businesses, one step is to have a table at the car show in the park on Saturday of Onekama Day's. Commissioner's will man the table from 9am till 2pm.

Regarding the "No Wake" signage and path on to the South pier head[revetment] Chuck May is to discuss with the Corp. as to the responsibility (US Army Corp, Coast Guard, or Harbor Commissioners?)

Discussion as to our top priority looking forward centered on the likely need for the channel to be dredged again as early as 2024(5-year span). Therefore, it is important that the Commission continue building communication and relationships with the Corp, Michigan DNR, and both State and Federal legislators to ensure funding is available and allocated to meet this need. It

was agreed that this priority for dredging should be on the agenda for all future meetings.

On the subject of membership and officers for the Harbor Commission, Denny Blue has submitted his resignation effective with this meeting. After serving for almost 14 years (since the founding of the Harbor Commission in 2007), Denny's leadership and wisdom will be greatly missed by the team. With acclamation, all board members give a real shout out of thanks and best to Denney! This vacancy and the election of officers will be addressed at the next Commission meeting.

In preparation for the next meeting, we ask the Onekama Township Board to Confirm Jim Simons as the Chair of the Harbor Commission for the next 12 months in accordance with the by-laws.

### **Summary of Minutes**

When noted, the summaries are from DRAFT minutes, which are subject to amendment at the meeting where they are approved. All minutes can be found at <https://www.onekama.info>. Please note that the Township is in the process of creating their own website. We will provide the new address when available.

*Jean Capper Editor of the  
Portage Lake Association newsletter*

### **ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

If you would like to volunteer contact:

Leslie Osborn

[foodpantry\\_2014@yahoo.com](mailto:foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com)

General Information:

Donations can be given in the collection  
basket or sent to:

St. Joseph Community Food Pantry  
8380 Fifth Street  
Onekama, MI 49675

## Onekama Township Board

Supervisor	<b>David Meister</b> supervisor@onekamatwp.org
Clerk	<b>Michelle (Shelli) Johnson</b> clerk@onekamatwp.org
Treasurer	<b>Edward Bradford</b> treasurer@onekamatwp.org
Zoning Administrator	<b>Katie Mehl</b> Manistee County 231-398-3525
Assessor	<b>Ginny Martz</b> cwas75@yahoo.com
Planning Commission Chairman	<b>Jim Trout</b> planning@onekamatwp.org
Fire Chief	<b>Lawrence Hrachovina</b> fire@onekamatwp.org
Trustees	<b>Robert Blackmore</b> bblackmore@onekamatwp.org <b>Allen Taylor</b> ataylor@onekamatwp.org

### ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP OFFICES

5435 Main Street, PO 458, Onekama MI 49675

#### Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am - 2pm  
231-889-3308; FAX: (231) 889-5587

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Township Board Meets the second Wednesday at 4pm  
Planning Commission Meets Third Thursday 7pm  
April through December.

Zoning Board of Appeals Meets as required

**BURNING PERMITS:** Burning permits issued  
by visiting: [www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits)

## SUMMARY OF THE ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

**CLERK'S REPORT** The Bible Camp is having a wedding that would like to use water lanterns as a send-off and is wondering if the Township would give permission to do that. Consensus of the Board is that the Bible Camp would have to contact EGLE for anything pertaining to water activities. Johnson to contact them regarding this matter.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** received from Bradford.

Cash Fund balances, Revenue Fund Balances, and the escrowed Onekama 150 Balances were all received. Bradford read a letter that was received from The Running Wise Law Firm attorney Kathryn Glancy regarding the Deputy Treasurer Appointment. Anonymous letters are being submitted to the Association of Public Treasurers and the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association that mimic almost exactly the same letter submitted to the Township, however are now attacking the Treasurer's livelihood with his job and harassing him and his family. A summary of attorney 's letter is attached to the end of the Summary of the draft Minutes.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Racial Justice, Inclusion and Diversity -Table the Resolution until September

**Committees/By-Laws:** Johnson distributed the most recent list. Bradford and Taylor are working on the By-Laws for the Committees

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Township Properties:** Comments received from individuals on the property policy draft, and discussion regarding changes to the policy.

