



*Dear Friends:*

*Portage Lake Association's projects and events for 2024 are in the works. We offer opportunities to meet your neighbors, volunteer in your community, learn, play and party.*

*First up, our annual membership drive. Please support & join PLA by using the membership form on the last page of this newsletter or online via [onekama.info](http://onekama.info) and our PayPal account.*

*Near & Farr Friends has a great list of spring talks scheduled. You will find more info inside.*

*Main Street Petunias is one of our biggest projects, and our wonderful team of committee members and volunteers add so much to downtown Onekama. You should be receiving the Petunia fundraising letter shortly. Be generous in your contributions, your planting and weeding time, and make sure to stop and enjoy the flowers.*

*Who doesn't like a cocktail party at the historic Portage Point Resort? We had so much fun last year we decided to hold our second "Hello, Summer! Cocktail Party" on Friday, June 14th. Details to follow including how to make reservations.*

*The concert committee is finalizing the slate of Monday Night in the Park concerts. We hope to add a special concert to kick-off the completion of the exciting new event stage planned for the Onekama Village Park. Thanks to all who worked to make this wonderful addition to our parks a reality.*

*You can reach the Portage Lake Association at [information@onekama.info](mailto:information@onekama.info). Be sure to check for updates at [Onekama.info](http://Onekama.info), and join our Facebook group [Onekama Community Connection](#).*

*Think spring,*

*Rosalind Jaffe  
Portage Lake Association President*

**Have any great ideas or articles for the Newsletter? Suggestions or comments?  
Ideas for a Person we should know?**

**Contact the editor, Jean Capper via email at [jmcmom@aol.com](mailto:jmcmom@aol.com)**

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE PLA NEWSLETTER:**

Articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Name the file something that is readily understandable e.g., petunias 0320. Photos must be jpg format. Name them the same as the file they are associated with (petunias 0320\_1.jpg, petunias 0320\_2.jpg). Action photos, close ups are preferable to still photos of groups.

The next newsletter deadline will be June 10, 2024 for the July issue.

**Community Art Wall  
ART DAYS!**



The theme is Garden Allies!  
Birds, Insects and Butterflies...OH MY!

We will provide the supplies, inspiration and refreshments!  
Stay and create or take home.  
June 7th & June 9th 12-2pm

4850 Main Street  
in beautiful downtown Onkama



## CALL FOR ART

*in the Yellow Dog Café and Patina Garden*

As we all prepare for another great summer in our Village, I have noticed the community art wall in the Yellow Dog/Patina Garden is in need of an update. In 2019 our lovely landlord, Jean Capper, worked with us to transform the side lot into a flourishing garden, popular gathering space and ever-changing art installation. "It has become a bit of a destination, and we are very proud of it. After the lake, it is probably the most photographed spot in Onkama! But it does take a village. Connie Veverica, local gardener and partner of Flower Power, is our garden angel who maintains the garden all year long! She introduces more native plants each year (thanks to the help of Black Cap Farm). As far as the art, it is all donated by the community. All ages, permanent residents, summer visitors, experienced artists and lots of "just for fun" artists. In an effort to support our environment.

The theme is Garden Allies; insects, butterflies and birds. We encourage folks to create their art using salvaged items. It adds to the creativity, and we believe in repurposing, reusing and recycling. Please finish your piece with a clear coat of polyurethane to help protect it from the sun. Art will be collected after Patina opens Memorial Day weekend. If you need inspiration or materials, please contact Nikki at [patinamichigan@gmail.com](mailto:patinamichigan@gmail.com) or 312-909-0115.

## League of Women Voters Manistee County 11th ANNUAL Pictionary OLYMPICS 7:00PM FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 BLUEFISH KITCHEN & BAR (upstairs)

THE FUN AND MERRIMENT CONTINUES!!! Join us for this wild and crazy evening. Teams from businesses and service clubs (as well as any groups of four individuals) compete and challenge other teams to win a "coveted trophy" by playing the traditional game of "Pictionary". The game is played with one team member attempting to get the rest of the team to guess a word based on their "pictures" (drawings) describing that word. Each team will have four opportunities, team members drawing once each. We will have judges, in their black robes, "preside" over the event to ensure all the "rules" are followed. We will have an MC to keep the game fun and lively!

