



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

January, 2022
Volumn 18, No. 1

Dear Friends:

Welcome to 2022. It still feels funny to write that number. Here's to a great and uneventful year!

I'm excited to start my term as president of the Portage Lake Association.

The other PLA officers are Vice President: Nikki Schneider; Secretary: Jean Capper; Treasurer: Evie McNeil; and Past President: Al Taylor. Big thanks to outgoing officers Julie Lapinski and Kevin Wolverton for the time and energy they have given to the PLA and to the Onekama community. In addition to the officers, the Board of Directors includes Susie Halloran, David Maylen, Kyle Miller, Julie Lapinski and Frank English. We have a great team and I will try my best to ensure we have fun as we accomplish our goals.

Please contact me or any Board members with PLA ideas and comments. We are a membership organization and operate best with your involvement.

At this time, we plan to continue with the major Portage Lake Association events, including Petunia Planting, Monday Concerts in the Park, Onekama Days events including Fireworks, Craft Beer Tasting, Pig Roast, Vintage Car Show, Fall Festival, Celebration of Lights and Christmas in Onekama. Thank you to the volunteers, sponsors and attendees who made 2021 a success.

And 2021 was a strong year for the Portage Lake Association. Our recent events, Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama and Celebration of Lights were wonderful. Thanks to our chairpersons and volunteers for all your efforts!

Even with Covid challenges, PLA has a healthy balance sheet and reserved funds. As of early December 2021, we received over \$37,000 in donations from individuals and businesses, and exceeded our goal for membership dues. We appreciate our supporters, sponsors and friends and will continue to fulfill our organization's mission.

I'm looking forward to maintaining and continuing the work to keep Onekama a special and loved place. We are so lucky to be able to live and play here!

Roz Jaffe
rozjaf64@gmail.com

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

Published quarterly

January	Articles / photos due December 15
April	Articles / photos due March 15
July	Articles / photos due June 15
October	Articles / photos due September 15

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

Photos must be jpg format. Name them the same as the file they are associated with
(petunias 0320_1.jpg, petunias 0320_2.jpg. Action photos, close ups are preferable to still photos of groups)

A Person You Should Know

John Wemlinger is a retired Army colonel. He and his wife, Diane, and their border collie, Sydney, have lived in Onekama for the last 9 years. In 2017, we first introduced him as a local writer and as a person you should know when he published his first book, *Winter's Bloom*. He has written 4 more books since then. Onekama has been the setting for his third book, *Before the Snow Flies* and his most recent novel, *The Cut*, which is based on the real life events that occurred 150 years ago in Onekama when a group of 30 or so disgruntled farmers took on big lumber to save their 80 acre homesteads from annual flooding caused by a sawmill's dam over Portage Creek. The Library of Michigan has selected *The Cut* as one of only 20 books designated as a Michigan Notable Book for 2022. Congratulations, John, and keep writing.



Portage Lake Garden Club

The Portage Lake Garden Club had a very successful craft booth at the Christmas in Onekama Craft Fair. For two weeks, a dozen garden club members used a variety of live succulents, grape vines, birch logs and up-cycled household items to create wreaths and table top decorations. The booth featured two show-stopper items. The first was a 3' succulent Christmas tree created by member Terri Klifman. The second was a wooden chair that had been adapted so that live succulents grew in the seat. Garden club past President Susan Halloran created this item. Both of these items sold quickly! In addition to the succulent items, the garden club sold three sizes of premium poinsettias.



The Portage Lake Association relies on volunteers. If you are interested in learning more, contact Roz Jaffe or the head of any committee that sparks an interest!

2022 Portage Lake Association Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Heads

<u>Type</u>	<u>Title and Status</u>	<u>Name</u>
Officer	President (1 st year of 1)	Roz Jaffe rozjaf@icloud.com
Officer	Past President (no term)	Al Taylor
Officer	Vice Pres. (1 st year of 1)	Nikki Schneider
Officer	Treasurer (1 st year of 1)	Evie McNeil
Officer	Secretary (1 st year of 1)	Jean Capper jmcmom@aol.com
Board Member	1 year (in 2 nd year)	Julie Lapinski
Board Member	1 year (in 3 rd year)	Susan Halloran
Board Member	1 year (in 1 st year)	Frank English
Board Member	1 year (in 1 st year)	Kyle Miller
Board Member	1 year (in 2 nd year)	David Maylen
Committee Head	Xmas Lights and Banners CoChairs	Justin Sedelmeier and Julie Lapinski
Committee Head	Christmas in Onekama	Open Mentor: Pat Pomaranski
Committee Head	Craft Show	Open Mentor: Pat Pomaranski
Committee Head	Celebration of Lights	Beth Markowski Mentor: Pat Pomaranski
Committee Head	Chili Cook-off	Jeff Sternberger
Committee Head	Petunias CoChairs	Mary Jo McElroy and Debby Major
Committee Head	Fall Festival CoChairs	Julie Lapinski and Nikki Schneider
Committee Head	Concerts in the Park Chair	Open Mentor: Steve Szilvagy
Committee Head	Onekama Days	Al Taylor
Committee Head	Pig Out for OCS	Mary Jo McElroy and Open
Committee Head	Beer Tasting CoChairs	Evie McNeil, Roz Jaffe and Kim Lagerquist
Committee Head	Fireworks CoChairs	Paul Mueller and Kyle Miller
Committee Head	Car Show	Frank English
Committee Head	Onekama Days Craft Show	Open
Committee Head	Membership	Faye Backie
Committee Head	Written Publicity CoChair	Mary Jo McElroy and Open
Committee Head	Web Site,FB Pub CoChair	Al Taylor
Committee Head	Scholarships, School Projects	David Maylen
Committee Head	Near and Farr Friends	Mary Fairgrieve
Committee Head	Newsletter Editor	Jean Capper jmcmom@aol.com
Committee Head	Fundraising CoChairs	Al Taylor and Julie Lapinski
Committee Head	Welcome CoChairs	Julie Lapinski and Mary Jo McElroy

