



NEWS, EVENTS, & MORE FROM ONEKAMA, MICHIGAN

January 2018
Volumn 14, No. 1

President's Letter January 2018

As I write this letter, the first significant snow has fallen. Northern Michigan is beautiful in the winter, snow and the crystal blue color of Lake Michigan. I hope you are able to enjoy all the winter has to offer here. There is skiing, snow shoeing, ice fishing, snowmobiling or just a quiet walk through a snow-covered forest. We have it all!

The Portage Lake Association had a great 2017. The Petunia Parade lined our main street with vibrant colors from May through September. In 2018 the Petunia Parade will celebrate its 25th Silver Anniversary! Watch for upcoming information on the celebration schedule for Onekama Days.

Monday Night Concerts in the Park drew large crowds that kept people tapping their feet, clapping their hands or dancing among the lawn chairs. Next year is shaping up to be just as great with many crowd favorites returning. So, plan on bringing those lawn chairs back and listening to great musicians entertain us on Monday nights this summer.

The PLA offered something for everyone again this year during Onekama Days such as The Classic Car Show, Pig Out for Scholarships, Craft Beer Tasting, Show Us Your Art, Beautiful Baby Contest, live music with Awesome Distraction and Jim Hawley. This year the crowd was awed with a fantastic Fireworks Display over Portage Lake. We're planning and looking forward to another great Onekama Days again this year.

Fall Festival was bigger than ever with 28 Arts and Crafts vendors. There were many Children's activities and games, the increasingly popular Pet Parade and of course the Scarecrow Contest. The proceeds (\$156) from the Scarecrow Contest were donated to the local food pantry. Along with the scarecrows lining the street, business windows throughout the village were painted with Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the gang by Onekama High School Art Students. It was great to see everyone joining in on the Fall Fun.

Christmas in Onekama was held at Onekama Schools. There were 40 vendors set up throughout the gym offering a variety of "gifts" to choose from as well as a variety of "goodies" to try. The Chili Cook Off was held in Cafeteria with eight different varieties of chili to taste from local restaurants. This Chili Cook Off raised \$500.00 for the Onekama H.S. National Honor Society. That evening a delicious Pulled Pork and Sauerkraut meal was served at

M-22 Grill. What a great way to finish a wonderful day. Celebration of Lights was held the next evening where family members and friends are remembered by each light on the beautiful spruce tree near the Farr Center. Participants then enjoyed a night of caroling and Christmas cookies at the Farr Center.

Farr Friends offered a variety of activities this year. You could come and play games, cards, participate in a Euchre Tournament, enjoy a presentation on the History of Camp Tosebo or the History of Onekama Cemetery. In December they have a Christmas Cooking Exchange! These are just a few of the many activities that Farr Friends offer to our community. Please check out our website for the 2018 Farr Friends Schedule.

On another note, Blarney Castle opened their new gas station/deli/food market in December. West Shore Bank is scheduled to open their new branch in Onekama this January. The community is very excited to have these two new businesses here in Onekama.

The PLA is an all-volunteer organization. We depend on our members and friends to volunteer their time and energy to continue activities we sponsor in our community. We cannot do it without you. You are truly appreciated. We cannot do it without all of our members, friends and the business community that so generously donate monetarily to our organization. Every one of these donations helps provide the means necessary to carry out our mission "to make this a better place to live, work and play".

Please consider volunteering. The PLA is a wonderful organization with friendly dedicated people. If you are interested in joining the PLA or volunteering, please let me know. I would be glad to talk with you.

Happy New Year!

