



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015

VOLUME 11, NO.

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR OCTOBER 2015

Fall is finally making its way to Onekama. Apples, pumpkins, gourds, squashes, potatoes and even tomatoes are being harvested and you will find them at the many roadside stands in the area. The trees are starting to show color and it promises to be a spectacular autumn color display. Most of our summer residents have left, and soon the snow birds will be making their way south for the winter. It won't be too long before we can walk on water and the snow will cover everything in the area.

The summer of 2015 was a great one for Onekama. Three new businesses opened and had a successful summer. There was great community support for our local businesses with all of them reporting increased traffic and sales. The Portage Point Inn continues to formulate their master plan for making the Inn a true destination location in Northwest Michigan. The PLA also enjoyed community support for our petunia program, our annual fundraiser, the Monday Night Concerts in the Park, our third annual Beer and Ale Tasting, our Fourth Annual Pig Out for Scholarships and Onekama Days. Despite three of our Monday Night Concerts being impacted with rain, we had a record season for attendance. The PLA has joined the Onekama Lions and other community groups to revitalize Onekama Days and bring new attractions to that event and to spread the activities throughout Onekama. That effort will continue in 2016. We also increased our efforts at regional promotion through our 1,-Onekama, Michigan and Portage Lake Association Face Book pages.

While summer is our busy season, we still have events and activities for the remainder of the year. Fall Festival was on October 10th and we are already seeing the famous Scarecrows of Onekama lining the streets. Christmas in Onekama will take place November 21st with the Celebration of Lights, an arts and craft show, chili cook-off and other events. The lighting of the Village Holiday Lights and displays will be done that evening. Plans are also being made for Winterfest, which will be in mid-February. The Concert Committee is starting their search for the 2016 lineup, and the fund raising committee is starting to plan for the next June Fundraiser event. A new slate of officers and Board of Directors will be presented to the PLA membership in mid-October. We are working with the school to restart the volunteer work at the Onekama Consolidated School this fall as well.

There are some exciting happening in the township. Langland Park (aka the Point or the Turnaround) will be seeing some changes including a restroom, universal access to the beach and improved viewing areas. We are actively working on getting a universally accessible kayak launch on Portage Lake and the township has commissioned a study for a lake wide sewer system and we should be hearing more about that in the coming month or so. You will find information on the community web site as it becomes available.

All of our activities and events take volunteers to make them successful. We have roles for folks that only have a couple of hours to spare as well as roles that involve coordinating our big events. Please consider giving some of your time to the community. If you are interested in a volunteer role, please let me know by email at windsongmi@aol.com.

Don't forget to check out what is happening with the local fishing as well as what events are happening locally and regionally by going to www.onekama.info and selecting the fishing reports, local events or regional events tabs. The

fishing reports come from the Michigan DNR and the Manistee County Sports Fishing Association. The Regional Events tab will take you from Ludington to Cadillac and up to Traverse City and most places in between.

This is my last president's letter for the Portage Lake Association. I have served four consecutive terms as President and it is time to move aside. I feel privileged to have served the PLA and the community in that role and have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with the PLA. I will continue to serve in the role of past president and as a member, and will continue to develop promotion of the community. I will also work hard to assist the new PLA President in any way that I can to continue to help the PLA make the Onekama area a great place to live, play and stay in.

ONEKAMA EVENTS

Late September 'til Halloween

Enjoy the many delightful creative scarecrows as you drive through Onekama on M-22. Stop and take some pictures and enjoy the shops and the Village.

November 21 Christmas in Onekama

*Onekama Consolidated
School Cafetorium*

**SEE BACK PAGE
FOR DETAILS!!**



Have a great autumn and enjoy Onekama and the surrounding areas.

Hope to see you at our events!

Al Taylor

Follow us on Facebook at
1, - Onekama, Michigan

Highlights from the Village Of Onekama Council Meeting August 19, 2015

ZONING:

The ZA will be attending MTA training in Cadillac on August 25, 2015. The ZBA will be conducting their annual meeting on Sept 9, 2015. **Planning Commission**/report As reported in the July minutes, the next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be Sept. 9, 2015.

SEWER:

President Burger reported that the demolition of the 11mile Rd. house is complete. Clerk and Treasurer are waiting for an invoice from the contractor. The DEQ (Janice Heuer) will be in town on Wednesday for our yearly inspection of the sewer system. Work will continue in the fall with regard to bringing the smoke test properties into compliance.

