



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

January 2020
Volumn 16, No. 1

President's Letter

The Portage Lake Association had another great year. Thank you to the PLA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Volunteers, Donors and all our PLA Supporters.

Committee Chairs are already busy planning for 2020. Near & Farr Friends will continue to provide events at the Township Hall starting in January. Petunia Parade, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, Onekama Days, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, Celebration of Lights are all scheduled to return this year. Welcome Committee continues to greet new friends throughout the year. If you know anyone new to the area, please let me know. The Banners and Lights Committee did a wonderful job this year. I always enjoy driving down Main Street seeing the Banners blowing in the summer breeze and the Christmas Lights all a glow. Last year your response to our Fireworks campaign was amazing. We will be sending out more information regarding Fireworks in the next few months.

We will be in search of a new Chairman and/or Co-Chair for Fall Festival this year. We have a great committee who have worked on the Fall Festival for a number of years and will be happy to continue under new leadership. Fall Festival is a unique event. A Free Family Event. One that parents and grandparents truly enjoy bringing the children to. People come up to us and thank us for providing such a wonderful time for their families. It's a very rewarding event to be part of and we hope you will consider volunteering to be the new chair. Contact me at julielapinski@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY 29, 2020. The Annual Fundraiser Dinner is back! This year we are adding a little pizzazz to it. We will be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner at the Portage Point Inn. It will be a great opportunity to see all your friends who have returned from their winter retreats as well as those who are here all year round. The Murder Mystery will be enacted by a professional group from Grand Rapids. Audience participation is as much or as little as you want. So, you can just sit back and relax or get up there on stage! We'll have more details coming soon. It should be a fun event. One you don't want to miss.

Enjoy the winter months here in beautiful Northern Michigan.

Happy New Year!

Julie Lapinski, President of the Portage Lake Association

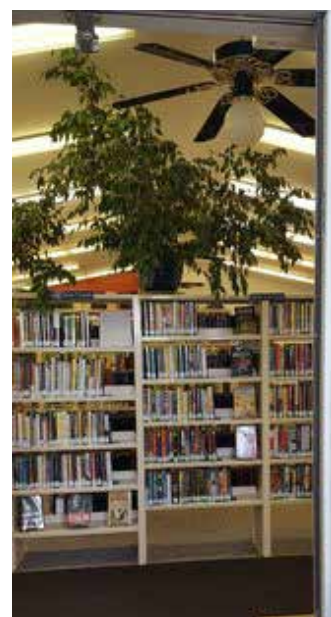
Near & Farr Friends Winter 2020 Schedule

- Jan. 9 Susan Barnard -Fabrics and Videos from Vietnam and Laos
- Jan. 16 Leann Burger-Paul Harris and Rotary Park in Onekama named for him
- Jan. 23 Game Day- Upwords
- Jan. 30 Faye Backie & Marilyn Acker share three Onekama history stories
- Feb 6 Game Day- Qwirkle
- Feb. 13 Knit and Crochet Workshop- bring unfinished projects or learn how
- Feb. 20 Bruce Brooks- Sharing the Joy of Bagpiping- History and concert
- Feb. 27 Mick Story- History of Portage Yacht Club
- Mar. 5 Kelly Tomaszewski- Update on the Munson Manistee Hospital
- Mar. 12 Jan Thomas, author of Marilla: The Woods, The Farms, The People

All programs are held on Thursdays at 2:30pm at Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St. Near & Farr Friends is a program of the Portage Lake Association (PLA), a group of volunteers who are dedicated to making the Onekama area a great place in which to live, play and stay.

A Person You Should Know

Meet our new librarian, Laurel Sproul. She grew up in the Bear Lake area, moved away and returned about 10 years ago. She has worked for the Library for the past 3 years and recently became the full-time librarian at Onekama. Most of her work history is in healthcare, including teaching at Baker and Ferris. She and her sister will be facilitating a Chronic Pain Self-Management Workshop at the Farr Center for 6 weeks on Mondays, 5:30-8:00 pm starting February 3. Preregistration is required-1-800-442-1713. Laurel is busy with programs at the library as well. Come join her for crafts on Wednesdays from 1-6; Storytime on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 (I enjoy be a guest once a month) and a new program with Legos on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30. She is open to suggestions if you have any ideas for other programs.



