



As I write this, summer has officially arrived in Onekama, and with it comes the energy, traditions, and community spirit that make this place so special to all of us.

Our summer season got off to a wonderful start with the Portage Lake Association's Hello Summer event in June. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout of residents, seasonal homeowners, friends, and visitors gathering together to celebrate the beginning of another memorable summer. The sea of red, white, and blue attire added a festive touch and was especially fitting as our nation continues to celebrate the United States Semi quincentennial—the 250th anniversary of our country's founding. The evening served as a reminder of how fortunate we are to be part of a community that values tradition, friendship, and coming together.

Onekama truly shines during the summer months. Whether you're spending the day on Portage Lake, enjoying Lake Michigan sunsets, shopping in the Village, biking our scenic roads, or gathering with friends and family, there is something about summer here... it is the people, the natural beauty, and the shared experiences that make Onekama near and dear to our hearts.

And the fun is just beginning.

Our beloved Concerts in the Park series kicked off on June 22 and continues each Monday evening through August 10 in Onekama Village Park. These concerts have become a treasured summer tradition, bringing neighbors and visitors together to enjoy great music in a beautiful setting. Be sure to bring your lawn chair, gather your family and friends, and join us throughout the season.

August will bring another favorite community tradition—Onekama Days, taking place August 6–10. This annual celebration is filled with activities, entertainment, and opportunities to connect with one another while celebrating everything that makes Onekama unique. This year, we're excited to try something new by adding a beer tent and entertainment on Saturday night leading us into the fireworks. We think it will be a fun addition to the festivities and provide another opportunity for the community to gather and enjoy the evening together.

On behalf of the Portage Lake Association Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to seeing you throughout the summer as we celebrate another season of friendship, community, and all the things that make Onekama special.

Wishing you a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer.

Warm regards,

Cyndy Wangbichler

President, Portage Lake Association

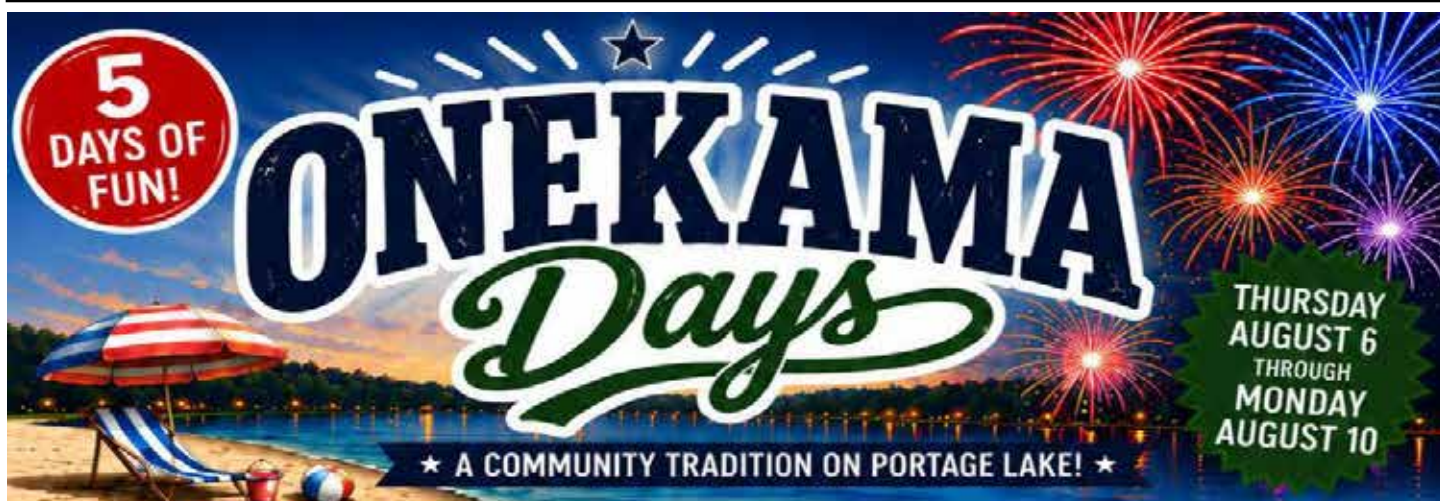
**Have any great ideas or articles for the Newsletter?
Suggestions or comments? Ideas for a Person we should know?
Contact the editor, Jean Capper via email at jmcmom@aol.com**

