



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

January 2021
Volumn 17, No. 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Portage Lake Association would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year!

The organization is currently planning our 2021 Events Calendar. We are including all the wonderful events we have conducted over the past years. They include the Petunia Parade, Lights and Banners in Onekama Village, Murder Mystery Dinner in May 2021 at Portage Point Inn, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, Onekama Days, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, Celebrations of Lights and Near and Farr Friends to resume in the Fall. All these events, however, are subject to change. Information on each event can be found on our Facebook page (1, -Onekama, Michigan), our Website (onekama.info) and in our newsletter.

As you may know, the PLA is a non-profit organization that depends on dedicated volunteers who plan and carry out these events. We are in need of volunteers this year as many of our long-term dedicated volunteers are stepping down. This is an opportunity to meet new people in your community and become involved in making Onekama "a great place to live, play and stay". AND just have fun! If you are interested, please contact me at julielapinski@gmail.com. We'd love to have you join us.

Please welcome Mary Bergren, Michelle Ervin and Nikki Schneider as new PLA BOD members.

Jean Capper was voted in as the PLA Secretary with Shelly Johnson, Larry Paz and Susan Halloran re-elected as PLA BOD members.

The PLA looks forward to seeing all of you again soon. We wish you a blessed, safe and bright 2021.

Julie Lapinski, President, Portage Lake Association

Note from the Editor

It is quiet in Onekama these days as many of our businesses have closed for the winter. We are looking forward to the reopening in the Spring of MacBeth's, Anchor Design Boutique, The Yellow Dog Café, Patina, Papa J's and The Glenwood.

We are hoping to start printing copies to circulate with the July issue. In the meantime, the newsletter is available online.

If you have any suggestions for people you should know, ideas for articles, and/or pictures you would like to share, the next deadline for submission is March 15, 2021. Articles should be in Word, pictures should be separate and saved as JPG files. Email the editor: jeanmariecapper@gmail.com

Thanks.

Jean Capper

Editor of the Portage Lake Association quarterly newsletter

People You Should Know

Judy and Bob Blackmore

Judy and Bob are a brother/sister combo that have given so very much to the Onekama Community.

Judy came to Onekama first:

In 1989 my retirement brought me to Onekama. I became interested in and involved with the Portage Lake Association and its many projects. My summer activity is helping to beautify the streets of Onekama with Petunias. My winter hobby is quilting. I donate quilts for many PLA fundraising projects. Onekama is now my hometown and I'm proud of it.

I have the pleasure of owning two of Judy's quilts, purchased in silent auctions benefiting the PLA.

Bob came next:

His family told him, "you need to retire and move to Onekama so you can be with your son Rob, his family, Mother Eathel, and Sisters, Mary Pattison and Judy. I did! Soon after I arrived in Onekama I was appointed to the Onekama Village Council to fill a vacated position. This kept me busy for about five years. The next step in my career led me to seek election to the Onekama Township Board as a Trustee, where I remain today. I am honored to be part of the many special people of Onekama.

Thanks, Bob and Judy for all you do to make Onekama a great place to live.



Bell Ringing

Local resident, Paul Fairchild, started a new tradition on Christmas Eve, 2020. He posted:

Thinking most of us would not have family with us this year either, it would be fun to greet one another and celebrate by going outside and ring our bells and to remind us all we are not alone.

In sharing our plan with this group, the intention was others might want to join in their own neighborhood and that the bells might be heard on, around, and across The Lake. We will all want to quiet our own jingle bells to listen for our neighbor's good cheers from time to time.

Please, if you are going to the park or Farr Center, wear your masks and keep your distance.

It matters not from where or if you jingle only that we step outside at 6 o'clock and wish our neighbors well and hear the love we all have for our Portage Lake Community.

Starts at 6...ends when it ends. Jingle All The Way and Merry Christmas to all!



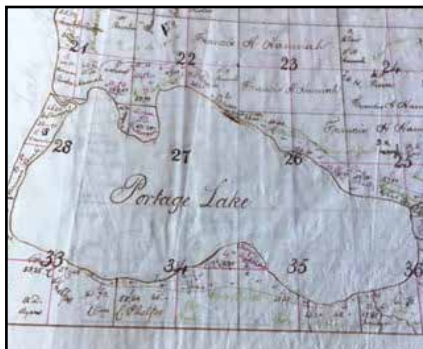
We went down to the Lake in front of our family home (the Carriage House next to the Canfield mansion) and rang and listened. It was magical. Many local residents joined in and bells rang from Little Eden, St. Joseph church and The Camp Tosebo (whose bell had been in storage for the last 43 years). I hope we can all make this an annual event.