Chronic Pain Self-Management Workshop

at the Farr Center for 6 weeks
on Mondays, 5:30-8:00 pm
starting February 3.

Preregistration is required
800-442-1713.



4850 N. Main Street Update

(truth in advertising, your editor, Jean Capper, owns the building and is the mom of Michael Igoe)



4850 is getting a facelift. Thanks to Westshore Bank for financing and contractor Steven Scott (stevendscott9@gmail.com) helped by Michael Igoe, the parking lot side and front of the building are looking much better. The finishing touches will be added in the Spring. The garden side will retain its "Patina" charm, but will see trim painted.

The Yellow Dog is closed after another successful season and will reopen in April, as will our newest addition, Patina.



Check out the old and new pictures.





JR. CLIO CLUB

Members love Onekama and its history and do all that they can for the good of the community.

A FUNDRAISER organized by Margaret Punches and Nancy Behring was held at the CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA at Onekama High School.

Jr. Clio also hosts Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus every year at the Farr Center.

For more information, visit their Facebook Page.



Christmas in Onekama

The PLA held another successful Christmas in Onekama. Crafts and delicious edibles were available. The ever popular Onekama chili cookoff was sponsored by Southern Sin-Thesis. All proceeds went to the Onekama National Honor Society. The contest was won by Patina's Mark Schneider. Mark is Patina's left brained, back office, NOT SO silent partner. He is also an award winning chili chef. He has had a passion for making chili for over 30 years. Growing up with his mom's bad chili his award winning recipe took years to perfect. He has been in several contests in Chicagoland, Beulah and took first in Manistee in February at their chili crawl. He describes his chili as thick, beefy, with a kick at first then slow subtle sweet heat at the finish. He is honored to have won and wants to thank everyone who enjoyed his chili and voted it the best.

Christmas in Onekama ends with the Lighting of the Tree. The tree stays lit for 6 weeks, honoring the living or memorializing those who have passed away. Don't miss the Christmas Village display created by Frank English, which is open to the public M- W 9am to 2pm and during Special Events. (at the Farr Center).



Fall Festival

Fall Festival, sponsored by PLA and Westshore Bank and chaired by Debby Major and Susan Halloran was held on a chilly day. But that did not stop vendors, visitors and dogs from participating. The contest for favorite Scarecrow raised money for the St. Joseph Food Pantry and was won by the Portage Lake Garden Club. The dogs came decked out in the Halloween costumes and paraded for all to enjoy. The children enjoyed games and wagon rides. A new addition to the fest was the egg painting, which was labor intensive for the organizers, but really fun for the people who got to throw the eggs. The painting was auctioned off at Christmas in Onekama.



Top 3 Vote Getters



Our wonderful garden club was represented at the Victorian Sleighbell Festival of Trees this year with a beautiful "butterfly tree" decorated by Winnie Baker. The tree is in support of the Michigan Garden Club's initiative to endorse the Black Swallowtail Butterfly as the State of Michigan butterfly. In addition to the tree, the Club provided pamphlets about Native Plants and Pollinator Gardens, bookmarks about plants that attract butterflies, and milkweed seeds in small plastic bags as free handouts to the public!



WHY I LOVE ONEKAMA

Mary Jo McElroy

In 2016, my husband and I moved from a large metropolitan area to little Onekama. What a change for the good! No more 2+ hour commutes; we are on a first name basis with lots of business owners (that would never happen in our last home area); and my dahlias had a banner year! But what really sets this place apart are the **people** and the **spirit for Onekama** that they exude. Here is one of my favorite stories.

Last May "Dode" VanBrocklin contacted Marilyn Acker to ask if the strip of sod between Mill Street and Zosel Street could be planted with petunias. Of course, our first response was, "No, we ordered the petunias last October". But circumstances arose where we had some leftover flats of petunias, so we needed to use them up. Here is how the project got done:

- **Kevin Miller and Billy Maue** volunteered to use their equipment and manpower to remove the sod strip, add special soil and till the entire length;
- **Debby Major, Jewelee Franklin**, and I planted 8 flats of petunias;
- **Justin and Amber Sedelmaier** showed up to deliver shoes for the Shoe Drive, saw what we were doing, then they cancelled their appointment that morning, helped with the planting, and volunteered to help in 2020;
- **Dode VanBrocklin** watered the petunias that were blocked by parked cars throughout the entire summer.