**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 September 10, 2026 for the October 2026 issue.


**THURSDAY
AUGUST 6**

1:30 – 3:00PM
Waterside Learning
@Langland Park


**FRIDAY
AUGUST 7**

9:00AM
Yoga on the Beach
@Langland Beach

10:00AM – 1:00PM
Adventure in Glen Park

★ Author Talk: Joe Suchocki
Congregational Church
Time TBA

3:00PM – 5:00PM
Butterfly Palooza
@North Point Park



4:00PM – 7:00PM
Onekama Lions
Steak Dinner
& Lions Raffle Drawing
@Lions Den


**SATURDAY
AUGUST 8**

8:00AM – 12:00PM Onekama Lions Breakfast @Lions Den

8:30AM 1 Mile Fun Run @Village Park

9:00AM 5K Run/Walk @Village Park

9:00AM – 2:30PM Car Show
@Village Park



9:00AM – 3:00PM Church of the Brethren Yard Sale &
Onekama Dye & Design
TRINKETS & TREASURES PLUS THIS N' THAT
SALE @Farr Center

9:30AM – 4:30PM Onekama Parks Scavenger Hunt
@Village Park



10:00AM – 1:00PM Pies, Plants & More Sale @Main & 5th

10:00AM – 2:00PM Trinkets & Treasures Plus
This N' That Sale @Farr Center



10:00AM – 2:00PM Manistee County Library @Village Park



10:00AM – 3:00PM Arts & Crafts Fair @Main St & Baker St.

10:00AM – 5:00PM Onekama History info @Village Park

11:00AM Blessing of the Pets
@St John by the Lake



11:00AM – 2:00PM Rocks Rock Painting @Village Park



2:00PM Cornhole Tournament @Lions Den

★ 4:00PM Author Talk: John Wemlinger
Congregational Church



5:00PM – 8:00PM BBQ DINNER @Village Park

5:00PM – 11:00PM BEER TENT & DJ @Village Park

6:00PM Bump N' Run & Demolition Derby
@Fairgrounds



Dusk Fireworks over Portage Lake


**SUNDAY
AUGUST 9**

8:00AM – 12:00PM

Onekama Lions
Breakfast
@Lions Den



1:00PM
PARADE



★ 2:00PM Author Talk:
Sylvia Duncan
Congregational Church

**MONDAY
AUGUST 10**

Monday Concert
in the Park
@Village Park

7:00PM
Jake Slater –
Award Winning
Elvis Tribute



⇒ STAY POSTED FOR UPDATES! ⇒

Onekama.info or Facebook: Onekama Community Connection

**ONEKAMA
MARINE**

**HOPWOODS
HEATING & COOLING
INC.**

MCTA
Manistee County
Transportation Authority

**PORTAGE LAKE
ASSOCIATION**



Portage Lake Association

2026 Monday Night Concerts in the Park

June 22 | Jim Hawley Soulful originals & Great American Songbook classics

June 29 | Fifth Gear High-energy classic rock, pop & contemporary hits

July 6 | Schrock Brothers Premier Americana & blues – folk, jazz & roots music.

July 13 | Great Lakes Brass New Orleans-inspired jazz & pop with Mardi Gras spirit

July 20 | Ashley Wineland Rising country star – powerhouse vocals & vibrant stage presence

July 27 | Roger That Greatest hits of the 70s, 80s, & beyond

August 3 | Acoustic Madness High-speed acoustic jams – classic rock to jazz, unplugged.

August 10 | Jake Slater Award-winning Elvis Tribute – the King lives on.

August 17 | Make-up date (if prior shows are cancelled)

Concerts start at 7 PM in the Onekama Village Park* and are free.

Donations are welcome & encouraged.

Donate on Venmo @portagelakeassociation

Bring Lawn Chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, children, etc.

Visit our website at www.onekama.info and follow us on Facebook at Onekama Community Connection

Onekama Walks – It's more than just sidewalks!

