



*Dear Onekama Friends:*

*Winter is a quiet time of year for the Portage Lake Association, a chance to review the previous year's activities and plan for 2024.*

*As part of our 2023 wrap-up our Annual Report is included in this January newsletter. Sharing this overview of our projects and finances gives our supporters, sponsors, and friends a clear portrait of the Portage Lake Association and how our activities and projects tie into our mission of making the Onekama area a great place to live, play, and stay.*

*We concluded 2023 with a well-attended Christmas in Onekama Craft Show which focused on handmade and artisanal goods. The Onekama School was packed that day thanks to our partners and their festive activities: the Onekama Athletic Boosters, Junior Clio Club and the Onekama school staff and students (shout out to the National Honor Society and other student volunteers). The beautiful November weather didn't hurt either.*

*The next day, Celebration of Lights reminded us of the people who make or have made Onekama so special. The loved ones we lost this year were not forgotten. The names of those we honored remind us a community is only as good as its people, and how lucky we are in our friends, neighbors and colleagues.*

*We welcome Mark Miller and Joe Suchocki as new 2024 PLA board members. And thanks to the continuing board members for their commitment to our group.*

*Stay well and warm wherever you are this winter;*

*Rosalind Jaffe  
President, Portage Lake Association*

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

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

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

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

The next newsletter will be coming March 10, 2024.

## ONEKAMA GUILD THRIFT SHOP MAKES DONATIONS

The annual goal of the Onekama Guild Thrift Shop is to give back to the community it serves. Each year donations are made from the sales at our shop over the previous season. When you think of our short season, we are able to make considerable donations to charities. The Thrift Shop is a not-for-profit assembly of incredible volunteers, dedicated to offering affordable gently-used clothing and housewares. These items donated by the surrounding community make it possible to meet our goal.

All the volunteers at the Onekama Guild Thrift Shop were excited to distribute many checks to area organizations this year. A combined total of \$4300.00 has been sent out to various charitable organizations. We were happy to have an opportunity to make three in-person check deliveries.

Our first stop to present a check, was at the Farr Center. Ruth Hudson was in receipt of a check for \$200. Our next stop was the Onekama School. Mary Bergren and the superintendent, Dan Mesyar, were very happy when a check for \$200 was presented to them for the Giving Tree. We then went to the Children's Advocacy Center in Manistee to present a donation check of \$300 to Megan McCarthy.

The Thrift Shop is only open four months of the year, yet we are able to have a positive impact in the community. In this coming year, are hoping to begin a fundraising campaign to improve the electric in our building, as well as add insulation, heat and AC. When we accomplish these upgrades, we can expand the number of days and months we will be open. This provides our customers with greater service which will result in greater contributions.

Everyone at the Thrift Shop wishes to thank you for shopping with us and placing your unwanted items in our hands. Please keep the Thrift Shop in mind when cleaning out closets—in May we will begin accepting items for 3 days to prepare our store for opening season! Watch our Face Book page for announcement of dates.

Have a wonderful New Year—we plan to!



## FARR FRIENDS

January 18, 2024 at 2:30pm will be our first speaker of the new year with an informative program on pet ownership. Kaitlyn Olson, the new manager of Homeward Bound Animal Shelter, will cover the history of the shelter, its rules for adoption of pets, how to care for your pet, and options when you can no longer care for a pet, among other topics.

There is a Game Day planned for February 1, 2:30pm with Dawn Bower hosting Euchre- always a popular one with our community. If you wish to learn, there will be plenty of folks to help you.

Our February speaker is still to be determined at the time of the newsletter's printing. Sign up for our email list to get details as they are available, if you do not already receive our emails. Send your email address to: [nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com](mailto:nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the list.

March 7 will feature Mark Fedder, Manistee Museum director, speaking about the five rural newspapers published in Manistee area in the 40's and 50's. What a difference now... with many folks getting their news only from social media sources.

April's topic will be how to age in place with a variety of in-home services and technology. The date and details for this program in April are yet to be determined. Again, email us with your email address if you are not already on the email list.

May 2 will be the Onekama Reads discussion of the book selection, *Free Water* by Amina Luqman-Dawson, 2022 Newberry Award winner. Get your copy now and be ready for the program.

Newcomers are always welcome and encouraged to join Near and Farr Friends. Get to know others in the community at these gatherings. Meetings are held at the Onekama Township, next to the fire station on Main Street.



Friends,

Are you looking for new opportunities to help keep kids safe?

Lakeshore Children's Advocacy Center and Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan are excited to launch KEEPING KIDS SAFE, a short training session designed for anyone ready to take action and protect children in our community.

In just sixty-minutes, in a free virtual training, you'll learn how to:

- Define what qualifies as child abuse
- Spot the signs of abuse
- Identify individual and organizational red flags
- Break down the myths surrounding reporting
- Listen to a child
- Make a report
- Trust what happens after a report is made

With these skills in hand, you will become an empowered protector of our community. The more people we train, the closer we get to fulfilling our mission together as a community. Our goal is to partner with individuals and local businesses to train at least 200 community members this year. Here's how you can help:

1. Register for the training: <https://cacmi.org/how-you-can-help/keepingkidssafe/>
2. Get your friends to register and attend together!

