WELCOME TO ONEKAMA
PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011 VOLUME 7, NO. 3

Portage Lake Association President's Letter for August 2011

Welcome to Summer in Onekama!

The Portage Lake Association **"Concert in the Park"** series is well under way but there are four more concerts in August for you to enjoy. August 1, brings Jim Hawley, a new performer for us from Interlochen area who plays pop and light rock. August 8, is Sticks and Picks Stringband, a fun group with lots of percussion and strings. August 15, is Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band, a new performer with "good old fashioned Rock and Roll" and August 22, brings back Belle Suite from Bear Lake known for pop, standards, show tunes and light rock.

The Portage Lake Association had a successful Fundraiser Dinner and Auction on June 18th at The Little River Resort Casino. The event was well attended and the proceeds from it will support our many activities in the community. A special thanks goes to Al Taylor who chaired this event and all the committee members who donated many hours of their time. **David Meister and Marilyn Acker** were elected by the PLA members for our **Citizen of the Year Award** for their service to our community. David Meister has been our Township Supervisor for 19 years and is a local farmer. Marilyn Acker grew up in Onekama and is responsible for the Scarecrows that decorate our village in the fall. She also has been involved in the Petunia Parade, school projects and most other things that go on in our community. We are very proud of these citizens who have shown leadership and commitment to our community. (A side note, if you don't know, Marilyn is David's mother-in-law)

On Friday, August 5, 2011 the Portage Lake Association will be co-sponsoring the **Onekama Days** Fireworks with the Onekama Lions. There are many activities during this weekend so be sure to attend them **and** the Parade on Sunday, August 7, and watch for the PLA Float.

"Summer's End" Dance is being held on September 16, at the Portage Point Inn. There will be dinner and music for dancing by BLUESHADOW BAND. Proceeds for this event will support the Portage Lake Association's Scholarship Fund. For more information and tickets contact Debby Major at 231-889-3393 or dajmajor@gmail.com

October 8, 2011 will bring the PLA's **Fall Fun Fest** to the Onekama Village Park. This is an activity for the entire family and it is free! The PLA gives back to the community of Onekama with this day of fun. There will be craft booths, food, contests, face painting, Bounce House, and many other activities for the entire family. Be sure and check out all the Scarecrows displayed around town then as well.

The Portage Lake Association website is www.onekama.info and we have two Facebook pages- **1,** and **Portage Lake Association** so check them out and find information about our area, our activities and your friends.

I would also like to thank Onekama Marine, Chuck Reed, Dan Behring and Chase Calloway for mowing the grass around our Welcome to Onekama sign on the south side of Portage Lake. The sign on the north side of Portage Lake is mowed by Gene Trentham. The flowers in the sign boxes were planted by the Portage Lake Garden Club using a "native plant" theme. It does "take a village" to maintain our beautiful signs.

As you can see the Portage Lake Association is very busy and everything is done by volunteers. So if you have some extra time and would like to spend it "doing for others" contact me at mpunches@charter.net

"Please Join Us"
Margaret Punches, President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(more details * on some of these events in this newsletter)

August 1- Concert 7pm Onekama Village Park
Aug. 4-7 Onekama Days Manistee County Fairgrounds*
Aug. 5- Fireworks over Portage Lake at dusk
Aug. 6- 5K run and walk; registration 8am, start at 9am
Aug. 6- North Point Park Appreciation Day 12-3 pm Free hot dogs & refreshments*
Aug. 6- Watershed Forever exhibit and information in Village Park*
Aug. 6- Shark the Parks- 11:30am- 12:30pm*
Aug. 6- Family Fun Ride- 1pm - 3 pm at NorthPoint Park*
Aug. 8- Concert 7pm Onekama Village Park
Aug. 11- Shoreline Ride comes to Onekama- Marina and M22
Aug. 12-21- Manistee Art Institute -Photos by C. Saint Charles
Aug. 12 to 21- 'Bus Stop' at Ramsdell Theatre
Aug. 15- Concert 7pm Onekama Village Park
Aug. 21- Starke Furniture Company history- 7 pm Arcadia U. Methodist Church
Aug. 22- Concert 7pm Onekama Village Park
Aug. 23-28 Manistee County Fair at the Onekama Fairgrounds
Aug. 28- Historical Museum Social at Manistee Golf & CC 4-7 pm
Sept. 6-30- Historical Museum Celebrates 50 Years in the Lyman Bldg.
Sept. 16- 'See you in September'-Dinner Dance at Portage Point Inn, 6:30
Call ahead for reservations Debby Major, 889-3393*
October 8- Fall Funfest at Village Park*
November 19 - Chili Cook~off, Craft Show and Celebration of Lights