With all that wonderful attention, the petunias between Mill and Zosel were probably the most spectacular we had in 2019. Thanks to everyone who pitched in. Please support these businesses who gave generously so that Onekama looks beautiful for the Petunia Parade.

Kevin Miller (owner of Pro Turf & Landscape)
P.O. Box 312
Onekama, MI 49675
Kmill021244@gmail.com

VanBrocklin Real Estate
4908 Main Street
Onekama, MI 49675

LONELY LITTLE PETUNIAS LOOKING FOR LOVE

We are tiny little petunias with our feet in the dirt at Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses. We are getting lots of water and nutrients here, but we are worried about when we "grow up" and need to leave here and head for Onekama. All 3,420 of us hope that **YOU** will volunteer to put us into the ground on **Wednesday, May 27** or you will weed the soil around us during the summer. The Petunia Parade Committee says that we need more **VOLUNTEERS** this summer who are willing to commit to 2 hours on May 27 and/or to become a plot "adopter" who will weed the beds during June, July, August and September. Our lives will be over on September 23 when we will be pulled out of the ground and say goodbye to Onekama! Such is our fate. If you are willing to volunteer, call or email our Committee Co-Chair Mary Jo McElroy at 614-325-1717 or maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for showing us your Onekama spirit!





**LARSEN'S
LANDSCAPING
& LAWN CARE**

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

Seasonal Clean-Up – Snow Removal – Installations



WALKABLE ONEKAMA

Walkability is a measure of how friendly an area is to walking. A walkable street ensures that people can safely cross, going from a hardware store to a coffee shop, and spending money at both. It means that residents can easily grab groceries or a meal at our local establishments, so they'll probably visit those establishments more often. It means easier access to our parks and recreation areas. It encourages walking by our residents and visitors, providing health benefits and building a sense of community as we encounter our neighbors and visitors along the street.

The Onkama Economic Sustainability Committee (OESC) is a committee of community volunteers who are committed to fostering smart, sustainable economic development within the Village and Township of Onkama. A walkable main street (M-22) was a primary priority chosen by the committee. During the summer of 2019, a petition to establish sidewalk ramps and crosswalks along M-22 within the Village was signed by 150 residents and visitors.

Committee members met with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) representatives to explore possible projects.

MDOT shared a plan created in 2017 that would provide sidewalk ramps and a crosswalk at Prospect Street and M-22, one of the busiest corners leading into the Onkama Village Park. We also discussed the addition of pedestrian crossing signs at the crosswalk.

MDOT expects to fund the sidewalk ramps and crosswalk with their spring 2020 maintenance budget. They would not include the cost of pedestrian crossing signs installed in the street.

At the September 2019 Onkama Village Council meeting, the council agreed to the Portage Street sidewalk ramps and crosswalk improvements, as presented in the 2017 plan. The Village Council did not approve the in-street crosswalk signs. After further discussion by the OESC committee, we have decided to not pursue the signage. One of several concerns is the ability of boat trailers to negotiate the turn into the park, if in-street signs are present.

At this time, MDOT expects to complete this project in early spring. The work will be done by the Manistee County Road Commission.

We will keep you posted on further developments, and future projects!

St. Joseph Food Pantry

The St. Joseph Food Pantry in Onkama serves 150+ families with fresh, canned, frozen and prepared foods as well as some personal care products. They also provide cat and dog food. The pantry relies on volunteers and money donations to make their work possible. You can make donations of food and other goods and drop them off on the fourth Thursday of the month between 9:00-10:30. They can also be dropped off most days but Thursdays the rest of the month. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be mailed to P.O. Box 150 Onkama, MI 49675. Set up is on the 4th Thursday of the month starting around 1pm and food distribution is on the 4th Friday from 10-11:30am. Volunteers should arrive by 9am. If you have any questions, contact Leslie Osborn at 231 864-2509.

