



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

July 2022
Volumn 18, No. 3

Hello Onekama fans:

Welcome to the summer edition of the Portage Lake Association newsletter, your resource for Onekama information.

The Portage Lake Association's spring was active. Petunias in the thousands were efficiently planted and we held a Summer Launch Party at the Canfield House B&B. Our Book Drive to benefit Onekama Schools just wrapped up. Thanks to the volunteers who made these events successful.

By the time you read this, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, which entertain crowds with a wide range of musical performances in a delightful setting, have commenced.

We're deep in preparations for local summer events. The Onekama Block Party, family fun along Main Street, is July 7th. Onekama Days is August 4-8th, a long weekend where many clubs, churches and organizations feature food, fun and entertainment. Please support the Onekama Days fireworks with your financial contribution.

We launched our new Instagram page and continue informing the community of news and events on Facebook pages at Portage Lake Association group page: and 1, - Onekama, Michigan. We're about to launch an online volunteer sign up app for Onekama Days and Fall Festival: signup.com

We welcome new volunteers and members. You can be involved as much or little as you like. Contact us at <https://www.onekama.info/contact-us> with questions and suggestions.

Wishing you a great 4th of July and a joyous summer up north!

Roz Jaffe

Portage Lake Association President

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:

The newsletter is published quarterly. The next deadline is September 10, 2022 for the October 2022 newsletter.

Articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Name the file something that is readily understandable e.g., petunias 0320 (for March 2020)

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



TWO PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Mark and Eileen O'Neal of the Speckled Goat.

Eileen: Both my mother and I have been coming to Onekama since my childhood. My husband and I have brought our 3 daughters here for the past 25 years. My mother's family rented in Red Park, as did we, until we purchased a home in Red Park. We are here, usually from May-Oct. Otherwise you can find us in St. Louis.

We saw a need for more food options in Onekama and decided to open the Speckled Goat.

You will find gourmet ready sandwiches, salads, dips and charcuterie boards, shaved ice, soft pretzels and hot dogs, candy. Also, lots of items for the beach and home: candles, beach blankets, fire starters, spices.

Beer and wine coming soon.

Located on M-22 in the Village of Onekama across from the library

June hours: Tuesday- Saturday 11-5

July and August will have extended hours, TBD

Stop in and say hi. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!!



ONEKAMA 2022 EVENTS

Portage Lake Association's "Summer Launch Party"
Friday, June 17th 5-8pm, Canfield House

PLA presents Concerts in the Park Mondays 7-9pm

- | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|--|
| June 27 | Rough and Tumble | July 25 | Jim Hawley |
| July 4 | Schrock Brothers | Aug 1 | Blue Water Ramblers
& Michael Trixx Magic |
| July 11 | Awesome Distraction | Aug 8 | Funtastix |
| July 18 | Jake Slater Elvis Tribute | Aug 15 | Benzie Playboys |

Onekama Block Party July 7th

Onekama Days August 4th - 8th

PLA events on Saturday, August 6th: Car Show, Craft Show, Beer Tasting, "Pig Out" Pig Roast for Onekama Students, Fireworks

Manistee County Fair August 16th - 20th

Onekama Fall Festival Saturday, October 1st

Christmas in Onekama Saturday, November 19th

Celebration of Lights Sunday, November 20th

*All events are subject to change. Please check for updates.
onekama.info*

*Facebook: 1, - Onekama, Michigan or Portage Lake Association Group
Instagram*



FARMER'S MARKET

Don't forget to visit the Farmer's Market on Fridays starting at 1:00pm in the parking lot of 4850 N. Main. Check out the delicious maple syrup, potholders, locally grown fruit and vegetables and fresh baked goods.



Annual Block Party Thursday, July 7th

Stroll down Main Street from 4-6pm and enjoy food, face painting, games, in store specials, sidewalk sales and MORE!

There will a raffle to win a free bike! Check out all the fun bikes in front of businesses. The Party ends with a concert by local favorite Cousin Curtiss in the Village Park 6-8. Bring the family and enjoy a night out in beautiful downtown Onekama.



Thursday, July 7

4-6 pm

Wander Main Street in Onekama! Enjoy games, food, music, raffles, sidewalk sales, face painting, farm market, free books, meet local authors and MORE! Vote for your favorite decorated bike for a chance to win a brand new one!



Local favorite Cousin Curtiss will perform 6-8 in the Onekama Village Park.



49th Annual

ONEKAMA DAYS 2022

August 4 - 8, 2022

Thursday August 4

Onekama Athletic Boosters:
Pork Ribs in the Park

Friday August 5

Onekama Lions Steak Dinner
Onekama Class Reunion Party
w/ Karaoke Fairgrounds

Saturday August 6

5K Run/Walk & 1 Mile Fun Run
@Village Park 8:30am
Onekama Lions Breakfast 8-12:30
Vintage Car Show
Arts & Crafts Show Main Street
Friends of the Library Book Sale
9-2 @Library
Kids Day Activities @Village Park
Cornhole Tournament @Fairgrounds
Craft Beer Tasting 4-7pm
@Village Park

Saturday August 6 (evening)