The Cut

Onekama's own, award-winning author, John Wemlinger is currently writing his 5th novel, titled The Cut.

It is the story of Alvin Price and Lydia Cockrum, who literally bump into one another in Manistee during the summer of 1870 and it is love at first sight. But few romances are without difficulties and in this case, Alvin is a farmer, and Lydia's father is a renowned railroad engineer, thus aligned with the powerful lumber industry in northwest Michigan. The two groups are at odds over a dam which drives a sawmill for one, while flooding the others' land. However, two force majeure will change not only the trajectory of their love affair, but the history of the entire area. The novel, a work of historical fiction commemorates the 150th anniversary of the narrow tenth of a mile-long ditch at the southwest corner of Portage Lake dug by a group of disgruntled farmers in May of 1871. Today, that "ditch" is the magnificent channel connecting Portage Lake to Lake Michigan.

The citizens group preparing the celebration of Onekama's 150th anniversary asked the author to write "a story about that time." The Cut is that story and will be available for the various celebratory gatherings this summer. As you are making your summertime plans, please join us in Onekama for a summer of celebration and look for your copy of The Cut to be released May, 2021.



ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN'S "OneKama OneFifty" CELEBRATION

150 years ago, Onekama, Michigan had its official start. The wildly fascinating story of "The Cut" is an iconic and life-altering event that shaped Onekama. The local homesteaders, tired of conflict with the Porter Lumber Milling Company whose dam at Portage Creek flooded farmland, took matters literally into their own hands. Illegally hand digging a small trench from Lake Michigan to Portage Lake to lower the lake to its original depth, the homesteaders created a fantastic spectacle! On the night of May 14, 1871 when the trench was completed, the water rushed out taking with it woods and sand and creating a channel 500 feet wide and 12 feet deep. This channel brought great opportunity for the homesteaders and the mill and remains to this day an integral part of the Onekama community.

Coincidentally just a week before, the Postmaster General appointed a postmaster to an office at the newly named village of "Onekama". 2021 is the sesquicentennial anniversary of these two events.

Through a series of activities and events based on Onekama's 150 year anniversary, OneKama OneFifty will celebrate the Portage Lake Channel and the village of Onekama.

Here are some activities tentatively scheduled for 2021:

Channel Dedication

Historical presentations and activities

Celebration dinner in May and a Gala in October

Sunfish Race, Large Sailboat Regatta, Powerboat Poker Run, Paddle Parade
And more to come!

For information contact:

Rosalind Jaffe

OneKama OneFifty Facilitator

rozjaf@charter.net

231-655-3006

2021 PLA BOARD

President	Julie Lapinski 269-832-2392 julielapinski@gmail.com
Past Pres.	Al Taylor 231-889-0205 windsongmi@aol.com
Vice Pres.	Kevin Wolverton 616-889-9629 kevin@alpinemotorlodge.com
Treasurer	Evie McNeil 231-889-0102 evelyn@chartermi.net
Secretary	Jean Capper 773-497-5766 jmcmom@aol.com
1 Year Board Member:	Mary Bergren, Susan Halloran, Nikki Schneider, Larry Paz
2 Year Board Member	Frank English, David Maylen, Michelle Ervin
3 Year Board Member	Jon Phillips, Debby Major, Shelli Johnson



The Village of Onekama's Christmas Tree is decked out in lights provided annually by the Portage Lake Association. The Celebration of Lights ceremony went on, despite the pandemic.

The lights reflect honors and in memorial tributes to family, friends and neighbors

Photo by Green Buoy Resort in Onekama

Patina

2nd Annual Pet Pictures with Santa

For the second year, Patina hosted Pet Pictures with Santa. Due to Covid 19 there was no party, but it was a big success. Lori Wilson (loriwilsonphotography@gmail.com) did a great job again this year capturing beautiful moments of pets and Santa. They raised a substantial donation for Homeward Bound. They are looking forward to next year.

Thanks, Patina for being such a great member of our community.



M-22 Grill

M-22 Grill was not able to host their Community Christmas dinner this year, but that didn't stop them from helping out the St. Joseph Food Pantry. From December 8th until December 24th, they donated 10% of their takeout sales to the St. Joseph Community Food Pantry. They also have a donor who is matching a portion of the donations. Look for the final number in the next newsletter. Thank you for being such wonderful citizens of Onekama!

