



Dear Friends ...

As we “spring forward” with the arrival of Daylight Saving Time, it’s a welcome reminder that longer days and warmer weather are just around the corner. Just like the clocks moving ahead, the Portage Lake Association is also springing forward with preparations for another wonderful season in our community.

One of the first signs of summer will soon appear in the center of Main Street as we begin planting beautiful petunias in our eight new hanging baskets and filling the seventeen planter boxes that brighten our village. These colorful displays are a small but meaningful way we welcome residents and visitors alike as the season begins.

We are also looking forward to our Hello Summer Cocktail Party on June 12th at Portage Point Resort, where we’ll gather to celebrate the start of the summer season together. It’s always a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with neighbors, meet new friends, and enjoy the special place we call home.

Of course, summer wouldn’t be complete without the Monday night Concerts in the Park, which return on June 22nd with fabulous entertainment each week throughout the summer. These evenings have become a cherished tradition—bringing our community together to relax, listen to great music, and enjoy the beauty of Portage Lake.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming months, and we are grateful for the volunteers, and supporters who make these events possible. As the days grow longer and the lake begins to sparkle again, we invite you to join us, participate, and enjoy all that our community has to offer.

Here’s to a wonderful season ahead.

Warm regards,

Cyndy Wangbichler

**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 deadline will be June 10, 2026 for the July 2026 issue.

St. Joseph Community Food Pantry

St. Joseph Parish Fellowship Hall, (Entrance located behind Church)

8380 Fifth St, P.O. Box #150

Onkama, MI 49675

Contact: Leslie Osborn, 231.864.2509 Email: foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com

There are always people in need of food, drink, clothes and kindness. On average, we serve about 100 people every month. We spend about \$1,500 a month for food and drink. Donations from parishioners, other churches, civic organizations, individuals and others fund our ministry.

Parishioners are only a portion of the 20-25 regular volunteers, many of whom have been helping for more than 10 years, and some have volunteered month after month for over 25 years. The purpose of the food pantry is to respond to families and individuals who are residents of Manistee County, are low income and in need of food assistance.

The St. Joseph Community Food Pantry, Onkama, is open the 4th Friday of each month, from 10:00 - 11:15 AM, and will be open regardless of the weather conditions.

Onkama Branch Library

5283 Main Street

Onkama, Michigan 49675

(231) 889-4041 • (231) 889-5420

Library Hours

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Monday

12:30 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Thursday

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Friday

***Please call for Curbside Hours**

Branch Manager: Heather



Join the
**Sip 'n
Stitch**

Mondays from 9am-11am at Lake & Latte's back table!

All are welcome: just bring a craft to work on, be it knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or whatever. Don't know how?
We'll have you in stitches in no time!

Be a Friend of Onkama Parks PARKS CLEAN UP

- Have fun with people who care about our parks!
- 3 sites-North Point Park, Glen Park and Langland Beach
- If you have garden tools, please bring them, we have a limited supply to share.
- Lake & Latte will treat volunteers to a coffee and a snack-
Thank you Ashley!

Saturday, May 16th, 2026
10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

SIGN UP NOW!

BY QR CODE OR ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/AJ39UVXAR5](https://forms.office.com/R/AJ39UVXAR5)



ONEKAMA VILLAGE INFORMATION

Village Council meets on the Third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm. at the Farr Center.

Village Planning Commission meets on the Second Tuesday of the month, 6 pm. at the Farr Center.

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

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Wayne Miller, president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson, clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

Nikki Jach, treasurer@villageofonekama.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Jodie Lynch, jlynch@manisteecountymi.gov
231-398-3587

Manistee County Planning Department
planning@manisteecountymi.gov

FIRE CHIEF

Rob Johnson
(231) 889-4240
(fire building)

TRUSTEES

Roger Burger
Sarah Fauble
Mickey Finan
Tom Foster
Susan Halloran
Rod Hudson

Village of Onekama News

The Village of Onekama Council has recently passed the Budget for 2026.

