



Dear Friends:

Ring in the New Year! 2023 should be a fascinating time in Onekama. The past year was positive for the Portage Lake Association, our volunteers, members, partners and friends.

PLA's 2022 accomplishments:

- Update of PLA website onekama.info
- Book Drive raised \$500 for Onekama school initiative
- Volunteer Appreciation Party and launch of Sign.up volunteer page
- New June fundraiser at the Canfield House
- Launched Instagram page
- Reworked PLA Facebook group page and held our usual PLA activities:

Petunia Parade; Monday Concerts in the Park; Fireworks; Pig Roast; Craft Beer Tasting; Car Show; Onekama Days Craft Show; Fall Festival; Christmas in Onekama Craft Show; Celebration of Light
Special thanks to everyone who made the above activities a success!

It's time to begin/renew your Portage Lake Association membership. You'll find a form towards the end of the newsletter or visit the website for online enrollment. 100% of your membership fees fund the events and projects above.

Please welcome new board members: Kathy Loynes & Diane Wemlinger. They join returning board members in leading the organization: Jean Capper, Julie Lapinski, Evie McNeil, Dave Maylen, Kyle Miller, Susie Halloran, Al Taylor. Thanks team!

Warm regards to all who cherish the Onekama area.

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.

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 April 1, 2023. Deadline for submission is March 10, 2023.



A PERSON YOU SHOULD KNOW

Name: Heather Konen, Branch Services Specialist, Onekama Branch Library

What is your connection to Onekama/Manistee area? I moved to the area 7 years ago to be closer to family.

How did you come to be the staff member at Onekama Branch? I saw the job posting this summer and it sounded like a job I would enjoy. I have been a patron of the Manistee main branch for several years, and now I am happy to have joined their staff.

What do you want people to know about the library? The library is magic! There is much more to this branch than meets the eye. We are part of a six-library system. There are many resources available that not everyone may be aware of, such as digital streaming platforms, hotspots for patrons to check out, ancestry services, career resources, a “library of things”, movies and technology classes. Come in and see how we can help.

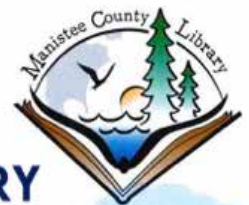
What is your vision for the library? We want people to feel welcome here. A library is an inclusive safe space which belongs to everyone.

How can people help you? What sort of events/services/activities would you like to see here? Help me get to know this community and what we can provide for you.

Thank you for the warm welcome to Onekama. It’s a pleasure getting to know everyone.

Library Hours:
Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 10:30-5:
Tuesdays, closed; Wednesdays 12:30-7.

**AT THE LIBRARY
IN JANUARY
ONEKAMA BRANCH LIBRARY**



- JAN 9** BEDTIME STORYTIME FOR EARLY LITERACY 11:00 AM
- JAN 11** DOMINOES MATH PUZZLES FOR KIDS 3PM - 6PM
- JAN 18** FELT CORNER BOOKMARKS FOR ADULTS 5PM - 7 PM
- JAN 23** WATERCOLOR BIRCH TREES FOR KIDS 3PM
- JAN 25** DIY PHONE HOLDER FOR TWEENS & TEENS 3PM - 7PM



FOR DETAILS, VISIT:
WWW.MANISTEECOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG
OR CALL US: (231) 889-4041



How I Discovered Onekama

Over 20 years ago was the first time I stepped foot in Onekama. What a wonderful experience. My husband, Gary, and I first noticed the line of people waiting for breakfast at the M-22 GRILL. My thought was the food must be good. We got in line and waited, too. What a terrific “Good Morning, kiss” given to me by the wonderful food at the Grill.

From there we walked slowly down Main St. saying “Good morning” to many people. I enjoyed the smiles on their faces, the twinkle in the eyes and the sweetness in their voices as they shared, “Have a good day.”

We stopped and shopped at several stores along Main St. I have to admit there were not many boutiques, at that time, but I was in the midst of talking, laughing and having a sheer “glad to be here” feeling.

