



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

April 2019
Volumn 15, No. 2

President's Letter

It looks as though Spring weather is just around the corner. It's an exciting time of year when the ice melts off the lakes, flowers begin to bloom and friends return.

The PLA is very excited about Spring this year. We have two new fundraisers to tell you about.

The PLA is hosting an Adult Prom. Yes, an Adult Prom for all us who are suffering from cabin fever or would love a night out with friends. You have the chance to dress up, put on your dancing shoes and enjoy "A Night Under the Stars" The Prom will be held at the Portage Point Inn on April 6, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Babysitting will be available! Look in the newsletter for more details. All proceeds will help fund the many events the PLA provides during the year including Petunia Parade, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, Onekama Days, Fireworks, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, School Scholarships and Projects, Banners and Lights that line the Village Street and Near and Farr Friends. Come make memories with us and enjoy a well-deserved night out!

Our second fundraiser is a Shoe Collection Drive. All proceeds earned by the PLA will go to the Portager Pride Pack Program at Onekama Consolidated Schools. The Shoe Drive is May 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. Shoe collection sites will be at EZ Market, Onekama Consolidated Schools and Snyder's shoes in Manistee and Ludington. Call Mary Jo McElroy 614-325-1717 for more information.

Petunia planting will take place on May 22nd. The petunias are planted by dedicated PLA volunteers who volunteer their time and energy to plant and maintain over 3400 petunias!

The PLA will once again host the PLA Potluck Summer Picnic. It will be held at Onekama Village Park on Monday, June 17, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The PLA will provide the brats and hotdogs, lemonade and chips. Members will be asked to bring either a salad to pass or a dessert. It's our way to say "Thank You" to all our members. Watch for more information on our Facebook page and look for your EVITE on line. It is a great way to start off the summer picnicking with friends.

Monday Night Concerts in the Park kicks off their first of an eight concert season on July 1, 2019 with Schrock Brothers and Madcat. The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Onekama Village Park. The concerts are free but donations are welcome. So, dust off your lawn chairs, fill up your picnic baskets and join us for great music and a wonderful summer evening. For more information on Concerts in the Park visit our website at www.onekama.info or our Facebook 1,-Onekama, Michigan.

Near and Farr Friends have provided exciting speakers and game days throughout the winter months. They have several more speakers and game days scheduled from now through May 23rd. Near and Farr Friends meets every Thursday from 2:30-4:30 at the Onekama Township Hall. There is no charge but donations are welcomed. The PLA Welcome Committee has been making "welcome visits" to new residents in the community over the winter. If you are new to the community or know someone who is new to the community, please give me a call. We'd love to drop off one of our Welcome bags with information that is very useful to new residents, information about community groups, area parks, community services and much more.

We look forward to seeing old and new friends at all of our events this year. If you want to join in on the fun and volunteer at any of our events, please give me a call. It's a great way to meet new people and make lasting friends.

Look forward to seeing you,

Julie Lapinski, President of the Portage Lake Association
269-832-2392

Two People You Should Know

Karen Kolb- Manistee, Michigan

Making things from nothing—my Dad called it putzing. I did those artsy/crafty things—cards, doll clothes, knitted, sewed and then stripped and refinished my first chair in high school and was hooked. My Dad fixed things and built things—fences, sheds, steps. My Mom sewed clothes, curtains and even made a footstool from a crate. I didn't realize it then, but those were the roots my creativity.

I studied business but always had an interest in antiques, art and architecture—form and design, beautiful lines and things of a whimsical nature.

I'm crazy for textures and fabric and mixing things up. And color—Life is boring without color. I look to nature for my pallet but certainly stretch that whenever the notion strikes. Above all, I love it when my imagination goes home with someone and takes a place in their home. Patina is my place for all this and more.

Nikki Schneider -

Bear Lake, Michigan/Oak Park, Illinois

"Junkin'" started at a young age for me.

My dad would drag me around the south suburbs of Chicago in his rusty pick up.

Often stopping in fellow classmates affluent neighborhoods to scavenge a broken swing-set or old monkey bars from the side of the road, while I slouched down in my seat hoping not to be seen. We didn't have a lot of money, but we had the best recycled playground in the neighborhood!

15 years ago my husband and I bought 40 acres in Bear Lake and put up a giant pole barn. It looked so big, empty and ugly. My "junkin" spirit was ignited! The thrill of the hunt! Estate, garage, yard sales. Digging through dusty basements and dark garage corners. Once sending my husband, eventually turned junker, up a rickety old barn ladder and past a dead raccoon to find a buried treasure.

Uncovering an item from the past or a foreign land. Something that piques my curiosity or inspires.