Council has also finalized its Master Plan for the Village with the help of CBI consultants and the Village Planning Commission and a steering committee which consisted of business owners, and community members. The Master Plan is a valuable source of information for citizens, developers, businesses, prospective residents, the Planning Commission, the Village Council, and other local boards, commissions, and agencies. It gives a clear indication of the Village's direction for the future. Thank you to all that volunteered on the steering committee and Planning Commission members that have worked the past two years on this very important document. It can be viewed on the website at onekaminfo.org.

It has been a long and snowy winter, but kudos to the village maintenance man Dave Geeting He has kept the local streets and alleys clear no matter what mother nature gave us.

Trustee Susan Halloran is now the village liaison to the township parks and recreation committee. She attends monthly meetings and updates Council at their meetings

The Village Zoning Board of Appeals has an opening. Candidate must be a resident of the Village and may submit a letter of interest to the Clerk. For more information contact President Wayne Miller.

Onekama Consolidated Schools Community Fitness & Walking Track



Walking Track and Fitness Center Hours
Year Round

Monday - Friday: 5 am - 8 am | 3 pm - 8 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 5 am - 8 pm

Note: Walking Track is closed during
Athletic Events. Applications for key cards
to the walking track and fitness center are
available in the Superintendent's Office
(Hours: Monday – Friday, 8am-3pm).



ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

Farr Office

5283 Main Street • PO Box 477
Onekama, MI 49675

Phone#: (231) 889-3171 / Fax # (231) 889-3423

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9am - 2pm





BOARD MEMBERS:

Supervisor, David Meister;
Clerk, Jennifer Smeltzer;
Treasurer, Edward Bradford;
Trustees, Matt Kieffer
 Cyndy Wangbichler

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 permit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit). 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.

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

Township News

The Township has a new website. The website offers enhanced functionality and will be easier to maintain as we move forward. Please be patient as we learn the new system and work thru the implementation punch list items.

If there is a problem with the website, or you have a question, please contact the Township and let us know so we can get it corrected.

By clicking "Website Sign In" on the MyAccount bar at the top of the screen, users may create a login for the site or use their Facebook profile to access MyAccount. Creating a MyAccount profile will allow for streamlined access to subscription management in NotifyMe, filling out of forms or other requests and more.

Notify Me allows you to subscribe to an unlimited number of email lists. Receive email or text message updates regarding the information you have requested. Check out Notify Me today!



Happy Spring to you all!

The Onkama Lions Club has had a busy start to 2026. Cornhole continues to be a huge success. It began on January 2, 2026, and ended March 13, 2026, with our famous corned beef and cabbage celebration. Thank you all who came out to support the Onkama Lions Club for the cornhole season.

The next big event for the Onkama Lions Club is our Quarter Paddle Auction. The date is Saturday, April 25th beginning at 4:00 p.m. Doors will open at 2:30. We will have food and drinks for purchase during the entire event. This is the Lions Club's biggest one-day fundraiser. All of the items in the Quarter Paddle Auction are donated by area businesses and local people who support the Lions. We could not do this event without them. We can't say thank you enough! If you would like to donate any items, please contact Kathleen Bowers at (231) 690-5790.

The Onkama Lions Club will soon be giving out two \$1,000 high school scholarships to graduating Onkama School seniors. The Lions will be having a rummage/craft sale at the Fair Pavilion over Memorial Weekend. Please watch for details.

If you are interested in reserving the pavilion for a graduation party or wedding, etc., please contact David Bowers at (231) 690-6918.

It takes many volunteers hours to do what the Onkama Lions Club provides to our community. If you love giving back to your community and are interested in becoming an Onkama Lions Club member, please reach out to any Onkama Lions Club member or call (231) 690-5790. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the summer months and on the 3rd Friday at 4:30 p.m. during the winter months at the Onkama Lions Club located at the Manistee County Fairgrounds. We would love to have you!! We serve!

The Effects of Local Planning and Zoning

Have you ever asked yourself why communities look and function the way they do? Why commercial or industrial uses might be located in one area and neighborhoods, schools and parks in another area? Where streets, sidewalks and off-road multi-use paths are located and whether or not they connect to one another? Why parking lots may be located behind or in front of a business? Why buildings may be a certain height or certain number of stories?