Do you work for a business owner that is interested in keeping kids safe? If so, please put them in touch with Megan McCarthy at [lcac.megan@gmail.com](mailto:lcac.megan@gmail.com).

Please reach out with questions.

Thank you for being a valued supporter of the Lakeshore CAC – and thank you for standing up for children!

Megan McCarthy  
Executive Director

## Portage Lake Garden Club Civic Beautification and Harvest Garden Awards

Every year, the Portage Lake Garden Club presents two awards. The first is the Civic Beautification Award which recognizes Onekama-area businesses or organizations. The second is the Harvest Garden Award which recognizes individuals with outstanding floral and/or food gardens.

The 2023 Beautification Awardee is Lakeside Treats and Bait, located on Main Street. Diane Marion owns the business and her son Philip is the manager. Diane is a self-professed obsessive gardener who, in 1995, started a nursery business called Perennial Smiles. Diane had customers throughout the state, including Onekama. Diane and her late husband Mike became familiar with Onekama, eventually purchasing the storefront and adjacent cottage. Diane created the garden area to the west of the storefront. She loves that customers rest on the bench, admiring the hydrangeas, heliopsis, lilies and butterflies. Diane says that it "is truly a privilege to accept this Beautification Award on behalf of our entire family." Additionally, she offers a sincere "Thank you to the PLA's Petunia Parade volunteers. It is the frosting on the cake for Onekama's Main Street."

Mike Grant received the 2023 Harvest Garden Award. He has lived in Onekama for over fifty years and graduated from Onekama High School. Over five generations of Mike's family have lived in Onekama. Mike is an artist and his garden reflects that. He began his garden many years ago so he would have a readily-available supply of sunflowers to paint. Whenever possible, Mike likes to repurpose items found in Onekama. In the fall, a friend gives him about sixty bags of non-chemically treated leaves to mulch his flower beds. The staff at the Onekama Thrift Store alert him when they receive the wicker baskets he likes. Upon receiving the Harvest Garden Award award, Mike was "a bit embarrassed" with the attention. He said that receiving the award was never his "goal, but it was nice to receive it." He has long admired the work that the Portage Lake Garden Club puts into the gardens at the Farr Center so receiving this award was special.

The Portage Lake Garden Club welcomes suggestions for 2024 awardees. For more information, or to suggest a potential recipient, please send an email to [info@portagelakegardenclub.org](mailto:info@portagelakegardenclub.org).





## Check out the information on new businesses and old businesses with new owners.

### AMIGOS RESTAURANT

*Dave Maylen*

Amigos means “friends” in Spanish. It’s also the name of Onekama’s newest restaurant! Proprietors Jose and Maria Aguilar take pride in providing authentic Mexican food to their customers. Amigos had its humble beginnings as a food trailer in Bear Lake called Taqueria Guanajuato. Wanting a larger, more permanent location, the Aguilars took over the former Grill 22 restaurant space. “We decided to change the name to “Amigos” as it was easier to pronounce and remember,” says Jose.

Jose quickly points out that their success is mainly due to Maria’s kitchen skills. “She was born and raised in Mexico, and food was very important to her family,” adds Jose. The larger kitchen offers the opportunity to serve a more extensive variety of foods than was available at their Bear Lake food trailer.

One of the most popular items on the menu is their Quesabirria, a barrio-style cooked beef folded into a tortilla with melted cheese. Amigos also features three authentic Mexican drinks: Horchata, a rice-based beverage, Hibiscus water, and a Tamarind drink.

Like many businesses in our area, Amigos plans to close for the Winter months, citing staffing issues and a smaller customer base. The Aguilars plan on using this time to make some menu adjustments and building improvements, as well as looking into purchasing a tortilla maker.

The Aguilars are grateful for the support they have received from the community and look forward to seeing everyone next year!



Custom Cottage Services LLC

Margaret (Vaughan) White

Home Services Manager

(231) 655-5715

[customcottageservices@gmail.com](mailto:customcottageservices@gmail.com)

Are you looking for a more thorough check of your cottage or vacation home when you are not there?

Want someone who will physically check each door and window to make sure they are free of damage, securely closed and locked?

Need someone to check that the indoor temperature hasn’t dropped if you leave the heat on when you are away?

Or someone who will check that there is no water leaking from the dishwasher, washing machine or under the sinks?

Want to know that the most recent storm hasn’t caused any damage to your home sooner rather than later?

Need someone to open up your home for service providers, possibly wait while they complete the work and lock up when they leave?

Arriving after a long winter and want to come into an aired out, clean space? Had to leave in a hurry and need help cleaning out the cottage for the winter? Need the trash put out on the curb after you leave?

Need your mailbox checked or packages placed indoors?

