

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015 VOLUME 11, NO. 3

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR JULY 2015

Warmer weather is finally making its way to Onekama. The asparagus was delicious and the strawberries are big, juicy and sweet!

PLA members have been busy with the Petunia planting, and planning the 19th Annual Fundraiser. The petunias are even more spectacular this year, the fundraiser promises to be a great success. We are again offering the PLA Shoreline Savings Coupon Book with over \$1200 for the bargain price of \$10. There are coupons to regional golf courses and restaurants. Books will be given to fundraiser attendees, and can be purchased from the PLA by calling Barb at 231-889-4281 ext. 2.

"Concerts in the Park" begins on June 29, 2015 with one of our favorites "Madcat Midnight Blues Journey". The concerts are in the Onekama Village Park, starting at 7:00 and are free. Bring your friends, children and have an enjoyable evening. July 6th presents "Cool Lemon" a big band sound from the Midland area and July 13th brings back a favorite, "Gratitude Steel Drum Band". A special group that we are looking forward to is the "Accidentals", who are traveling across the county and amazing audiences. Look for the rest of the schedule in this newsletter.

The Onekama Days 2015 Schedule will be out soon. Last year's event drew big crowds as more items were added to the schedule and this year, there are even more events. Mark your calendars for August 7, 8 and 9.

Some of the new events are helicopter rides over Portage Lake and Lake Michigan, a Cousin Curtiss Concert after the beer tasting and pig roast on Friday night, sanctioned stock car races at the Fairgrounds on Saturday Night (tentative), Saturday night dance in the Village Park with a bar, shuffle board tournament at Portage Point Inn and the Scottville Clown Band in the Parade and in Concert at the Fairgrounds after the parade.

The Portage Lake Association is meeting with Ludington Beverage in a couple of weeks to select the Michigan Craft Beers for the 3rd Annual Craft Beer Tasting which will be on August 7th from 3-7pm at the Manistee County Fairgrounds.

Do you have a favorite Michigan craft beer we should consider? We can't make any promises about a particular beer, but we can promise you will have a great selection of beers to choose from. You will get up to 8 different 4 oz. selections and an Onekama Two Lake Town Pilsner Glass

Lake Michigan Levels continue to climb. Currently, they are a foot above levels from the end of May, 2014 and they are projected to rise another 6 inches over the summer. Lake Michigan is 6" over its normal 50 year average level. However, we have been used to low water levels for the past 15 years. We have also been used to a lot of beach along Lake Michigan, and some areas have seen significant reduction in beach size. These are normal cycles for the Great Lakes

Check out what is happening with the local fishing and other local events by visiting www.onekama.info and selecting from the many tabs available.

We are in the process of nominating members for our Portage Lake Association Board and are looking for residents that are interested in our organization and to be part of a group of people who like to give back to the wonderful community that we live in. If you would like more info and are interested in what we do contact: Margaret Punches at mpunches@charter.net.

We are starting the planning process for the Fall Festival and Christmas in Onekama. Any help you might want to give would be greatly appreciated. Contact Al Taylor at windsongmi@aol.com.



Township News

Recycling bins are in the Onekama Township parking lot.

Please recycle responsibly so we can keep this valuable service.

Township Board meets first Tuesday of the month at 9 am

Planning Commission meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals Meets as required.

Burning Permits are available by visiting www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits

Address: 5435 Main St.

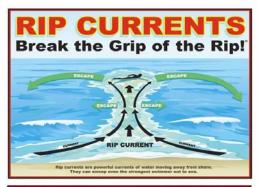
P.o. Box 458, Onekama, MI 49675

Hours of operation:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

9am-2pm

Phone: 231 889-3308



IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- Don't fight the current
- Swim out of the current, then to shore
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ♦ Know how to swim
- Never swim alone
- ♦ If in doubt, don't go out



Village News

VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA COUNCIL meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. at the Farr Center. Minutes for each meeting can be found at www.onekama.info.