STREETS:

--President Burger reported that the paving of second street and the inter section of 3rd & 5th have been completed. A stone rake has been purchased for the tractor to help with the grooming of the beach area in the village park

PARKS-FARR CENTER

--The FC gutter repair project is complete.
 --Two of the four cedar trees that abut Zosel Park are dead and will be addressed in the fall
 --No response from the Engineers with regard to the repair of the Jetty as reported in the July 2015 minutes. President Burger will make contact with Wade Trim regarding what needs to be done to fix this problem.
 --Onekama Days was a success. All enjoyed having the beer tent and dance in the Village Park. The Lions would like to see the teen dance also in the village park in 2016.
 --The council will investigate the cost of putting a hand railing on one end of the concrete steps in the park.

EXPLORE THE SHORES-park upgrade

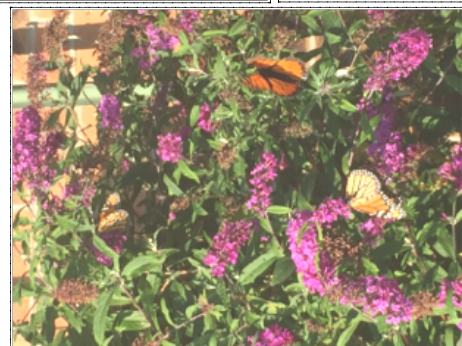
--final invoice has been received from the contractor and has been paid. Now waiting for a final invoice from Beckett & Radar. Coordinating with the DNR to set up time for the ribbon cutting ceremony to high light the completion of this phase of the project.

Miss Dig

Village is now a member and in compliance. Maintenance person Gronostalski has been busy marking the sewer and storm drain locations throughout the village as part of our responsibility.

PORTAGE LAKE GARDEN CLUB

Check out the butterfly garden located behind the library! Thanks to the members of the PLGC for all their hardwork keeping the village gardens beautiful.



NEWS FROM ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP

Onekama Township government office building and fire department have a new look!

The new look includes landscaping, irrigation system, new exterior signage and bulletin board, exterior painting, installation of a memorial and flags. Interior lighting and emergency power to the building is updated, an energy-efficient heating system is installed in the fire hall and township hall. The former furnace room has been remodeled into a kitchenette. A new telephone system is installed and the digital storage of records has begun.

Funds for the remodeling projects came from a designated Building Fund.

Road work has been ongoing and with the completion of Erdman Road, the road fund will be depleted.

A kayak launch installation is being considered at the DNR site (Andy's Point).

The Lighthouse Dedication was conducted July 5 at the DNR site.

Helen Mathieu, Clerk Onekama Township

The Lookout Shoppe will be missed!

After 8 years in business, the store will be closed at the end of October. Everything must go and bargains of up to 90% are available. Bring cash or check



Patty says thanks for your patronage for all of these years.



Note from the editor:

Have an idea for future newsletters? Pictures? Comments? Suggestions? contact Jean Capper at planewsed@gmail.com. On a personal note-one of the reasons I love Onekama so much is the sense of community. When our nephew's dog got loose, our neighbors all jumped in to search for him and happily, the Bromleys found him and brought him home. Thanks to all who helped.

Portage Point Inn



Welcome to the historic Portage Point Inn! Please follow us on our journey to revive the Portage Point Inn, and bring it into the 21st century.

The Portage Lake Garden Club had their end of the year meeting and social event at the Portage Point Inn-what a lovely venue! The ladies brought either appetizers or desserts depending on where in the alphabet their last names fell. A good time was had by all.

BUILDING IN ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP? HERE IS WHAT YOU MAY NEED

To determine which applications you need, contact the Zoning Administrator or Township staff at:
5435 Main St., Onekama, MI 49675
Phone: 231-889-3308 -- Fax: 231-889-5587.
Applications are available in the township hall or online at www.Onekama.Info

CONSTRUCTING ANYTHING ON YOUR PROPERTY

including houses, garages, lakefront structures, accessory buildings, additions/remodels, decks, docks, fences, signs -- *all* may require one or more of the following permits:

