



Dear Friends:

Spring 2023! Garden preparations, trees budding, the smell of skunk in the yard, the promise of more! hunting, boating - whatever you enjoy most about Onekama is just around the corner!

The Portage Lake Association held a February planning workshop and has begun work on new programs to benefit the Onekama area. We're also looking at ways to improve our productivity and make it easier for you, our members and supporters, to enjoy our programs and projects.

Here is the slate of PLA programs & events:

Near & Farr Friends: April 6 & 20; May 4 & 18

Main Street Petunia Planting: May 24th

PLA Party @the Canfield House: June 17th\* tentative

Monday Concerts in the Park: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31; August 7 & 14

Onekama Days: August 4-7

Fall Festival: October 7th

Christmas in Onekama & Celebration of Lights: November 18th & 19th

Find more details, as they become available, by visiting our updated website [onekama.info](http://onekama.info); our Facebook group Onekama Community Connection and our Facebook page: PLA Facebook Page

Please renew your Portage Lake Association membership. You'll find a form towards the end of the newsletter, or visit the website for online enrollment. All membership income enables the PLA to fund the events and projects above.

Warm regards to all who cherish the Onekama area.

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](mailto:jmcmom@aol.com)**

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE 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 will be coming July 1, 2023. Deadline for submission is June 10, 2023.

If you are reading a hard copy of the newsletter, you may notice a change in the color of the paper. The lighter yellow should make for a better reading experience.

## VOLUNTEERS DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO MAKE PETUNIA PLANTING QUICK AND EFFICIENT

One of the attributes of Onekama's Petunia Parade Committee is its penchant for continuous improvement. A mundane, yet necessary, task is to make sure the petunias get spaced appropriately for their growth and (attempted) reduction in weeds.

When the Petunia Parade began 30 years ago (started by Dan and Polly Welburn in 1993), holes for placing petunias in the soil were spaced using a wooden grid designed by Dan. According to Judy Blackmore, long-time Petunia Parade Committee member, these "wooden slats were designed to provide a grid showing where to dig holes for plants. In time, the wooden slats became problematic due to the need for persons to constantly move them between areas and because they required storage the rest of the year." Around this same time, the Committee "discovered" tidal wave petunias which have a different growth pattern (lateral and bushy) than the genus currently being used. The team determined that tidal wave petunias could take the place of 3 traditional petunia plants due to their branching out and ability to provide an improved weed barrier. Spacing the plants every ten inches became the norm. A technique of using long strings marked with knots or red wool at ten-inch intervals was used to make sure the transplants were planted every ten inches. Not too long after that, Bob Blackmore learned about large drill bits that could be used with battery-powered drills. When the soil is dampened the night before, this pre-drilling of holes has been appreciated by many planters over the years.

The number of petunia plants purchased each year is based on ten-inch spacing. In the past five years, several people have volunteered their time, tools, and labor to pre-drilling almost 4000 holes along the "Petunia Parade" on Main Street. They are Ken Franklin (who says he started it to help his wife Jewelee); Jim Simons; Wendell and Shirley Brooks; Jeff McClune and Mary Jo McElroy. In 2023, the team will add Dave Maylen who appears to be the king of Ryobi power tools! Photographed here are Dave Maylen, Jim Simons and Ken Franklin. Please look for them on Tuesday, May 23 around 9 AM armed with their drills, drill bits, and commitment to the petunia planters who will arrive the next morning!



**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

## SAVE THE TREES

Article and photos by Elaine Maylen

The Portage Lake Garden Club, Onekama Consolidated Schools, and the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive (AATA) collaborated so that tenth grade students could propagate trees at AATA's Tree School on March 3. OCS science teacher Matt Lonn states, "We have just finished our unit on genetics. We are currently looking at plants and the processes unique to plants. Tree school ties everything together and provides a real-life application to what the students have learned." Although this is the first time OCS students have attended Tree School, AATA has provided this education program to Grades K-12 and adults for ten years.

Prior to the field trip to AATA, the students met with Marjorie Pearsall-Groenwald, PhD, who is a Science Education Consultant with AATA. Dr. Pearsall-Groenwald familiarized the students with terms and basic concepts. Students learned that trees propagate best when plant material gathered from the location on the tree where cells are actively dividing, which is typically at the very tips of roots, stems or branches.

