



Dear Onekama Friends -

What a beautiful summer we've had in Onekama! As the days start to shorten and we ease into fall, I'm hopeful this next season will be just as gorgeous as the one we're leaving behind.

I want to start by thanking everyone who came out for Onekama Days this year — it was a fantastic celebration, and by my count, we saw more people turn out than in recent years. It was wonderful seeing the beer tent fill up with neighbors and friends gathering, dancing, and enjoying the fireworks together. No one could rain on our parade figuratively... though it sure did literally! The rain kept some folks away from the parade on Sunday, but so many community members still came out to cheer and wave as the floats and participants went by. Events like this are what make our community special, and I'm grateful to everyone who helped make it happen. As always, if you have feedback on how we can make it even better next year, I'd love to hear it.

Looking ahead, planning for our Fall Festival is already well underway. Having heard about all that is scheduled, I can promise a full day of activities for the whole family.

As we look forward to all that's next for the Portage Lake Association, I want to remind everyone that our continued success depends on volunteers. Whether you're interested in joining or leading a committee, or serving on the Portage Lake Board of Directors, we would love to have you. Our mission — providing opportunities that enhance the well-being of the community as a great place to live, play, and stay — only happens because people like you step forward to help.

I'd love to hear from you anytime. Feel free to call, text or email at either 231.510.2890 or cyndyfuler918@gmail.com.

Wishing you all a beautiful fall,

Cyndy Wangbichler

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**

**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 December 20, 2026 for the January 2027 issue.

The Village of Onekama Needs Civic-minded People

Are you a civic-minded individual concerned with the well-being of the Village? Do you like to be involved with local groups, participate in elections, stay informed about local issues and help others? If you answered "yes" to most, if not all of these personal traits, the Village of Onekama would like you to consider becoming a member of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission provides community leadership on local planning and development policy and is an appointed body that advises the Village Council on planning matters. In accordance with State of Michigan Planning Enabling Act, the Planning Commission's primary responsibility is the preparation of a Master Plan. A Master Plan is a document and policy guide designed to help a community create a vision of what they want to look like in the future.

During the past year, the Village of Onekama Planning Commission has been involved in several planning-related activities including:

- Preparation and final adoption of a new Master Plan for the Village
- Review and prioritization of Master Plan implementation strategies
- Development of a short-term rental zoning ordinance
- Special use permit and site plan review for local development projects
- Zoning code amendment involving residential accessory buildings
- Development of a childcare zoning ordinance in conjunction with a Manistee County initiative
- Review of the Manistee County Parks and Recreation Plan, 5-year update.

Residents have the opportunity to make their community better by getting the right land uses in the right places. If you want to make a difference, serving on the Planning Commission is a great place to start. The decisions made by the Commission can have a direct impact on the look and feel of a community, directly affect the value of your home, what you see around your neighborhood, and the amenities available to you. It is also a way to be involved in local government without having to run for election.

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. If you're an enthusiastic resident and want to get involved by serving on the Planning Commission, please contact the Village of Onekama at (231) 889-3423.

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.

The Honorable Onekama Recycling Network Solutions

Thanks to Sherri Miller for creating a wonderful resource for Onekama Recycling. She provides almost daily updates on the condition of the Recycling center which are posted on her Facebook page and in the Onkama Community Connection Group.

Please recycle responsibly.





Portage Lake Association

ONEKAMA, Mich. – For eight Monday nights this summer, the Onekama Village Park bandshell and lawn was the place to be. The Portage Lake Association's 2026 Monday Night Concerts in the Park series was a great success thanks to the great groups that played and the hundreds who attended.

The season opened with singer-songwriter Jim Hawley, whose renditions of Elton John and Billy Joel hits set a great standard for the summer. Next, Fifth Gear turned up the energy with classic rock, pop and contemporary hits. The family-fronted Schrock Brothers brought their blend of Americana, blues, folk, jazz and roots music. Great Lakes Brass made their Concerts in the Park debut, with horn-driven jazz, pop, and Cajun favorites. Rising country star Ashley Wineland delivered powerhouse vocals and a vibrant stage presence on one of the series' most anticipated nights. Acoustic Madness wowed audiences with amazing guitar performances. Jake Slater brought out a huge crowd to hear Elvis' greatest hits. Manistee's own Roger That closed out the season with some classics from the 60s through 90s.