Pig Out for Onekama School Pig
Roast 5-7pm @Village Park
Concert at the Fairgrounds: Gunner
& the Grizzly Boys 5-7pm
Bump N' Run Derby: Mid-Michigan
Championship @Fairgrounds
Dance Party & Beer Tent at the
Village Park 9-1 @Village Park
Fireworks over Portage Lake Dusk
(Raindate Sunday)

Sunday August 7

Onekama Lions Breakfast 8-11
@Fairgrounds
Parade featuring the Scottville
Clown Band 1pm Main Street
Scottville Clown Band Concert 2pm
@Village Park
Lions Beer Tent

Monday August 8

Concert in the Park with Funtastix
7pm @Village Park



Onekama Days

Saturday, August 6
10:00 - 3:00

(in front of high school; corner
of Baker and Main)

Artists & Vendors please sign up
here!



questions?
Call NINA! 312-909-0115

Flower Show is July 28

Free and fun for all ages. Plan to attend the Portage Lake Garden Club's 2022 Flower Show on Thursday, July 28 from 12:30 PM to 6 PM at the Farr Center. National Garden Club accredited judges will evaluate the entries. This is big event and not to be missed!

Visitors will see hundreds of exhibits spanning five divisions and multiple classes. The Horticulture Division is a fan favorite with entries ranging from flowering annuals, flowering perennials, non-flowering cut specimens, herbs, hydrangeas, roses, and blooming bulbs, tubers, corms and rhizomes. The colorful display is delightful! The Design and Botanical Arts Divisions showcase flowers and plants in sculptural designs, table-scapes, crafts and photography. Allow 45 minutes to see all of the exhibits.

Amateur gardens of all ages are encouraged to enter the Horticultural Division. This division has nine sections and over seventy-one classes, so your green thumb has plenty of room to shine. If you are considering entering, read the 2022 Portage Lake Garden Club Flower Show Schedule available online at portagelakegardenclub.org. The schedule contains rules, tips for preparing your entries and lists all the divisions and classes. Please note that cut annuals and perennials must have been in the exhibitor's possession from seeds, cuttings, or immature plants at least 90 days prior to the show. (The exception to this is transplants.). Entries are due to the Farr Center the morning of the flower show (July 28) between 6:30 AM and 9 AM. If you need help determining your entry's scientific botanical name, please contact Pam Tompke at tompkep@gmail.com at least one week prior to the show.

Youth gardeners ages 3-12 have a special opportunity to participate. On Wednesday, July 27 (the day before the flower show), Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses are holding a free workshop from 9 AM to Noon so young gardeners can create a flower display to exhibit. Space is limited and all materials are provided. Call 614-325-1717 to register.

For additional information about the Portage Lake Garden Club's 2022 Flower Show, please contact club president Mary Jo McElroy at maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net.

Portage Lake Garden Club, Inc.
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc., and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., District V presents

Give Bees a Chance!!

An NGC Standard Flower Show



Thursday, July 28, 2022
12:30 PM to 6 PM
Farr Center
5283 Main Street
Onekama, Michigan 49675
231-889-3171
Free and Open to the Public

KIDS FLOWER WORKSHOP



FUN **LEARN** **CREATE**

Kids aged 3 through 12 are invited to create a floral display to be entered into a National Garden Club Flower Show.

- Free -- all materials provided
- Wednesday, July 27 from 9 AM to 12 N at Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses

Floral displays will be judged on July 28, 2022
SPACE LIMITED TO 12 KIDS

HURRY UP CALL NOW 614-325-1717 Portage Lake Garden Club



A big thanks goes out to the small but productive group from the Portage Lake Garden Club for sprucing up the area around the electric sign entrance to the school! Mary Jo McElroy, Faye Backie, and Elaine Maylen.

WOULD THE PETUNIA PARADE HAPPEN WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS?

Not unless we had oodles of money to hire the jobs out ... and we all know about the labor market right now. Almost 100% of the work in planning, planting, weeding, watering, fertilizing, and removing those 3,420 petunias and 90 plants in faux-concrete planters is done by volunteers. We estimate that volunteers will provide 1,364 hours of work during this petunia season. At a conservative hourly rate of \$12 per hour, the value of that labor is over \$16,000.

Many volunteers have participated for years and some make a “party” out of it. Most new volunteers come from word-of-mouth among friends or acquaintances or because of hearing about it via some type of publicity. This year, some kids helped to plant after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

About 25 fifth graders with their teacher, Nick Bradford, were there and very helpful. Four of Gretchen Tabaczka’s special ed students came with two adults. They all enjoyed it, and the teachers are looking forward to participating again next year. Mr. Bradford said the students were excitedly telling each other where in the village they got to plant. Dan Behring overheard one fifth grade girl say, “I like helping make the town look pretty.” Committee member Nancy Behring said, “I know the adults really appreciat-

ed the student help, and I think it gives the students a sense of ownership in the community.’

The Petunia Parade Committee is always seeking new volunteers. This year, the committee will advertise its needs using an educational poster at the Flower Show (presented by Portage Lake Garden Club) on July 28. The event is free and open to the public from 12:30 to 6 PM at Farr Center on Main Street. Committee members Jewelee Franklin, Debby Major, and Judy Blackmore will be present at the show to talk about volunteer needs for 2023 and beyond.

