



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
Kathleen Olmsted
Bree Bennett
Jane Turner

Cheryl Lord, Exec. Director

ONA Office: 269-342-0129

www.oakwoodneighborhood.org

center@oakwoodneighborhood.org

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June Events

16-Summer Youth Drop IN begins: 3-5 P.m.
17- Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch:
6:30 p.m.
20 & 27: Computer classes, 1 p.m.
21-Speakeasy Support Group: 10 a.m.
27-The Big E show: Unity Church-8 p.m.
28-Ice Cream Social and Carnival: 1-4 p.m.
29-25th Annual Reunion/Neighborhood Picnic:
1-4 p.m
Senior Drop In & Free Bread: 1-3 p.m. Weds.

July Events

10- Sundowners: 7:00 p.m.
11-Recycling, Trash & Brush Pick UP
15- Board of Directors Annual Meeting/
Elections: 6:30 p.m.
Computer Tutorials/Help: Fridays 1-3 pm
Senior Drop In & Free Bread: 1-3 p.m. Weds.

Hoover Street Go Green Event...



In the photo above, a volunteer talks about water conservation at the Hoover Street block party on Saturday 5/17. About 100 people attended enjoying food and friendship and learning ways to save money and resources by going green in their homes. Thirty residents signed a pledge to incorporate environmentally friendly practices into their lifestyles. Participants left with prizes and a commitment to help keep Hoover St. green.

Thanks to the following who made this event possible:

Kalamazoo Community Foundation	Terrapin Gifts
LISC / Model Blocks	Fedex Kinkos
Hollywood Video	Kalamazoo College
Kalamazoo Landscape Supply	Kazoo Books
Metro Bedding	Barb and Gordon Miller
Plush Puppy	The People's Food Co-op
Felpausch	Gales True Value
Early, Lennon, Crocker and Bartosiewicz, Attorneys	D&W

Needed Immediately: Youth Volunteers

#1 - Volunteer with the Summer Youth Drop-In:

- We need teens ages 14-17 to assist with our summer youth drop in from June 16th -July 25th, from 3-5 p.m., Monday through Fridays.
- Help with sports, computers, reading and games. Become a mentor for youth ages 5-12.

#2 - Volunteer for the Centennial Events:

- Be an usher for the Big E concert on June 27th from 7-9 pm.
- Assist with the Ice cream Social and carnival events on June 28th from noon to 4 pm.
- Interview and seniors and past residents during the annual picnic on June 29th from noon to 3 pm. Take pictures and learn more about Oakwood Neighborhood's History!
- Free t-shirts and prizes for participants.

Call 342-0129 or come to the center to APPLY NOW!

From the President's Desk... *By Gary Wager*

Leadership Opportunities at ONA

Everyone has some ideas about how to improve their yards or homes; neighborhoods, city, state and country. But the only time anybody asks for those ideas is at election time, and then it is only about the larger issues, and how well they listen is debatable. When it comes to your neighborhood, you can start to see an opportunity to have a real impact.

One really good way to affect the quality of life in Oakwood, is to volunteer some of your time at the neighborhood center. You could be on a committee, or apply to join the board of directors. Anyone who lives in or owns property in Oakwood is eligible.

We could use your help. We need your ideas and input. Right now, Oakwood is celebrating its 100th birthday as a neighborhood. You could be part of the team helping to bring this celebration to our neighbors and the larger community.

Or you could help maintain the Tot Lot or Memorial Park. You could help determine the course of the Oakwood Neighborhood Association for the coming years, as we work to upgrade Woods Lake Beach Park, provide an after school program for young children, and explore community gardening and other practical improvements for our neighborhood.

ONA meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. Our next Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15. Now is a great time to come in and fill out a brief application to be on the board and chat with other volunteers about how you might get some of your ideas on our neighborhood agenda. Unlike election-year politicians, ONA volunteers are your neighbors, who will listen, and who will act to help realize your ideas for making quality of life improvements for all of us.

