



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 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!

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ONA People

Michael Markel, President  
Don Verhage, Vice Pres.  
Diane Stanke, Treasurer  
Bree Bennett, Secretary

At Large Members:

Ann Beattie  
Gary Wager  
Jim Jeakle  
Janet Loucks  
Jackie Luedtke  
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)

Center office hours are 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

***Center Wish List***

1. Christmas candy and gifts for neighborhood party
2. A volunteer to clean the restroom once a week
3. Replenish our food pantry for holiday food baskets
4. Paper towels
5. Paper shredder

***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

***January Events***

- 2 - Trash pickup Madison eastward
- 8 - Trash pickup Madison westward
- 19 - Board of Directors Meeting & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
- 28 - 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 help for adults each Friday 1-3 p.m.

**From the desk of the President**

Michael Markel

If you haven't already heard, Kalamazoo Public Library has decided to discontinue the Bookmobile service. If you utilize this service and would like to see it continue, please help us fight for this vital program. You can help by leaving responses on the KPL web site at [www.kpl.gov/staff](http://www.kpl.gov/staff), by writing letters to the editor of the Kalamazoo Gazette explaining how you use the Bookmobile, or by showing up at one or more of the upcoming Library Board Meetings scheduled for December 14th at the Powell Branch at 4 PM, or January 25th at the Central Branch at 4 PM.

Are you planning a party or gathering? Do you need a place to host it? Have you thought of the ONA Center? The Center's Community Room has a kitchen and is available for a small donation of \$50 (full-day use) or \$25 (half-day use; less than 4 hours).

The Building Campaign Fund is doing well! Since our association is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization, all gifts are tax deductible, so please consider a donation to ONA prior to the end of 2009!

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

Ruth Olmsted is our December volunteer of the month. For several years, Ruth has dedicated herself to being attentive to ONA needs. Always ready to help, Ruth knows the "what & how" to assist the center in every way needed, including helping area families, donating supplies, and maintaining the center's green spaces—from weeding and planting to coordinating other volunteers in doing so. Center director Cheryl Lord appreciates Ruth as an important "go-to" person. We are very fortunate to have Ruth as a local volunteer, and wish to thank her for her efforts.



**After-School Tutoring Program**

The second session of the after-school tutoring program begins January 4th. We provide homework help, a snack, computer time, educational field trips, and lots of fun for ages five through twelve. Call Kalamazoo Parks & Rec. at 337-8191 for more information and to register.

**Oz, The Musical**

Michele Gonzales

Come and see our very own Oakwood kids perform in Oz, The Musical at Miller Auditorium on December 13 at 3 PM. Support Kalamazoo and our very own local youth and purchase your tickets ASAP for this last city and show of the tour. Come check out the dancing and singing debut of Oakwood's two performing munchkins—Noah and Caleb Gonzales. See you there!!

**Bring Love, Share Space, Give Food**

Come to the Gibbs House for Environmental Research and Education on December 12th at 1PM for space to learn, teach, and create! We will be preserving two food goods: one sweet (cranberry jam) and one savory (carrots in Indian spiced oil). If you're curious about the art of preserving, come and learn. If you already know the art, come and share. Tools and edibles provided. Because space and resources are limited (25 attendees max.) please RSVP by email to [allene.m.smith@wmich.edu](mailto:allene.m.smith@wmich.edu).

Where: 4503 Parkview

When: December 12th, 1 - 4 PM

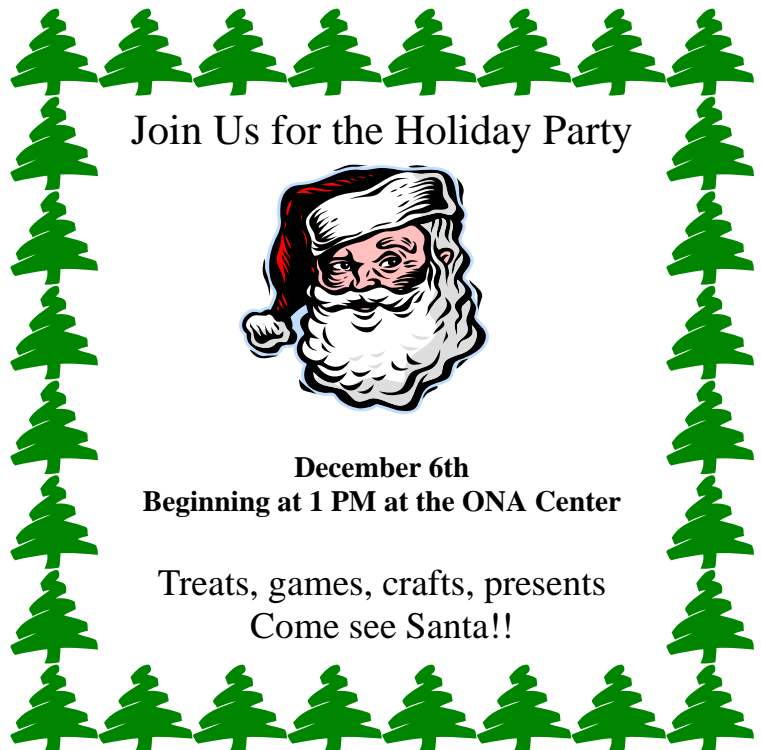
**Join Us for the Holiday Party**



December 6th

Beginning at 1 PM at the ONA Center

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



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

1. We will be preparing holiday baskets again this year for about a dozen families in need. Please consider a food or gift contribution to assist with this effort. Thanks to neighborhood support, we were able to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to 7 families.
2. Sign up for our next session of After School Tutoring starting January 4<sup>th</sup>. Call Parks & Rec. at 337-8191. We provide homework help, a snack, computer time, educational field trips and lots of fun for ages five through twelve.
3. There will be no newsletter in January.