THANKS to MARILYN ACKER

Many thanks to Marilyn Acker, the creator and organizer of the Onekama Scarecrows. Since their inception in 2009, there have been 50+ scarecrows lining M-22 in the village every October. They face wind, rain, snow and cold autumn days to welcome guests to our community and to greet the locals every day.

You can't help to smile and appreciate these creative displays that can make your day a little better.

Here are the winners of the 2021 contest, which raised \$207 for the local food bank at Saint Joseph Church in Onekama.

First place in the general public contest - Butterfly by Evie McNeil

Second place in the general public contest - Bee Keeper by the Portage Lake Garden Club

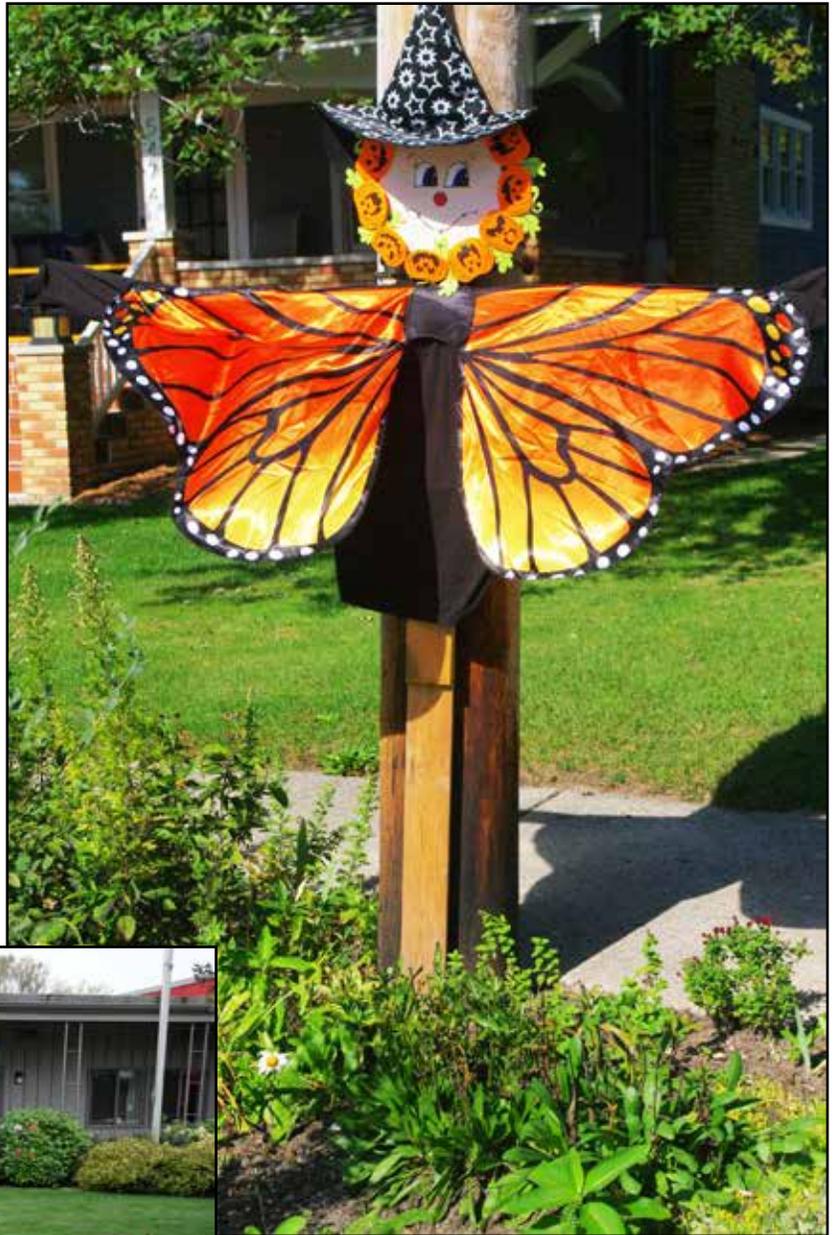
Third place in the general public contest - Onekama Fire Department

First place in the student contest - Wolf

Second place in the student contest - Mermaid

Third place in the student contest - Fork Man





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

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
Onkama, MI 49675

Onekama OneFifty Wrap-up

Onekama OneFifty thanks our entire community for commemorating Onekama's sesquicentennial. The 150th anniversary of "The Cut", the opening of Portage Lake to Lake Michigan, was a chance to remember a pivotal and unusual event in Onekama's history.