The concert series could not happen without the Onekama community's generous donations at each show and the support of sponsors support of sponsors Speckled Goat, Reau Wealth Management, Five Star Realty of Onekama, Full Pull Adventures, Ramsdell Center for the Arts, Hopwoods Heating and Cooling, Camp Tosebo, West Shore Bank, and Onekama Marine.

Concerts in the Park is one of several PLA community events each year, alongside Onekama Days, the Fall Festival, the Artisan Market and the Celebration of Lights. Planning for the 2027 lineup will begin this winter. Watch onekama.info and the Onekama Monday Concerts in the Park Facebook page for announcements.

See you next June at the bandshell!



Volunteers with the Portage Lake Watershed Forever, in partnership with MiCorps (Michigan Clean Water Corps) collect samples from Portage Lake from May through September.

The parameters that are measured include spring and summer phosphorus, water clarity and chlorophyll-a.

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient that fuels aquatic food webs by supporting algae and aquatic plant growth. However, excessive phosphorus can build up in lakes over time due to human activities on the shoreline and in the watershed. Humans often introduce extra phosphorus into a lake through poorly maintained septic systems, shoreline erosion, and lawn fertilizer. Other phosphorus sources come from a lake's watershed, for example, from agricultural or urban runoff.

High levels of phosphorus can cause undesirable lake conditions such as frequent algal blooms and loss of deep water oxygen.

Spring total phosphorus is used to estimate the overall amount of phosphorus in the lake. Annual spring phosphorus measurements provide the data needed to recognize positive or negative trends in water quality. Summer total phosphorus helps to understand how much phosphorus is entering the lake from its watershed (external loading) and is used to calculate a lake's trophic status - oligotrophic, mesotrophic, or eutrophic.

Transparency, also referred to as water clarity, is a measure of how far light can travel in water. Water clarity is affected by the number of suspended particles and dissolved materials in the water. A Secchi disk is a simple tool that measures water transparency/ clarity. Consistent Secchi disk measurements over time are a useful indicator of water quality changes and trends.

Chlorophyll is a measure of the amount of algae growing in your lake. Chlorophyll measurements help determine the productivity (trophic status) of your lake— oligotrophic, mesotrophic, or eutrophic. Seasonal chlorophyll measurements are the most accurate way to estimate trophic status. When collected annually, these measurements are a useful indicator of water quality changes and trends.

More information on Portage Lake (and so much more) can be found at www.micorps.net/about





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

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

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

BURNING PERMITS: Burning permits issued by website: 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 9am-2pm. 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

Onekama Branch Library

5283 Main Street
Onekama, Michigan 49675
(231) 889-4041 • (231) 889-5420

Library Hours

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Monday, Thursday, Friday
12:30 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday

***Please call for Curbside Hours**
Branch Manager: Heather



News from the Township

Onekama Township is exploring the creation of a Fire Authority with several communities including Manistee Township, Filer Charter Township, Stronach Township, and the City of Manistee. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is also expected to participate. For more information, please visit www.mrfi.info.

With the MyAccount feature, you can customize your viewing experience, sign up for notifications, and engage in information you care about. Check out Notify Me today! [Notify Me link](#)

You can register to vote at the Township Office. Voting also takes place at the Township Hall on Election Day. Please fill out an absentee voter application if you would like to vote by absentee ballot. Please make sure your address is up to date. If your mailing address is different from your home address, be sure it is on file at our office. IF YOU HAVE A P.O. Box, IT MUST BE LISTED AS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS TO RECEIVE A BALLOT!



2026 Civic Beautification Award

Wendy Rogers, owner of the Green Bouy Resort in Onekama has received the 2026 Civic Beautification Award from the Portage Lake Garden Club. The award recognizes an Onekama business or organization for its efforts to enhance the community through landscaping. This is the second time that the garden club has recognized the resort for their beautification efforts. Since first receiving the award in 2021, Wendy has continued to expand the gardens at The Green Bouy Resort, which has now become an eye-catching landmark in downtown Onekama.



