



# NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

October 2018  
Volumn 14, No. 4

## *President's Letter*

The summer of 2018 has been great here in Onekama and around Portage Lake. We've had many visitors return to enjoy our beautiful area and quite a number of new visitors as well. Whether old or new, the Portage Lake Association provided quite a number of activities for people to enjoy and take part in.

Monday Night Concerts in the Park provided music every Monday evening from June to August. The Village Park was filled with people for each of these concerts. People were clapping their hands, tapping their feet and singing along while they enjoyed the concerts and the beautiful sunsets on Portage Lake.

Onekama Days held in August was a great success again this year. The PLA held a Pig Roast and Craft Beer Tasting and a Free Concert with the "Feral Cats" on Friday evening. A Car Show, Show Us Your Art and Fireworks on Saturday added to the fun. Proceeds from the Pig Roast and Craft Beer Tasting went to the Onekama Consolidated Schools for class trips, educational speakers and scholarships. Thank you to all the volunteers that made these events possible!

The Lions Club, local Churches, local businesses and community members also offered a wide variety of activities that helped make Onekama Days a great success. It really was a Community effort. Make sure you check our Web site next summer for Onekama Days events and schedule.

Fall has returned and the petunias that lined the Village Streets have been replaced by SCARECROWS. Take a walk up and down the Village Streets or drive through the Village and try to choose your favorite scarecrow. When you do, you will find yourself chuckling at the colorful and unique scarecrows you see along the way. The scarecrows are decorated by Onekama School children, Village businesses and individuals throughout Onekama. A contest is held during Fall Festival where you can vote for your favorite Scarecrow. Proceeds from the contest are given to the St. Joseph Community Food Pantry in Onekama. A good time is had by all for a very worthy cause.

Fall Festival was held on October 13th. PLA volunteers planned a number of activities that truly made it a Family Event. Don't miss this event next year.

Christmas in Onekama will be held on Saturday, November 17th. There will be 45 vendors this year with a wide variety of items and delicious goodies to buy. The Chili Cook Off returns as well. Warm yourself up with a delicious cup of chili while shopping. There will also be beautiful Poinsettias on sale that will last to Christmas and beyond. Don't forget to participate in the PLA's silent auction and raffle during the event. Items such as a "Fly Manistee" Round Trip Ticket from Manistee to Chicago, handmade quilts, Glenwood gift basket, Ludington gift basket that includes a one night stay at the Cartier Mansion, gift certificate to Table 14 and a Todd and Brad Reed Coffee Table book, boat cruises on beautiful Portage Lake and much more will be on the Auction Table!

The Celebration of Lights takes place the next evening, November 18th at 6:00 p.m. Lights are placed on the beautiful spruce tree by the Farr Center in a tribute to family or friends or to honor the memory of a loved one. Caroling and refreshments will follow at the Farr Center. What a wonderful way to start the holidays and Christmas Season.

Near and Farr Friends is again offering a great schedule of speakers and games on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. The guest speakers are exceptional and the games a lot of fun. Come enjoy with all your friends. Look for their schedule on our Web Site and Face Book.

The Portage Lake Association has had a wonderful year thanks to all our members, friends, community businesses and wonderful volunteers. You all make the Onekama area a great place in which to live, play and stay every day.

May you all have a great Fall and wonderful Holiday Season.

Julie Lapinski

## Our Honored Guests

The Onekama Petunia Parade Committee, under the auspices of the PLA, could not have ordered a more beautiful summer to celebrate their 25th Silver Anniversary. Day after day of glorious sunshine culminated in the special 25th Celebration held at the Onekama Day's Parade, on August 5.

"We were so very blessed to have the Petunia Parade originators — Dan and Polly Welburn — be our honored guests, representing all of the volunteers past and present in this year's parade," said committee member, Tammy Messner. "They rode in the back seat of a convertible donated by Frank English with big smiles on their faces for the entire length of the parade within a parad

The thank you note sent by Dan and Polly following the parade is emblematic of the family-focus on the goodwill generated by this celebration in Onekama each summer.

The Petunia Parade Committee is thankful to local photographer. Hunter Bartley, for spending three hours of his personal time on August 5 capturing the events of our 25th Celebration.



*Polly and Dan Welburn enjoy their ride through the Petunia Parade.*



## *People You Should Know:*

### Unsung Heroes of the Petunia Parade

After twenty-five summers of continuous petunia blooms along Onekama's Main Street, it might be easy to conclude that the plants just mysteriously appear and take care of themselves each year. Needless to say, that is not the case. In previous PLA newsletter articles we have made mention of the dozens of volunteers, partner businesses and officials who make sure the flowers get purchased, planted, fertilized, and even "rolled up" at the conclusion of each summer season.

Those we haven't highlighted are our numerous "unsung heroes" — those volunteers who venture out on hot summer days to make sure the beds flourish ALL summer long. In the attached picture you will find the names and faces of 14 of these wonderful individuals who do the thankless task of weeding the beds on an on-going basis.

Since everyone couldn't show up for the photo shoot, we also want to applaud 16 addition members of the 2018 Weeding Crew: Marilyn Acker, Faye Backie, Judy Blackmore, Dawn Bower, Leanne Burger, Margaret Cloutier, Debbie Crull, Susan Halloran, Roz Jaffee, Jan Joslyn, Cindy Kadzban, Anna Kasson, Judy Spohn, and Diane Wemlinger.