Our goals for the celebration were to increase awareness of Onekama's history; encourage use of area parks and waterways; and to provide fun and entertainment for residents and visitors.

We began 2021 with a logo design contest, won by Onekama High School student Karmen Warden. Events included the June 11th kick-off dinner in the park; publication of John Wemlinger's historical novel "The Cut"; Channel Dedication; Walking Tour brochures; History talks & presentations; Yacht Club Open House; Sunfish race and Sailing Regatta; historic childrens' games; Lumberjack Show; art & quilt auctions; and the September gala. Quite a year!

The success of Onekama OneFifty demonstrated the need and interest in our community for Onekama historical programs and events. We ended the year with a budget surplus and hope to use the balance to support future Onekama historical activities and creation of an Onekama historical group. Keep your eyes out for future updates!

We thank the following organizations, business and individuals for their generous support:

Onekama Township		Onekama Lions Club
Portage Lake Association		Manistee County Fair Board
Harbor Commission		Portage Lake Yacht Club
Manistee County Library		MacBeth & Company
Anchored Designs		Patina
Portage Point Inn		John Wemlinger
Kathy Cyr		Lara Treemore-Spears
Nikki Schneider		Andrea Bochat
Ana & Larry Paz		Alaina Trout
Judy Blackmore		David Westerfield
Michelle Ervin		Al Taylor
Roz Jaffe		Amber Ervin

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.

September 1st 2021- August 31, 2022 Board Members

President - Tara Lyman tara_lyman27@hotmail.com

Vice President - Justin Sedelmaier

Treasurer - Amy Lyman

Secretary - Amber Sedelmaier

Trustee - Norah Benson



Portage Lake Watershed Forever

Exciting news, PLWF is getting a new look. They will have a new website up and running later this year.

Save the Date: The annual fundraiser is making a come back.
Date: July 9, 2022 More details to come.

Looking for an opportunity to volunteer? PLWF is looking for people to help with the committees:

a. Education, Communication and Publicity Committee (Chair: Fran Wallace dfwalla@gmail.com) - The committee will educate the public about the value of Portage Lake and its watershed and the need for concerned stewardship, establishing and maintaining contact with local media to inform and educate the community about watershed educational programs, activities and events. Committee sponsored activities may include but is not limited to newsletters, brochures, news releases, a web site and other programs and publications as appropriate.

b. Finance and Fundraising Committee (Chair: Armin Schleiffarth aschleiffarth@gmail.com) - This committee will provide guidance to assure financial stability of the PLWF Board, assess and document the most appropriate fiscal policies and procedures, coordinate fund raising activities, with input from the Board submit grant requests, and generally promote the development of a large, involved, supportive and active donor base.

c. Water Quality and Environmental Monitoring Committee (Chair: Gene Lagerquist bobcatgene@gmail.com) - This committee will assure consistent and long-term scientific measurements of lake water, fisheries and other factors are performed to determine the overall health of Portage Lake. The committee will also identify, evaluate, and report on invasive species and sources of pollution into Portage Lake. The committee will submit regular reports of the condition of the lake to the Board and maintain a record of long term data, publishing information as appropriate.

If interested, please contact the Chair of the committee(s) you would like to volunteer for.

Near and Farr Friends

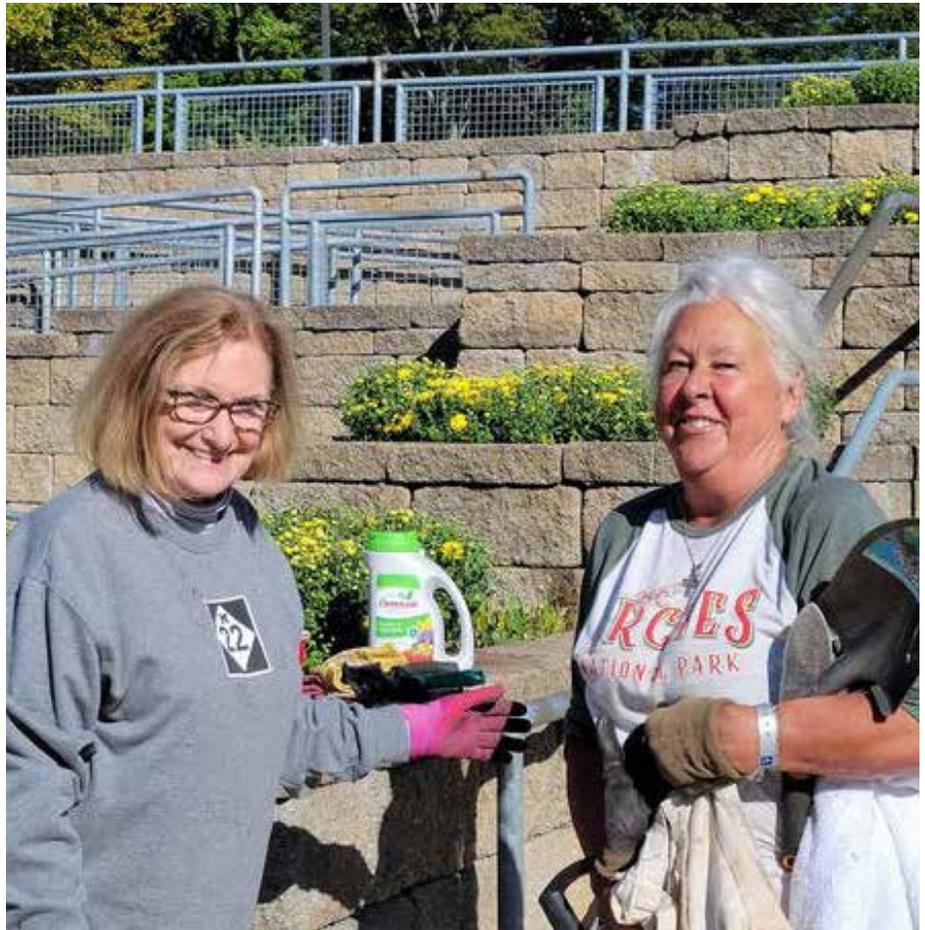
The series for 2022 will be called Ask the Pro and will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 2:30 at the Township Hall.

