

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

- On November 8<sup>th</sup> we will be doing leaf raking and yard work for seniors and those residents that need extra help. WMU's honor society Alpha Lambda Delta will be volunteering again this year. Please call 342-0129 to be added to the list.
- Our after school program has a few openings. Please contact Parks and Recreation to register at 337-8191.
- We appreciate your support for our fall fund raisers. These include the Giving Spree, D & W non profit days, and our capital building campaign to help pay off the ONA center mortgage and begin center repairs.

### Senior Drop In and Free Bread & Goodies

Every Wednesday: 1-3 p.m.

### Wish List

1. Fruit Juices and snacks for youth
2. Volunteer to help clean bathroom once each week
3. Halloween candy and prizes
4. Christmas gifts for youth and families
5. Food for holiday food baskets for families in need and volunteers to help put together and deliver the baskets.
6. Licensed electrician to help rewire the ONA center
7. Volunteers to deliver the LWV election guide a the end of Oct

## Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread for seniors
- Kazoo books for donating books for our book lend program
- Ruth Olmsted for paper goods and looking after our plants with Pat Henry
- Ron Lawson and David Nessius, our tutors for the Friday computer classes
- Dave Nessius and Mark for helping with building maintenance

\* Please let us know if we have overlooked your name or business so we can give you the acknowledgement that you deserve for supporting the Oakwood Neighborhood.

### The Crossroads

#### Giving Spree

#### Benefiting Oakwood Neighborhood

Visit the Giving Spree website at [www.thegivingspree.com](http://www.thegivingspree.com) and select Oakwood Neighborhood Association as the charity you wish to support. Donators will receive special retail offers for November 15th as a thank you for their contributions.

### Interested in Joining the ONA Board?

We will be holding an Open House in November for members of the community to meet the current board members and learn about the many activities ONA provides the community. During this time we are also looking for people interested in serving on the ONA Board.

### Attorney Q & A For Kinship Care Providers

A new service for relatives raising relative children that is being offered at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1747 West Milham Rd., Portage, on Wednesday October 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

There will be one-on-one free consultations to answer questions on adoption options, legal guardianship, third party custody, and power of attorney. To schedule your free 20-30 minute appointment, call: Second Time Around, 383-8861.

## Halloween Safety Tips

### Trick-Or-Treaters

- Carry a flashlight.
- Walk. Don't run.
- Stay on the sidewalks.
- Obey traffic signals.
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods.
- Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.
- Shoes should fit, even if they don't go with the costume.
- Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
- Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
- If there's no sidewalk walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- Approach only the houses that are lit.
- Stay away from animals you don't know.

### Parents

- Have your child eat before setting out so they don't snack on treats while out.
- Children should carry quarters to call home with.
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Have your child wear a watch that can be read in the dark.
- Have your child wear a flame-retardant costume.
- Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
- Plan your child's route before they leave so you know where they'll be.
- Tell children to bring candy home to be inspected before eating anything.
- Look at the wrapping carefully and throw out anything suspect.
- Throw out anything that doesn't have a wrapper.

### Homeowners

- Make sure your yard is clear of things such as ladders, hoses, dog leashes, or anything else that can trip young ones.
- Put your pets up to protect them and trick-or-treaters.
- Battery powered jack o' lanterns are preferred to real flames.
- If you decide to use candles place them away from where children will be walking or standing and away from flammable decorations.

### Real Estate Statistics for October

October is the month for Halloween and economically we as a country, state and city have experienced scary news.

- 26 homes for sale ranging from 2 bedrooms, 1 bath priced at \$57,900 to 4 Bedrooms, 2 baths at \$116,900 averaging 134 days on the market
- 8 homes are pending ranging from 2 bedrooms 1 bath priced at \$25,000 to 4 Bedrooms 2 Baths priced at \$104,900 averaging 186 days on the market;
- 5 homes closing ranging from 2 Bedrooms, 2 baths to 3 bedrooms 2 baths priced from \$41,000 to \$88,000 averaging 30 days on the market.

When a home is priced right it will sell, even in this downturn market. If you are interested in receiving a free comparative market analysis for your home, please give me a call: Jan Weir, Prudential Preferred Realtors, 269-217-8620.

### Neighbor Sidewalk Maintenance

The winner of the September Neighbor Sidewalk Maintenance is 3023 Parkview Ave. Nominate a neighbor who regularly keeps their walk edged and clear for pedestrians through the month of October for the monthly gift card drawing!

Call 342-0129 or e-mail the ONA Community center at: center@oakwoodneighborhood.org.

### Public Transportation Changes

Would you be interested in lower taxes? Public transportation in Kalamazoo County is changing. Beginning on January 1, 2009, Metro Transit will no longer be operated by the City of Kalamazoo. The system will be transferred to the county-wide Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA).

The local funding for the system will also change. This November, City property owners will be voting on a proposal to pay for the new county wide transportation authority. This ballot measure if approved actually reduces taxes for residents of the City. For a home in the City with a taxable value of \$100,000, the homeowner would see his or her yearly tax assessment **drop by \$75.00.**

Currently property owners in the City of Kalamazoo pay a 1.0 mill tax for public transportation. In addition City of Kalamazoo taxpayers pay .38 mills generated by the county-wide millage. That supports transit throughout the county. Both the City and County-wide millages expire this year, so the KCTA has placed a millage question on the 2008 November ballot.