Who makes these decisions? The answer....a Planning Commission, in conjunction with the elected officials and you, through your commitment to participate in the public hearing process. These decisions are oftentimes guided by a Master Plan. Under Michigan law, a Master Plan is prepared by the Planning Commission to guide the form and function of the community that best reflects the priorities and values of residents and business owners. After more than a year public meetings and hard work by many volunteer individuals, the Village of Onekama adopted a new Master Plan in February 2025. The Village's Master Plan follows the adoption of Township's Master Plan in 2023.

The Master Plans for both the Village and Township include several land use recommendations involving such topics as housing, community facilities, recreation, downtown Main Street, among others. To view and download a copy of the Village and Township Master Plans, follow the links below:

Village of Onekama: <https://www.onekama.info/village>

Onekama Township: <https://www.onekamatwp.org/258/>

Planning-Commission

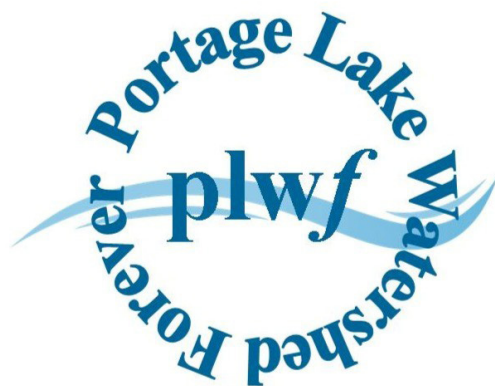
Recommendations identified in the Master Plan are then often implemented through zoning. Zoning are local laws adopted by the elected officials that regulate the use of land, structures and other site improvements.

The Planning Commission is also responsible for review of site plans and special land uses. The Commissioner members are responsible to ensure that new development fits the community's vision for a given site. Additionally, the Commission is the main forum for discussion of changes to zoning laws and zoning map. As required by law, the Planning Commission must hold a public hearing before recommending any zoning changes to the elected officials.

Both the Village of Onekama and Onekama Township have a Planning Commission. The Village of Onekama Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Farr Center, 5283 Main Street. The Onekama Township Planning Commission meets the third Thursday of every month (April through December) at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Office at 5435 Main Street.

Residents have the opportunity to improve their quality of community life by getting involved. If you're an enthusiastic resident and want to get involved by serving on the Planning Commission when vacancies occur, please contact the Village of Onekama at (231) 889-3423 if you live in the Village or the Township of Onekama at (231) 889-3308 if you live in the Township.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever



Portage Lake Watershed Forever (PLWF) is a local nonprofit dedicated to protecting the waters, wetlands, and wildlife that make the Onekama area such a special place to live, work, and play. Our work centers on caring for the Portage Lake watershed today while ensuring it stays healthy for future generations.

In 2026, PLWF is focusing on four key initiatives:

- Community Engagement – Creating opportunities for neighbors to connect, learn, and get involved through events, partnerships, and educational programs.
- Safe Turtle Crossing Initiative – Protecting native turtles by raising awareness, installing signage, and working with the community to reduce road mortality during nesting season.
- Watershed Health Monitoring – Tracking water quality and ecosystem health to better understand changes in the watershed and guide future conservation efforts.

- Cedar Grove Preserve Project – Stewarding and restoring our Cedar Grove wetland property while developing it as a place for learning, exploration, and habitat protection.

We believe caring for our watershed is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play. To learn more, follow our updates, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events, visit our website at www.portagelakewatershed.com.

WHAT IS THE PETUNIA PLAN FOR 2026?



In the January PLA Newsletter, the Petunia Parade Committee explained the community survey recommendation to transition from petunias in the ground to petunias in hanging baskets. Here is the plan for the upcoming summer.

We will place eight hanging basket “units” on the north and south sidewalks of Main Street between Mill Street and Portage Street. Each “unit”

consists of a moveable base, a ten-foot post, and two hanging rings. Here is a hand-drawn diagram of the base, pole, and rings. These are being purchased from a specialty greenhouse owner who has used them across the United States with many customers along the western side of Michigan.

Two H2O water saver containers will be placed into the rings, thus sixteen hanging baskets. They will contain an assortment of Proven Winners Supertunias in the typical Onekama colors of whitish, pinkish, and purplish. The cultivars are called Vista Fuchsia, Vista Cool Jazz, Vista Jazzberry, and Vista Silverberry if you are into botanical names. The container itself has an upper chamber for the soil and plants, while a lower reservoir holds 2.5 gallons of water to ensure adequate hydration for the flowers; wicks connect the two chambers.