Each team of 4 people pay \$120.00 to compete. There will be a \$10 per person fee for non-team members to come cheer on a favorite team. Snack foods and a cash bar will be provided. We will also have a 50/50 drawing during the evening.

This League of Women Voters (LWV) fundraiser is an opportunity for your friends, colleagues and fellow community members to have some fun and support the LWV.

All proceeds from this event support the non-partisan LWV's mission to educate voters, improve voter participation and strengthen our democracy.

Go to [lwvmanisteecounty.org](http://lwvmanisteecounty.org) to find the entry form and learn about the LWV.

**Onkama Branch Library**

**We are OPEN!**

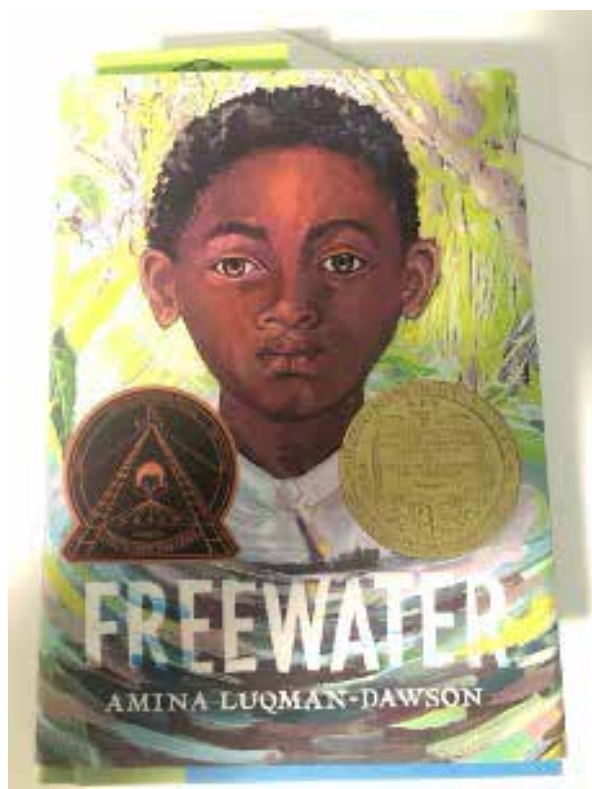
**Monday: 10:30– 5:00**

**Tuesday: 1:00–5:00**

**Wednesday: 12:30–7:00**

**Thursday: 10:30–5:00**

**Friday: 10:30–5:00**



## Onekama Reads

Near & Farr Friends is debuting a new community event this spring which we hope will become an annual tradition over time. We are inviting community members from ages 13 to 103 to participate in a community reading and discussion we are calling “Onekama Reads.” Introduced by Bonnie Garbrecht at a fall gathering, the concept is for all participants to read the same book and then gather for a robust discussion.

The book selected for our first read is Amina Luqman-Dawson’s Newberry Award winning adolescent novel, *Freewater*. Those interested in participating should get their hands on the book through the library or at a book store and read the compelling story in April.

The discussion led by Bonnie, an avid reader and former community college English teacher, will take place at the Onekama Township Hall at 2:30 pm on Thursday, May 2.

*Freewater*, tells the intriguing story of two escaped slave children — 12 year old, Homer, and his 7 year old sister, Ada, who make their way to freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp country on the outer shores of Virginia and North Carolina. Though the story is fiction, it is based on careful research by Luqman-Dawson.

“While many people know about the Underground Railroad, this is a part of our history that I personally knew nothing about prior to reading this book,” says Garbrecht. “According to records, thousands of escaped slaves lived in such communities between 1700-1860.”

