



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

October 2022
Volumn 18, No. 4

Greetings Portage Lake Association buddies:

Another Onekama summer behind as we look ahead to autumn skies and changing leaves. It was quite a summer, filled with sunshine, breezes and many activities to explore. Monday Night Concerts in the Park were highly successful, even with two shows moved to the school for weather.

I've never seen Onekama so busy during Onekama Days. The Onekama Day's partnership between PLA, the Onekama Lions, Onekama School Athletic Boosters and Manistee County Fair Board enabled all events to run smoothly. Portage Lake Association ran the car show, arts and crafts show, craft beer tasting, pig out for Onekama school pig roast and the fabulous fireworks. Deep thanks to all the volunteers and attendees!

Speaking of volunteers, we held a PLA Volunteer Appreciation event, a fun event to thank many of you who plant and weed petunias and help us present the events and projects at the core of PLA's mission.

Inside you'll find info on PLA's Fall Festival in the Village Park on Saturday, October 1st, featuring children's games, scarecrows and crafts. Saturday, November 19th brings Christmas in Onekama including the Arts & Crafts Show at the School and the Celebration of Lights.

We welcome new volunteers and members. The PLA is a great way to get involved in our area. Contact us at information@onekama.info with questions and suggestions.

Roz 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

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION (PLA) NEWSLETTER:

Articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Name the file something that is readily understandable e.g., petunias 0320 (for March 2020)

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 will be coming January 15, 2023. Deadline for submission is December 20, 2022.

Christmas in Onekama

Christmas in Onekama comes early. Save the Dates: November 19th & 20th

Christmas in Onekama Craft Show is Saturday, November 19th from 10:00am - 3:00pm at the Onekama School Middle School gym. Find a wide array of arts, crafts, gifts and baked goods brought to you by local craftspeople and Onekama organizations. Food will be available.

If you are interested in being a vendor, find registration info at onekama.info or contact Pat Pomaranski (patpomaranski@gmail.com).

Ward off the winter chill and honor and remember our loved ones with our annual Celebration of Lights. For more than twenty-five years, the Celebration of Lights adds cheer to Onekama's winter darkness by lighting up the streets of Onekama and the beautiful spruce tree at Farr Center. (Thanks to Frank English for planting this wonderful tree in memory of his mother). On Sunday, November 20th at 6:00pm, we read the names being honored that night, followed by lighting of the tree and Main Street. Afterwards, we'll share snacks and good cheer inside Farr Center.



Santa and Mrs. Claus will return to Farr Center on Saturday, December 3 from 11 AM to 1 PM Free to all children, parents, grandparents and friends!

The Celebration of Lights is a fund-raising project sponsored by the Portage Lake Association. We invite you to participate by purchasing a light to be placed on the beautiful Blue Spruce near Farr Center in Onekama. The lights will represent tributes to your family members and friends or will honor the memory of your loved ones.

The lights will be lit for six weeks during the holiday season. Your contribution of \$5 or more per name will provide a light for our tree. A card to acknowledge your gift will be sent to the person you specify as soon as your contribution is received.

The members of the Portage Lake Association hope that the Celebration of Lights will be enjoyed by all the residents and guests of the Onekama area. We thank you for your support.



Your Name _____ Phone No. _____

Your Address _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ (\$5.00 minimum for each light)

in memory of _____

in honor of _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

From:

Please make your check payable to: Portage Lake Association.

Mail your contribution to: P. O. Box 493, Onekama, MI 49675.

For additional lights, please enclose all necessary information on a separate sheet of paper.



A Person You Should Know

Mary Reed of Onekama has received the prestigious 2022 National Garden Club Member of Honor Award. The award recognizes members whose volunteer efforts during a period of five or more years resulted in outstanding contributions to their club and community. There are approximately 165,000 National Garden Club members and Mary is one of only seven recipients.

Mary joined the Portage Lake Garden Club (PLGC) in 2004 and is a Master Gardener with advanced certification. She is an avid environmentalist with a long history of bringing people together to listen, collaborate and improve the community. Her list of accomplishments is extensive and her contributions to Onekama, Portage Lake and Manistee County are too numerous to count. Mary has had many PLGC positions, including twelve years as Environmental Conservation Chair. However, nearly all would agree that her volunteer work with the Portage Lake Watershed Forever (PLWF) has had the greatest beneficial impact.