Welcome to ONEKAMA DAYS

Since 1973, this "Two Lake Town" has been entertaining its residents, both year round and seasonal, as well as thousands of guests from the surrounding area with the annual Onekama Days Celebration! Always on the first full weekend of August, Onekama welcomes you with a series of activities. The Onekama Lions Club thanks you for your participation and hope you experience the BEST Onekama Days ever!

FOR EVENT INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arts & Crafts.....723-9783
Onekama Days Raffle.....889-4870
Big Fish Contest.....889-5936
Classic Car Show.....889-5936 or english@jackpine.com
5K Run and Walk.....889-4708
Vaughn DoublesTennis Tournament.....889-4468
Parade Entries.....889-5513 or dgibbon4870@charter.net

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th

6-10 pm BINGO and FOOD CONCESSION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th

2-7 pm ARTS AND CRAFTS
Noon-Close FOOD WAGON
8-11 pm TEEN DANCE Under the tent. $3.00 admission
Dusk- **Fireworks** over Portage Lake

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th

8 am - 5K RUN and WALK REGISTRATION *In the park-benefits OHS Athletic Boosters. Race registration forms on the internet atwww.onekama.k12.mi.us*
9 am - 2nd Annual 1 MILE FUN RUN
9:30 am - 3rd Annual - 5K DOWNHILL SCREAMER & ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK *sponsored by Synder's Shoes, ASICS, Don Groeorick Brown*
8 am - COFFEE and DONUTS *In the Park*
8 - 11am - PANCAKE BREAKFAST *Lions Den (fairgrounds)*
8:30 am - VAUGHN DOUBLES TENNISTOURNAMENT - School Hill
9am-3pm - CLASSIC CAR SHOW *featuring hotrod, antique, custom, classic vehicles*
10 am CHURCH BAZAARS, BAKE SALES and LUNCHEONS *at Congregational Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Church of the Brethren & St. Joseph Catholic Church.*
10am-7pm - ARTS AND CRAFTS at fairgrounds
11am-5pm - H20 EXPO *Village Park. Sponsored by Portage Lake Watershed Forever*
11:30am - THERE ARE STILL "SHARKS IN THE PARKS" INFO *at the library and Onekama Marinas. Sponsored by Onekama Parks & Recreation*
Noon-Close - FOOD WAGON- fairgrounds
Noon-1am - HOSPITALITY TENT- fairgrounds
1-3 pm - Family bike ride at Northpoint Park
NORTH POINT PARK APPRECIATION DAY 12:00 - 3:00 pm *Complimentary food & beverages under the tent. On Seymour Ave.*
1 - 2:30 pm - DANCE ALLIANCE NORTH
1 - 3 pm - KIDS ACTIVITIES *Games, face painting, balloons*
2:30-5pm - MUSIC BY"2BLU"*Featuring Phil Coryell & Robert Christian*
3 - 5 pm - WINE & FOOD TASTING *Wines from far and near paired with local fare. Under the tent. Advanced tickets at Shay's*
5 - 8 pm - BBQ CHICKEN DINNER *Under the tent*
5:00-8:00 pm - MUSIC BY "THE NEPHEWS" *Featuring Tim & Bryon Joseph*
9pm-1am - DANCE MUSIC *Onekama's Own* Dana Wall & The Electric Wombats