Appearance Salon owner Linda English and Onekama Building Supply manager Mike Cox are donating use of their water and hoses this summer. Resident Ed Pruyne has been recruited to be the watering czar.

Here is a bird’s eye view of what this should look like.

You might ask, “What is the rationale for this plan?” We are happy you asked because there are a lot of moving parts to Main Street and the sidewalks in Onekama. The Trail Project and implementation of parts of the Onekama Village Master Plan are still under development, so it seems like a waste of money to put anything permanent like stationary posts into the ground. This solution focuses on five attributes:

- **Flexibility:** this investment now will not be wasted because these hanging basket units are moveable. They could be located at the Village Park, the event stage, or at other locations throughout the Village.



- **Familiarity:** we chose the same genus of flowers because we are familiar with petunias, although this will be a different cultivar than we have used in the past. Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses will supply the plants, and they are a trusted partner.

- **Labor Saving:** lack of committed volunteers to weed petunias has been an issue; hanging baskets eliminate the need for weeding. The watering container we have chosen has documented labor savings for watering. Check it out at this website: <https://www.h2olaborsaver.com/>

- **Buy “Local”:** the new vendor for the base, posts, hangers, and containers is a Michigan company with glowing references. We learned about them after watching an online webinar about the town of Castle Rock, Washington which has hundreds of their products in use. For more information, watch this webinar: <https://youtu.be/z5zWsvhB8Hw>

- **Adaptability:** as plans for the trail or sidewalks progress, this program can grow with it.

For more information, contact Mary Jo McElroy at maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

COZY COMMUNITY
GATHERING AT
LAKE & LATTE



STAY OFF COLD WEATHER BLUES

THURSDAY
9-11AM

4850 Main Street, Onekama

Stop by Lake & Latte for conversation, community, and support for a local business.

Everyone welcome!
No RSVP's, no commitment, stay as long or short as you like
Every Thursday they are open



The Schroeder Family

Brookfield, which included the east end of what is now Onekama, was platted in 1880 by John Schroeder, one of the Channel diggers.

John Schroeder produced brick as well as tile from local clay and was cited as being the largest shipper at this port in 1871. After the grist mill of John Schroeder had been removed from the northeast corner of Dyke and First Streets in Onekama, a lawn with a fountain eventually swept all the way from the corner to the large frame Schroeder dwelling that was owned by John's son, Adolph.

Adolph was very active in the community, he owned Schroeder's Hall which was located on the NW of 3rd Street and Main and a Confectionary store next door. (It was said that high school boys would rush to the store after school to take turns churning the ice cream in return for some free spoonfuls!)

In 1924, he purchased Maccabee Hall (Onekama Apartments) turning it into a movie theater, which also held many school and community activities. In 1926, Adolph was the Village President and was very instrumental in bringing electricity to town. In 1928, Schroeder's Hall expanded its dance space by 360 sq feet, added floor and ceiling lights and was always at a good temperature for dancing!



If you have historical information or stories about Onekama and want to share with the Onekama History Association, please contact Kathy Schimke Cyr at cyrkathy043@gmail.com or Lauralee Mathieu Ryan at lmathieu@iserv.net

CAR SHOW BACK IN AUGUST WITH NEW AWARDS

The Onekama Days Car Show in August 2025 was so much fun and worthwhile that the Portage Lake Garden Club will host it again! Last summer ninety-four car enthusiasts showed up. The top 25 exhibits received a trophy, while the Best in Show winner claimed a vintage gas pump award. Mike Lowing from Fountain, MI took Best in Show, voted by the car show entrants.

For this year's show to be held on August 8, 2026 during Onekama Days, crowd favorites of Wesco donuts, door prizes, goodie bags, 50/50 raffle, and music by DJ Eddie Reed will again be included. The biggest change will be in the Award Categories. All cars will be categorized by decade like other car shows in the area. There will also be an award category for all trucks and another for all vans. Those categories, as well as Best in Show, will be voted upon by vehicle exhibitors. Most fun, however, will be the addition of a People's Choice Award to be voted upon by non-exhibitor persons who casually visit the show.