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



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
231-398-3587
jlynch@manisteecountymi.gov
Manistee County Planning Department
planning@manisteecountymi.gov

TRUSTEES

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

FIRE CHIEF

Rob Johnson
(231) 889-4240

News from the Village

NOTICE: 2026 BRUSH COLLECTION - The last brush collection of the year will be October 30, 2026.

NOTICE - Village of Onekama Master Plan - In February 2026, the **Onekama Village Council adopted the Master Plan** after more than a year of gathering public input over the course of many meetings. Adoption of this important plan, which is intended to guide growth and development in the Village, couldn't have been accomplished if not for the hard work of many local residents and business owners.

NOTICE - The Village of Onekama Sewer Rate Resolution

To view more information on all 3 resolutions, go to:
www.onekama.info/village

For further assistance, please contact the Village office at 231-889-3171

Save the Date

Christmas in Onekama

Artisan and Craft Fair

Date: 11/21 and 11/22
Onekama Consolidated School
Time: 10-3

Special Event on Saturday!
Chili Cook-off from 11-3
Contact: Amber Sedelmaier
a_sedelmaier@yahoo.com





A Person You Should Know

Martha Gates-Capper has been coming to Onekama ever since 1986 when she met Cappy Capper at the Mistral North American

Windsurfing Championships in Wilmette, Illinois. At the time, Martha was living in East Lansing after graduating from Michigan State. She started windsurfing on Lake Lansing as a fun way to meet new people and enjoy sailing, a skill she learned from her dad on Lake Huron.

Soon after Martha and Cappy started dating she made her first trip to the Carriage House, the Capper Family summer place on Portage Lake. Martha promptly fell in love with the house, the guy and the lake (not necessarily in that order). Prior to retirement, the Cappers visited Onekama and the summer house on annual vacations and dreamed of living in the area year-round.

Martha and Cappy moved to Onekama full-time in 2023 after spending most of their working lives in Chicago and the Minneapolis, Minnesota area. When Martha was looking to get involved with the community and meet people she found the Portage Lake Garden Club and the Onekama Thrift Guild. She enjoys being involved in both organizations as they offer different ways to build on prior experience and volunteer. Martha was the Recording Secretary for the Garden Club from August 2024 – August 2026. In the coming year she will serve as the Vice-President for Programming and will be planning educational programs for the Garden Club in 2027.

At the Thrift Guild Store Martha enjoys working in the shop to help guests find great bargains while keeping the shop tidy, organized, and well-stocked. For the past several months Martha has been apprenticing with long-time shop Manager, Patty Suchocki, who is retiring from that role at the end of this season. Martha will be taking over the Manager job in October. She hopes to continue to motivate all the dedicated Guild volunteers so the shop is successful in the future.

During the summer Martha enjoys sailing, biking and gardening. In the winter Martha is usually on the slopes at Crystal Mountain. In addition to free skiing most days, Martha enjoys the Retired Not Tired ski group at Crystal and the adult race league.

News from Onekama Schools

PORTAGER SUMMER SPOTLIGHT: 4-H AND THE MANISTEE COUNTY FAIR

Onekama Portagers

By Mr. Zane Harding | OCS Journalism Advisor & Webmaster

The Manistee County Fair recently wrapped up, and students ranging from our lower elementary to our recent graduates were recognized for their 4-H achievement!

Beginning at the elementary level, fifth grader Bella Homan received grand champion for her market goat, and a best of breed award for her rabbits. Her little sister, second grader Leah Homan, received ribbons for cooking and crafting!

The Homan sisters weren't the only sibling pair involved and recognized for their efforts at this year's fair. Seventh grader Harper Solowiej and her older sister, junior Ellie Edmondson, both showed at the fair, as did junior Emma Bradford and her brother, seventh grader Lane Bradford.

In addition to our current students who participated in this year's 4-H competition, recent graduate David Servinski received a full article in the Manistee News Advocate highlighting his 13 years of 4-H participation!