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7th

8 - 11am - PANCAKE BREAKFAST *At the Lions Den*
10 am - VAUGHN DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNAMENT FINALS
10am-5pm - ARTS AND CRAFTS
Noon - PULLED PORK SANDWICHES
Noon-Close - FOOD WAGON
Noon-Close - HOSPITALITY TENT
1:00 pm - GRAND PARADE *from the Park to Dyke Street*
After parade - SALT CITY DIXIELAND BAND *under the tent*
3 pm - RAFFLE DRAWING THE BIG FISH CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

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PORTAGE LAKE WATERSHED FOREVER
H2O Expo

Coming Soon to a Park Near You! Onekama Days ExPo

One of the principle objectives of the watershed plan has been to increase awareness and understanding about how we can all protect the watershed. When you visit the **H2OExpo Tent** in the Village Park on **Saturday (August 6th)** during Onekama Days, you can hear brief presentations about invasive species and a pick up materials about creating your own rain garden, the best practices for maintaining your septic system, & how to responsibly landscape along the lakeshore. **There will also be**: a door prize for those who register during the expo, a family bike event at Northpoint Park, and the **Sooper Yooper** Awards will be presented to Onekama School students who participated in this instructive environmental art contest.

The Big (Parks) Reveal

You are probably aware that a project aimed at making selected Onekama community parks universally accessible to water has been underway since April when the Leadership Team* selected Becket & Raeder to do preliminary engineering and design work. (* Susan Barnard, Kathy Ervin, Tom Gerhardt, Alice Hendricks, Phil Joseph, Mary Lou Millard, Jon Phillips, Margaret Punches, Mary Reed and Al Taylor)

In May, the group took a two-day tour of area parks and, after much discussion, agreed that the areas with greatest potential to meet project goals were the Village Park, Langland (the turnaround on Lake Michigan), North Point Park, Farr Center, Glen Park, and the Township's newly acquired wetlands adjacent to North Point Park.

At the end of this month the results of all this work will be unveiled for everyone to see. Conceptual designs will be on display on **Thursday, July 28th,** at the Farr Center from 4:00—7:00. Everyone is encouraged to view the drawings, offer suggestions, and talk with Becket & Raeder consultants and members of the Leadership Team.

This phase of the project is expected to be completed in October 2011 and has been made possible through a $34,000 grant from the Michigan Coastal Management Program. The implementation plan will be finalized by the Becket & Raeder in partnership with the Leadership Team and the community, and the plan will include estimated costs, recommended funding sources and an approximate schedule for site development.

Watershed Party Wrap-Up

Nearly 130 generous people gathered on the lawn of Paul & Jane Mueller's Canfield House on July 9th for a party that raised over $10,000 for the PLWF ***Annual Fund***. Thanks go to event chairs DeeDee Giles Miller, Mike Acton, Paul Fairchild and a bevy of volunteers who, for the third year in a row, saw to the myriad details that make an event a success. Special thanks to the Muellers for their hospitality!

What's the used money for?

*The watershed has two funds established at the Manistee County Community Foundation to implement the plan. The **Annual Fund** covers immediate or anticipated needs to implementing the watershed plan. In addition to paying for printing, mailing and other day-to-day expenses, to date it has been used to support the following:*

- *Grants and Matching Funds*
- *Invasive Species Management & Control*
- *Evaluation of Portage Lake and its Immediate & Extended Watershed*
- *Detailed Aquatic Vegetation Survey*
- *Monitoring the Effect of Lake Improvement Program*
- *Water Quality Monitoring*
- *Development of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan*
- *Public Meetings & Education Initiatives*
- *Creation of a Special Assessment District to fund cost of improvements*

Complimenting the Annual Fund is the **Endowment Fund**. This account provides long-term money to implement and update the plan. The ultimate goal is to build Endowment to a level of $1 million through planned giving and charitable donations. At that amount, the watershed will have approxi. $20,000 to $30,000 annually to put the plan into action. Since its inception, and despite taking a significant hit during the recent economic downturn, the endowment has grown to nearly $88,000. Mike Acton, along with a number of others, is currently spearheading a campaign to increase the fund.