The request is for a graduated millage rate for 4 years. These rates would be assessed across the entire county. It should be noted that in 2006 the people gave the KCTA authority to levy up to .45 mills throughout the county. In 2008 the KCTA only levied .38 mills because that was all that was needed to operate the system. That transfer should be seamless, practically invisible to the passenger

Public Transportation is a key component to the infrastructure of the Kalamazoo Community. No community on the grow is without it.

### Capital Building Campaign

We will be holding a Capital Building Campaign this November with the goal of paying off the ONA Center Mortgage and providing funds for Capital improvements to the building. If we raise \$1,500 there has been a generous offer of a matching donation, which would allow us to pay off the mortgage this year. Please contact the center at 342-0129 or stop in to make a donation.

**League of Women Voters Candidate Forum**  
Oct. 15, at 7:00 pm Unity Church on Whites Rd

**Volunteers needed! call ONA 342-0129.**

### 2-1-1 Help Line

Gryphon Place and the Greater Kalamazoo United Way provide a free 2-1-1/HELP-Line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide information about community resources and referrals.

If you need help with a furnace that doesn't work right; utility bills that greatly exceed the household budget; taxes that need to be filed; or other problems, including the inability to pay the mortgage or rent as well as crisis assistance, the 2-1-1/HELP Line is confidential and free to anyone in Kalamazoo County. Simply dial 2-1-1 or 381-HELP. For more information, visit [www.gryphon.org](http://www.gryphon.org).

#### Additional resources for to help pay heating bills:

- Contact your gas or electric company to apply for the state's Winter Protection Plan for low-income families or those 65 and older.
- For emergencies from low propane tank to eviction, call the Kalamazoo County Department of Human Services at 337-4900.
- Call 373-5173 for the Kalamazoo Area Agency on Aging, which can provide assistance to those 60 and older.
- Call 344-6119 for the Salvation Army's heating-assistance program.
- Call 373-5066 for the Community Action Bureau, which has a free weatherization program for those who meet income requirements. The weatherization program provides energy conservation services to eligible, low-income households across the state.



**MAIN  
ST.  
GRILLE**



*Come have a spooky time at the  
Main St. Grille!*

Bring the kids to enter the kids coloring contest through the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Come be a star at the Hollywood party on Halloween at 8 p.m. Don't forget to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup> and receive 15 percent off of your food bill. Join us every weekend for the Big Ten Network and NFL ticket on our 7 big screen TV's. Join us at Main St. Grille at 3013 Oakland Dr.





Oakwood Neighborhood Association  
3320 Laird Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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

**Newsletter deadline for ads and submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**Ad rates:** ¼ page=\$20, 1/3 page = \$35,  
full page ad is \$65

Six month special for ¼ page is \$100

Electronic submissions in pdf or .  
doc format are appreciated!



ONA People

Gary Wager, President  
Don Verhage, Vice Pres.  
Diane Stanke, Treasurer  
Niah Venable, Secretary  
At Large Members:  
Ann Beattie  
Bree Bennett  
Michael Markel  
Kathleen Olmsted  
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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***October Events***

12-18-D&W Fundraiser– ONA # is 94693  
14- Friends of Woods Lake: 7 p.m.  
21– Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch:  
6:30 p.m.  
26– Halloween Party  
Senior Drop In & Free Bread 1-3 p.m. Weds.  
Computer tutoring for adults each Friday 1-3 p.m.

***November Events***

8-Fall Into the Streets  
13-Recycling & Trash  
15-Giving Spree Specials at Crossroads Mall  
18-Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch:  
6:30 p.m.  
23-29-D&W Fundraiser– ONA # is 94693  
Senior Drop In & Free Bread: 1-3 p.m. Weds.

***December Events***

7– Holiday Party  
12– Recycling, Trash  
16– Board of Directors Meeting/Elections:  
6:30 p.m.  
22-January 2– Holiday Hours  
Senior Drop In & Free Bread: 1-3 p.m. Wed.

## October Art Hop

Pictures from the Oct. 3rd art hop displaying art work from the Oakwood youth summer program funded by the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the Kalamazoo City Youth Initiative Funds.



Karen French Hall arranging art work.



One of the youth artists pointing at his art work on display while Chris and Lynnwood Bartley look on.

## New Model Blocks Student for 2008-2009



My name is Jes Kramer. I'm from Hudsonville, MI and just started my sophomore year at Kalamazoo College. I'm a Political Science major with a concentration in Environmental Studies. After Building Blocks last Spring, I'm very excited to come back and work in Oakwood on continuation projects.



## FALL INTO THE STREETS

Students from WMU's honor society Alpha Lambda Delta will be here on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> to help with leaf raking and yard work for seniors and those residents that need extra help

Please call 342-0129 or email Cheryl at [center@oakwoodneighborhood.org](mailto:center@oakwoodneighborhood.org) if you need help with your fall leaf clean up.

## D&W School Days

Oct. 12-18th & Nov. 23-29, 2008

5% off your purchase goes to the ONA!

Code #94693