I could have been shopping at Coligny Plaza in Hilton Head, which had more boutiques, but not more love in the air. I could have been shopping at the world renowned, Magnificent Mile in Chicago, but the atmosphere in Onekama was one of peace and joy. I could have been shopping at the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France but with such a large shopping area, it takes away from the togetherness felt in Onekama.

Our afternoon of divine delight was embraced when we sat outside at Papa J’s Ice Cream Parlor. It was crowded but we happened to find a spot for two. The sweetness of the afternoon was captured in the warm atmosphere of the people there and also the delicious ice cream flavors.

We walked over to the Onekama Village Park area where many people were enjoying the summer sun. We walked down to Portage Lake. Looking at the white swans majestically floating on the amazing crystal clear blue lake was breathtaking. I had to adjust my camera so I could capture the beauty of the moment. (No cell phones at that time.) What a wonderful, happy, lazy day of summer.

After doing a little more shopping and buying t-shirts for everybody I could think of, we went back to our car. We decided to venture on to see more of Onekama. We came to the Portage Point Resort. When I saw the comfy looking cabins there, I immediately thought of the movie, “Dirty Dancing,” with Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze. There was a scene in the movie when they went to a camp and it looked just like

the resort at Portage Point.

We drove over to the Portage Point Inn. The delicious aroma drew us inside. We decided to stay and have an early dinner. The food was magnificent. (Now there is the Portage Point Café and Pizzeria and Lاهی’s Pub).

I shared with you the first time I visited Onekama. Since that time, I have come to Onekama many, many times. This year, I attended the Street Fair, the Pig Roast, the Pancake Breakfast and Onekama Days. I spoke with many people during these events. To my surprise, more than 75% of the people were visiting from other areas of Michigan and from other states. This is proof that more and more people are coming to Onekama because of the wonderful atmosphere of the people.

Shirley Madden
gspmadden@gmail.com

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Do you have a story to tell about Onekama? Please submit it to jmcmom@aol.com for inclusion in an upcoming Newsletter!



New Fire Chief

Rob Johnson is the new Fire Chief for Onekama.

*Photo credit to
Manistee News Advocate*



Near and Farr Friends

This January, Near & Farr Friends will start its 8th year of programs for the community as a part of the Portage Lake Association's activities. The program will run through the Winter and Spring. All meetings are at 2:30 at the Onekama Township Hall and are held on the first and third Thursdays. All are welcome, especially newcomers or those returning to the area.

Thursday, January 19 will feature Laurie Porter, Nurse Practitioner who works in the Emergency Department at Munson Manistee hospital. She will speak to us about the common emergencies that seniors have, what to do to prevent them or what to do when they occur.

On February 2 is a game day with Ransom Notes-a new game and Oh Hell -an old familiar one.

The speaker on February 16 will be Jessica Sam Steinberg, a member of the Little River Band. She will speak about the issues of indigenous people through US history from a woman's viewpoint. This should be a very informative and important presentation for all to hear.

March 2 is a game day with the game euchre (always a favorite) led by Dawn and Greg Bower.

March 16 will feature speaker Tyler Dula with the Manistee Conservation District. Wildlife and forestry concerns in our county will be discussed. If you love living amid the forests around us and watching the many wildlife species outside your door or on your walks in conservancy wooded areas, this program is for you.

April 6 is a game day with Upwords, as well as other word games that participants wish to bring that day.

April 20 will focus on two of the neighborhoods on the shores of Portage Lake- Red Park and Wick-a-te-wah. The speakers, Dave and Fran Wallace and Ted Lawrence will share their knowledge and memories of their neighborhoods. Residents of those neighborhoods as well as anyone interested in the area's history will find this a program not to miss.

May 4 is a game day. More information to follow later.

May 18 will focus on recent and future changes at Munson Manistee Hospital. Our local hospital is critical for our health and safety. Bring your questions and

concerns for this presentation.

If you are not already on the Near & Farr Friends email list, send an email to: nearandfarrfreinds@gmail.com.

Pat Stinson, editor of the Freshwater Reporter will be posting our program and game days on their website, <https://freshwater-reporter.com>. You can check there for updates on these events with Near & Farr Friends.

Additionally, there are three different ways to get information about what's going on with Near & Farr Friends ...