Mary's advocacy for Portage Lake began when she learned of the damage caused by phragmites and Eurasian Watermilfoil. She was one of the first members of PLWF and was chair for six years. Much of the improvement in the overall health of Portage Lake can be attributed to Mary's ability to bring together groups such as the Manistee County Conservation District, Manistee Planning Department, Onekama Township

and Village, Manistee County Community Foundation and the Portage Lake Garden Club.

Through Mary's leadership,

PLWF was recognized by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality as a best practice for community involvement.

Over two acres of wetland on Portage Lake were purchased and donated to Onekama Township as a preserve.

Onekama Township received a three year Stormwater Asset Management grant (2018-2020).

Onekama Township has an Invasive Species Management plan.

PLWF updated its Ten Year Watershed Management Plan (2019-2029). The plan received approval from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Although Mary is now retired from most of her volunteer pursuits, she continues to think about the future of Portage Lake. "We need the young people," she says. "What is the key to getting younger people to take our place? I think you have to do one on one ... it's people talking with their neighbors. If we can get our neighbors to do what's right for our shoreline, I think that's a good way to pass it on." *Photo Greg Tasker*



Beach Sweep Volunteers, see article on page 11.

Thank you Petunia Parade Volunteers!



The 2022 Petunias will be going to that garden in the sky to allow for soil work to be done if needed and to make room for the Onekama Scarecrows followed by making room for the snow.

Approximately 60 scarecrows will make M-22 in Onekama their home in the month of October. They should be up by Sept 23rd and there will be voting on the scarecrows during the Fall Festival on October 1 with proceeds going to the local food pantry.



It is time the petunias to leave Onekama to make way for the Scarecrows of Onekama

We will be taking pictures on September 28 for the Scarecrow Contest on Oct 1, 2022. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for School Classes and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for Businesses/Adults (one category) with all net proceeds going to the local food pantry.

The petunias come out on September 28- For anyone putting scarecrows up this year, go ahead get them up and don't worry about the petunias.

We are expecting around 60 to line M-22 this fall.



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

NEAR & FARR

Near and Farr Friends, a program of the PLA, began in January 2016 as a way for locals and newcomers to meet during the off season. Beginning with twice weekly meetings for games, puzzles and plenty of time for conversation, we soon added speaker topics from the story of preserving Old Baldy for public use, to hiking the Appalachian trail by locals, to histories of Onekama camps, churches, families and businesses. A variety of speakers and game days were held weekly from September to May over the next three years.

In 2020 the pandemic kept us connected by emailing Covid Comfort food recipes. Many great recipes were received (and hopefully can be placed on the PLA website for posterity). In person meetings resumed in September 2021 with weekly speakers until winter 2022 when the schedule was changed to once a month speakers.

This fall we are meeting twice a month with games on the first Thursday and speakers on the 3rd Thursday. All meetings are at the Onekama Township Hall at 2:30pm.

One thing you can say about Near and Farr Friends- we are able to change and adjust and persist. Many thanks to the Advisory Committee of Near and Farr Friends who have stuck with the program from the start- Mary Fairgrieve, Faye Backie, Dawn and Greg Bower, Bonnie Garbrecht, Chris and Mike Gravlin, Ted Lawrence and Kay Lubert.

Here is the schedule for Fall 2022:

Sept. 15 Karla Smith Kasten, of Kaleva Bay Area Recycling Center & Manistee County recycling coordinator. *(This is likely to have happened before you read this article but highlights of her talk are in the newsletter and will appear on the PLA website when ready.)*

Oct. 6 Game Day, Euchre

Oct. 20 Mark Soloden, Manistee Road Commission, overview of the work of the commission and Q&A

Nov. 3 Game Day, Mexican Train and/or Ponytail

Nov. 17 Author, Tricia Frey new book, Sheldon's Journey, her follow up to River Love.

Dec. 1 Game Day, Dominos

Dec. 15 Panel of local artists

Hope to see many of the PLA newsletter readers at the next Near and Farr Friends. If you wish to be added to the Near and Farr Friends email list notifying you of our meetings, send your email address to nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com



Pet Photos with Santa

When Patina owners, Karen & Nikki, opened in 2019 they just knew dogs would be part of their business. Making certain their lease allowed dogs in the building, they welcome dogs into the shop. The regulars know the good treats are behind the front desk. The Pet Photos with Santa fundraising event, came naturally that December. Nikki is married to a dog loving Santa, so he agreed to sit with the dogs, though he does worry about his expensive velvet suit he has had for over 25 years.

