



Oakwood Neighborhood Association
3320 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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

The Kalamazoo Marathon is Coming! We Need You!

Jane Turner

You are invited to be a part of the excitement/refreshment station located in your very own neighborhood. We are very pleased to share that the Kalamazoo Marathon, scheduled for Sunday, May 8th, is running through on Parkview and Broadway! We are going to be heading up the excitement/refreshment station needed to keep the participants ready to complete the last half of their 26 mile run. We need as many volunteers as possible to staff 2 hour shifts for this very exciting event that the Oakwood and Winchell neighborhoods are partnering to support. Do you have a special talent? Singing, dancing, drumming, cheerleading, or playing an instrument? **Please help us cheer on the runners!** Please call or email Cheryl Lord at the Oakwood neighborhood Center to let us know of your interest in participating 342-0129 or email center@oakwoodneighborhood.org.

Wanted: Building Blocks Supervisor

This is a **paid part time position** in May and June to coordinate, manage and supervise one site in Oakwood with WMU students and the site residents. Good budgeting and managing skills are a must. Handyman and contracting skills are helpful. Must be willing to work as a team member.

March Events

4-Trash pickup Madison eastward*
11-Trash pickup Madison westward*
15-Board of Directors Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
16-Shamrock Bingo for Seniors: 1:00 p.m.
24-Trash pickup-Oakland Eastward
28-Community Garden Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
30-Senior Craft Class for No-Sew Pillows: 1:00 p.m.
***Note: brush from the ice storm will be picked up on regular bulk trash pick up days in March. Branches should be no longer than 4 feet and three inches thick and stacked by the side of the road.**

April Events

1-Trash pickup Madison eastward
2-Spring Into the Streets #1: noon to 3:00 p.m.
8-Trash pickup Madison westward
10-16-D & W Non Profit Days use #94693
12-Friends of Woods Lake: 7:00 p.m.
16-Volunteer day in Oakwood (see inside article)
16-Spring Into the Streets #2: noon to 3 p.m.
17-Easter Party: 1:00 p.m.
19-Board of Directors/Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
28-Trash pickup-Oakland Eastward
30-Bowl-A-Thon fund raiser (see inside article)
30-Neighborhood yard sales

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

From the Desk of the President

Michael Markel

Spring will be here any day now and that means things will be getting busy in the neighborhood. The first meeting of the Friends of Woods Lake was held Tuesday March 8th at 7 PM at the ONA center to discuss grants we were awarded to have a celebration down at the lake and for continuing to plant native plants and reducing erosion. The next meeting will be Tuesday April 12th, and all are welcome to join.

Anyone interested in participating in the Community Garden this year should join us on Monday March 28th at 6:30 to plan which vegetables we would like to grow this year. Coming up in April is Spring into the Streets and the first of three volunteer days in coordination with the Volunteer Center of Kalamazoo. Also in April will be the Easter party and our Second Annual Bowl-A-Thon.

We are still looking for people to join us bowling on April 30th. You don't need to be a professional, just willing to have a good time bowling! This is our only major fundraiser of the year, and its proceeds will allow us to provide the programs that you enjoy. Registration forms can be found on our web site or can be picked up at the ONA center. Bowler registration is \$25 and includes shoes and 3 games of bowling. Be sure to check our web site for more information or 'like' us on Facebook. Just search for Oakwood Neighborhood Association. Please participate!

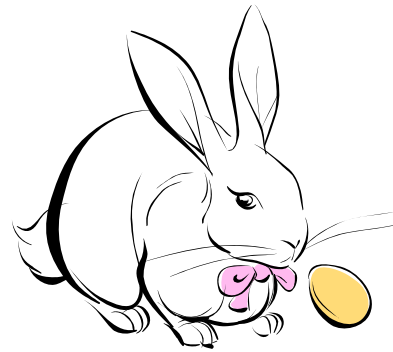
Be sure to check the calendar (on the back page of this newsletter) for exact days and times for all upcoming events.

In Memory: Lloyd Holdridge

3/2/29-2/21/11

The corner of Oakland and Parkview where veteran Lloyd Holdridge was a crossing guard for 16 years will never be the same. He seemed to remember every child's name, and made sure that drivers obeyed the light to protect his charges. His cordial greetings and helpfulness at D & W will also be missed where he worked for 15 years. Lloyd was Oakwood's volunteer of the year in 2004 in honor of the great care that he gave to our neighborhood children.

Neighborhood Easter Party



Sunday April 17
1:00 PM

Join us at the ONA Center
for treats, games,
crafts, and the
Easter Bunny!



Patty and Maxine display some of their prizes at senior bingo.