Of course we can't fail to mention our three waterers—Steve Hall, Richard and Sandy Mirabatur and our hauler, Doug Callaway. We also truly appreciate the multi-year, in-kind donations of Larsen Landscaping in the form of soil prep and fertilizing.

The Portage Petunia Parade is a sponsored activity of the Portage Lake Association.

The Portage Petunia Parade Committee



*Weeders from left to right. Back row: Sue Osmus, Sue Duemler, Tina Hall, Carol Tamulis, Kay Simons, Debby Major, and Libby Schleiffarth. Front row: Nancy Behring, Kris Greve, Shirley Brooks, Becky Kline, Karen Mayhew, Jan Henderson, and Jewelee Franklin.*



## COMING SOON !!! THANKS TO MANY !!!

Few of us aspire to reaching 130 years old, but in case we do it is certain that we will need a facelift. And so it is with the Memorial Fountain in the Onekama Village Park.

Originally cast back in 1887 our fountain has had a long and eventful life. At the age of 60 plus she survived a major fire at the Manistee County Courthouse after which she was adopted by ladies of the Portage Lake Garden Club and given a new home in our Village Park in 1951. She has subsequently had a few other scares including being struck by a car off M-22 and later having her rare and unusual Merman stolen for a short period of time. She has been a survivor,

but after 130 years even the toughest can benefit from some loving attention.

Our beautiful and historic fountain is about to get her facelift thanks to the Portage Lake Garden Club and to the many individuals and organizations who have given this worthy project overwhelming support. The \$14,000 fundraising goal was achieved thanks to the generous contributions from so many in our community: the Garden Club members who pledged funds, a matching donor, and all those who attended the PLGC's Men's Garden Walk and Art Tour in July. In addition to donations from individuals the project received a substantial gift from West Shore Bank's summer new account promotion and two grants...a "Plant America" award from the National Garden Club organization and a second from the Manistee County Community Foundation. Larsen's Landscaping and Concrete Services of Traverse City, the two major contractors for the project, have both provided significant discounts to help make our project possible. Thanks also to the Portage Lake Association which was standing by to assist in the event of a shortfall.

Project chairman, Shirley Brooks, emphasized that this has truly been a community effort, and it is impossible to adequately express the club's appreciation. On behalf of our once again beautiful Memorial Fountain...Thank You.

The crumbling flagstone walkway and cracked red brick trough will be removed and replaced with a planting bed, a stacked limestone surround, and Old Greenwich Cobble pavers. Larsen's Landscaping has been contacted to do the construction and work is scheduled to begin the first week in October. It should be completed before the Onekama Fall Festival on the 13th.

## Onekama Received Two of the MCCF Grants and Support from the Manistee Rotary Fund.

The Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF), established in 1987, is a public charity and tax-exempt non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Manistee County –today and in the future. Governed by a diverse Board of Directors comprised of community leaders from across Manistee County, the Foundation provides leadership to achieve community change, makes grants that address local needs, and builds community endowment. For more information, visit [www.manisteefoundation.org](http://www.manisteefoundation.org).

The Foundation's 2018 grant cycle was highly competitive. A total of 31 full applications were submitted with requests totaling \$588,565, which was more than two-times the amount of available. Information about the Foundation's grant cycles and grant guidelines is available at [www.manisteefoundation.org](http://www.manisteefoundation.org) or by contacting the Foundation office.

Inaugural grants from the Limitless Fund total \$25,062.00 in supported eleven projects. Two of them went to Onekama:

\$1,515.00 to Onekama Consolidated Schools for the Teambuilding Initiative Project to offer and sustain a day of structured team building activities for current eight-grade students and teachers.

The Limitless Fund provided \$130.00 in support to supplement \$1,385.00 from the Manistee Rotary Education Fund.

\$2,500.00 to Portage Lake Garden Club for the Memorial Fountain Restoration project located in the Onekama Village Park which will include a new, wider walking path, stacked limestone surround and planting bed to honor and protect the 130-year old fountain, the sole fountain remaining from the original Manistee County Courthouse.

Contact: Laura Heintzelman

231-723-7269 or [laura@manisteefoundation.org](mailto:laura@manisteefoundation.org)

## Beach Cleaning



Portage Lake Garden Club, Inc. (PLGC) concluded their 2018 year with two annual events, both closely tied to the organizations's mission. On September 13, the club presented it's annual "Beautification Award" and two days later 17 hearty souls turned out to do the "Beach Sweep."

Each year club members nominate an Onekama business or organization that has taken significant strides to beautify the village for residents and visitors alike. This year it was unanimously decided that Honor Onekama Building Supply, Inc. was a very worthy recipient. In addition to undertaking a major renovation to the building's exterior, the business went the extra mile building, planting, and maintaining a floral garden near the business entrance. The garden was a welcome complement to the petunias which have defined Onekama's Main Street for the past 25 years.

Those present for the presentation included: Alice Mesaros, Beautification Award Chairman; Margaret Cloutier, current club President; Susan Halloran, incoming club President and Jeneanne Fitzgerald, club member. Receiving the award was Ben Bradford, designer and builder of the new planters and Keith Kjergaard, store manager.