Onkama Athletic Boosters

*Interested in helping at the
Concessions during a
sporting event?*

*Contact Tara Lyman at the
email address below.*

September 1st 2019- August 31, 2020

Board Members

President - Tara Lyman tara_lyman27@hotmail.com

Vice President - Justin Sedelmaier

Treasurer - Chad Harper

Secretary - Amber Sedelmaier

Trustee - Jeff Wisniski

**For More Info School
Activities Visit:
ocs.manistee.org**

Patina goes to the Dogs!

Lori Wilson and Emma had so much fun taking pictures and playing with all the fur babies, all while raising \$\$ for Homeward Bound at the 1st annual Pet pictures with Santa @ Patina!!

Patina is not just a store, it has become SO much more! It is a special space where you make new friends, greet old ones, share, support, inspire...in person, in the moment and surrounded by REALLY cool stuff!

As we close today until May 1, I am filled with gratitude to all of you who have touched my life in some way and made this dream possible.



M-22 Does it again!

M-22 opened its doors on Christmas to feed anyone who wanted to drop by. All proceeds go to benefit the food pantry. Look for more details in April. This is a wonderful community event.



Portage Lake Watershed Forever

Portage Lake Watershed Forever (PLWF) council and members have had a busy year. Because of the hard work and generous support and commitment of our membership, our lake and watershed have retained positive grades on its health and viability.

That health and viability wasn't always a given. Years ago, a group of area citizens recognized the challenges faced by waters in our state and Portage Lake and Watershed in particular - pollution, aquatic invasive species, the vagaries of Mother Nature and the sometimes-lovely, sometimes-angry "Big Lake" that is our omnipresent neighbor.

Saving our lake and protecting the watershed would never be a simple seasonal task; it would be a lifelong commitment to educating ourselves about the life of water and all the threats to it. So, the PLWF came to be. We have many people to be thankful to for this gift of commitment to the lake and watershed: members past and present; local and seasonal; financially and philosophically committed to the spirit of the mission to keep our water resource healthy and enjoyable.

The PLWF held its annual meeting on November 19 at the Farr Center. For the first time, the shoreline of Portage Lake was surveyed using a drone, provided by Dennis Wiand of Zero Gravity Aerial. Dennis' presentation gave us the proverbial "bird's eye view" of our lake with a number of discoveries of note that prompted questions and comments from the audience.

The Annual Meeting also included the election of a new slate of officers and council members for 2020. Elected to 1-year terms were : Sharon Marie (following Mary Reed as chair); Ted Lawrence (returning as Vice-Chair); Jim Simons (returning as Treasurer); and Fran Wallace (replacing Kathy Ervin as Secretary).

Elected to new 3-year terms on the council were: Fran Wallace (new member); Armin Schleiffarth (new member); Mary Reed and Jim Simons.

New member Zach Prause, representing the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and their Natural Resourced division, is also on the 2020 council for a one year term. Members Bee Capper, Jim Mrozinski, Al Taylor, Herb Lenon and Kathy Ervin continue their terms on the council as well.

To fund-raise this year, we had opted to have a more casual "non-event" event, which meant in lieu of an

annual large function as we have had in the past, there were a number of scheduled house parties graciously hosted by members who volunteered their homes and considerable entertaining skills to make each mini-event memorable.

The "non-event" events were even memorialized by our very own scarecrow contribution to the Halloween on Main Street displays.

By all accounts, the parties were enjoyed and successful, but many of us agreed that the larger social function was missed.

Good news! The annual fund raiser will return. This year it will be held on JULY 25th, so please save the date on your calendars. We are still seeking a venue for the event , so please let us know if you have some ideas or possible locations for us.

2019 saw the completion of the Portage Lake Watershed Management Plan. While we await the final approval of the updated plan, it is important to note that this singular huge publication is a lot more interesting than you might think despite its very plain title. When it is available as an approved update and posted on our website (<http://portagelakewatershed.com>), it will become a useful – and engaging! – information tool for water wonks (aka water geeks), water warriors (aka water activists) and the curious info-seekers (aka anyone who uses/enjoys/loves our marvelous lake and its watershed).

