



Oakwood Neighborhood Association
 3320 Laird Ave.
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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

Oakwood Neighborhood Specialist

GREENLEAF REALTY PROPERTIES, LLC

Choose an experienced Realtor who knows and supports your area. I own in Oakwood, work nearby, have relatives here, and assist buyers and sellers in Oakwood along with other Kalamazoo neighborhoods. Give me a call if you are thinking of buying or selling!



Carol Miller
 Realtor, Broker,
 Owner

3088 Oakland Dr, Ste. B
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008
 269-372-6400
 269-207-3501

Carol@Greenleafrealty.com



Recycling every Friday west of Oakland
 East of Oakland recycling is on Thursday
 Computer help every Friday from 1-3 PM by appointment
 Senior Drop In: 1-3 PM Wednesdays
 Free Bread: 2-5 PM on Wednesdays

December Events

- 1,2,5,6- Second City leaf pick up.
- 2- Bulk trash pickup Madison eastward
- 4- Neighborhood Holiday party :1 P.M.
- 7- Senior Holiday Craft Class: 1 P.M.
- 9- Bulk trash pickup Madison westward
- 16- Bell, Book and Canto holiday Concert: 7 P.M.**
- 20- Board of Directors/Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 P.M.
- 21- Senior Bingo: 1 P.M.
- 22- Bulk trash pickup-Oakland Eastward

January Events

- 6- Bulk trash pickup Madison eastward
- 10-Towne Hall Meeting 7 PM re: Oakwood Beach (see inside)**
- 11- Craft class for seniors
- 13- Bulk trash pickup Madison westward
- 17- Neighborhood Watch/Board of Directors Meeting at 6:30 P.M.
- 25- Bingo for seniors
- 26- Bulk trash pickup-Oakland Eastward
- *There will be no newsletter in January.

From the Desk of the President Michael Markel

Be sure to stop by the Holiday Party on December 4th at 1 P.M. Also our Annual Campaign has begun. You will find an envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Our goal this year is \$3,000 to put towards improvements to the center. Please consider making a tax deductible gift to help improve the building that you use.

There is still time to book the community room for your holiday event. Please contact Cheryl to reserve it today.

Like us on Facebook searching 'Oakwood Neighborhood Association' for more news and information.

Have safe and Happy Holidays!!

Super Books

Super Books are now available at the ONA center, the Mercantile, Keystone Community Bank at Oakwood Plaza, and Initial Attraction. They make great holiday gifts and are priced the same as last year at \$39.

Your purchase will help support your neighborhood!

Conservation Easement at Oakwood Memorial Beach

The Oakwood Memorial Beach has always held a special place in the hearts of many Oakwood residents. In the past, you have fought to make sure that the beach is protected from development and left open to the residents of Oakwood for their enjoyment. In that vein, the board of directors has been looking for a way to make sure that the property remains open forever to the residents of Oakwood as a green space. We have been working with the Kalamazoo Nature Center to draft a conservation easement that will ensure that, in the event of the Oakwood Neighborhood Association dissolving, the beach would continue to be protected and remain available to the residents of Oakwood. A conservation easement allows ONA to designate the Nature Center as holder of the easement and protects that land from changes by future ONA boards and any organization that make take care of



Please Join the
Christmas Party!

Sunday December 4th
1:00 PM

at the ONA Center for
treats, fun, crafts, and
Santa & Mrs. Claus!

the property in the event of dissolution. The ONA can specify what can and can't be done to the property, but, once the easement is in place, the easement determines what can be done on the property and can't be changed. Some of the decisions the board will need to make include what activities to allow on the property (such as construction of buildings, installment of park equipment and furniture, defining what types of plants can be added or removed from the property including invasive plant species, and what kind of improvements can be made including removal of dead trees, planting of new trees, creation of trails, etc. The board of directors will be drafting a preliminary list of items in the upcoming months but will also be holding a town hall style meeting for all residents of the neighborhood to explain the easement and receive feedback. If you have questions, you may email me at michael@oakwoodneighborhood.org. We believe this is the best way to protect this property for our children and grandchildren and to make sure that it remains open for the benefit of all Oakwood residents.

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

1. Do not miss our holiday concert on December 16th. Last year it was magical. Admission is an item for our food bank.
2. A new after school tutoring session will start on January 9th. Please register at 337-6191 with Parks and Recreation of Kalamazoo.
3. Visit our web site at www.oakwoodneighborhood.org to see a list of our many programs and some of our accomplishments this past year.

Wish List:

1. Food donations for our food pantry, especially canned fruits and meats, canned pastas, dish and clothes detergents, macaroni & cheese, canned tuna and chicken helpers, and juices.
2. Paper towels.

Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread
- Tom Banner for keeping Oakwood Memorial Park mowed and looking great.
- Mike Finn for picking up bread donations, and mowing the tot lot.
- Rob Kneen and Scott Pennings, and all of the volunteers who worked to rebuild our beach stairs and remove invasive plants.
- WMU student volunteer for their help with Fall Into the Streets.
- Janet Loucks, Hearth and Grove Fellowship, Harold & Betty Knowles, Michael Markel, Marie & Scott Pennings, Arlene Harrison, Liane (Ellwood), Corey Pierce, Gail Camp and Debbie Blake, Martha Austin, Mike Finn, Bree & Drew Hahn, Andy at D & W, Sharry Cook, Claudette Wallace, Pat R. (Doreen's friend), and the many other who have dropped off food for our food bank and youth programs
- Charlene Balch for pet food.
- Marcella Stewart for after school snacks.
- Harold & Betty Knowles and Janet Loucks for Christmas gifts for the holiday party.
- Ruth Olmsted for taking care of our food pantry
- Gail Camp for a Christmas Tree.
- Our newsletter folders Ruth Olmsted, Martha Austin, Janet Loucks, Jan Mercer, Patti Slagle, Connie and Robert Patterson, Dolores DeShong, Scott Ridenour, and Steve Szekely.
- Ron Lawson and Dave Nesius for IT assistance.

* 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.

Silent Observer

Kalamazoo County Silent Observer offers a confidential web tip information system available at kalamazoosilentobserver.com and 343-2100.



Computer help is available on Fridays from 1-3 PM at the center.



Family and Friends at memory board for Doreen Ellwood memorial service at the ONA center.

Free Tax Preparation and Filing

Free tax preparation for individuals and families with household income of up to \$49,000 in 2011. Taxes are prepared by IRS-certified volunteers. Beginning January 9th, 2012 call 2-1-1 for information on appointments, tax site locations and required documentation or go online to www.gryphon.org or www.goodwillswmi.org. Tax preparation will be done at Oakwood Neighborhood Association on March 9th and March 28th.

After School Tutoring

The winter session starts January 9th, youth ages 5-12, 3:45-5:30 P.M. Register with Parks & Recreation of Kalamazoo at 337-8191. Cost is \$45 for city residents and scholarships are available for youth on free or reduced lunches.

E-Newsletter

Interested in receiving the Oakwood Times newsletter electronically? To sign up, please send your email address to editor@oakwoodneighborhood.org.

Female Roommate Wanted

Female roommate wanted to share house for \$400/month. Call 615-5850 .

Annual Campaign

by Michael Markel

Our Annual Campaign has begun. We have set a goal of \$3,000 to go to help match the grant we have applied for with Lowe's. This will go towards improving the electrical in the community and youth rooms, getting new cabinets and countertops for the community room, a new roof, and new doors. These projects will help improve the energy efficiency, comfort, and safety of the building and will lead to lower operating costs in the future. Your gift is tax deductible. You can use the enclosed envelope, donate online at www.oakwoodneighborhood.org, or drop off your gift at the center Tuesday through Friday from 1PM to 5PM. Thanks for your support.

Waste Reduction: Holiday Packaging

by Michael Markel

During this Holiday season, don't throw your leftover food away. You can make a number of second dishes using the leftovers from Thanksgiving and other holiday meals. If you and your family can't eat all the leftovers, donate them to a local homeless shelter, where they will be put to good use.

Newsletter deadline for ads and submissions is the 20th of each month. Suggested donation for ads: quarter page \$20, third page \$35, full page ad \$65. Six month special for 1/4 page is \$100.

Electronic submissions are appreciated!

ONA People

Michael Markel President
Don Verhage, Vice President

Diane Stanke, Treasurer

Bree Bennett, Secretary

At Large Members:

Jackie Luedtke

Jim Jeakle

Janet Loucks

Kathleen Olmsted

Ellen Tober

Tom Cleveland

Liz Stuart

Cheryl Lord, Exec. Director

ONA Office: 269-342-0129

www.oakwoodneighborhood.org

center@oakwoodneighborhood.org

This newsletter is published, in part, with funds provided by the City of Kalamazoo. The views and opinions expressed herein may not necessarily represent those of the City of Kalamazoo. This activity is brought to you in partnership with the Oakwood Neighborhood Association and the City of Kalamazoo.

FOOD PANTRY



Oakwood Bible Church located at
4100 Oakland Dr Kalamazoo, MI 49008
is opening a short-term food resource
available to Oakwood Neighborhood
residents

Appointments are necessary
and are scheduled the
3rd week of each month .

CONTACT: BILL KIEWIET
at Oakwood Bible Church
phone: 269) 349-2835

HOURS OF OPERATION:

4th week of each Month

WEDNESDAYS: 9:00AM-11:00AM

THURSDAYS: 1:00-3:00PM

APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

(Availability is limited to first come first served basis)

Community of Christ



2523 Amherst Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

11:00AM

DECEMBER 18, 2011

Christmas Program & Pot Luck

"Backward to Bethlehem"

A journey through Song, Scripture, and Drama back to
Bethlehem, the place of Jesus birth.

DECEMBER 25, 2011

Christmas Day Worship

11:00AM

For more information

Call Pastor, Nan Anderson 269-767-2322 or go to:

WWW.KalamazooCommunityofChrist.com

FACEBOOK:Kalamazoo Community of Christ