Karen and I met at Redeemed in Manistee. She loved my stuff and I loved hers! We collaborated on several events and created amazing seasonal vignettes together. I had the vision but Karen was able to execute it. Then I could start to see it and come back and jump in. She is the yin to my yang, not true, she is the yang to my yang: early in our relationship I stopped at MY usual resale shop and spotted two fabulous funky chairs. I ran over in excitement....As I approached I saw a giant sold sign and underneath in small print hold for Karen. It was a match made in Heaven a dusty rusty heaven. We are partners in crime and design. Time to share our passion and treasures with Onekama residents and visitors. With folks who truly appreciate unique items and shopping local. Patina will also design wedding centerpieces and offer workshops. We look forward to joining your fine community.

And can't wait to for you to visit us at Patina...found, flawed....but fabulous.

Open weekends beginning May 4

Nikki 312-909-0115



The Prom will be held at the Portage Point Inn on April 6, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, cash bar available, and entertainment provided by A+Entertainment of Traverse City. Rent a prom dress at Prom Boutique of Manistee (231-887-5064). Purchase a discounted corsage or boutonniere at Gloria's Floral Garden in Manistee (231-887-4377). Onekama Athletic Boosters will provide donation- based child-care from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Onekama High School. The kids will enjoy open gym and popcorn while you enjoy good food, fun conversation and dancing at "A Night Under the Stars". Capture the night in our photo booth.

A Live Auction, Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle will add to the fun. All proceeds will help fund the many events the PLA provides during the year including Petunia Parade, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, Onekama Days, Fireworks, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, School Scholarships and Projects, Banners and Lights that line the Village Street and Near and Farr Friends.

Tickets are available on line at Eventbrite.com for \$35.00/person in advance or at the door for \$40.00/person. They can also be purchased at the Inn at the Alpine. All your questions can be directed to Kevin Wolverton at 616-889-9629 or kevin@alpinemotorlodge.com or Julie Lapinski at 269-832-2392 or julielapinski@gmail.com

Petunia Parade Much More than Beautification



Petunia Parade members would like to believe that it was Onekama’s magnificent 25th Anniversary petunia display last summer that inspired Manistee residents to resurrect this longstanding tradition in their own community. For those of you who haven’t heard, the Manistee News Advocate reported on March 5, 2019, that Manistee’s Blossom Boulevard along M-31 is being relaunched in 2019 after a three-year long hiatus.

The reason it stopped according to the article was “previous committee members retired after many years and there was nobody to step in.” Fortunately, to date, Onekama volunteer committee members, planters, weeders, waterers, financial supporters and sponsors have dug in for the long haul.

“We are always seeking new volunteers,” explained Committee Co-Chair, Mary Jo McElroy. “Whether it’s students from Onekama Consolidated Schools, new people moving into the community, or summer residents, we welcome one and all to join in the fun.”

Of course, it takes plenty of volunteers in all these capacities to make the annual blaze of color happen. There will be about 3,500 purple, hot pink and silver tidal wave petunias that need to make their way into the soil lining the north side of Onekama’s Main Street on May 22.

Preparation for the actual planting is overseen by a twelve-member committee under the auspices of the Portage Lake Association.

“Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses (long-standing vendor for the parade) takes great care in providing us with healthy plants that will prosper in this location,” said Committee Member, Debby Major. “And, Larsen Landscaping’s in-kind donation of roto-tilling, raking, soil analysis, and weed control makes planting much easier.”

Donations may be directed to this PLA-sponsored project



by using the Petunia Parade donation form in this newsletter, by returning a donor envelope being mailed to all PLA members this month, or by donating online at Onekama.info.



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



SHOE COLLECTION DRIVE FOR PORTAGER PRIDE PACKS

Would you ever think that your gently worn, used and new shoes could help Onekama kids who need food, school supplies, or life essentials? Well they can and here's how. The Portage Lake Association is conducting a fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell. All we need is your support and your gently worn, used and new shoes. We are looking for community members to help support us by agreeing to collect and donate pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes in the next few months. Here's how you do it: Start in your family's closets and gather pairs of shoes that you've out grown, out of style, or out of season. Ask your neighbors, family, and co-workers to do the same. Slippers, boots, and flip flops are OK too.

How does the shoe drive work? The PLA will earn funds based on the total weight of pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected. Our partner, Funds2Orgs, will issue a check for the collected shoes. Anyone can help by volunteering to collect shoes or by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at EZ Market, Snyder's Shoes in Manistee or Ludington, or Onekama Consolidated Schools (event entrance near fitness center or Principal's office under the clock).

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners. By donating gently worn, used and new shoes to the Portage Lake Association, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives here and around the world.