5159 Main Street, Onekama, MI
(231)-889-7133 john@m-22grill.com



CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The PLAs Monday Night Concerts in the Park remain on hold at present, though contacts with our performers continue. When it becomes possible to host large gatherings in the Onekama Village Park, we will be eager to take advantage of our beautiful setting on the shores of Portage Lake. We will continue to be careful not to create a setting which might put the community at risk of spreading the Coronavirus, so we will be guided by the science presented by the CDC and Michigan's Surgeon General. We look forward to the times we can gather safely, but will cut no corners in planning the Monday Night Concerts.





The Portage Lake Garden Club works to keep Onkama beautiful, even as the gardening season ends. October's floral arrangement was created by Jane Mueller. November's was by Lillian Whitney. December's was by Faye Backie. Each one was displayed in our local post office. A group of hearty gardeners gathered at the end of November to provide a holiday touch to the fountain.

Onekama Village Council

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Roger Burger

president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson

clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

Nikki Jach

treasurer@villageofonekama.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

County Planning Director

(231) 723-6041

planning@manistee-county-mi.gov

TRUSTEES

Ralph Drumm

Rod Hudson

Andrea Arthur

Suzanne Schwing

FIRE CHIEF

Lawrence Hrachovina

fire@onekamatwp.org

(231) 889-4240 (fire building)

SPECIAL NOTICE:

- There are currently 2 vacancies on Village Board and 1 vacancy on Village Planning Commission. Village Residents interested should call the clerk 231-889-3171.
- The Onekama Village Council will be meeting remotely for 2021 regular council meetings. The dial -in- number is : 1 (425) 436-6332
The access code is: 7645437
Meeting will start at the regular time, 7p.m. For additional information as to the agenda, please call, 231-889-3171.
Ruth Hudson, Onekama Village Clerk
- The Village Office Planning Commission will meet February 8, 2021. Click [here](#) for the agenda.
- The Village Office is open by appointment only; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2. Masks are required to enter.

BROWSING THE SEED CATALOGS IN JANUARY

Is there anything more interesting and provocative than browsing the seed and plant catalogs that arrive in the mail (physical or electronic) every January? Maybe not for everyone, but I recently found some new and interesting plants for your consideration and enjoyment. Here are a few favorites.

Laura Bush Blend Petunias are an old-fashioned petunia, bred for heat tolerance and disease resistance, making it a low-maintenance beauty. Named after the former First Lady of Texas, Laura Bush, this variety maintains classic petunia fragrance. It is a spreading plant with a mix of magenta, purple, pink, and white blooms that attracts pollinators. You can sow Laura Bush in containers for a lush patio garden—even in the high heat of summer! Botanical Interests nursery (at botanicalinterests.com) sells this variety of seeds for under \$2.



Botanical Interests also has a new variety of poppies that caught my eye. It is called *Amazing Grey Corn Poppy*. The beauty of 'Amazing Grey' is beyond compare. Crepe-paper like blooms unfurl into single and half-double blooms, each unique. Bred over 18 years from a single bloom in the Mother of Pearl poppy blend, the breeder isolated the purple-grey flowers, although you may see an occasional burgundy bloom. A practically care-free annual and a pollinator favorite, these poppies reseed making them ideal for naturalized areas. It was a 2018 Fleuroselect Novelty award winner and is drought tolerant and deer resistant. Check

it out online at botanicalinterests.com where you can also request a paper catalog.

So, while we wait our turn in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, let's dream and plan about the amazing gardens we will have this year!

Disclaimer: The Portage Lake Association does not endorse any vendor but provides information for personal decision making.

FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED!

The PLA Committee is looking for a passionate, Fall loving, individual that would like to head up our Fall Festival!
If you're interested, please contact our PLA Secretary, Jean Capper at 773-497-5766, jmcmom@aol.com

Manistee County Recycles
415 Third Street | Manistee
855-2Go-Zero | (855-246-9376)

A New Year Refresher

Resolutions are a great way to set yourself up for success in the new year. Many people make personal health and wealth goals, but we would like to encourage you to set a goal of becoming a better recycler.

With that said, here is a refresher of what can be recycled in the PA69 Recycling Program.