Local friend, photographer and dog lover, Lori Wilson, quickly agreed to take the pictures.

"It take a lot of patience to get the perfect photo" says Nikki. The dogs are either scared or overly excited...just like kids I guess." Donations each year average \$1,500 which goes to Homeward Bound in Manistee. The event is scheduled for December 3 & 4 from 12pm -2pm. Follow Patina Designs on social media for more information.

Recycling in 1,

Karla Smith-Kasten, Recycling Coordinator for Bay Area Recycling for Charities (BARC) and Recycling Coordinator for Manistee County, spoke to Near & Farr Friends on Thursday, September 15th. Karla grew up in the area, so she recognized a lot of faces in the crowd at the well-attended program. Clearly N & FF attendees were interested in the topic of recycling!

Some take-aways:

GFL Environmental (formerly American Waste) is the company that handles Onekama's recycling. Paper, clear glass jars and bottles, plastic containers with a recycling mark on them and other types of cardboard (ie. not corrugated) can go in the recycling bins. It's OK to leave paper in paper bags (but not in PLASTIC bags since they gum up the recycling works!)

They will not accept Styrofoam. Styrofoam CAN be recycled at BARC for \$5.00 for a large quantity (such as what would fill a contractor's bag). This includes the Styrofoam trays that food is sold on. They also take many other items that GFL will not allow in our recycling bins.

The cardboard trailer is missing because the Packaging Corporation of America (PCA) is shut down for a couple of weeks and their trailers are undergoing their annual inspections. Hopefully, ours will be back soon. Only **corrugated cardboard** goes in this trailer. The Onekama Schools make money from the recycled corrugated cardboard, so do recycle yours here!

The Onekama and Bear Lake Townships had planned to create a new recycling facility on 8 Mile Rd. That space was not big enough for the trucks to load and unload the bins, so Bear Lake is creating their own recycling center and Onekama Township is looking for an appropriate space for their recycling. In the meantime, recycling will stay where it is.

Onekama recycled 20,000 lbs. of materials in the last month (not including cardboard)! Although some of this can be attributed to Bear Lake recycling their materials here, Onekama's recycling has been steadily increasing over the years.

Onekama and Arcadia recycle the most pounds of waste in the area!

BARC has an 80,000 sq. ft. facility in Kaleva (located at 14407 Industrial Drive -take a left off Healy Lake Rd.). BARC chose Kaleva because of the Bottle House

(made from recycled bottles.) They figured if a community was recycling 100 years ago, it would be a good place for a recycling facility! For a modest fee, the Kaleva site recycles larger items such as mattresses, refrigerators, computers, etc. They also take used batteries, Styrofoam and many other items that cannot go into our recycling bins for a slight fee. Take used light bulbs to Kaleva- do not place them in the bins as they will leak hazardous gases.

Additionally, Kaleva BARC has a resale shop which sells clothing, books, fabrics, bedding, as well as household items, including furniture. The shop is expanding to handle the many items donated to the facility. Their hours are 10 – 5, Monday – Saturday. Check their website (<https://mybarc.org/kaleva-location/>) for details on fees for items that are costly to recycle.

Members of the audience had questions and Karla had answers.

“Acceptable contamination” means that the gummy stuff used on some mailings, plasticine window envelopes and the labels stuck on deli containers are okay as a very small amount of the things that don't belong in a particular waste stream is “acceptable”.

Karla really stressed the idea that food containers must be clean before being recycled in our bins.

If a container has a recycle symbol, it can be recycled! Things are changing, so what we thought couldn't be recycled in the past in our bins can be today.

Bottle caps can be recycled in our bins; leave them on the rinsed plastic bottle.

Separate metal lids from their glass containers (and make sure they're clean!).

It's possible to buy compostable paper products. BARC sells these for use by the public.

In fact, Big Bear Sportsman club won't rent to anyone who won't agree to use compostable materials.

Old windows, doors, etc and most building supplies can go the Habitat for Humanity or check the BARC website for the building supplies they will take in Kaleva and Traverse City.

Meijer recycles all types of plastic bags and wrappers; place clean plastic wrap in the bins at the store entrances. Note: 60% of Meijer's clothing lines are made from recycled material!

Keep these items out of the trash:
Prescription drugs can be taken to the Sheriff's Office and/or Meijer and some local drug stores have drop

boxes for them.