Oakwood has a great cultural history, convenient location, affordable housing, and a vibrant business community. Like the nearly 100 expected attendees at this years 25th Annual Oakwood Reunion, we hope you too, will "Come Home to Oakwood".

With your help, we will continue the tradition of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" here in Oakwood.

To talk about how you might help, call Cheryl at 342-0129, Monday thru Friday 1 to 5 pm or email her at center@oakwoodneighborhood.org

A Bit of Oakwood History... By Pat Henry

In 1883, Marion Barnard purchased the 80 acres of farmland that Lafayette Stevens had inherited from his father Issac Stevens in Section 31 of Kalamazoo Township. In 1908, Marion Barnard sold the land to Steven McCain, who divided it into parcel-sized lots of 50 feet by approximately 160 feet and offered it on the real estate market as Oakwood Heights. The lots drew a lot of interest as they were located along an already thriving trolley line and were also across the street from an active amusement park. A rural school system, established in 1835, was well attended by the farm families living in the area. The first 300 lots sold quickly in just 2 months. The houses also went up quickly and families moved in. By 1912, the rest of the land south of Parkview would become a part of the residential pattern of Oakwood.

The different plats have about 5 names, and all, except for two blocks on Adams St. with 1/2 acre lots, were 50 foot by 160 foot lots. The increasing Oakwood population forced the rural one-room school to add a second room and then another, until a new 4 room brick school house was built. In 1928, another 6 rooms were added to that structure. Oakwood neighborhood was originally constructed by both professionals and amateurs who often used whatever materials were available. As an example of this, the school house would become a church in 1928, and the addition to the school was moved to Madison Street and became a family residence.

From the Desk of the Director...

By Cheryl Lord

- The Laughing Post is having a fund-raiser for our after school program on July 13th. Tickets are now on sale.
- Please remember to bundle all brush.
- Contact us if you are a senior, disabled or in need of help to fix up your home and yard. We have several churches, neighborhood youth and the city summer youth program to help out.

Senior Drop-In for Free Bread and Goodies:

Every Wednesday from 1-3 pm.

Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread for seniors and to Betty and Harold Knowles for delivering it.
- Our teen volunteers, James Mullins and Elizabeth Olsen for volunteering two days a week with our after school program.
- Our three Building Block supervisors Rob Kneen, Gail Vader and Billy Campbell.
- Ruth Olmsted and Pat Henry and Mark M. for planting, weeding and keeping our Memorial Park, tot lot and, ONA center looking good
- All the volunteers, who participated in our Beach, and Woods Lake Park Clean up.

- Don Vehage and Mike Finn for mowing the tot lot
 - Henrietta Schilpzand for paper goods
 - Our great IT help Michael Markel, Ron Lawson, and David Nessius
- * 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.

Wish List

1. Centennial volunteers, June 27th -29th. Please contact the center ASAP to help.
2. Volunteer to help clean bathroom once each week
3. Door prizes and gifts for the centennial carnival & reunion
4. Volunteers to plant flowers and weed in our neighborhood parks. Contact the center NOW to help.
5. Paper towels
6. Snack and drink for our summer youth drop in

Building Blocks...



Residents and volunteers pose for a shot while doing landscaping work for Building Blocks Site #1.



Building Blocks Site #2 participants get prepared to chow down during a work break.



Participants at Building Blocks Site #3 also get ready to eat and share conversation during a work break.

June Neighbor Sidewalk Maintenance Drawing Results are In!

Nominations for the June gift card drawing are complete and the nominees were from:

2222 Logan St., 3412 Hoover St., & 3312 Lowden St.

By random drawing the winner is: 3412 Hoover St.

Nominate a neighbor for the monthly gift card drawing that regularly keeps their walk edged and clear for pedestrians through the month of June.

Call 342-0129 or e-mail center@oakwoodneighborhood.org.