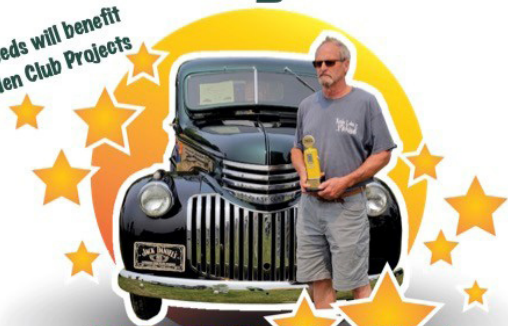
Proceeds from last year's Car Show have been set aside to start a fund for repairs to the Memorial Fountain in Onekama Village Park. Several years ago, the underground pipe sprung a leak or two which caused the fountain to be without water. An engineering firm called Chicago Fountain is now

involved in advising the Garden Club on alternative solutions, sources, and costs.

The fountain was originally one of two installed in 1887 at the Manistee County Courthouse. A fire in 1950 destroyed the courthouse and the fountain was offered to Portage Lake Garden Club and moved to Onekama. "The unique fountain features a rare merman and is the only surviving 19th century cast iron fountain in the state. In 2022, the garden club successfully had the fountain listed as both a Michigan Historic Site and in the National Register of Historic Places," reads a news release in the Manistee News Advocate.

Portage Lake Garden Club presents: **Onekama Days Car Show**

Proceeds will benefit
Garden Club Projects



2025 BEST OF SHOW WINNER

Mike Lowing with his 1946 Chevy Truck

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2026

9 AM TO 2:30 PM | ONEKAMA VILLAGE PARK

M22 & Portage Street, Onekama, MI 49675 • CAR SHOW REGISTRATION \$20

Contact: Mary Jo McElroy 616-325-1717 or maryjomcelroy@ebcglobal.net

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO TOP VEHICLES!
BEST CARS BY DECADE - BEST TRUCK - BEST VAN

⚡ DASH PLAQUES to the FIRST 75 CARS

🛍️ GOODIE BAGS

🏆 BEST OF SHOW TROPHY

🎁 LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES!

👤 PARTICIPANT JUDGED

AWARDS at 2:15 PM

👤 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD



PORTAGE LAKE GARDEN CLUB

FRIENDSHIP • SERVICE • KNOWLEDGE

Onekama Days
Aug. 6-10, '26

FOOD | PARADE
LOTS OF FUN
ACTIVITIES

Lake & Latte
Read Between the Sips
Read, Sip, and Share Book Club
Every Wednesday
9am-10:30am
4850 Main Street, Onekama
Everyone Welcome!

Old "Shay's" Restaurant Ready for a Rebirth

Everyone wants to know what is happening with the old Shay's restaurant on M-22 near Onekama Marine, so this author set out to get an answer. The oldest history I could find was from Dode VanBrocklin, local real estate agent. He recalled that the restaurant was built by a couple named Marty and Barb (??) and was called the Pirate's Den. From the archives of the Manistee News Advocate and the sleuthing of historian Mark Fedder, I found an article published about a "seafood bandit." According to the article, on March 14, 1983, "A thief with gourmet tastes ripped off a restaurant storage room and made off with a large quantity of crab legs, clams, and shrimp. The Pirate's Den in Onekama had a storage shed in the main building that was broken into, state police said. The exact amount of food taken is still being determined but police were told the amount was substantial."

Eventually the restaurant was foreclosed on by the bank, and Dode VanBrocklin was convinced to buy it. The newspaper photo taken in August 1987 (IMAGE 1) shows Dode in front of Van's Harbor Inn, a steakhouse that featured prime rib and Friday fish fry. Dode sold the business to Rick Shay in 2006, and it continued as Shay's until 2015/16. The real estate then sat on the market for a while until it was purchased by investors who eventually resold the parcel to Fritz Hartwich.