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Dance for a Good Cause! Tickets Now Available

Tickets for the OCS' Scholarship Dinner and Dance "See You in September"
The date is Friday, September 16th at Portage Point Inn.

The fun begins at 6:30 pm with a tasting of local Michigan wines, followed by a buffet supper featuring carved prime rib and a fish entree. Then be prepared to rock and swing the evening away to the beat of the Blue Shadow Band. Seating is limited, so contact Debby Major at (231) 889-3393, or dajmajor@gmail.com, or mail in the form below to reserve your place! We look forward to seeing you in September!

I want to reserve_____number of dance tickets

Name(s):_____

Address:_____

Phone:_____ $75 each x _____ = $_____

Mail check to: Debby Major, 8445 Bayview Drive, Onekama, MI 49675

PLA 2011 Fundraiser Report

June 18, 2011 marked the date of this year's fundraiser at the Little River Casino Resort and what a date it was! The hard work of over 40 volunteers that started in October of 2010 came to fruition with nearly 200 people in attendance at the event. With the theme "It's Only Rock and Roll, But I Like It", décor using old records (those things before CD's), great Rock and Roll classics from the 50's, 60's and 70's playing in the background, Rock and Roll trivia flashing on the overhead screens and some attendees in dress to match the theme, it was evident that a great time was going to be had by all. Throw in over $23,000 in prizes, Elvis and a great dinner and the event was a success!

Not all the numbers are in as of the date of this writing, but all indications are that we matched or exceeded last years' event, which was a record for the PLA. The funds we raise from this event support Concerts in the Park, PLA Scholarships, the Fireworks during Onekama Days, the Petunia Parade, Fall Festival, Festival of Lights, Christmas lighting, Winter Fest as well as other programs that enhance the living experience in Onekama and benefit the surrounding community. In addition to great prizes, all attendees received a PLA Shoreline Savings coupon book, which contains over $1600 in coupons for dining, home and garden, automotive services, golf , entertainment and gifts. **If you were unable to attend the banquet, you can get a coupon book from the Onekama Boy Scouts and Jeff Sternberger (231-889-5680). Cost is $10 per booklet and proceeds are split with the Boy Scouts and the PLA.**

The date for the **2012 Fundraiser has been tentatively set for the 4th Saturday in June (June 23rd)** Mark your calendars and be ready for the event of 2012! It will be held at the Little River Casino Resort. We hope to beat this years' event.

We are always looking for folks that would like to plan the event, secure donations, decorate and help on the day of the event. If you have any input on what we can do to enhance the experience, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Al Taylor at 889-0205 or email at windsongmi@aol.com. You can also use this contact if you would like to donate goods or services, or if you would like to have a coupon in the coupon book.

ONEKAMA VILLAGE NEWS

GOOD NEWS – The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program granted the Village $2 million in federal grants and loans so we can make needed improvements to the sewer system. The improvements are now in process. The funds are from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The improvements will make the system more energy efficient and should last the village residents for the next 40 years. At the document signing, Village President Bob Blackmore noted that it has been a long process as the village applied for the funds in 2009.

FARR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS Capital improvements for the Farr Center are a reality. A new roof has been completed and next on the list is a new well. Both of these items have needed attention for some time. With the financial assistance from revenue sharing grants of $33,000 we are progressing.

VILLAGE PARK **Pavilion Reservations** If you, or your group, are planning a special event and plan to use the pavilion, remember to reserve the date and time through the Village Clerk, Ruth Hudson at 889-3171.

Handicap Parking Spaces Please make note the areas reserved for handicap parking by the boat launch and bath house.