This year also saw the continued water quality monitoring and ongoing treatments to combat known aquatic plant invasives. Additionally, during the warmer months there were the necessary sampling and testing for other issues (eColi, Swimmers Itch, etc.).

Much of our enjoyment of our lake was "diluted" this year by record rainfall and record water rise. Many of our neighbors have been horribly affected by flooding and on-going water incursions on properties and in homes. State and federal experts who have been monitoring water level rise in the Great Lakes and locally do not give us much hope that there will be any improvement in this dire situation.

The work of ALL water groups has become more vital in ways we could not have imagined a decade ago. Work on the 3-year Stormwater Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) Grant received in 2017 from the

state DEQ will be completed by October of 2020. Aging septic issues which are becoming more problematic in groundwater protection and community health matters were highlighted this year when neighboring Kalkaska County's Board of Commissioners took the controversial step of attempting to vote the county out of a Health District 10 code that required inspection and certification of septic systems on properties that were being sold.

That county's decision prompted a large backlash from its own citizens, but also caused a rise in activism in Manistee County which was, by association, also involved in upholding the code. PLWF was notified of the code's endangerment in enough time to rally support and information for our county commissioners in order to retain the health code, known as the POS (Point of Sale) code. PLWF was asked by the commissioners to investigate and make recommendations for the changes, which the county commission then accepted.

Why was this particular fight for this code so important? Because our Great Lake State is the only state in the Union that does not have a statewide protective sanitary code for its groundwater. So, even as we pressed forward for the POS inspections, there were other groups that had begun forming a committee to take up the issue for a basic sanitary code to be legislated into place to protect our groundwaters from contamination.

So much of the work that the PLWF does goes unseen. The many meetings, research on issues, follow up on concerns, work with the lake manager and consultants, contract and conduct surveys to gather data. We have not worked alone, but have partnered with government, other organizations and watersheds.

PLWF does not have the finances and/or the manpower to accomplish their goals alone. We will need to work with others on the goals, objectives and tasks that are in the management plan for the next 10 years. Attendance at such educational gatherings as the Freshwater Summit, Michigan Lakes and Streams, MiCorp, Septic Summit & other septic/sewer meetings have all helped us form goals as we move into the future of our lake and watershed. Anyone may attend. In the new year, we are going to try to post information on such events on our website and an email newsletter for anyone who is interested.

Want to become more involved? We need help with

fund-raising ideas and organizing! Help us develop games, make some stunning presentations, decorate our scarecrow for Halloween on Main Street. We have projects like stream monitoring (which is way more fun than the name implies) or tech/data projects (like our recent drone surveys) that may get your inner geek revved up. By the way, some of these projects and activities are educational and kid-friendly as well. All you need do is contact us with an inquiry about age and safety.) One of our proudest achievements in conjunction with the hard-working members of the Portage Lake Garden Club, is our large Rain Garden, located by the Farr Center, near the library. The Rain Garden is an educational as well as an environmental achievement. Portage Lake needs "eyes and ears" on what's happening in our lake and watershed. You can help us follow up and investigate water concerns. You can help us research items of concern.

Please consider making us part of your new year's resolution to find out more about your community and how you can get involved. We know that "commitment" can often seem like "work", but in an organization like PLWF where your commitment can be at a level of your own choosing and interests, and the work is more delightful when shared with others so much so that it seems more like play, you'll find some rewards. You can find us on the web and on Facebook (please "like" and join).



Do you wonder if your well water is... well?

The contamination and consequences of PFAS (pronounced p-fahs), are Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances that have collectively emerged as one of the biggest environmental threats facing the Great Lakes region.

Freshwater Future believes, as do we, that everyone has a right to know what is in their drinking water, regardless of what's in their wallets. The Freshwater Future Organization has partnered with the University of Michigan Biological Station and other donors to offer PFAS testing for homes on private wells at reduced rates.

PFAS Test Kits are available for home testing from Freshwater Future at a cost of \$75* and can be ordered on-line. The price covers the cost of initial shipping, kit materials, and analysis. Does not include return shipping label. * The use of these kits are intended to assist in residential testing, and not for State and/or lab facilities.

If you are interested in a home testing kit, search for PFAS Test and Response Kit on the organization's website: www.freshwaterfuture.org.