And, of course, our superintendent, Mr. Dan Mesyar, bravely volunteered to endure the dunk tank at this year's fair!

Congratulations to our Portager 4-H competitors on another great year!



Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Summer Wrap-Up

What a fantastic summer of fun, fitness, learning, and community connection!

We kicked off the season with Dr. Brian Allen's Spring Guided Bird walks and will end with **Fall Migration Birds Walks** at Northpoint Park on October 2nd. Go to Onekamatwp.org → Departments → Parks & Recreation → Activities to register.

The 2026 Activity Lineup was stacked with engaging programs including MISD Field Trip to North Point Park, Kids Adventure Quest, Onekama Community Activities Fair, Community Kite Flying Day, Bio Blitz, Yoga on the Beach, Tai Chi, Free Styling Agility Dog Walk, Butterfly Palooza, Parks Scavenger Hunt, Adventure in Glen Park, and a memorable Family Fun Day at the beach.



The Community engaged for the Onekama 30-Day Challenge with more than 90 people pledging to get outside and stay active, while five Challenge Clinics introduced participants to walking, kayaking, cycling, open-water swimming, and balance & agility.

This year, Onekama's Eldest Citizen was Audrey Kline born August 3, 1928, Audrey has called Onekama home since 1950 and raised six children here. This

year marks her third consecutive year as Onekama's Eldest Citizen. Congratulations, Audrey!

Onekama's Youngest Citizen: Ella Rose Marti. Born May 22, 2025, Ella is the fifth generation of her family to call Onekama home. She follows her brother, Easton Marti, who was recognized as Onekama's Youngest Citizen in 2023. Welcome to the tradition, Ella!

While summer is winding down, we're already planning for next year, and we'd love your help.

Could you see yourself as part of the fun?



Whether you'd like to help at events, share ideas, or support recreation programs, even a few hours can make a difference.

Learn more and get involved at: www.onekamatwp.org/366/Get-Involved

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, instructed, sponsored, and support our programs this summer.

You helped make it a season to remember, and we can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together next year!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Ervin, Programming Director
Onekama Township Parks and Recreation
(231) 443-9101*





Friday, September 11, 11am at the Onekama Township Hall, speaker Valerie Gerhart will explain her involvement with the Dolly Parton Reading program, Imagination Library, that provides free books to children.

Friday, September 18, 11am at the Onekama Township Hall, the author of This Magnetic North, Tim Mulherin will speak about his interviews with many residents in northwest Michigan about the impact the pandemic, climate change and tourism made in their town. These candid conversations are a wakeup call to decide what we want to prioritize here.

Friday, September 25, from 11am - 1pm includes lunch and speaker Terri Winegarden about elder law. Her topics include medicaid, estate, probate, special needs planning and many more. Bring your questions and concerns to First Congregational UCC of Onekama. Open to all at no charge.

Friday, October 9, 11am at the Onekama Township Hall we will hear an update from Dan Meshar, superintendent of the Onekama Consolidated Schools on recent construction and other changes at the school.

Friday, October 16, 11am at the Onekama Township Hall we will hear from the Fire Chiefs of Manistee and Onekama about the Regional Fire Initiative. Read more at mrfi.info and come to hear answers to your questions.

Friday, October 23 from 11am to 1pm includes lunch and speaker Suzanne Long, accountant, who will inform us on managing finances as we age including insurance, investments, taxes, funeral planning, end of life wishes, and websites to know and use. Meet at First Congregational UCC of Onekama. Open to all at no charge.

Friday October 30, 11am at Onekama Township Hall we will have Grace Patzer, Public Health nurse, provide a Narcan training. This nasal spray can save a life from an opiod overdose. Learn more about the signs of overdose and how to administer Narcan.

Everyone can learn to help save a life at this program.

November 6, 11am at Onekama Township Hall will feature Larry Furlow sharing what is involved in showing purebred dogs at shows and competitions. He and his wife have dogs that have won multiple ribbons at shows.

November 13, 11am at Onekama Township Hall we will have Deanna Marsh from Northern Spice Company back to talk about some good spices to have for Thanksgiving, and Holiday cooking and baking in December.

