



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 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!

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ONA People

Michael Markel, President

Don Verhage, Vice Pres.

Diane Stanke, Treasurer

Bree Bennett, Secretary

At Large Members:

Gary Wager

Jim Jeakle

Janet Loucks

Jackie Luedtke

Kathleen Olmsted

Jane Turner

Cheryl Lord, Exec. Director

ONA Office: 269-342-0129

www.oakwoodneighborhood.org

center@oakwoodneighborhood.org

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

February Events

5 - Trash pickup Madison eastward

12 - Trash pickup Madison westward

14 - 20 - D & W Non-profit Days # 94963

16 - Board of Directors Meeting & Neighborhood Watch - 6:30 p.m.

25 - Trash pickup Oakland eastward

March Events

5 - Trash pickup Madison eastward

12 - Trash pickup Madison westward

16 - Board of Directors Meeting & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.

21 - ONA World Café

25 - Trash pickup-Oakland Eastward

27 - Spring into the Streets

28 - Easter party

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 every Friday 1-3 p.m.

From the desk of the President

Michael Markel

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday! I also want to welcome any new faces to the neighborhood. You will find that Oakwood is a vibrant neighborhood and a great place to live.

This year is an exciting year for ONA. We are going to expand our new web site and include some more interactive areas. One of these will be an extension of this area of the newsletter. Beginning in February there will be a 'From the desk of the President' area on the site which will feature things happening in the neighborhood and any pressing issues or accomplishments. This will provide you with more timely information in between newsletter printings.

We will also be holding the 2nd ONA Café. Last year was a huge success and I expect great things out of this year's as well. There are plenty of other activities in the upcoming months, so be sure to check the calendar on the back of this newsletter or on the web site: www.oakwoodneighborhood.org.

2nd ONA Cafe

The second ONA Café will be Sunday, March 21 from 2 - 4 PM. If you missed the last ONA Café, it is your chance as a neighborhood resident to provide the board of directors with your thoughts about programs and the neighborhood in general. The format is small groups answering questions and compiling their answers to present to the entire group. There will be coffee, juice, and snacks provided.

One of the outcomes of last year's ONA Café was the creation of the community garden on Springmont, so bring your ideas and your neighbors.

Oakwood Class of 1960~~ we need you!! Reunion on the annual Oakwood Neighborhood Picnic/Reunion weekend in June 2010. If interested, please contact Kathleen Olmsted 383-2428. More details to follow in future newsletters.

Don't pay to get your taxes done!

Free tax preparation help for individuals or families with a household income of \$49,000 or below in 2009. This service is provided by IRS certified community tax volunteers from VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Call 211 now to schedule an appointment or go online at www.gryphon.org and click on tax calendar for a list of locations, dates, times and items to bring. E-filing is available at all locations.

Super Books are available at Keystone Community Bank in Oakland Plaza, Initial Attraction at the corner of Parkview and Oakland, Kazoo Books, Shears to You on 9th St. and Stadium Dr., and the ONA Center. They are still \$39 and a good way to save money while supporting your neighborhood.



Janet and Ruth displaying their festive attire at the ONA Holiday party.



One of the many smiling faces at the ONA Holiday Party.

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

1. Do you have a child that needs extra help with homework? If so then our After-School Tutoring program may be your answer. Call the ONA Center at 342-0129 for more information, or register at Parks and Recreation at 337-8191. The cost is only \$20 if your child is on reduced lunches at school.
2. Come to the ONA World Café on Sunday March 21st. It is a good way to meet the board of directors and your neighbors.
3. Visit our web site at www.oakwoodneighborhood.org to see a list of our programs and some of our accomplishments this past year.

Wish List

1. Food pantry items: canned fruits, soups, canned meats, and dog/cat food for pets.
2. A volunteer to clean the restroom once a week.
3. Paper shredder.

Thank You!