BRUSH PICKUP: Within the Village limits, brush pickup is scheduled for the last Saturday of each month from April through October. Specifically, April 25, 2015, May 30, 2015, June 27, 2015, July 25, 2015, August 29, 2015, September 26, 2015, and October 31, Biodegradable bags must be used for lawn and garden debris. Brush is considered to be branches

smaller than 3" in diameter, small limbs, and bush and shrub trimmings. Brush must not be contaminated with metal, glass, chemicals, or other household trash. Brush is not old trees, old cedars, or old arborvitae. The Clerk and the Treasurer are available Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9-2. Land use permits may be obtained by contacting Village Zoning Administrator. Hours are Wednesday 9-2.

Onekama Graduation 2015

Onekama Consolidated Schools graduated thirty-nine students on Sunday, May 31st. In celebration of the day, students watched a slideshow, the salutatorian and valedictorian spoke and the band played. The slideshow consisted of pictures from elementary, middle and high school. Salutatorian, Janique Berard spoke about how little by little over the years each and every one of them has been taught to perform tasks that have made them successful. Graduation is just another one of those tasks and now each student will be able to create the person they want to be. Valedictorian, Louise Barnard spoke about the fear of graduation but assured the class that they do in fact have all the tools necessary for success. The band played a musical interlude and Tucker Laws ended song he wrote called "Through the Looking Glass".





Girls on the Run Color Run May 16, 2015

Last weekend I ran in the Color Run. I got there at 8:30 am. I was scared that I wasn't going to finish all three miles.

It was a long time before I finished. I got a lot of colors thrown on me. I got mostly covered in orange. I went through all the powder paint. I finished in 30 minutes which surprised me. Then at the end everyone got some powder paint

to throw. I had so much fun. It was so awesome. ~Breanna

May 16 2015 there was a color run. It was amazing. At the end everyone got a little packet and threw paint at each other. Paint was everywhere! It was way fun. It took a lot of showers to get all

the paint out. The meddles were cool. They had the GOTR colors. I hope they do it next year. ~Elizabeth

On the day of Girls On The Run I was so happy and scared that I was going to be the last one running, but I wasn't. There were a lot of girls and their family. When saw all the paint it look like I was in a rainbow place, but I wasn't. At the end of the race I saw my family there watching me. I so happy. ~Perla

It was fun. We got a lot of paint on us and we had a before and after picture. It was the best race I ever ran in the world. It was the best and at the end we got are paint and we all threw it up and there was so much color and then Mrs. Brown gave are Award and that was the part because Mrs. Brown gave me a hug. It was the best. ~Madison H.



READY, SET, RUN!

Onekama girls (pictured above), coached by Bonnie Brown and Chelle Hrachovina, participated in the Girls on the Run Event in Manistee on May 17, 2015.

OCS 1:1 Technology Initiative - One School Year Later

The 1:1 technology initiative is nearing the end of the first year at OCS. The Board of Education at Onekama elected to spend their technology dollars differently last year. Faced with having to replace aging computers for students, the board chose to go forward with a device for each child (1:1 concept). Previously, students were taken to one of four computer labs or, in some cases, had classroom sets of devices in particular rooms. This technology was shared and not always accessible to all students. The new concept allows every student equal access to technology tools, not only in school but expanding the use of technology to home, thus leveling the technology playing field.

Elementary students (K-5th) were each assigned an iPad and, depending on grade and age, were allowed to take them home monthly, weekly, or on a daily basis. Middle School/ High School students were assigned a MacBook Air Laptop and were encouraged to take it home daily throughout the year to complete assignments and enhance their studies at home.

Currently, the school is in the process of evaluating students, parents, and staff concerning the 1:1 initiative. Surveys are being sent out to each group to help provide information in order to make the effort by the school more beneficial. One of the things most apparent right from the beginning was the need to enhance the school's wireless network. A complete revamping and replacement of the network will be finished prior to the beginning of the next school year funded by monies from the Manistee Intermediate School District. Additional funding has been applied for thru the Universal Service Fund, a federal program to help schools and libraries.