A conceptual sidewalk and safe routes project

The Onekama Walks project is about more than fixing sidewalks. It's about connecting Onekama and creating recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors. This project, led by the Portage Lake Association, is in a foundational phase of development, focused on exploring, brainstorming, and defining the core ideas, vision, and objectives that will lead to a feasible plan of action.

Onekama Walks will achieve the goals outlined in the Township and Village master plans and address the most requested and desired goals for Main Street, as identified by residents and visitors. These include improved sidewalks, preserved parking and business access, an improved streetscape (with benches for resting, more petunia baskets, and decorative lighting), a connecting pathway to local parks, and an emphasis on a human-scale environment that encourages pedestrian-friendly access to recreational activities.

The Portage Lake Association is seeking community collaboration. The project will be best served through a collaborative effort among the village, the Township, the school, local organizations, businesses, granting entities, residents, and visitors. So, this is your opportunity to share your opinions, ideas, and support to enhance experiences in the village. Together, we can achieve a result better than working independently!

Contact us at onekamawalks@gmail.com for more information and to collaborate.

Onekama Branch Library

5283 Main Street

Onekama, Michigan 49675

(231) 889-4041 • (231) 889-5420

Library Hours

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Monday

12:30 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Thursday

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Friday

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



ONEKAMA DAYS CAR SHOW TO HELP FUND REPAIRS OF MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Portage Lake Garden Club will host the 2026 Onekama Days Car Show on August 8 from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. The event is a fundraiser toward their goal of repairing the Memorial Fountain in the Village Park.

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.

In 2023 the underground pipe that connects the fountain to an artesian well sprung a leak or two which caused the fountain to be without water for almost four years. A team of local subject matter experts on wells and plumbing

collaborated with an engineer from chicagofountain.com to devise a plan to restore the water feature. Assuming enough funds are raised this year, the fountain could be operational by summer 2027.

In 2025, ninety-four car enthusiasts showed up on August 2 to register their vehicles at the Onekama Days Car Show. Garden club members served as vehicle registrants, 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. The Best in Show winner -- Mike Lowing from Fountain, MI -- claimed a vintage gas pump award voted by car show entrants.

This year the event will add a People's Choice Award. Visitors will be given a ballot to choose their top three vehicles which will be tallied to determine the winner. Other awards will be geared toward similarly aged vehicles e.g., from the forties, fifties, sixties, etc. which is customary in regional car shows.

Freshman BioBlitz at Northpoint Park

On May 26th the 9th grade Environmental Science class at Onekama participated in a bio blitz at North Point Park. This was the 3rd straight year that 9th grade students have participated in the event.

Using the iNaturalist app students took pictures of flora and fauna at the park to look for unique specimens and possible exotic/invasive species.

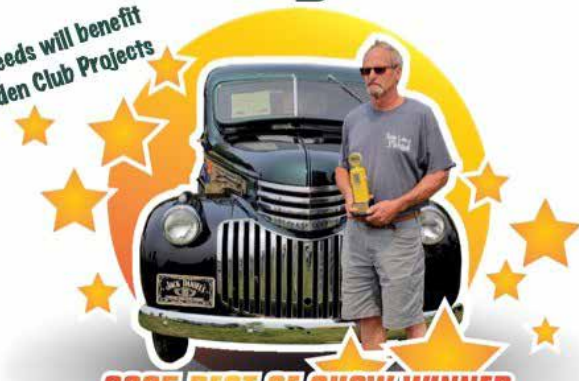
This year the 29 students identified around 70 unique species in the park, many of these identifications were considered research grade.



Portage Lake Garden Club presents:

Onekama Days Car Show

Proceeds will benefit
Garden Club Projects



2025 BEST OF SHOW WINNER

Mike Lowing with his 1946 Chevy Truck

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2026

9 AM TO 2:30 PM | ONEKAMA VILLAGE PARK

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

Contact: Mary Jo McElroy 614-325-1717 or maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net

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

☛ DASH PLAQUES to the FIRST 75 CARS

☛ GOODIE BAGS

☛ BEST OF SHOW TROPHY

☛ LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES!