Where will the money go? All net proceeds will be given to the Portager Pride Pack program at Onekama Consolidated Schools. That program is organized and managed by the Middle School Student Council under the guidance of teacher Naomi Kolehmainen. Needy students and families receive school supplies, food, and necessities (such as toothpaste and tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, or personal hygiene items).

Official dates for the Shoe Drive are May 1 through June 30. In the meanwhile, if you are spring cleaning or decluttering, please set aside any gently worn, new or used shoes (footwear of any type – flip flops, boots, slippers are fine). Ask others to help you out. For more information, contact Mary Jo McElroy at 614-325-1717 or maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net.

Whom to Contact for What?

EMERGENCIES: Call 911. Volunteer EMT and fire-fighters will respond from Onekama township station. Non-emergency issues: Call Manistee County Sheriff at 231-723-8393. Services offered by Sheriff Department are gun registration, incident and insurance claims, patrol and property checks, missing child (ACIM), boater safety classes. To sign up for emergency alerts- https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/manistee_mi/wens.cfm

TRASH:

Option 1: purchase yellow bags from EZ Market and place on curb early morning of trash day for your street (W or F for Village and Township)

Option 2: go online to order a container at: <https://www.wm.com/residential/waste-and-recycling-services.jsp>

RECYCLING CENTER: Dumpsters in Onekama Township Hall parking lot (on Main Street), Open 24 hours. Separate paper/cardboard from other recyclables and place in large truck in parking lot. Refer to guidelines for recycling as posted on site

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Onekama Township Government is located at 5435 Main St. next to the fire station. Website: <https://www.onekama.info/township>

Onekama Village Government is located at the Farr Center, 5283 Main St. Website: <https://www.onekama.info/village>

LIBRARY: Located in Farr Center off the parking lot Part of Manistee County Library. Provides books, AV media, computer usage, copier, online request for items; audible books on loan, etc.

COMMUNITY WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA www.onekama.info is managed by the Portage Lake Association; for payment of PLA dues; for donations to community events; for listing of businesses, local events and information, churches, fishing reports, recreational features, access to Onekama Township and Onekama Village rules and regulations, minutes from meetings, etc.

Facebook page is managed by the Portage Lake Association for daily posts about local events, photographs, communication and interest.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147760669837/?ref=bookmarks>



L to R: Grace Servinski, Johnathan DeVoll, Hanaa

Onekama Students Named Essay Contest Winners

Three eighth grade students from Onekama Consolidated Schools have been named local winners in the fiftieth annual America and Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

The three students are Grace Servinski, first; Johnathan DeVoll, second; and Hanaa Fraly, third. All three received award certificates for their achievement.

Grace Servinski's first place essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the top ten essays in Michigan will be selected. The top ten statewide winners, who will be announced in April, will each receive a plaque, a medallion and a cash award of \$2000. In addition, the top ten essayists will be honored at a banquet in Lansing, meet with Michigan's top governmental leaders, and be the featured guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game dedicated in their honor.

Several thousand eighth grade students from nearly 400 Michigan schools participated in the 2018-2019 contest. The topic of the contest was "My Personal Michigan Hero."

Started in 1968 and open to all Michigan eighth grade students, the contest encourages Michigan youth to explore the greatness of America and its people. As a sponsor of the contest, Farm Bureau Insurance has earned 11 national awards from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge.



FUN FISH

Some happy fisherman participating in the Fun Fish Contest on Portage Lake this past Saturday. There were 64 entries and here are photos of the two winners. Congratulations Steve Block on your win with a 35" pike and Hazel Sedelmaier with her 13.8" perch. Both our winners took home \$160 each for their catches!!

A big thank you to the Manistee County Sportfishing Association for creating the event

Thankful for the Portage Lake Watershed that helps make Portage Lake a great fishery for all to enjoy



For More Articles and Photos Visit: ocs.manistee.org

Local Civic Organizations – Onekama, MI



The **Portage Lake Association** is actively working to make our community a special place to live, work and play through events and activities you see around you throughout the year. Annual events sponsored by the PLA include the Petunia Parade, Fireworks at Onekama Days, Pig Out for Onekama Consolidated Schools, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama, Monday Night Concerts in the Park held June, July and August, our website Onekama.info, as well as Facebook 1,-Onekama, Citizen of the Year, Two Lake Town Banners, Christmas lights and decorations on Main Street, Near and Farr Friends and fishing tournaments co-sponsored by the PLA.

The Portage Lake Association is an all-volunteer organization. We always welcome new volunteers and contributions to continue to our efforts to provide these events and activities to our community.

If you want to meet new people, make new friends, contribute to your community and have great time doing it, come join us!