## Check out the Kaleva Art Gallery

The little town of Kaleva is host to the Post Office, the Three Sisters Tavern, the Sculpture Walkway, the Historic Bottle House Museum and the KALEVA ART GALLERY. Boasting over 35 makers these days, the Gallery is well worth your stop. Clever and beautiful hand-crafted items fill the space, and a gift or a personal treat are easily found.

The Gallery was established in 1997 by student artists and their teacher to showcase their work, and together they formed an art co-op. Co-ops exist to create value for their members and their communities, and The Kaleva Art Gallery does credit to that mission.

The Artist members donate their time to work 4 hours a month, and have a great opportunity to showcase their goods in and for the community. When you stop by you are sure to be talking to someone who has their work on display. There are quilt and fiber artists, knitters and crocheters, painters, potters, woodworkers, glassworkers, and the list goes on. Back in the corner lives a second chance area where folks can find materials to try a new craft or pick up a deal on fabric ends...there is always something interesting!

The Artist members of the Kaleva Art Gallery also like to think up events to share their talents and pleasure in creating with anyone who’d like to try something new. There have been papermaking workshops, book signings, planter contests and Christmas ornament workshops. Coming up in March, St. Urho’s day will be celebrated with a bake sale, and April will host a beaded flowers workshop, a 3-yard quilt class and a fused glass jewelry class to make something for your Mom.

Please stop in, put your name on a sign-up sheet for a class, and browse our collection. You will find something you’ll treasure!

The gallery is open Friday 12 – 4 pm, Saturday 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday 12 – 4 pm. You can find more information at their website: [www.KalevaArtGalery.com](http://www.KalevaArtGalery.com). Follow them on Facebook!



**Paul Fortuna's 1967 Mustang  
2023 Best of Show Winner**

**The  
Onekama Lions Club**  
announces our  
**Quarter Paddle Auction**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**  
STARTS @ 4PM  
DOORS OPEN @ 3PM




At The Onekama Lions Den on the  
Manistee County Fairgrounds

Paddles are \$5.00 each  
No bid is more than 4  
quarters

**BID A QUARTER  
FOR A CAUSE**

Food and Cash Bar  
available

Proceeds to the Onekama Lions Club  
To make a donation, or for more information, call (231) 690-5790  
**"We Serve"**  
State of Michigan Raffle License #R72842

## Lions Corner

Happy Spring from the Onekama Lions Club! The Lions Club had a very busy winter while we hosted Cornhole every Friday night. We had record setting numbers and I believe a great time was had by all. We served food every Friday and always had a special as well.

Our Cornhole evenings have really grown over the last three years and we are packed with fun-loving people every Friday. Thanks to everyone that came out and supported the Onekama Lions Club, whether by coming to dinner, playing cornhole or just coming to socialize, and a special thank you to all of our volunteer workers! Our motto "we serve" is something we strive for.

Coming up on Saturday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m. is our famous Quarter Paddle Auction. You don't want to miss it. Area businesses donate items or gift certificates for this event and nothing costs more than 4 quarters to bid on. This is one of the Lions Club's biggest fundraiser so we hope you can come and help us. We will have food available for purchase along with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks available. Please come out and show your support for our community and the Onekama Lions Club. Doors open at 3:00 p.m.

If you would like to join the Onekama Lions Club please contact any Lions member or call (231) 690-5790. We would love to have you and join in the fun of giving back to our community.



