

Neighbors helping neighbors.....



The Model Blocks program works on getting energy saving projects going for residents of Hoover Street.



Hoover Street residents and volunteers out during a Model Blocks energy saving workday.



Model Blocks energy saving workday volunteer gets help from a resident in installing compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Come Have Some Fun
At the ONA Easter Party!



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt,
Prizes, Goodies & Arts and Crafts



*See the Easter Bunny at the ONA Center,
3320 Laird Ave. March 16, 2008 at 1 p.m.*

Spring Into the Streets '08

Seniors, do you have some yard work you'd like help with? How about an elderly neighbor that needs a hand with theirs?

On April 5th, volunteers from WMU and others will be doing yard work for those needing help. Please call the ONA Center at 342-0129 if you'd like to be added to the list.



Thank you to all those neighbors that came out to the ONA's New Volunteer Open House right after Valentine's Day.

If you missed the event, but would still like to volunteer, please call the ONA center at 342-0129 to find out more about how you can help!

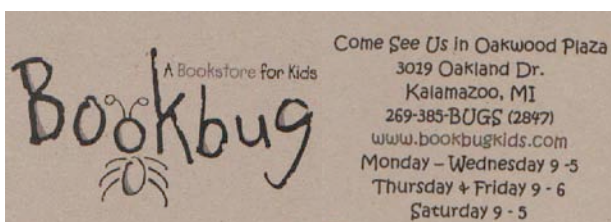
From the Desk of the Director... *By Cheryl Lord*

- Congratulations! 2300-2600 Edgewood Ave, 3500-4000 Adams St., 2500 Block of Hazel and the 3736-4000 blocks of Barnard. You have been selected to participate in Building Blocks this Spring. Look for students from Kalamazoo College to come knocking on your doors the first week of April to tell you about the program.
- The Spring session of the Afterschool Program will begin soon. Call 337-8191 or 342-0129 for information or registration. Scholarships are available.
- Now is a great time to get on our Board of Directors. We have just been accepted in the MI NOW grant program. This means that our board members qualify for free workshops and classes to help improve the Association & the Neighborhood.
- 2008-9 Super Books are now on sale. Help support Oakwood and buy yours from the ONA center, Initial Attraction, The Oakwood Pharmacy, Shears to You, or the Keystone Community Bank at Oakwood.
- We will soon be selling t-shirts and hoodies for the Centennial. Watch for the order form in our next newsletter.
- Sorry for misspelling Marian Porter's name in the last Oakwood Times!

Senior Drop-In for Free Bread and Goodies:
Every Wednesday from 1-3 pm.

Wish List

1. Deicing salt for the center's sidewalks.
2. Volunteers to help put on an ice cream social, carnival and entertainment for our centennial the last weekend of June
3. Apple juice or drink boxes for the after school program
4. Volunteer to help clean bathroom once each week
5. Licensed electrician to assist with rewiring the neighborhood center.
6. A detail-oriented volunteer comfortable with using computer applications like e-mail, word-processing, basic image and desktop publishing software, printers and copiers to produce 5 ONA newsletters per year on an alternating month basis.



Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread for seniors
 - Bily Campbell at Lowe's, Dick and Mark Gallar (Oakwood Bible Church), Howke Home Improvement (3 volunteers) for assisting with our Model Blocks energy saving workday on Hoover Street
 - Don and Cindy Verhage and Doreen Ellwood for paper towels
 - Jen Bond for after school snacks and drinks
 - Diane Benson and Janet Loucks for food pantry donations
 - Sundowners for new community room light covers, a new toilet seat, and work on the center's security lights and furnaces
- * Please let us know if we have overlooked your name or business so we can give you the acknowledgment that you deserve for supporting the Oakwood Neighborhood.

SUPERBOOK

New books available NOW from the ONA



The Green Gala

A Grassroots Sustainability Event hosted by the Campus Concerns Committee and others at WMU.

Featuring Majora Carter, Creator of Sustainable South Bronx.

- Free Event on March 13th, from 7 pm to 10 pm at the Radisson, Downtown Kalamazoo
- Majora has won many awards for her speaking and organizing efforts in environmental work.
- Free food, and live music afterwards.

Show us your talent!

We need anyone such as a music band, clowns, jugglers, etc. that would be willing to perform at the Oakwood Centennial Celebration on June 27 through 29, 2008. Please call 342-0129!