Julie Lapinski,
President, Portage Lake Association
julielapinski@gmail.com or 269-832-2392



After almost two years in the making, the new Onekama EZ Market is up and running. The Spirit Station and the old EZ mart are now closed. Check out the pay at the pump gas under a canopy which provides protection against the elements. In addition to unleaded gasoline, you can also get premium gas with no ethanol. In addition to cars that require premium, this gas with no ethanol is a must to keep your outboard motors, gasoline powered tools, like lawnmowers running. You can also purchase on and off road diesel fuel. The convenience store offers a much wider selection than you would expect, including a hot and cold deli, large wine and liquor selection, fresh meats, fresh produce and canned and dry goods competitively priced with area grocery stores. Thanks to Blarney Castle for making such a large investment in Onekama by Blarney Castle. Not only did they build a new modern gas station and convenience store, but they also enhanced the streetscape. The architecture is much fancier than the normal station. You can get more information and sales info at onekamaEZmarket.com

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A Group You Should Know:

**GRASS ROOTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP,
RENEW ONEKAMA, TAKING HOLD**

A few weeks ago a handful of local citizens sat down at the Yellow Dog Café and, over a cup of Bonnie's good coffee, began a conversation. What started out as a group of citizens concerned about the negative economic impact of the lawsuit currently pending against Onekama Township over the planned improvements to the Portage Point Inn, quickly morphed into something bigger. Our mission statement is simple: *Renew Onekama* is an organization of volunteers committed to fostering smart economic development within the Village of Onekama and Onekama Township. If you are interested in finding out how you can be a part of this movement, simply contact us. Our email address is: renewonekama@gmail.com. Our phone number is 231 970-1360. Our mailing address is: *Renew Onekama*, PO Box 61, Onekama, MI 49675. We will provide information through a variety of sources to include a website, Facebook Page and newsletters. We invite your participation with us in our efforts to *Renew Onekama*.

More Up To Date Information at www.onekama.info

Onekama's Petunia Parade to Celebrate 25th Year

Thanks to the leadership of Dan and Polly Wellburn and the persistence of hundreds of faithful volunteers over the years, the Onekama Petunia Parade will celebrate a Silver Anniversary in the summer of 2018.

It all got started in the bleak winter days of 1993, according to the Wellburns who now call Traverse City home.

"Some people around the village had been discussing the idea," says Dan. "I came into the project because of my experience with a community flower project in East Lansing. Of course, everyone looked to Charlevoix's wonderful displays with envy, but we certainly didn't have those kind of resources."

What Onekama may have lacked in financial resources, however, was more than made up for by their citizens' "can do" spirit. A small committee began exploring right of way lines and MDOT's role since Onekama's Main Street is also the very busy M-22 gateway to the north.

Bill, the Village's maintenance man was a God-send, say the Wellburns. "He warned us about digging up cable and utility wires. Cut one of those wires and we'd incur a \$500 fine, which we could ill afford since we had no budget."

It wasn't long before the Onekama Lion's Club joined the bandwagon. After Larry Bradford invited Dan to speak at one of their meetings, the project had the full support of this important group. Of course, it didn't hurt to have the National Geographic Society's designation of M-22 as one of America's most scenic drives that very same year. Local landscaper, Everett Hopwood, and nurseryman, Frank English, both provided the group with plenty of professional know-how. Today this role is furnished by Larsen's Landscaping who generously donate weed kill applications, soil sampling, roto tilling, and raking services for the annual undertaking.

The depth of community support grew as local citizens' Phil Branam, Jim Trout, Harlan Meister, and Charlie Stevenson generously manned the water and fertilizer wagons. Blarney Castle and other local businesses contributed as well.

"We knew it was a true community project when Onekama Consolidated Schools Superintendent, Beth McCarthy, made Petunia planting a school project," says Dan Wellburn. "A lot of kids found out how to transplant flowers that year and for many years to come."

Onekama wasn't the only public school involved, however. It was the Kaleva Norman Dickson agriculture class who took on the project of actually raising the petunias in their green house. "When they were ready, we'd get a school bus and drive over to their hot house to pick them up," says Dan.

Volunteers to plant, weed, and maintain beds came from all over, but Portage Lake Association members were especially in evidence. Among the ones the Wellburns can remember from those early days are Liz Miller, Judy Blackmore, Blanche Miller, Jim Mrozinski, The Reverend Tim Brinkley, and Michelle Grimm. Jeff Sternberger from the Portage Point Inn was also a regular at work parties.

Those of you reading this article will no doubt note the mention of some local citizens no longer in our midst. This gives us pause to remember these individuals together with the hundreds who have followed in their footsteps allowing Onekama to burst into bloom each summer. It truly does "take a village."