- Santa and Mrs. Claus: John and Nancy Bremer
- Santa's helpers: Kathleen Olmsted, Janet Loucks, Lakeside Academy, WMU's Alpha Lambda Delta with Krystal Loewen, Ruth Olmsted, Ron Lawson, Libby Coss, and Gail Camp.
- Water St. Coffee Joint and D&W Food Center for great food for our Holiday Party
- Grace Christian Reform Church and the Oakwood Bible Church for providing food and presents for 12 of our neighborhood families.
- 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.
- Our newsletter folders: Doreen Ellwood, Ruth and Richard Olmsted, Martha Austin, Anna Rosenblum, Janet Loucks, Ellen Tober, Betty Helmer, Phil Thoms, Gail Camp, Fran Gustafson, and Donna Walker.
- Mike Fin, Michael Markel, Henrietta Schilpzand, Initial Attraction, Ruth Olmsted, Debbie Norton, Betty Helmer, Fran Gustafson, Marian Porter, and Sharon and Carl Awe for food bank goods.
- Michael Markel for dog food for the pets of those using the food pantry.
- Janet Loucks, Martha Austin, and Harold and Betty Knowles for Christmas presents.
- Ron Lawson and Dave Nesius for Friday computer classes.
- Shannon Mondoux for donating a stove for our community room.
- DesignWare for paper goods.

***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.**

Please remember to shovel your sidewalk. It is city ordinance and makes it easier for the many people in Oakwood that walk to get where they need to go.

Paragon Painting LLC

- A Pattern of Excellence -

(269) 599-8620



Angie's list.

LOCALLY OWNED

FREE ESTIMATES

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Ask about our Green options

Now Offering
INTERIOR SPECIALS

Interior
Exterior
Staining
Decks
Fences

Kitchen Cabinets
Power Washing



Community of Christ Kalamazoo

2523 Amherst Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-342-9728

ALL are welcome in Worship

Sundays 11:00

Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 pm

ALL are welcome in Study

Sunday School 9:45 am

Thur. Bible Study 7:00 pm

ALL are welcome in Fellowship

Free Movie

DISNEY'S FOLLOW ME BOYS

Friday, February 19th 7pm

Visit us on the web at

www.kalamazoocommunityofchrist.com



Bruce E. Justin
Certified Public Accountant

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(269) 344-7900
Fax (269) 388-7062
Cell (269) 370-8021

Come to the center for computer help every 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

2009 Real Estate Sales Statistics show that 26 homes in the Oakwood neighborhood closed. These homes ranged from 2 bed, 1 bath to 4 bed, 2 bath ranging from \$25,000 to \$91,500 averaging \$71,500. This includes a few foreclosures which drives the statistical pricing down. Average days on the market were 161 days.

2010 is off to a great start for Oakwood. January 2010 shows 24 homes currently on the market, ranging from 2 bed, 1 bath to 4 bed, 2 bath, priced from \$31,500 to \$109,000, with a median price of \$72,950, averaging 187 days on the market. Great news, 4 homes are currently pending, all 2 bed, 1 bath with an average price of \$41,000. Three homes have sold a 4 bed foreclosure and two 2 bed, 1 bath, ranging in price from \$50,900 to \$77,000 with an average of 181 days on the market. If you or someone you know is renting, NOW is the time to consider moving into Oakwood. The STIMULUS will expire on April 30, 2010 and housing is no longer at the forefront of the Presidential agenda. Call me today.

Jan Harper Weir, CRS
Weir at YOUR Service!
Prudential Preferred Realtors
Mobile: 269-217-8620
Website: www.KazooAreaHomes.com
JanWeirRealtor@gmail.com

Building Campaign Fund

Our building campaign is completed and the final total is just short of our goal of \$3,000. We raised \$2,815 which will go towards improving the center. Thank you to everyone who contributed including: Bree Bennett, Cambray Traphagen, Jordan Semark, Charles and Susan Turner, Jacqueline and Mr. Carol Buder, Molly and Rob Lehman, Myrtle Baker-Kerr, Marian and Earl Porter, Beverly Harmon, Janice Lakers, Ronald Kaul, Ellen Tober, and Susan and Cecil McIntire.

Celebrate Valentine's Day
at
Fletchers Pub
on
Oakland Drive.



Specials for Saturday and Sunday
February 13th and 14th include:

Shrimp Cocktail Appetizer
All You Can Eat Blue Gill Basket
Black & Bleu Sirloin & Shrimp
Chicken Pasta Primavera
Heart Shaped Pizza for Two
Drink Specials and Champagne

Make your reservations today!

(269) 342-5208

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.