Contact President Julie Lapinski or visit our website: www.onekama.info

Onekama Guild and Thrift Shop is a corporation organized in 1986 as a charitable nonprofit to meet concerns of Manistee County. It is financed by membership dues and sales in the Thrift Shop on Main Street, Onekama, of donated items and handmade items made by the members. We have twenty+ active members, and we invite you to become a member and volunteer. The Guild has a business meeting on the third Tuesday of each month and operates the Thrift Shop three days a week May through mid-October. Donations are given to many local charities. For information, call Peggy Green, President at 616-690-2008.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at THRIFT SHOP: Volunteer to work three-hour shifts at the Thrift Store on Main Street across from the Village Park. Store is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM from May through mid-October. Call Becky Kline at 231-889-4690 or 231-620-8905 to volunteer during months the store is open.

Connect with us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Onekama-Guild/301181116667450>

The **Jr. Clio Club of Onekama** was founded on April 23, 1955 ... so it is now 63 years since the club began its tenure of friendship and community service. The organization is still honored to have some founding members in the group! Besides fostering their own education with monthly educational programs, members have contributed to a variety of projects such as Student Achievement Awards of \$500 given to deserving Onekama Consolidated Schools high school seniors; delivered "Thinking of you" Thanksgiving baskets (for 38 years) to local residents who have lost a family member, are elderly, are suffering from an illness, or are new residents of the community; and sponsored Santa's visit with a party at the Farr Center in Onekama with refreshments and gifts for children (for 54 years). Many other contributions have been made to the community center and various charitable organizations through the years. We would love to meet new members who could share our friendship, our love of history (Clio is the Greek muse of History), and our goal of community service. Contact Lynise Hensel, secretary, at lhensel@chartermi.net for more information. Connect with us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Jr-Clio-Club-886707534701594/>



The **Portage Lake Watershed Forever** plan was developed by over 150 people in our community and was approved by the M-DEQ in May of 2008. A 127-page strategic plan contains extensive information about the watershed with clearly defined goals, objectives, and action steps. It is available online. By engaging the people in our community, we are working on our goals to preserve and protect, now and forever, our Portage Lake Watershed, which includes our lakes, streams, wetlands, groundwater, and entire environment that means so much to us! We will continue to prioritize and address key issues as they are identified. Please join us

Local Civic Organizations – Onekama, MI

in working toward the vision for our watershed.
our website: <http://www.onekama.info/watershed/>

The Onekama

Lions Club supports local, regional, and international projects. While the Lions have had long involvement in sight and vision initiatives, we are also involved in poverty alleviation and youth opportunities. We give financial support to many Onekama School activities. Our most visible project is Onekama Days (co-sponsored with the PLA). The Lions welcome all to our neighborhood and are welcoming new members always. The Lions meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Contact: Lion King Dave Bowers at udave_40@yahoo.com; website: <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/onekamami/>



The **Portage Lake Garden Club** was organized in 1935 and federated in 1939. In 2017, the Club became a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The garden club has 50 members who are residents - both summer and year-round - from Onekama and nearby places. Our programs consist of gardening, flower designs, the environment, horticulture, butterfly and bird life.

We share civic pride through gardening. We are stewards of several gardens (butterfly, native, memorial, and rain) at the Farr Center. We also maintain “Mer-man,” a historical fountain in the Village Park as well as plantings at the two ‘Welcome to Onekama’ signs. We contribute to several community events.

Our meetings are held at the Farr Center on the second and the fourth Thursdays, June – August, and the second Thursday in September. We are always looking for new members and would invite you to attend a meeting. For more information about our club and meetings, please visit our web site: <https://www.portagelakegardenclub.org>



A community treasure restored!



The Onekama Athletic Boosters invite you to support Onekama athletics.

Onekama Athletic Boosters

5016 Main St.

Onekama, MI 49675

oab@manistee.org

Question: What's There to Do in Onekama? How can I help out?
Answer: Volunteer!! Everyone wins.

Current PLA Activities and Help Needed:

Craft Beer Tasting during Onekama Days (first weekend in August); contact Steve Szilvagy at szilvagy@gmail.com or 517-281-8560

Pig Out for OCS Students during Onekama Days (first weekend in August); contact Mary Jo McElroy at maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net or 614-325-1717

Summer Concerts in the Park at 7 PM on Mondays starting in late June, all July, and to mid-August; contact Steve Szilvagy at szilvagy@gmail.com or 517-281-8560

Posters, flyers and brochures; contact Faye Backie at faye.backie@gmail.com or 517-280-2011

Fall Festival on the second Saturday in October; contact Susan Halloran at snhalloran@yahoo.com or 517-881-7222
 Christmas in Onekama on the Saturday before Thanksgiving at Onekama Consolidated Schools; contact Pat Pomaranski at patpomaranski@gmail.com or 616-218-9075

Celebration of Lights on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at Farr Center; contact Susan Barnard at 231-889-9453

Christmas Lights and Banners placement in November / summer; contact Justin Sedelmaier at 760-927-5740 or j_sedelmaier@yahoo.com

Welcome Committee as needed throughout the year; contact Mary Jo McElroy maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net or 614-325-1717. Julie Lapinski julielapinski@gmail.com or 269-832-2392.