Onekama Consolidated School
Summary of minutes from Nov. 13, 2017
Regular Meeting
Media Center, Onekama Schools

Presentations: Shelly Rife, College Network -- Ms. Rife outlined all the activities that she organizes and completes with the Seniors and Juniors. Some of those activities include completing college applications, completing FAFSA forms, exploring career choices, and exploring scholarship opportunities.

Bruce Peabody, Tech Survey -- Bruce Peabody spent time reviewing the survey conducted regarding the use of the 1 to 1 technology. The survey captured input from students and staff. Ideas to better survey parents/guardians were discussed.

Approve Ski Trip to Colorado -- Ski Coach Curt Mathieu updated the board on the schedule for the annual trip to Colorado. He highlighted the additional experiences such as navigating the airports, securing a rental vehicle, and self help skills like cooking & cleaning.

Communications -- Articles were forwarded to Board members and Behring encouraged everyone to take time to read them. Behring shared his knowledge about Career Cruising which is currently used at Onekama.

Building Team Update - Acton handed out a copy of the minutes from the last building team meeting. Plans are to bid in January for the roof and the heating & cooling. Additional soil testing will be done on the football field where there is a drainage problem.

Enrollment Update -- Hughes handed out four pages with information regarding Onekama's enrollment numbers, ins & outs. Discussion included the impact of exchange students, the impact of a "bubble" grade level, and reasons for school of choice decisions.

Other Comments from Public, Administration, and Board -- Hughes attended a Legislative Coalition meeting and the discussion centered around open carry in schools, daycares, churches, etc.



A Student Point of View

By McKenzie Bradford

I am a current student at Onekama Consolidated Schools and the President of National Honor Society. Recently, we had Christmas in November, which was held at Onekama School by the Portager Lake Association. There were different vendors that were selling items like baked goods, clothing, paintings and homemade baked goods. In the cafeteria, there was the annual chili cook off. Nine different chills completed including, Rosie's, Yellow Dog Cafe, House of Flavors, Bear Lake Discount Grocery, Northside Bar, Portage Point Inn, and more! There were a lot of familiar faces and many that I have never seen before. Everyone was in a cheerful mood. It was an overall good time and a great way to kick off the Christmas spirit.

It is always a joy to volunteer for the PLA because they give so much back to the school. The PLA also does a lot for the community. They put on a lot of events throughout the year that pulls the Onekama community together. If it wasn't for the PLA, then we (students) wouldn't have community service and volunteer hours to put on our resume. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we appreciate all the hard work that the Portage Lake Association does for us.

Walking Track and Fitness Center Hours

Mon.-Fri.	5-8am & 3-9pm
Sat.	8-10am
Sun.	1-3pm & 6-8pm

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 8am-3pm).

2nd Year of Pie Extravaganza!

Thanks to Donna Ervin of the Glenwood and all of her helpers, students sold more than 700 pies throughout the community, raising more than \$7,000 for the annual trip to Colorado. Third grader Nelson Catanese sold the most pies, more than 60 of them. Any leftover money will go toward future class trips.

For More Articles and Photos Visit: ocs.manistee.org



Onekama Schools Giving Tree

By Elizabeth Domres

Every year Onekama Schools has a giving tree that helps families in need during the holiday season. Families contact the school with their needs and then they are put onto tags and displayed on the giving tree. We encourage school families and community members to come and take tags to buy gifts for these families. This year Onekama Schools was able to help six families in the district with items, which included clothing, food items, household needs, and cash donations.

The Onekama National Honors Society and Student Council teamed up this year and were able to spend \$2,200 on families because of various fundraisers and generous donations. With this money we were able to purchase large items such as coats, boots, tennis shoes, hoodies, jeans, and gas cards. In addition the school families and community were able to purchase additional household items that will be given to families in need throughout the school year.



AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Onekama Students Give Thanks

In all corners of the Onekama School building, students and teachers are having meaningful conversations about the importance of expressing appreciation this Thanksgiving holiday.