UPDATE ON Access Grant from the Michigan Costal Management Program This program is part of the Manistee county-wide Explore the Shores, a goal to make the numerous water sources in the county accessible to people of all ages, needs and abilities. The Community Access Initiative Leadership Team (Team), represented by members of the Township Parks and Recreation Committee, Portage Lake Watershed Forever and community members, selected the firm of Beckett and Raeder (BRI) to develop design, preliminary engineering and a long range implementation plan for our parks and water access sites throughout the Onekama community. Initially there were tours of all the parks by the Team and BRI. In early June BRI reported on their impressions of our parks and presented their suggested priorities, possible improvements and implementation for various sites. At that meeting Team members had an opportunity to present their ideas and suggestions that might be incorporated in the plans. July 28th the Team will meet at the Farr Center to hear BRI's report incorporating suggestions from the Team and other BRI suggestions. A public meeting for community input is planned for later this summer. This is an exciting project…stay tuned!

TREES - Expert Evaluation of all community trees … Scott Erickson, tree expert, recently evaluated trees in all of the township parks. Mr. Erickson had suggestions for the Village Park (there are three trees need to be removed and some others trimmed), Glen Park, North Point Park, and Carden Park. He suggested we should work on eliminating the invasive species such as autumn olive and scotch pine and "…any new planting should be of natural native species common to this area…." He provided us with valuable information as to how we can proceed with tree plantings that stand a better chance of being healthy and surviving and are appropriate for our area. Thank you to everyone who has made the entire area look great: PLA's petunias, parks maintenance, Farr Center and Butterfly Garden and our new curbs on Rt. 22.

LAKE SHORE CARE Below are some suggestions about the care and maintenance of property on the lake shore as living by the water carries a responsibility. It is in the best interest of a lake shoreline to keep it natural. Cutting grasses and aquatic plants listed below depletes the natural screening of toxins that enter the water and invite unwanted waterfowl to the property.

Listed below are some reminders of how you can help keep our lake healthy:

~ Keep solid surfaces to a minimum (use porous materials for walks & drives)

~ Consider a pipe, cantilever or floating dock; avoid treated wood

~ Baking soda & vinegar are great cleaning products

~ Properly maintain your septic system

~ Planting low maintenance native trees/shrubs reduces erosion and absorbs runoff; prune trees don't remove them

~ Redirect runoff away from the water's edge, leave grass about 3" high (it retains moisture); start a buffer – leave some grass uncut and unfertilized along the water's edge

~ Soften or naturalize your shoreline with grasses, aquatic plants, deep rooting native plants; let imported sand erode away naturally and allow native plants to reestablish

First Year Mentoring Program A Success

"It takes a village." Actually, it takes several townships and that is exactly what happened with the Onekama School Mentoring program in 2011. Thirty citizen volunteers from Onekama and Arcadia with a variety of backgrounds logged over 1000 hours of time, and completed the first year of the K-3rd grade program developed by Shantel Niederstadt & Kathy Zajak and supported by Kevin Hughes, OCS superintendent and Sally Koon, OCS school board.

The program had specific academic goals "to ensure that all students master the basic and essential academic skills for their grade level." The community volunteers met with students to help them learn sight words, review math facts, and practice their reading skills. Others read aloud to students in the classroom and assisted teachers with special projects that required extra sets of hands.

"Our teachers have been so grateful for the assistance provided by our community mentors" said Shantel Niederstadt. "It is always difficult to make time to work with students on a one-on-one basis in a traditional classroom setting. With the addition of our community mentor program, we were able to give extra attention to the students that needed it the most"

Teachers saw marked academic growth in the students involved in the program. However, the rewards of the program were not one sided and were shared by the volunteers. Helping children learn and develop and knowing that a difference was being made were a common outcome. Over 90% of the volunteers indicated an interest in being a part of the 2011-2012 program.

"We are fortunate to have many talented, intelligent, and caring individuals in our community who were interested in getting involved in our school in a real and rewarding way" said Kevin Hughes. **"My sincere hope is that we can grow this program in a significant way. We have community members willing to share their time and talents with our students. We will make it a priority to give them the support needed to reach and impact our student body."**

In addition to continuation of the K-3rd grade program, other programs are being evaluated for the 2011-2012 school year. **With projected budget cuts, the needs for assistance will be greater and community support will be critical.** Programs being considered include Career Days, individual mentoring of students in higher grades, and writing and composition, math and science assistance on an individual and classroom basis.