Although the PLGC's annual "Beach Sweep" doesn't involve any actual brooms, it does serve an important purpose all the same. The club has elected to partner with the Alliance Great Lakes Adopt-A-Beach program in collecting and monitoring debris left behind on Great Lakes beaches each summer. This year's volunteers collected over fifty pounds of litter left behind by visitors to Langland Beach at the End of Portage Point Drive outside Onekama.

"It's always surprising," said event Co-chair, Bonnie Garbrecht. "The beach looks relatively clean until you start really looking."

While cigarette butts, candy wrappers, and spent fireworks comprise much of each year's collection, this year parts of

a drone, building materials with rusty nails attached, and even a boat seat were found. "The last thing we want is for these items to end up in Lake Michigan," said event co-chair, Chris Gravlin. Participating in this year's sweep were club members Babs Vaughan, Lynn Jans, Carol Tamulis, Bonnie Garbrecht, Ann Taylor, Joan Nicholson, Tina Hall, Margaret Cloutier, Faye Backie, Alice Mesaros, and Christine Gravlin. They were joined by additional participants: Mike Gravlin, Allen Garbrecht, Walt Tamulis, Christine Walkons, and Chris Walkons.





## PET PARADE

The Portage Lake Association hosted a costumed Pet Parade during the annual Fall Festival. This year the parade was in memory of Dr. Jeffrey Westheimer, a long-time supporter and veterinarian to many pets in the Onekama area. Rev. Frances Townsend from Onekama Church of the Brethren provided a Blessing of the Pets. A panel of judges will awarded prizes.



## Let's get into the Christmas Spirit!!

### Mark your Calendars for "Christmas in Onekama", November 17th & 18th.

Nov 17th - Our traditional craft show will be from 10am-3pm in the Onekama Consolidated School gym. Artists from all over Michigan will be there selling their beautiful creations. This will be the place to be! You can get started with your Christmas shopping, enjoy yummy baked goods (local churches & Jr. Clio) and have a great time with family and friends.

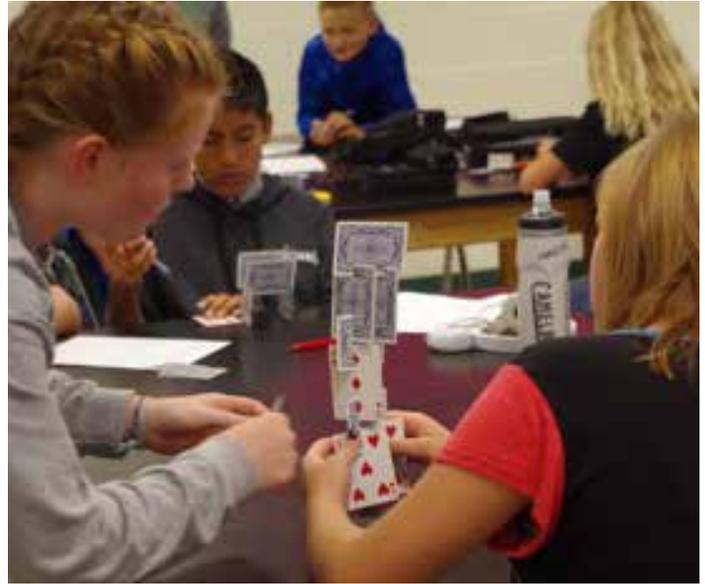
Chili cook off 11am -2pm. This will again be in the school cafetorium. Many local businesses and individuals will compete to have the honor of Best Chili. All proceeds will be going to the Onekama's National Honor Society & Student Council. Please come out and support the students!

M-22 Grill Dinner 5pm. To top off the evening, we will have a dinner at M22grill. John's famous pork dinner is not to be missed! Come and have a relaxing dinner with your family and friends recapping the day's events.

November 18 - Celebration of Lights 6pm. Farr Center The Christmas tree and Village decorations will be lit at the Farr Center and adjacent park. At this time, there will be a reading of names of individuals honored & or memorialized. This is a very touching ceremony. Following the ceremony, refreshments and Christmas Caroling (music by Joy Smith) will be enjoyed by all!

What a wonderful way to start the Christmas season with family and friends!! For more Information, please check the Portage Lake Association website.

[www.onekama.info](http://www.onekama.info)



### Onekama Middle School Offers New S.T.E.M. Course

*Mairin McCarthy*

What happens when you mix curious middle school students with a new science, technology, engineering, and math based class? The result is a great opportunity for learning. This year at Onekama Consolidated Schools, students in sixth through eighth grades are being offered a new S.T.E.M. class. The class is taught by Mrs. Kelley, a new teacher at the school. According to Mrs. Kelley, "S.T.E.M. class offers an innovative approach to learning in which students use problem solving skills to tackle hands-on learning activities. Skills in this course will improve critical thinking skills and will propel students toward a successful career in the S.T.E.M. fields." During class, students are asked to plan and execute projects individually and as members of a group, and then are required to reflect on their learning process and outcomes. Eighth grade student Ryan Petrosky commented, "I am happy that there is a new elective course being offered this year, especially one like S.T.E.M. that challenges me academically and creatively."





**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



***Dear Friend of the Onekama Community:***

This past May, I had the honor of taking the eighth grade class of Onekama School on a three-day trip to Chicago in order to broaden their view of the world. In big ways and small, this trip changed my students and me.