Fritz, now deceased, was one of nine siblings with strong ties to the Onekama area. Prior to his death, Fritz expressed this view. "The village really needs an-

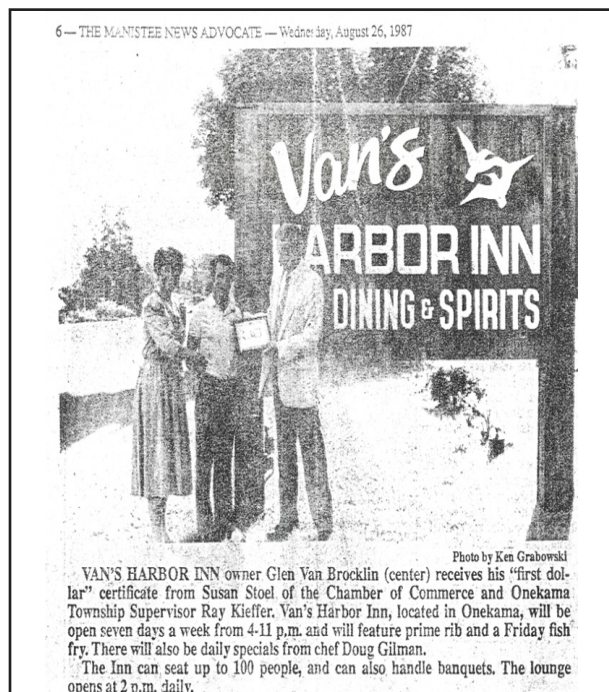
other restaurant to fill the demand especially in the summer months. The Glenwood is a great operation, but sometimes it's hard to get a reservation on short notice that is not at 4 PM or 9 PM." So, Fritz, with 55 years of experience, bought the property then contracted with Orshal Construction to renovate it to today's expectations. Unfortunately, Fritz passed away before his dream was realized.

Now to introduce new owners Korey and Alissa Pickett. With over 20 years of experience in the food and hospitality industry, they founded Swanky Fox BBQ in 2013 with a custom hand-built grill and a simple goal: serve high-quality food and bring people together. What began as weekend catering steadily grew through community support, and in 2019 they expanded with a custom-built BBQ trailer to serve fresh smoked barbecue more consistently.

This author met the Pickett's at the Artisan Market last November and they provided the following insight about their plans. "Over the years, Shay's Restaurant was mentioned to us often by family and friends in the area. Although we had initially been considering opportunities closer to our downstate home, we eventually visited the space — and immediately felt something special about it. A few weeks later, we spent a weekend at the Shay's location sharing our food and looking for that sense of connection — and the warmth we felt from the community made it clear we had found it. Before the weekend was over, we knew this was where we wanted to plant roots. Within months, we made the move to begin this new chapter."

The Pickett's are planning to open in June 2026 (see IMAGE 2), offering fresh smoked BBQ daily, with thoughtful additions to the menu over time. Their focus is simple: high-quality food, a welcoming atmosphere, and a straightforward approach that lets the food speak for itself. They plan to be open year-round, offering dine-in, takeout, and a full bar — a place where neighbors, families, and visitors can gather and feel at home.

To our readers, for ongoing intel, watch as Swanky Fox BBQ updates their website and menus closer to opening and continues sharing progress on their Facebook page.



HOW WILL YOUR BUSINESS REACH ONEKAMA RESIDENTS & VISITORS?

Portage Lake Association's (PLA) membership includes 240 households that live around Onekama full-time or seasonally. As a PLA Business Sponsor, you receive promotion of your business and logo via popular venues including our website onekama.info; Facebook pages '1, - Onekama, Michigan' and 'Onekama Community Connection'; quarterly newsletters; neighborhood flyers; ads; and email blasts.

Sponsor a popular local event such as Monday Concerts in the Park; Welcome Summer Party; Fall Festival; Christmas in Onekama Artisan Market; and Onekama Days, or community initiatives such as Main Street Petunias & Flowers, Banners & Lights; Near & Farr Friends.