☛ PARTICIPANT JUDGED

AWARDS at 2:15 PM

☛ PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD



Friendship • Service • Knowledge

Onekama Days
Aug. 6-10, '26

FOOD | PARADE
LOTS OF FUN
ACTIVITIES

SPROUTING IDEAS FOR "PETUNIA PARADE 2.0"

On May 22 members of the Petunia Parade Committee placed sixteen baskets of petunias on moveable posts in downtown Onekama. Expert assistance was given by Tom Foster, an Onekama Village Council member, for his skills in plumbing, climbing ladders, and balancing heavy items on his head (!). The team also planted 17 large pots with grasses, begonias, garden sage, dusty miller, and variegated vinca. See photos.

What's next for the Petunia Parade?

A survey of local residents and visitors in summer 2025 showed a preference to transition from petunias in the ground along Main Street to petunias in hanging baskets. Issues with the cost of soil replacement, availability of a watering solution, and Village plans to fill in the plots with concrete made the traditional "parade" less than feasible. So now the team is "sprouting ideas" for what comes next for flowers in Onekama. Three sessions for community input are planned for Thursday, July 23 at the Farr Center. Residents and visitors are invited to come at 10 AM or 1 PM or 6 PM to offer their ideas toward a concept of "*Onekama Blooms*." More hanging baskets? More gardens? A floral mural? Plan to attend ONE session to have your voice heard.

For more information, contact Mary Jo McElroy at maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net or Cindy Pons at cbpons@comcast.net.

Tree School-Planting

During the 3rd Annual Onekama Day of Service, the sophomores continued their Tree School learning by planting 25 cedars at Northpoint Park. The Township has recently installed an irrigation system to help water last years and this years planting. There are a total of 55 trees getting a good start in life, protected from deer and being watered regularly.



**STUDENTS
FROM
SCHOOL TREE
PLANTING**



We're sprouting ideas!

Please join us on
Thursday, July 23, 2026
to brainstorm ideas for Onekama's
"Petunia Parade 2.0"

Three sessions:

10 AM or 1 PM or 6 PM
(pick one that suits you)

Farr Center, 5283 Main Street,
Onekama

Trails Update Summer 2026

Onekama Trail Project – Engineering Findings & Project Update

The Onekama Trail Project reached an important milestone after additional engineering review and coordination with MDOT regarding the proposed corridor.

Engineering Findings

As part of the engineering process, additional corridor analysis better defined the available space along the proposed route. This review identified a key project constraint: portions of the corridor provide approximately six feet of available width.

Based on discussions with MDOT and TAP program requirements, federally funded trail projects must have a minimum width of 10 feet under AASHTO design standards. As a result, the project is not eligible for TAP funding as originally envisioned.

While this finding eliminated eligibility for TAP funding, it also provided clear direction for moving forward. The engineering review confirmed that a six-foot pathway can be accommodated within the available corridor and remains a viable option to improve pedestrian connectivity in the community.

Township Pathway Initiative Moving Forward

Following completion of the engineering review, Onekama Township elected to continue advancing the six-foot pathway concept along the north corridor.

Current efforts are focused on the section between Portage Point Drive and Bayview. Engineering consultants are currently completing land survey work for the M-22 to Bayview portion of the corridor. In addition, the Township is coordinating with the Manistee County Road Commission on the requirements and timing of future engineering activities.

The Prospect Avenue section remains part of the overall vision and will be evaluated as development progresses.

Planning & Future Funding

The pathway initiative is being incorporated into the Township's updated Park & Recreation Plan and the Manistee County Recreation Commission's updated Five-Year Recreation Plan.

Including the project in these planning documents positions the pathway for future implementation and funding opportunities, while ensuring it remains part of the community's long-term recreation and connectivity

vision.

Community Coordination

Separately, the Village of Onekama is evaluating improvements to existing sidewalks within the Village core, creating another opportunity to enhance pedestrian access within the broader community.

Looking Ahead

The engineering findings provided important information regarding corridor limitations and future funding opportunities. While the project scope has been refined, the Township pathway initiative remains active and continues to move forward.

As planning and engineering efforts progress, additional project updates will be shared with the community.