- Federal Corps of Engineers** permits are required if the site involves filling, dredging, shoreline alteration, temporary or permanent dock construction or moorings on navigable waters of Great Lakes and waters connected to Great Lakes.
Contact Jeff Fritsma (616) 842-5510 (x-25525).
- MI Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) - Inland Lakes and Streams and/or Great Lakes Submerged Shorelands Permit** if building permanent docks, moorings, beach grooming, fill or dredging.
Contact Barry Peterman (231)-876-4442.
- MDEQ - Wetlands Permit** is required if the property is within 500 feet of a lake or stream. Note: Wetlands do not always appear wet. To determine if the property is in a wetland contact the township Zoning Administrator or
Contact Barry Peterman (231)-876-4442.
- MDEQ - Critical Dune Permit or High Risk Erosion Permits** are required if the property is in a state designated Dune or High Risk Erosion areas. Note: Critical dunes exist well inland from lakefront. To determine if the property is in a CDA or HREA contact the township Zoning Administrator or
Contact Susan Conradson (231) 876-4443.
- MDEQ - Pollution Prevention Plans, Air Quality Control, Water Quality Control, Ground Water Discharge Permits** if project involves clean or polluted discharge into air, water or ground-water (excluding septic tanks with volume under 10,000 gal/day).
Contact Air: (231) 876-4415; Water: (231)-876-4471.
- Township - Land Use Permit** from Onekama Township Zoning Administrator (ZA). If permit is not needed, ZA will issue written statement. (Note: A State Building Permit may not be issued without a Land Use Permit and the Land Use Permit may not be issued without all other applicable Federal, State and County permits on file at the township).
Contact Zoning Administrator: (231)-889-3308.
- Township - Michigan Land Division Control Act** requires Township approval for combining or splitting land parcels.
Contact David Meister: (231) 889-3308.
- Manistee County - Road Commission Permit** from the Manistee County Road Commission if building a driveway or private road that intersects a county road, or for construction of anything in the road right-of-way.
Contact Mark Sohldan (231) 889-0000.
- County - Soil Erosion Permit** from the Manistee County Soil Erosion District Office if project involves moving more than an acre of soil or any soil within 500 feet of a lake, stream or creek or a permit waiver.
Contact Murray Stall: (231) 723-6041.
- County - Conservation District Permit** from Manistee County Conservation District if the project requires tree removal and a Soil Erosion Permit (above).
Contact Jay Raupp (231) 889-4761.
- County - Septic Permit** from Manistee County Health Department or letter indicating permit is not required.
Contact Frank Palatka: (231) 723-3595.
- County - Address Permit** is required for any building in which people live or work. May also be issued for structures if requested. (Zoning and Health permits needed first and if unnecessary, Health Department and Zoning Administrator must sign off. Vacant land is not given an address.
Contact Rob Carson (231) 723-6041.
- State - Construction Code Permit** for any construction, remodeling or additions. All above applicable permits need to be provided to the State Building Inspector before the building permit can be issued.
Contact Chuck Erikson: (231) 564-2200.
- State - Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Permits.** Permit applications are available at the township hall or from the State Building Inspector if required.
Contact (517) 241-0313.
- State - Michigan Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Construction Permits and Highway Advertising Permits** are required for any signs, banners, driveways or private road construction off state roadways (M-22).
Contact (231) 775-3486 (x-321 or 322) or (800) 943-6368.

Onekama National Honor Society

by Emma Putney

Onekama National Honor Society plans to be busy this year. We are excited to announce our largest group in many years. We have nine seniors and sixteen juniors which adds up to 25 members! Our officers have been working hard this fall to organize our upcoming events and make sure that all members, new and old, have a chance to participate in these events.

National Honor Society's first upcoming event is the blood drive that takes place at Onekama a few times a year. It will be held in our older gym from 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. on October 30th. All of our members will be participating in this event by making sure the blood drive staff is able to set up correctly. Our members will be sitting at a table with donators and making sure they drink water and eat snacks after donating. I encourage everyone to attend; it's for a wonderful cause and saves many lives.

Our next event coming up is the Pennies for Patients campaign and takes place November 9th-19th. Pennies for Patients is a campaign where each class collects spare change and supports The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to benefit blood cancer research. It is fun, competitive, and for a great cause so bring in all your spare change you have lying around your car or house! Every penny makes a difference.

NHS's third event is something we do every year called Christmas in Onekama. The event lasts from around 9 A.M.-3 P.M. on November 21st. We will be helping the crafters bring their supplies in and helping them get situated. Many of us will also be participating in making bird feeders as well.



Homecoming 2015

by Alyssan Clarke

As the summer comes to an end, it becomes a busy time of year for students at Onekama Consolidated Schools. With the first month of school under their belt they kick off the new month with their school's Homecoming!

