



Oakwood Neighborhood Association  
3320 Laird Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
KALAMAZOO, MI  
PERMIT NO. 189**

ONA People

Gary Wager, President  
Don Verhage, Vice Pres.  
Diane Stanke, Treasurer  
Niah Venable, Secretary

At Large Members:

Jim Ross  
Patty Mikowski  
Kathleen Olmsted  
Bree Bennett  
Jane Turner

Cheryl Lord, Exec. Director  
ONA Office: 269-342-0129

[www.oakwoodneighborhood.org](http://www.oakwoodneighborhood.org)  
[center@oakwoodneighborhood.org](mailto:center@oakwoodneighborhood.org)

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*February Events*

- 8- Recycling & Trash
- 12- Friend of Woods Lake: 7 p.m.
- 14- Sundowners: 7:00 p.m.
- 16-New Volunteer Open House, 1 p.m.
- 19- Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
- Senior Drop In & Free bread 1-3 pm Weds.

*March Events*

- 11- Friend of Woods Lake: 7 p.m.
- 13- Sundowners: 7:00 p.m.
- 14- Recycling & Trash
- 16- Easter Party: 1 p.m.
- 18- Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
- Senior Drop In & Free bread 1-3 pm Weds.



## Love your neighborhood & helping others?

Then come on over to the  
Oakwood Neighborhood Association's:  
**New Volunteer Open House**  
February 16th at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
at the Community Center, 3320 Laird Ave.

We need your help with:

- Office and youth activities
- Greenspace maintenance
- Board Members, both officer and member-at-large positions
- Facility maintenance
- Seasonal events and activities

Meet ONA Board Members and other volunteers  
and find out what opportunities are available!

Call 342-0129 for more info.

*The Oakwood Neighborhood Association wishes to thank the following friends and neighbors for their generous donations to the ONA Community Center 2007 Building Campaign Fund:*

Emily Dontje	Jordan Semark
Doreen M. Ellwood	Fran Gustafson
Gail A. Block	Betty E. Clough
Jackie Luedtke	Karen Steffes
Charlene M. Balch	Howard & Mary Winchell
Dr. Joyce Zastrow	Earl & Marion Porter
Janis Clark	Wayne & Beverly Decker
Pat & Bill Henry	Amiel & May Swartz
Leroy Link	Patty J. Moss
Ronald Dean Kaul	Brean Bennett
L. S. Shannon	Dolore Deshong
AA/Chat n' Chew	Anonymous Donors
Greenleaf Realty/Carol Miller	

*If you've made a donation and we missed recognizing you or if we have misspelled your name, please let us know so we can update our donor database. Or, if you haven't donated yet please consider making your tax-deductible contribution today. Thanks!*

## Oakwood Holiday Party 2007

Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted neighborhood partygoers with presents for the children and seniors and there were goodies on hand to fill everyone up. Attendees also included volunteers from WMU, ONA Board Members, and Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell. If you missed this year's festivities, be sure to attend next year!



## From the Desk of the Director... *By Cheryl Lord*

- 2008-9 Super Books are now on sale. Help support Oakwood and buy yours from the ONA center, Initial Attraction, The Oakwood Pharmacy, Shears to You, or the Keystone Community Bank at Oakwood.
- Do you have a 5 to 12 year old, who needs a safe and fun place to be after school? Check out our after school program by calling 337-8191 or 342-0129 for information/registration. Scholarships are available
- Have you thought about volunteering? Come to our new volunteer open house on February 16th at 1 p.m. to hear what opportunities are available.
- One to one computers tutoring for seniors is available please call the center if interested.

### Senior Drop-In for Free Bread and Goodies:

Every Wednesday from 1-3 pm.

### Wish List

1. Volunteers to help put on an ice cream social, carnival and entertainment for our centennial the last weekend of June
2. Apple juice or drink boxes for the after school program
3. Volunteer to help clean bathroom once each week
4. Licensed electrician to assist with rewiring the neighborhood center.
5. A detail-oriented volunteer comfortable with using computer applications like e-mail, word-processing, basic image and desktop publishing software, printers and copiers to produce 5 ONA newsletters per year on an alternating month basis.

### Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission and George Hope for bringing bakery goods to the ONA center every Wednesday.
- Oakwood Bible Church for their wonderful generosity in supplying food, gifts and manpower to help make the holidays special for eleven families.
- Harold and Betty Knowles for providing presents for all who attended our Christmas party and for helping to supply our food bank.
- D & W for providing turkeys for our holiday food baskets
- John & Nancy Bremert, aka Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Santa's Elves: Kathleen Olmsted, Diane Stanke, Jackie Luedtke, Janet Loucks, Ruth Olmsted, Sharon Jones, Will, and six WMU Alpha Lambda Delta students
- Water St. Coffee Joint for great treats for our Christmas Party

- DesignWare for paper good and table decorations.
- Rick Howe for wrapping paper and cups, and John Bremert for paper cups
- Carl Price, the Knowles, the Oakwood Bible Church, and Janet Loucks for food donations
- Susan Beechler for \$125 in gift cards to go to Neighbors caught keeping up their sidewalks
- Dan Ruppel for children's' board games, and Mark for encyclopedia for after school
- Nancy Walker for a printer, cartridges, light bulbs and coffee sweetener
- Doreen Ellwood, and Don and Cindy Verhage for paper towels
- Jen Bond for healthy after school snacks
- Lakeside Academy for always being willing to help out with tasks like shoveling snow and yard work.
- Our dependable IT volunteers: Ron Lawson, Michael Markel, Dave Nessius, Tom Cleveland and Brain Shannon.