Volunteers from Onekama, Bear Lake, Arcadia and other townships in the OCS district are being sought for the upcoming school year. If you are interested, contact Al Taylor at 231-889-0205 or email at windsongmi@aol.com .

Note – Excerpts and quotes from a June 14, 2011 article in the *Manistee News Advocate* were used in this article

Fall Festival News

The Onekama Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, October 8th from 10 am until 4 pm in the Onekama Village Park overlooking Portage Lake. Through the generous donation by our local residents and businesses at the Portage Lake Association's annual fundraiser, the PLA is able to give back to the community in this event. It will feature many area crafters and artists selling their creations. Food vendors will be offering your favorite festival goodies. The Onekama Lions Club food wagon will also be present. Activities include: the inflatable jumping castle, face painting, Mr. Balloon Man, the cow car train ride, horseback rides, and wagon rides all of which are FREE. Walk and shop along Onekama Village Main Street and enjoy the beautiful fall colors and the "scarecrows". For more information call Jeff at 889-5680.

OCS SUMMER BEACH FITNESS

To register, call
Onekama Schools at 231-889-5521

Summer is here, and it's time to hit the beach!!
Join the fun twice a week during the month of
August by signing up for an OCS Beach Fitness Class.

'Sneak Peak' at Fall Community Education Classes to be held at OCS

Sign up by following the link from www.Onekama.info

CPR First Aid

Cardio, Core and Circuits (16 one hour sessions)
Description: A combination of cardio (simple step aerobics) and core workout with basic weight training in a circuit training format.

Indoor Cycling and Core (16 one hour sessions)
Group exercise class for cyclists and those who desire a cardio workout that is intense but fun. Cycling portion is conducted on indoor upright stationary bicycles.

Indoor Video Cycling (8 one hour sessions)
Like indoor cycling but with a video component which simulates traveling over terrain. Destinations include tropical islands, national parks and other scenic areas.

BOSU Cardio "New Class" (16 one hour sessions)
Using a BOSU trainer (half domed ball), the class focuses on improving cardio fitness while improving balance, agility, coordination and upper body and core strength.

Indoor Climbing Wall (5 sessions of 2.5 hours)
Take your fitness to new heights. Learn the basics of indoor wall climbing. Parent/Child teams are encouraged, and children ages 12-15 must be with a participating adult.

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THE PETUNIA PARADE THANKS YOU!

By the looks of our petunias, as of this date, we're in for another beautiful display. All of the planning, time and effort put into the Petunia Parade by over 75+ volunteers is paying off. M22 is proudly showing its colors for all who pass through, live in, or visit Onekama.

Water and weeding are all that is needed, now, and until the end of the season. If you have volunteered to adopt a plot, please remember to do weekly walk-by inspections of your plot to check for weeds and trash. Cultivating around the plant is not necessary. A gentle tug to remove weeds is all that is needed. **An especially important time to check plots would be right before Onekama Days (first weekend in August).**

"Thank You" is hardly enough to express our gratitude to those of you who have given their time and/or monetary donation to this beautiful community project. As noted above, there are MANY people and businesses that make the Petunia Parade a success. The minute you begin listing individual names, inevitably someone is missed and feelings are hurt. **You who worked on this annual parade know who you are**...all of those passing through on M22, visitors, residents, local businesses, the Petunia Parade committee and Portage Lake Association Board sincerely say, 'Thank You'!!

SHARK IN THE PARK RETURNS

"There are still sharks in our parks, (but this time they're really well hidden....)" will be held on Saturday, August 6th from 11:30 until 12:30 in Onekama's 8 wonderful parks:

Glen Park, Onekama Village Park,
Rotary Park, Zosel St. Walk In Park,
Feldhak Park, Captain John Langland Park,
Carden Park, North Point Park.