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

1. Our after school tutoring program will start a new spring term, and we have two openings left for youth between the ages of 5-12. Please call Parks and Recreation at 337-8191 for registration or more information.
2. We will have two Spring Into the Streets days, April 2 and 16, to assist seniors and residents with disabilities, who could use assistance with spring yard work. Please call 342-0192 to register.
3. I am happy to announce that our Building Blocks grant has been tentatively approved for the 2500 blocks of Benton, Amherst, and Logan. Building Blocks will now be in May and June to coincide with the class at WMU.
4. 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 food pantry, especially items like macaroni & cheese, jello, and canned fruits, soups, pasta, beans, and juices
2. Prizes and candy for the Easter party
2. Kitchen wall cabinets
3. Paper towels and bathroom tissue
4. A new canopy for our annual reunion

Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread.
- Mike Finn for picking up bread donations and donating to the food bank.
- Michael Markel, Mike Finn, Martha Austin, Marya and Scott Pennings, Janet Loucks, Elizabeth Lyman, Nancy Walker, and Ruth Olmsted for food for our food bank.
- Ruth Olmsted and Nancy Walker for gloves, hats, boots and other warm clothing for our after school youth.
- Jen Bond for after school snacks and drinks.
- Officer Chris Hancox for snow blowing our sidewalk
- Dave Henry for bottle water.
- Linda Vandenberg for cloth for our senior art project.
- Our newsletter folders Ruth Olmsted, Janet Loucks, Connie and Robert Patterson, Richard Olmsted, Dolores DeShong, Grace Riley, and Patti Slagle.
- 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 your contribution to Oakwood Neighborhood.

Our Community Room is Available for Use

Have you booked the community room for your upcoming Easter party, graduation party, or birthday party? The room is available for family events and has a full kitchen and plenty of room for planning your perfect party. Call Cheryl at the center for more information and to book your date now.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH THRIFT SHOP

*Offering gently used clothing
and miscellaneous items*

**432 S. Burdick Street
343-3194**

**Open Mon - Thurs 10 to 3
and Fri & Sat 10 to 1**

**Receive \$1 off any clothing item
with this ad!**

D&W PHARMACY MEET & GREET

Neighborhood D&W Pharmacist Larry Frigo is planning to visit the Oakwood Community Center again in April 2011. On this visit, Larry and his pharmacy students plan on scheduling appointments with individuals to provide a thorough review of their medications, evaluate potential drug interactions, and suggest more cost-effective alternatives when such options exist. Each client will spend approximately 10 minutes with the pharmacist and will be provided with a medication index card to keep in their wallet or purse for rapid access in emergency situations. Times and dates will be determined in the near future, and sign-up forms will be available at the Oakwood Community Center. See Cheryl Lord for more details.

Second Annual Oakwood Bowl-A-Thon

Do you like to bowl? Do you like to have fun? Would you like to support the many programs that ONA offers the neighborhood? Then sign up today for the Second Annual Oakwood Bowl-A-Thon. It will be Saturday April 30, from 6-9 PM at Airway Lanes in Portage. Registration is open now and is \$25 for shoes, three games of bowling, and mystery bowling. There will also be a raffle for door prizes. All proceeds go to continue Oakwood programs including: after-school youth tutoring, senior drop-in, holiday parties, summer youth art program, and the food pantry.



If you are unable to bowl but would like to help out we are also looking for lane sponsors and door prize donations. Lane sponsorship is \$50. If you would like more information or to make a donation or sponsorship, visit our web site or contact Cheryl at the center.

After School Tutoring

Our after school tutoring program is full but the next session starts March 28th for youths between the ages of 5-12. Any child can enroll, and children on free or reduced lunches are entitled to half off the registration fee. Call Parks and Recreation at 337-8191 for registration or more information.

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

Give us a call at 342-0129 to schedule a time.

Super Books are now available.

They make great gifts while benefiting your neighborhood. They are \$39 for the set of two books, which includes a special dining book where you can get \$8 - \$12 off a second meal at more than two dozen restaurants.

Bruce E. Justin
Certified Public Accountant

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

Suggested donation for ads: 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

Michael Markel President

Don Verhage, Vice Pres.

Diane Stanke, Treasurer

Bree Bennett, Secretary

At Large Members:

Jackie Luedtke

Jim Jeakle

Janet Loucks

Kathleen Olmsted

Jane Turner

Ellen Tober

Tom Cleveland

Cheryl Lord, Exec. Director

ONA Office: 269-342-0129

www.oakwoodneighborhood.org
center@oakwoodneighborhood.org

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Community of Christ

2523 Amherst Ave.

Free Family Movie Night

Friday, March 18 , 7:00pm

SHREK: Forever After

Powered by Jesus *Youth Fellowship*

meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month

Check the web calendar for times and activities

For more information go to:

WWW.KalamazooCommunityofChrist.com

FACEBOOK: Kalamazoo Community of Christ

Waste Reduction: Let's Compost!

Michael Markel

In our effort toward neighborhood waste reduction, let's consider ways to reduce the amount of waste we have to throw away. This month, we discuss composting.

One of the biggest contributors to landfills that could be reduced is food waste. One of the easiest ways to reduce the amount of food scraps you throw away is to start a compost pile. The compost is also good for your garden or flower beds.

A compost pile does not need to be fancy, but there are some requirements in the city limits about the pile needing to be maintained so as not to be a nuisance. Piles should be layered with brown (carbon-rich) items such as small branches, leaves, newspaper, or cardboard and green (nitrogen-rich) items such as food scraps and grass clippings. You can leave the pile and let Mother Nature take care of things, although this can take up to a year to get finished compost. If you turn the pile and keep things moist, you can have finished compost in as short as a few months. Finished compost should have an earthy smell and you should not be able to identify the starting materials. Don't put items such as meat or dairy products in your compost pile, as these items can attract rodents.

If everyone started a compost pile it could reduce waste produced by up to a third. **Don't have the time to start a compost pile yourself? Drop your food scraps off at the Community Garden compost pile, located on Springmont.**