### REPORTS:

**FIRE:** Report received from Fire Chief Lawrence Hrachovina. 1 EMS Mtg, 1 Maintenance Mtg, 1 Fire Mtg, 20 EMS Runs, 10 Fire Runs, 5 Fire/EMS, 2 Fire/EMS

M.A BLFD, 1 Fire/EMS M.A. MTFD, 1 Fire Run to Brown Twp. The Department participated in Family Fun Day at the Village Park that was put on by Trinity Lutheran Church. Mutual Aid Training took place at Manistee Township's training center with other area departments. It was a great training that provided hands-on learning opportunities for our members. Alexis stated that mid-August we will be having our final inspection on the new brush truck. Repairs to E-100 will be made as the parts have come in. Motion by Johnson, Second by Blackmore to accept the verbiage changes to the Fire Chief Position, which the current Chief has agreed to.

**ROADS:** Mesick bridge shall be complete by September 3rd. Graveling of several roads is being done. A suggestion was made to the replacement/repairs of Smith Road and M22.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Report given by Jim Trout. There is a Public Hearing Scheduled for August 19 regarding Ordinance Article 1025 -Docks. The Verbiage "as an accessory to the dwelling" is suggested to be removed from the ordinance.



**ASSESSOR:** Report received from Ginny Martz. The July Board of Review was held on July 20th. The Board acted on 23 affidavits. Copies of the affidavits, taxable value worksheets and minutes were delivered to Equalization and the County Treasurer on July 21st. The warrants were generated, checked and signed on July 26th. Copies were delivered to Equalization and the County Treasurer on July 28th. All of the deeds, transfer affidavits, PRE and rescind affidavits have been processed.

**ZBA:** Report from Jim Trout. There will be a Public Hearing at 7 PM on August 19th regarding the Cook's 2nd Variance Request.

**HARBOR COMMISSION:** Report given by Jim Simons. The Minutes were received on recent meetings. One member is still needed on the Commission. Dredging is needed again in 2024.

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** The contract was approved for PLM to complete the work for this year on Portage Lake. Johnson to contact them with the "go ahead". Future contracts can be pursued for years ahead.

**PARKS & REC:** Report given by Chairperson Rich Lapinski. Pollinator strips will be planted in Northpoint Park in the Fall. The committee is working with the Garden Club, Black Cap Farms, the Conservation District, Onekama Schools Special Ed Department, Saving Birds Through Habitat to develop a program for more wildflower plantings. They will be seeking out a grant from the Wildflower Association of Michigan and would like to seek out a small MCCF Matching Grant funding for signage. Consensus from the

Township Board to apply for grant funding from both places as desired. Spicer Group submitted a proposal for investigation into the future of the south UA Beach Access and north Viewing Deck. Glen Park will have boundary signs install next week. Networks Northwest submitted a draft copy of the parks and public access inventory for the committee's review and corrections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Will the Public get notification when Township Property is going up for sale? Yes

Summary of opinion from lawyer re deputy treasurer appointment: Attorney Kathryn E. Glancy:

Our office has been asked to opine whether the Township treasurer may appoint a family member to the deputy treasurer position.

Background: On or about February 10, 2021 Edward Bradford, Onekama Township treasurer appoint-

ed Jennifer Bradford, his wife, to the position of deputy treasurer. Jennifer Bradford is available to be present in the office during published hours, holds a bachelor's degree in business, and has accounting and bookkeeping experience. Members of the Township Board expressed no opposition to the appointment.

However, a Township resident has expressed concerns that the treasurer appointing a family member as deputy is inappropriate, and constitutes a conflict of interest.

Answer: A township treasurer is required to appoint a deputy. The deputy serves at the pleasure of the elected treasurer, pursuant to MCL 41.77(5). There are no statutory requirements or restrictions on who may be appointed for a deputy position. Therefore, the appointment of Jennifer Bradford as deputy complies with Michigan Law and does not constitute a conflict of interest.