“Did you know that people who show gratitude are happier and healthier than people who do not?” commented Onekama sixth grader Joy Rogers. “In our class, we read informational articles that taught us that showing gratitude is not only good for the people we thank. It is good for us, too.”

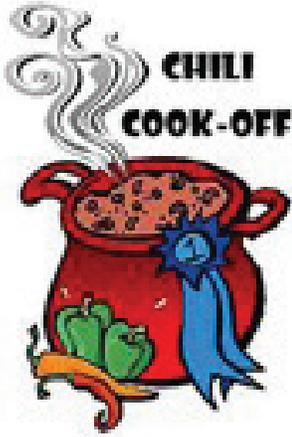
Onekama students spent the days leading up to Thanksgiving break reading, writing, creating, and learning... all in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Armed with new knowledge about the importance of expressing and receiving gratitude, sixth grade students participated in The Gratitude Project. Each student selected a member of the school’s support staff to write and deliver a heartfelt letter of appreciation.

Finally, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, there were cross-grade partnerships taking place throughout the building as well, allowing students to work collaboratively with others and realize how fortunate they are to be part of such a close-knit school.

“I loved helping my first grade partner Owen with his Thanksgiving writing project,” said eighth grade student Sophie Wisniski. “I thought it was fun to be in the first grade classroom again and to see how much all of them looked up to our class and trusted us to help them.”





154 tasters participated in the annual Chili Cook-Off, which is part of the Christmas in Onekama event. Proceeds from the event go to the Onekama National Honor Society. The winner, Bear Lake Market, will have their name engraved on the traveling trophy. Thanks to Bear Lake Market, Rosie's, Portage Point Inn, The Filmore, Chopos Northside Bar, Yellow Dog, House of Flavors and Shirley's who donated their time and chili to this worthy cause.

Farr Friends Have Plans for the Winter Months Programs are from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 18	Appalachian Trail Hike – Mark & Kathy Laguire
Jan. 25	500 Bid card game led by Mary Jo McElroy
Feb. 1	Learn to play Euchre
Feb. 8	History of Trinity Lutheran Church
Feb. 22	Are you ready if we experience a Forest Fire here?
March 1	History of Petunia Parade on its 25 th Anniversary
March 8	Game Day - History of Mahjong
March 15	Game Day
March 22	Songfest with Donnel Grahl
March 29	Game Day

The weather cancellation policy for Farr Friends programs is the following: If the library is closed, then we will not meet at the Farr Center that day. The Onekama branch library is open from 10:30-5pm on Thursdays and the library phone is 889-4041.

More information on these upcoming programs can be found in the News Advocate the week of the event, on the website www.onekama.info, and by following us on Facebook @ 1,-Onekama, MI

The Farr Friends programs are free of charge and open to anyone in the community. The service was begun by the Portage Lake Association so that area residents could meet one another in a community setting. For those of us who stay here all winter, these weekly events give us a chance to get out of the house and have fun while learning and socializing.



Onekama Lions celebrating Christmas at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility....song, snacks & Santa!



If you have your granddaughter, Teaghan Owens, and ingredients all purchased from the new EZ Market in Onekama, you can have a Holiday Brunch of Eggs Benedict. Jean Capper, Editor Picture Credit to my wonderful step-daughter, Kristin Heinichen

First Annual Christmas Day Dinner

John Blackman is the owner of the M22 Grill in Onekama. He, his family and many volunteers with donations served a free Christmas Day Dinner. They plan on making this an annual event, providing a place for many to gather and enjoy good food and company.

Junior Clio

“Thinking of You” Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to local residents who have either lost a family member, are elderly, who are suffering illnesses or who are new residents of the community. Club meeting programs are educational, entertaining and historical. Since Clio is the Muse of History, it has been the desire of Jr. Clio to establish a museum for Onekama. Many individuals are willing to work on this but the need of a building and a benefactor has halted the progress.

Onekama Village Information

Onekama Village Offices:

5283 Main Street

Phone: 231 889-3171 • Fax: 231 889-3423

Hours: Monday through Wednesday from 9am to 2pm

Village Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month
at
7pm at the Farr Center

Planning Commissions meetings are set for 1/10/18,
3/14/18, 6/13/18, 8/15/18 and 11/14/18 at 1:00pm.