I am that person for you! I will meet with you to come up with a detailed list of services you need for your cottage and each time I complete a service you will receive a report and/or picture so you can be assured the job was done.

Custom Cottage Services LLC are confidential, customized to your needs, and completed in a professional manner. Call (231)655-5715 or email [customcottageservices@gmail.com](mailto:customcottageservices@gmail.com) to discuss your needs and the cost of services.





## Portage Lake Motel

Owners - Andrew and Ania Przybocki

The motel has 14 rooms, it's open year round and you can book rooms on their website:

<https://www.portagelakemotel.com/onekama-house>

Andrew and Ania and their 6 kids are residents of Onekama. They fell in love with Onekama on summer visits to the area. They purchased property in Onekama and purchased the Portage Lake Motel when it went up for sale.

You can also follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095103991226>



## Travelers Motel

Owner Mariada Gezon

I chose to start a business in Onekama because of its breathtaking natural beauty and the potential for growth.

The motel is currently undergoing renovations. It will be transformed into a mid-century modern motel. The plan is to open by Memorial Day weekend.

Check out our website for up to date information: <https://www.travelers-motel.com>

Follow us on Facebook: Travelers on Facebook

## The PLA is on Instagram

Check it out by searching @portage\_lake\_association on Instagram. The posts are fun and informative.



## Sweet Vibes Treats and Eats

(formally Papa J's)

Owners: Jeremy Yob and Christy Jimenez-Yob

Now open year round-

Winter Hours began 11/28/23

Tuesday-Friday:8-2

Saturday:8-12

Closed on Sunday and Monday

Breakfast, Lunch and Ice cream

## ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to volunteer contact:

Leslie Osborn

[foodpantry\\_2014@yahoo.com](mailto:foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com)

General Information

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

St. Joseph Community Food Pantry

8380 Fifth Street

Onekama, MI 49675



# TECH HELP

## FOR ADULTS!

### WALK UP TECH TUTORING AROUND THE COUNTY

Get help with your smartphone, tablet, laptop or other electronic device at one of our branch library locations!

#### ARCADIA

12:30-2:30 p.m. on Jan. 9

#### BEAR LAKE

12:30-2:30 p.m. on Jan. 16

#### KALEVA

12:30-2:30 p.m. on Jan. 24

#### ONEKAMA

12:30-2:30 p.m. on Feb. 7

#### WELLSTON

12:30-2:30 p.m. on Feb 13

**TUTORING SESSIONS ARE FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVE.**

If you would rather make an appointment at Manistee Main Library:

Call Chrissy  
(231) 389-6013

# ONEKAMA BRANCH LIBRARY EVENTS SCHEDULE

JANUARY

2024

JAN 04

### BOARD GAME CLUB

For All Ages  
At 3:00 p.m.

### STORIES & LITTLES

For Early Lit.  
At 11:00 a.m.

JAN 08

JAN 10

### LEGO ALLIANCE!

For Kids  
At 3:00 p.m.

### MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

For Families  
At 5:00 p.m.

JAN 17

JAN 24

### BOOK CLUB

For Adults  
At 5:00 p.m.

### LIBRARY CLOSED

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JAN 15

\*SOME EVENTS REQUIRE REGISTRATION.

FOR MORE INFO ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ALL OF OUR LOCATIONS OR TO RSVP

VISIT: [MANISTEELIBRARY.ORG](http://MANISTEELIBRARY.ORG)  
OR CALL: (231) 889-4041



MANISTEE  
COUNTY LIBRARY

## Onekama Branch Library

**We are OPEN!**

**Monday: 10:30– 5:00**

**Tuesday: 1:00-5:00**

**Wednesday: 12:30-7:00**

**Thursday: 10:30-5:00**

**Friday: 10:30-5:00**

## CURIOUS ABOUT THE LARGE PLANTERS ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF ONEKAMA'S MAIN STREET?

By *Mary Jo McElroy*

As we go about our daily lives in and around Onekama, it might never occur to you to think about the history and work that goes into having those large planters along Main Street in Onekama. You know the ones I mean .... at the corner of the Blue Slipper (see photo), in front of the Library at Farr Center, at Five Star Realty, and more!

Before there were faux concrete planters, there were salvaged wooden barrels, then plastic barrels from the cherry drying plant near Benzonia, followed by plastic and half-sized whiskey barrels filled with a variety of flowers. Over time, some rotted away, and others were accidentally "crushed" by machinery. In 2016, family and friends donated money in memory of Kim Matthews who passed away unexpectedly. Due to her love of gardening, her husband Gerry Matthews chose to support the Petunia Parade in Onekama. With the help of Beth McCarthy, we were able to purchase and plant 17 planters for a cost around \$1325 in 2018.