Oil can be recycled at some of the oil change places. Latex paint – let it dry out (add kitty litter if necessary) then place in your trash.

See Manistee County’s website on recycling: www.manisteecountymi.gov/356/, as well as www.recyclingracons.com

Be sure to look at BARC’s site: <https://mybarc.org>. The main BARC site has many interesting recycling projects in Traverse City to check out.

In 2001 the cost per carload of the Household Hazardous Waste event that’s held every August was \$87/car. Since you only pay \$15/car it’s a real deal! Save those items that you can until then instead of putting them in the trash which takes them to the landfills.

To be added to the monthly emailed newsletter from BARC, send your email address to: www.myBARC.org

BioBLITZ

If you missed the BioBlitz event, look for it again next year. It was so fun to learn about plants and bugs and then get to go out and look for them. This was a great opportunity to be a citizen scientist.

Photo Credit: Arielle Breen/News Advocate

Be a scientist for a day! Investigate and identify plants and animals. **Hands ON!** Learn to use tools like field guides and smart phone apps **SEER/iNaturalist** Children and adults! Presented by Josh Shields, Ph.D. & Michelle Ervin

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 AT 10AM TO 1PM NORTH POINT PARK

who are YOU?!
1ST ANNUAL ONEKAMA PARKS
BioBlitz

Sign up by QR code or email to Parks@OnekamaTwp.org
Sponsored by Onekama Township Parks and Recreation and Manistee Conservation District

WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?
IT'S AN EVENT THAT FOCUSES ON FINDING AND IDENTIFYING AS MANY SPECIES AS POSSIBLE IN A SPECIFIC AREA OVER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. STUDENTS, SCIENTISTS, NATURALISTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN TOGETHER IN THESE EVENTS TO EXPLORE THE NATURAL WORLD.

Please join us on Nextdoor Portage Point Dr



Sign up for the Nextdoor Portage Point group!
Year-round or summer resident, join your neighborhood social media.

On Nextdoor, neighbors (with verified addresses) share info about local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, crime and safety info, offer help to each other, etc.

Go to Nextdoor.com to sign up. There are groups for Portage Point, Pierport, and Maidens-Kerry Road! If your area doesn't have one, you can simply start one.

(Note: if you're already in a Nextdoor neighborhood group, you'll need to sign up with a different email address)





BOUNCY HOUSE - burn off the sugar from the donuts!

ROCK PAINTING - fun for all ages!

MINI PUMPKIN DECORATING - decorate pumpkins with stickers and markers.

EGG TOSS - aim a paint-filled egg at a large canvas to create a masterpiece! \$1 per throw will be donated to Casman Academy. Canvas will be raffled off at the end of the day.

SCARECROW CONTEST - check out all the scarecrows lining Main Street and buy tickets to vote for your favorite. Proceeds will benefit the St. Joseph Food Pantry in Onekama.

BEAR MOUNTAIN BOYS - take a horse drawn hayride around our beautiful village.

FARM MARKET - Local produce, maple syrup, baked goods and other offerings.

FOOD TRUCKS - Lions Club (soup & grilled cheese sandwiches, brats and chocolate pumpkin brownies), Trinity Lutheran - Famous donuts, Ricky's Twisted Veggies - fried veggies on a stick, Snack Shack - popcorn, French fries, dogs, burgers & more.

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION - questions, event information, lost & found. Find out how you can join or volunteer to be a part of a wonderful group that supports Onekama.

RUSTY THE BALLOON CLOWN - request your favorite animal or object and watch it being created-11:00-3:00

GAMES: 11:00 - 2:00

MUSICAL CHAIRS/HULA HOOP CONTEST - outside the Pavilion.

DJ Eddy will provide the music.-11:00-1:00

APPLE-CORNHOLE - try your luck and get rewarded with delicious apples-11:00-1:00

DONUT EATING CONTEST - at the end of the Pavilion. NO HANDS!-11:00-1:00

COINS IN A HAYSTACK - 11:30 little kids, 12:00 big kids

PIE EATING CONTEST - 1:30 until all the pie is gone.

ART & CRAFT SHOW : In front of high school (corner of Main & Baker) 10:00 - 3:00

Every walk along the paths of North Point and Portage Wetland Park is unique! During fall migration, learn the birds that are passing through, what exotic places they are headed and which we can enjoy right through the winter.