**MANISTEE  
COUNTY LIBRARY**

# UPCOMING events



**STORIES & LITTLES  
SOCIAL HOUR  
FOR TODDLERS**  
April 1 at 11:00 a.m.



**BOARD GAME  
CLUB  
FOR ALL AGES**  
April 4 at 3:00 p.m.



**LEGO ALLIANCE!  
FOR KIDS**  
April 10 at 3:00 p.m.



**MOVIES @  
THE LIBRARY  
FOR FAMILIES**  
April 17 at 5:00 p.m.



**BOOK CLUB  
FOR ADULTS**  
April 24 at 5:00 p.m.  
"Middlemarch"  
by George Eliot

Some events require registration. Visit: [manistee.library.org](http://manistee.library.org) or call: (231) 362-3178

**Onekama Branch Library**



**April  
2024**

## Help Save Lives, Participate in Redcross Training and get Reimbursed

Health emergencies occur frequently in our area. The more people prepared to offer assistance and stay with the victim until EMTs and ambulance arrive, the greater the chances of a positive outcome. 911 staff keep the caller on the line asking questions and guiding the caller through the steps needed to be taken until emergency crews arrive. You can add to our community of informed adults by signing onto the Red Cross website and following these steps:

- Go to [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) on a browser
- Select Training & Certification tab at top
- Click on For Individuals Find Classes Online Only
- Select Adult First Aid / CPR / AED Online Only
- Select Sign me up

Adult First Aid / CPR / AED has a course fee of \$37 (payable with a credit card). The fee can be reimbursed upon completion of the course.

Contact Mary Jo McElroy ([maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net) or 614-325-1717) for further information on how to be reimbursed with funds which were set aside by the Onekama Township board for this purpose. Many thanks to the board for this effort to increase our residents' preparedness to save lives. And congratulations to those who have taken the course!

## Meeting with Superintendent

Members of the Community, I would like to invite you to a meeting with Dan Mesyar, Superintendent of Schools in Onekama. The school has a plan to have students give back to the Community on Friday, May 10th in the afternoon.

They would like to work in the Community to get it ready for the Summer visitors. We would like your input as to what you think the students could do to "make Onekama more beautiful".

The meeting will be on April 5, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Onekama School. We hope you can attend and help us plan an afternoon filled with a workable schedule to make Onekama "shine".

Please let me know if you have any questions and can attend the meeting.

Margaret Punches.  
[margaret.punches07@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.punches07@gmail.com)



## Help Save the Freshwater Reporter

The Freshwater Reporter newspaper has been around since 2019. The FREE paper is devoted to connecting the towns of Ludington, Manistee, Onekama, Kaleva and a bit beyond.

Editors Pat Stinson and Mark Videan feature stories centered around all the amazing people, places and things that make our area so special. Their extensive local events calendar is the best place to find out what is going on. The paper is in financial trouble and is asking for help in continuing their mission. If you would like to buy an ad or make a donation, please visit their website for more information. <https://freshwater-reporter.com>.



**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



## ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to volunteer contact:

Leslie Osborn  
[foodpantry\\_2014@yahoo.com](mailto:foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com)  
General Information

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

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



## Neighbors for nature

Are you interested in improving and protecting what nature so generously provides for us here in our beautiful corner of Northern Michigan? Are you wanting to know more about the importance of native Michigan flora and fauna? Would you like to reconnect with the natural world by creating your own backyard/outdoor spaces - as pleasing to the eye as it is beneficial? Do you have an existing garden that can be enhanced with a few native plants that will win you accolades from our native bees and other pollinators? Hello, I am Lynn Brown, and I invite you to join our new Facebook group, Fluttering Fields | Neighbors for Nature. We are a community-g geared, easy-natured group discussing the many ways just ONE native plant is able to positively impact the local ecosystem. If I plant a native plant, and my neighbor plants a native tree, and the next a natural garden pond for fresh water (and so on) ... We can begin re-establishing biodiversity yard by yard and stand as an example to all that our community understands this beautiful place we live in is a gift to be preserved for our future generations. Neighbors For Nature, ensuring the nature we love and depend on is always here. A new community learning and growing together. Will you join us?

(Fluttering Fields is a backyard-turned-wildlife/pollinator sanctuary in the Onekama/Bear Lake Area, owned by Lynn & Scott Brown.)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/neighborsfornature>

## Announcing!!!

### Near & Farr Friends – A Special Program April 18, 2:30pm at Onekama Township Hall

Exploring what Aging in Place in Onekama Means

What is aging in place?