Near and Farr Friends on Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 PM during the fall, winter and spring months; contact Mary Fairgrieve marycfairgrieve@gmail.com or Kay Lubert at 810-516-6329

Petunia Parade along Main Street in the Village of Onekama; contact Mary Jo McElroy maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net or 614-325-1717 or Jon Phillips jphillips2939@gmail.com or 231-970-0422

Fundraising Committee to plan and execute fund raising activities; contact Al Taylor windsong@aol.com or 231-889-0205. Julie Lapinski julielapinski@gmail.com or 269-832-2392.

Publicity to provide accurate and interesting information about Onekama and the PLA; contact Al Taylor windsong@aol.com or 231-889-0205 or Faye Backie faye.backie@gmail.com or 517-280-2011



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).

For More Info on the School Visit: ocs.manistee.org

Near & Farr Friends Thanks Its Speakers from the Past 3 Years

The Near & Farr Friends program began in January 2016 as a service to residents during the fall, winter and spring months. Games days and speakers were planned to give people a time and a place each week to gather, socialize and learn.

The topics our speakers have covered are wide ranging, from the first native peoples who lived in this part of Michigan, to the Portage Lake channel opening in 1871, the histories of our village churches, the histories of century old Onekama homes, resorts and buildings of significance as well as several multigenerational Onekama family histories.

We also have hosted area authors of fiction and non-fiction, pilots and ice fishermen, and learned how to make our own holiday decorations and table settings.

The Harbor Commission spoke about the latest channel restoration and economic development prospects. How to prepare for forest fires in our area, singalongs, memoir writing, and experiences of a couple who hiked the Appalachian Trail were also amongst the varied topics featured.

The Near & Farr Friends' Advisory Committee is grateful to all of the speakers who have so generously and willingly agreed to come to our meetings and share their knowledge with the community. They have reminded us that everyone here has a story, skill or knowledge to share and increase our understanding for this place and accomplishments of its people.

Here is the remainder of our 2019 spring schedule:

- April 4 Update - Watershed Special Assessment District
- April 11 Sievert Family on Making Maple Syrup
- April 18 San Miguel de Allende Celebration of Holy Days
- April 25 Game Day- Upwards and Scrabble
- May 2 Sewer Extension Update – Shelli Johnson, et al
- May 9 Author Roxanne Rowley will speak, sell and sign her books.
- May 16 William Wynn Vincent Family History
- May 23 West Shore Rug Hooking Guild

Check us out if you have never attended a Near & Farr Friends event. Game days are also a great way to meet new people and learn new card and board games.

Near & Farr Friends meets on Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:30 at the Onekama Township Hall for fun, games and lectures. Onekama Township Hall is located at 5435 Main St. (M-22). There is no charge to attend the presentation, but donations are always welcome to fund our program activities. Sign up for email notices of each week's program by sending an email to: nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com

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 rest rooms 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>





Photo: Al Taylor

plwf Portage Lake Watershed Forever

What we do here matters.

March 2019

Various and Sundry . . .

While it may appear that it's been a quiet winter watershed-wise, there has been a lot going on under (or in spite of) the snow, ice, wind and cold:

Special Assessment District (SAD)

The township recently passed a resolution to continue the Portage Lake Management Program (PLM) program to manage the invasive species in and around Portage Lake. This annual maintenance program is funded through a Special Assessment District (SAD) and continually monitors Portage Lake to keep exotic plants under control.

We need to ensure that surveys and monitoring continues in order to stay on top of any changes in the plant community in Portage Lake. Plant and algae production can vary seasonally and the program will respond with required treatments based on up to date surveys.

A special assessment is not a tax. Rather, a special assessment is a specific levy designed to recover the costs of improvements that confer local and peculiar benefits upon property within a defined area.

Public hearings and community education programs will be held to review the results of the last ten years that the SAD has been in effect and discussion about management plans for the next decade. Be sure to check the township's website for the schedule (<https://www.onekama.info/>)

The purpose of PLWF . . . is to engage all interests in the community, and to ensure the wise use and enjoyment of the Portage Lake watershed for present and future generations.

Council meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 in the Farr Center. Everyone is invited/encouraged

SAW* Grant Update

You may recall that, in 2018, the township applied for and received a \$221,000 grant on behalf of the watershed to develop an storm water management plan is to find out where stormwater runoff occurs in the township and what's in it. This is of significance as runoff creates flooding, introduces pollution and sedimentation into the system and can impact water quality.