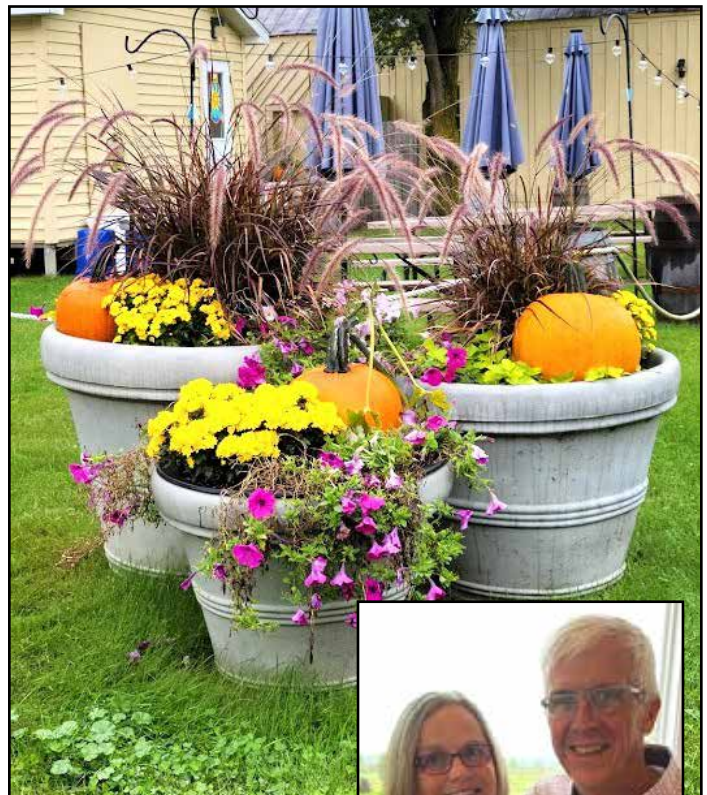
That first year was experimental. We filled most of the interior of the planters with large pieces of Styrofoam and bubble wrap to decrease the weight of the container and the volume of soil needed to support the plants. Black plastic interior basins are also used for that purpose. The flowers and plants used in them evolved over time from a variety of annuals to the current mix of Wave petunias, red rubrum grass, and lime green sweet potato vine. The deer really loved that sweet potato vine in 2023, so in 2024 we will swap that for some variegated vinca. In the fall, we add yellow mums from Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses where we buy all the plants and orange pumpkins from Greg Miller at Miller's Fruit Market.

The Petunia Parade Committee supplies the planters, the plants, soil, fertilizer, and movement of the containers. Rob Ide from the Lions Club stores them throughout the winter. Helping are our loyal watering partners: the Blue Slipper, Onekama Township, Onekama Village, Onekama Library, Portage Lake Garden Club, Amigos, Five Star Real Estate, West Shore Bank, US Post Office, Onekama Building Supply, and Patina.

Who oversees this process? Kris Greve (pictured,

a resident for many decades, offered to manage the annual project as part of her requirements to become a Master Gardener from the MSU Master Gardener Extension program. Kris and her husband Tom now take responsibility for using their trailer to move the planters to and from the Lions storage barn. Assisting Kris with planting and maintenance are Debby Major, Shirley Brooks, and Mary Jo McElroy.

So, in May when you see these planters again on the south side of Main Street, you will know how this lovely addition to Onekama Village happens every year!



**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





## Happy New Year from the Onekama Lions Club!

The Onekama Lions have been busy this past year. The Lions donated lots of funds in 2023. Below is just some of the events we hosted and donations we sent out:

- Cornhole tournaments every Friday night from January to March 2023, which is a great way to get out and socialize and have a good dinner.
- The food trailer was at the Ron Ringel Auctions throughout the year.
- We hosted two rummage/craft sales at the Fair Pavilion.
- We hosted several events during Onekama Days which included the steak fry, cornhole tournaments, two breakfasts and a dance at the pavilion.
- The food trailer was a popular place at the Fall Festival.
- Our Kid Sight trailer is at many area events providing free eyesight screening.
- We set up the food trailer at the Speckled Goat at Halloween and handed out donuts, cocoa, cider, coffee and lots of candy.
- We hosted a pancake breakfast for the Onekama High School senior class for their senior trip, which was a lot of fun.
- We donated to the Arts and Culture Alliance of Manistee County for the James Earl Jones statue at Kalleva Norman Dickson School.
- We co-hosted a food and household drive with West Shore Bank in November for the Spirit of Giving and donated \$300 to the event as well.
- We donated funds to the Onekama School giving tree.
- We donated funds to the Manistee Medical Care

Facility for residents to have a Merry Christmas.

- We adopted Nancy's House residents for Christmas and caroled at the facility and brought them some very special Christmas gifts.
- We donate funds every year to the Leader Dogs for the Blind, Bear Lake Camp, Eversight, All State Band, Kidsight, Paws for a Cause, Lions Club International Foundation and Lions of Michigan Foundation.

This list is not all-inclusive as there are lots of other donations we give out. The Lions work hard all year so we can give back to the community whenever there is a need.

### Coming in 2024:

Cornhole is back! Every Friday night beginning January 5th through March 15th. Come join us for burgers, brats, hot dogs and much more. Drinks are also available for purchase. Doors open at 5:00 and cornhole begins at 6:30. It is a great way to get out and socialize. This event has been a very big success for the Onekama Lions Club and everyone has a great time.