Four dates, register for one or more.
North Point Park, 8999 Greenway
QR Code or Parks@OnekamaTwp.org for registration.



2022 HISTORIC MARKER UNVEILED

Members of the Portage Lake Garden Club unveiled a State of Michigan historical marker recently installed at the Memorial Fountain in Onekama Village Park. The event is the culmination of a four-year project for the restoration and refurbishment of the 135-year old fountain, and the marker commemorates its rich history. Originally installed in 1887 as one of a pair at the Manistee County courthouse, in 1950 following a devastating fire that destroyed the courthouse the fountain was acquired by the Portage Lake Garden Club and reinstalled in the newly created Onekama Village Park.

One face of the marker commemorates the 64 years during which the fountain was a Manistee landmark, and the other face reflects its ensuing 69 years as a focal point in the Onekama Village park.

This fountain is listed on both the State and National Historic Registers. It is one the few examples of 19th century Victorian public sculptures that remain in Michigan. The cast iron fountain is architecturally unique as it features a rarely seen Merman riding a dolphin and blowing his horn from which the water originally flowed.

Project chairpersons, Shirley Brooks and Jeneanne Fitzgerald, expressed their appreciation to garden club members and to the many others who contributed to the fountain's refurbishment. They also acknowledged the invaluable research by local historian, Dr. Thomas Gerhardt, who spent many years working to preserve the fountain and secure its place in the historical archives.

*Onekama Days was spectacular!
Thanks to all who participated.
The pig roast was a big success -
the school will get around \$2700.*

49th Annual

ONEKAMA DAYS 2022

August 4 - 8, 2022

Thursday August 4

Onekama Athletic Boosters:
Pork Ribs in the Park

Friday August 5

Onekama Lions Steak Dinner
Onekama Class Reunion Party
w/ Karaoke Fairgrounds

Saturday August 6

5K Run/Walk & 1 Mile Fun Run
@Village Park 8:30am
Onekama Lions Breakfast 8-12:30
Vintage Car Show
Arts & Crafts Show Main Street
Friends of the Library Book Sale
9-2 @Library
Kids Day Activities @Village Park
Cornhole Tournament @Fairgrounds
Craft Beer Tasting 4-7pm
@Village Park

Saturday August 6 (evening)

Pig Out for Onekama School Pig
Roast 5-7pm @Village Park
Concert at the Fairgrounds: Gunner
& the Grizzly Boys 5-7pm
Bump N' Run Derby: Mid-Michigan
Championship @Fairgrounds
Dance Party & Beer Tent at the
Village Park 9-1 @Village Park
Fireworks over Portage Lake Dusk
(Raindate Sunday)

Sunday August 7

Onekama Lions Breakfast 8-11
@Fairgrounds
Parade featuring the Scottville
Clown Band 1pm Main Street
Scottville Clown Band Concert 2pm
@Village Park
Lions Beer Tent

Monday August 8

Concert in the Park with Funtastix
7pm @Village Park

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Updates on Onekama.info and the 1, Facebook page

To become an Onekama Days Sponsor contact
kjpowes67@yahoo.com or 231-690-5790

06/05/2022

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

Onekama, MI 49675

Princess and Prince Contest

Once again, Papa J's Ice Cream and Eatery hosted the Princess and Prince contest. All the contestants had their picture on a jar and people voted for their favorites. The Princess for 2022 was 4-year-old Addison Mitchell and the Prince was 4 month old Cayd Kuenzer. A new contest was added for the Queen and King-participants were high schoolers and the winners received \$100 in scholarship funds. The Queen was Mia Lamerson and the King was Jayden Johnson.

Please email a photo of your child along with the registration form by FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022 to Onekama Athletic Booster President, Tara Lyman: tara_lyman27@hotmail.com

VOTE at PAPA J'S in Onekama from JULY 4 - AUGUST 4. \$1.00 = 1 VOTE.

The King & Queen and Prince & Princess and with the most votes will be announced after the Rib Dinner in the park on THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022.

Prince/Princess winners receive a gift basket filled with goodies! King/Queen winners will receive a scholarship from the Athletic Boosters in the amount of what was raised in their jug!

QUESTIONS? Contact Tara Lyman
tara_lyman27@hotmail.com
or 231-690-2438



WALKING TRACK AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| MONDAY | 5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM |
| TUESDAY | 5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM |
| WEDNESDAY | 5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM |
| THURSDAY | 5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM |
| FRIDAY | 5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM |
| SATURDAY | 8 AM to 10 AM |
| SUNDAY | 1 PM to 8 PM |

NOTE: Walking Track is closed during Athletic Events.

