



Oakwood Neighborhood Association
3320 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

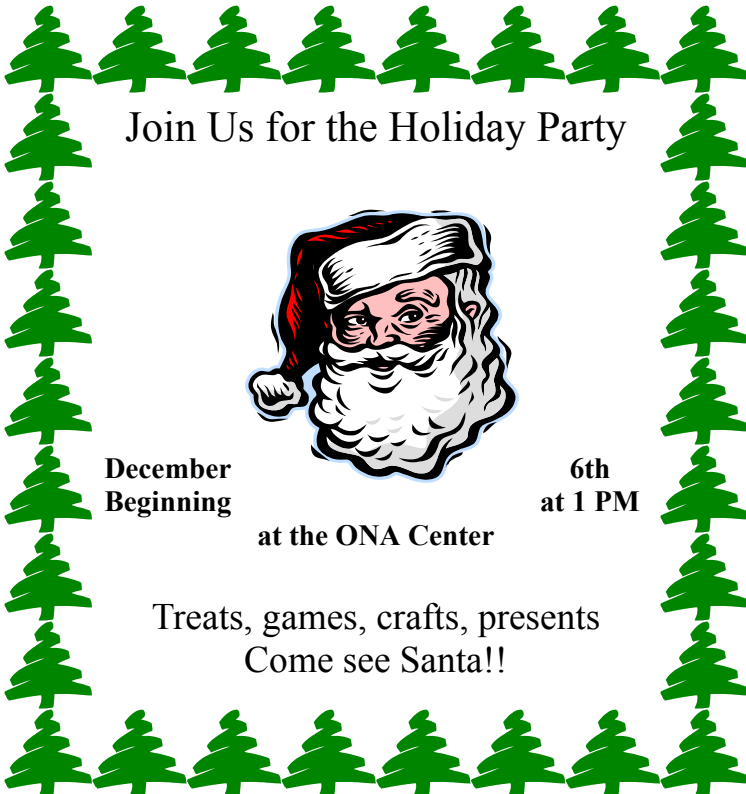
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Newsletter deadline for ads and submissions is the 20th of each month.

Ad donation 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!



Join Us for the Holiday Party



**December
Beginning**

**6th
at 1 PM**

at the ONA Center

Treats, games, crafts, presents
Come see Santa!!

November Events

- 4 - Nature Walk at Asylum Lake Preserve - 5 p.m.
- 6 - Trash pickup Madison eastward
- 7 - Fall into the Streets #2
- 10 - Wood St. leaf pick up
- 12 - Fall leaf pick up
- 12 - City Zoning Board meeting regarding cell phone tower
- 13-Trash pickup Madison westward
- 15 - Nature Walk at Asylum Lake Preserve - 2 p.m.
- 16 - Oakland eastward leaf pick up
- 17- Board of Directors Meeting & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
- 19 - Holiday craft class - 1 p.m. - see inside for details
- 22 -Trash pickup-Oakland Eastward
- 22 - 28 - D & W Non-Profit Days #94693

December Events

- 4 - Trash pickup Madison eastward
- 6 - Holiday Party
- 11 - Trash pickup Madison westward
- 15 - Board of Directors Meeting & Neighborhood Watch - 6:30 p.m.
- 24 - Trash pickup Oakland eastward

Recycling every Friday west of Oakland
East of Oakland recycling is Thursday
Senior Drop In & Free Bread 1-3 p.m. Weds.
Computer tutoring for adults each Friday 1-3 p.m.

From the desk of the President

Michael Markel

There was a misprint in last month's newsletter. The fall leaf pickup is November 12th. Please consult the View from the curb or visit the City's site and search for leaf pickup for additional pickup dates. You may bag your leaves in the paper yard sacks or rake them to the curb, but no earlier than the day before pickup.

November also brings the annual building fund campaign. Thank you to all who contributed last year. Since we have paid off the center mortgage with last year's campaign, we will begin repairing areas of the building that need work and that will help reduce operating costs for the center. This year our goal is to raise \$3,000 to upgrade and repair the electrical wiring in the youth room, and community room, possibly repair the roof or complete other items on our building wish-list. These improvements will increase the safety and energy efficiency of the center. These upgrades will also help us qualify for state licensing for the after-school program. Look for an enclosed envelope in this month's newsletter.

Another tip for anyone looking to save money. Currently Consumers Energy is providing rebates on anything from CFL lightbulbs to new washing machines and programmable thermostats as part of their energy-efficient program. The lightbulbs you will find at reduced prices at local retailers. The other rebates are available at www.consumersenergy.com.

This month also brings another week of D & W days.

As we move forward in this time of social networking, ONA has made it easier to find what events are going on in the neighborhood. You can check out our web site, www.oakwoodneighborhood.org for a calendar of events and other information or become a fan of us on Facebook, just search for Oakwood Neighborhood Association or Oakwood Community Garden if you want to keep up with garden news.



The first annual Oakwood tea party.



Halloween party.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's volunteer of the month is Dave Nesius. Dave actively instructs during the computer drop-ins and is involved with many activities at Oakwood, as well as serving on the tech committee.

Dave also devotes many hours to building maintenance and without his help, Cheryl's list of maintenance tasks would be three pages long.

Dave is also active in many other organizations including Kalamazoo Valley Walkers and the Kalamazoo Environmental Council.

Thanks, Dave, for all of your help!