Kids 12 and under can visit each of our parks and find hidden "sharks". The 8th shark will be found at North Point Park where prizes and hot dogs for all of the family will be offered as we celebrate North Point Park Appreciation Day. Park maps and more information can be found at the Onekama Library & Onekama Marine. This event is sponsored by Onekama's Parks & Recreation Dept. in conjunction with Onekama Marine.

FAMILY FUN RIDE

Stick around Northpoint Park after *Sharks in the Park* for a family focused Fun Ride on Saturday afternoon, August 6 from 1 to 3 pm and bring the kids, bikes and tricycles. This ride, which is specifically designed for families and children who would like to enjoy a short bike ride in the safety of a closed pathway environment, begins at the park trailhead off Portage Point Road – (turn at Seymour St. - the parking lot is at the end of the street)

All participants must wear helmets and stay on the paved trail. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A donation of $5 per person, or $10 for the family is suggested, which will benefit Portage Lake Watershed Forever efforts to promote the use and enjoyment of the Portage Lake Watershed. But no one will be turned away from this event if they do not donate! For more information, contact Leann Burger at 889-0026.

WarmShowers.org – Hospitality for Touring Cyclists

As Onekama becomes known for its location as the southern start of M22, more and more bicyclists will be coming through our town as this route is considered one of the best in the Midwest. Folks are sometimes in need of a place to stay during their bike trips – and many come here from all over the country. One of our local residents has hosted riders from Montana, New Orleans, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and downstate already this year.

If you think you would like to welcome a bicycle rider to your home for a bed, shower and/or meal, check out this website… www.warmshowers.org. Watch the video and learn more about this service and the great friendships that can result.

NEWS FROM ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP

Onekama Township has a new Zoning Administrator. Kristine Philpot joined the township on June 30. She is available on Monday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Township Fire Department is awaiting delivery at the end of this year of its new fire truck, being built by Alexis Fire Co., Alexis, Illinois. The Jaws of Life vehicle is in operation and purchase of medical equipment for the vehicle was approved by the Township Board, at a cost of $3,688.

The Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting the annual North Point Park Appreciation and Awareness Day, Saturday, Aug. 6, from noon to 3 p.m. The "Sharks in the Park" event will start in each park at 11:30 a.m. The committee will split the cost of food and beverages for the Appreciation event with Jim Mrozinski and his crew from Onekama Marine, who prepare and serve the food and are in charge of setups.

Township Board meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 9 am at Township Hall

Planning Commission meets 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Township Hall

Township Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed. 9 am to 2 pm

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SPOTLIGHT ON: Onekama Marine, Inc.

Submitted by: Onekama Marine, Inc.

Established in 1963 Onekama Marine Inc. began when Portage Lake was used primarily by fishermen in 16 to 20 foot open boats. This year marks our 48th year serving boaters on Portage Lake and Lake Michigan with (3) facilities on Portage Lake. The main facility, established in 1963, is called Yard I and is located on M-22 on the southeast end of the lake. It has 101 docks serving boats from 18 feet to 55 feet. The company also owns two other marinas on Portage Lake; the Old Roberts Boat Livery now called Onekama Marine Yard II, and the Portage Lake Marina with "Fishtails" restaurant, tackle and souvenir shops.

Many current and long time residents of the Onekama area learned of Portage Lake by stopping at Onekama Marine while cruising the Great Lakes. Some have settled here because of their visit to Onekama Marine and those families have added to the quality of our community.

Onekama Marine provides repairs, installation of electronics and fishing gear on any size boat. We employ fully certified technicians and support personnel that have been with the company for up to 30 years. Maintaining the same key employees each year guarantees personalized service provided by people who know customers by their first name.

Onekama Marine has 90,000 sq feet of indoor boat storage space, plus extensive outside space available, as well as shrink wrapping and pick up and delivery service. Four of our buildings provide 'Heated Storage'. Service is the key to success in the marine industry, so if you haven't or are not currently using Onekama Marine for your boating needs simply stop over or give us a call.

Boat brands we carry are: Rampage Sport Fishing Yachts, Larson Runabouts, and Rivera Yachts. We also have a full time associate who sells new and brokerage boats. If you'd like to sell your boat, we will list your boat on our Onekama Marine listing and our extensive internet website.