Our trip was much more than “a big field trip.” It was the result of a full year of fundraising and communication with an inner city class from Chicago. It was a full year of preparation and planning and optimism and friendship.

This year, we are again planning a comprehensive visit to Chicago and connecting with a school in downtown Chicago. This opportunity allows students to have meaningful interaction with students of backgrounds different from their own. During the course of the year, we will engage in meaningful academic exchanges to help the students learn about the two communities. They will read the same texts and share insights with one another through email, videochat, and other digital applications. Finally, we will meet our new friends face-to-face when we visit Chicago in May.

Will you consider sponsoring an eighth grade student (or students) on their end-of-year trip to Chicago? The cost per student for this experience is approximately \$600.00. Sponsor donations made our trip possible last year from a financial standpoint, but in addition, they also sent a powerful message to my students that there are people who care about them and their success.

For the majority of the students in the class, it will be their first time leaving the state. For some, it will be their first time leaving Manistee County. The trip is an opportunity for students to broaden their experience and understanding of the world.

This year’s class provides a bit of an extra challenge. Last year, 28 students traveled to Chicago. However, this year’s class is one of the largest in our school – with 38 students. Therefore, it is necessary that we find additional sponsors and fundraising opportunities.

I believe that all of us – those who live in Onekama

year-round and those who vacation here – share the same goal of wanting a bright future for this town. An investment in the youth of Onekama and supporting the experiences of the students of our town will yield great dividends for all of us.

I would be happy to provide any further information about our class, our trip, and the expectations for this project. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Thank you for your consideration of this request!

Sincerely,

Megan McCarthy

Eighth Grade Teacher, Onekama School

cell: 231-944-6628

school: 231-889-5521, extension 300

[mmccarthy@manistee.org](mailto:mmccarthy@manistee.org)

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***Yes! I am interested in supporting the Onekama eighth grade’s class trip to Chicago.***

Enclosed is a donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can be sent to:

Onekama School Class of 2023

c/o Megan McCarthy

5016 Main Street, Onekama, Michigan 49675



*Students from Onekama enjoyed meeting friends from their partner class in Chicago, with whom they had spent the year corresponding.*



### 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



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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1:00pm until finish on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. Food distribution/pick up date is Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 10am-11:30am. 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 stuffs or your time.

If you have any questions, contact Leslie Osborn at 231-864-2509

## PLA Monday Night Concerts 2018- Summary

Our first Monday Night Concert was on June 25th and featured Peter, Paul and Mary Remembered, with Jim Hawley, Donna Wilson Probst and Doc Probst and Don Swan on bass. We lucked out again with beautiful weather and a very responsive crowd for our second Concert featuring the Schrock Brothers Band, featuring Peter Madcat Ruth. The July 9 Concert was unique because it was preceded by a remarkable performance (funded by the folks at the Glenwood) by Michael Trixx, a 'Rock & Roll Magician', which held the audience of children, spellbound for 45 minutes. The actual concert, featured Barefoot. Monday, July 16 featured Awesome Distraction, a local group who seem to be getting even better;]. On Monday (July 23) we dodged a smattering of raindrops and the concert featured the ever popular fea Scottville Clown Band. Our luck has been holding, as we've had our 6th rain-free Monday Night Concert, featuring Joel Mabus and Ray Kamalay. Our second to last concert featured the Benzie Playboys, who stayed on till 9:30. The weather gods smiled upon the PLA for one more time, and our last 2018 concert, featuring Miriam Pico and David Chown. The Bucketeers this time were assisted by 4 of my grandchildren, Katina Szilvagy, Emily 'Noodle' Brown, Lydia and Juliet Kibler.

All in all, we are grateful to the performers and to their enthusiastic audiences, and to the weatherman who gave us such a delightful summer for our Monday Night Concerts in the Park. And thanks to the folks who were generous to our volunteer Bucketeers. The donations help fund next year's concerts.



## Summary of Draft Minutes from the Onekama Township Board Meeting 9/14/2018

**HOWARD SCHAEFER:** Packet handed out regarding the sign put up in Pierport by residents. Schaefer objects to the sign and it's verbiage. This information will be handed over to ZA Larry Thompson.

**RECYCLING:** Sarah Archer updated everyone on the current events happening with the Recycling activity. The Hazardous Waste day went well.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER JEFF DONTZ:** There was a debate on the budget at the last county meeting. The budget was adopted. Tax reverted 24 properties. The Land Bank is active and a Board is formed. Jessica Putney is the new Recording Secretary at the Manistee County Road Commission. The Childcare Fund Budget was adopted. Requested changed to the 9-1-1 Bylaws was presented. The Manistee County Medical Care Facility has formed an adhoc committee regarding its operations. The current contract with AES's location may be severed. Zoning duties for the City of Manistee will potentially be done by the County.