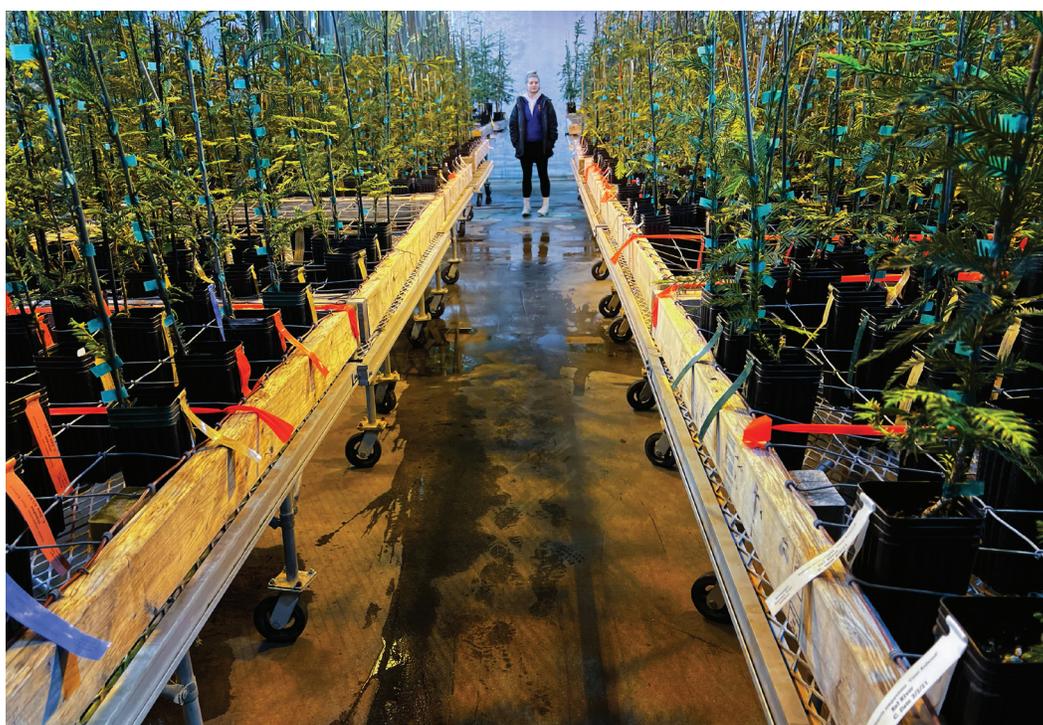
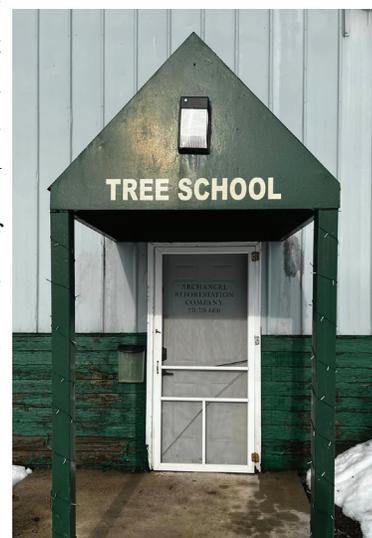
At Tree School, the OCS students propagated over 200 black willow trees using clones from a National Champion Black Willow tree from Traverse City. The Black Willow is native to North America. It is known for its strength, height, flood resilience, and erosion control. It has an exceptional ability to clean contaminants out of soil and is perfect for planting around waterways. At one point, black willow trees were abundant on the shores of Lake Michigan and Portage Lake.

Sophomore Carl Seller said the field trip was better than he thought it would be. "I thought it would be more classroom learning, but it was hands-on and that made it interesting. I would like to come back and learn to propagate different vari-

eties of trees." Caden Bradford added that he "hasn't thought too much about climate change, but I am a little concerned. I can see that the climate is getting warmer."

The black willow saplings will be about one foot tall in late May. At that point, the students will plant several saplings. The remainder will be sold for \$20 through the Portage Lake Garden Club. For purchase information, please send an email to [mary.talbott@gmail.com](mailto:mary.talbott@gmail.com).

Located in Copemish, AATA is internationally known and respected for archiving the genetics of some of the oldest and largest trees on Earth. Living archives are created by making clones of ancient trees, then planting them in locations best suited for their survival. AATA focuses on ancient trees because the DNA of those trees has allowed them to grow for hundreds of years, surviving climate changes and extreme weather events.