What do the volunteers get in return? There are physical, social, and mental benefits from working outdoors in the fresh air and seeing the fruits of one’s labor. Many volunteers report increased social interactions and social support, better relationship quality, and decreased loneliness. Of course, a couple of Advil will not hurt after a morning’s work of weeding!

The Portage Lake Association will show its appreciation for the work of **all volunteers** for the PLA (including, of course, the petunia volunteers) by hosting an event later in the season. Stay tuned for details about this and, if you are a volunteer for the PLA, plan to attend. If you would like more information or would like to become a Petunia Parade volunteer, contact Mary Jo McElroy at maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net or call/text 614-325-1717. We are grateful for the help.

**Thank you
Petunia Parade
Volunteers!**



Main Office: (231) 757-3850 • North Office: (231) 398-9900
3091 N. US-31 Scottville, MI 49454 • 3021 Schoedel Rd. Manistee, MI 49660
Fertilization – Mowing – Seasonal Clean-up – Landscape Maintenance



DO YOU LOVE THE FIREWORKS AT ONKAMA DAYS?

Who doesn't love fireworks? The show put on by the PLA during Onkama days is very popular and we appreciate all the donations we can get to help defray the cost. See the form at the end of the newsletter to make a donation. You can also go to Onkama.info and make an online donation. Thank you, your help is appreciated.



2nd Annual Native Plant Event

On Friday, June 3, Black Cap Farm Native Plant Nursery hosted the Manistee Conservation District, Plant It Wild, Go Beyond Beauty and the U.S. Forest Service. There were tables with educational materials to take home. There were native plant experts on site to answer any questions. There were plants to buy.

Black Cap Farm Native Plant Nursery: Thank you Manistee Conservation District! What a success. We are already looking forward to the next event.

Thank you to everyone who collaborated & enthusiastically gave their time to be here - what a wealth of knowledge was shared with the community!

Thank you to all who attended; we hope all of your questions were answered, you love your new plants and you left here feeling ready to say goodbye to invasives while embracing Michigan natives.



RECYCLING:

Recycling bins (cans, plastic, glass, cardboard & paper) are in Onkama township parking lot for your convenience.

Please recycle responsibly.

A kind and gentle reminder that if the recycling bins and/or cardboard truck are full, you need to take your stuff back home and try another time. Of course it's a hassle to make two trips! No one wants to do that. But, if you are recycling, you probably care about the environment. And, if you're in Onkama, you probably love Portage Lake. So, why pile stuff up outside where the wind can blow it directly into Portage Lake? Are you feeling grumpy because the recycle bins and cardboard truck fill up quickly? There would be ample room if everyone flattened their boxes, milk jugs, etc. If you are going to recycle, go the extra inch and flatten.



**Onekama Community Art Wall has
“Gone to the Dogs”.**

The Yellow Dog Cafe Garden wall still has room for more art. Stop by, enjoy a coffee in the garden and hopefully be inspired. Art of all levels is welcome and encouraged! Stop in Patina (4850 Main) if you would like more details, need ideas or something to paint on. Or contact Nikki 312-909-0115 Patinamichigan@gmail.com

Patina & Yellow Dog Cafe will host a Dog Days of Summer Fundraiser for Homeward Bound in the garden in late August.

**ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY
FOOD PANTRY**

The St. Joseph Food Pantry in Onekama serves families in need monthly with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables, canned, frozen, and prepared foods as well as some personal care products and pet food. You can make donations of food and other goods on the day before the distribution date, however monetary donations are preferred as this allows the Pantry to meet broader needs. Monetary donations can be given in the collection basket or sent to:

St. Joseph Community Food Pantry
8380 Fifth Street
Onekama, MI 49675

If you would like to volunteer, contact:
Leslie Osborn

foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com

The food pantry is the 4th Friday of the month. Volunteers are needed for food distribution from 9:00-noon and also the day before to unload the truck and set up-10:00 am to fill finished.

**Lahey's Pub &
Portage Point Cafe**

Don't miss out on the July and August line up of our famous “music on the deck”. Please let your friends and family in on the schedule.

All music will be on the deck (weather permitting) heaters and blankets will be available.

- Friday July 8 Sam & Bill 8:00
- Friday July 15 Grayson 8:00
- Friday July 22 Soulpatch 8:00
- Friday July 29 Barefoot 8:00
- Friday August 05 Feral Cats 8:00
- Friday August 12 Grayson 8:00
- Friday August 26 Grayson 8:00

Onekama Athletic Boosters

Onekama Athletic Boosters helps raise money for the sports programs in Onekama. We would like to ensure that every child has the opportunity to play sports and have the equipment needed. We also try to give back in the community.

Board Members

September 1st 2021- August 31, 2022

President - Tara Lyman tara_lyman27@hotmail.com

Vice President - Justin Sedelmaier

Treasurer - Amy Lyman

Secretary - Amber Sedelmaier

Trustee - Norah Benson

WALKING TRACK AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS

MONDAY	5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM
TUESDAY	5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM
WEDNESDAY	5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM
THURSDAY	5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM
FRIDAY	5 AM to 8 AM & 3 PM to 9 PM
SATURDAY	8 AM to 10 AM
SUNDAY	1 PM to 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 are Monday – Friday 8 AM to 3 PM).



Summer in Onekama Township Parks is spectacular!