Paper & Cardboard: Copy, writing, computer paper Mail, newspaper, magazines Telephone books, Brown paper bags Cardboard/paperboard boxes

Plastics

#1 PET or PETE - pop, water, shampoo/conditioner

#2 HDPE - milk jugs, laundry detergent, juice

#4 LDPE - mustard, honey, food storage

#5 PP - medicine containers, ketchup, yogurt

#7 Other - gallon bottles, juice jugs, garden pots

Metals: Steel and tin cans Aluminum foil and cans Empty aerosol cans

Glass: Clear bottles and jars Blue , Green and Brown bottles and jars

Who | What | When | Where

Manistee County PA69 residential recycling is easy! You can recycle paper, plastic, metal and glass at the seven drop-off locations listed below. For more information about what you can and cannot recycle check out the Recycling Guidelines.

Recycling is available to residents of PA69 participating townships* 7 days a week, during daylight hours at these locations:

Arcadia Township, 3422 Lake Street

Brown Township, 8233 Coates Highway

Copemish, Brown Street and West Cleon Road (604)

Dickson Township, Wingert Street, behind Fire Dept.

Kaleva, 14420 Walta Street

Onkama, 5435 Main Street

Springdale Township, 14492 Glovers Lake Road

*Use of these drop-off locations is exclusive to residents of PA69 participating townships which include; Arcadia, Brown, Cleon, Dickson, Maple Grove, Marilla, Onkama and Springdale.

Become a Manistee County Recycles Business Sponsor. Demonstrate your commitment to recycling and continue having recycling drop-off services available for your business by supporting Manistee County

Recycling as a Business Sponsor.

As a sponsor you will help sustain the Manistee County Recycles PA69 recycling program, it's seven drop-off locations, community education and awareness and influence other businesses to follow your example.

Thank You to the following Manistee County Recycling Business Sponsors: Camp Arcadia, Arcadia; Iron Fish Distillery, Thompsonville; Tosebo Clubhouse LLC, Onkama Want to become a sponsor? Download the Business Sponsorship Form to learn more

2021 Manistee County Green Team Meetings

To receive virtual meeting information, email Julie Schmeling j schmeling@manisteecountymi.gov

Recycling needs to be done right, or we could lose the privilege. If the bins or the truck is full, DON'T leave your recycling, come another time.

Have recycling questions? Call the Hotline at 855-2Go-Zero (855-246-9376)

Visit the new Manistee County website for more recycling information. If you would like to receive the newsletter, send Sarah an email and she will add you to the list.

Iris Waste Diversion Specialists

Mobile: 734-476-2186 | Office: 989-272-5057 ext. 1

Fax: 888-789-3942 | Email: sarah@iriswds.com

www.iriswds.com

Sarah Archer

Manistee County Recycling Coordinator



Summary of the Onekama Consolidate School meeting, 12/14/2020

COMMUNICATIONS: Discussion took place regarding concerns about specials not being offered to elementary students during remote learning and visiting of classrooms during the online learning. Hagen will visit when she returns to the office. Discussion regarding one parents' concern regarding online learning. Hagen did communicate with the parent and will continue to do the best we can to educate all students. Continuation of communication was a consistent topic.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan - Onekama will continue to educate through online learning through January 4, 2021 for K-12 students. Currently, teachers who can teach from home are to teach from home. We are providing transportation to several special education students. If a student's teacher is teaching from home, we have other staff on campus and support staff who can oversee those students who come to school for their education.

Two-Way Communication Update - As required by the state to keep track of two way communication for online learners, Hagen indicated that we have a 95% rate which she is pleased with (91% last month). She did need to ask the sheriff to make an outreach visit to families whose students are failing to check in during their scheduled learning time.

NWEA, SAT, PSAT Update: (charts mailed to trustees on 12/9) - Hagen updated the trustees. There was lengthy discussion regarding the results citing the baseline scores and their accuracy. We closed in March; the 3rd grade reading law will be difficult to enforce but we plan to have interventions to help the students as they move to 4th grade. Hagen provided some statistics on the test scores for the PSAT and SAT and reminded everyone that students may retake the SAT.

February Training Dates (February 6th) - Koon reminded trustees of the training date and that it will be a face to face training. Please plan for the entire day beginning at 9am (or possibly 8am). We received a grant to cover 50% of the expenses.

Survey Results (OnLine Learning Platform) -- Hagen spent time reviewing the recent survey to help harness what our teaching staff need to help secure their

success. Hagen will continue to monitor requests for assistance.

FUTURE MEETING -- January 11, 2021 - 7:00 pm (in the Media Center) Regular Board Meeting - Organizational Meeting.