**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.
- Community of Christ Church for providing holiday food baskets to feed 2 families.
- Jenny Johnson and Don Verhage for providing several turkeys for holiday food baskets.
- Our newsletter folders Doreen Ellwood, Ruth and Richard Olmsted, Martha Austin, Jenny Johnson, Anna Rosenblum, Janet Loucks, Ellen Tober, Rose Riley and Grace Trevino.
- Mike Finn, Jess & Matt Noyes, Marie & Scott Pennings, Henrietta Schilpzand, Molly Lehman, Gail Vader, Janet Loucks, Martha Austin, Betty Helmer, Fran Gustafson, and Harold & Betty Knowles for food bank donations
- Mike Finn and Michael Markel for dog food for the pets of those using the food pantry.
- Jen Bond and Myron Metrau for after school supplies
- Ruth Olmsted for a new dish rack, tissues and cleaners.
- Janet Loucks for coffee and Martha Austin for soaps.
- Ron Lawson and Dave Nesius for Friday computer classes.

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**Community of Christ Church**

2523 Amherst Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

269-342-9728

Invites you to:

Christmas Potluck (5 PM) and Program (6 PM)  
December 13, 2009

**Free Family Movie Night**

Friday December 18 at 7PM

**The Grinch**

Bring the family and enjoy a movie together

Visit us on the web at:

[www.kalamazoocommunityofchrist.com](http://www.kalamazoocommunityofchrist.com)



**Fletcher's Pub**

**Offering a Holiday Gift  
Bonus!**

Now through December 24th,  
buy a \$25 Gift Certificate and  
receive a \$5 gift certificate for  
your next visit.

**342-5208**

3013 Oakland Drive  
(in Oakwood Plaza)

*Bruce E. Justin*  
*Certified Public Accountant*

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**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. Due to upcoming holidays, next sessions will be held Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Jan. 8.

**Real Estate Statistics**

Ho, Ho, Ho! I hope all Oakwood Residents find Peace and Joy this Holiday Season.

There are currently 26 homes listed for sale ranging from 732 sq. ft to 1,434 sq ft, prices ranging from \$45,000 to \$109,000 with 165 average days on the market. 7 homes have "pending" with acceptable offers, ranging from 712 sq. ft. to 1,400 sq. ft, list prices ranging from \$41,000 to \$79,000 averaging \$53,371, and averaging 162 days on the market. 4 Homes closed with new residents in Oakwood ranging from 930 sq. ft to 1,963 sq. ft., with sale prices ranging from \$25,000 to \$84,500 with an average of 246 days on the market.

If you are interested in selling your home and taking advantage of the Seller Stimulus please give me a call. I will work with you keeping your best interests in mind at all times. Please let me know if I can help you.

Jan Harper Weir, CRS  
Weir at YOUR Service!

Prudential Preferred Realtors  
Mobile: 269-217-8620

Website: [www.KazooAreaHomes.com](http://www.KazooAreaHomes.com)  
[JanWeirRealtor@gmail.com](mailto:JanWeirRealtor@gmail.com)

**Building Campaign Fund**

Our building campaign fund is doing well. We are over halfway to our goal of \$3,000. We have raised \$1,540 that will go towards building maintenance. There is still time to contribute. You may drop your envelope off at the center or mail it in. If you did not get an envelope or lost it, feel free to drop off your gift to the center. Thank you to the following donors: Constance Cook, A.J. and M.E. Swartz, Martha Austin, Grace Riley, Kimberly Van Sickle, Phil Thoms, Delores DeShong, Joyce Zastrow, Jennifer and David Hauschild, Michael Markel, and Charlene Balch. All gifts are tax deductible.

Super Books will be available the first week of December. They make great holiday gifts and will benefit your neighborhood center. Last year the O.N.A. raised \$600 from Super Books.

# Yoga

in your neighborhood!

## Awake and Aware

Living Yoga and Integrative Bodywork

### Daily Classes -

Morning, Afternoon and Evening

All levels taught, beginners are Welcome

The studio is located at the  
Shoppes at Parkview Hills, just a 10 minute walk  
from the Oakwood neighborhood.

website: [www.awakeandaware.net](http://www.awakeandaware.net)

call: Judy @ 269-744-6665

or stop by the studio for a schedule

Classes: \$12 prepaid; \$14 drop-in;

\$8 Sat. Community Class

3331 Greenleaf Blvd., Kalamazoo



### AARP Work Search and Job Training

Seniors, if you are looking to enter, re-enter, or remain competitive in today's workforce and are willing to commit 18 hours a week to community service, AARP wants you.

The AARP Foundation of Southwest Michigan is increasing the number of Senior Community Service Employment Placement positions in response to a short term increase in Federal funding for this program.

In exchange for community service, eligible seniors will receive free jobs skills training, support and encouragement in the work search process, as well as a small stipend to defray the costs of job hunting and career seeking.

Eligibility is based on age (55+), income (125% of the Federal Poverty level or less), county of residence (Kalamazoo), current unemployment, and a real desire to help others as you help yourself.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact Ed Achtyes of the AARP Foundation @ 269-383-2536 x 169, located in the Michigan Works office 1601 S. Burdick St.