**FIRE/RESCUE:** August recorded 21 EMS runs, 9 Fire Runs, 1 Fire/EMS, 1 Meetings/Trainings, and 1 JAWS Ex- traction Run (M.A. to Manistee Twp). The Department has surpassed 200 runs on the year, well above last year's run total. This month we will have personnel attending a Flashover training in Benzie County, which is at no cost to us. There will also be a member taking a Swift Water Rescue course in Norman Township, which is also at no cost. Two grants were submitted to the Revenue Sharing; verbal presentation is next month. The request was made for four SCBA bottles and a Thermal Imaging Camera. The September Association and Training Officer's Meeting is scheduled for Onekama Township. The Department has been asked to supply Rescue Services at the Middle School and High School football games. The Medical License renewal was submitted to the State. CPR class for our department will be scheduled in the near future as the licenses expire in November.

**ROADS:** Wisniski reported that he is working on projects for 2019. He also gave the pictures of the road ends to the MCRC and are awaiting a response. They are currently working on 11 Mile Rd.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Report given by Jim Trout, Planning Commission Chairperson. Trout requested the status of the Contract Permitting presentation given last month. More information is needed before proceeding with a decision. Trout stated that the issue with the Ball Field and its condition have been resolved. Also, proceeding ahead with Emerald Ridge.

**PARKS & REC:** Al Taylor reported that the group is looking at fixing the encroachment at Glen Park. All of

the signs have been installed, except one. The committee is looking at a 5-year plan. The Kayak Launch work is ready to apply for the permit with the US Army Corp of Engineers. Consensus of the Board to have Supervisor Meister sign the Application. Application was signed and given to Taylor. A bid was received for work to be done on the Northpoint Park Walkway and parking lot.

**WATERSHED/INVASIVES:** Eurasian watermilfoil was treated on Portage Lake. Wetlands and Wildlife will treat out terrestrial invasives (phragmites, purple loosestrife, yellow iris and other invasives found. There is a public hearing scheduled for September

11. The committee met and reviewed the treatments costs for the last 10 years. Ecoli testing from District 10 Health Department is complete for 2018 sampling. The Watershed Council meeting was postponed until September 4. A statement on the position of the watershed for sewers around the lake was passed. The council supports the installation of off-site wastewater collection systems (sewers) around the lake. The Council also supports the revision and updating of the policies dealing with on-site wastewater collection systems (septic tanks) for the portion of the watershed lying outside of the areas served by sewers.

**TWO LAKE SEWER AUTHORITY:** Boundaries are complete for Onekama. Next Authority meeting is September 5, 7pm at Bear Lake Township.

**PPI:** Violations are being addressed



## Summary of the DRAFT minutes VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA 9/19/2018

**ZONING:** report on file from temporary ZA, President Burger.

ZA Vacancy –the quote from Bob Hall to fill the ZA vacancy was discussed and it was the consensus of the council to continue with the President as the temp ZA but continue looking for a permanent replacement. Also discussed was a blight enforcement officer. It was decided, with the support of the council to address the blight issues in the village. After some discussion and with President Burger's acceptance of this position he will enforce these issues.

### SEWER:

--control system at the irrigation site was struck by lightning. A claim will be filed with the insurance company.

--a contract for a new connection to the sewer system is being written.

--the sewer committee met and proposed after some investigation to change the equivalents charged to the e-z market from 2 to 3 due to the overlay of businesses at this address. This change will be effective as of the next quarter (Dec./Jan./Feb.) for billing.

### STREETS:

-- With regard to reimbursement for the repair of the storm drain on Spring St. from the contractor (working for Charter) who damaged the drain when installing internet cable the village finally received a check. \$10,389.84.

--Trustee Franz volunteered to apply for a class B endorsement license to be the substitute snow plow driver for the village. The council thanked him and offered to pay for this endorsement but Franz refused the offer.

### PARKS AND THE FARR CENTER

**Parks:**

-Bathroom upgrade almost complete. Epoxy painting of the floors will be done after Labor Day.

### NEW BUSINESS:

--Julie & Todd Bensinger

Questions with regard to the storm drains and the water backing up onto their property near Zosel Park during heavy rains. Hopefully the Saw Grant the village was awarded will address these problems and help the village with the management of the storm drain infrastructure throughout the village. They also asked the village to consider the removal of the cattails that are causing a problem with water backup at the end of the drainage pipe in Zosel Park. Mr. & Mrs. Bensinger have contracted with Wildlife & Wetlands Solutions to remove cattails in front of their property. After much discussion it was the consensus to have the village make contact with this company and enter into our own agreement for the removal of the cattails at Zosel Park. The Bensinger stated that any money

over the quoted \$200. cost for the removal they will cover.

--Harbor Commission:

Portage Lake Harbor Commission is asking the Village to concur with the formation of the Onekama Economic Sustainability Committee. The Harbor Commission believes that a separate committee should be established to work with the Port Collaborative and other state and federal organizations to identify and develop local projects and funding proposals to support future growth. Schwing moved, Drumm supported to concur with the formation of this committee. During discussion after motion lots of questions were raised. Schwing withdrew her motion and President Burger will ask Denny Blue/Vice Chairmen of the Harbor Commission to attend the October board meeting to have the concerns of the board addressed.



## *Near and Farr Friends*

Near and Farr Friends will be meeting this Fall on Thursdays from 2:30-4:30pm at Onekama Township Hall at 5435 Main St. (M-22).

Near and Farr Friends is in its 3rd year of providing a time for local residents to gather and meet new people; we especially invite newcomers to the area to come and find answers to your questions and make new friends.