This years Homecoming theme is Mythology. Each class chose a type of Mythology and will build the floats around that type. The themes are as follows: Freshman-Atlantis, Sophomores-Roman, Juniors-Egyptian, and Seniors-Greek. Each class receives one week to complete their floats for the parade. The parade is being held October 9th at 5:00, with the beginning of the parade starting at Papa J's and ending in the school parking lot. Immediately following the parade will be the tailgate. With the help of local businesses and the High School Student Council we are able to make the Tailgate possible.

The Varsity Football game will be played on October 9th against local rivals the Brethren Bobcats. The game is to begin at 7:00. The class representatives will be announced at half-time of the game, along with the King and Queen candidates. This years representatives from the Freshman class are Cadence Miller and James Sturgeon, Sophomore reps are Zoe Morley and Jeremiah Torrey, Junior reps are McKayla Haske and Joseph McCarthy. The King and Queen Candidates from the senior class are Jon Acton, Caleb Wisniski, Jarrett Bradford, Alyssan Clarke, Kendra Curtice, and Emma Putney.

As the time of year for Homecoming rolls around you can't forget the activities that go on in the school for Spirit Week. The students in the school compete for the "Spirit O" whichever class can get the most participants for each day by the end of the week wins. The dress up days for the MS/HS are: Monday-Anything Denim, Tuesday-Tourist Day, Wednesday-Wacky Wednesday, Thursday-Toga Thursday, Friday-Blue and Gold Day. Spirit Week begins on Monday October 2nd and ends Friday October 9th. Concluding the end of the week on Friday students will take part in the pep-assembly held by the Onekama Cheer Leaders. The Homecoming Dance will be held Saturday October 10th.

Highlights from the ONEKAMA VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2015

Kayak Launch—Taylor reported on the **latest information about building a kayak launch at the M-DNR Launch Site**. He said that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources does not want the kayak launch to interfere with the Launch Site it is operating for other pleasure craft. Taylor handed out a site plan showing the Launch Site and how handicapped parking would have to be arranged for the kayak launch to be built. The location of the kayak launch is shown as being on the right of the M- DNR Launch Site while facing toward Portage Lake. The next step would be to explore funding for the kayak launch. The launch itself, which is mounted on a boat dock, costs around \$45,000. Application could be made for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to fund this project. There are other agencies from which funds might also be obtained.

Langland Park Project—Taylor continued his presentation by **reporting on the Langland Park Project**. The MNRTF grant for the Langland Park project is \$261,000.00, which is to be matched by \$87,000.00 in local funds, for a project total of \$348,000.00. The project, which is to improve universal access to the beach and build restrooms that are handicapped accessible, will also provide observation areas in the existing gazebo complex and a new gazebo to be built at the northwest corner of the parking lot. Mobi mats will be placed on the walk to the beach, and a well will be drilled for water with which to wash the sand off.

Onekama Consolidated Schools—Hughes began the report for the Onekama Consolidated Schools. The **current enrollment is 429 students**. **Football games have been well attended**, especially since Onekama has a winning team. There has been overflow parking in the surrounding neighborhoods. **Maintenance of buildings, equipment, and grounds is still an issue** without the funds that would have been provided by the millage that was defeated. **An increase in test scores of students is always a goal to be met.**

Leann Burger said that the Community classes will begin September 28. There will be a Yoga class added as well as a Saturday Karate class, for which ten participants already have enrolled.

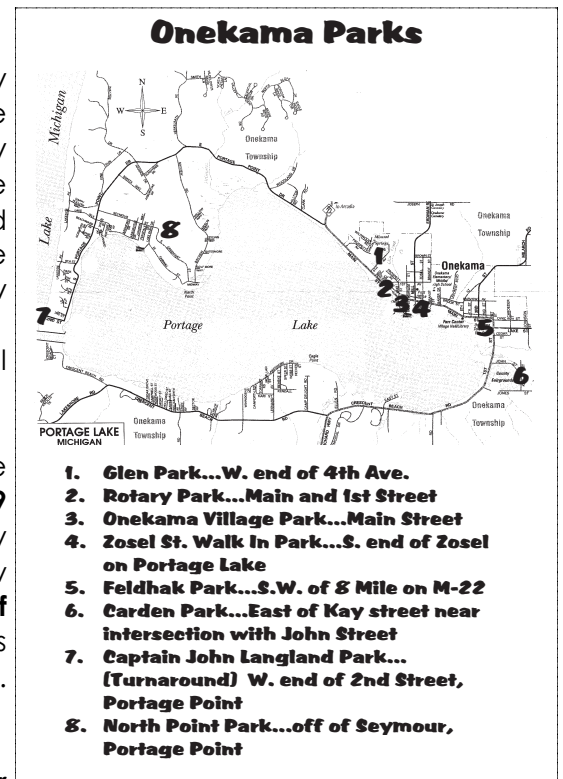
Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported that the Portage Lake Watershed Forever made the September 1 deadline for the application for the grant that would **provide funds to review the current Watershed Plan**. A new Plan will run through 2028. If funds are not received, the group will evaluate the Plan themselves.