On January 20, Al Garbrecht will be our first speaker for his topic 'Ask the Judge'. After a brief introduction to his area of expertise, audience members will be encouraged to ask him their questions.

This monthly series of Q & A after the expert speaks will continue on February 17 with Shelli Johnson speaking on the sewer collaborative and EMS from her experience with both.

Plans are still in the works for months of March and April (with discussion of possibly continuing this summer if enough topics and speakers are available).

Well fitting masks are required and seating limited to the chairs (35) in the room at the township hall.



Thanks to Lillian Whitney, Bonnie Garbrecht, and Mary Jo McElroy who planted 38 yellow mums at Onekama Consolidated Schools. The mums were donated by Beth McCarthy. They should be spectacular for homecoming in mid-October.

Recycling in 1,

Sarah Archer, Manistee County Recycling Coordinator, gave attendees of Near and Farr Friends an update on recycling on November 18th. Several things have changed due to new technology, so read on!

The trailer is for corrugated cardboard boxes only. The sign is out-of-date, it will be updated. The Packaging Corporation of America uses the stuff in this trailer to create the inside of cardboard. Anything that isn't cardboard becomes sludge that is discarded. But the other paper items CAN be recycled – just put it in the green recycling bins. The recycling bins accept all forms of paper, including corrugated cardboard (but we encourage people to support the Onkama Consolidated Schools which gets paid by PCA for every ton of cardboard collected).

Don't put plastic bags in the recycling bins! Don't put anything in plastic (or other) bags in the bins. **NO PLASTIC BAGS!!!** Plastic bags gum up the works, BUT you CAN recycle them at Meijer (more on this later).

New technology means that everything that goes in the green bins is taken to the GFL Environmental (formerly American Waste) processing facility in Traverse City where it's sorted by material type. The facility is a sorting factory using large equipment and technology. Everything goes on a conveyor belt and people remove anything that can't be recycled first (this is why you shouldn't recycle things in plastic bags – they'll get pulled off and thrown away as is). Items are sorted as the material continues down the conveyor belt using a large magnet to pull the metal items from the conveyor, an electrical current to separate aluminum cans from the mix, and air flow to separate different types of paper.

Bay Area Recycling for Charities in Kaleva (14407 Industrial Drive) will take electronics, appliances, batteries, Styrofoam and mattresses for a fee; they also have a new thrift shop that's very nice. They have a web site, www.mybarc.org, and their phone number is (231) 882-4360.

What to recycle (or not) in Onkama/Manistee County: Keep all recycling loose – no bundling – don't put things in bags

Empty and clean items only; break down boxes

Remove metal lids from glass jars and put them separately in the recycling bins

Anything smaller than 2" in diameter may not be picked up by the machinery at the sorting facility (a tip for recycling metal beer caps is to put them into a metal can and flatten the can with caps inside)

Cardboard containers with the silver lining (called shelf stable packaging or aseptic containers) ARE acceptable for recycling

Paper milk and juice cartons are ok to recycle

Flower flats and individual plant containers can be recycled. Take hangers off hanging baskets and discard before recycling the pot. Make sure they're clean!

Rx plastic bottles are ok to recycle

These things CANNOT go in the recycling bins:

No vinyl siding

No plastic bags, hoses, foam, needles, liquids, batteries, propane tanks

Empty plastic paint cans should go in the trash – not recycling

No disposables: plastic utensils, disposal plastic plates, paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins, tissue

Meijer DOES recycle plastic bags, plastic wrapping on purchased items and bubble wrap. Collection containers are just inside the entrances.

Communicraft in Manistee (63 Clay St. – the UPS building) will take clean packing peanuts & clean bubble wrap.

Check the Waste Advisor on Manistee County website (www.manisteecountymi.gov) recycling homepage to search what to do with an item; sign up for monthly e-newsletter.

It's important to know that recycling supports 36,000 jobs in Michigan. 70-80% of recyclable materials handled by GFL Environmental are marketed in the Midwest. 99% of all things purchased are out of use within 6 months. In the U.S., 4.5 lbs. of trash is created per person per day. Only 1/10 of water bottles are recycled. Nearly 25% of what we throw away are containers and packaging that could be recycled. Even with Michigan's bottle bill, our recycling rate of less than 18% is the lowest among our neighboring Great Lakes states. The national recycling rate is 32%.