The Spicer Group, which is managing the project, has made good progress gathering data and developing procedure and expected the whole project to take three years to complete. Right now we are working on a "Public Education Plan" to make the community aware of sources of stormwater pollution so we can reduce or prevent it.

However, one of the things you can do to help right now is to check nearby culverts or ditches after a rain to see if the water coming out smells funny, is full of sediment, or otherwise looks suspicious. If it is, report it to the township or a member of the watershed.



*SAW - Storm Water Asset Management and Wastewater

Citizen Scientists Wanted / Needed!



Monarch Butterflies Threatened

From our colleagues at the *Manistee Conservation District* comes news that Monarch butterflies are being threatened by the spread of two deadly invasive plants in parts of Northern Michigan. Black Swallow-wort and Pale Swallow-wort are not only toxic, but have been known to confuse female monarchs into thinking they are laying their eggs in safe milkweed plants. Unfortunately, larvae from eggs laid in the invasive Swallow-wort plants will die.

If you should spot this invasive, the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network urges you to report it. Swallow-worts are “Early Detection, Rapid Response” species in northwest Michigan; very few populations are established, so it’s important to get to work on any new populations right away.

How do you get rid of them? Hand-pulling and cutting works when combined with herbicide. Digging up the vine may be an option for small patches, whereas herbicide application would be appropriate for larger infestations. For information on control methods, refer to the best control practices: <https://www.michigan.gov/documents/d>

Watershed Membership

We count on the support of people who share our commitment to keeping this part of our lives healthy and viable. If you want to help, either start or renew your membership by going on line to the Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF) manisteefoundation.org and click on Portage Lake Watershed Forever Annual Fund or to portagelakewatershed.com. Your donation(s) are tax deductible to the extent of the law and will be acknowledged by a receipt from MCCF. Thank you!

Stream monitoring

If slogging through sodden underbrush along a slippery stream bed sounds like fun, or tweezing out wriggly invertebrates from mucky, leaf and twig strewn cold water is your idea of a swell time, then you are not alone. Volunteers from across the county have pulled on their waders and sallied forth to monitor all manner of county streams. And, perhaps not surprisingly, it’s fun and utterly fascinating. There is a universe of teeming life just beneath the water; finding, identifying and cataloguing what’s there (a.k.a. *benthic macroinvertebrate communi-*



Last year, Kathy Ervin examines gunk.

An invertebrate is an animal lacking a backbone, such as an arthropod, mollusk, annelid, coelenterate, etc. The invertebrates constitute an artificial division of the animal kingdom, comprising 95 percent of animal species and about 30 different phyla.

tebrate communities) helps determine the health of the stream. At the same time, volunteers are also checking stream

conditions and watershed characteristics to try to identify any problems that could cause problems in the future.

Sign up for the Conservation District’s annual event scheduled this year for Saturday, May 18th. And don’t forget the kids; it would be a perfect time to introduce your youngsters to a new way of looking at water. <https://www.manisteedc2.org/>



Mary Reed and Bee Capper searching for the elusive invertebrate in 2017.



Portage Lake Association

Summer 2019

MONDAY NIGHT

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

- July 1** **Schrock Brothers with Madcat**
Roots-Blues-Jazz-Rock family band, featuring
Grammy-winner Peter Madcat Ruth on Harmonica
- July 8** **the Rough & Tumble**
Americana-Folk Duo for the Faint of Heart/Strong of Will
- July 15** **Miriam Pico and David Chown**
Pop, Light Rock, Show Tunes & Blues, Masterfully Done
- July 22** **Scottville Clown Band**
Millions of Smiles from the Famous Clown Band
- July 29** **Elvis Tribute by Jake Slater** You'll know that it's
true, ELVIS LIVES!
- August 5** **Awesome Distraction**
Acoustic Sound with Beautifully Blended Voices
- August 12** **Benzie Playboys**
Authentic Cajun Music to Make You Clap and Dance
- August 19** **Jim Hawley and the Piano Man:** *music of*
Elton John & Billy Joel by Our Favorite Troubadour

Concerts start at 7 PM in the **Onekama Village Park*** and are **free**

Donations are welcome & encouraged

Bring Lawn Chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, children, etc.

Visit our website: www.onekama.info

and on **FaceBook**, 1,- *Onekama, Michigan*

*Rain Venue: Onekama Consolidated School Auditorium

The PLA's Committee for Monday Night Concerts in the Park are busy planning for their summer series in 2019. The plan is to continue the series in the Onekama Village Park on Monday evenings, from 5 to 7 PM. Check out the poster for a listing of all the concerts, some old favorites and some new soon to be old favorites.