The Quarter Paddle Auction will be back this year. Mark your calendars for May 4th. Doors will open at 3:00 and the auction will begin at 4:00 p.m. Food will be available for purchase along with drinks. This event has been a huge success for the Onekama Lions as well. There will be lots of great prizes to bid on and nothing costs more than 4 quarters to bid on. Come join in the fun!

## Recycling

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

Nine of Manistee County's communities, including Onekama Township/Village use Public Act 69 to fund their local recycling programs and are collectively known as the PA69 Recycling Program. The recycling sites are paid for and are for use by residents of the these communities only.

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

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





## A Great Volleyball Season

by Ashlyn Blackmore

This was yet one of the best volleyball seasons I have ever experienced while being on varsity. I have been on varsity for three years now and this season will always hold a special place in my heart. Not only are these girls my teammates but they are also my best friends and more importantly, my family. We stuck together off and on the court no matter what got in our way. We were always there for one another and when there were conflicts, we were there to pick each other up. Toward the end of our season, many viruses and injuries pulled us apart from one another but this never stopped our team from being who we were. We came back stronger than ever and won our fourth district game in a row. Not only did we win another district game but we also made it to the regional finals. I couldn't be more proud of this team and how much dedication all of the underclassmen had.

I give so much credit to Elizabeth, Delaney, and Ava for playing on varsity as just freshman. They have a huge future ahead of themselves and I can't wait to see how far they will go. I am extremely proud of Hailey for improving so much and she is just a sophomore. I am also very proud of Aleah and Carley for stepping up from JV halfway through their season to come play on varsity. They both are just sophomores who have a bright future ahead of themselves. The only junior on the team that improved so much as a middle hitter deserves great attention. Leah has a bright future, especially for her senior year next year and I can't thank her enough and express how much I am going to miss my ball partner. Lastly, my partner in crime, Aubrey. Words can't describe how much we went through this year but we made it work as a team. I got to become very close to Aubrey throughout the season and I am so

grateful for that.

This team never stopped working and they were all dedicated to the end prize. I want to give a huge shoutout to the PLA for always supporting our team and being there for us every step of the way. The PLA is very valuable to our community and they give so much of their time to help support our school. They also support our team which allows us to go the distance we went this season. We are very thankful for them and everything they do for us.

## Patina held their 5th Annual Pet Photos with Santa event December 2 & 3rd.

Owner, Nikki Schneider "it was our best year ever! We even had a spotted Gecko named Priscilla and a chicken sit with Santa. We have had bunnies and cats before but this was a first."

Conveniently Nikki is married to a Santa. Her husband Mark has been playing Santa since 1988 for children but their love of rescue dogs started this event in 2019. Friend and local photographer Lori Wilson Photography is skilled and patiently works with the dogs to capture the best shots.

"I actually like to stand behind Santa and watch the faces of the dog parents. Making faces and trying to coerce their dogs into sitting still, posing and "smiling" for the camera. We all had the best time, well maybe not the animals.. LOL"

This is a donation based event and we raised over \$1,500 for Homeward Bound Animal Shelter in Manistee!



## Onekama Township Parks and Rec

The summer season has faded but we would like to reach out and acknowledge those that supported the 2023 Parks and Recreation programming. Our Onekama summer was truly wonderful, filled with activities which taught minds, improved physical and mental health, increased the love of birds, pollinators, the earth and the local ecosystem. You were an important part of this!

It took many people to pull off such a great year! This year we provided 22 events, seven of those were new in 2023. Families responded well to our first-ever Children's Science Series. The Scavenger Hunt and Butterfly Palooza each had over 125 participants. All events combined for this season we had 874 registrations, a record by far! The programming was supported by Township tax dollars, and 17 generous donors. The hands of 28 volunteers made it all happen. Thirteen big-hearted local experts gave of their time to lead us. Participants ranged from 2 months to 100 years. About 1/3 of the participants were from local addresses, many came from across the state, and a few from across the country.

Looking forward, we will work through the off-season to amplify our successes and mitigate issues where needed. If you have any comments or questions, please reach out! Feedback is greatly valued; we love input and ideas. If you have a moment, please take our short 5 question survey. Here's the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/BHyVhDBcHK>. Or use the QR code.

We hope to have your support again next year. Most of all the Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Committee wants to say: Thank You!

2023 Onekama Township Parks  
and Recreation Survey



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

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

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

**BURNING PERMITS:** Burning permits issued by website: [www.michigan.gov/burn](http://www.michigan.gov/burn) permit. Township residents: you are (Twp. 23 N. and Range 16 W) and your section number.  
**BURN BANS:** Burn bans can be found at [dnr.state.mi.us](http://dnr.state.mi.us).