Near & Farr Friends is a program of the Portage Lake Association. The Aging Well in Onekama Forums funded by Genesis Fund of the United Church of Christ, Michigan Conference UCC and the United Northern Association of the Michigan Conference UCC.



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).*

Car Show Fun Takes Us Closer To Repairing the Memorial Fountain

One hundred eight (a 35-year record!) car enthusiasts showed up on August 8 to show off their vehicles at the Onekama Days Car Show. Hosted by the Portage Lake Garden Club, members served as registrars, 50/50 raffle ticket sellers, assistants for selection of door prizes, and distributors of coffee and Wesco donuts to participants. Club President Pam Tompke served as Master of Ceremonies to acknowledge the generous sponsors and donors for the event and to announce the winners. This year used a different category for awards: by the decade. Participants voted for their faves from the thirties and older, the forties, fifties, sixties, etc. Those winners received a trophy, while the Best in Show winner claimed a vintage gas pump award. Fred Schultz from Manistee took Best in Show, voted by the car show entrants, in addition to best from the forties. New in 2026 was the People's Choice Award, voted by any person not



Fred Schultz from Manistee with his 1940 Willys coupe



Doug Hodges from Grayling with his 1933 Dodge Mini Semi

exhibiting a vehicle. The winner was Doug Hodges from Grayling with his 1938 Dodge Mini Semi. This was also the first time that an electric car won a trophy. That prize was taken home by local resident Michel Noury for his 2026 Cadillac Lyriq.

Proceeds from the Car Show have been added to the fund for plumbing repairs underneath 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. The project also includes media blasting and powder coating the cast iron surface of the fountain to prevent further deterioration of the metal.

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.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ONEKAMA FALL FESTIVAL



**FAMILY FUN, FOOD, GAMES,
HAYRIDES AND MUCH MORE!**

**SATURDAY OCT 3, 2026
FROM 10 AM to 3 PM
Onekama Village Park**



The Glen House Hotel and Glen Springs

Last time, we told the story of the Glenwood Resort. Now to take a step back further in time, the Glen House Hotel once stood east of the current day Glenwood. In 1880 A.W. Farr and his company, Onekama Lumber Company began to develop the property into a summer resort. Construction first began with a water bottling plant near the medicinal springs known as Glen Springs. Then construction on a large hotel began, with The Glen House opening in May 1886. This grand building could accommodate up to 100 guests and had water from the springs piped to the hotel and bath house. The Glen Cottage, which was next door, housed the help.

The Glen House was destroyed by fire in 1892 and never rebuilt. The waters of Glen Springs continued to be bottled and shipped out though business was not very prosperous. The property was still used as

a summer resort: a “tent city” was set up during the summer. Four-room tents could be rented for \$25 per month and included full use of the springs, playgrounds and baths. There were also two nearby cottages for those who wanted more substantial accommodations. Tenters who preferred not to cookout could have meals at nearby Glen Cottage for 35 cents per meal.

In 1914 the springs returned to the Farr family. The area around the springs was platted with the name “Glen Park” in 1916.

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



Changes for Petunias in 2027

If you live around or visited Onekama this past summer, we hope you loved the hanging baskets of petunias in our “downtown” area. Sixteen baskets of Supertunia Vista petunias in white, pink, and magenta



Hanging baskets of petunias in July 2026 near the Thrift Store.

hues hung on the north and south sides of Main Street between Mill and Portage Streets. They were in special containers which have a reservoir for 2.5 gallons of water in the bottom. This year's display was an intentionally

transitional solution to work out the bugs of new equipment, new supplies, and new processes. Pros and cons of this approach were evaluated during three general community meetings held on July 23.

So how about 2027? The first change is that the name Petunia Parade will be retired and replaced with the words **Onekama Blooms**. This more adequately represents the combination of hanging baskets and large planters throughout the Village. The second change involves the proposed addition of twenty-

five hanging baskets on shepherd's hooks along Main Street. They will look like the image below of hanging baskets in Charlevoix.

This approach was endorsed by the Portage Lake Association at its board meeting on September 2.