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

Real Estate Statistics for May 1 thru mid-June

From Jan Wier, Prudential Preferred Realtors, 269-217-8620

- There are 28 active homes on the market ranging in size from 2 to 4 bedroom and in price, from \$29,900 to \$119,900 with days on the market ranging from 3 to 238.
- There are 8 Pending listings, ranging from 2 to 3 bedrooms, priced from \$27,900 to \$194,900, with between 11 and 226 days on the market.
- Four 2 and 3 bedroom homes have closed, ranging in price from \$32,500 to \$100,000 with a range of 5 to 147 days on the market.

I was recently able to help one homeowner gain home information which will allow him to retain his property. If there is anything I can do to assist YOU, either selling or buying a home or if you are facing foreclosure and don't know what to do, PLEASE give me a call. I am happy to continue working with the Oakwood Neighborhood.

Thank You! Building Blocks #3 Donors

Food and Drink

On Stadium Drive:

Burger King, Gumby's Pizza, Sweetwater's Doughnuts, Biggby Coffee, Lenny's Subs, and Jet's Pizza

On Parkview:

Treat Street, Sawall's, Subway

On Westnedge:

Jimmy John's, McDonald's, Edible Arrangements

Plates and Silverware

Fazoli's on Westnedge and Ted and Marie's on Stadium Dr.

Gift Cards

Sam's Club on Westnedge and Wal-Mart on 9th Street

Love a Good Laugh?

Come to the Laughing Post Comedy Club located at 241 Kalamazoo Ave., Downtown Kalamazoo on July 13th to support the ONA's After School Program. Tickets are now on sale. Contact the center at 342-0129 for more information.

Oakwood History Talk at KPL on June 24th, 7 pm

Come hear about the Lake View Amusement Park as told by Enthusiast Keith Howard. He will reveal the forgotten glory days of Lake View on the shore of Woods Lake. Reminisce with a ride on the roller coaster, fly in a hot air balloon, enjoy vaudeville, discuss important issues at Chautauqua, or dance the night away!

A BIG THANK YOU to all the Businesses Supporting the Oakwood Centennial

Carnival Door Prizes:

- *Kazoo Books* - A Basket of Summer Reading Books
- *Plush Puppy* - Two \$15, and one \$25 gift certificate
- *National City Bank* - Door prizes
- *Oakwood Pharmacy* - A 3-D Detroit Tigers Baseball poster and a plush Webkinz stuffed animal
- *Curves* - A gift basket
- *Water St. Coffee Joint* - Two \$10 gift certificates

Special Business Promotions:

- *Kazoo Books* - Charity Week 6/21-6/28/08-10% of sales using newsletter coupon will be donated back to the Oakwood Neighborhood Association.
- *Bark's of 5th Ave.* - 6/28/08 Patriotic Pet Picnic starts at 10:30 a.m. with photos, games and awards. 1:30-3:30 will be the Biggest Loser for Pets. Win over \$1000.00 in prizes!
- *National City Bank* - Special in bank promotions
- *The Book Bug* - Story time at 10:30 a.m. with a bat expert and a sidewalk display/sale with related books.
- *Hollywood Video* - Discount coupons
- *Curves* - Free membership drawing at their vendor table
- *Water St. Coffee Joint* - 100 cents off any bag of coffee or tea, or a cup, or travel mug from 6/23-6/29/08

Centennial Carnival Vendors:

- National City Bank
- Patrice Canney
- Curves
- Kathryn Hafer

Additional Donations:

- *The BigE* - Donating their performance to the ONA as a fund-raiser.
- *Treat Street* - Root Beer Float ice cream and ice cream social supplies, and a duck pond
- *Main St. Grille* - Dan will barbecue at the reunion and donate the hamburgers and hotdogs.

Entertainment at the carnival will be provided by:

1:00 p.m. - On the Wings of the Dove Band - Old time gospel,

2:00 p.m. - Peggy Brumbagh- Guitar and singing

3:00 TBA

Volunteer t-shirts are supported by:

Initial Attractions

History of Oakwood

Curves

National City

Edward Jones

Sawall's

**Look for more Specials and Centennial
Promotions at our Neighborhood Businesses!**