For over 30 weeks of the year the Near and Farr Friends hold their programs. All speakers and game days are arranged through the work of a volunteer advisory committee and the presenters are also volunteers. We are grateful to the Onekama Township staff and trustees for allowing us to meet in their building. Near and Farr Friends is one of the many programs that the PLA sponsors as a community service.

If you wish to be notified of the program's topic each week, email your contact information to: [nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com](mailto:nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com). You can also find articles in the Manistee News Advocate about each week's topic. Finally, please contact the Near and Farr Friends program at the email address given above if you have ideas for future programs.

## Onekama Township Board

### SUPERVISOR

David Meister

### CLERK

Michelle (Shelli) Johnson  
clerk@onekamatwp.org

### TREASURER

LaVonne Schafer-Beebe  
treasurer@onekamatwp.org

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Larry Thompson

### ASSESSOR

Ginny Martz  
cwas75@yahoo.com

### PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Jim Trout

### FIRE CHIEF

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

### TRUSTEES

Robert Blackmore  
James Wisniski

## Onekama Village Council

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Roger Burger  
president@villageofonekama.org

### CLERK

Ruth Hudson  
clerk@villageofonekama.org

### TREASURER

Nikki Jach  
treasurer@villageofonekama.org

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

(231) 889-3155  
zoning@villageofonekama.org

### TRUSTEES

Ralph Drumm  
Ray Franz  
Rod Hudson  
Wayne Miller  
Suzanne Schwing

### ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

[5283 Main Street,](#)  
[Onekama, MI 49675](#)  
Phone#: [\(231\) 889-3171](tel:2318893171)  
Fax # [\(231\) 889-3423](tel:2318893423)

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

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Larry Thompson  
larryrthompson@outlook.com  
Township office at (231) 889-3308.  
Hours: 9 am to 2 pm on Wednesdays.

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## VILLAGE COUNCIL General Information:

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](mailto: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.

1. 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.

2. BRUSH PICKUP 2018: Within the Village limits, brush collection is scheduled on Saturdays for the months of April through October. Last Pick up is | Oct 27. Clearly labeled paper Biodegradable bags must be used for lawn and garden debris. These bags will be collected only on the last Friday of each month from April through October. Last pick up is Oct 26

Brush is collected by the Village Maintenance Personnel and by a contractor using your tax money. Because we want to use your money as efficiently as possible, please use brush collection properly. Please keep our Village looking neat. Do not place brush or bags out until after 07:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled collection

## Summary of PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION 8/16/2018

Brooks reported that the work on the channel is progressing smoothly.

May reported that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development released its draft FY2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. This legislation funds programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for federal fiscal year 2019. Known as a “chairman’s mark,” the draft legislation includes \$1.6 billion for Corps of Engineers coastal operations and maintenance activities funded from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The funding increase proposed in the legislation is a \$200 million (14 percent) increase over the 2018 funded level of \$1.4 billion. By providing 1.6 billion in the chairman’s mark, the House Appropriations Committee is blowing past the targets, jumping forward and aggressively moving toward full use of the Harbor Maintenance Tax revenue.

Blue reported that Vince Magnini and Felicia Fairchild, of the Michigan Port Collaborative, met Harbor Commission members and leaders of the PLA, Watershed, Township and Village and local people on May 14th. 31 ports were visited and Alpena and Onekama were the standouts of the group. This November the final document will be released and in January we should expect an invite to meet in Lansing with Federal and State officials to discuss what improvements we would like for the Village and Township. It has been decided that Dan Behring and Al Taylor will be co-chairs representing Onekama.

Mrozinski passed out the dredge report, that was issued by the Corps of Engineers, for the Portage Lake Channel. It was noted that while the dredging is now complete, there were areas where the dredger hit virgin clay at 14 feet 8 inches. To prevent the channel filling in in the near future the Corps authorized the dredging of material 100 feet wide in the channel and also outside of the entrance to our channel to 17 feet. These depths are based upon low water datum figures, but with water levels being unusually high the actual depth in the channel will be 16 to 18 feet deep.

Jim spoke to Adrienne Masterton, Corps on site representative, and she related the following: a.) stone backfill being installed, b.) SE corner required special corner sheeting and is being fabbed, c.) they have more ladder locations on both the south wall and north wall, d.) depending on how the sheeting work goes on the North side the project may need go into next year.

Over the past few years the Harbor Commission, with the efforts of specific members have been instrumental in getting State and Federal agencies to visit and evaluate the economic sustainability of our community. The Commission facilitated the evaluation of our channel by State and Federal

agencies which most recently resulted in the award of over \$6 million to repair the piers and also dredge the channel.

In order to ensure that Onekama Village and Township are prepared to take advantage of future funding opportunities, the Harbor Commission believes that a separate committee of Onekama citizens should be established to work with the Port Collaborative and other State and Federal organizations to identify and develop local projects and funding proposals to support our future growth plans. We have asked Dan Behring and Al Taylor to form such a group to work within the community, using existing planning documents and surveys and the development of other tools necessary to identify key projects that are of high community value.

We are therefore asking both the Onekama Village Council and the Onekama Township Board to concur with the formation of the Onekama Economic Sustainability Committee and to appoint Al Taylor and Dan Behring as co-chairs of this committee, members of which will be chosen by them at their discretion.