BUSINESS NAME _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

- _____ \$1500 + Event Sponsor banner at event and recognition on all publicity
Business card-size ad in PLA newsletter four times per year (please supply)
Shout-outs on PLA's popular social media sites
Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info & PLA newsletters
- _____ \$1000 + Event Sponsor with recognition on all event publicity
Business card-size ad in one PLA newsletter (please supply)
Shout-outs on PLA's popular social media sites
Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info & PLA newsletters
- _____ \$500 + Event Sponsor with recognition on all event publicity
Shout-outs on PLA's popular social media sites
Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info & PLA newsletters
- _____ \$100 + Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info and PLA newsletter
- _____ \$45 + Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info

Send this form to get the process started or contact us for more information at
information@onekama.info

TO PUBLICIZE YOUR SMALL BUSINESS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

YOUR AD HERE!

**This newsletter reaches 1000 households interested in
Onekama, MI**

Business Card Size 2" x 3.5"

\$30 per issue or \$100 for 4 issues

Schedule of Publication: January, April, July, October

FOR MORE INFO: jmcmom@aol.com

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION
SINCERELY THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP**



**Reau Wealth Management
Group--Edward Jones**



WEST SHORE BANK



**LAKE MICHIGAN
YACHT SALES**



**TOWNLINE UNLIMITED
BARGAIN BARN**



Knowledge, Service, Integrity.



MACBETH & Co.

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION
SINCERELY THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP**



**SWEET
VIBES**

Treats & Eats

RON BROWN & SONS

ONEKAMA LIONS CLUB



**PORTAGE
LAKE** BIBLE
CAMP

Green Buoy Resort



Onekama Township Parks and Recreation

Get ready, get outdoors. Onekama's outdoor event season has begun. Go to OnekamaTwp.org then Parks and Recreation then EVENTS tab beginning May 1 for more information. Here's a teaser:

Fun with Flight! Guided Bird Walks are led by our local international birder, Dr. Brian Allen. North Point Park is the place. As you scout and learn about the millions of birds who migrate over our area Dr. Allen will thrill you with stories of his latest trip to bird watch in India. 4/18- 8:30AM, 4/29- 8:30AM, 5/13-8:00AM

Making a difference! Onekama Schools's sophomores and sixth graders lend a hand to nurture the little forest in North Point Park by planting native cedar trees at Northpoint. Dr. Allen will open the world of bird watching for them as a bonus. Onekama's ISD Students get to explore North Point, too.

YOUR hands are needed at the Annual Parks Clean-up. There are sticks to pick up, plants to trim, firepits to be moved, and tasks for all ages. All helpers are rewarded with a sweet treat and coffee generously donated by Lake & Latte. YUM. 5/16 -10am-1pm. Multiple parks.

Screen Free Fun! Onekama's Adventure Quest in North Point Park takes you through the story of a busy tree with active learning, reading and crafts. Great for all ages. 5/22 to 6/1 North Point Park.

Go fly a kite! When the wind blows in June, Kids and Kites Fun Day returns. The first 20 participants get a free kite. POP-UP Langland Park.

Rock On! Time to scavenge the beach at Pierport at Rock-hounding 101. Be a geology sleuth with the help of our local Rockhound, Leeann Burger. 6/19, 7/24 Pierport Beach.

Data Please! Be a part of citizen science and help discover how

our flora is affected by changing climate. There is a critical need for data; you can help at the Annual BioBlitz. No prior experience is necessary. 6/26 North Point Park

Beach Party! When the water is warm and the sun is out, Family Fun Day will return to Langland Beach. Kites, sandcastle contest, beach volleyball, nature discovery and more. POP UP Langland Beach.

Get Centered with gentle yoga on the beach. Nothing brings peace like the sound of Lake Michigan, the warmth of the sand, and yoga. Sessions July-every Monday/Friday starting 7/6. Langland Beach.

Move. Learn. Explore. Be healthy! The improved Onekama 30 Day Challenge invites the entire community and visitors to celebrate our parks and lakes. Walk, Cycle, Kayak, Sail, and Swim clinics included. 7/9 to 8/8 Multiple locations.

Mineral Springs and Incredible Things! At Adventure in Glen Park, Josh Shields and Leann Burger team up to bring you insight into the hidden gem, Glen Park. Walk with them back in time and into nature's best. 8/7 Glen Park.

Butterfly Palooza! Learn, experience, craft that celebrate our butterfly beauties. 8/7 North Point Park.