Applications for key cards to the walking track and fitness center are available in the Superintendent's Office (hours are Monday - Friday 8 AM to 3 PM).

The Block Party

What fun! All the businesses in Onekama got into the spirit and fun was had by all. The bikes were amazing. I can't wait till next year.

Onekama Athletic Boosters

Onekama Athletic Boosters helps raise money for the sports programs in Onekama. We would like to ensure that every child has the opportunity to play sports and have the equipment needed. We also try to give back in the community.

Board Members

September 1st 2022- August 31, 2023

President: Justin Sedelmaier

Vice President: Chad Harper

Treasurer: Amy Lyman

Secretary: Norah Benson

Trustee: Amber Sedelmaier

Two Lake Collaborative Sewer Authority

The Two Lake Collaborative Sewer Authority (TLSA) was formed in July 2017 by Onekama Township, Pleasanton Township, Bear Lake Township and the Village of Bear Lake. The purpose: “to plan, design, engineer, finance, construct and operate a public sewage disposal system serving sewage districts within those municipalities.”

The “powers” of the TLSA are enumerated in Act 233 of the Public Acts of 1955 under which the Authority can adopt bylaws for its affairs and for conducting business.

The TLSA is governed by a Board composed of voting representatives appointed by each of the municipal units.

The firm Wade Trim, located in Traverse City, Michigan was selected by the TLSA to design the sewage disposal system and complete an application for funding under the appropriate rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Public input regarding the sewage disposal project is a crucial element of the TLSA’s process. Because of the size, scope, impacts and complexities of the project the TLSA determined that it was in the best interests of the constituent municipalities and the project as a whole to have a rigorous process for input by all interests and to provide as much access as possible for individuals to review pertinent documents and submit questions. The completion of this document was delayed longer than expected because of the large volume of questions submitted, the work involved with answer the questions and the imperative to carry out this process when both the year-round and seasonal populations were present.

The TLSA invited everyone with an interest in the project to submit questions about it. The response was significant, a reflection of the shared interest that people, businesses and others have in the future of the Bear Lake and Portage Lake area.

Once the questions were received, a team of individuals and entities prepared answers, including the Michigan Rural Water Resources Association on a voluntary basis and contract personnel with the TLSA who were involved with the public process and preparation of the system design.

To see the questions and answers, visit the TLSA website at <https://www.twolakeauthority.com>. Copies may also be read during work hours at any of the municipal offices involved in the project.

Beach Sweep 2022

Sponsored by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, September 17 was Adopt-a-Beach Day. The clean-up draws over 5,000 volunteers annually. Locally, a large group of volunteers from the Portage Lake Garden Club collected trash from Onekama’s Captain John Langland Park and documented what they found. Frequently found trash items are firework debris, food wrappers, soda cans and broken plastic.

According to Carol Tamulis, who coordinates the Langland Park beach clean up “Documenting every item of trash can be harder than picking up the trash, yet it is super important.” The data helps scientists and researchers better understand the bigger picture of the plastic pollution crisis, from global trends to impacts on local communities.

It is partially through data collection that scientists are learning the extent of the “nurdle” problem. Nurdles are tiny plastic pellets used as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products. Fish and wildlife mistake these pellets for food. Current law allows plastic producers and shippers to discharge trillions of nurdles directly into waters with little to no enforcement. Researchers have found nurdles on beaches in all five Great Lakes.

2022 is the 31st year of the Adopt-A-Beach cleanup. Records show that the Portage Lake Garden Club has been involved since 2015. It’s expected that volunteers in all eight Great Lake states will pick-up and document more than 500,000 pounds of trash. On Saturday, Portage Lake Garden Club Volunteers gathered 91 pounds of trash.