Changes are coming to recycling in Manistee County and Onkama. Beginning January 1, GFL Environmental is the new service provider and Sarah Archer is leaving to take up a new role with her other love – growing her worm farm business in Birch Run... The Onkama site may be moving to 8 Mile Rd. in the spring (if all goes well!). And Bear Lake will be participating in the PA69 Recycling program on January 1.



ONEKAMA is "GOING TO THE DOGS"

At the start of Covid, in 2020, Yellow Dog Café and Patina launched a quarantine Community Art Wall Project. Encouraging folks to create masterpieces, either with FOUND materials around their homes or items from a donate area at Patina. Art therapy helped many of us during those difficult times and made for a fun winter activity. We were delighted to see the response and the creations.

We collected and installed the ART and transformed the unsightly side of our building into a beautiful art wall. It has become a conversation piece and popular selfie spot. Seeing the wall also encouraged residents and visitors to submit their art all summer. The Garden Club even presented us with a Beautification Award.

Last year, local resident, Diane Wemlinger, brought a dog mural idea back from her winter trip to Florida. We began our search for the "right spot" to launch the project. Last fall I noticed that many of the original pieces on the current wall were looking weathered. During our Pet Photos with Santa event a lightbulb went on. Our community loves dogs, we do fundraisers for Homeward Bound and our café is called Yellow Dog...duh. Let's redo the wall with a dog theme!

Once again we are asking our community to get out their art supplies this winter and help.

Look around your house, basement or garage for something you can use for your canvas (an old board, cupboard door, screen) or visit the Patina porch after January 25th and look in the material box.

Create something that goes along with the theme i.e. a dog, bone, paw print, fire hydrant, tree

Apply several coats of outdoor polyurethane

Pieces will be collected in April and installed in early May

A opening reception fundraiser is planned for June to celebrate the wall.

Questions contact Nikki (Patina) 312-909-0115



Onekama Township Officials

Supervisor **David Meister**
 supervisor@onekamatwp.org

Clerk **Michelle (Shelli) Johnson**
 clerk@onekamatwp.org

Treasurer **Edward Bradford**
 treasurer@onekamatwp.org

Zoning Administrator
Katie Mehl
 Manistee County
 231-398-3525

Assessor **Ginny Martz**
 cwas75@yahoo.com

Planning Commission Chairman
Jim Trout
 planning@onekamatwp.org

Fire Chief **Lawrence Hrachovina**
 fire@onekamatwp.org

Trustees **Robert Blackmore**
 bblackmore@onekamatwp.org
Allen Taylor
 ataylor@onekamatwp.org

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP OFFICES

5435 Main Street, PO 458, Onekama MI 49675

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am - 2pm
 231-889-3308; FAX: (231) 889-5587

Summary of the draft Onekama Township Board Regular Meeting 12/8/21

CLERK'S REPORT: Revenue and expense report was distributed by Johnson.

TREASURER'S REPORT Cash Fund balances, Revenue and Fund Balances received from Bradford. Winter tax bills were mailed November 30th. Bradford is also working on the By-Laws for each board and commission.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER JEFF DONTZ: Dontz reported that the County Board Meeting was held November 16th. They had met with Point Broad Band and it was very productive. Verizon will be laying 200 miles of pipe on the west side of the county. Pam Evans was appointed to the Library Board. Eric Sullivan gave his annual report on the Veterans. Authentic 231 donated 30 Turkeys to the Vets. MSU Extension is moving into the Planning Department building. Child Advocacy is moving to the MSU Extension's office when they move out. The Strategic Plan #2 had changes made to it. M55 Bridge should be open by the end of the 3rd week of December. The Manistee County

Fair has changed its dates to August 16 through 20. Dontz also talked about the happenings at Oxford school. The next County Board meeting is December 21st.

NEW BUSINESS COMMITTEE FOR COOK APPEAL: Johnson, Taylor, Jim Trout, Katie Mehl were appointed to the Committee to review the packet and make a recommendation to the Township Board. Meeting on December 14th at 2:30 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WEBSITE UPDATE: The homepage and interior page design is complete. There was a meeting with the Implementation Consultant and provided them with the preliminary site menus. The site should be live within 6-10 weeks.

TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES: Values will now be assigned by the Assessor. This project has slowed down temporarily until we can get through the website redesign and chart of accounts project. We can hopefully get progress for next month.

REPORTS:

FIRE REPORT: The rear window was broken out of the engine by a branch striking it, and has been repaired and back in service. Currently looking into budget items for next year. DOT inspections were done. ISI is no longer in business, which is who we have for our air packs and bottles. Currently have responders looking into replacements and potential grants.

ROADS: Blackmore reported that Spicer has finished up the surveys and has staked out everything with flags. They are ready for posts.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Report by Chairperson Jim Trout. The Planning Commission approved a non-substantive amendment of use to the SUP request by Wayne Faber to replace a cabin at Little Eden. The Planning Commission approved an application for Tamminga. They have spoken with Township Attorney Tom Grier over this and he has prepared the Conservation Easement and recommendation of approval. Motion by Blackmore, Second by Bradford to approve the Conservation Easement for the Tamminga Property in Onekama Township.