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

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

**TOWNSHIP OFFICE**

**PHONE:** (231) 889-3308;

**FAX:** 889-5587.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** (231) 889-7014

**E-mail:**

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

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

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

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

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

[fire@onekamatwp.org](mailto:fire@onekamatwp.org)

### From the Township:

Recycling in Onekama may get it's third location. The Onekama Township Board voted to purchase a vacant lot adjacent to the Fairgrounds for \$80,000. Visit the Onekama Township website: <https://www.onekamatwp.org> to read the minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting.



## Report from the Village:

### Parks:

The Parks Committee Chair conducted another walk through of the Village Park with Dr Josh Shields from the Manistee Conservation District. Josh is providing guidance on flood-tolerant trees to replace those that we lost when the water table was high. He's also helping identify invasive species and how to promote a healthy ecosystem in the park.

Cigarette butt recycling receptacles are available in the Village Park

An ADA portable restroom is installed at the Village Park for the off-season

The Event Stage project will kick off in Spring when the foundation is poured. The structure has been ordered.

### Farr Center:

New windows have been installed, the carpets cleaned, and heavy-duty mats are being researched.

### Cemetery:

A new cemetery and Veteran's Memorial policy are being developed and will be available in the Spring.

### Planning Commission:

The Planning Commission is working on a number of efforts:

Securing a partner for the new Master Plan development – Request for Proposal issued

Mixed-Use district with a focus on walkability and business synergy

Other priorities include reviews of parking, signage, and fencing ordinances

### Meeting reminders – At the Farr Center

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

Village Planning Commission – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

Check the Village website at [www.onekama.info/village](http://www.onekama.info/village) for the latest.



## Onekama Village Council

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

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

### CLERK

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

### TREASURER

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

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

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

### TRUSTEES

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

### FIRE CHIEF

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

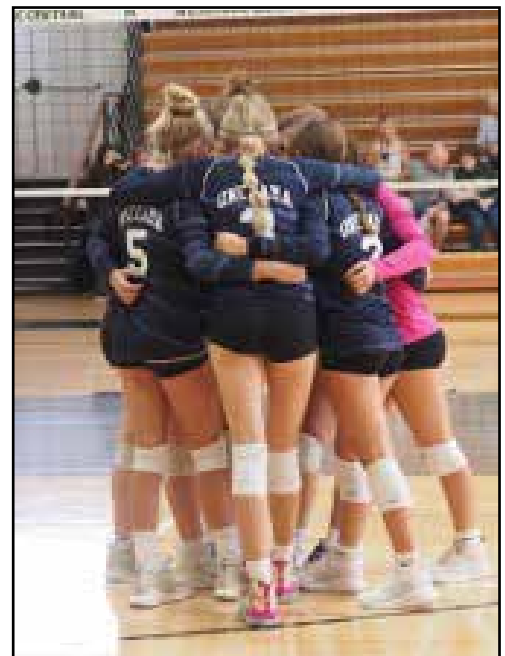
### ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

#### Farr Office

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

#### Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
9am - 2pm





## WOULD YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?

Medical emergencies – like choking, severe falls, acute chest pain, signs of a stroke – do happen. Would you know what to do if your spouse, friend, or neighbor experienced an emergency? Close to 30 citizens in the Onekama community are now better prepared to respond to such an event after they participated in a program sponsored by Near and Farr Friends of the Portage Lake Association this fall.

Part One was an in-person presentation by Brian McComb, DO who spoke about the top three adult emergencies of interest to participants in the September 28 gathering at Onekama Township. He stressed what to look for, how to interpret signs and symptoms, and what immediate response should be. He was joined by Mike Machen, Director of 911 services in Manistee County who discussed how the 911 center and first responders would handle the situation.

Part Two was an online course by the American Red Cross (ARC) titled Adult First Aid / CPR / AED. Through a series of videos, quizzes, and feedback, students were educated about ten medical emergencies including stroke, heart attack, choking, major bleeding, and hypothermia. They also were instructed in how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), but of course were not able to practice either since the course was online only. Participants paid \$37 for the online course which is reimbursable through limited funding provided by Onekama Township.

Part Three culminated in a live presentation of how to perform CPR and how to use an AED. The presenter was Kaitlin Kubiskey, Captain / EMT who is one of the first responders with the Onekama Township Fire Department. She explained how the techniques work,

gave a demonstration, then encouraged participants to practice CPR on adult and child manikins to get a feel for the rhythm, timing, and depth of chest compression. Kaitlin also demonstrated LUCAS which is an automatic chest compression device used by first responders.

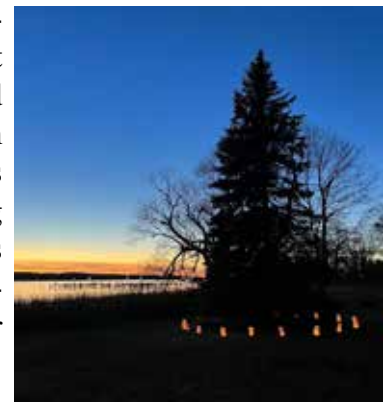
So, are you interested in this program? We have the PowerPoint presentations for you to view on your own and you can still sign up and take the online ARC course. There are a limited number of reimbursements that are available for your initial outlay of \$37. The fund will continue until it runs out. Contact Mary Jo McElroy at [maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net) or 614-325-1717 to take advantage of this opportunity. You never know when your skills may be needed to help someone with a medical emergency!