Did you know you can rent the Farr Center Hall?

Please make arrangements with the clerk @
(231) 889-3171 or email: clerk@villageofonekama.org.

- No burning is permitted within the Village Limits – only bonfires
- Feeding of waterfowl, including but not limited to ducks, geese, and swans IS NOT PERMITTED
- Land use permits may be obtained by contacting the Village Zoning Administrator, Hours are Wednesdays from 9am to 2pm.
- RECYCLING: Please make sure to follow the rules, or this great service will be discontinued!

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to volunteer contact:

Leslie Osborn foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com

Donations can be given in the
collection basket or sent to:

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

Onekama Library Hours

Monday, Thursday and Friday 10:30am-5pm

Tuesday 1:00pm-5pm

Wednesday 12:30pm-7:00pm

Branch Librarian: Gary Block

Phone (231) 889-4041

Fax (231) 889-5420

Onekama Parks On-line

<https://www.onekama.info/interactive-park-map>

Village of Onekama

Summary of Draft Council Meeting Minutes

11/25/2017

Shirley Brooks and Jeneanne Fitzgerald from the Portage Lake Garden Club shared with the council the PLGC's plans for repairing and improving the Village Park Fountain. The complete file on the project and history of the fountain are on file with the clerk.

Treasurer Jach informed the council that the Village had received a \$200.00 donation from the Onekama Guild to be used for the purchase of power assist doors for the entry to FC. If this project fails due to lack of donations all monies will be returned. As reported in the Oct min letters to the groups using Farr Center will be sent out the 1st of the year soliciting donations for this project.

Trustee Hendricks presented a report of activities for the past month which are on file with clerk. Violations of the blight ordinance will be investigated by the Zoning Administrator.

The Planning Commission has two vacancies that need to be filled.

The irrigation system has now been winterized. The Village received a \$799.00 check from the insurance company for a past lightning strike.

Still waiting for reimbursement for the repair of the storm drain on Spring St. from the contractor (working for Charter) who damaged the drain when installing inter net cable.

A temporary new contractor for brush collection did the last two remaining collection for the 2017.

Trustee Milasich reported on the meeting held November 8, 2017 to explore coordination of park projects between the Village and the Lions club. The report included the review of four projects that are pending, planned and hoped for. These projects include renovation of the park restrooms, the remodel of the park pavilion, a band shell for the concerts in the park and the improving of the park fountain. The complete report on file with the clerk.

Farr Center: The village has received a donation of an aerial view of Portage Lake to hang in the hallway of Farr Center. Farr Center committee is still working on a policy with regard to the donations of art to be hung in the Farr Center building.

Requests from citizens outside of the village to place plaques in our veterans' memorial area of the cemetery have been received. This issue will be discussed at a Cemetery Committee meeting for a decision.

Farr Friends meeting dates for 2018-it was the consensus of the council that Farr Friends can meet Jan-Feb-March on those Thursdays but starting in April it will be on a week to week basis. Clerk will notify Farr Friends of this decision.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

PLWF Survey Results *Almost* Shocks Update Committee!

Lee Nordlah, Chair of the PLWF Update Steering Committee, said he had not expected that so many people would complete the on-line up-date survey.

“I’m almost in shock that we got **395** responses,” he said in a interview with a well-known and as-yet-not discredited local newsperson.

“We are all gratified, not only at the number of surveys returned but also with the thoughtful and often insightful comments many people offered.”

He said it was evident that people cared deeply about Portage Lake and the watershed. He also thanked all of the groups that

allowed PLWF to use their mailing lists to spread the survey across the Portage Lake community and said that without this access the number of survey responses could have been much lower.

“Yes,” he added. “I may be shocked but I am also in awe of the participation of the community in this process.”

The results are now being evaluated for inclusion in the PLWF Update due out in the summer of 2018.