An amendment was passed: The sidewall height to 15 ft throughout AG1, AG2, and Commercial Districts of the Township in Article 10: Section 1019 – location of Accessory Buildings and Structures, sub-section B.8. M/C Article 42: Resort Residential – RR3, Sub-section D, amending the Ordinance to allow construction of a minimum 600 sq ft dwelling on waterfront non-conforming lots of record that abuts Portage Lake, Tabled and not voted on.

There is an opening on the Planning Commission due to a term expiring. One party of interest submitted a letter, Rob Johnson. He was approved for a two year term. Zoning Administrator Katie Mehl is updating the Zoning Books and will send to Jackpine for printing. The Master

Plan is making great progress as well.

RECYCLE: Meister to get a formal purchase agreement written up (Grier has not completed yet). Township needs to get a Level I Environmental Assessment on Property.

ZONING: Covenant Bible Camp put up a new house without any permits. Should have come to Township to amend the SUP.

HARBOR COMMISSION: Report given by Jim Simons. Denny Blue and Chuck May have resigned from the commission. Ted Bromley and Bob Gezon have decided to take their spots. Agreed to purchase (2) 36 x 36 NO WAKE signs for the seawalls.

ASSESSOR: Report received from Ginny Martz. The December Board of Review is scheduled for December 14th at 9:00 am. There are currently 10 Affidavits to act on. The Inflation Rate Multiplier for 2022 is 1.033. If a 2021 taxable value was \$1000 and there were no physical changes, the 2022 taxable value would be \$1033. The Treasurer's warrant was checked on November 17th and signed on November 29th.

PARKS & REC: Letter of Resignation was accepted by Rich Lapinski. A Huge thanks to Rich for everything he has done for the committee!!! The Vice Chair is taking over until a chairperson takes over. Taylor is to meet with Lapinski to wrap things up.

PLA: Taylor reported that Kyle Miller is a new member to the group.

TLSA: The Authority met December 1st. Continue to meet monthly.

CUT 150: Things are wrapping up. There are questions on who they owe.

Summary of the Portage Lake Harbor Commission Draft Minutes 11-19-21

Frank English: No new information to report on the Great Lakes Basin Report.

Steve Brooks: Shared information he had gathered regarding No-Wake signage: The agreed sign was 18 inches by 24 inches made from aluminum with reflectorized embossing. At \$45.00 each. Steve also noted that the Coast Guard here in Manistee would not have anything to do with the signs since signage depended on the Village or Township responsibilities. The Coast Guard reminded Steve that their jurisdiction related to navigation and not signage attached to the pier heads.

Jim Simons indicated that we needed to get permission from The Corp Of Engineer's before attaching the signs.

Kevin Hughes: Contact was made with Bob Gezon and he looks forward to becoming a member of the commission pending passage from the Onekama Township. Bob indicated that during his Three- Month absence to Mexico that his business Manager; Mr. Duncan would attend meetings for him. Kevin asked if Ted Bromley was also coming on board.

Discussion followed in regard to Having the Commission meet with Portage Lake Association in the near future to look up new ways to improve the quality of life here in Onekama as we look toward the future and expansion ideas. Creative ideas were shared in acknowledging what works, in our community .

Chuck May: Gave a presentation on several harbors similar to ours and their by-laws. He gave illustrations and suggestions for the revamping of our by-laws. He had contact with Mark Breederland, of Sea Grant, and Harbor Sustainability Initiative. He suggested some restructuring of our true current mission to the Portage Lake Community. In addition to remind members of the need every Five Years to have the Channel Dredged. Chuck indicated that he would resign effective the end of January 2022.

Jim Simons: encouraged discussion in pursuing meeting with PLA about improving Portage Lake. He indicated that some payments had been received to help defray the cost of Memorial Coins. He informed the commissioners that Ted Bromley, was seriously considering joining the commission..

Next Meeting January 13th at 10:00 am Onekama Township Hall-Fire Barn.

RECYCLING: Recycling bins (cans, plastic, glass, cardboard & paper) are now in Onekama township parking lot for your convenience. Please recycle responsibly.

AUXILIARY AIDS/SERVICES: Onekama Township will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services. Onekama Township requires two weeks notice of the need for such aids.

NOTE: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Onekama Township Clerk.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Township Board Meets the second Wednesday at 4pm
Planning Commission Meets Third Thursday 7pm April through December. Zoning Board of Appeals Meets as required

BURNING PERMITS: Burning permits issued by visiting: www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits

Township residents: you are (Twp. 23 N. and Range 16 W) and your section number

Thank You

Thanks to Al Taylor, you can now 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 or after the meeting on the 1,-Onekama page and the Portage Lake Association Onekama Mi, Facebook group. Thanks, Al, for making this happen!