## Near and Farr Friends

The April and May offerings of Near & Farr Friends, a program of the Portage Lake Association, include two game days and two speaker days.

April 6 at 2:30pm is a Word Game Day. We will be playing Upwords and Scrabble. Participants may bring other word games to play as well. All are encouraged to attend and no experience is necessary to play these games.

April 20 at 2:30pm is a local history program of special interest to those living in Red Park or Wick-a-te-wah neighborhood on the south side of Portage Lake. Dave and Fran Wallace will share their experiences and knowledge of Red Park and Ted Lawrence has the honor of sharing what he has learned about Wick-a-te-wah. The speakers are current residents of these two neighborhoods. Everyone is invited to this event, with special encouragement for those with a history of visiting or living in either of these neighborhoods to attend and share your knowledge and memories with others.

May 4 at 2:30pm will be a Bridge Game Day. Cards will be provided. All with some basic knowledge of bridge are encouraged to join the fun.

This is a social/party bridge day rather than duplicate. Anyone interested in learning more about the game is welcome to observe, or to try playing a hand! May 18 at 2:30pm will feature Joe Suchocki speaking about the Onekama Collaborative Recovery. OCR seeks to improve the economic and social well-being of the citizens of Onekama through a coordinated program of activities, projects, programs and policy changes. Residents, businesses and organizations are networking ideas to enhance Onekama and the lives and livelihoods of all its residents. Come to hear what the group has learned and where to go from here.

All meetings will be held at the Onekama Township Hall at 5435 Main St. in Onekama. Many thanks to the township for allowing Near & Farr Friends to use this space for our gatherings twice a month.

Near & Farr Friends was created to welcome those new to the area and share social and educational time

with all residents.

Send your email address to: [nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com](mailto:nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com) to receive notice early in the week of each program. You may also see postings on PLA's website and social media, and Freshwater Reporter's website.

### Great February Program!

Near and Farr Friends were treated to a special presentation at the Onekama Township Hall on February 16. Jessica Steinburg, an Artist and Clan Mother member of the Little River Tribe of Ottawa Indians gave a stimulating talk about the strong women who share an equal partnership with men within the Anishinaabe culture. The Township Hall was a full with many great questions answered. Chris Gravlin and Judy Minton, who taught Jessica in her school days at KND were pleased to learn from their former student. Picture: Judy, Jessica and Chris. Submitted by Michael Gavlin.



### Please call for Curbside Hours



[Onekama Branch Library](#) 

5283 Main St.

P.O. Box 149

Onekama, MI 49675

p: (231) 889-4041

f: (231) 889-5420

Monday 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday 12:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Thursday 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Please Call for Curbside Hours

# AT THE LIBRARY IN APRIL

## ONEKAMA BRANCH LIBRARY

MANISTEE COUNTY LIBRARY

- APR 6** EGGSHELL CHIA PETS FOR KIDS 3-5 PM
- APR 12** BOOK SPINE POETRY FOR TEENS 3-6 PM
- APR 17** "RHYMING" STORYTIME EARLY LITERACY AT 11 AM
- APR 19** INTRO TO NATIVE PLANTS FOR ADULTS 3-5 PM
- APR 24** HOT AIR BALLOON ART FOR KIDS 3-5 PM

SOME EVENTS REQUIRE REGISTRATION. FOR DETAILS, VISIT: [WWW.MANISTEECOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.MANISTEECOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG) OR CALL US: (231) 889-4041



## ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to volunteer contact:

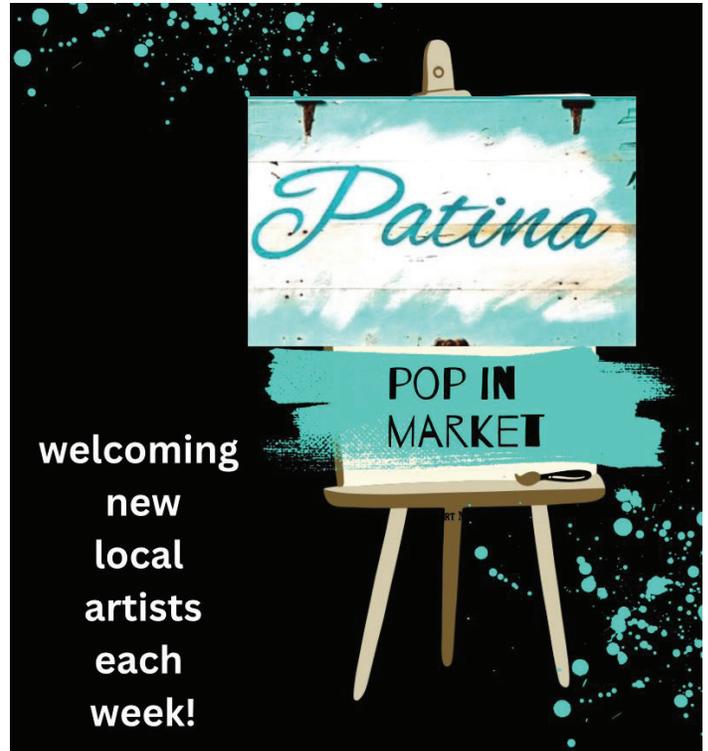
Leslie Osborn

[foodpantry\\_2014@yahoo.com](mailto:foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com)

General Information

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

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



Patina will open for its 5th season in early May.

Owner, Nikki Schneider, is excited to offer weekly POP IN MARKETS, for local artists.

The chosen artists will have their own space inside the shop for up to 4 days. "It is MUCH easier than an outdoor POP UP. No tent and no weather worries, just pull up in front of the shop and unload!" says Nikki. "The artist will have access to electricity, a bathroom, music etc. and can demonstrate their craft while connecting with customers!"

Along with selling eclectic, interesting FINDS, Nikki loves supporting local artists and encouraging them to share their talents, inspirations and stories. Workshops, book signings, poetry readings in the garden and MORE are in the works! Be sure to follow Patina Designs on Facebook and Instagram or email Nikki at [patinamichigan@gmail.com](mailto:patinamichigan@gmail.com) for details.

### 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.





*Jane Kott,*

**A Person You  
Should Know**

Doug and I purchased the property at 4990 Main St. for not only a place for my Daughter and Grand-Daughter to live but for Kate to open her own pet grooming business. After much renovating and badly needed landscaping, we now have 2 new businesses in the Village: The Groomery and Kott's Antiques and Home Decor. Instead of leaving the store front empty we decided to open a seasonal shop. Doug and I were both heavily into recycling and reusing and reinventing discarded items. With his skills and my vision, we have saved probably thousands of items from landing in the landfill. We refinish, restore, repaint, rewire, rebuild to give something a second chance for a new generation. I've been doing this since I was 9 yrs old. Picking up neighbors discarded 'junk' and hauling it home much to my Mothers horror....."I hope the neighbors didn't see you take that!!" My Grand-daughter, Emmy, is very involved and you'll see her at my shop most days 'helping' me. She's my sidekick, my buddy and the customers love seeing her and are bummed when she's not there. Doug, who retired from Morton Salt last June, is now working more days so I'm able to be home more creating new pieces and getting in more beach days with Emmy. She and I love the beach and hiking the great trails available to us. Plus, it gives me more time for my other gig at The Red Dresser Marketplace in Traverse City. I've been a vendor there for 12 years and part of the crew for The Barn Market, a Vintage and Makers Market held at the Northwest Michigan Fairgrounds. Pickin' is the fun part and I'm not doing much of that anymore. My pickin' is done out of our 3 barns, garage, and basement, for now. No taste for vintage? We carry new home decor, gifts, greeting cards, Annie Sloan Chalk Paint, Redesign with Prima Transfers, vintage clothing, soft goods, puzzles, candles, Myra Bags, epherma and so much more. We are way more than an antique store!!!! More great things coming this year. Stop in and say, HI.

**Portage Lake Association  
Volunteer Spotlight:**

*Kathleen (Kathy) Loynes*

Formerly of East Lansing, graduate of College of Agriculture & Natural Resources from Michigan State University (Go Green!) with a degree Horticulture.

Employee of Delta Dental of Michigan for 23+ years. Career began in Accounting department, moved to management position in Sales Operations, to Compensation Specialist in Human Resources, and retired as Senior Sales Project Manager.

I have been a homeowner in Onekama Township for 20+ years, and a Portage Lake Association member for a majority of those years. I have been involved with the Portage Lake Watershed Association both as a supporter and in volunteering my expertise in creating the floral centerpieces for several fundraising events.

During the initial 2020 Covid outbreak my husband Jack & I took advantage of the opportunity to work remotely, and moved to our home in Onekama full time. After several months, we both retired here in Onekama, as we had always planned.