Prepare to Have Fun and Get Fit! A variety of fitness classes in the parks including Exercise with your Dog, Pilates. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning August 11. Multiple Parks

Registration is open for Guided Bird Walks and Parks Clean Up. Registration for the remaining events opens May 1. Details for more events soon: Waterside Learning, Onekama Parks Scavenger Hunt, Eldest and Youngest, Lawn Games...

Questions? 231-443-9101 Parks@OnekamaTwp.org

Save the date...

PLA 2026 Summer Cocktail Party and Silent Auction!



When: Friday, June 12th

Time: 5-8 pm

Cost is \$40 per person

Where: Portage Inn Resort

More information to come!

After seven meaningful years on Main Street, Patina will be closing its doors due to upcoming renovations to the building.

It is difficult to put into words what this chapter has meant. What began as a small retail shop became something much larger—a place of connection, conversation, creativity, and community. I have had the privilege of supporting local artists, sparking ideas around old objects, and adding beauty to our little corner of town.

To every customer, collaborator, artist, and neighbor who walked through the door, shared story, an idea or simply paused to say hello —thank you. Your presence shaped Patina as much as any item on the wall.

While this location is closing, the spirit behind it—thoughtful curation, creative expression, and community connection continues. I am deeply grateful for the years we shared and the memories that will remain.

In recent weeks, I have found myself volunteering again at the Oliver Art Center. It has reminded me that supporting the arts is not about ownership of space, but participation in it.

In April, I will be taking to the road for a cross-country camping journey into the mountains. Taking time to study landscape, light and appreciate a slower rhythm. I have learned that creativity deepens when we step outside the familiar. I want to give myself the gift of wide sky before choosing walls again.

May we carry forward the spirit of generosity, imagination, and kindness that makes this community so extraordinary.

With appreciation and anticipation,

Nikki Schneider



CLOSED

**with gratitude for
every moment shared.**



April and May Programs (all except the Forums are held at the Onekama Township Hall)

Friday April 3, 11am Speaker Karen Goodman, Manistee County Commissioner on role of the County Commission and how they can represent residents' concerns.

Friday April 10, 11am Speaker Deanna Marsh from Northern Spice on their expansion with a warehouse and updates on Downtown Development Assoc. plans as she is on the board.

Friday April 17, 11am Speaker Mark Banaszak, retired English teacher and writer for the Freshwater Express who will speak on topics of interest to all.

Friday April 24, 11am Forum on Aging Well at First Congregational Church with lunch included. End of Life decision making, care and advanced directives with Ashley Gutowski and Charone Sexton

Friday May 1, 11am Speaker John Wemlinger's new novel, Finding Innocence, deals with the reality of sexual harassment/abuse in today's military. Don't miss his dynamic presentation on this deeply troubling issue.

Friday May 8, 11am Speaker Tracy Barrilleaux will talk about end of life work with a death doula which can be done along with hospice.

No program May 15

Friday May 22, 11am Forum on Aging Well at First Congregational Church with lunch included. Jackie Reamer will speak on banking issues for seniors and safekeeping from fraud/scams.

Onekama students visit Archangel Tree Museum

By: Matthew Lonn

On February 9th, the 10th grade Biology class from Onekama High School were afforded the opportunity to visit the Archangel Tree Museum in Copemish. This field trip allows them to learn more about how local scientists are making the world a better place. This is the 4th straight year that the 10th Grade class has had the chance to visit the facility.

Archangel specializes in Champion trees - namely the largest and most robust members of a given tree species. From an environmental perspective ensuring strong members of species survive environmental challenges improves the genetic stock and their contribution to ecosystems.

Some of the students shared their thoughts on the facilities and why the field trip was a valuable one.

Camden Ickes shared, “trees are very important for the environment and your health, it can even improve your mental health.”

Kaelyn Guerne added, “My favorite part of the trip was seeing how they clone trees.”

Callie Sinke also added, “I really enjoyed learning about how big the Sequoia trees are.”

For those reasons and many more the annual field trip has developed a deeper understanding and appreciation for why it is important that we care. As Dr. Seuss is famous for writing in The Lorax, “I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.”

Giving students a voice in one of the most important topics of the 21st century is even more important now, then when those words were first written 55 years ago.



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 Parade ☐ 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.info*

Portage Lake Association
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