- Follow portage_lake_association on Instagram
- Follow the PLA page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PLAOnekama>

- Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147760669837>

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

Show school spirit, order Portager clothing:
Go to: <https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/michigan/onekama/onekama-high-school>

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



Portage Lake Association is keeping warm this winter planning our 2023 events.

Here's the tentative list - more info to follow!

Volunteer with us; it's an opportunity to do good, meet your neighbors and make Onekama fun and beautiful.

MAIN STREET PETUNIA PLANTING: May 24

SUMMER LAUNCH PARTY: June

CONCERTS IN THE PARK:

Monday nights late June through mid-August

ONEKAMA DAYS: August 4th - 7th

FALL FESTIVAL: October 7

CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA & CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS: November 18-19

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



What is Onekama CR (OCR) – A Collaborative Recovery?

OCR is a cooperative gathering of stakeholders — area-wide citizens, residents, businesses, and organizations collaborating to revitalize Onekama. Its intention is to be a hub, networking ideas to enhance Onekama and the lives of all its residents. OCR will work to facilitate improvement for the economic and social well-being of the citizens of Onekama through a coordinated collection of activities, projects, programs, and policy changes.

Vision

Modifying a quote from AA Milne of Winnie the Pooh fame replaces the pronoun “You” with “We”. This modification exemplifies the attitude, we, as an area-wide community, can achieve.

We are braver than we believe, stronger than we seem, and smarter than we think.

Onekama is an opportunity waiting to succeed. The time has come to act beyond talking and waiting. OCR is a unified effort to find and implement the elements that can deliver on the desire for success.

It's said, “it takes a village to raise a child.” In the case of Onekama, it will take a committed collaborative effort to save a village. Nothing happens without action. And nothing is impossible if we try and believe.

Are you interested in collaborating, sharing ideas, vision, comments? Contact us by email at onekamacr@gmail.com. Also request an invitation to our Facebook group, Onekama Collaborative Recovery (OCR) for more information (mission statement, events, updates).

WALKING TRACK AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS

MONDAY:	5 AM TO 8 AM AND 3 PM TO 9PM
TUESDAY:	5 AM TO 8 AM AND 3 PM TO 9PM
WEDNESDAY:	5 AM TO 8 AM AND 3 PM TO 9PM
THURSDAY:	5 AM TO 8 AM AND 3 PM TO 9PM
FRIDAY:	5 AM TO 8 AM AND 3 PM TO 9PM
SATURDAY:	8AM TO 10AM
SUNDAY:	1PM TO 8 PM

NOTE: Walking Track is closed during Athletic Events
Applications for key cards to access the track are available in the Superintendent's Office Monday-Fridays from 8am to 3 pm





Christmas in Onekama

Our annual Christmas in Onekama Craft Show was held on Saturday, November 19th during our first blizzard of the year! Even though the weather was “frightful; our crafters were so delightful” and determined. All but four vendors battled the slippery roads and safely made it! We had 49 booths filled with everything from cookies, plants, to hand-painted rocks, jewelry, pottery, hand sewn items and MORE! “Meeting the artist, hearing them talk about their craft, selecting a one-of-a-kind item and supporting a small business is much more special than simply clicking a buy now button.” said coordinator Nikki Schneider.

The gym was filled with laughter, neighbors catching up and exchanging holiday greetings.

We had our own special team of elves, the high school student volunteers, helping the crafters unload their snow covered vehicles worked bravely in the wind and cold. Seeing our community show up and work together despite the adverse weather was heartwarming. The holiday spirit is alive and well in Onekama. Thanks to all and we look forward to next year.



JV Volleyball Players Volunteer for the PLA

The JV Volleyball players spent an hour prepping eggs for the PLA's (Portage Lake Association) annual Fall Festival. We drilled a hole, used a syringe to empty the eggs, then rinsed the eggshells out with water and placed the hole side down in an egg carton to dry.

On day two of the egg prepping. The JV Volleyball players put paint in the eggs then glued tissue paper over the hole.

The eggs were sold at the October 1 Fall Festival. The paint-filled eggs were thrown on a canvas for a unique, one of a kind artwork.

The JV and V Volleyball players also helped with the PLA Fall Festival.