Shortly thereafter, I was invited to join the team at MacBeth & Co., which has been a wonderful experience, and a great opportunity to meet people in the community.

My husband, Jack, is a PhD Psychologist, who had a private practice in East Lansing, and was a Professor at Michigan State University. We have four children and eight grandchildren, and all of them love Onekama and Portage Lake.

I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the community, and look forward to becoming more involved in the PLA & supporting its goals & endeavors.



## Portage Lake Association Events

NEAR & FARR FRIENDS:

April 6 & 20; May 4 & 18

MAIN STREET PETUNIA PLANTING:

Wednesday, May 24th

JUNE FUNDRAISER PARTY @ CANFIELD

HOUSE: Saturday, June 17th\**tentative*

CONCERTS IN THE PARK:

Monday nights late June through mid-August  
June 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31; August 7 & 14

ONEKAMA DAYS: August 4th - 7th

FALL FESTIVAL: Saturday, October 7th

CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA: Saturday, Nov. 18th

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS: Sunday, Nov. 19th

For more information or to volunteer:

email: [information@onekama.info](mailto:information@onekama.info);

website [onekama.info](http://onekama.info);

Facebook page [PLAOnekama](https://www.facebook.com/PLAOnekama);

Facebook group [Onekama Community Connection](https://www.facebook.com/OnekamaCommunityConnection)

## RECYCLING

Wonder if something is recyclable? Check this link for a helpful guide: <https://www.manisteecountymi.gov/356/Recycling>

**PA69 Recycling Program:** Public Act 69 allows Michigan Counties and local units of government to enter into an agreement to fund a residential recycling program. Nine of Manistee County's communities, including Onekama Township/Village use Public Act 69 to fund their local recycling programs and are collectively known as the PA69 Recycling Program. The recycling sites located in six communities are paid for and are for use by residents of the PA69 Recycling Program communities only. View the PA69 Recycling Guidelines to see what is recyclable in these communities.

All Manistee County residents have access to the recycling drop-off site located at the Republic Services Manistee County Landfill at 3890 Camp Road, Manistee.

Have Questions? Call the Toll-free Recycling Hotline - 855-2Go-Zero (855-246-9376).



## ONEKAMA DAYS TO INCLUDE FRANK ENGLISH MEMORIAL CAR SHOW

For thirty-plus years, Frank English passionately organized a Car Show as part of Onekama Days. Frank unexpectedly passed away on November 29, 2022. He was such a supporter of Onekama, restored and work-in-progress vehicles, and the larger community that we cannot let his legacy pass.

Portage Lake Association and a team of residents will continue the tradition with the Frank English Memorial Car Show. It will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 9 AM to 2:30 PM in the Village Park in Onekama. Frank had a long-held goal of reaching 100 cars for his event, but never realized that during his lifetime. We are trying to reach that goal in Frank's memory. Net proceeds will be awarded as a scholarship to a young person in our community who is pursuing education post-high school in the automotive industry.

If you have entered Car Shows in the Manistee County area in the past or you would like to show off your "baby", we hope you will enter your car this year in support of Onekama and Frank English. We plan to have the usual goodie bags, prizes, 50/50 raffle, dash plaques, and trophies as in past shows. Of course, our DJ and Master of Ceremonies will be Eddie Reed playing our favorite tunes!

We value your participation and hope that your memories of Frank will inspire you to show your vehicle in 2023 and into the future. Thank you.

## The Effects of Local Planning and Zoning

Have you ever asked yourself why communities look and function the way they do? Why commercial or industrial uses might be located in one area and neighborhoods, schools and parks in another area? Where streets, sidewalks and off-road multi-use paths are located and whether or not they connect to one another? Why parking lots may be located behind or in front of a business? Why buildings may be a certain height or certain number of stories?

Who makes these decisions? The answer...a Planning Commission, in conjunction with the elected officials and you, through your commitment to participate in the public hearing process. These decisions are oftentimes guided by a Master Plan. Under Michigan law, a Master Plan is prepared by the Planning Commission to guide the form and function of the community that best reflects the priorities and values of residents and business owners. The land use recommendations identified in the Master Plan are then often implemented through zoning. Zoning are local laws adopted by the elected officials that regulate the use of land, structures and other site improvements.

The Planning Commission is also responsible for review of site plans and special land uses. The Commissioner members are responsible to ensure that new development fits the community's vision for a given site. Additionally, the Commission is the main forum for discussion of changes to zoning laws and zoning map. As required by law, the Planning Commission must hold a public hearing before recommending any zoning changes to the elected officials.