OTHER COMMENTS FROM the PUBLIC, ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD -- Tim Klenow was acknowledged for all his work in making sure our students and families have food during remote learning. Hagen indicated that we did have our giving tree this year, but it was somewhat different but we were able to deliver to our families by using the school bus. Hagen also updated the board on the internet hotspot boxes that have been issued, transportation for special education children, the virtual library established by our aide Olivia Nichols, the extra work being done by other aides Cheyanne Bartynski, Betsy Neph, Janice McCranner and Bridget Ware. Koon thanked Steve Brooks and Sam Catanese for their service as a Board Member as their term expires December 31, 2020. The celebration next year of the 100 years of opening the channel will take place during Onekama Days and the township is looking for a junior or senior to represent the school. Hagen will see if someone is willing.

ITEMS FOR January MEETING -- COVID-19 Learning Plan update, 2 way communication update, updates if any on the previous survey.

ADJOURNMENT - It was moved by Wisniski and supported by Dye to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Gildersleeve, Secretary Board of Education

Summary of the VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Oct. 5, 2020

Items of Interest:

Fences – With 2 changes will present recommendations to Council Board October 21, 2020. Motion made by Debbie Burda to remove need for permits, 2nd by Val Long

Signage – Tabled Until November 9, 2020 Meeting. All will research and bring materials to next meeting for discussion.

Overlay District – Will table until Signage and Fences are approved.

Food Truck Zoning Ordinances – Research and make suggestions to Council Board

Summary of Onekama Township Board Meeting 10/6/2020

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Jeff Dontz reported that the Prosecutor's office will not be handling the Child Support matters anymore. That will be handled with the Friend of the Court. Dontz extended his "Thank you" to the Township for signing up with the County Planning Department for its services. The County has spent \$16,000 on (2) negative pressure cells for the jail. Computers have been purchased so that equipment may be kept up-to-date. A contract was signed with Lisa Sagala. A Public Hearing was held for the 2021 budget cycle. A 3-year contract was signed with Canteen Food Service. The Council on Aging Millage is up and on the ballot. It will primarily be used for Meals-on-Wheels increase and will go into effect in 2022.

RECYCLE: Sarah Archer reported that the Fairground Board has agreed to have the recycle bins over at their site. The study is complete that was done over the 11 day period. Approximately 160 people were talked to. Onekama captures 37% of the entire County's recycling.

FIRE/RESCUE: Report written by Captain Kaitlin Kubiskey. September reported 15 EMS Runs (1 to Brown Twp), 6 Fire Runs (1 MA to B.L.), 1 Fire/EMS, 1 EMS Mtg, 1 Maintenance Mtg, 1 Fire Mtg/Training. Fire coverage was provided at the Demo Derby. Hopefully all of the final bids will be received and a decision will be presented to the Township Board for a new Brush Truck at the November Township Board Meeting.

ROADS: Johnson sent out letters to the residents on Joseph Road per instructions at September's Board Meeting. Meister will get a bid on graveling that portion of the road.

ASSESSOR: Report received from Ginny Martz. The State Tax Commission requested an export for our current pre and sales data. That export was completed and sent to the Tax Management and Associates on Sept 8. Tax Management is doing the audit of the Principal Residence Exemptions.

PARKS & REC: Report given by Chairperson Rich Lapinski via phone. PLM is working on invasives at North Point Park. Bird activity will be going on with the Audubon Society. There will be an event with

disabled veterans on Saturday, October 10th. Beach Sweep is complete by the Garden Club at Langlund Park. There is a meeting next week regarding the Kayak Launch and drawings are being reviewed.

INVASIVE SPECIES/WATERSHED: Update given by Mary Reed. Surveying is complete around the lake for the year. Watershed update was printed. 3-years worth of sample data has been collected. The Water Shed retreat was the end of September and had discussions with the LRBOI to see where possible money is available.

Information about the Township

Meetings may be posted on the Township Bulletin Board, website onekama.info, post office and in the local newspaper. MEETING TIMES HAVE CHANGED-visit the onekama.info website for more information

TOWNSHIP OFFICE

PHONE: (231) 889-3308

FAX: (231) 889-5587

FIRE DEPARTMENT: (231) 889-7014

In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

E-mail:

Supervisor

clerk@onekamatwp.org

treasurer@onekamatwp.org

Assessor

Zoning: 231-723-6041,

planning@manisteecountymi.gov

TRASH DAY IS SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

8 AM to 12 NOON

NEW TOWNSHIP TREASURER

NOTICE: On December 7, 2020, the Township Treasurer LaVonne Beebe submitted a notice that she was resigning from her position as Treasurer, effective immediately, for personal reasons. At a special meeting on December 10, 2020, the Township Board accepted LaVonne Beebe's resignation and appointed Ed Bradford as the new Treasurer of the Township. LaVonne Beebe served the Township as Treasurer with distinction since 2003. The Township wishes to extend its thanks to LaVonne Beebe for her long service as Treasurer and wishes her the best for the future.