## *Celebration of Lights*

The Celebration of Lights is a very moving and meaningful tradition that helps kick off the holiday season in our town of Onekama. It is a fund-raising project sponsored by the Portage Lake Association. Through voluntary donations, a “light” is purchased to honor a friend or loved one, and at the end of the celebration the beautiful Blue Spruce on the grounds of the Farr Center is lit, and remains lit throughout the holidays.

As each honoree’s name is read aloud by Beth McCarthy, one can see people in the crowd acknowledge them with a nod of recognition, a smile, even a few tears, as their friends and loved ones are remembered. It’s quite a special experience that embodies the spirit of the season.

This year’s Celebration of Lights was a little different in that the tree wasn’t yet wired for lighting that night. It was a beautiful ceremony none the less, with lit luminaria surrounding the tree, perfect weather, and a good (and understanding) crowd in attendance. 174 names were read, honoring friends and loved ones near and far. Thus, sharing their light with our community.







### **SANTA and MRS. CLAUS VISITED DURING "CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA"**

Santa and Mrs. Claus made a (sort of ) surprise visit at Christmas in Onekama on November 18! The jolly couple arrived around 10:30 AM in time to regale youngsters of all ages with visions of holiday gifts. This was the fifty-eighth occasion of the event sponsored by Jr. Clio Club of Onekama, but the first time the cheery duo appeared at the school during the usual Christmas in Onekama activities.

Traditionally, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at the Farr Center on the first Saturday of December. Participation of kids and adults had dwindled after the pandemic to a low number in 2022. Reasons for the change in venue and date to optimize the number of people visiting Santa included reducing conflict with the Sleigh Bell Festival in Manistee which occurs on the same date in December and decreasing the workload for Club members who previously presented two separate holidays events (bake sale and Santa visit) as different occasions.

Described as an experiment this year, committee chair Jeneanne Fitzgerald coordinated the North Pole guests, their outfits and transportation, as well as a holiday setting on the stage of the school cafetorium during the activities for Christmas in Onekama. Visitors were treated to a one-on-one chat with Santa Claus, a reindeer antler headband, and a candy cane. All children in the community, parents, grandparents, and friends were invited to this free event and photo-op. The final tally was fifty people (which included two adult women!!) A bonus was the holiday music in

the room, a cookie bake-off competition nearby, and sales of holiday treats and gifts occurring as part of the Portage Lake Association's Artisan Market this year.

Jr Clio is a 68-year-old club whose members love Onekama and its history and do all that they can for the good of the community by donating time and energy to worthwhile causes. Members meet once a month from September through December and from March through June for fun, friendship, and education about many interesting subjects. For 41 years, Jr Clio also provided "Thinking of You" Thanksgiving baskets to those who have lost a family member, are elderly, ill, or are new residents. For 26 years, Jr Clio Club has donated an award to deserving Onekama Consolidated School high school seniors to further their education.

If you are interested in attending a meeting or learning more about Jr Clio Club, contact Pam Richardson (President) at [pjhyry@aol.com](mailto:pjhyry@aol.com) or 313-247-1719.



### ***Garden Club***

Jan 2024

A huge thanks to Faye Backie who championed the revision of our Memorial Garden behind Farr Center. Faye secured a grant from Manistee County Community Foundation and a donation from Skip and Betsy Bergquist to fund the project. A new foundation has been lain, bricks removed, and replaced. No weeds! Here is a photo taken today (a little gray and drizzly here in Onekama). Thanks, Faye!!

The Portage Lake Association is a group of volunteers who are dedicated to making the Portage Lake area a great place in which to live, play and stay.

### PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT - 2023 PROJECTS

Data as of 10/31/2023

PROJECTS	Cost	Income Earned	Difference
Monday Concerts	\$10,349	\$7,877	-\$2,472
Donation: Park Stage	\$10,000	\$200	-\$9,800
OnekamaDays Fireworks	\$8,017	\$5,281	-\$2,736
Holiday Lights/Banners	\$5,350	\$1,395	-\$3,955
Petunia Parade	\$4,658	\$5,925	\$1,267
Scholarships & School Donations	\$3,980	\$0	-\$3,980
OnekDays Pig Out for School	\$3,424	\$5,057	\$1,633
Fall Festival	\$2,361	\$1,189	-\$1,172
Fundraisers	\$2,217	\$6,897	\$4,680
OnekDays Craft Beer	\$2,117	\$4,086	\$1,969
Newsletter	\$1,673	\$0	-\$1,673
OnekDays Car Show	\$1,189	\$4,726	\$3,537
Block Party	\$758	\$0	-\$758
Near & Farr Friends	\$508	\$377	-\$131
Volunteer Recognition	\$483	\$0	-\$483
Onekama Promotion	\$480	\$0	-\$480
Social Media	\$140	\$0	-\$140
Christmas Craft Show	\$115	\$1,065	\$950
Welcome Committee	\$72	\$0	-\$72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$57,891</b>	<b>\$44,075</b>	<b>-\$13,816</b>