We expect another strong attendance year and *everyone* is welcome. We have lots going on and the best line-up of events for 2022. All led by volunteers who care about our community. See the Onekama Township webpage for registration information.

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, in partnership with Onekama Parks, began a flora and fauna inventory in Glen Park, Portage Wetlands Park and North Point Park. Angie Bouma, Senior Land Steward will share the results of her first visit, which will be published on the Township webpage, soon. Dr. Josh Shields of the Manistee Conservation District and Audrey Menninga coordinator with the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species network will lead “Ever-changing” Guided Ecosystem & History Walk in North Point Park on July 1, please come learn about the unique natural and human history in the Park.

Are you one of those folks who combs the beach looking down at the ground foraging for rocks? You will enjoy a morning with LeAnn Burger at the Pierport Beach for “Rock Hounding 101: Guided Rock Hunt” on July 8.

A mini-adventure into the flora, fauna, and history of Glen Park will unveil the incredible beauty of Glen Park, join Josh Shields and LeAnn Burger for what has become a favorite annual event on August 5.

The Welcome All Abilities Garden (WAAG) a garden of native and pollinator plants with accessible signage in North Point Park is coming along nicely. Thank you to the Manistee Conservation district, the EGLE Village grant, Matt Lamore of Black Cap Farm Native Plant Nursery and the many volunteers from the Portage Lake Garden Club, the Portage Lake Watershed

Forever, and several friends of the park for their help in making this happen. The first plants were put in by the students of the Manistee ISD Special Education Department during their field trip themed “Be a Butterfly, See a Dragonfly”. Onekama Township purchased Educational Butterfly Kits for Leaps and Bounds, Mr. Lonn’s biology class, and Mrs. Tabaczka’s ISD students so they could watch a live caterpillar’s metamorphosis. Don’t miss the pollinator garden planted by the ISD students last fall, it is thriving. An exciting WAAG Grand Opening is planned for August 6, and includes an opportunity to sponsor a butterfly for the beautiful butterfly release.

The long awaited accessible kayak launch at the DNR Boat Launch on Andy’s Point is nearing completion. Hats off to Al Taylor who has worked hard on this project. The Grand Opening Launch and Flotilla Photo Op is also planned for the morning of August 7th (this is a change of date) if you have a kayak to launch, don’t miss this fabulous fun event.

Be a part of local citizen science-learn how on September 2 at North Point Park. Josh Shields will teach the basics of how to identify plants & arthropods- some call them bugs, learn why that’s not technically correct :) Everyone is encouraged to use tools from field guides to and the Naturalist App to share observations in our parks.

If you have an idea for an event and can provide the expertise, please let us know. While there are no age restriction on events, we hope to offer youth specific events soon.

As visitors to our parks, you can be eyes and ears. If you see something that needs attention, email parks@onekamatwp.org we will do our best to keep our parks tidy and welcoming.





PARKS & RECREATION 2022

Events are free! Please register by email Park@OnekamaTwp.org or use QR code.

June 4, Sat 11AM to 2PM **Meet Up & Clean Up & Plant** in North Point Park: Volunteers you parks need YOU!
June 11, Sat 11AM to 2PM **Meet Up & Clean Up & Plant** in North Point Park: Volunteers you parks need YOU!
June 16, Thurs 8:30 AM **Guided Bird Walk** in North Point Park: Dr Brian Allen
June 29, Wed 11:00 AM **Yoga on Lake Michigan in Capt. John Langland Park**: Mary Paine
July 1, Fri 10AM **"Ever-changing" Guided Ecosystem & History Walks** in North Point Park: Dr Joshua Shields
July 8, Fri 10AM **"Rockhounding 101" Guided Rock Hunt on Lake Michigan at Pierport Beach**: Leann Burger
August 5, Fri 10AM **"Adventure & Memories" in Glen Park: Nature & History Walk in Glen Park**: Dr. Joshua Shields
August 6, Sat 10AM **GRAND OPENING: Kayak Launch at DNR Boat Launch**
August 6, Sat 12PM **GRAND OPENING: Welcome All Abilities Garden in North Point Park with butterfly release**
Sept 2, Fri 10AM to Noon **"Who are YOU?!" Learn to identify plants & arthropods in North Point Park**: Dr. Shields

North Point Park, 8599 Greenway St. Onekama 49675: Universally accessible trail, picnic tables, and portable restroom
 Captain John Langland Park 1927 2nd St. Onekama, 49675: Universally accessible vault restroom
 Pierport Beach 2901 13 Mile Rd, Bear Lake 49614
 Glen Park Fourth Ave., Onekama 49675



Register for Bird Walk



Register for Everything Else!

Township Notes

New Township Website

Onekama Township has created a new website that will be dedicated to Township business. The address is: www.onekamatwp.org The site will provide comprehensive information about the Township including agendas, minutes, ordinances, contact information and much, much more.

For many years, the Township (as well as the Village of Onekama) web presence has been part of the Portage Lake Association's website, onekama.info That site will continue, and the Township wants to thank the PLA for the many years of cooperation and collaboration.

Committees

The Township has several committees/commissions that you may be interested in serving on:

- Parks & Recreation Committee
- Planning Commission
- Invasive Species Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Harbor Commission
- Board of Review

Vacancies on these boards will be announced on the Township website and interested individuals will be able to complete an application and submit it to the Township Clerk for Township Board consideration and appointment. The committees are integral to the operations of the Township and we need dedicated individuals to serve on them.