Freshwater Future

Mission

To ensure the healthy future of our waters in the Great Lakes region.

Vision

A strong and effective environmental community working to protect and restore the Great Lakes and its many waters by involving residents in civic decision-making. This community will be coordinated among citizens, community groups, state/provincial, regional and national groups in a way that creates synergy for the protection and restoration of our Great Lakes region.

A healthy Great Lakes ecosystem that supports the economic well-being of the people of the region, provides a sustainable supply of clean drinking water, a sustainable fishery that provides fish that are healthy to eat and clean beaches where it is safe to swim.

We invite you to explore our site to learn about our grants programs, Great Lakes issues and policy initiatives, capacity building services and more!

Summary of the VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA draft meeting minutes of November 20, 2019

--Zoning Administrator/Rob Carson: Following up on some violation letters that he sent out. He is reviewing the current zoning ordinance and would like the board to think about combining with the Township, areas of the ordinances that are similar but still remain separate. Lots of discussion and questions. Mr. Carson also said that the village would be billed separate for him handling blight enforcement issues since this is a police power ordinance. No action taken regarding the combining of village and township zoning ordinances.

--Planning Commission:

Great response to President Franz's letter soliciting help from the public to fill vacant seats on Planning Commission. The following were appointed to the Commission: Gloria Zakara, Nola Teye, Doug King, Val Long and Steve Hall. M/C. Mr. Zakara will be the alternate. President Franz has scheduled an organizational meeting for Wednesday/12-04-19 at 7 p.m. Thank-you to all the citizens that responded and stepped forward to help the Village out.

--Sewer: Pivots have been winterized for the season, phase monitor (lift station #3) had to be replaced and maintenance person, Bob Gronostalski is doing a great job maintaining our system. – Ben Kladder, Fleis & Vandenbrink representative gave a SAW Grant Status update. Work completed as of this date includes, mass flow monitoring, Sanitary Mapping, Storm Sewer Mapping and televising and cleaning of our system. A complete report is on file with the clerk.

--Streets: Plowing has begun with the early snow fall.

--Parks The 5 Year Park Plan has expired.

--Farr Center: Trustee Schwing would like to thank, on behalf of the Village Council, Frank English (holiday village) and the Portage Lake Garden Club (Christmas Tree) for the decorating of the Farr Center Hall.

--Cemetery: Flags will be removed now that the snow has melted. Pending problems regarding the unauthorized burial and nonpayment of a burial has been resolved. Clerk Hudson thanks Trustee Miller for his help resolving this (unauthorized burial) problem.

--Township. Trustee Reitman gave an update on the 2021/ 150 year celebration of the Channel Opening.

Outdoor Activity Guide to Onekama

North Point Park. Paved walking and biking trails. Some rustic dirt and gravel trails also. Several picnic areas. Public portable toilet on site. Pet friendly; please use leash and clean up after your pet. Take Portage Point Road west to Seymour Road, turn left, parking lot at entrance to park. Historic 1930 restored lighthouse structure is ½ block from North Point Park at the DNR Launch Ramp. Soon to have a handicapped-accessible kayak launch installed at DNR ramp on Andy's Point near North Point Park.

Glen Park. Historical spring, scenic creek, walking path and stairs. Take Main Street west, turn right onto Fourth Avenue. Park on left side near top of hill.

Onekama Village Park. Sandy public beach, public restrooms, picnic tables, sheltered pavilion, playground, and boat launch. Home of the PLA-sponsored 'Concerts in the Park' every Monday night at 7pm for 8 weeks in the summer.

Nature Conservancy Dune Climb. Public access to large sand dune; strenuous climb without a designated trail. Accessible from Ivanhoe Road (off Portage Point Road). Signs mark the property.

Langland Park and Beach. Access to Lake Michigan, beach, fire pits. Take Portage Point Drive to the end where a large parking lot and public restrooms are available.

For more information about parks in the Onekama area, refer to the interactive park map located at this URL:

<https://www.onekama.info/interactive-park-map>



What to do in the Winter?

A few ideas:

Blue Slipper: Carolyn and Park Gilmore, owners. Open 3pm to 11pm everyday except for Wednesday (closed) and Sunday, when they close at 9pm.