Discussion: The governing authority of this matter is MCL 41.77(5). The statute describes certain checks on the deputy treasurer position such as, requiring the deputy to take an oath of office, post a bond, and ultimately, the Township Board may elect to make the deputy position unpaid in the event members of the Board strongly disagree with the appointment. The law states:

"The deputy shall file an oath of office with the township clerk and shall give a bond to the township as required by the township board. The deputy, in case of the absence, sickness, death, or other disability of the treasurer, shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the treasurer, except the deputy shall not have a vote on the township board. The deputy shall be paid as the township board determines. With the approval of the township treasurer, the deputy may assist the treasurer in the performance treasurer's duties at any additional times agreed upon between the board and the treasurer, except the deputy shall not have a vote on the township board." (Emphasis added).

Moreover, Onekama Township has a precedent of family members serving as a deputy under the immediate past treasurer. Under the previous arrangement, no citizen complaints were lodged, and no conflict issues arose. In our experience representing many municipal clients, it is a common practice for a treasurer to appoint a deputy that is personally close to them so they may collaborate easily. Generally, it does not bring up conflict of interest issues, and many times it contributes to the smooth functioning of the office.

## **Onekama Village Council**

### **VILLAGE PRESIDENT**

Roger Burger  
[president@villageofonekama.org](mailto:president@villageofonekama.org)

### **CLERK**

Ruth Hudson  
[clerk@villageofonekama.org](mailto:clerk@villageofonekama.org)

### **TREASURER**

Nikki Jach  
[treasurer@villageofonekama.org](mailto:treasurer@villageofonekama.org)

### **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

County Planning Director  
(231) 723-6041  
[planning@manisteecountymi.gov](mailto:planning@manisteecountymi.gov)

### **TRUSTEES**

Ralph Drumm  
Rod Hudson  
Andrea Arthur  
Suzanne Schwing  
Wayne Miller  
Susan Halloran

### **FIRE CHIEF**

Lawrence Hrachovina  
[fire@onekamatwp.org](mailto:fire@onekamatwp.org)  
(231) 889-4240 (fire building)

### **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

There is one vacancy on the Village Planning Commission and two vacancies as alternates on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Village Residents interested should call the clerk 231-889-3171.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

Temporary dwellings including trailers require a permit. Information is available in Section 1014. Temporary Dwellings of the Village Zoning Ordinance.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

The Village Office is open by appointment only; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2. Masks are required to enter.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

Village Residents, FEMA has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for your information.

## **Summary of the DRAFT VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - August 18, 2021**

Note: This meeting was held at the village park due to the current MDHHS ruling: a cleaning plan must be in place to open Farr Center for meetings. As of this meeting there is no approved cleaning plan.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ZONING:** There is a vacancy on the ZBA.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** did meet and minutes are on line. There is a vacancy on this board also.  
**SEWER:** President Burger reported that the sewer committee (A. Arthur, R. Hudson and President Burger) met discussed property equivalents that need to be brought in line. Results were three properties need to be changed. Recommendations as follows by the committee to change the following properties: 8195 Fifth St. changing 1 equivalent to 3 equivalents. 4138 Portage Point Dr. / changing 1 equivalent to 3. and 4977 Dock St. changing 1 to 2 equivalents. The treasurer will write letters to the property owners explaining the change. These changes will be as of August 1.

Also reported: work continues on cleaning out the invasive species at irrigation site.

**STREETS:** 3rd street reconstruction should begin after Labor Day.

-- Property owner at the top of alley between 2nd and 3rd Street would like to trim the trees for the view. Council has no objection to this action.

### **PARKS AND THE FARR CENTER**

**Parks:** President Burger reported: complaint was filed with EGLE re: bleach being used to clean fountain. Garden Club was contacted and bleach will not be used in the future. Park was left in a mess after Onekama Days, plastic cups, beer cans etc. which took maintenance man over 2 hours to clean up. Next year renters will bring in a dumpster for refuse and porta johns due to fact the park restrooms can't handle 2 to 3 days of continuous crowds. Also reported a phantom foam spill in Portage Lake. This is being investigated as to the source.

Trustee Arthur and Drumm are working on getting additional mulch for under the playground equipment.