Both the Village of Onekama and Onekama Township have a Planning Commission. The Village of Onekama Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Farr Center, 5283 Main Street. The Onekama Township Planning Commission meets the third Thursday of every month (April through December) at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Office at 5435 Main Street.

Residents have the opportunity to improve their quality of community life by getting involved. If you're an enthusiastic resident and want to get involved by serving on the Planning Commission when vacancies occur, please contact the Village of Onekama at (231) 889-3423 if you live in the Village or the Township of Onekama at (231) 889-3308 if you live in the Township.



## Team Work Does Makes the Dream Work There is No 'I' in "Team"

*Madison Gutowski*

As a senior at Onekama Schools, I am so proud to be involved in numerous sports. This school year, our girls volleyball team and our girls basketball team have won district titles. We could not have gotten this far without the endless support from our community members, staff, and of course our coaches and teammates. It takes a tremendous amount of group effort, and that's something we've always had.

Even though Onekama is a small school, the community around it is so strong. Throughout the four years of my high school career, the community has always been something to lift me, as well as everyone around me, up. We've always had the support we needed to continue not just in our athletic endeavors but in our free time as well. The Portage Lake Association has been so helpful for us all and provided us with many opportunities to get involved with the community in our chance to give back. I'm so proud to be a part of Onekama Schools, in addition to being part of the Onekama community. I can't wait to see how it impacts others along the way too.

**2023 Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Programming Calendar April-June**  
 See [OnekamaTwp.org](http://OnekamaTwp.org) for updates. \*Some events require registration which will open April 10

					Event Name	Event Description	
April	Th	20	8:45PM	9:45PM	<b>Guided Bird Walk*</b>	Owl Prowl at Night	North Point Park
	Sat	22	3:00PM	4:30PM	<b>Kids &amp; Kites Fun Day</b>	Kids of all ages will enjoy flying kites and playing games. Kites, snacks & drinks provided. Prizes!	Langland Beach
	Wed	26	9:00AM	10:30AM	<b>Guided Bird Walk*</b>	Welcome Spring Migration	North Point Park
May	Sat	6	11:00AM	2:00PM	<b>Parks Clean Up Open House Volunteers Needed*</b>	Volunteers work on Spring clean up, weeding & other easy tasks	North Point Park, Langland Park
	Th	11	8:30AM	10:00AM	<b>Guided Bird Walk*</b>	Nesting	North Point Park/Portage Wetlands
	Sat	20	1:00PM	3:00PM	<b>History Club Meeting</b>	Anyone who has history, loves history and wants to learn history of Onekama please join us!	Township Hall
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>Garlic Mustard Pull Volunteers Needed*</b>	Volunteers and trained leaders work to remove invasive species	North Point Park
June	Sat	3	1:00PM	3:00PM	<b>History Club Open House</b>	Anyone who has history, loves history and wants to learn history of Onekama please join us!	Township Hall
	Wed	14	8:30AM	10:00AM	<b>Guided Bird Walk*</b>	Birding by Ear	North Point Park
	Wed	28	11:00AM	11:45PM	<b>Yoga on the Beach*</b>	Fun, gentle & inspirational yoga at waters edge	Langland Beach
	Fri	30	9:00AM	12:00PM	<b>BioBlitz: Monitoring our ecosystem*</b>	All ages Citizen Science! Help evaluate the health of the ecosystems! You will be trained to identify plant and animal using field guides, iNaturalist and Seek.	North Point Park
	Fri	30	1:00PM	3:00PM	<b>Rockhounding 101*</b>	Gather at Pierport Beach to learn about geology of Michigan and the fun hobby of rock collection	Pierport Beach
BI-WEEKLY June 30 to August 4	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>Children's Activities in the parks.</b>	Fun for kids! Reading, sidewalk chalk, nature walk, sand castle building, crafts, etc. Details soon.	Carden, Eagle View/Feldhak, North Point/Portage Wetlands, Glen, Langland
WEEKLY June 30 to August 4	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>Pickleball at OCS</b>	Township provides nets. An experienced player will teach all ages to about pickle ball.	Onekama Consolidated Schools Basketball Courts
July	Fri	7	9:00AM	9:45AM	<b>Yoga on the Beach*</b>	Fun, gentle & inspirational yoga at waters edge	Langland Beach
	Wed	12	11:00AM	11:45AM	<b>Yoga on the Beach*</b>	Fun, gentle & inspirational yoga at waters edge	Langland Beach
	Fri	21	9:00AM	9:45AM	<b>Yoga on the Beach*</b>	Fun, gentle & inspirational yoga at waters edge	Langland Beach
	Fri	21	1:00PM	3:00PM	<b>Rockhounding 101*</b>	Gather at Pierport Beach to learn about geology of Michigan and the fun hobby of rock collection	Pierport Beach
	Fri	21	4:00PM	6:00PM	<b>History Club Tour of Portage Point Inn</b>	If the walls could talk... enjoy a lively walking tour of Portage Point Inn. Learn the legends and truths!	Portage Point Resort
	Wed	26	11:00AM	11:45	<b>Yoga on the Beach*</b>	Fun, gentle & inspirational yoga at waters edge	Langland Beach
WEEKLY June 30 to July 31	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>Pickleball at OCS</b>	Township provides nets. An experienced player will teach all ages to about pickle ball.	Onekama Consolidated Schools Basketball Courts
BI-WEEKLY June 30 to July 31	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>Children's Activities in the parks.</b>	New programming dependent on summer worker: reading, sidewalk chalk, nature walk, sand castle building, crafts, etc.	Carden, Eagle View/Feldhak, North Point/Portage Wetlands, Glen, Langland