St. Joseph Community Food Pantry

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

8380 Fifth St, P.O. Box #150
Onekama, 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.

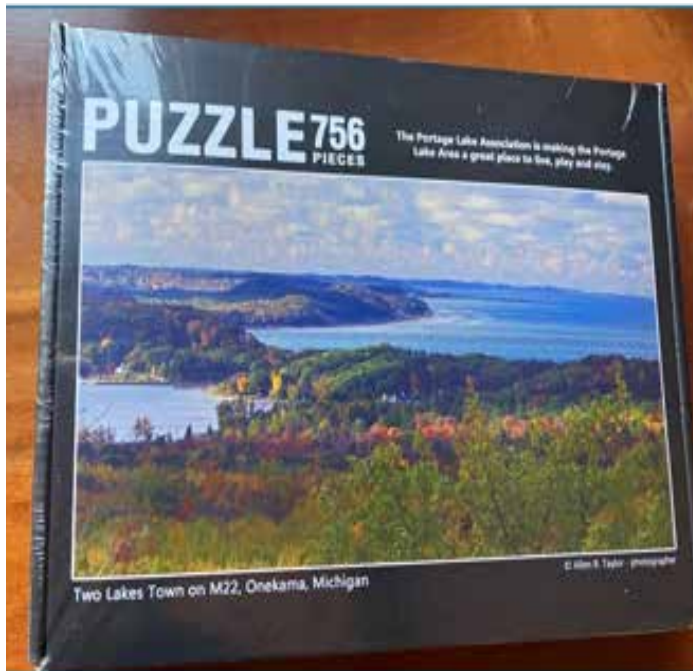
Parishioners are only a portion of the 20-25 regular volunteers, many of whom have been helping for more than 10 years, and some have volunteered month after month for over 25 years. The purpose of the food pantry is to respond to families and individuals who are residents of Manistee County, are low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

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

PUZZLED? Try these!

Portage Lake Association puzzles support Onekama projects. Photos by Al Taylor

Available at MacBeth & Company, Anchored Design and Miller's Northwoods. \$35



2026



2025



The Glenwood

In 1897, Elizabeth Enos arrived in the area and purchased the Ben Gair Cottage and operated it as a boarding house. She then purchased the Pink Cottage in 1905, moved it east and renamed it Glenwood Cottage which she operated as a resort for many years. In 1924, she moved another Glen House building to use as a large dining room.

The Glenwood Resort consisted of two buildings at 4594 and 4610 Main Street, and the main dining hall at 4604 Main Street.

When Mrs. Enos retired in 1944, she sold her resort. After becoming the Glenwood Lodge, it closed in the 1950s. The dining hall then became the Pepper Mill Restaurant (closing in 1988) and then opened as The Glenwood in 1994. (The other two buildings became private residences.)

The Glenwood Resort was adjacent to the property where the Glen House Hotel once stood between 1886 and 1892, when it was destroyed by a fire. If you enjoy a meal at the Glenwood, or taking a walk on the path in Glen Park, you'll be following the steps of many travelers to the Onekama area from long ago.



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

Village Information

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 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

David Jarvi

djarvi@manisteecountymi.gov

231-398-3527

Manistee County Planning Department

planning@manisteecountymi.gov

TRUSTEES

Roger Burger

Sarah Fauble

Mickey Finan

Susan Halloran

Rod Hudson

FIRE CHIEF

Rob Johnson

(231) 889-4240

Village News

Have you noticed the new trees in the Onekama Village Park? They are easy to spot with wires cages around them to improve their deer resistance. The trees are thanks to several folks, spearheaded by Onekama Village Council member Rod Hudson. The Portage Lake Association provided funding from the Onekama Days Car Show a couple of years ago. The Village then got local tree whisperer Josh Shields to recommend the best trees for that location near the lake. Trees were purchased from and installed by Mathew LaMore from Black Cap Farm. Tree types include Allegheny Serviceberry, paper birch, Northern white cedar, peachleaf willow, Eastern cottonwood, and Eastern white pine. According to Matt, these trees need to be carefully watered especially in the first year. Mickey Finan watered during May, Marti Zemer and son Gabe Dahlstrom took over that chore after Memorial Day. Kudos to all for pitching in to make our Village Park beautiful and sustainable!