Do you know that it is more than living in your own home until you die?

Have you built your dream home or remodeled an existing home and do not wish to leave for out-of-home care as you age?

Do you have a plan to age in place? It is never too late to start.

What services and changes you might need to stay in your own home?

These questions and considerations are to be discussed along with audience input for fall speakers on the most requested topics to help prepare for the late years of life.

Near and Farr Friends is pleased to offer this exploratory series of programs to assist all who live in the community to plan ahead. Many say that such a plan gives them peace of mind to live each day more fully.



## NEAR & FARR FRIENDS 2024 Spring Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 18, 2:30pm **Aging in Onekama** - options, concerns and resources

Thursday, May 2: **Onekama Reads** has its first group discussion: Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson  
Place and time to be determined.

Programs held at Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St. (between the Blue Slipper and the Fire Station) unless otherwise specified. Everyone is welcome, especially newcomers to the area.

Near and 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.

## **SOMETIMES PETUNIAS ARE NOT THE BEST SOLUTION**

After the early drought in May and June last year, the Petunia Parade Committee began to think about some areas where petunias just do not grow well. The most obvious area is at the corner of Main and 1st Avenue, directly in front of Rotary Park. Issues seem to be too much shade, no one living there to augment the daily watering, and an incredible amount of equisetum growing along that strip of soil. The petunias are spindly, sparse, and sad.

So, an experiment is underway. Last fall, the committee decided to try the hardy plant called Iberis (aka “candy-tuft”). They found a varietal called ‘Autumn Beauty’ which is unusual for its promised blooming in both spring and late fall. Nine plants were purchased, the soil was augmented, and the transplants were put into the ground in October. Only the very short strip of land between the western-most telephone pole and the corner are part of this experiment. The remainder will be planted with petunias this year.

By early December, the plants had taken root well and were beginning to spread. The “runt” on the corner needed some special protection from the elements, so it is surrounded by a short wire cage. Our committee member Val Clements watches over them and alerts us to any potential mishaps.

Imagine our surprise in mid-February when we happened to see one plant already in bloom! See the photo of the plant which has spread and blossomed with tiny white flowers. With the weather this year, we are not sure if this is early spring or late fall for it!

If this is successful, the Committee might extend them to the eastern part of that plot. According to Bluestone Perennials, Iberis is prized for its evergreen foliage and makes an attractive appearance all season. White flowers in spring play well with others and enliven an evening garden as their crisp white blossoms will reflect the moonlight.



## *News from Portage Lake Watershed Forever*

Why is a natural shoreline important for our lake? The shallow waters near the shore can provide habitat that is essential for the life cycles of fish and wildlife. Over the years, seawalls and riprap have reduced the natural shoreline habitat that is important for fish, wildlife, and the filtering of pollutant runoff. A 2019 drone survey of the Portage Lake Shoreline found that of the 385 waterfront parcels surveyed, only 11% had natural shorelines, while 44% had a seawall and 29 % had riprap. These findings have been substantiated in the 2023 report from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), Score the Shore Habitat Assessment, which ranks Portage Lake slightly below average among the 97 Michigan lakes included in the study. The report states, “all of the habitat ranges from slightly to moderately degraded, depending where in the lake one is looking. There are some sections that are quite healthy and natural, and others where there is not much natural habitat remaining.”

However, today’s technology and infrastructure provide available and achievable opportunities to “restore the shore” and combat these negative impacts. For example, Portage Lake Watershed Forever has purchased several wetland parcels on the north side of the lake to create the Cedar Grove Wetland Preserve. Preserving this wetland, which has a hydrological connection to the lake, will help protect the lake’s water quality and preserve habitat important to fish and other wildlife. This year PLWF will embark on a new project to create a public walking trail through these wetlands.