If you have any questions, the best way to reach me is via email: treasurer@onekamatwp.org

BIG DAY OF SERVICE

On Saturday, June 11th, several members of the community got together to complete several projects as part of the Big Day of Serving. The Big Day of Serving was an event put on by the Manistee Area Chamber Leadership Group. The 2021-2022 Leadership class chose to focus on Non-Profit Organizations in the area that had projects they wanted completed. There were 2 projects selected in the Onekama Area, one of which was the North Point Park. While at the park several volunteers were able to remove some invasive plants, plant some new trees/ plants and remove some dead trees/ shrubs. They even trimmed back some branches on the non-paved path through the park.

Here's a brief summary of what's been happening since April, 2022.

Township: Ginny Martz has resigned as assessor. The township hired Great Lakes Assessing.

Work on the Township website continues. Surplus Township Property: The surplus property list will be on the new website when the website becomes available to the public. Stay tuned.

Some shingles were replaced on the restroom and a new door will be installed. The DNR is considering paving the access road to the DNR launch. No wake signs have been ordered for the channel.

Chuck May is retiring from the Harbor Commission and the Small Harbor Stakeholders, and a replacement is need. Representation needs to stay active with the Army Corp and the Michigan Coalition of Small Harbors Stakeholders.

Village: The Village is considering revising the fence regulations. Draft language proposed by the planning commission: **A. Allow up to a 9 gauge wire as the top strand of garden fences, for structural support. B. allow electrified fencing if the hot wire is no closer than 48 inches to the ground, to deter deer, bear and other wildlife from gardens and C. allow 6' privacy fence, except in the front yard, and only on one side of corner lot.**

Matter to be further discussed at the June meeting. The village is signing the purchase agreement for the property at 5283 Main in conjunction with the Portage Lake Watershed Grant. Cost of said property \$5000, which will be paid for by the watershed grant. The Class of 1980 is donating a bench, size and placement to be determined. Wendy Kamaloski of the Green Buoy was appointed to the planning commission.

From Maegan Hrachovina

As a recent graduate of Onekama Consolidated Schools, I can honestly say that my small town has helped me through my four years of high school tremendously. The support my classmates and I have received over the years has been tremendous, and I am incredibly thankful for my community and everything everyone has done for us over the last few years.

Covid-19 hit during my sophomore year of high school, and there were millions of questions at the time about what would happen in the future. As time went on we saw the impacts of Covid-19 affecting sports, and past graduations, among many other aspects of our lives. As a sophomore, I can reflect and think of all of the questions my class had regarding the situation. How is this going to affect us, and our learning, and will this be over by the time we graduate? These were some of the questions going through all of our minds as we sat by our computers doing our school work from home. That year we celebrated our last day of tenth grade from home.

Junior year rolled around and we had a set date to go back to our classrooms, however, our start date got delayed. This forced newer questions to form; Are we going to continue to do online school all year and how will this affect our fall sports? As far as being online, when we could finally sit in our classrooms again, we knew we had to be flexible. The school could get shut down on any given day due to the pandemic. We bounced back and forth from learning at home and in school that year. We also had to wear face masks at all times when we entered the school building, including for our sports. Wearing face masks while trying to run during basketball practices was something that seemed like it would be a lot easier than it was. We had to do a little improvising, including a shortened basketball season, however, we remained strong and made it through it!

Next up, senior year! The most exciting year! We started the year by wearing face masks while in school, and during sports until masking became optional in the state of Michigan. I was able to see my classmates' faces after not seeing them for almost two years. Returning to a sense of normalcy was. We were able to finish our sports seasons and the school year went by so unbelievably quickly. Some of our previous questions had been answered; we were able to celebrate and have

a normal graduation.

I've always been aware of just how generous the Onekama community is towards helping us and guiding us all in numerous different ways due to the time I've dedicated to volunteering alongside many individuals. Fundraisers have helped allow students the opportunity to attend camps, pay for field trips for the younger students, and help buy athletic equipment for anyone who needs anything; and we are all very very fortunate to have such a tight-knit community behind us. No matter the sporting event or the location of the game, there has always been a crowd, cheering and encouraging us, and we are so grateful. I, Maegan Hrachovina, a recent Onekama graduate, can never say thank you enough to everyone in my community who has helped my classmates, and will continue to help the next classes. You've allowed us all to flourish, cherish our roots, and so many other important aspects, all while teaching us what being a part of a community is truly about.