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 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

BURNING PERMITS: Burning permits issued by website: www.michigan.gov/burn-permit. Township residents: you are (Twp. 23 N. and Range 16 W) and your section number.
BURN BANS: Burn bans can be found at dnr.state.mi.us.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Closed on the following recognized holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas Eve through New Year's Day.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE PHONE: (231) 889-3308; FAX: 889-5587

FIRE DEPARTMENT: (231) 889-7014



FITNESS CENTER & LEAPS AND BOUNDS ACCESS

Construction Update

Construction on our new Community Center has begun, which means the entrance and parking areas may look different than usual. The Fitness Center and Leaps and Bounds remain fully accessible. Access is still available from Baker Street and Zosel Street. Parking is still available, but some spaces and traffic patterns have been adjusted due to construction. Please follow the directional arrows and posted signage when entering campus. Use caution around construction areas and watch for pedestrians. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve our facilities for students, families, and community members.



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).



*The Onekama Lions Club gave out two \$1,000 college scholarships to recipients Hailey Hart and Mitchell Falk on May 13th. Well-deserved and Congratulations.

*We participated in the Onekama Community Activities Fair held at the school on May 30th. We collected a few pair of eyeglasses as well! The Lions Club does have a large mailbox on Mill Street just before the post office where eyeglasses can be dropped off.

*We provided popcorn to the Onekama Consolidated School Field Day on June 4th.

*The Lions Food Wagon will be at the Ron Ringel Auction on June 20th.

*Watch for the Onekama Lions Club float in the Bear Lake, Arcadia Daze and Onekama Days parades this summer. Also look for the Kids Sight trailer at Arcadia Daze.

*We will be having our famous Onekama Lions Club's all you can eat breakfast on Saturday, August 1st, during the Manistee County Fair. Come out and support the Lions and the Fair.

*We will be parking cars at the Manistee County Fair during fair week.

*We have a lot of events for Onekama Days coming up for the weekend August 7 - 9: Steak fry and raffle on Friday, all you can eat breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, cornhole tournament on Saturday, and the

parade on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The Onekama Lions welcome any volunteers for any and all these events. Please contact Kathleen Bowers at (231) 690-5790 to have fun while volunteering for our community.

If you are interested in reserving the Onekama Lions Club's building for a graduation party or wedding, etc., please contact David Bowers at (231) 690-6918.

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





A Person You Should Know

Gretchen Tabaczka is the heart behind Simply Fit 4 Life. Born and raised in Onekama, she spent time in both Michigan and Florida before returning home to raise her family with her husband, Kevin. She enjoys staying active through walking, hiking, lifting, pickleball, table tennis, and paddleboarding. Other interests include reading, gardening, traveling, watching movies, and best of all..family time. A strong supporter of movement, Gretchen shares her love for fitness and the outdoors

through group classes and private training. Class schedules and updates are available on Instagram at [simplyfit4_life](#) or Facebook at Onekama Community Connection.

Another Person You Should Know

After 14 years of skiing, Aleah's career came to an end on February 23rd. There were no more ski practices, late nights, or long car rides to races. How could it all just come to an end? Throughout her career, Aleah achieved many accomplishments, but she also faced a severe injury that caused major setbacks. As she wraps up her high school journey, she realizes that while some chapters are closing, many new ones are beginning.

Throughout her ski career, Aleah earned numerous awards that motivated her to keep pushing forward. During the off-season, she trained relentlessly, always looking for ways to improve for the next season. Her hard work and dedication paid off, especially in maintaining her strength and recovering from injuries.

Everything seemed to be going well during her underclassman years—until it wasn't. During the state finals of her sophomore year, Aleah collided with another individual during a practice run. At the time, she didn't realize how much this moment would change her career. After seeing a doctor, she learned she had suffered a complete ACL tear, leading to two surgeries and more than 10 months of physical therapy.

This recovery process challenged her not only physically, but mentally as well. Being unable to walk or complete everyday activities without pain became one of her greatest struggles. Simple tasks—like going to school or

taking out the trash—felt overwhelming. Each day was an uphill battle, and at times, she wondered if she would ever break free from the cycle.