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP PARKS and REC COMMITTEE SUMMARY of OCTOBER 15, 2020 MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA: Report given by Andrea Arthur. Next Village Council Meeting has been scheduled for October 21, 2020. There are open seats for the Village Council inclusive of the Village President and 2 council members. 6 dead trees will be removed from the Village Park with consideration for planting new trees in the Spring of 2021.

ONEKAMA SCHOOLS: No report given by Gary Madden, absent. There will be a "Trunk & Treat" at the Onekama Schools parking lot scheduled for Sunday October 18, 2020 from 1 to 3:00pm. Various local organizations participating. Will follow social distancing guidelines.

WATERSHED: Report given by Mary Reed. Retreat was held September 22, 2020. Reviewed community survey with about 400 responses, reviewed 6 goals and objectives and tasks for 2020-2021, and continue to work with the District 10 Health Dept. on lake water quality surveys with a focus on the 2 areas of e-coli concerns.

PARKS FIVE YEAR PLAN: Report given by Leann Burger. Plan has been updated for all parks but Langland Beach. Langland Beach plan will be updated at a later date due to further discussions.

NORTH POINT PARK: Report given by Mary Reed. PLM has completed their scope of invasive species plant removals. Paul Mueller reported on the recently held walk in the park for a group of Manistee ISD Special Needs Students hosted by Michelle Ervin, Paul Mueller and Mary Reed. Very positive feedback from the participants and the ISD staff. May plan a similar event for the Spring 2021. Paul also reported on the recently held "Stroll & Roll" event conducted at the parks as part of the Onekama Days Lite Activities. Again positive feedback about park and the event. Requested feedback from participants on possible improvements to the park for improved ADA features. The Manistee News Advocate newspaper continues to feature news articles about our activities conducted at the park.

LANGLAND PARK: Report given by Bob Blackmore & Rich Lapinski. Vault toilet will serviced and then closed during the second week of November

2020. Parking lot striping will be deferred to the spring of 2021. Parking lot will not be snow plowed other than the Manistee County Road Commission plows using the parking lot as a turnaround for plowing of Portage Point Drive. High lake water levels, numerous storms and extensive wave action has contributed to continued beach erosion and driftwood accumulation. A beach trash clean-up was conducted the Onekama Garden Club. Al Taylor and Rich Lapinski to follow-up with Beckett & Raedar, Project Manager for 2016 Park Improvements Project, to review extensive washout at the end of the ADA access boardwalk. Will develop options plan for long term fix.

GLEN PARK: Report given by Rich Lapinski. The Michigan DNR Passport Grant Application preliminary score was received by the Twp and Gosling-Czubak. Rich Lapinski and Dallas Wertz of Gosling-Czubak added additional information to our application that will be used to improve and determine our final score for grant consideration. The final grant application score and grant award winners will be announced by the second week of December 2020. Will continue to address the removal of any fallen trees across the hiking paths to allow year round useage of the park.

KAYAK LAUNCH: Report by Al Taylor. An amendment was made by the TWP to extend the project application process through December 2020 which has now been approved by the State. After a Sate review of the latest project information submission is complete and approved, Al will work with Spicer Engineering to seek out 3 competitive bids for purchase and installation of the kayak launch at the DNR Park. Anticipate a 2021 installation. Will need to request a project extension into 2021.

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ROAD ENDS: No report

PLA: Report by Al Taylor. Fall Festival Lite was successfully held with events including a Pet Parade in the Village Park, a Roll & Stroll at North Point Park, Scarecrow Displays in the Village underway and a Trunk or Treat October 18, 2020 at the Onekama Schools parking lot. Plans are underway to conduct the Annual Christmas Tree Event at the Farr Center Park and install Christmas Lights on the Village utility poles. PLA Board and Committees will continue to plan for conducting the traditional events for 2021; Onekama Days, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, Concerts in the Park, Petunia Parade and Fireworks. Contingen-

cy plans will also be developed due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic.