Free Tax Preparation Help from the Kalamazoo County Tax Counseling Initiative

- Sessions held through April. Focused on families with incomes up to \$40,000. IRS-cert. volunteers. Cannot help, however, with military income or international income. All returns e-file and direct deposit eligible.
- Call 2-1-1 or (269) 381-4357 (HELP) if you live outside of Kalamazoo County or visit www.gryphon.org for site locations and times.

WANTED: Dependable youth to do neighborhood yard work. Please sign up at the ONA center or call 342-0129 today!

Finding Assistance in Kalamazoo

All of us could use a hand from time to time. Here are some resources that may be of help!

- **Dial 2-1-1:** This number connects caller to information about critical health and human services available in the county. These services include:
 - Basic Human Needs resources such as food banks, shelters, rent and utility assistance, etc.
 - Physical and Mental Health resources like medical information, crisis lines, drug and alcohol intervention, maternal health, children's health and insurance programs.
 - Support programs for Older Americans and Disabled Persons, home care, day care, Meals on Wheels, transportation, etc. Support for Children, Youth, and Families, such as childcare resources, family resource centers, recreational programs, mentoring, tutoring, and protective services.
- **Utility Shut-off Notices:** Call the State Dept. of Human Services on Stockbridge at 337-4900.
- **Weatherization Assistance:** For income-eligible households, call the Community Action Bureau at 373-5066.
- **Home Repair for Seniors:** For income eligible seniors, call Senior Services at 382-0515.
(Condensed from the Stuart Neighborhood Newsletter.)



The Afterschool Program kids get a surprise visit from the K-9 unit.

Real Estate Statistics for March

From Jan Wier, Prudential Preferred Realtors

Spring is on its way and Easter is early this year, may March be a Blessed Month for all.

If you are a first time or move-up home buyer, a home in the Oakwood area may be a great fit for you! Sellers remember: homes in move-in condition and priced right will sell quickly. Give me a call to assist you with your real estate needs today at 269-217-8620!

- There are 33 homes on the market ranging in size, from 1 to 4 bedrooms and in price, from \$32,900 to \$129,900 with an average price of \$83,409. These are averaging 140 days on the market.
- There are 6 Pending listing, ranging from 1 bedroom to 4 bedrooms in size, priced from \$26,963 to \$94,900, averaging 145 days on the market.
- Two homes have closed, both 3 bedrooms, one sold at \$39,900 and the other, \$134,000 (at the end of Madison) averaging 88 days on the market.



Snow season nominees!

Residents that kept their sidewalk clear of snow for the Month of February, nominated for the drawing by their neighbors were:

1. Jeff at 3407 Barnard
2. Family at 2418 Logan
3. Dave and Debbie Dolph 3307 Madison
4. Gene Riggins- 3500 block of Hoover
5. Doug Brewer- 3600 block of Adams
6. Troy Rozema- 3500 block of Barnard

By random drawing, this month's winner is.....

Troy Rozema of the 3500 block of Barnard
Come by the center during office hours to get your \$25 Home Depot gift card!

- Nominate a neighbor that regularly keeps their walk free of snow for the March drawing by calling 342-0129 or e-mail center@oakwoodneighborhood.org.



ULTRA COAT
Professional Painting

Specializing in:

- Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Roger Owsiany, Owner
(269) 352-9167

Senior Citizen Discounts
Winter rates now available!

Item or ad for the Oakwood Times Newsletter?

Submission deadline is by the 20th of the month.

Ad rates: ¼ page = \$20, 1/3 page = \$35, full-page ad = \$65, Six month special for ¼ page is \$100



Oakwood Neighborhood Association
3320 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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

ONA People

Gary Wager, President
Don Verhage, Vice Pres.
Diane Stanke, Treasurer
Niah Venable, Secretary

At Large Members:

Jim Ross
Kathleen Olmsted
Bree Bennett
Jane Turner

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

March Events

- 13- Sundowners: 7:00 p.m.
- 14- Recycling & Trash
- 16- Easter Party: 1 p.m.
- 18- Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
- Senior Drop In & Free Bread: 1-3 p.m. Weds.

April Events

- 5-Spring Into The Streets
- 10- Sundowners: 7:00 p.m.
- 11- Computer Class for Seniors, 1 p.m.
- 11- Recycling & Trash
- 13-19: D & W Non Profit Days- ONA No. is 94693
- 15- Board of Directors & Neighborhood Watch: 6:30 p.m.
- 18- Computer Class for Seniors, 1 p.m.
- 26- Oakwood Beach Clean Up
- 26- Annual Oakwood/Winchell Yard Sales
- Senior Drop In & Free bread 1-3 pm Weds.