Onekama Village Council

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Roger Burger
president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson
clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

Nikki Jach
treasurer@villageofonekama.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

County Planning Director
(231) 723-6041
planning@manisteecountymi.gov

TRUSTEES

Ralph Drumm
Rod Hudson
Andrea Arthur
Suzanne Schwing
Wayne Miller
Susan Halloran

FIRE CHIEF

Lawrence Hrachovina
fire@onekamatwp.org
(231) 889-4240 (fire building)

COMMITTEES 2022

STREET ADMINISTRATOR

Roger Burger

STREETS

Drumm (chair), Burger and Hudson

SEWER

Burger (chair), Hudson and A. Arthur

FARR CENTER

W. Miller

PARKS

Drumm (chair), A. Arthur and W. Miller

CEMETERY

Miller (chair), S. Halloran and S. Schwing

PERSONNEL

Burger (chair), Drumm & A. Arthur

PARK&REC COMMITTEE/REP

A. Arthur

PLANNING COMMITTEE LIAISON

S. Halloran

ZBA/COUNCIL LIAISON

Burger

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET

A. Arthur (chair) S. Halloran and Burger

VILLAGE/ ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Mike Szokola (Manistee County Assistant
Planner) 231-398-3527
mszokola@manisteecountymi.gov

Onekama Township Officials

Supervisor **David Meister**
supervisor@onekamatwp.org

Clerk **Michelle (Shelli) Johnson**
clerk@onekamatwp.org

Treasurer **Edward Bradford**
treasurer@onekamatwp.org

Zoning Administrator
Katie Mehl
Manistee County
231-398-3525

Assessor **Mollie Wetstone**
231-460-2977

Planning Commission Chairman

Jim Trout
planning@onekamatwp.org

Fire Chief **Lawrence Hrachovina**
fire@onekamatwp.org

Trustees **Robert Blackmore**
bblackmore@onekamatwp.org
Allen Taylor
ataylor@onekamatwp.org

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP OFFICES

5435 Main Street, PO 458, Onekama MI 49675

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am - 2pm
231-889-3308; FAX: (231) 889-5587

Portage Lake Association is Looking for Volunteers

Here are opportunities to do good, meet your neighbors and make Onekama fun and beautiful.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK: Mondays from June 27 - August 15th

Set-up, Bucket Brigade

ONEKAMA DAYS: August 5-8

Set-up & Break-down fencing & tables

ONEKAMA DAYS: August 6

Crafts Show, Beer Tasting, Pig Roast

FALL FESTIVAL: October 1

Set-up, kids' games

CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA: November 19

Set-up, Booth, Clean-up

For more information, contact us at information@onekama.info or the Portage Lake Association Group on Facebook

New Small Businesses find Success in Onekama Area

Near and Farr Friends, a program of the Portage Lake Association, hosted two panel presentations by new area small businesses this spring. The new owners were enthusiastic about the response to their services and products. Below is a summary of the businesses and how to find them.

Kyle Miller purchased the Canfield House Bed & Breakfast last year, and with his experience as a builder in Traverse City has improved the guest rooms. He hosts events for guests during their stay to add to the enjoyment of staying at a Bed and Breakfast on Portage Lake. Guests have access to Lake frontage to further enhance their experience. Contact via phone at (231) 970-0335 or email at stay@canfieldhousebnb.com. Plus, just in, the Canfield House was just voted #1 in Red Hot Best Bed and Breakfast.

Amy Tindall, one half of Red Bush Breads, was a professional classical musician before locating a farm on Craigslist that filled the bill for her passion for bread making.

Amy and Josh source organic, Michigan grown ingredients, grinding their organic grains with a small stone mill. All their breads and pastries are fermented naturally using sourdough culture of yeast and bacteria (wild yeast) and baked in a wood-fired brick oven. New customers can sign up with their email address to receive a weekly order form. Red Bush Bread Hut is on facebook and the email address is: aetindall@gmail.com.

Zach and Nicole Meseske owners of Z & N Farm Stand in Bear Lake offer both CSA and weekly produce ordered by customers. They brought new life to an abandoned cherry orchard where both field and greenhouse vegetables are grown using safe and natural growing processes. Ordering online with a stored credit card makes order pickup on Sunday easy.

The Meseskes also offer a self-serve farm stand with fresh produce available daily. Their business is on facebook; their website is- www.zenfarmllc.com.

Sign up with an email address to receive a weekly list of what produce is available.

Three Maidens Farm Stand is owned by Katie Bradford and her family. Their year round farmstand is located off M-22 on Maidens Road in Onekama. Besides fresh eggs from hens grazing in the nearby field, they offer maple syrup and baked goods including pies, cookies, bars, granola. New this year are roaster chickens raised for customers who order in advance. Three Maidens Farm is on facebook where you can find their latest offerings.

The Groomery is a full-service grooming service for cats and dogs and is owned by Kate Lippert. Kate moved from the Greater Lansing area to start her business in Onekama this past year after many years of grooming work downstate. She offers everything from basic nail trimming to full groom packages. The Groomery is located on Main at Brandt St. in Onekama and is on facebook. For appointments call 231-299-4658 or email Kate at groomsbykate@gmail.com.

Black Cap Plant Farm is owned by Matt Lamore and offers plants, shrubs and trees that are native to Michigan. Native plantings are the best option to ensure the survival of birds and other species in our state. Matt selected the name Black Cap Farm for the chickadee that feeds its chicks every 6 minutes with caterpillars that can only be found on native grown plants. The Farm has a website: blackcapplants.com and is on facebook and Instagram. The Farm is open from late May until late fall every day except Wednesday.

BrixStone Farms and Orchard is owned by Keaton Foster who operates an environmentally conscious farm using the latest research driven practices to produce quality apples, peaches and maple syrup made from trees on the farm. Keaton trained in the art of maple syrup making in New England and came to the area when a friend suggested it would be a good place to practice his craft. The farm is located three miles from Lake Michigan, halfway between Bear Lake and Onekama. Website: brixstonefarms.com and also on facebook.