150th ONEKAMA CELEBRATION: Report by Al Taylor. The “Cut 150” Organizing Committee will have meeting October 16.

MANISTEE COUNTY-WIDE PARKS & REC COMMISSION: Report by Mary Reed. A new updated extensive county-wide proposed trails plan has been posted. There have been no meetings.

PARKS & REC BUDGET: Report by Rich Lapinski. Expenditures continue within budget. Budget may be subject to a reduction based on reduced TWP revenue sharing \$.

OPEN DISCUSSIONS: Friends of the Park – Discussion about ways to provide alternative funding for the Onkama Twp Parks & Rec Committee 5 year plans and the Twp.’s continued maintenance, improvements and operations. Covid -19 pandemic will introduce Onkama Twp budget challenges, thus possibly reducing the current and future budgets. This alternate funding would provide funding to supplement TWP funding as budgets are challenged. 2 options were discussed:

Form a 501-C3 non-profit organization to raise money for parks maintenance, operations and improvements – not tied to TWP. This would be the basis for a stand alone “Friends of the Parks” organization to supplement TWP funding.

Reopen our account with the Manistee County Community Foundation to place funds that are raised via donations for disbursement as required for park maintenance, operations and improvements – TWP approval require for disbursements?

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am by Rich Lapinski

The next Meeting will be November 19, 2020 at 8 a.m. in Onkama Township Hall.



Welcome to Five Star Real Estate and Thank You for Your Work on Toys for Tots.

Five Star Real Estate opened their Onkama office last June after Greg Carlson, owner/broker, bought the Acker Building on Main Street. Greg and his wife, Joyce, met at the Portage Lake Bible Camp as young adults and always kept their love of Onkama on the back burner as Greg pursued a career in real estate. Since 1978, Greg has opened 15 Five Star Offices along Michigan’s west coast including Ludington, Cadillac, Onkama, and soon in Traverse City. In 1989 the Carlsons bought a condo at Pirates Cove and spent summers with their sons on Portage Lake while commuting to Grand Rapids. Last March they decided it was time to live in Onkama full time as children and grandchildren had already relocated to the area. His next dream of building a house in the hills overlooking the lake is already in progress.

Five Star Onkama got busy joining the community with a bicycle drive for Toys for Tots during Christmas time. They successfully filled a trailer with over 25 bikes and toys. They hope to make this an annual event.

The Carlsons and the Onkama agents are excited to be serving the real estate needs of property owners and those looking to make Onkama their hometown.

Thank you, Five Star Real Estate for becoming an active part of our community and helping make Christmas a little brighter for children in the area.

What Is The Watershed Plan?

A community-driven effort, work began in 2006 to develop the **Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan**. Over 50 individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses signed the PLWF Partnership Agreement; in 2008 the plan was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. It has five specific goals:

- 1 **PUBLIC HEALTH** - To ensure that water is free of pathogens and/or toxic chemicals;
- 2 **AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM** - To protect the integrity of essential habitats;
- 3 **Water-Based Recreation** - To protect and enhance recreational opportunities;
- 4 **Natural & Cultural Assets** - To invest in land-based resources that preserve, enhance and promote the watershed;
- 5 **Local Management & Implementation Institutions** - To establish mechanism that provide sustained local leadership and community engagement to implement the plan.

What You Can Do To Help . . .

- Plant native vegetation along streams, waterfront and in yards. Use safe shoreline landscaping practices.
- Use compost and other natural soil enhancers in gardens and lawns. Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides - especially along shorelines.
- Understand the role that wetlands play in keeping the watershed viable. Protect them and contribute to efforts to do so.
- Dispose of chemicals, paints, oils and other toxic substances safely and according to local ordinances.
- Join and contribute to the Watershed Council. Participate in strengthening the organization to assure the wise use and enjoyment of the watershed for now and for future generations.



P. O. Box 299
Onkama, MI 49675



Facts About Our Watershed

The Portage Lake Watershed covers 24.6 square miles and includes parts of Manistee, Bear Lake, Brown and Onkama Townships as well as the village of Onkama.

Portage Lake has a surface area of 2,116 acres — 13.4% of the total area of the watershed. It is a natural lake formed by glaciers and fed by 22 streams. In two areas, its maximum is up to 60 feet with an average depth of 19 feet.



Why Do Watersheds Matter?