Photos by Mrs. Mary Bergren



Environmental School 2022 - 2024

The Portage Lake Garden Club (Onekama) and the Spirit of the Woods Garden Club (Manistee) are jointly sponsoring an environmental school. Open to the public, Environmental School is a fun, practical and economical way approach to environmental education. Environmental School has four courses. Each course has ten hours of education, including a two hour field trip. Completing all four courses is optional, but recommended. Those who successfully complete all four are eligible to become a National Garden Club Environmental Consultant and advise others on environmental issues. Some courses are available on Zoom.

The first course was held in October at West Shore Community College. Thirty people from Benzie, Leelanau, Manistee and Mason counties learned from regional experts in Ecology, Plant Biodiversity, Environmental Issues, Backyard Wildlife and Sustainability. Joshua Shields Ph.D., a local Forester and Wildlife Biologist, guided students through a field trip at North Point Park to view cedar and aspen groves, a yellow birch tree, native and non-native grasses, and a bat house.

Attendee Gordie Heinold is looking forward to the second course. "I very much enjoyed the first course. There was so much good information given that stirred my creativity and will help me move forward. I'll be back for the next course!"

Topics in the second course, Land and Related Issues, include land types, soil, agriculture, pollution abatement, coastal land management, wildlife and earth stewardship. The dates are May 19 and 20, 2023 at West Shore Community College in Manistee. For more information, contact Beth Markowski at markowski.beth@gmail.com.



Portage Lake Garden Club News

The Portage Lake Garden Club has a new logo! Established in 1935, the garden club has provided friendship, service and education to the Onekama community for over eighty-seven years. The new logo features Marsh Marigolds, the club flower. For many years, garden club members have developed and maintained several Onekama beautification endeavors. The club is responsible for all the gardens around the Farr Center, the fountain in the Village Park, the Welcome to Onekama signs on M-22, and the Onekama Consolidated Schools sign. Look for the new logo at some of these locations! Thanks to Elaine Maylen for her awesome design work!



THURSDAYS

4:00 - 7:00

- *bring a friend
- *bring your favorite game
- *make a new friend
- *learn a new game

WIN! WIN!



LARSEN'S LANDSCAPING, INC. & 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



ELECTION

Written by Onekama Senior: Laketon Cordes

On Tuesday November 8th, the Onekama Juniors and Seniors got a chance to work the voting polls and see how election day is run. The staff was more than happy to take in the students as it was extra help! The students had to take an oath and swear that they will not break any of the rules of being a poll worker. Before the students were able to work the polls, they had to watch a two hour video on what to do and what not to do in the polls. This video is mandatory for everyone who is working the polls and not just for the students.

There are a lot of DO NOTS of being an election worker. One is that you cannot wear anything related to politics while working. Another do not is looking at a persons finished ballot. This is because it is rude and an invasion of privacy and illegal. Along with do nots there are also other rules. One big rule of working the polls is to make sure that there is no campaign promotions within so many feet of the building.

The local voters were ecstatic to see high school students being involved. Many of the students really enjoyed helping out and working the polls. Many of them even said that they would do it again if they had the chance to. They said that engaging in the community and being a part of it is a lot of fun. The Onekama students were so grateful to have gained knowledge in working the election polls as it will also look good for any of their applications and was a good experience!

Parks and Rec Report

Your tax dollars at work:

North Point Parks' cedar wetland (short) loop has been upgraded. Plans to complete signage for all parks are underway, finishing a project started several years ago. Look for many more improvements and interesting recreational opportunities in 2023!

We now have a full 9-member all-volunteer committee. We are excited to announce that Dr. Brian Allen, who conducts the Parks and Recreation bird walks, will bring his bird and habitat management expertise to the committee. Tyler Dula of the Manistee Conservation District has joined bringing years of experience from trail making to invasive plant species management. Dr Jay Siwek will now be a health and wellness advisor to the Committee. The new members are welcomed by Andrea Arthur representing Onekama Village, Gary Madden representing Onekama Consolidated Schools, Michelle Ervin, Paul Mueller, Bick Pratt, Justin Sedelmaier, and Allen Taylor (Onekama Township Board). We are working diligently to conserve the natural setting of Onekama Township while providing outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

If you have a hobby or talent that you would be willing to share with your community, please let us know! Onekama Parks and Recreation thanks you for your support!