Many teachers and students have remarked how positive their experiences have been so far. We are now assessing whether our students being more engaged and on task can be attributed to having the 1:1 concept at OCS. The surveys will pinpoint strengths and weaknesses in the program. As with all new programs, we have learned a great deal about training, deploying, supporting, and providing technology solutions for the entire school community.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever

"If you don't know where you're going, you might not get there."

With Yogi Berra's pithy observations in mind, the Portage Lake Watershed Council convened a while ago to

2015 PLWF Council

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

take an in-depth look at where we've been, where we are going and to determine if we are living up to the goals of the Watershed Plan.

The list of accomplishments we identified gave all of us the sense that we aren't just treading water. Highlights included controlling invasive species (phragmites and Eurasian water milfoil): purchase of the wetlands at the east end of Portage Lake; con-

tinual lake monitoring to keep a sharp eye on water quality thanks to funds generated by the establishment of the Special Assessment District; education efforts; tributary and stream monitoring; and the Explore the Shores initiative.

We also resolved to tackle several goals this year:

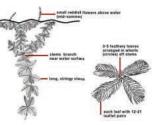
- · Increase membership & community engagement
- · Explore further wetland acquisition
- Build relationships with partners
- Continue improving our website
- · Schedule focused education seminars

We urge you to join us. The PLWF Council meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Farr Center in Onekama. Sometimes we have cookies. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

DNR EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approved 20 projects statewide to the tune of more than \$4 million dollars to fight invasive species. Portage Lake will be one of 12 lakes involved as part of a \$330,000 grant awarded to Michigan Tech University and Professional Lake Management to test Eurasian water mil-

foil and hybrid water milfoil to find out how best to control these invasives. You



will see additional surveying being done on the lake this summer by our lake management company who participated in drafting this grant application. Go to the DNR website for more details.

PLWF HIRES SUMMER HELP . . .

Although we think we can do it all, we can't. Honest. That is why the Watershed Council proceeded this summer to hire a person for 20 hours a week through Labor Day to help organize our mailing lists, keep our website current, schedule meetings, update PLWF records, and perform "other duties as assigned". We found a perfect match in Jennifer Scholl, a senior at Grand Valley State University majoring in Environmental Science with a focus on Watershed Management. Plus she's a whiz on the computer and knows all about social media. Yahoo.

The Portage Lake Watershed Forever Council provides support to the Portage Lake Association for the publication of this newsletter.

WHAT: Portage Lake Watershed Forever Annual Fundraiser

WHERE: The Lawn at Portage Point Inn

WHEN: Saturday, July 25, 2015

To support the implementation of the Portage Lake

Watershed Forever Plan

WHO: Everyone (but you in particular)

COST: \$60/eac

WHY:

OTHER: Live Au

Live Auction of Artisan Handcrafted Benches created by a motley collection of gifted artists and friends who have an abiding love for Portage Lake, Onekama, and the watershed.

OHS Students Represented

Portage Lake Watershed Forever council welcomed *Bradei Hagen*, an Onekama School junior, to represent area youth on the council. Braden wrapped up his tenure with a prese tation to Onekama's third graders about how their daily activities impact our lakes and streams. Braden's schedule next year means we will have to find another student to tak his seat at the table. If you know of someone who would be interested, please let us know!

"ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN"

Those clever grates that we barely even notice are part of a system designed to *drain* excess rain and ground water from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs. Unfortunately, they are also the conduit for all kinds of pollutants that contaminate our lakes and streams. Partnering with the Portage Lake Garden Club, PLWF will be labeling storm drains this summer to draw our attention to where they are and to remind us that these workhorses aren't to be used as convenient dumping grounds for stuff we shouldn't even *think* about putting in the water. Contact Bee Capper, Jeneanne Fitzgerald or Mary Reed if you want to lend a hand.

FROM THE FIELD ...

PLWF Chair Mary Reed participated on the "Restoring Native Ecosystems" panel at the Stewardship Network 2015 Annual Meeting at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing ear-

lier this year. The panel, made up of grassroots and professional individuals from all corners of Michigan, shared success stories about eradicating the invasive, non-native plant, Phragmites, from their community's wetlands, shorelines and roadways. Attendees were particularly impressed with Mary's report about

the progress made in our watershed. The bottom line: reclaiming wetlands from Phragmites and other invasive plants - one property and one area at a time - has enormous positive impacts on both human and natural communities.