Everyone lives in a watershed. We depend on the water that flows through watersheds for everything from drinking water to farming to recreation. Consequently, it is important that we understand how what we do has a significant impact:

- Rainwater that flows across paved roads and parking lots before reaching a stream is likely to warm up and pick up heavy metals and oil from the pavement. Warm or polluted run-off will degrade habitat for fish and insects in Portage Lake and its feeder streams.
- Animal waste and bacteria from yards or livestock can wash downstream to the lake and other areas in the watershed and lead to beach closures and other health concerns.
- Fertilizers used on lawns and farms can also run off into nearby streams and storm drains. The nutrients in fertilizers can trigger algae blooms in the lake and reduce oxygen levels for fish and other marine life.
- Conserving wetlands and natural vegetation along the lake and streams helps filter some of the run-off and protects water quality throughout the watershed.

For more information about the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan, events and activities, how to help, options to donate and links to related information, go to <http://onekama.info/watershed/>

Our Heart Belongs to Onekama

(A Poem of Thanks this 2020 Holiday Season)

by Joan Pentecost Vestrand

Tis' a place that's so special
hearts sigh at the thought.
A two-lake town
one might think underwrought.
But not to us who know her
and the truth down beneath.
It's a wonderful place
whether the lakes or between.
Onekama, Onekama
we give you this poem.
Onekama, Onekama
carry us home.
Your lovely blue slipper
and soft lapping shores.
Your petunias and fountain
and welcoming doors.
Your harbor and channel
and an Inn oh so grand,
it stands like a queen;
warm eye on our land.
Whether the enchanting springs
of Glen Park
or the glorious big lake,
your beauty is everywhere
scot-free for the take.
And then there's the music
of which there's no end.
The laughter of family -
and call of a friend.
The song of the camp bells;
the screech of a gull.
Wind as it whistles through pilings;
waves smacking a hull.
The joyous noise of park concerts,
and children at play.
Lest not the symphony of crickets
to end each summer's day.
A showcase for the seasons
regardless of time.
Whether it be fall's riot of color
or spring's delicate clime.
And oh, what a wonderland
in winter she brings.

Snowfalls so breathtaking
our heart simply sings.
The still and the quiet,
the peace and goodwill;
all of it enough
to quell anyone's chill.
A warm mug of something
a book and a throw,
and it's heaven on Earth
don't we just know.
Onekama, Onekama,
you run so very deep.
Onekama, Onekama
it's you in our sleep.
You aren't just a location -
a mere spot on a map.
You are a feeling inside us
and one laden in sap.
It's all fondness and love,
serenity and peace.
Safety and refuge;
our own coat of fleece.
Thanks to you we're more grounded,
more loving, and kind.
Because of you we are happier,
simply content in our find.
And while some things are easily taken
for granted,
in you we continually revere.
Thankful for all you give us
and all about you so dear.
We appreciate your waters,
and the bounty it supplies.
Not the least of it your well
ever flowing before our eyes.
Like five loaves of bread
and only two fish,
its refreshment is never ending
much to anyone's wish.
And your village so charming
it's people so warm;
a community to cherish
by anyone's form.

Thank you. Thank you.
We can't say it enough.
We wouldn't trade you for anywhere
not even for fancier stuff.
We are your people -
your followers - your fans.
We are yours truly:
Proud Onekamiens.
And no matter what the world throws us
in you we'll be fine.
We'll dip our toe in your waters
and drop fishing line.
We'll absorb your glorious sunsets
and night skies full of stars.
Experience the quiet of your dawns
and the absence of cars.
Dwell on our blessings,
our families and friends.
Glad for the privilege of being here
and the feelings it sends.
We are and always will be
Onekamiens to the core.
As are all the generations
that experience your lore.
Onekama, Onekama
Oh, spirit of the wood;
Onekama, Onekama,
there's nothing so good.



ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to volunteer contact:

Leslie Osborn

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
Onkama, MI 49675

It's the time of year to renew your Portage Lake Association membership or join! Membership for the year is \$35 and helps support our projects throughout the year.

Go online to www.onekama.info. Select the "Donation & Dues" link from the left corner of the top banner. Cursor down to "Pay Your PLA Dues" at the bottom of the page - you will be prompted for information and then asked whether you would like to pay with a Paypal account or with a credit card (go to the bottom of the page for this option). Follow the prompts - it's easy!

Portage Lake Association, Memberships, PO Box 493, Onkama, MI 49675. Questions? Contact Faye Backie at plamembershipchair@gmail.com or by phone at 517- 281-2011.

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 ☐ Onkama 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
Onkama, MI 49675**

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