Patina Designs is co-owned by Karen Kolb and Nikki Schneider who are both fans of upcycling the many items they have collected over the years. They offer inspired décor and can advise customers with items that they want to upcycle for use in their own homes. Located at 4850 Main St in Onekama on M-22. Website: www.patinamichigan.com and on facebook.

MJ Digital Marketing and Branding was created to meet the needs of individual performers, small businesses and organizations in the Manistee County area who need

a little boost to get online in our internet dependent world. Mara Davidson owns the business and offers her services in both Spanish and English upon request. She lived in Madrid Spain for 4 years where she received her degree in digital marketing. Keith McKenney is the coding and website builder for the company. He has four years' experience in military information technology. Website: www.mj-digitalmarketing.com; also on facebook and Instagram.

Michigan Worm Works is the source for bulk wormcastings also known as vermiculature that was created by Elana Warsen of Manistee. She sells bulk premium worm castings to local growers of various crops due to its high quality for ensuring the best outcome for the plants' health. She also sells through an online store the materials for homeowners who wish to recycle food waste (vegetable, fruit, coffee grounds, paper filters) by raising worms that can produce up to one cup of castings monthly for the homeowner's use.

Website: www.michiganwormworks.com;
 Email: michiganwormworks@gmail.com;
 phone: 734-276-5899

Green Buoy Resort on M-22 in Onekama is an adults-only vacation destination owned by Wendy and Dave Kamaloski. They purchased the former Windward Motel and have fully renovated all the cottages on the premises. Rentals include kayaks, paddleboards, grills, campfires and a vintage restored Esther Williams pool. Website: www.greenbuoyresort.com or phone 231-889-7325.

Near and Farr Friends program will return in the fall. If you wish to be on the mailing list for notification of programs, please send an email to: nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com



Have you seen the new mural taking shape on the side of the Farr Center? Wondered what it was all about?

“I love art and it’s really fun doing it on a much bigger space with my friends ... I like the way Mr. Bill lets us go wild with the paint ... It’s a great opportunity to learn art by trial and error ... We don’t normally get to interact with kids in other grades ... It’s fun to be doing something that will be here for a long time ... I’m enjoying the process — watching how it all comes together ... What I like is that I get to leave my mark and will know that I did that.”

These are some of the observations made by the thirteen 5th-9th graders from Onekama Consolidated Schools who are working on the garden mural underway on Main Street in Onekama. The project is being spearheaded by the Portage Lake Garden Club, Inc. (PLGC). A vibrant garden mural, signage, and logo commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the historic “cut” from Portage Lake to Lake Michigan are being painted on the eastern exterior wall of the Farr Center building.

“This is a wonderful collaboration,” explains PLGC volunteer project manager, Bonnie Garbrecht. “The Manistee County Community Foundation provided funding through a grant from their Limitless Fund. Former Onekama residents, Skip and Betsy Bergquist helped to underwrite the costs as well. Local artist and art educator, Bill Hattendorf is creating the design assisted by elementary, middle, and high school arts students from Onekama Consolidated Schools.

The PLA is on Instagram

Thanks to Mara Davidson, owner MJ Digital Marketing, the PLA is now on Instagram. Check it out by searching [@portage_lake_association](https://www.instagram.com/portage_lake_association) on Instagram. The posts are fun and informative.



For information about Onekama, check out the Portage Lake Association website: <https://www.onekama.info>

For specific information on the Township, check out: <https://www.onekama.info/township>

For the Village: <https://www.onekama.info/village>

Confusing!

PLA, PLWF, PPSRC: What do they all stand for and what do these groups do?

PLA=Portage Lake Association

The PLA's purpose is to make our community a more enjoyable place to live, work and play. PLA is non-political and concentrates on smaller, achievable Onekama projects.

The PLA sponsors the Monday Night Concert Series; Main Street petunias; Fireworks, Craft Show, Beer Tasting, and Pig Roast during Onekama Days; Fall Festival, Christmas in Onekama plus websites and social media that promote our area. These projects are made possible by dues, donations and fundraising. PLA is a volunteer and membership organization with a board of directors. The PLA is a 501 (c) 6 entity.

PLWF=Portage Lake Watershed Forever

The PLWF is a 501 (c) 3 entity. They have a board of directors. Funds are raised by donations. They were formed 15+ years ago with the goal of preserving the Portage Lake watershed by investing in protection and enhancement of natural and related cultural and historical resources in the watershed to provide economic benefit and to improve the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors. A water shed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is: "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of the community." They are working on updating their website and creating a new vision for the next decade.