Lakefront property owners can also help preserve and restore a more resilient, natural shoreline, often just by making small changes, such as preserving a natural buffer of native trees, plants, or grasses along the shoreline. Check out the Michigan Natural Shorelines Partnership Shorelines Stewards program to help you assess your shoreline and what you could do to improve it. As their website points out, “Not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something.”



## 2024 Portage Lake Association Events

### NEAR & FARR FRIENDS:

March 7th, April 18th, & May 2nd

### MAIN STREET PETUNIA PLANTING:

Wednesday, May 22nd

### HELLO SUMMER COCKTAIL PARTY:

Friday, June 14th

### SUNDAY MUSIC IN THE PARK/STAGE CELEBRATION:

Sunday, June 23rd

### CONCERTS IN THE PARK:

Monday nights at 7pm

July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29; August 5 & 12

### ONEKAMA BLOCK PARTY:

Thursday, July 11th

### ONEKAMA DAYS: August 2nd - 5th

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:

Friday, August 30th

### FALL FESTIVAL: Saturday, October 5th

### CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA:

Saturday, November 21st

### CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS:

Sunday, November 22nd

INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For more information or to volunteer:

email: [information@onekama.info](mailto:information@onekama.info); website [onekama.info](http://onekama.info);

Facebook page PLAOnekama; Facebook group Onekama Community Connection

## Onekama Guild Thrift Shop

Activities are beginning “inside” the shop! We’re sprucing up and organizing. When we reopen for business May 23, you’ll find some delightful changes in the store!

Exciting news includes adding 14 new members to our guild. This should lighten the load for the few of us who have been so dedicated in keeping the store open. If all goes well, we may even be able to add more store hours!

Watch for our notice later this spring as we get ready to accept new donations. The first three Saturdays in May, we will be open only to accept these wonderful donations. More on dates and times to follow.

If you are ready to clean out those closets please keep the Thrift Shop in mind. We welcome gently used clothing, shoes and handbags. Household items must be clean. Electronics must be in working order. At this time, we are unable to accept furniture pieces (even small—we do not have the floor space to display them). We greatly appreciate your donations and consideration in following these guidelines.

See you soon!

## Recycling

Wonder if something is recyclable? Check this link for a helpful guide: [Manistee Recycling PA69 Recycling Program](#)

Public Act 69 allows Michigan Counties and local units of government to enter into an agreement to fund a residential recycling program. Nine of Manistee County’s communities, including Onekama Township/Village use Public Act 69 to fund their local recycling programs and are collectively known as the PA69 Recycling Program. The recycling sites located in six communities are paid for and are for use by residents of the PA69 Recycling Program communities only. View the PA69 Recycling Guidelines to see what is recyclable in these communities.

All Manistee County residents have access to the recycling drop-off site located at the Republic Services Manistee County Landfill at 3890 Camp Road, Manistee.

Have Questions? Call the Toll-free Recycling Hotline - 855-2Go-Zero (855-246-9376).

And WONDER where Onekama Township’s recycling went? It is temporarily located at the Fair Grounds-enter on John St.







### **News from Onekama Consolidated Schools:**

Our National Honor Society group has done one service project this year. We were given a family from the Giving Tree and we provided them with any items they requested. We are now working on our second service project: donating food to the St. Joseph's food pantry. Our whole school, Kindergarten through 12th grade, is competing to see who can bring in the most food for their classes. Whichever class brings in the most food, will get a pizza party! This is a great way for the younger ones to understand the importance of giving back to the community. It also teaches them that they can be rewarded for their hard work! Along with this members of the community have been able to drop off goods at the school. NHS members have been able to take responsibility for transporting the food from the school to St. Josephs. This has been an incredible opportunity for Onekama's NHS students to not only support our community, but also to engage other students in helping others. It has allowed us to showcase leadership and community service, which are very important pillars of the NHS, in our school.

Ashlyn Blackmore and Julia Lapp

UPDATE-the students were able to gather 1600 items for the Food Pantry. Well Done!