News Flash - A random drawing for the lucky winner of the \$100 Glenwood Gift Certificate is Bert Miller whose family are long time cottagers. *Bon appetite to the Millers!*



TRUE OR FALSE? *Just for fun, test your watershed knowledge.*

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. Watersheds are not actually <i>sheds</i> . | True | False |
| 2. A watershed helps keep our water clean. | True | False |
| 3. “Portage Lake Watershed” refers only to the lake. | True | False |
| 4. The watershed just works in the summer. | True | False |
| 5. Wetlands are an important part of the watershed. | True | False |
| 6. Invasive species are plants from other galaxies. | True | False |
| 7. Air pollution and water pollution are connected. | True | False |
| 8. Water in a watershed collects in one place. | True | False |
| 9. You can tell if the water is clean just by looking. | True | False |
| 10. What we do here matters. | True | False |

Fraud *Not* Suspected in Recent Election

In a remarkably non-partisan fashion, 2018 PLWF Council Members and officers were elected at the November PLWF Council meeting. The understated campaigns mounted by the contenders proved to be enough to sweep them unchallenged into office. And, in a departure from other recent races, costs were minimal. Election officials were heard to remark that the most lavish effort ran into "... the tens of cents."

2018 Officers include: Al Taylor, Chair; Ted Lawrence, Vice-Chair; Jim Simons, Treasurer; Kathy Ervin, Secretary; Mary Reed, Mover & Shaker

Council Members: Shaughn Barnett, Bee Capper, Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Susan Halloran, Ted Lawrence, Herb Lennon, Kayla Kroll, Jim Mrozinski, Lee Nordloh, Mary Reed, Jim Simons, Al Taylor, Jamie Verna

Meetings are the last Tuesday of the month at the Farr Center. 7:00. Everyone is welcome.

*Remember,
what we
do here
matters!*

OMG!

For every 6,750 liters of ocean water in the world there is only one liter of fresh water. Which means, if our calculations are correct, there is only a little more than 1/2 gallon of fresh water on the face of the earth for every 1,783 gallons of ocean waters. Might want to keep that fact in mind when you leave the water running for no good reason.

OUR HEARTFELT APOLOGIES

We know how much all of you look forward to getting our end-of-the-year letter requesting your continued financial support and also recounting the watershed's annual accomplishments which, by the way, are impressive. This year, however, you will be hearing from us via e-mail.

WE have embraced this mode of communication for several reasons: 1) it's more efficient; 2) it's less costly and, 3) we've been busy and didn't get it together in time. We are certain you will understand and hope that you will remember us in your 2017 charitable giving. Go to <http://www.manisteefoundation.org/component/funds>

WATERSHED WORD SEARCH

H	K	S	E	T	I	M	G	A	R	H	P	M	D	C
H	T	C	E	C	S	Z	S	I	K	I	P	Q	A	Q
M	V	L	T	V	Y	Y	T	R	E	T	L	I	F	R
D	S	V	H	B	I	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	Y	U
O	E	L	U	W	O	T	H	I	O	W	Y	Z	E	N
G	G	I	A	A	Q	U	A	T	I	C	E	M	G	O
L	C	K	F	C	X	O	V	N	S	H	C	O	A	F
C	D	N	K	S	I	L	U	Q	E	T	B	I	T	F
H	L	B	H	S	S	M	H	W	P	U	A	P	R	U
J	S	L	Y	T	A	V	E	Y	T	U	Y	E	O	A
W	L	H	J	R	D	C	P	H	I	D	V	V	P	R
V	E	M	T	E	A	U	C	Q	C	E	O	D	A	H
G	Q	E	R	A	U	S	R	E	R	Q	B	V	F	Q
H	F	F	D	M	M	H	L	O	S	G	B	O	X	I
O	T	Q	D	S	G	J	F	B	B	S	R	U	D	Z

STREAMS
CHEMICALS
WEEDS
SEPTIC
AQUATIC
ACCESS
PHRAGMITES
NATIVES
FILTER
PROTECT
FOREVER
PORTAGE
RUNOFF

**Summary of the
ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Kevin Hughes, OCS Superintendent, distributed the 2017 annual report and updated attendees of the school's progress and thanked the community for the millage vote.