Published on *Onekama, MI* (<http://www.onekamatwp.org>)

**Board Members:**

David Meister- Supervisor;

Edward Bradford-Treasurer;

Shelli Johnson-Clerk;

Bob Blackmore and Allen Taylor-Trustees

Phone: (231) 889-3308 Fax: (231) 889-5587

Address: Onekama Township Board 5435 Main Street Onekama, MI 49675 United States

Meet: Second Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm

Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday and

Wednesday from 9:00am to 2:00pm

Check out the new website for additional information: Onekama Township

### **News from Onekama Township Parks and Recreation:**

#### **Onekama is hiring for a Seasonal Township Parks and Recreation Manager.**

Manage 90 acres in seven parks and the programming within the parks as an employee of the Onekama Township Board of Trustees and under the supervision of the Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Committee. Hourly rate: \$20.00; 20 hours per week; Flexible scheduling between May 8 through August 28; works some weekends

For Application visit <https://www.onekamatwp.org/parks-recreation-committee/news/enjoy-nature-enjoy-people-enjoy-being-versatile>

Email Application and Resume to [Parks@OnekamaTwp.org](mailto:Parks@OnekamaTwp.org) Deadline is April 5.

Check out our calendar for opportunities to enjoy our parks.

Love the parks? Please enjoy them, but also look for opportunities to volunteer. There will also be news soon about a "Friends of the Parks" group. Look for an announcement and we hope you will join.

## **SUMMARY OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP**

### **For more details, visit the Onekama Township.**

In January bid packages were sent out to the adjacent property owners for the surplus properties. Parcels 9, 10 and 11 are being held for a possible purchase and donation to the Township as park land. In February the following bids were accepted:

Parcel 51-11-290-336-00 - Portage Lake Watershed bid \$2,001.00

Parcel 51-11-290-237-00 Parcel 51-11-290-248-00 -Workman for \$4010 and \$3510

Parcel 51-11-290-160-00 -Anderson bid \$5,000.00

The County. Has applied for an EPA Grant for a recycle location and program with a state of the art facility.

The TLCSA is still gathering information. The Project cost is estimated at \$59 million, with an interest rate at 2.25%. IF AT 75% GRANT , today, O&M would be \$92/mo and loan would be \$33/mo for a total of \$125/mo. Based on current data and application turned in on this date. The Authority is getting information from Crystal Lake and Northport, who have similar systems. There continue to be lots of questions on the process. Visit TLCSA for more information.

Ed Bradford had lengthy conversations with the Township Attorney stating that the Open Meetings Act doesn't require that the Township provide remote access unless there is a Board Member in the Military or a verified ADA request. Bradford suggests video recording the meetings and putting them on YouTube, not live streaming them; plus allow Zoom only for boards, consultants, verified ADA requests if they cannot attend meetings. Two separate issues that need to be discussed further.

Dave Meister has appointed Sam Cefaratti as Deputy Supervisor. He will be the Short-Term Rental Enforcement Officer.