We encourage attendance at our meeting either in person or on the phone.

(712) 770-8094 Code 782365

Check the website for meeting schedule.



Recycling in 1, FAQs

“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.

If the recycling bins or paper trailer are full, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR RECYCLING. Please be considerate and return when the bins have been emptied.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Please note that the trailer benefits the Onkama Schools and is not run or paid for by the Township.

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



Unacceptable Recycling!

Sewer Authority

The Two Lake Collaborative Sewer Authority (TLSA) was formed in July 2017 by Onkama 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.”

For information about the TLSA please visit their website: <https://www.twolakeauthority.com>. Or. <https://www.onekamatwp.org/sewer-department> <https://www.facebook.com/people/Two-Lake-Collaborative-Sewer-Authority-TLSA/100075160323319/>



2022 has been an exciting and impactful year for Portage Lake Watershed Forever. In addition to PLWF becoming a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and obtaining a charitable solicitation license, we are pleased to share with you several of our more visible successes:

- purchase of nearly six acres of wetland property on the north side of Seymour using the funds provided from the Manistee County Community Foundation's PLWF Wetland Fund
 - creation of a new website (<https://www.portagelakewatershed.com>)
 - support of the kayak launch at the DNR launch site and boot wash at The Nature Conservancy-Portage Point Woods Preserve parking lot off Herkelrath Road
 - assisted with creation of an all-abilities garden in North Point Park in partnership with Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Committee
 - collaboration with the Manistee Conservation District on “Score the Shore” and “Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch”
- Some of goals for 2023 include:
- develop an infrastructure plan for the Seymour wetlands property for preservation and as an educational resource for the community
 - collaborate with Onekama Township Invasive Species Committee to add value to existing lake management data continue our citizen science lake monitoring efforts through the MICorps Lakes Monitoring Program
 - continue to seek partnerships with citizens, governmental units and conservation groups
 - Return of PLWF summer party – details later

PLWF looks forward to the upcoming year and wishes all a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.



FAKE NEWS: PATINA is NOT closing

When co-owner, Karen Kolb, announced her retirement in November, rumors started to fly that Patina was closing. Nikki Schneider has every intention of continuing Patina Designs in Onekama. After Karen leaves June 30th, Nikki will begin to transform the vacant space into more of an art gallery. “I want to support local artists and promote community connection through the arts. We have the famous Art Snake artists in Onekama BUT we also have many other talented folks who have never shown or sold their work. I want to concentrate on them. And include more classes and workshops too.” I am not sure when it will all come together and exactly what it will look like but I have learned that things happen the way they are supposed to. And at any given moment, we are exactly where we are meant to be”. Follow Patina Designs on FB and Instagram for that latest information.



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.





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

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: Onekama Township



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>

Township Summary

Lawrence Hrachovina resigned as Fire Chief, Bob Johnson appointed in late September

Consent judgment with Devoe was entered into in September

The Recycle Program was granted a two year contract at \$18 per household.

The Planning Commission recommended changes to 1019, Location of Accessory Buildings and Structures and changes were approved.

The TLSA recommended that an application be submitted to the USDA RD.

The Harbor Commission is hopeful to be on the dredging list for next year. It is under 12' outside of the channel.

A WQEM meeting was held with the PLWF, Invasive Species, LRBOI Fisheries Div, EGLE, DNR, Zero Gravity, MCD, and local fisherman representation. This meeting's focus was to discover what additional data can be presented to the Township to assist the current Lake Manager, how the PLWF can add value to this and future data, and how can fish surveys assist the Lake Manager in developing future plans for Portage Lake.

Comment received regarding grant funding for potentially having floating wetlands in Portage Lake. Floating wetlands have been constructed in urban areas along the east and west coasts to mitigate the effects of high water for approximately 30 years. They are used for wave attenuation, erosion control and fish habitat. This could be a potential benefit for fisheries as well as protecting the infrastructure from high water

The Board addressed concerns about the Short Term Rental Ordinance: There have been many, many issues with the Short-Term Rental Ordinance over the past year. It is becoming a huge area of concern toward the Township Board. Because of this, a work session has been formed to address the areas that have been brought to the Board over numerous occasions. Discussion has taken place as to what items need to be reviewed.