**D&W Fresh Market Support for School Days
November 22-28, 2009**

**Our Oakwood School Code is:
94693**

**Present this code when you shop at D&W Fresh Market
and the Oakwood neighborhood— After school tutoring
program receives 2% back of the total purchase.**

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

1. Our after school tutoring program has begun. We only have a few openings left. Call Park and Recreations of Kalamazoo at 337-8191 for information and registration.
2. We are doing Fall Into the Streets on November 7th. If you need help with yard work or chores, let us know at 342-0129 or center@oakwoodneighborhood.org.
3. We will be preparing holiday baskets again this year for families in need. Please consider a food or gift contribution to assist with this effort.

Wish List

1. Christmas candy and gifts for neighborhood party
2. A volunteer to clean the restroom once a week
3. Beans, soups, canned pastas, canned fruit, pasta sauces, canned tuna, canned chicken, and canned ham for the food pantry.
4. A new dish rack and tissue

Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread for seniors and families in need, and Harold and Betty Knowles for picking up the bread donation each week.
- Molly and Rob Lehman for a generous gift that will be used for installing air conditioning in the youth and community rooms.
- Pat Henry, Janet Loucks, and Ruth Olmsted for the first annual tea party.
- Young Chef's Academy for gift certificates
- Our newsletter folders Doreen Ellwood, Gail Camp, Ruth and Richard Olmsted, Martha Austin, Fran Gustafson, Phil Thoms, Marian Porter, Susan Turner and Jenny Johnson.
- Mike Finn, Janet Loucks, Ruth Olmsted, Richard Olmsted, Martha Austin, and Harold and Betty Knowles for food bank donations
- Liz Stuart for office supplies
- Jen Bond for after-school supplies
- Kazoo Books for books for our free book program
- Sally Navarre for first aid supplies
- Martha Austin, Janet Loucks and Kathleen Olmsted for Halloween candy and goodies
- Ruth Olmsted for caretaking our center garden and Memorial Park.
- Ron Lawson and Dave Nesius for Friday computer classes.

* 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.

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

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Community of Christ Church

2523 Amherst Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

269-342-9728

Invites you to:

Bible Study of the Parables of Jesus
Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Free Family Movie Night

Friday November 20 at 7PM

Dreamwork's "OVER THE HEDGE"

Bring the family and enjoy a movie together

Visit us on the web at:

www.kalamazoochristcommunityofchrist.com



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Nature Walks in Asylum Lake Preserve

Join us as we venture on an ecology walk: exploring prairies and admiring the autumn forests of Asylum. We'll identify some common trees and observe the animals that live there.

Hosted by Benjamin Betula of the Gibbs House.

Meet at the Gibbs House—Wed Nov 4th at 5 PM or Sunday Nov 15th at 2 PM.

For more information go to www.wmich.edu/env/gibbshouse or call (734) 223-6265.

Come to the center for computer help any Friday from 1-3 p.m.

Bring your laptop if you need help with it, or learn to use one of the center's computers. Set up an e-mail account, look up information, sell items, or do your taxes online.

Have you thought about planned giving? The Oakwood Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that accepts planned gifts including stock, real estate, and other gifts. The gift would be tax deductible. If you are interested in keeping the ONA programs running well into the future contact Cheryl at the center for more details.

Building Campaign Fund

This month is our annual building campaign fund. This year we will be targeting all gifts from this campaign towards building maintenance including upgrading electrical work and/or a new roof. You will find an envelope included with the newsletter. You may return the envelope to the center, or drop it in the mail. Thanks to all those who have made past campaigns a success.

Zoning Board Meeting Regarding Cell Phone Tower

There will be a meeting of the City Zoning Board on November 12th at 7 PM at City Hall regarding the proposed Metro PCS cell phone tower to be installed at the maintenance buildings of the Kalamazoo Country Club.

Holiday Craft Class

There will be a free Holiday craft class on Thursday, November 19th from 1 - 2:30 PM at the ONA center. All you need are scissors.

Call Janet at 381-3923 by November 17th to register.

Helpful Hint

With cold weather coming:

1. Fill gallon jug with hot water.
2. Tighten cap.
3. Put jug by your feet and cover with a blanket. This will keep you nice and warm and you can turn down the heat.

Real Estate Statistics

As the Holiday Season begins so does building my business and serving Oakwood residents. Now is as good a time as any if you are interested in getting your home on the market. When homes are decorated for the Holidays it shows off the warmth of your home. Which makes buyers, who are now renters feel more comfortable with your home.

SPECIAL NOTICE. The extension of the First Time Home Buyers Tax Credit should be decided on in the next few weeks. It is set to expire on November 30, 2009. However, I am told that the new bill, which is part of the extension of unemployment benefits will also include Tax Credits for Step-up or down-size purchasers. At this point if you have owned your home for 7 years or more and earn up to \$125,000 for a single person or \$225,000 for a married couple you too can take advantage of the New Home Buyer Tax Credit. Watch the news for this announcement

The month of October has resulted in 29 homes being active ranging from 2 bedrooms, 1 baths to 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, listing prices ranging from \$34,900 to \$127,000, with a median price of \$69,900 being on the market an average of 137 days. Eight homes went off the market with sales contracts on them (Pendings) ranging from 2 bedrooms 1 bath to 4 bedrooms 2 baths, with listing prices ranging from \$41,000 to \$89,900 for a median price of \$59,963 averaging 224 days on the market. Five homes sold, 4 being 2 bedrooms 1 baths and one 3 bedroom 1 bath with an average sale price of \$61,500 and 66 days on the market. 3 of the homes sold in less than 15 days with the two remaining being on the market 113 and 178 days.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all. I am thankful that I have been working with Oakwood for over 10 years now and truly enjoy it. However, there are many of you that I do not know and who do not contact me for assistance. I would like to earn your business. Please give me a call if you are interested in selling or buying or if you have any questions I can assist you with.

Jan Harper Weir, CRS
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