*Picture attribution Kyle Kotecki of the Manistee News Advocate*



## **UPDATE ONE NEW EVENT STAGE**

The Portage Lake Association is excited about this summer. Thanks go to OCR (Onekama Collaborative Recovery) for leading the effort to install a new event stage in Onekama Village Park. This project would not have been possible without the support and input of the Onekama Village Council and assistance from the Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF), as well as area businesses, organizations, and individuals.

The stage is expected to be in place just in time for the PLA's popular Monday Night Concerts in the Park, which begin July 1st. If all goes as planned, a ribbon cutting and afternoon of music will be held Sun., June 23 to kick off the season and celebrate the new addition to the park.

After a year of planning, the new stage will be a beautifully designed, permanent, covered structure in the park's northeast corner. The new location will allow the beautiful sunsets to occur behind the audience instead of in their eyes.

In a September 2023 press release, OCR shared its plans for Onekama Village Park improvements, adding that they are subject to change. The release stated that Phase I would include the construction and installation of the stage. The plan for Phase II would involve renovating or completely rebuilding the existing pavilion.

“In May (2023), the Onekama Village Council approved a plan for OCR to take the lead on Phase I of a multi-phased improvement plan for Onekama Village Park without impacting Village resident taxes,” the release stated. “Funding is to come primarily from grants and private donations.”

Phase II has been approved by the Village Council, with the construction of a new main pavilion scheduled for May 2025. Fundraising for Phase II will start in June 2024.

Donations, made by check or online, are held in a Onekama Village Park Improvement Fund administered by MCCF, a charitable organization. Those wishing to donate are asked to reference Onekama's improvement fund and mail their check to Manistee County Community Foundation, 400 River St., Suite 420, Manistee, MI, 49660, or donate online at: <https://manisteecommunityfoundation.org>.

OCR is a cooperative group of area-wide citizens, residents, businesses, and organizations collaborating to revitalize Onekama Village and Onekama Township. Its mission is to seek improvement through a coordinated program of activities, projects, and programs. For more information, contact Joe Suchocki via email at [jsseagle@mac.com](mailto:jsseagle@mac.com).



Published on Onekama, MI (<http://www.onekamatwp.org>)

## Township News

Shelli Johnson has resigned as Township Clerk and accepted a position as Manistee County Clerk. We wish her the best. Amber Sedelmaier, who has been Shelli's deputy will be filling out the remainder of Shelli's term.

Annual Trash Day for Onekama Township (includes the Village)

Date and Time: Saturday, June 8, 2024 - 8:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Second Street in the Village - by former Shirley Bar and Village Garage

*NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS*

## Recycling & Refuse

Our Recycling Center is located at the Manistee County Fairgrounds currently. If you are unsure on what items you can recycle please use the Recycling Search Tool to check. THIS IS NOT A LOCATION TO DROP OFF GARBAGE OR NON-RECYCLE ITEMS!!!

## Onekama Township Parks and Rec

We are looking forward to many fun activities again this summer. A schedule will be posted <https://www.onekamatwp.org/parks-recreation-committee> in April. Information will also be posted on the Onekama Community Connection Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/147760669837> We will be looking for volunteers for a Clean up the Parks date (date tbd).

Do you like to garden? Would you like to help take care of the All Abilities Garden at Northpoint Park? We are looking for 8-12 volunteers who would adopt small parts of the garden and commit to weeding on a regular basis. Contact Jean Capper at [jcapper@onekamatwp.org](mailto:jcapper@onekamatwp.org) to volunteer or to get more information.

BOARD MEMBERS: Supervisor, David Meister; Clerk, Shelli Johnson; Treasurer, Edward Bradford; Trustees, Robert Blackmore and Allen Taylor.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Manistee County Planning Department, M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

BURNING PERMITS: Burning permits issued by website: [www.michigan.gov/burn](http://www.michigan.gov/burn) permit. Township residents: you are (Twp. 23 N. and Range 16 W) and your section number.