LOCAL INFORMATION

The **Zoning Administrator** is Larry Thompson and he can be contacted by email, by clicking [here](#) or the township office at (231) 889-3308. The Zoning Administrator's hours will be 9 am to 2 pm on Wednesdays.

The Two Lake Sewer Authority (TLSA) meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the Bear Lake Township Hall.

BURNING PERMITS: Burning permits issued by visiting: www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits

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

Harbor Commission Information: The Portage Lake Harbor Commission meeting dates for 2018 are all on Thursdays, at 7 p.m. in the Onekama Township Hall. 2018 Meeting Dates: April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, December 20

Village Council meets on the Third Wednesday 7 pm at the Farr Center.

Farr Center Hall rental: please make arrangements with the clerk @ (231) 889-3171 or email: clerk@villageofonekama.org.

No burning is permitted within the Village Limits – only bonfires

Feeding of waterfowl, including but not limited to ducks, geese, and swans IS NOT PERMITTED in the Village.

Land use permits may be obtained by contacting Village Zoning Administrator. Hours are Wednesday 9-2.

RECYCLING: Recycling bins (cans, plastic, glass, cardboard & paper) are now in Onekama township parking lot for your convenience. Please recycle responsibly ... no styrofoam or garbage. IF THIS SERVICE IS ABUSED, IT WILL BE DISCONTINUED.

ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

5283 Main Street, Onekama, MI 49675

Phone#: (231) 889-3171, Fax # (231) 889-3423

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 9a - 2p

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Village of Onekama Planning Commission will hold its regular meetings at 1:00 p.m. in the main room of the Farr Center on the following dates. Please check the calendar for more information.

Onekama Village Council

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Ray Franz: president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson: clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

Nikki Jach: treasurer@villageofonekama.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

(231) 889-3155, zoning@villageofonekama.org

FIRE CHIEF

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



Onekama Branch Library

5283 Main St.

P.O. Box 149

Onekama, MI 49675

p: (231) 889-4041

f: (231) 889-5420

Monday 10:30am - 5pm

Tuesday 1:00pm - 5pm

Wednesday 12:30pm - 7pm

Thursday & Friday 10:30am - 5pm

Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm (June 10th to Aug 5th)

Branch Librarian: Gary Block

**Summary of the draft
ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 5, 2019**

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Jaquish reported that the DHD will have a Hearing in Cadillac regarding the Point of Sale Inspection on real estate for wells and septic. The first draft of the Manistee County Medical Care Facility is complete regarding the renovation and addition for approximately \$22 million. A feasibility study is to be complete in April.

MRA: Nick Doyle, Director of the MRA, presented the annual contract to provide sports and activities for county wide individuals. Onekama had 44 residents participating in MRA activities in 2018.

FIRE/RESCUE: February recorded 14 EMS runs, 1 M.A. to Manistee Township, 4 Fire Runs, 1 Meeting, and 2 Meeting/Trainings. A joint training with Bear Lake Township was done with the UTVs. The Thermal Imaging Camera and SCBA Bottles that were purchased from the Revenue Sharing Grant have come in. Training to come. The annual inspection of the SCBAs is complete. One needed a part replaced, otherwise, all passed.

ROADS: Motion by Johnson, Second by Wisniski to approve the Agreement for Erdman Road 2019 Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Wedging, Chip Sealing, and Fog Sealing. Road Commission Match \$50,000, Township Match \$50,000, with a Township Advance of \$12,500.00.

ASSESSOR: The organizational meeting for the March Board is today.

The 2019 database for both real and personal property was submitted to Equalization on February 21, with the notices mailed on February 22. There are a lot of big assessment increases this year. This is due to the change in the new pricing manual, State Tax Commission required. The Board of Review is being held March 11 and March 13.

Forms L-4037, State Tax Commission Assessment Roll Certification and Forms L-4201, Assessment Roll Changes Worksheets were signed March 4, the legal date required by the State Tax Commission. All of the Deeds, PREs, Recinds, and Transfer Affidavits have been processed. The new tax roll descriptions for the new splits and combinations have been entered into the computer. We did receive a proposed opinion and judgement from the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

PARKS & REC: The Committee welcomes Al Reitman as a new member of the group. New brochures have been printed. Discussions continue regarding the vault at Langland Park. The Kayak Launch is in progress.

PLA: Report by Al Taylor. The Manistee Trails Conservancy group meeting went well. A Shoe Drive is up and coming to the area. The goal is to collect 2500 pairs of gently used shoes. If collection goal is met, \$1,000 will be given to the Portager Packs at the Onekama School. An Adult Prom Night has been set for April 6, at the Portage Point Inn. Cost of tickets is \$35 per person. Work continues for Onekama Days.

WATERSHED/INVASIVES: Progressing ahead with the 10 yr SAD.