Discussion of Short-Term rentals continues. To see the third draft, visit Short term rental draft 3

The Harbor Commission is keeping in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers on the stone work and dredging for the channel. Johnson will complete the letter for the requests at the DNR Launch site and submit that mailing in the next couple of days.

The Lions Club has 12 special licenses per year. They are requesting a Club License, similar to that of a "VFW Club" License. A Resolution to provide a license application to the State of Michigan was approved.

## VILLAGE SUMMARY

Even the winter months are busy for the Village!

**Budget:** The Village Council hosted a public budget hearing in February and received citizen feedback. Council finalized and passed the balanced Fiscal 2023-2024 budget with no millage increase.

**Zoning:** At the request of three property owners, a public hearing regarding the Portage Lake Overlay Zone on the Village of Onekama Zoning Map was held in January. There was support for the Zoning Map adoption with requests for action to improve the Village Zoning Ordinances. The Council voted to accept the Overlay District as pictured on the current Zoning map.

Our Manistee County Zoning Administrator has hired a new enforcement officer. One blight violation was addressed, and the property cleaned up.

**Planning Commission:** An exciting announcement - the Village Planning Commission is fully staffed! Council appointed and welcomed Joe Suchocki to the Planning Commission. Joe has extensive business experience to leverage as a productive presence on the Commission. He's also agreed to act as Commission Secretary - a very important role that has been unfilled in recent months.

Planning Commission Chair, Christopher Forth, leads the Commission in their priorities on the Master Plan update, changes to Overlay District, amending Zoning for hotels/motels, having quarterly meetings with the Onekama Township Planning Commission, and setting up a Commission Facebook page. The page is available at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/522608633338606> (or search Village of Onekama Planning Commission on Facebook) for all the latest news from the Planning Commission.

**Parks:** Manistee Area Leadership Program presented a proposal for a Life Vest Loaner Station. This community project, sponsored by the Manistee Area Leadership Program asked for an agreement with the Village for the installation of one permanent Life Vest Loaner Station in the Village Park. Council voted to approve the project.

A community organization called Onekama Collaborative Recovery (OCR) proposed Village Park improvements using grants and private donations in four Phases, including an event stage, electrical renovation, pavilion renovation, and construction of a second small pavilion.

Jetty repair work will begin in the Spring.

2023 Brush Collection Schedule:

This year's brush collection schedule is available on the Village web page, [www.onekama.info/village](http://www.onekama.info/village), and posted at the Clerk's office at the Farr Center.

Meeting reminders – At the Farr Center  
Village Council – 3rd Wednesday of the month  
at 7 pm  
Village Planning Commission – 2nd  
Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

Check the Village website at  
[www.onekama.info/village](http://www.onekama.info/village) for the latest.

## Onekama Village Council

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Roger Burger

[president@villageofonekama.org](mailto:president@villageofonekama.org)

### CLERK

Ruth Hudson

[clerk@villageofonekama.org](mailto:clerk@villageofonekama.org)

### TREASURER

Nikki Jach

[treasurer@villageofonekama.org](mailto:treasurer@villageofonekama.org)

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

County Planning Director

(231) 723-6041

[planning@manisteecountymi.gov](mailto:planning@manisteecountymi.gov)

### TRUSTEES

Rod Hudson

Andrea Arthur

Suzanne Schwing

Wayne Miller

Susan Halloran

Sarah Fauble

### FIRE CHIEF

Rob Johnson

[fire@onekamatwp.org](mailto:fire@onekamatwp.org)

(231) 889-4240 (fire building)



## Save the date for the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Summer Fundraiser!

When: Saturday July 22, 2023

Where: The Canfield House

For more details follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/portagelakewatershedforever>



### Digital Marketing Volunteer Opportunity

We would like to expand our social media presence in the community. If you are knowledgeable with Meta Business, are familiar with Onekama and enjoy social media we could use your help. Please contact Nikki Schneider at [patinamichigan@gmail.com](mailto:patinamichigan@gmail.com).

The PLA is a group of volunteers dedicated to making Onekama a great place to work, stay & play.

### WALKING TRACK AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS

Monday through Friday	5AM to 8AM & 3PM to 9PM
Saturday	8 AM to 10AM
Sunday	1PM to 8PM

NOTE: Walking Track is closed during Athletic Events.

Applications for keycards to the walking track and fitness center are available in the Superintendent's Office (hours are Monday–Friday 8AM to 3PM).

### 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](http://www.onekama.com)*

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