After months of rehabilitation, Aleah returned to the slopes during her junior year. It wasn't easy, but her determination and love for the sport pushed her forward. That season, she came back stronger than ever, earning All-Region honors and qualifying as an All-State athlete. She was also recognized by the Record Eagle as a member of the Ski Racing Dream Team.

These achievements fueled her determination to make the most of her senior year.

Despite facing ups and downs during her senior season, Aleah continued to perform at a high level. She once again earned All-Region honors, qualified for state, and achieved Second-Team All-State recognition.

Throughout her career, Aleah consistently excelled. During her freshman and sophomore years, she earned All-Region and Second-Team All-State honors and was named to the Record Eagle Dream Team. Her ski team was also recognized by Representative John Roth for their outstanding performances and teamwork. These accomplishments highlight just a portion of her successful career.

Aleah's ultimate goal in high school was to compete in a state championship ski race—and she achieved it. Her journey proved that success is possible despite obstacles, as long as there is determination and resilience. Through every setback, she demonstrated what it truly means to push through adversity and come back stronger than expected. The challenges she faced not only tested her limits but also shaped her into a more resilient and determined individual. Although her skiing career has come to an end, the perseverance and drive she developed will continue to guide her in whatever comes next.



Photo Credit
Maristee News
Advocate

Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Summer Fun

Looking for fun, free ways to stay active, explore nature, and connect with family and friends this summer? Onekama Township Recreation has a variety of exciting programs planned for all ages—and every event is completely free thanks to the support of our community partners and sponsors.

Yoga on Lake Michigan

Start your day with relaxation, movement, and stunning shoreline views at Yoga on Lake Michigan. Breathe in the fresh lake air and move with intention as you flow, stretch, and enjoy gentle yoga by the water at Captain John Langland Beach.

Six sessions will be offered in July on the 6th, 10th, 17th, 20th, 24th, and 31st. All sessions at 9:00AM. Participants should bring a yoga mat, water bottle, and towel. Classes will be held at Captain John Langland Park, 1927 Second Street. Registration is required.

Family Fun Day at the Beach

Grab your sunscreen and gather the family for a day of beachside fun! Family Fun Day at the Beach is packed with activities designed to create lasting summer memories.

Families can enjoy beach crafts, a sandcastle contest, kite flying, a nature scavenger hunt, and beach volleyball—all set against the beautiful backdrop of Lake Michigan at Langland Park.

This is a special pop-up event, so the date will be announced exclusively to registered participants. Be sure to register early so you don't miss out on the fun.

This event is generously sponsored by the late Al and Dr. Ann Taylor. Registration is required.

Adventure in Glen Park

Discover the hidden stories and natural wonders of one of Onekama's most treasured places during Adventure in Glen Park on Friday, August 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Participants will take a guided walk along historic Glen Creek and uncover the fascinating history of the area's mineral springs. Local historian Leann Burger will share the story of who built the springs and why they became an important part of the community's past.

Naturalist Dr. Josh Shields will help participants explore the park's ecology, pointing out unique features, wildlife, and surprises along the way. Expect plenty of discoveries and "wow" moments as the group uncovers the secrets hidden throughout Glen Park.

This program is offered in collaboration with the Manistee Conservation District. Registration is required.

Onekama 30-Day Challenge Begins July 9

Are you ready to move, explore, connect, and thrive? The Onekama 30-Day Challenge kicks off on Thursday, July 9, and runs through Saturday, August 8, inviting residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to move, explore, connect, and thrive while enjoying the natural beauty of our community.

Participants can track activities in four categories: Non-Distance, Land, Water, and Wheels. Whether you enjoy walking, yoga, kayaking, swimming, biking, hiking, gardening, or simply spending time outdoors, every day is an opportunity to participate at your own pace. Participants design their own challenge by opting in or out of any of the four categories and choosing the frequency, schedule, and distance that work best for them.

Challenge participants are encouraged to visit Onekama Township's local parks throughout the month. A series of free Thursday clinics—including Walk With Ease, Open Water Swimming, Open Water Kayaking, Cycling, and Balance & Agility—will provide opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence, and connect with others.

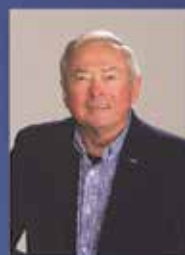
Best of all, participation is completely free. Participants can receive free swag at each clinic and at the Completion Celebration on August 8.