Leeann Burger and Jenice Maumber



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

Onekama Township

Board Members:

David Meister- Supervisor;

Edward Bradford-Treasurer;

Shelli Johnson-Clerk;

Bob Blackmore and Allen Taylor-Trustees

Phone: (231) 889-3308 **Fax:** (231) 889-5587

Address Onekama Township Board 5435 Main Street Onekama, MI 49675 United States

Meet: Second Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm

Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00am to 2:00pm

Check out the new website for additional information: <http://www.onekamatwp.org>

Township Updates:

TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES: The list of properties that the Township may sell was given to the Parks & Rec Committee and Planning Commission for review. Input has been received back from the Parks & Rec Committee. After all of the input is received, the Township Board will review and make a decision on what will be done with the list. The Cook matter has been settled. The Devoe case has a consent judgement, which obligates Devoe to clean up his property. For more details, visit the new Township website. <http://www.onekamatwp.org>

Karla Kasten is the new representative for the green recycle bins. Discussion over the issues and mess regarding the semi-trailer for cardboard. This trailer is for the Onekama Consolidated School System and that money supports them. They maintain it the best that they can, and it is for Cardboard Only. It has been extremely abused with plastic, garbage, Styrofoam, and even wooden cabinets. This is very unfortunate that something for such a good purpose gets turned in to something so bad. No wake signs have been put in the Channel. The Lake has been treated for invasives.

Village Updates

- The Council is proactively taking steps to preserve the condition and safety of the Village sewer system. Significant elements of the system are almost 50 years old and require work to continue to keep our waters clean.
- A new fence ordinance is in the final stages of implementation
- Planning Commission members will receive training through MSU
- A Master Plan update is underway by the Planning Commission. The Council approved a grant application through the LIAA/Coastal Community Resilience Matching Grant Program to help with detailed content specifically focused on the Village of Onekama.
- The Village Park jetty will undergo an overhaul by Spring 2023
- The beautiful fountain in the Village Park will be repaired in Spring 2023 with guidance from the Portage Lake Garden Club.
- The mural was completed on the Farr Center wall – much thanks to the Portage Lake Garden Club.
- The Council is working on obtaining quotes for painting the Farr Center.
- The Onekama class of 1980 is donating a memorial bench for installation in the Village Park.



Beach Sweep Volunteers

Onekama Village Council

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Roger Burger
president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson
clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

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ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

County Planning Director
(231) 723-6041
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TRUSTEES

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

FIRE CHIEF

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

COMMITTEES 2022

STREET ADMINISTRATOR

Roger Burger

STREETS

Drumm (chair), Burger and Hudson

SEWER

Burger (chair), Hudson and A. Arthur

FARR CENTER

W. Miller

PARKS

Drumm (chair), A. Arthur and W. Miller

CEMETERY

Miller (chair), S. Halloran and S. Schwing

PERSONNEL

Burger (chair), Drumm & A. Arthur

PARK&REC COMMITTEE/REP

A. Arthur

PLANNING COMMITTEE LIAISON

S. Halloran

ZBA/COUNCIL LIAISON

Burger

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET

A. Arthur (chair) S. Halloran and Burger

VILLAGE/ ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Mike Szokola (Manistee County Assistant
Planner) 231-398-3527
mszokola@manisteecountymi.gov

Parks and Recreation Report

Thank you Onekama for a fun summer of new and repeat park events, great participation, and generosity! A giant thank you to the presenters who lead the events for 2022, we hope everyone will lead again in 2023. There are so many talented people in our community; do you have a skill/expert knowledge and the desire to share? Consider presenting an event in a park, we like to be creative within the parks. The P&R committee handles the organization, promotion, and registration. If you are already in a group and think we could collaborate, let us know!

Although the summer is the busy time for events, the Parks and Recreation Committee works year round to strategize about the maintenance, use, and future of each park. We are still in need of two more working committee members. Please consider joining our fun, active group. If you care about parks, join us!

Through the fall and then beginning again in Spring, the WAAG garden will need weeding, an hour or a day are appreciated. Connect through email: Parks@OnekamaTwp.org

The PLA is on Instagram

Thanks to Mara Davidson, owner MJ Digital Marketing, the PLA is now on Instagram. Check it out by searching @portage_lake_association on Instagram. The posts are fun and informative.



Continuing thanks to Al Taylor, who has made it possible to watch Township Board and Planning Commission meetings on Facebook Live. It isn't quite as good as being there, but it does give access to many more people to see what is going on with our local government. You can watch the meetings live on Facebook by going to the 1,-Onekama, Michigan page during the meeting or afterwards you can find the recording on Facebook at 1,-Onekama page <https://www.facebook.com/onekamami> and the Portage Lake Association group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/147760669837> Thanks, Al, for making this happen!