Village Of Onekama - Council Committees

PRESIDENT - Roger Burger

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM / Ralph Drumm

STREET ADMINISTRATOR - Ralph Drumm

STREETS

Drumm (chair), Burger and Hudson

SEWER

Burger (chair), Hudson and A. Arthur

FARR CENTER

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

PARKS

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

CEMETERY

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

PERSONNEL

Burger (chair), Drumm & A. Arthur

PARK & REC COMMITTEE/REP

A. Arthur

PLANNING COMMITTEE LIAISON

Burger

ZBA/COUNCIL LIAISON

Burger

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET

Arthur(chair) S. Halloran and Burger

VILLAGE/ ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

Ralph Drumm

Rod Hudson

Andrea Arthur

Suzanne Schwing

Wayne Miller

Susan Halloran

FIRE CHIEF

Lawrence Hrachovina

fire@onekamatwp.org

(231) 889-4240 (fire building)

SPECIAL NOTICES:

The Village Office is open by appointment only; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2. Masks are required to enter.

Temporary dwellings including trailers require a permit. Information is available in Section 1014. Temporary Dwellings of the Village Zoning Ordinance.

Village Residents, FEMA has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for your information.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Village Taxes are printed on the green paper. They are sent out on July 1st and are due by September 14th. Our office is located next to the Library which is in our building.

The sewer bills need to be paid by the last day of February every year. If not, I have to add them as a special assessment onto the summer tax for that property.

If you have any questions about your taxes or your sewer please feel free to call me at our office 231-889-3171.

VILLAGE COUNCIL GENERAL Village Council meets on the Third Wednesday 7 pm via tele-conference.

Farr Center Hall rental: please make arrangements with the clerk @ (231) 889-3171 or email: clerk@village-onekama.org.

No burning is permitted within the Village Limits – only bonfires

Feeding of waterfowl, including but not limited to ducks, geese, and swans IS NOT PERMITTED in the Village.

Land use permits may be obtained by contacting the Manistee County Planning Department.

**Summary of the Draft
VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2021**

Public Hearing-Manistee County Wide, Park & Recreation Plan

President Burger opened public hearing at 6:30 p.m. and began by asking for questions and or comments from the public. Lara Treemore Spears (member of the Plan. Comm) had a few minor suggestions that she thought would help the Village when applying for grants relating to the watershed plan, by addressing more of the overlapping goals in the watershed plan. Other suggestions from the public: designate beach swim area with buoys and installing public docks.

-COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING: Mike Szokola, planner and zoning issues person for the Village of Onekama, reported things have been quiet due to the lateness of the year but still getting questions for future projects. Was happy to hear vacancies on the ZBA were being filled and he would set up training for the new members if they wanted.

Appointment of ZBA members:

Cecelia Huebner and Randy Arthur were appointed to the ZBA. S. Schwing was removed due to her son also sitting on the board.

SEWER:

--USDA RD Sewer Funding grant work continues and irrigation has stopped for the year. Planning Commission member, Nola Teye sent e-mail asking to have her current sewer assessment re-evaluated. All council members have copy of e-mail. She was not in attendance to discuss this issue.

STREETS:

--clerk ordered sand and salt for the season.

--a small sander (mounted in the bed) has been ordered for the red truck.

--M-Dot reports have been submitted.

PARKS AND THE FARR CENTER

Parks

The Manistee County Recreation Plan was approved with the suggestions of Lara Treemore Spears be added to the goals section for the Village of Onekama, as follows:

Goal 1: Highlight, preserve and enhance the community's natural resources to glean their contributions to the environmental, social and economic well-being of Onekama.

- Continue to support Portage Lake's water quality and pollution monitoring by the Portage Lake Watershed Forever organization, Onekama Township and Onekama Consolidated Schools. •Support the enforcement of the county-wide septic system monitoring program.

- Support the extension of the sewer system into areas where septic systems are endangering the ecological quality of Portage Lake and well-being of Onekama.

- Continue to support Portage Lake's water quality and pollution monitoring by the Portage Lake Watershed Forever organization, Onekama Township and Onekama Consolidated Schools. •Support the enforcement of the county-wide septic system monitoring program. •Support the extension of the sewer system into areas where septic systems are endangering the ecological quality of Portage Lake and other bodies of water in the community. •Support educational initiatives that foster environmental stewardship, such as describing the risks that invasive species pose and best practices for their prevention, management and eradication.

- Involve community organizations in efforts to protect and enhance environmental quality, such as by identifying and controlling invasive species in and around Portage Lake.

- Support the Portage Lake Management Plan and its goals for public health, aquatic ecosystems, water-based recreation, natural resource and cultural assets, and the control of invasives both in and around Portage Lake.

- Continue to support the Portage Lake Overlay Zone in the Village Zoning Ordinance.

Goal 2: Provide opportunities for enjoying lake views, utilizing the beach and accessing Portage Lake for recreation. •Explore the possibilities of further dredging and plan a dock extension to improve shore fishing in the Onekama Village Park. •Support a campaign for legislation to provide Federal funding for dredging of the channel and for necessary pier renovations in the future. •Continue to use the donation box for use of the Village boat launch. •Preserve, enhance and promote access and use of scenic vistas.

Goal 3: Administer and publicize Onekama Village parks and recreation to the greatest benefit of the community. •Hold regularly scheduled meetings with the planning commissions of neighboring jurisdictions to develop shared visions for community recreation and to identify opportuni-

ties for collaboration and cost-sharing. •Install a large map of Onekama recreation sites at the Onekama Village Park. •Continue to budget annually for parks and recreation. •Inform donors and community members of improvements in, and the current status of, parks and recreation, particularly in instances where donated funds have been used. •Promote parks fundraising events and activities. •Continue to collaborate with other local units of government for parks and recreation planning. •Support the MRA and its ability to provide recreation lessons, events and programming. •Support the year-round presentation of concerts by local and regional artists. •In association with the Manistee Recreation Association, the Onekama Consolidated Schools, and other organizations, provide recreation programs for residents, seasonal youth and those with disabilities.