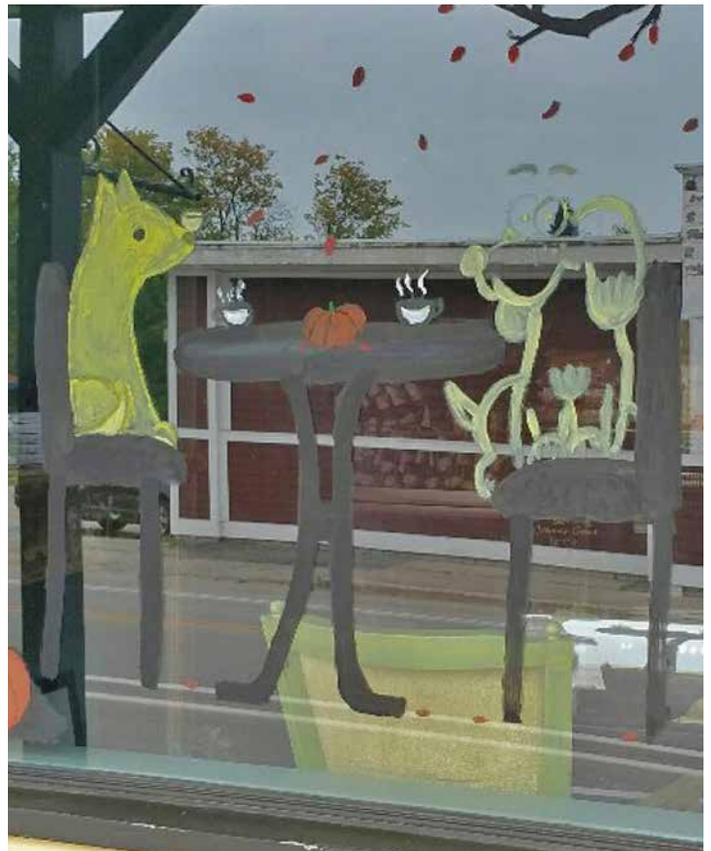
Discussion.....none

Public comment.....none

Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Simons



# Christmas in Onekama

Sponsored by the Portage Lake Association • [www.onekama.info](http://www.onekama.info)

**November 17, 2018**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Onekama School**

**Craft Show (10a.m. - 3 p.m.)**

Info call: Pat Pomaranski 616.218.9075

**Chili Cook-Off (11a.m. - 2 p.m.)**

Info call: Jeff Sternberger 231.392.2080

**Dinner at M22 Grill**

Reservations Required (5-8 p.m.) ~ Call John  
231.889.7133

**Nov. 18 • 6 p.m.**  
**Celebration of Lights**

at the Farr Center  
Lighting of Community Tree  
Reading of Memorial Names  
Caroling • Refreshments



## As reported by Holland Capper and experienced by Jean Capper and her sister, Lizanne Campbell:

Two weeks before the Chicago-Mackinac race (1977), Incredible, a fiberglass boat and Measure for Measure, a Holland designed 1/2-tonner, 30' long, cedar 1/4 inch thick cold molded New Zealand boat met. Winds were out of the Northeast, blowing about 12-15 mph with 2' seas. On the starting line Incredible was coasting along on starboard tack. Measure for Measure without a bow lookout was on port tack. Incredible's bow hit Measure for Measure at the waterline on the starboard side penetrating all the way through to the port side of Measure for Measure leaving a hole 3' by 4'. Once the crew recognized that the boat was going to sink, they had time to get their life jackets and put them on. Measure for Measure sank within 5 minutes. Measure for Measure had just passed safety inspection for the Chicago Mackinac race and was loaded to the hilt. Incredible's backstay was broken and the backstay adjustment line ended up in their own propeller and unable to assist with the recovery of the entire crew of Measure for Measure. Another competitor Larry Demouth picked up 2 of the swimmers, and the Chicago Police Department came and rescued the other four. The collision put Incredible out of commission with the Chicago-Mackinac race 2 weeks away. Holland had to go and charter a replacement, which was White Out. Measure for Measure missed the Chicago Mackinac race that year.

Years later imagine my dad, Holland's, surprise when he went to visit a fellow sailor, Jim Major, of Onekama and found Measure for Measure in Jim's backyard! He laughed and told Jim, "I sank that boat!". Jim relates that he and a partner acquired Measure for Measure in the mid 80s after she sank again. The crew was returning the boat to Chicago from Mackinac and hit a reef, lost its keel and turned over. Luckily for the crew, the mast got stuck in the reef and they were able to cling to the bottom of the boat until they were rescued by the Coast Guard.

## Walking Track and Fitness Center Hours

Mon - Fri	5:00am - 8:00-am & 3:00pm - 9:00pm
Sat.	8:00am - 10:00am
Sun.	1:00pm - 3:00pm and 6:00pm -8:00pm

**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 8am-3pm).

Downloadable fitness application linked below.

# Portage Lake Watershed Forever

FALL 2018

What we do here matters.

## Say what?!

### Feedback from 2017 Survey

In the next couple of months results of the Spring watershed Plan UPDATE survey. will be available to dig into. Meanwhile, after reviewing the results, Colleen Masterson-Bizok, who helped develop the survey, had the following observations:

- Everyone loves the lake.
- The community really values the importance of water quality and scenic beauty.
- Perception is that respondents are dedicated to water quality and are willing to do things differently
- There is a lack of knowledge about what to do to protect water quality. Many responses of “don’t know” and responses about implementation reflect lack of knowledge.