Tuesdays With Water

Our well-reviewed educational sessions will continue this summer with special emphasis on Wetlands (in late June) and Shoreline Landscaping practices (early August). They again will be held at the Farr Center from 5:00 until 7:00.p.m. Dates to be announced.

Could Portage Lake Be Home To A Loc Ness Monster?*



Several years ago, the PLWF purchased a program to map the bottom of the lake in an effort to understand what lies beneath the surface and how it changes as result of environmental impacts. The program is called ciBioBase. It is a platform that bridges the gap between the power of on-board marine electronics and the power of the web. It collects GPS data that is uploaded to servers and emerges as online charts and graphs. Chuck Reed is the resident expert on the system and has done extensive mapping of Portage Lake to supplement our lake manager's findings. If you would like to learn more and help with lake surveying during the summer and possibly discover a monster of the deep - Chuck would welcome your involvement. He can be reached at 231-889-3781.

CrowdHydrology in Onekama

You can help scientists track and understand the flow of water in a broad region through a project called *CrowdHydrology* by using social media to monitor stream water levels. In Onekama, five streams have been included in the research. All you have to do is look around for a ruler mounted in the water, read the measurement on the ruler at the water's surface, and text that number and the site number to 616-951-3218. Your measurement is used to create a historical record of the stream and may help to predict floods and droughts.



This appeared in 2013 but I hear that tics are even worse this year resulting in more cases of Lyme Disease being diagnosed.

TICK ALERT:

Over 20 known species of tics are in MI. If you find a tic on your body, pull it straight out with fine tipped tweezers and put it in a tight lidded container- it must be alive for testing. Take it to the Health Dept. at 385 3rd St. in Manistee. The state lab in Lansing will test it for species identification and disease. This lab work is done at no charge for MI residents.

Onekama Building Supply (the hardware store) carries Permethrin, which can be sprayed on a set of clothing and will keep tics away for up to 6 washings. Besides our backyards and gardens, tics are often found on beach grass where they find plenty of folks to land upon in the busy summer months. Check yourself and family members daily after being outside this summer.

SPRING SPORTS COME TO AN END

Onekama High School athletes had a wonderful end to the spring sports season.

The softball team won in a sweep against the Bobcats for the WMDL title. With this win, the team final record was 27-6. This means the program had the most wins of its history and completed a perfect 12-0 West Michigan League season.

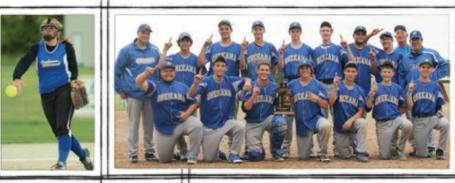
The baseball team also had a great end to their season. The Portagers toped the Bobcats for the district title in a game on May 29. It came down to the wire, but the Portagers were able to pull through. Then on June 2, the baseball team split

with the Bobcats for the WMD title. This is the third straight conference title for the Portagers.

The Onekama/Bear Lake Co-Op Track Teams took 1st and 2nd at Regionals in Brethren on May 16. The girls took the meet with 141.5 points and the boys took second with

80 points. Alycia Peterson, Meredith Hengy, Kassidy Ward, Alyson Fink, Grace

Huges, Emily Belinsky, Ashley Elo, Elizabeth Belinsky, McKaya Groenwald, Keena Gilbert, and Katie Millard will all be traveling to state to represent the Portagers. For the boys' team, Michael Belinksy, Gary McBride, Jordan Coe, Jordan Anderson, Lane Lee, and Jeremiah Torrey will be traveling to state on May 30.







Portage Lake Scholarship Committee Selects Recipients

The Portage Lake Association supports students who attend Onekama High School by assisting them with post high school education expenses. This is our fifth year providing scholarships.