Goal 4: Improve and enhance Onekama Village's parks and recreation facilities for optimal use by residents, seasonal residents and visitors.

•Cut and replace trees as needed. •Plan for future needs and upgrades in the Onekama Village Park by garnering public input, followed by the creation of a clear implementation strategy. •Continue to mechanically groom beaches.

•Continue to maintain the Butterfly Park and other green spaces around Farr Center. •Support multi-use trail planning efforts locally and regionally. •Install directional, educational and historical signage as needed. •Support pickle ball court maintenance efforts and usage.

--Trustee Drumm (chairperson, parks committee) reported boat ramp has been repaired and will be removed soon for the season.

Township Parks & Rec report:

Trustee Arthur, (Village Rep.) reported that chairperson Rich Lipinski resigned, Township has adopted the Manistee County Wide Rec Plan and the Watershed is work on a grant for stream maintenance (by the Blue Slipper) and working to get support from the land owners for this endeavor.

Farr Center

Chairperson/Trustee Schwing purchased a Christmas tree and lamp post decoration for FC due to the fact the tree that is usually in FC from the garden club was put up in the library because lack of activity in hall, no Santa Clause(due to covid) and Christmas Village was not being put up this year. Thank-you Trustee Schwing for your generous donation. She also reported that the two shades in the hall that are broken will be replaced and some painting will be done on the walls that need it in the hall.

CEMETERY:

Flags will be removed for the season. Work continues on getting funds to take care of the trees that need to be removed. Something to discuss at budget time

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none NEW BUSINESS: none

CORRESPONDENCE: Nola Teye Beckett & Radar Networks Northwest

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marcia Rogers/Portage St alley.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS: PLA is donating \$1400. to remove and plant trees in the park.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully: Ruth Hudson

Onekama Consolidated School

Onekama, Michigan

Summary of Minutes of the November 8, 2021

PRESENTATION - Junior Student Carly Bennett informed the Board Members about the volleyball team.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received communications from the public. Questions regarding Parks & Recs and if the school could provide transportation for field trips. Website and new platform was addressed. Discussion regarding conference games schedule and the conflicts that are apparent with teams playing on the same night.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

a. First Reading NEOLA Policies: 5200, 0100, 0167.3, 3120, 6114, 6152, 7450, 8310, 8320, 8330 -- a lot of discussion regarding these policies took place, clarification was made regarding the wording in some of the policies. Additional questions can be emailed to Ms. Hagen. Ms. Hagen reiterated our relationship with NEOLA and that we hire this company to make sure our school is compliant with state and federal laws. Editing is part of NEOLA's responsibilities. All policies are vetted by an attorney prior to coming before the Board.

b. NWEA & MSTEP -- We will use MSTEP as our baseline for all student growth. Since there have been many inconsistencies due to COVID, MSTEP is our best choice for a baseline.

c. School Choice Students - Hagen gave an update on our school of choice students.

d. Legislation Topics - Discussion regarding MASB and the monthly updates they provide regarding house bills that still are initiatives. It was discussed that as a board we should be cognizant of what each bill means to our students and school: voucher system, pistol free zone, and other topics.

e. Superintendent Evaluation - questions covering the self evaluation.

Planning Commission

The Onekama Township Planning Commission is in process of updating the Onekama Township Master Plan and would like your opinions on various needs of the plan. In the past 5 years, we have surveyed the public on water quality and watershed issues, masterplan successes and shortcomings and recreation needs and desires for the township. Those surveys were used to update the Portage Lake Watershed Forever 5 year plan and the Onekama Township Parks and Recreation plan

We have another survey we would like you to participate in so we can get input on land use – zoning needs and ordinances.

If you are a full time resident, seasonal resident, renter or associated with one of the church camps in the township, please take 10-15 minutes to complete this survey

All of the surveys done over the past 5 years will then be used to assist the Planning Commission develop and update the Onekama Township master plan. If you want to see the current plan, go to <https://www.onekama.info/township> and click on Community Master Plan.

Here is the link to the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Onekama_Twp

Thank you for your help in this matter.



The Portage Lake Garden Club Christmas tree found a slightly different home this year. Traditionally it is set up in the Farr Center, but due to many factors, it was placed in the Library instead. It was a wonderful sight each time I went in to check out books.



Save the Dates for 2022 PLA Events

PLA Meetings: First Wednesday of the month from 6-7:30pm at Onekama Township Hall. No August or December meeting.

Petunia Planting: May 24, rain date May 25

PLA Fundraiser: More information to come, check out our Facebook Page

Onekama Block Party: July 7th

Concerts in the Park: June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1-Michael Trixx Magic Concert, 8, 15

Onekama Days: August 5, 6, 7, 8

Fireworks: August 6, rain date August 7

Scarecrows: October 1-31

Fall Festival: October 1

Christmas in Onekama: November 19, 20



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