Portage Lake Association—Reed reminded the Committee that **the Portage Lake Association Fall Festival is October 10**. The **scarecrows for this are to be in place on October 2**. Franklin said that the **petunias are to be removed by Wednesday, September 23**; this work can be started on September 22.

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for September 17, 2015, adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall

For a complete copy of the minutes, visit

<http://www.onekama.info/township/township-links/parks-recreation-and-harbor-commission-info/>



Highlights from the PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION

September 24, 2015

Simons reported that the Phagmites & Purple Loose Strife are being treated at this time.

Simons reported that he had contacted the DNR district office in Cadillac, District Health Department and the Waterways Development Program Manager for the DNR about erecting a fish cleaning station at the DNR site on Portage Lake. There doesn't seem to be any money for maintenance of the facility; there would have to be a lease agreement with the DNR; a special septic tank cleaner from Muskegon would have to be utilized; and special liability insurance would have to be in effect.

Burger reported that all the physical work, at the village park, has been completed and that the paperwork has to be completed with the DNR. He also reported that their Jetty at the village park is being undermined and that it will require some sand fill and repacking. There is one more street within the village to be repaired this year.

Denny reported on the Water Strategy Meeting, which will be 30 year deal, which will indicate how we manage our water resources to their fullest extent. The Water Strategy bill should be on the Governor's desk by the end of the year and will be administered by a state agency. Blue also said that we should relook at our "Area Inventory" and try to improve on it and also that the Village and Township need to work together on these improvements.

May said that he and Mrozinski attended a meeting with Stabenow in Traverse City and that he met with her Legislative Director and suggested an aside of \$20 million per year be created for the Great Lakes for dredging and repairs. The Director suggested that the American Sportfishing Association might work with the GLSHC to do this. The director was to contact the Association and have them contact Chuck but to date that hasn't happened. May reported that the "Water Wise Meeting" that was set up by the Watershed Committee was attended very well and that a lot of letters from attendees were sent to our Senators and Legislators.

Jim will check with Steve Brooks to see what he learned from Luedtke Engineering about existing plans for our channel infrastructure repair. The Village, Township, and Manistee County have passed resolutions supporting the repair of our channel walls. Also Senator Booher is presenting a resolution to the "2015 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus" this weekend for their approval. Jim also said that the Great Lakes Cruising Guide has an article about Portage Lake in this months issue and will get a copy and give to the village. Two (2) "Watch Your Wake" signs have been erected.....one at Langland Park and the other in the Village Park.

English reported that there have been 2 new invasive species identified recently in the Great Lakes and that also there appears to be an Asian Carp found in Lake Erie..

Next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2015. For complete minutes visit:

<http://www.onekama.info/harbor-commission-information/>

Onekama Days 5k Results 2015

Female 5k Walk

Overall Champion: Allison Stapleton-age 17-done in 42:20

Male 5k Walk

Overall Champion: Phil Sedlar-age 68-done in 37:04

Female 5k Run

Overall Champion: Jeannie Sullivan-age 34-done in 22:07

Masters Champion: Kim Poma-age 43-done in 22:07

Male 5k Run

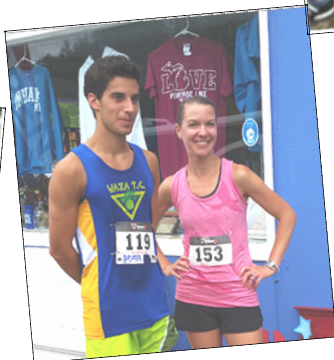
Overall Champion: Cameron Misko-age 18-done in 16:47

Masters Champion: Frank DeBonis-age 44-done in 18:06

For all the winners, visit

<http://ocs.manistee.org/sports-15-16/race-results>

Photos provided by
Tracy Bennett and David Misko
Jeannie Sullivan and Cameron Misko,

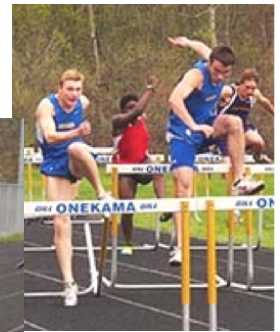




Onekama Athletic Boosters

The Onekama Athletic Boosters invites you to join their number.