Tuesday nights 7 pm Euchre/Game night
Specialty dinners Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day

Happy Hour 3-5:30pm M-F

Paint and Sip fund raiser benefiting the Onekama Schools January 26 at 4pm (call for reservations)

Food Truck-Southern Sin Thesis - The trailer is in place for the winter. All ordering has been moved inside for your warmth and convenience. Hours are Sundays 3-8pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 3-8:30pm and Fridays 3-9 ish. We would like to thank Park and Caroline for the opportunity again this winter as well as all our customers continued support.

Shirley's Place: Cindy Welch manager
Hours: 11am -10pm (closed on Tuesdays in the winter)

Come play Scrabble on Thursdays 12-2 starting 1/9. All skill levels welcome. Friendly play.

Check with Cindy if you have other ideas for fun.

M22 Grill: Open for breakfast and lunch daily from 7am to 2pm.

Arcadia Bluffs: The Restaurant at the South Course. Hours: 11am to 9pm Wednesday-Saturday and Sunday Brunch 9am-2pm. 231-889-7707

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy: Arcadia Dunes 3600 acres and over 15 miles of trails, showshoers, cross-country skiers and fat tire bikers will find plenty of land to explore

Magoon Creek: pet friendly 1.5 mile trail to 2,300 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. VisitManisteeCounty.com

WALKING TRACK AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS

Monday through Friday	5AM to 8AM & 3PM to 9PM
Saturday	8 AM to 10AM
Sunday	1PM to 8PM

NOTE: Walking Track is closed during Athletic Events. Applications for keycards to the walking track and fitness center are available in the Superintendent's Office (hours are Monday-Friday 8AM to 3PM).

**Summary of
PORTAGE LAKE
HARBOR COMMISSION
minutes November 21, 2019**

Simons reported that approximately 50 acres of milfoil had been treated this year and less than 5 acres of phragmites. This is good and Lake is under control.

Brooks said that he wanted to commend King Construction for their consideration for private property and for their work habits.

May reported that the House has passed house bill HR2440 which will make \$34 billion available, from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the Great Lakes Harbor maintenance and construction. These funds will become available over the next 10 years. The Senate has a similar bill which is under consideration which we feel will pass. There is discussion regarding "multi port dredging" which will make maintenance dredging of the Great Lakes Harbors much less costly and more efficient. This new funding will enable the Corp of Engineers to repair, rebuild and dredge Great Lakes Harbors that have been in dire need of work for many years.

Mrozinski passed out the Corps latest report on the Great Lakes water levels. This report indicates that Lake Michigan levels will continue as they were last year. Jim also commended King Construction for their work and said that we would write a letter of recommendation.

Mr. Dave Herweyer said that a third of the wave attenuator is complete and another third should be completed by Thanksgiving. They will then send the barge across Lake Michigan to get another load of stone and should have the attenuator complete by mid December. With that done the project is basically complete. Next spring there will be a small amount of painting to complete and some grass seeding. Dave also said that he would like to install brass plaques on both sides of the channel, commemorating the rebuilding of the structure, but has to get the Corps permission. He also said that the walkways, on top of the channel walls, will be accessible by vehicles for emergency situations as they have been made six (6) feet wide and extended all the way to the west end of both pier heads. Additionally King has built a fish habitat area at the east end of the south pier so the public will have a great fishing area for the future. Dave also said that some corp estimates are that the water levels will be up to 12 inches higher in July 2020 than last year.

A new group called "Cut 150" is being formed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Portage Lake Channel opening which was May 14, 1871.

**Summary of
ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD
minutes -December 3, 2019**

COUNTY TREASURER RACHEL NELSON: Introduction of Rachel as the County Treasurer and the happenings at the County Office and personnel.

FIRE/RESCUE: November recorded 1 EMS Meeting/Training, 1 Maintenance Meetings, 1 Fire Meeting/Training, 1 Officer's Meeting, 8 EMS Runs, 4 Fire Runs (1 M.A. Arcadia.) 200 runs have been surpassed for the year. OFD attended the latest Association and Training Officer's Meetings. Fire Academy schedule will be starting in January 2020. OFD will have 1 member attending the training. The Association will be purchasing an accountability system for each department so that everyone is on the same system and set-ups. The new EMS monitor has been received. Snow tires were put onto 105 and the VHF radio was repaired.