For information about Onekama, check out the Portage Lake Association website: <https://www.onekama.info>

For specific information on the Township, check out: <https://www.onekama.info/township>

For the Village: <https://www.onekama.info/village>

Check out the Portage Lake Watershed site:

<https://www.portagelakewatershed.com>



Portage Lake Watershed Forever works with community partners to keep our streams, wetlands, and lake clean and healthy so they can be enjoyed for years to come. We are a Michigan nonprofit corporation formed in 2006 to protect the waters in and around Portage Lake through scientific study and community involvement.

Since 2006, PLWF has worked closely with the Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF), which has an endowment fund dedicated to implementing the Portage Lake Watershed Management Plan. PLWF has coordinated the preparation and implementation of two 10-year watershed management plans, one approved in 2008 and an updated plan approved in 2020. In 2021, PLWF applied for and received tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever is governed by a board of directors of between 9 and 12 members who serve 3-year terms. There are three standing committees that carry out the work of PLWF: the Water Quality and Environmental Monitoring Committee, the Education, Communication and Publicity Committee, and the Finance and Fundraising Committee. Standing committees include both PLWF board members and interested members of the public.



Volunteer Appreciation

Friends, fun and food were the order of the day at the Portage Lake Association's **Volunteer Appreciation Event** last month. A special luncheon – catered by Jerry Zupin – was enjoyed by 35 PLA volunteers on September 2, in time to kick off the Labor Day weekend. Board members, committee leaders, and volunteers from many of the PLA's events were recognized for their untiring dedication to the Petunia Parade, Onekama Days activities (e.g., pig roast, beer tasting, car show, and fireworks), summer concerts, Christmas in Onekama, Fall Festival, Near & Farr Friends, and others. PLA President Roz Jaffe celebrated the “spirit and energy of those present who work year in and year out” to carry out the PLA's mission to make the Portage Lake area a great place in which to live, play, and stay.

The luncheon of teriyaki chicken sandwiches, broccoli salad, and lemonade was topped off by a special cake. The theme of the recognition was “You Make All the Difference” which is true in so many ways. Committee member Mary Fairgrieve commented, “Without the help of loyal volunteers, events like Near & Farr Friends would not be as successful as they are.”

New volunteer for the Petunia Parade was guest Sue Miller. “I am just so blown away by how everyone helps others out. If someone needs assistance with weeding, people just work a little longer to get the job done.” Long-time resident Becky Kline, who was ill during petunia planting this year, voiced a huge thanks to those who pitched in to get her plot across from the Blue Slipper planted in May.

If you are interested in joining the Portage Lake Association, visit <https://www.onekama.info> where the viewer can find information about becoming a member or for volunteering for the myriad activities that make Onekama the great place that it is.

Garden Club Awards

The Portage Lake Garden Club awarded its annual Civic Beautification Award to Osborn's Sports Shop in Bear Lake Township. The award recognizes community businesses and organizations for enhancing the appearance of areas surrounding Portage Lake.

Twyla and Dan Osborn, owners of Osborn's Sports Shop were “surprised and honored” to receive PLGC's Civic Beautification Award. Dan Osborn grew up in Bear Lake. Twyla moved to Wellston when her father retired. After Dan and Twyla married, they purchased the property at the corner of Nine Mile and US-31 with the purpose of building a business one day. In 2004, they opened Osborn Sports Shop. It had been a long term goal to develop gardens on the property. Twyla believes that the gardens help customers notice their business. In the next few years, the Osborns plan to add a pond and waterfalls.

Twyla selects plants that are her favorites and will do well in the very sunny location. Her mother's favorite flower was iris and Twyla loves to plant them. According to Twyla, working on the garden is one of her favorite past-times and she appreciates Dan working with her. “He likes to fish and I do that with him. I like to garden and he does that with me. Sharing keeps our marriage strong.”



Members of the Portage Lake Garden Club present the Civic Beautification Award to Dan and Twyla Osborn, owners of Osborn's Sports Shop.

Left to Right: Joan Nicholson, Mary Jo McElroy, Dan Osborn, Twyla Osborn, Margaret Panches

Photo: David Maylen

**Portage Lake Association is looking for volunteers.
Here are opportunities to do good, meet your neighbors and make
Onekama fun and beautiful.**

FALL FESTIVAL: October 1
Set-up, kids' games - Sign Up

CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA: November 19
Set-up, Booth, Clean-up (look for a Sign Up link on Facebook)

For more information, contact us at information@onekama.info or the
Portage Lake Association Group on Facebook

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

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