Shelly and Rob Johnson owners of Poppa J's ice cream place would like the village request people that reserve the shelter in the park for large events be re-



quested to bring in a dumpster and porta johns due to the fact the overflow from these events are using their restroom and dumpster resulting in more expense to their business.

Farr Center: cleaning plan: 5th revision to the cleaning plan was given to the board. Much discussion followed. Cleaning products voted down at the July meeting were discussed. President Burger asked chairperson Halloran if she had ordered this product? Her response was yes because she had gotten permission from him. He said permission was not given. At this point President Burger removed her from the position of chairperson of the Farr Center Committee. More discussion. This revised plan includes paper work from the renters to file and enforcement of rules for cleaning. Clerk was asked if she would accept this additional responsibility. Clerk would be offered additional money for the 4 busy months of rentals. Much discussion. Clerk was not sure this was legal according to the charter. She will check with the MML. More discussion.

A motion to adopt the revised plan to get Farr Center open and to order the eco lab cleaning products with Trustee Schwing meeting with the regular rental groups for orientation on the use of these products prior to rental.

CEMETERY: Clerk wishes to thank maintenance person Bob Gronostalski for his recent help in the marking of a grave in the old cemetery for the placement of a headstone. Thanks, Bob!!! TOWNSHIP REPORT. On line

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

--Trustee Halloran asked President Burger to answer her e-mails and to post office hours. NEW BUSINESS: Regional Conference in Sept. Lots of interest from the board to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marcia Rodgers/what can be put in alleys.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS: Clerk would like to thank the garden club for the flowers and all the work on the fountain. Great addition to welcoming visitors to the park. Thank-you! Lara Treemore Spears shared with the council her presentation, Nature Education and asking public what they would like to see more of in Onekama, from Onekama Days. Great response from kids and adults alike.

Respectfully: Ruth Hudson

## Near & Farr Friends Fall 2021 Schedule

Oct 7	MI Redistricting Commission - Fran Wallace LWV observe
Oct 14	Game Day
Oct 21	How to start a Historical Society for Onekama-Kathy Cyr
Oct 28	Heather Shumaker, author, on writing life stories
Nov. 4	History of Manistee County- Mark Fedder
Nov 11	Game Day
Nov 18	Recycling Updates and Changes- Sarah Archer
Nov. 25	No Meeting - Happy Thanksgiving
Dec 2	(To be confirmed)-Joseph Family History
Dec 9	Watershed 101
Dec 16	Weather trends in NW MI - Joe Charlevoix

All programs are held on Thursdays at 2:30pm at Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St. (between the Blue Slipper and the Fire Station). Mask wearing will be required, masks will be available for those who forget theirs. Seating will be physically distanced and therefore limited. Room will be cleaned per protocol for covid-19.

Near and Farr Friends is a program of the PLA, a group of volunteers who are dedicated to making the Onekama area a great place in which to live, play and stay.





# ONEKAMA ONEFIFTY ART AUCTION

ONLINE AUCTION SEPTEMBER 1ST-30TH

Proceeds to benefit future Onekama OneFifty historical commemoration.  
To place a bid or more information, go to:  
Scan QR code to the left or [Onekama.info/Onekama150](http://Onekama.info/Onekama150)

TO BID ON RUG:



Alaina Trout "The Channel"  
38" wide x 36" tall hooked rug on rug warp backing.

SEE THE ITEMS AT MACBETH AND COMPANY  
For more info [Onekama150th@gmail.com](mailto:Onekama150th@gmail.com)



ONEKAMA ONEFIFTY INFO



## DONATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

How should we use your donation\*: Check one:

- ☐ General Fund (best use / most needed project)  
☐ Petunia Planting      ☐ Concerts in the Park  
☐ Celebration of Lights   ☐ Onekama Days Fireworks

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*Excess funds roll over to best use as determined by the PLA Board.



*Make checks payable to  
Portage Lake Assoc.  
and send along with this form to:*  
**PLA  
PO Box 493  
Onekama, MI 49675**

*For More Events and information – check out [www.onekama.com](http://www.onekama.com)*



Portage Lake Association  
P.O. Box 493  
Onekama, MI 49675