As we update the plan, your feedback is invaluable. It helps us identify the goals and objectives that need greater emphasis and strategizing. Interestingly, comparisons between the 2017 survey and that done in 2007 indicates that many of the same issues exist but that we seem more conscience of the role we play as ‘stakeholders’ and stewards. We are apparently heading in the right direction.

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

## Updates of note . . .

### Invasive Species Report

By Mary Reed

PLWF’s Invasive Species Committee, which oversees management of the Onekama Township’s Special Assessment District (SAD) have monitored the results of invasive testing since 2008. Back then, an infestation of 84 acres of Phragmites and 164 acres of Eurasian water milfoil was identified. Due to the work of the watershed group and the township, these infestations are now under control. Extensive surveying and monitoring for these and other invasive species is done annually. The abundance of native plants in Portage increases the long term stability of the lake. Native plant populations will vary seasonally but have remained strong despite the exotic plant control measures.



### Water Quality Monitoring

In cooperation with Onekama Township, the watershed’s Lake Monitoring Committee works with the lake manager (Professional Lake Management—PLM) to monitor the water quality of Portage Lake’s 2 deep basins, shoreline, streams, and storm drains. Data is reviewed annually; in 2013, data compiled over 39 years of monitoring was issued. You can check it out at our website—[portagelakewatershed.com](http://portagelakewatershed.com)

## THE PLASTIC PLAGUE

Based on the illustration below, the problem with our use of plastic - and some other materials - isn't going away soon and, unless we mend our ways, it's only going to get worse.

According to the *Alliance for the Great Lakes*, more than 22 million pounds of plastic pollution end up the Great Lakes every year. They say that microscopic pieces of plastic are found in treated drinking water and even showing up in the plethora of beers now being brewed with *Great Lakes* water.

So, what can you do? Small but significant steps help:

- **Avoid buying items packaged in plastic.** Buy food in glass jars; detergents in boxes
- **Use cloth shopping bags.** Keep cloth bags handy to use when shopping.
- **Skip bottled water; use reusable canteens.** Plastic bottles are one of the top five most common types of litter found on beaches
- **Upcycle.** Reuse, recycle.
- **No straw, please."** Another top litter item.
- **Wear natural fiber clothing.** Tiny particles of microplastic found in oceans around the world have been traced to synthetic fabrics.

### HOW LONG TIL IT'S GONE?



Source: [name.pa.net](http://name.pa.net) • [scdhe.c.gov](http://scdhe.c.gov) • [NOAA.gov](http://NOAA.gov) • [begreenpackagingstore.com](http://begreenpackagingstore.com)



**If you are reading this, chances are that you have more than a passing interest in the future of Portage Lake and the Watershed. We invite you to parlay that interest into a seat at the Council table. Be assured: you *do not* have to be an expert or a scientist. You *do* have to care about this amazing resource and want to be a part of keeping it alive and well. Get in touch with a council member to learn more.**

### PLWF Council Members / Meetings

The Portage Lake Watershed Council meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 at the Farr Center in Onekama. Council members: Mary Reed, Chair; Vice Chair, Vacant; Jim Simons, Treasurer; Kathy Ervin, Secretary; Bee Capper, Frank English, Susan Halloran, Herb Lenon, Jim Mrozinski, Lee Nordloh, Al Taylor, Jamie Verna

### The people have spoken! -

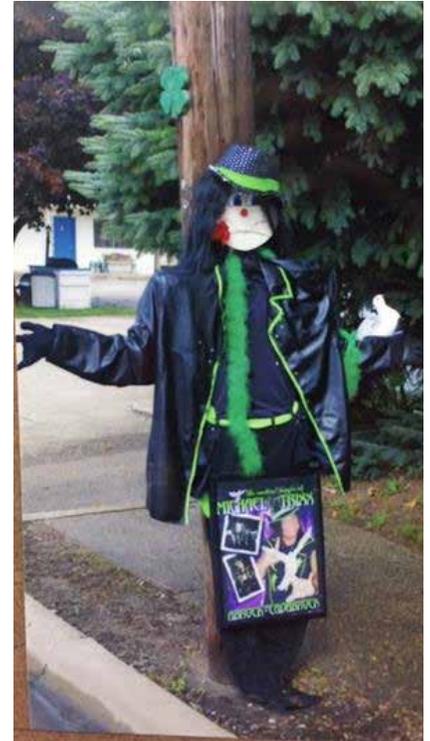
Here are the selections for the individual, business and civic organizations scarecrows as voted on at the Onekama Fall Festival last Saturday

**First place - Magician**

**Second place - Rock You Band**

**Third place - the fire department**

\$312 was raised in the voting which will go to the local food pantry. Many thanks to all that put up a scarecrow along M-22. You help make Onekama a better place to live, play and stay in.



### DONATION FORM



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check what this donation should be used towards:

Membership \$30 annually

Concerts in the Park

Scholarship Fund

Petunia Planting

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*For More Events during Onekama Days – check out [www.onekama.com](http://www.onekama.com) for more info.*

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