We had 9 excellent candidates for our 2015 scholarships and the selection process was a difficult one. Based upon academic record and community service efforts, our committee selected three candidates for the PLA 2015 one time scholarships. The awardees are:

Louise Barnard - \$1500 Kirsten Bowers - \$1500 Kayla Feil - \$1500

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Rosalind Jaffe Chris Gravlin Jim Mrozinski Julie Lapinski Ann Taylor Steve Szilvagy

Louise Barnard



I will be attending the University of Michigan. I will set foot on campus June 27th as a Summer Bridge Program student. I'm thinking about studying film, acting, and psychology. I would also like to take dance classes and study abroad during my college career.

In high school I was involved as NHS president, Student Council

Rep, Assistant dance instructor (freshman year at COD), Dance team co-captain, Cheer Captain, Co-director of a children's theater workshop, and also dual-enrolled at WSCC. I have participated in cheerleading, dance team, Thursday night ski club, dance(COD), drama, and 10 west studios as an extra in movies.

Kayla Feil

I will be attending North Park University in the Fall. I plan to study non profit management. During high school I was very active in just about every non-athletic activity. My biggest accomplishment so far was to raise \$13,000 for a school in Uganda-

http://www.youcaring.com/nonprofits/gold-award-uganda. I am working at the Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp this summer and am looking forward to college in the fall.

Where Are They Now?

Corson Barnard, winner of a PLA scholarship for the school year 2013-2014, is getting ready to finish her sophomore year at the University of Chicago. She is a theatre major. In addition to her studies, she is the assistant music



director of an a cappella singing group. She will be working in arts education this summer with Gallery 37. She is a life long resident of the Onekama area and is enjoying being part of the University of Chicago/Hyde Park area. She hopes to travel to Norway after finishing school and is taking Norwegian to help further that goal.

Kirsten Bowers

I am going to Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, where I plan on studying premed. After college, I intend to get my doctorates in medicine and join the organization Doctors Without Borders. I want to devote my life to helping people. I want to become someone that I can be proud of and later in life look back and say I am proud of what I



accomplished. I was involved in National Honor Society for three years, student council for three years, drama program four years, volleyball for two years and softball for two years.

Christmas in Onekama! Nov 21st.

If you are an artist wishing to sell your work or someone who loves making and selling crafts, this event is for you! For more information, you can contact Det Demoranaki

can contact Pat Pomaranski at 889-3229 or at patpomaranski @ gmail.com This is day long community event with the art and crafts show, chili cook off and much more.

Mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss the fun.





PLA MERCHANDISE

Coming Soon You will be able to
purchase a variety of
different styles, sizes
and types of clothing
with the PLA insignia.
The PLA and O'Keefe's
Reef are partnering
to provide this
opportunity.
Please check back on
the www.onekama.info
site for further
information.



A big thank you to all the volunteers that make this happen, and a big thank you to all of the folks that donate funds to this effort. We could not do this without all of you!

This year, 72 volunteers planted 3800 petunias in 2 1/2 hours. They look beautiful! If you would like to donate to this effort, you can donate on line at: http://www.onekama.info/product/donate-to-the-pla/



Portage Lake Harbor Commission

Onekama Township 5435 Main Street Onekama, MI 49675

May 16, 2015 Mr. Mike O'Bryan U.S. Army Corp of Engineers P.O. Box 629 Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear Mr. O'Bryan;

I hope our letter finds you well and thank you for hosting the May 8th, 2015 meeting of the Great Lakes Navigation System. Although we were not able to personally attend the Grand Haven location we received the full report of the meeting and note a few items that we have questions and concerns about.

On page 18, "Harbor Structure Condition Assessments" you list the Costs to Restore Most Critical Harbors To Acceptable Level Of Risk. Even though the Corp of Engineers has consistently listed Portage Lake as the Harbor in MOST NEED OF INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS and have described it as "critical with a designation of "High Risk of Failure", we do not find it in the list (bottom left of page 18) which states cost of funding for structure repairs. As you'll recall, the current need for the Portage Lake Harbor is 6.5 million which is much lower than the average amount listed for other harbors "condition assessments". Please add Portage Lake, Onekama to this significant list of harbors in need. Also, please be sure that Portage Lake Harbor is re-listed as a recognized "Harbor of Refuge". The Portage Lake Harbor Commission has done an in depth study of the date relative to this and found that on December 11, 1883 Congress designated our Harbor as such.