Ms. Roz Jaffe, member of the Smart Economic Growth Committee, introduced the group, aiming to help renew and support growth in Onekama.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT: Report given by Commissioner Pauline Jaquish. Update given on local County Meetings. Bear Lake building removal process has started.

FIRE/RESCUE: Report given by Kaitlin Kubiskey. 9 EMS Runs, 2 FIRE Runs, 3 Meetings. Stabilization equipment was received through the Fire Fighter's Association. MOTION by Wisniski, Seconded by Blackmore for the reimbursement of class tuition, attendance, and mileage for Kubiskey to complete EMT training. M/C

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Report by Lany Thompson, and read by Meister.

ASSESSOR: Report given by Ginny Martz. The Board of Review will meet at 9 am on December 12. The State also enacted changes to the Disabled Veterans Exemption that addresses midyear changes. This new change will affect a previous exempt property that was recently sold.

WATERSHED: Report by Taylor. The Committee continues to work with updating the watershed management plan.

ROADS: Wisniski stated that the next meeting is December 13, at 10 am. Discussions currently taking place regarding 8 mile Road to U.S. 31.

SEWER COLLABORATIVE: Report by Meister. Meeting on December 6 at 4 pm at Bear Lake Township Hall.

NEW BUSINESS: Potential offer to Heathlands Golf Course, for sale to be used as Solar Energy Farm.

LARSEN'S LANDSCAPING & LAWN CARE

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

Seasonal Clean-Up – Snow Removal – Installations

Student Paintings Brighten up Onekama

Whimsical paintings, inspired by “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” movie, adorned the windows of eleven Onekama businesses along M-22 this fall. Students from Dana Woolman’s 9 – 12 grade Onekama art classes took to the streets to decorate the town for the Onekama Fall Festival, held October 14th, and to celebrate the season.



Woolman said the students worked in teams of 5 - 6 to design and execute the paintings. She said the painting itself is challenging because the type of paint students use is made up of tempera and dish soap, which makes it rather transparent. The students needed to paint two or more coats to make the paint more opaque.

Sponsored by the Portage Lake Association (PLA), the event, celebrating its second year, is a collaboration between the school, the art students, businesses and community members. PLA furnished the paint and supplies, Dana Woolman coordinated the work, and Blarney Castle EZ Mart donated pizza for the students as a thank you. More pictures of the paintings and Fall Festival are available on the PLA Facebook page at 1, - Onekama, Michigan.

Tentative Schedule of 2018 Major Events in Onekama	
<u>Event</u>	<u>Projected Date</u>
25th Anniversary	
Petunia Planting	May 23, 2018
Onekama Marine Shakedown	
Fishing Tournament	May 25, 26, 27, 2018
Monday Night	
Concerts in the Park	June 25 - Aug. 13, 2018
Onekama Block Party	July 5, 2018
Onekama Days	August 3-6, 2018
Manistee County Fair	August 21-25, 2018
Fall Festival	October 13, 2018
Christmas in Onekama	November 17 & 18, 2018
<i>Other Local & Regional Events see www.onekama.info</i>	

Portage Lake Garden Club

Club members are actively involved in the fight against invasive species. A 5-year management plan for the eradication and control of invasive plant species was developed and funded. The native Marsh Marigold, the Club's official flower, is coming up where the phragmites grew. The Club created and maintains a Butterfly Garden and Memorial Brick Patio situated behind the Farr Center and the Onekama Library. Bricks may be purchased and placed in the patio to honor and memorialize Club members, their families and other members of the community. Since 1950 the Club has maintained the landscaping at the Memorial Fountain, a National Historic Monument, in the Village of Onekama Park. Every December, Club members design and decorate a Christmas tree that is placed in the Farr Center for use by the community. Garden Club members worked with Onekama Consolidated Students to plant grasses around the Onekama School sign. Members maintain the plantings.

The Club participates in the Alliance for the Great Lakes Lake Michigan beach clean-up project every fall. For more information, visit <https://www.portagelakegardclub.org>

The burning of the phragmites after treatment in front of the Farr Center Invasive Species.