Please let us know if we have overlooked your name or business so we can give you the acknowledgment that you deserve for supporting the Oakwood Neighborhood!

City of Kalamazoo Parks and Rec

## 18th Annual Valentine Dances

For Mom/Son on Fri. Feb 8th

& Dad/Daughter on Sat. Feb 9th

Includes Ballroom dancing lesson & buffet dinner!

Tickets in advance, Residents, \$30 per couple, \$10 per additional child. Non-residents \$45 per couple.

Event held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Downtown Kalamazoo from 6:30-9:30 pm, semi formal attire.

For tickets call 337-8191 or stop by Parks and Rec.

### Wanted!

Anyone with talent such as a music band, clowns, jugglers, etc. that would be willing to perform at the Oakwood Centennial Celebration on June 27 through 29, 2008. Please call 342-0129!

### Free Tax Preparation Help from the Kalamazoo County Tax Counseling Initiative

- Sessions held Jan. through April. Focused on families with incomes up to \$40,000. IRS-cert. volunteers. Cannot help, however, with military income or international income. All returns e-file and direct deposit eligible.
- Call 2-1-1 or (269) 381-4357 (HELP) if you live outside of Kalamazoo County or visit [www.gryphon.org](http://www.gryphon.org) for site locations and times.





Volunteers help put together Christmas boxes for needy neighbors. Oakwood Neighborhood in collaboration with the Oakwood Bible Church was able to provide for eleven families this holiday!



Model Blocks interns Anrika Goss and Ajka Suljevic, attend K-College and are re-organizing past Building Block sites for further neighborhood work.

**Trouble paying your mortgage or facing foreclosure?**

- Kalamazoo County Treasurer's Office and Legal Aid of Western Michigan are sponsoring workshops to provide information on how homeowners can keep their homes if they are having trouble making payments or are in the foreclosure process.
- Feb. 13th, 6 pm, at the Edison Neighborhood Association, 816 Washington Ave, 382-0916.
- Feb. 25th, 7 pm, at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St., 553-7920.

**Item or ad for the Oakwood Times Newsletter?**

Submission deadline is by the **20th** of the month.  
**Ad rates:** ¼ page = \$20, 1/3 page = \$35, full-page ad = \$65, Six month special for ¼ page is \$100

**SUPERBOOK**

New books available from the ONA  
 They make great Valentine's Day gifts

**Real Estate Statistics for February**

From Jan Wier, Prudential Preferred Realtors

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope to assist any Oakwood resident with whatever real estate goals and challenges you may have. Give me a call to list your home, work as a buyer's agent, or if you have any questions, at 269-217-8620!

- There are 35 homes on the market ranging in size, from 1 to 4 bedrooms and in price, from \$37,900 to \$129,900 with an average price of \$83,409. These are averaging 120 days on the market.
- There are 7 Pending listing, one 1 bedroom and 6 three bedrooms, ranging from \$39,900 to \$144,000 with a median price of \$87,139, averaging 125 days on the market.
- Three homes have sold, a 1,2, and a 3 bedroom home, ranging in price from from \$76,900 to \$96,000, with an average price of \$89,900. Sales averaging 231 days on the market, with some homes taking longer than others to sell.

Referrals Are Appreciated



**It's snow season!**



**Know a neighbor that keeps their sidewalk clear of snow?**

**If so, they could win a prize!**

- The Oakwood Neighborhood Association is giving away \$25 Home Depot gift certificates in raffle drawings during February and March.
- Nominate a neighbor that regularly keeps their walk free of snow by calling the center at 342-0129 or e-mail, [center@oakwoodneighborhood.org](mailto:center@oakwoodneighborhood.org).
- City Ordinances state that all sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 48 hours of a snowfall. Save yourself stress and the money lost by getting a ticket, and keep the neighborhood safe for students walking to school and other pedestrians!

The winner of the January certificate is Tom Cleveland of Hazel Avenue, come on down during office hours and pick up your gift card!

**WANTED:** Dependable youth to do neighborhood yard work and snow shoveling. Please sign up at the ONA center or call 342-0129 today!

City of Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation  
**Pepsi Hoop Shoot Competition**

Play for a chance to make it into the finals at the Palace, home of the 2004 NBA champs, the Detroit Pistons!

Who: Girls and boys, ages 8-15

When: 1:00-3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 16, 2008

Where: Hillside Middle School

Cost: Free, register at the gym at 9 to 9:45a or at Parks and Rec