Onekama Athletic Boosters
5016 Main Street
Onekama, MI 49675
E-Mail: oab@manistee.org



2015 PLWF Council

Chair — Mary Reed
Vice Chair — Vacant
Treasurer — Frank English
Secretary — Kathy Ervin
Dan Behring
Bee Capper
Gail Drake
Alice Hendricks
Herb Lenon
Jamie Meister
Jim Mrozinski
Jim Simons
Susan Spencer
Al Taylor

Portage Lake Watershed Forever

Invasive Species Update

It was a busy summer and, as of the end of this month, our Lake Manager reported that the zones that were treated look very good. Mid-month the Wetlands and Wildlife survey was conducted along with the final water quality testing. The final report will be completed at the end of the year. Meanwhile, lots of purple loosestrife was found on Portage (as on many other lakes this summer) and a couple of small patches of phragmites were noted and still need treatment.

DANGER: PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

How can this seemingly harmless plant with pretty purple flowers be dangerous?

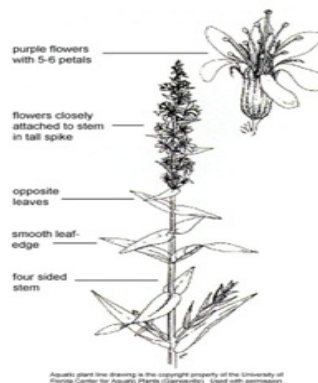
Purple loosestrife's beauty is deceptive. It is an aggressive, non-native flowering plant that is now destroying wetlands and fields across the country.

Destroys wildlife habitat Once it spreads to a new area, purple loosestrife quickly takes over wetlands, crowding out native plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife and destroying fish spawning grounds.

Interferes with recreation Purple loosestrife literally clogs ponds and rivers. Activities around water diminish. Communities which depend on local tourism and recreation can lose precious revenue.

The most effective time to take action is before the plant goes to seed.

Cut flower spikes before they develop seeds. Dispose of seed heads in plastic bags. A mature plant can produce over 2.5 million seeds annually.



Dig the plant from the ground but take care to remove the entire root system as pieces of root will sprout new plants.

Chemical treatment is used when the stands of purple loosestrife are too large for manual control.

Biological controls are now being used in this country to fight purple loosestrife.

Five insect species which feed exclusively on purple loosestrife in Europe have been approved for use as biocontrol agents in North America.

For more information, go to <http://www.misegrant.umich.edu/>

NOTE: There is not a more committed group of volunteers working anywhere on the planet than those on the Onekama Township/Watershed Invasive Species Committee. To wit: Mary Reed, Herb Lenon, Dan Behring, Jim Simons and Chuck Reed. Thank them when you see them.



OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

planewsed@gmail.com, Newsletter Editor

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POSTAL PATRON



Let's get into the Holiday Spirit!!

Mark your calendars for

"Christmas in Onkama" on Nov 21, 2015

The **craft show** and bake sale will be from 10-3pm in the Onkama Consolidated Schools gym. Many local artists and crafters will display their wares. Get a jump start on your holiday gift shopping with one of a kind gifts!

Chili cook off will run from 11-2pm in the Onkama school cafeteria. Let's taste and vote for the honor of the best chili! Proceeds from this event will go to the National Honor Society and Onkama student council.

Onkama Originals - "live trees will be in hibernation for a year" but we will have a few beautifully decorated Christmas trees for silent auction, plus Holiday Poinsettias for purchase. You can start your holiday decorating early!

LIVE Music and Dinner at M-22 Grill from 3:30pm-5:30pm. Enjoy a home cooked meal before the lighting of the tree, and a first, live music during dinner! See John at M-22 Grill for your reservation.

Celebration of Lights

Come view the miniature Christmas Village set up by Frank English at Farr Center. The reading of the names will take place at **6pm**, followed by the lighting of the blue spruce. The church of the Brethren choir will be resting their voices this year, so there will not be any caroling afterwards. Come to dinner at M-22 Grill for your live music this year!

More up to date information at
www.Onkama.info
as the date grows closer!

*Come start your
Holiday Celebrations
with us!*