Marsh Marigolds growing on the shore of Portage Lake Native Species Renewal.

Continuing Civic Projects

Since 1950 the Club has maintained the landscaping at the Memorial Fountain, a National Historic Monument, in the Village of Onekama Park.



The burning of the phragmites after treatment in front of the Farr Center Invasive Species.

A Beautification Award is presented to a business establishment that has been the most improved by landscaping or plantings.

Every December, Club members design and decorate a Christmas tree that is placed in the Farr Center for use by the community.

Welcome To Onekama! The Portage Lake Garden Club maintains the plantings at two "Welcome to Onekama" signs. One is located on M22 at the north end of town and the other at the southern end. All plantings are Michigan native species. Daffodils bloom in the planter in the spring. Garden Club members worked with Onekama Consolidated Students to plant grasses around the Onekama School sign. Members maintain the plantings.

Memorial books are purchased by the club in honor of deceased members. The books are donated to the Onekama branch of the Manistee Public Library where the Club has a Memorial Library collection of gardening, landscaping and flower arranging books. They can be checked out by anyone with a valid library card.

The Club participates in the Alliance for the Great Lakes Lake Michigan beach clean-up project every fall.



Marsh Marigolds growing on the shore of Portage Lake Native Species Renewal.



Our Butterfly Garden and Memorial Brick Patio.



Note from the PLA Newsletter Editor:

Apologies for Steve Szilvagy who wrote a very nice article about the summer concerts for the October Newsletter. Somehow it got a bit discombobulated, through no fault of Steve's!

If you have any ideas, articles, pictures, nominations for a person (group) you should know, please send them to Jean Capper at jmcmom@aol.com.



The Portage Lake Association hosts fundraisers throughout the year for the benefit of the community of Onekama. In the past, this has included an annual dinner. This year the Portage Lake Association tried something new. We had on line auctions, silent auctions and raffles. Net proceeds from our fundraisers help the Portage Lake Association fund Monday Night Concerts in the Park, the Petunias lining Main Street in Onekama, Fall Festival, Onekama Days, Christmas in Onekama, Scholarships and regional civic projects. It also allows us to maintain and update our website, www.onekama.info, as well as our 1,- Onekama and Portage Lake Association Facebook pages. This year there will again be many chances to help the PLA financially. including on line auctions, silent auctions, raffles, and cash donations. Stay tuned and check out the website for more information. Your participation helps the PLS make the Onekama Region a great place to live, play and stay in!

Summary of the Status of Work on the Portage Lake Revetment

Repair Project from a Letter dated 12/14/17 from the Corps of Engineers.

Thanks to the Portage Lake Harbor Commission and the Township for their work to make this happen!

Work on the Portage Lake Harbor revetment repair contract is set to start in April 2018, start time dependent on weather. A portion of the funds are being set aside to address unforeseen site conditions. The remaining funds will be used to execute some of the additional maintenance work described in the Harbor Commission's letter dated 9/28/17. The priorities for use of the additional funds are:

1. Portage Lake Harbor Maintenance-the Corps is planning a to develop a design to dredge the federal navigation channel to 16 feet below low water. The Corps can not dredge wall to wall, as the USACE is not authorized to maintain areas outside of the federal navigation channel.
2. Extend the steel sheet pile wall to the east end of the south revetment, which will also include a concrete cap.
3. Place a concrete slab on top of rubble mound structure to ensure safe access for structure inspections.
4. Increase width of concrete cap from 5 to 6 foot wide, which will provide safe access for structure inspections.

The Portage Lake Harbor revetments were constructed to retain/prevent the sliding of the land and protecting the upland area against wave action. The revetments are not intended for recreation, so USACE funds cannot be used for "betterments" such as viewing areas, fishing access or public access.

Portage Point Inn Update:

Coming Soon: CONCERTS & JAM SESSIONS

Plans are being made to bring back local artists & new names. An all new "band shell", expanded yard and new bar, promise to make your listening experience even better. We are also teaming up with local artists to offer the community and guests to have "Jam Sessions". Watch the website for details and dates!

For More Events during Onekama Days – check out www.onekama.com for more info.