In 2011 our activities schedule started with The Onekama Marine "Shake Down" Tournament Trail Salmon Fishing Contest where 40 to 50 boats compete on one leg of the (16) tournaments held on Lake Michigan each year. This event is primarily anchored by the Portage Lake Association with 16 more local businesses in support. A (3) day event, the tournament brings thousands of dollars to the Onekama economy - motels, restaurants, and shops in Onekama benefit from this salmon tournament! Other Onekama Marine events are our 4th of July and Labor Day picnics with live entertainment and dinner consisting of tables on our lawn and an area for a dish to pass provided by our boaters. Dockers at any of the Onekama Marine facilities are welcome and family groups are urged to attend.

Additionally we sponsor boater safety courses and work closely with the Manistee County Sheriff Marine Patrol. Onekama Marine also supports the area schools and provides scholarships to local students. Currently we are supporting the restoration of the 1930's Portage Lake Channel Historic Light Structure. Please call us (889-5000) for more information, or to schedule service or

Scarecrows Need Clothes!!

Calling all persons interested in being a part of the creative community who outfit our scarecrows made by Marilyn and Bill Acker every Fall. If you would like to dress one of the scarecrows, call Marilyn soon to reserve, and arrange to pick up, your scarecrow (889-4758).

After dressing your figure, you will be expected to install it somewhere along Main St. where it can be seen by those driving, biking, & walking along our main thoroughfare.

All scarecrows will need to be dressed and installed before the Oct. 8 date for Fall Fun Fest.

*Certified Service Technicians
*Boat Sales – New /Pre-owned
*Fiberglass Repair
*Canvas replacement and repair
*Cleaning, Polishing and detailing
*Electronic and Fishing equipment sales and installs
*Shore Station Lifts and Docks
*Dockage/Storage – boats 14 to 70 feet

Onekama Marine Inc.
231-889-5000
www.onekamamarine.com

Serving the Onekama Area for over 45 years.

"Support Local Business"

Lakeshore Mechanical
HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION
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Nature's Elegance
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Nancy L. Cody, Owner
4850 Main Street, Suite 2
Onekama, MI 49675
Phone/Fax: 231.889.0091
Email: nlcody46@yahoo.com

A Change is Coming with our PLA Newsletter!!

In order to save paper, printing, postage and environmental costs, as well as your contributions to the PLA, we are going to start sending the quarterly newsletter electronically to as many readers as we can.

If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by USPS mail, you will need to join or renew your PLA membership by November. With the November issue of the newsletter, this change will begin.

Please send your email address to:

planewsed@gmail.com even if you have already signed up at the Onekama.info website so that we can be sure to have your correct email address.

Note: You will still be able to read the newsletter free of charge by logging onto the website www.onekama.info either from your home or the library.

Portage Lake Association
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME_____

SUMMER ADDRESS_____

_____

SUMMER PHONE NUMBER_____

WINTER ADDRESS _____

_____

WINTER PHONE NUMBER_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Portage Lake Association

$25 for a one-year membership

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT TO:
Portage Lake Association
P.O. Box 493
Onekama, MI 49675

Portage Lake Garden Club
August Activities

The Garden Club will feature two programs in August. On Thursday, the 11th, Mark Schwendner, a retired Industrial/Robotic Engineer for Ford Motor Company, and a long-time gardener and member of the Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, will demonstrate how to design and create a bird bath out of plant materials. The meeting will be held at the Farr Center, beginning at 1:00pm.

On Thursday August 25th, the meeting will be held at Douglas Valley Organic Vineyard Community on the front porch. The program will feature organic farming and community supported agriculture. The meeting begins at 1:00pm.

Garden Club meetings are open to the public and guests are welcome. For information, contact Mary Reed (231)889-3781 or mreed4573@yahoo.com.

The Portage Lake Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

WELCOME TO ONEKAMA
PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER
planewsed@gmail.com, Newsletter Editor

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

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