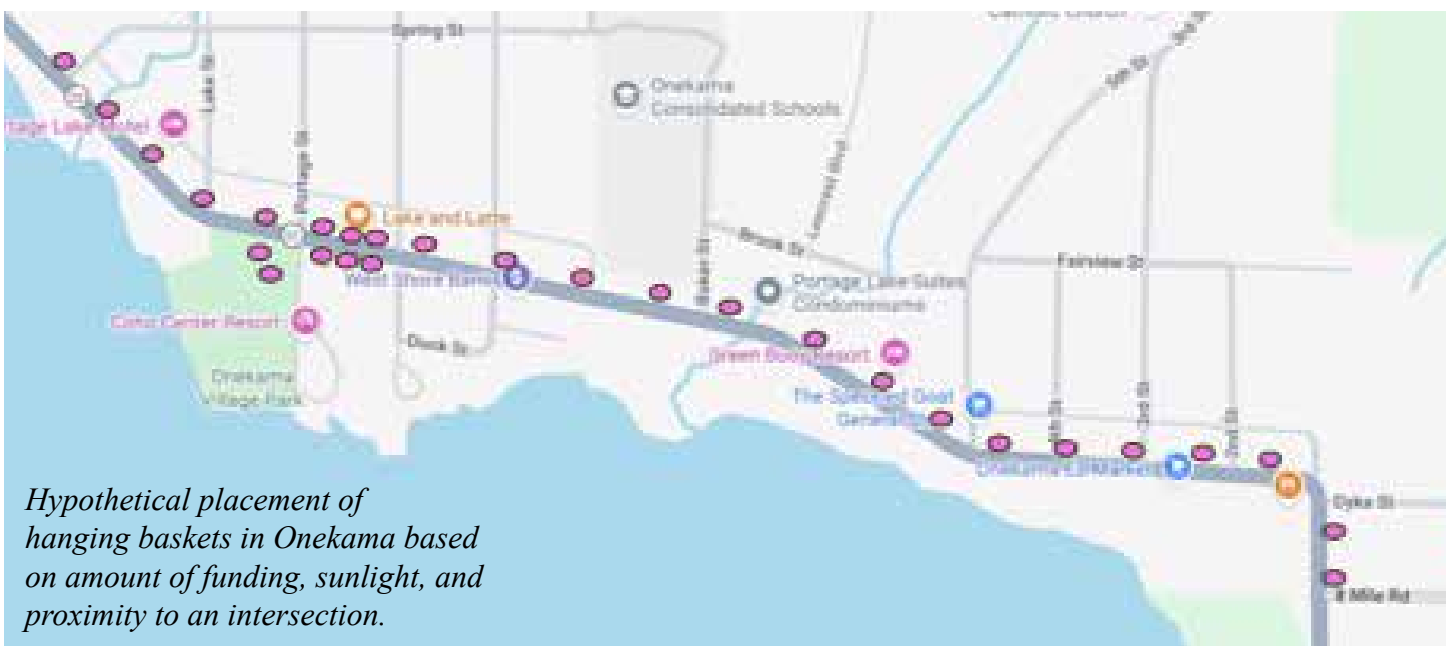
Below is a sketch of what the new configuration might look like.

Many details still need to be worked out such as compatibility with Onekama Walks project; ability to insert sleeves into the prior petunia plots; finding a watering solution; and getting funding.

One idea is to ask businesses, organizations, families, and individuals to sponsor a hanging basket on a shepherd's hook. *If you are interested in sponsoring something like this, feel free to let us know.* We are also in need of a few committee members who could help with publicity, fertilizing, and pruning the blossoms. Mary Jo McElroy (maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net) is “retiring” after leading the initiative for eight years; Cindy Pons (cbpons@comcast.net) will be taking over as Chairperson for Onekama Blooms in 2027.



Hanging basket of petunias in Charlevoix, MI.



Hypothetical placement of hanging baskets in Onekama based on amount of funding, sunlight, and proximity to an intersection.