BURN BANS: Burn bans can be found at [dnr.state.mi.us](http://dnr.state.mi.us).

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Closed on the following recognized holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas Eve through New Year's Day.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE

PHONE: (231) 889-3308;

FAX: 889-5587.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: (231) 889-7014

E-mail:

[supervisor@onekamatwp.org](mailto:supervisor@onekamatwp.org) (Supervisor)

[planning@onekamatwp.org](mailto:planning@onekamatwp.org) (Planning Commission)

[clerk@onekamatwp.org](mailto:clerk@onekamatwp.org) (Clerk)

[parks@onekamatwp.org](mailto:parks@onekamatwp.org) (Parks & Rec)

[treasurer@onekamatwp.org](mailto:treasurer@onekamatwp.org) (Treasurer)

[bblackmore@onekamatwp.org](mailto:bblackmore@onekamatwp.org) (Trustee)

[molly@greatlakesassessing.com](mailto:molly@greatlakesassessing.com) (Assessor)

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## News From the Village

### Parks:

The Event Stage project will kick off soon with electrical work in April. The kit will be delivered the first week of May, ready to be assembled. The Event Stage will be ready in time to host the first Concert in the Park.

### Farr Center:

A large TV will be installed in the Farr Center to facilitate better communication of designs during Planning Commission meetings and Master Plan work.

### Cemetery:

A new cemetery was policy adopted during the December Council meeting. The Council also approved tree work and hiring of a ground maintenance person.

### Streets

Planned 2024 street repairs include Zosel Street, Fourth Street, storm drain repairs on Portage Street, storm drain repairs at the intersection of Portage Street and Main, and the storm drain repairs on Mill Street.

### Budget

The Village Council passed a balanced budget at the February Council meeting in time for the start of the new Fiscal year.

### Planning Commission:

The Planning Commission is working on a number of efforts:

Issuing a Request-for-Bid to secure a partner for the new Master Plan development. Three responses were received, and candidates are being interviewed and vetted

Continued work on a mixed-use district with a focus on walkability and business synergy

### JOB OPPORTUNITY:

The Village of Onekama is accepting applications from qualified individuals for a maintenance position. To view the Job Description and how to apply, visit the Village website at [www.onekama.info/village](http://www.onekama.info/village)

Meeting reminders – At the Farr Center

Village Council – 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm

Village Planning Commission – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. Check the Village website at [www.onekama.info/village](http://www.onekama.info/village) for the latest.

## Onekama Village Council

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

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

### CLERK

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

### TREASURER

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

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

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

### TRUSTEES

Rod Hudson  
Andrea Arthur  
John Wemlinger  
Wayne Miller  
Susan Halloran  
Sarah Fauble

### FIRE CHIEF

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

### ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

#### Farr Office

5283 Main Street • Onekama, MI 49675  
Phone#: (231) 889-3171 / Fax # (231) 889-3423

#### Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
9am - 2pm



## Petunia Planting Day

Wednesday, May 22 at 8 AM

Call 614-325-1717 for more information

**Check out what's available at the school for the general public:**

**Track:** 5am-8am and also 3pm-8pm (M-F) on Saturday & Sunday hours are 5am-8pm - HOURS ARE YEAR ROUND

**Weight Room:** 5am-8am and also 3pm-8pm (M-F) on Saturday & Sunday hours are 5am-8pm - HOURS ARE YEAR ROUND

**Exercise**

**Programs:** YOGA on Mondays (6pm-7pm) and ZUMBA on Tuesdays & Thursdays (6:45pm-7:30pm). A new schedule will be coming out Mid March.

To get an annual membership, complete an application in the superintendent's office (between 8am-3pm). Fee for the fitness center is \$50 for an individual; \$75 for a couple; \$100 for a family. The fee for the walking track is \$15 and this covers the cost of the key card. Exercise programs have separate sign ups.

**MEMBERSHIP & 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.*

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Renewing Member
- New Member
- I'm interested in Volunteering

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

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