Additionally, as per our meeting in Leland on February 6th, we are requesting a study be done to determine a plan for finishing the infrastructure work in Portage Lake Harbor. We would appreciate hearing from the Corp of Engineers on progress as we were told this study had to take place prior to work being done to our Harbor structure. Is there any updated information on this matter and is the Corp moving forward with this work?

Thank you for your assistance in these matters and we hope to hear from you soon.

Jim Mrozinski Chairman Portage Lake Harbor Commission



JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER planewsed@gmail.com, Newsletter Editor

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POSTAL PATRON

Portage Lake Association Onekama Events - Summer 2015

June - **Petunia Parade begins** – Enjoy the lovely petunias planted along M-22 as it winds through Onekama. In late May PLA members and community folks plant petunias, then tend them through the summer, creating a colorful welcome to all who travel through the Village.

June 27 - Portage Lake Association Fund Raiser Dinner – at the Little River Casino Resort – 3 Fires Conference Center. Funds raised during this gala event support the activities of the PLA for the coming year. See Onekama.info for more information.

June, July and August - Monday Night Concerts in the Park

June 29th – **Madcat Midnight Blues Journey** – Grammy award winning Peter "Madcat" Ruth returns with his virtuoso harmonica playing and his seasoned group of musicians for an evening of jazz and blues. This high energy group will have you bouncing in your seats!

July 6th – Cool Lemon – An 8 person Big Band with vocalist, plays pop, blues and Big Band music with style and panache. You'll be swayin' to the beats!

July 13 – Gratitude Steel Band – This family group will put a smile on your face and have you dancing in the grass as they play reggae, Calypso and various Latin styles featuring Jamaican Steel drums!



July 20 – Belle Suite – A local favorite, for good reason, this trio returns with the softer side of classic Pop/Rock. Perfect for an evening in the Park!

July 27 – Pico and Chown – Nationally recognized piano and singing duo from Traverse City plays pop, light rock, show tunes & blues. Don't miss them!

August 3rd – Scottville Clown Band in Concert – These accomplished musicians (in costume) from all over Michigan and several states provide an energetic and family friendly concert. Come early, there'll be a crowd!

August 10 – Peter, Paul & Mary Flashbacks – Favorites Lawrence "Doc" Probes, Donna Wilson Probes and Jim Hawley return with more PP&M songs and folk favorites from the 60s & 70s. You'll find yourself singing along!

August 17th – The Accidentals – The witty, haunting harmonies & catchy melodies from this young and innovative indie folk group from the Traverse City area will sweep you away. Multi-generational music – something for everyone!

The Monday Night Concerts in the Park feature a variety of family-friendly musical genres. All concerts are in the Onekama Village Park on M-22, starting at 7:00pm. There is no charge but donations are welcome and encouraged (watch for the Bucket Brigade). Bring lawn chairs, or blankets, picnic baskets, children, etc. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be held in the Onekama Consolidate School Cafetorium (up the hill from M-22 at 5016 Main St.). For more information on each band, visit our Website at www.Onekama.info. These concerts are funded in part by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the MICHIGAN HUMANITIES COUNCIL.

August 7 - 9 – Onekama Days – Sponsored by the Onekama Lions, activities include a Pancake Breakfast at the Lions' Den, 1 Mile Fun Run, 5KDownhill Screamer and Annual 5K Run/Walk, Vaughn Doubles Tennis Tournament, Classic Car Show, paddle board demos pickle ball tournament, Church Bazaars, Bake Sales and Luncheons, Arts and Crafts Show, Township-wide garage sales, Saturday night Lions' Club dinner, Dances, Parade and Fireworks, "Pig Out for Scholarships" pig roast and Craft Beer Tasting and more! See www.Onekama.info for details.