From the Onekama Guild Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop has had a spectacular season! New and returning customers constantly share their enthusiasm for “thrifting” with us. Many claim that we have the nicest, cleanest, most organized thrift shop in the area! Makes us ever so proud!

We ran a special during Onekama Days. On Saturday, August 9, in addition to one of our famous bag sales, we were promoting all our proceeds from that day would be dedicated to the Music Department at Onekama Schools. We are pleased to announce that we collected \$700 for the day! Debby Major was happy to present the check to Joanie Pointer, the music director.

Our season comes to a close, Saturday, October 3. But, please watch FB and especially our FB page (Onekama Guild Thrift Shop) as we are planning to have a special Christmas sale later in October or early November. It might include a bag sale with special discounts on other items. The Christmas sale will be possible this year, thanks to the installation of the mini-split by Lakeshore Mechanical—we will have heat so you can shop in comfort!!

Once our store is closed at the end of the year, we will then know how much money we can give to the charities throughout Manistee County (over 20, at last count). This will be announced on FB and hopefully, in the next newsletter.



Our amazing volunteers keep the store looking tip-top. Every week we work in the back room sorting and hanging new donation arrivals. Also, our window decorators follow the seasons with amazing décor. If it were not for the commitment and efforts of our volunteers, we would not be able to maintain the great reputation we have garnered! If, or when, you stop in the store, please let them know what a great job they are doing!

And, keep your donations coming! You may bring them in on the days we are open (Thursdays and Fridays, 10 to 4, Saturdays 10 to 1). We are always grateful for the clean, gently used items that come to us.

This year we were able to thank our volunteers with a beautiful luncheon at the Bluffs South Course. It seems so little for what they do for the Thrift Shop!

Have a great fall season and stop in to “fall” into thrifting!

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS Saturday, November 21

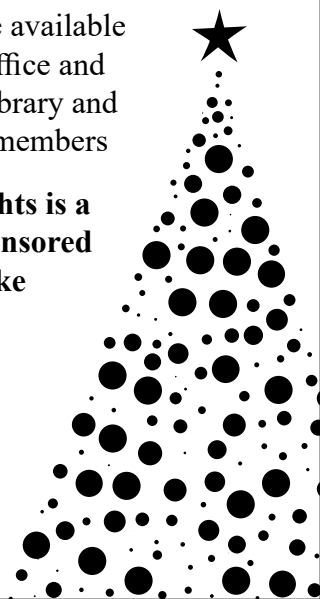
- Social Hour - 5:00 pm inside the Farr Center, Onekama
- Enjoy treats & holiday music
- Holiday Tree Lighting & Recitation of Names - 6:00 pm outside

All residents & guests of the Onekama area are welcome!

- Donate towards a tree light:
Great gift idea for hard-to-buy-for friends & family! Recognize a favorite teacher! Honor the memory of a loved one! Recipient's name will be read aloud at the tree lighting ceremony!
- Donation envelopes are available at the Onekama Post Office and the Onekama Public Library and will be mailed to PLA members

The Celebration of Lights is a fundraising project sponsored by the Portage Lake Association

We thank you for your support!



Onekama Days Recap!



The craft show was a success with so many vendors!



The PLA beer tent was full! So many people!



Volunteers working hard at the PLA Beer Tent.



Everyone enjoyed dancing and socializing the night away until fireworks.



The Onekama Football and Cheer teams hosted a successful BBQ Dinner.



Fireworks were a hit! Thank you to the PLA for letting us host such a great community event!

THANK YOU PLA SPONSORS

Reau Wealth Management – Edward Jones

Honor & Onekama Building Supply

Full Pull Adventures

Five Star Realty

Onekama Marine

West Shore Bank

Townline Unlimited

MacBeth & Co

Hopwoods Heating & Cooling

Camp Tosebo

Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts

Little Eden Camp

Anchored Design

Boyer Agency

Kendra Thompson

Little River Casino

Van Brocklin Real Estate

Portage Lake Bible Camp

Lake & Latte

The Glenwood

Linke's Body Shop

John Wemlinger-Author

Sandpiper III Charters

Ron Brown & Sons



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

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
 P.O. Box 493
 Onekama, MI 49675