ROADS: Dial-A-Ride is requesting a millage. William Forth Street (Certified Road) will be fixed in the Spring of 2020. New trucks will be ordered at the Manistee County Road Commission. The retirement plan discussion continues at the MCRC. Roof repairs are being done at the MCRC also.

PLANNING COMMISSION: A flash drive of all of the ordinance reviews has been given to Clerk Johnson. Discussion about surveys being required for all variance applications.

SHORT TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

For a complete text, visit <https://www.onekama.info/twp-meeting-minutes>

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE SHORT TERM RENTAL OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITHIN ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP:

Section 1 – PURPOSE

Like many other lakefront communities in Northwest Michigan, Onkama Township ("Township") wishes to reconcile the many different land use interests and concerns that are involved in the short-term rental of single-family residential properties.

Short-term rentals can provide a community, and even a state-wide benefit, by expanding the number and type of lodging facilities available near the lakeshores and other recreational features, and they can assist owners of

homes by providing revenue which may be used for maintenance upgrades and deferred costs.

However, short-term rental of single-family dwellings can also cause difficulty where the character of the use takes on a more transitory and commercial character akin to a motel or similar use.

It is with these findings and rulings in mind, that it is the intention of the Township that, to the extent that the short-term rental of single family homes is permitted in the Township, that such rental occur in a manner that remains consistent with the single family character of the residences and neighborhoods where they are located.

For the foregoing reasons, the purpose of the following regulations is to make the short-term rental activity permitted by this ordinance by resident owners and lessees resemble the existing and traditional single-family residential uses. The regulations are intended to be strictly construed and vigorously enforced with this goal in mind.

Section 4 – SHORT TERM RENTAL OWNER REQUIREMENTS

Certificate Required. A certificate is required prior to the rental of any dwelling for a period of less than 30 days.

A certificate issued by the Township shall be valid for a period of 3 years unless revoked for cause or until the dwelling is sold.

ASSESSOR: The treasurer's warrant was checked and signed November 13, 2019. Form 600/L-4016 "Supplemental Special Assessment Report" was submitted to the State Tax Commission on November 5 for both the Township and the Village. Field work is

done for the new and ongoing construction and transferred properties. The December Board Of Review is scheduled for December 10 at 9:00 AM.

PARKS & REC.: A request was made to update the Parks Brochure. The gazebo at Glen Park will be delayed until Spring of 2020. The trees have been planted at North Point Park. The Doggy Doo canister is installed at Langland Park.

Gosling Czubak completed the soil boring samples at Eagle View Park. Planning is taking place for the Portage Lake Channel Anniversary Celebration.

INVASIVE SPECIES/WATERSHED: Report given by Mary Reed. Aquatic invasives are done for the year. SAD amounts have been adjusted with the treasurer. E.coli monitoring with the Lake Manager is later part of the year reflect the increase of water levels diluting the readings. Septic Summit was attended, which discussed failing septic systems, old systems, and water levels and their impact. The Annual meeting took place with a presentation of the drone activity that was done. New officers were elected to the committee.

TLSA: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2019 at 7 PM at the Bear Lake Township Hall. The USDA RD is requesting a letter from the local health department stating that at least 50% of the septic systems around the lake(s) are in violation due to the lake level. This correspondence is crucial in the application process in means of determining the amount of money awarded via grant.

PLA: Christmas in Onekama went well. Christmas lights are up in the Village. The PLA is looking for volunteers.

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**

Help Support Onekama School 8th Grade Class Trip



Yes! I am interested in supporting the Onekama eighth grade's class trip to Chicago. Enclosed is a donation of: \$_____

Please share your contact information, for students to send thanks, as well as updates about our class trip and experiences. A letter of donation receipt will also be sent for tax purposes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Donations can be sent to:

Onekama School Class of 2024
c/o Michele Warman, Teacher
5016 Main Street
Onekama, Michigan 49675

For More Events and information – check out www.onekama.com

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