### 2024 PLA BOARD MEMBERS

Roz Jaffe, President

Evie McNeil, Treasurer

Mary Jo McElroy, Seretary

Al Taylor, Past President

Jean Capper, Board Member

Susan Halloran, Board Member

Kathy Loynes, Board Member

David Maylen, Board Member

Mark Miller, Board Member

Carey Stark, Board Member

Joe Suchocki, Board Member

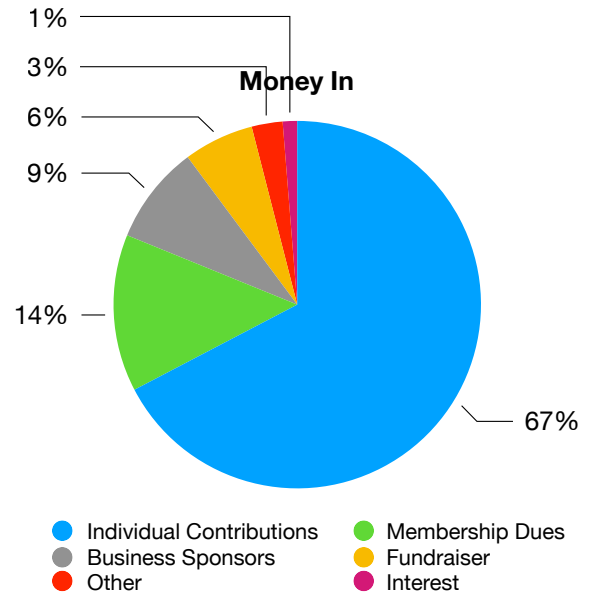
Diane Wemlinger, Board Member



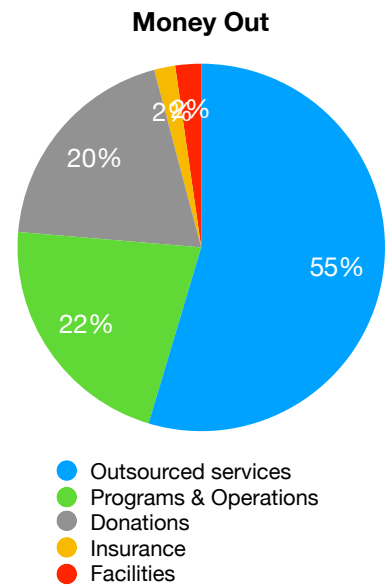
**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023 Income & Expense**

Money In	
Individual Contributions	\$34,958
Membership Dues	\$7,180
Business Sponsors	\$4,500
Fundraiser	\$3,207
Other	\$1,414
Interest	\$660
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$51,919</b>



Money Out	
Outsourced services	\$35,334
Programs & Operations	\$14,046
Donations	\$12,634
Insurance	\$1,201
Facilities	\$1,470
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$64,685</b>



<b>Income minus expenses</b>	<b>-\$12,766</b>
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**Notes:**

Data as of October 31, 2023

Outsourced services: 1099s for caterers, concerts, accounting; tech, etc.

Programs & Operations: costs not on 1099s

Donations: School & Village

To learn more about Onekama and the Portage Lake Association, visit our website [www.onekama.info](http://www.onekama.info) or our Facebook pages *1,-Onekama,Michigan* and *Onekama Community Connection*. Email us at [information@onekama.info](mailto:information@onekama.info).

### Winter Community Rec Classes are Back!

Onekama Consolidated Schools Activity Room  
Call 231-889-4251 to register and pay

**MARTIAL ARTS:** Tuesdays & Thursdays with Sifu Alan Snow -- 3:15 pm -4:15 pm  
JANUARY 16th & ENDS MARCH 7. \$50.  
WALK IN COST \$10 per SESSION  
Open to students and adults

**ZUMBA:** Tuesdays & Thursdays with Amber -- 6:45 pm -7:30 pm 20 sessions (3/4 hour long sessions) \$60 (Max 18 participants)  
WALK IN COST \$10 per SESSION

**YOGA:** Mondays ONLY with Diana -- 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm 10 hour long sessions -- \$40  
WALK IN COST \$10 per SESSION

### WALKING TRACK AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS

*Check out the walking track and fitness center at the Onekama School. Hours are:*

Monday through Friday 5AM to 8AM & 3PM to 8PM  
Saturday & Sunday 5 AM to 8AM

NOTE: Walking Track is closed during Athletic Events.

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

### MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



How should we use your donation\*: Check one:

- General Fund (best use / most needed project)
- Petunia Planting       Concerts in the Park
- Celebration of Lights     Onekama Days Fireworks

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Excess funds roll over to best use as determined by the PLA Board.*

#### MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