PPSRC=Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation

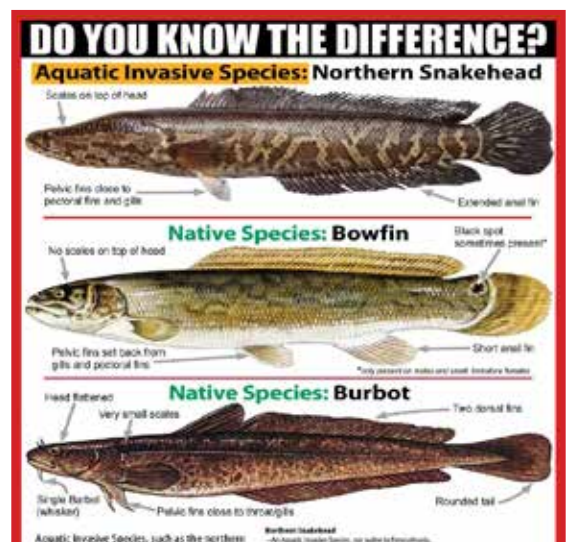
The PPSRC is open to membership to all property owners west of M-22 who have land accessed by Portage Point Road and/or the Road's side streets. Established in 1957 the Resort Corporation currently is an association of 255 year-around and seasonal families who pay annual dues. They provide the community dock on Portage Lake (located at Outlet Avenue and Portage Point Road). They also provide the Sunset House on Lake Michigan at Lakeisle and Lakeside. Both places are open to the public not just members. PPSRC places the white name signs along Portage Point Road for members. They keep members informed about pertinent issues and events through the Grapevine newsletter published twice a year and publish a membership directory once a year. They hold an annual membership meeting in July at the Portage Point Inn and host a social event for their members each summer at the Portage Point Inn.

News from Portage Lake Watershed Forever (PLWF)

During the Block Party, look for a PLWF table by Yellow Dog Café. There will be a snakehead specimen to check out as well as "fishy" treats from the Orchard Market.

This summer Portage Lake Watershed Forever is participating in the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MCWC) "Score the Shore" program, starting with a training session on July 24, 2022. Sometime between July 25 and July 28, three boats of volunteers will drive around the edge of the lake, observing the condition of the shoreline, using assessment forms provided by the MCWC. Questions on the form include the number of houses and docks, condition and amount of aquatic and riparian vegetation, and types of erosion control structures. Each question has a point value, either positive or negative, depending on the condition of the shoreline being observed. This project divides the shoreline into 1,000 ft sections, and there will be a score for each section, as well as an average score for the whole Portage Lake shoreline.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this project can visit the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Facebook page for instructions or can send an email to PLWF@outlook.com to get started.





MiCorps Fact Sheet

Score the Shore: A Shoreline Habitat Assessment

Shoreline habitat is an invaluable component of every lake ecosystem

Why is shoreline habitat important?

Shorelines are the primary habitat area for many of the animals that live on or near a lake. Birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and fish all rely on the shallow water and the aquatic and terrestrial vegetation along a lake's edge to find food and a safe place to rear their young. Healthy shorelines also help maintain water quality, limit erosion, and slow and filter rain runoff.

Unfortunately, some Michiganders are loving their lakes to death with excessive lakefront development. The construction of lawns, beaches, and sea walls remove optimal habitat locations along the shoreline. Foot traffic, docks, and the desire for an unobstructed view remove the vegetation that controls erosion.

Understanding where and how the lakeshore habitat is degraded is the first step in alleviating these problems. Lake residents can get this information by going through the Score the Shore process.

How does Score the Shore work?

Volunteers in the Score the Shore assessment use aerial maps and GPS to divide the shoreline of their lake into 1,000 foot sections. Volunteers



Manicured lawns and beaches are often the cause of degraded water quality. (photo credit: MiCorps staff)

then drive a boat around the edge of the lake, filling out an assessment form for each of the 1,000 foot sections. The assessment form contains questions on the number of houses and docks, condition and amount of aquatic and riparian vegetation, and types of erosion control structures.

Each of the questions on the form provides a point value, either positive or negative, depending on the condition of the lakeshore. Each 1,000 foot section will have its own score and then an average score is also calculated for the entire lake.

How can the Score the Shore results affect lake management?

With results in hand, lake residents can identify the areas on the lake that are in the poorest condition and why they are in this condition. Residents and lake associations can start both formal educational efforts and informal conversations

with neighbors about ways to improve the score. For example, when a shoreline section scores very poorly in woody debris habitat, the lake residents could make efforts to stop pulling out fallen trees or perhaps even place dead trees into the water.

Lake associations, non-profits, and local governments can use their results in writing grant proposals that would provide money for erosion control projects or habitat enhancement.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the Score the Shore program, please visit <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/>.



Lake residents can strike a balance between their needs and the lake's needs by keeping unmowed vegetation between the mowed lawn and the lake. (photo credit: MiCorps staff)



The CLMP is the lake monitoring program of the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps). MiCorps was created through an executive order by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to assist the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs. For more information about the MiCorps program, please visit www.micorps.net.



If you were driving by the Canfield mansion around 5:30 on any Tuesday in June, you might have wondered what was happening on the lawn. Sky Mage was leading a group of people in gentle yoga. It was fun!

Pickleball Alert

Calling all pickleball players! This is a reminder now that school is dismissed for the summer, pickleball play will start, **Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 10 am**, at the courts next to Zosel St. Don't let the high gas prices bother you....support your local courts and the volunteers setting up nets each day. This is a beginner/intermediate rec group. All ages are welcome. Don't forget your sunglasses, visor hats, and water bottle!

There is also Tuesday/Thursday morning play in Pleasanton/Bear Lake and Tuesdays in Manistee, so we encourage everyone to conserve fuel and play the courts nearest you.

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 Planting 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.com

Onekama, MI 49675
 P.O. Box 493
 Portage Lake Association