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION: Onekama Marine has received its Clean Marina Certification.

**Summary of the draft
ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP PLANNING
COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018, 7 P.M.**

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Trout said the Funk case (house foundation too close to the road) will go to court in December.

SIGNAGE AND THE ORDINANCE: Various ideas to regulate certain signs were discussed. Trout distributed a sign ordinance from Arcadia Township and suggested the planners review the ordinance and lift guidelines to write something satisfactory for Onekama Township.

CANNABIS: New vote on the topic was discussed. Consensus of the commissioners is to not meet again until April, 2019, unless there is a defined need.

Note from the Editor:

Love the newsletter? Have ideas to improve it? Ideas for the "Person(s) you should know" feature? Feel free to send them my way-
planewsed@gmail.com

Jean Capper

**Summary of
VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA REGULAR
COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2019**

ZONING: Deputy Zoning Administrator Burger reported the following: land use permit granted to Century 21 for a new sign. No reply from the Blue Slipper with regards to them being in violation of Article 10/ subsection 1011 regarding accessory buildings (discussed in the December mtg). A registered letter will now be sent.

ZA Vacancy –still looking. **SEWER:**
--draft contract for service was sent to home owner on Portage Point Dr.

--sewer committee will meet to discuss the equivalents for the new Bed and Breakfast in the Village.

STREETS:

--maintenance man doing a good job.

Parks:

--Callaway not quite finished with the bathhouse upgrade what doesn't get finished will be addressed in the spring.

FARR CENTER:

--lots of building improvement plans being discussed.
--update with regard to the locking of the front door and directing persons to use door by the library near Treasurers door (this is where the power door is being installed). Some negative feedback with a letter coming from the Clio Club against this action. Trustee Schwing will respond to the letter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Village Truck purchase

--truck was ordered.

-- Recreational Marihuana Ordinance

Ordinance prohibits any marihuana establishments within the boundaries of the Village.

**Summary of the draft
PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR
COMMISSION minutes
January 17, 2019**

Simons reported that the Invasive Species Committee will be meeting with the lake manager next week to review the final report for 2018.

English handed out an article, from the Michigan Outdoor News, in which the author suggested that the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, in Chicago, should be filled with dirt to prevent the Asian Carp migration into the Great Lakes. Simons reported that in a follow-up article it was suggested that railroad tracks or road be installed on this fill so that cargo could be unloaded on one side and reloaded on another vessel on the other.

Burger reported that there was a report of an ice fisherman going through the ice, last weekend, and the fire rescue was deployed. No other info was available.

Brooks reported that the work on the channel halted in the 3rd week of December. The South side is complete except for a custom corner that has to be fabricated for the SE corner.

Blue reported that the Michigan Port Collaborative has scheduled a meeting on April 18, 2019 to discuss the template for the Economic Sustainability of the 22 ports that completed the study. Onekama is one of these ports. Invited to this meeting are all Legislatures, heads for sources of funding, and representatives of all 22 ports. The topic will be the use of the template in regards to future funding for these ports.

Mrozinski reported that a work group will gather at the Light Structure, at the DNR site on Andy's Point, for a painting bee in the spring. A discussion concerning a request to have a light installed at the east corner of the North wall of the channel followed. It was decided that no light would be required. Further discussion concerned the installation of life rings and safety lights alone both sides of the channel. It was decided to investigate the feasibility of doing this.

The lights will be solar powered and the life rings will have chips in them so that they may be found if for any reason they are missing.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2019



St. Joseph Food Pantry

The St. Joseph Food Pantry in Onekama serves 150+ families monthly with fresh, canned, frozen and prepared foods as well as some personal care products. Many families in our area depend upon this service to make ends meet between paychecks.

The pantry relies on volunteers and money donations to do their work each month in the basement of St. Joseph Church on 5th St. in Onekama. You can make donations of food and other goods on the day before the distribution date. Monetary donations are preferred however, as they can be applied more broadly and fill areas of need.

Set up and food drop offs will be from around 1:00 pm until finish on Thursdays. Food distribution/pick up dates are Friday, 10-11:30 am. Volunteers should arrive at 9am. Monetary donations can be mailed to St. Joseph Food Pantry, PO Box 150, Onekama, MI 49675.

Help those in the community in need through a donation of money, food, or your time.

If you have any questions, contact Leslie Osborn at 231.864.2509.



DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Best contact phone _____

How should we use your donation? Check one: General fund (best use / most needed project)

- Petunia Parade
- Celebration of Lights
- Onekama Days Fireworks
- Concerts in the Park
- Other _____

Make checks payable to **Portage Lake Association**.
Send, along with this completed form, to: PLA, PO
Box 493, Onekama, MI 49675



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

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