Parking (visitor and road), Garbage, Registering, Policing, Capacity, Renewal Dates, Posting of the Certificate and placement, Multiple Units on 1 Parcel, Penalties, "Keyhole", Rates, Violations, and Warnings are the items that need to be addressed.

The draft Master Plan is now available to review.

Visit the Township Website for more details. <https://www.onekamatwp.org>

The 4th Annual Pet Photos with Santa event hosted by Patina was once again a HUGE success!

“This year we had our first bunny, cat, dog photo!”

It is a very special event as it combines our love of dogs, community, Santa and the giving spirit of the holidays”. Nikki Schneider co-owner.

Over \$1,000 was raised and donated to Homeward Bound in Manistee. Thanks to all who came out and generously donated. Special thanks to Lori and Austin from Lori Wilson Photography! And of course Santa!

Santa Interview following Pet Photos Event:

Why do you like playing Santa?

Santa represents joy, love and giving. And usually makes people smile. Visits with Santa brings the community together.

What is different between sitting with dogs vs. kids?

Dogs don't cry or scream out of fear. Although they can get nervous and pee. And they don't have long lists of what they want LOL.

Why did you agree to do this event, in it's fourth year now?

Not sure Mrs. Santa gave me a choice.

Why do you give the money to Homeward Bound?

We rescued our dog, Max, 11 years ago. And he changed our life. Anything we can do to find homes and make sure animals are cared for, especially at Christmas, is a worthy cause. We raised \$1,000 thanks to our generous community this year.

What was your favorite photo this year?

I have to say the bunny, cat and dog family. It was a first for a bunny! The talented and patient Lori & Austin from Lori Wilson Photography managed to get the perfect shot.

What is your favorite cookie? *Rum balls.*



Onekama Village Council

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Roger Burger
president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson
clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

Nikki Jach
treasurer@villageofonekama.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

County Planning Director
(231) 723-6041
planning@manisteecountymi.gov

TRUSTEES

Rod Hudson
Andrea Arthur
Suzanne Schwing
Wayne Miller
Susan Halloran
Sarah Fauble

FIRE CHIEF

Rob Johnson
fire@onekamatwp.org
(231) 889-4240 (fire building)

ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

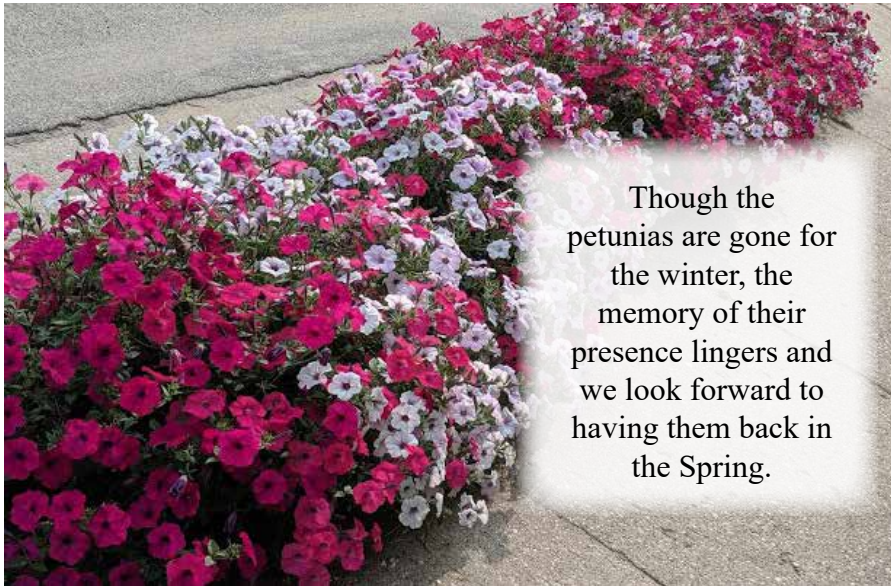
Farr Office

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

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9am - 2pm





Though the petunias are gone for the winter, the memory of their presence lingers and we look forward to having them back in the Spring.



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

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