Join us as we spend 30 days celebrating movement, community, and the great outdoors in Onekama! This event sponsored by West Shore Bank, Onekama Marine, five star real estate professional, EZ Market, and Mark Ebell & Laura Bierema in honor of Lukas' Fund.

Register Today!

Space is limited for all programs, and advance registration is required. Whether you're looking to improve your wellness, spend quality time with family, or explore local history and nature, these free summer events offer something for everyone. Go to <https://www.onekamatwp.org/259/Onekama-Township-Parks-Recreation> for more information and to register.

JOHN WEMLINGER, local author



Titles:

Winter's Bloom
Operation Light Switch
Before the Snow Flies
The Widow and the Warrior
The Cut
The Road to Empire
Finding Innocence

Order books at: www.johnwemlinger.com

Onekama Guild Thrift Shop Opens for the 2026 Season

The Onekama Guild Thrift Shop opened for the 2026 season on May 21. Volunteers were on hand to welcome guests to the freshly re-stocked shelves. Both new and returning customers were thrilled to find a huge selection of gently used items artfully displayed throughout the store.

During the winter, and on three Saturdays in April, the Shop accepted donations from generous community members. “We were thrilled to be on the receiving end of our neighbors’ efforts to clean out their closets and storage areas,” explained Shop Manager, Patty Suchocki. The Thrift Guild Shop has a well-deserved reputation for offering high-quality items at prices well below other second-hand stores in the northwest Michigan area. The shop offers bag sales and special promotions throughout the season for super bargain shoppers. The shop’s Assistant Manager, Martha Gates-Capper added, “We serve our community by offering bargain prices on high quality merchandise and also donate all shop profits to Manistee County charities.”

The store currently has a large selection of women’s and men’s clothing, costume jewelry and shoes, children’s clothing and toys, kitchen wares, specialty glassware and china, books, puzzles, games, bedding, picture frames, and household decorative items. Many customers return again and again to explore the variety of vintage items on display. The shop accepts donations whenever we are open so you never know what might show up tomorrow!

Did one of your guests forget to bring a bathing suit? Did one too many of your wine glasses get broken? Need some good beach reading? Does your grandchild need a few outfits to get through the week? Can’t figure out what happened to all the serving spoons that were at the cabin last summer? The Thrift Shop has you covered!

The Onekama Guild Thrift Shop was founded about 70 years ago as a fundraising arm of Onekama’s Memorial Hospital and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization staffed 100% by volunteers. The shop accepts donations of clean, gently used clothing and household items for resale. In 2025 the Guild awarded over \$10,000 in grants to charitable organizations in Manistee County. The shop is open Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through October 3, 2026. Donations are accepted during regular business hours. Follow us on FACEBOOK at ONEKAMA GUILD THRIFT SHOP for up-to-date information about special events and sales.

PATINA

After seven years, Patina will be saying goodbye to Onekama and beginning a new chapter in Manistee. What I will miss most are the people...and of course all my furry friends.

I will miss the familiar faces who popped in just to say hello, share some news, ask for a hug, or drop off fresh flowers. I will miss the conversations, the laughter, and the sense of connection that made this place feel like home.

I did not go to college, I was never especially career minded, and I had no idea how to run a business. I simply took a leap with the hope of sharing things I loved. What I found almost immediately was a sense of purpose and belonging. This community inspired me, encouraged me, and supported me in ways that helped me discover, for the first time, what I was truly meant to do.

While it is difficult to leave, I am incredibly grateful for the support that carried me through these past seven years. I have learned so much about myself and feel hopeful for what lies ahead. Patina will reopen at 321 River Street in Manistee. I will be moving into the ruddiblush gallery space, across from the Golden Stag (yum). And recreating Patina among the art of owner Paulette Juncker and her daughter Laura.

Thank you for every visit, every kind word, every purchase, every shared story, and every bit of encouragement along the way.

You helped make Patina what it was.

And although Patina may now live in a new town, a piece of my heart will always remain here.



THANK YOU PLA SPONSORS

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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

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Business Card Size 2" x 3.5"

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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