



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

To all Portage Lake Members and Friends,

I would like to say how proud and excited I am to be the new Portage Lake Association President. The Portage Lake Association is an outstanding organization with wonderful people performing outstanding services for our community. It is a privilege to be a part of this organization.

The Portage Lake Association continues year after year to provide exciting events for the community such as Concerts in the Park, the Petunia Parade, Fireworks, Onekama Days, Fall Festival, and Christmas in Onekama. They provide Christmas lights in the Village of Onekama, summer banners, manage the web site and Facebook pages. The PLA provides support for large community projects and Onekama Schools through scholarships, educational class trips and school events.

We rely on volunteers who enable us to continue with our contributions to our community. Many of these volunteers have been busy throughout the winter months planning all our events held throughout the year.

The Petunia Parade Committee, along with over 70 volunteers, will again be planting petunias in May and will maintain the petunias throughout the summer. Last year they received the 2016 Beautification Award from the Portage Lake Garden Club. As we all know, anyone visiting or passing through the Village of Onekama are amazed at the beautiful petunias lining the street! This year, Larsen's Landscaping will donate soil preparation for the petunia beds. We are very grateful to Larsen's Landscaping for their generous donation.

The Concerts in The Park lineup this year is fantastic! The Concert Committee has scheduled a wide variety of musicians to entertain everyone this summer such as Blue Water Ramblers, The Gratitude Steel Band and the Scottville Clown Band. Please check our Facebook page for the complete schedule. There is no better way to spend a summer evening than listening to live music! Great fun for young and old. The free concerts will be held on Monday evenings starting June 26th through August 14th from 7:00-9:00 pm. Come join us!

The Fundraising Committee has been diligently working throughout the winter months. The PLA has decided to pursue alternate fundraising opportunities this year. The annual Fundraiser Dinner/Auctions will not be held this

June. The PLA is planning the following activities. Silent Auctions during Concerts in the Park, Fall Festival and Christmas in Onekama. Two Outside Raffles with drawings during Onekama Days and Christmas in Onekama, on-line auctions, and a possible dinner event in the summer. More details will be forthcoming on opportunities to support the PLA through cash donations, web based ads/coupons or sponsorships for our Concerts and Fireworks.

Farr Friends continues to meet every Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Farr Center. People enjoy playing cards and games, doing crafts and puzzles as well as friendly conversation. Farr Friends offers "specials" such as a presentation on Little Eden Camp by Wayne Faber this past January and the upcoming "special" on March 23rd, Travel Log - Cruise from Dubai to Singapore by Chris and Mike Gravlin and Faye Backie and Steve Szilvagy. Please check our web-site for more upcoming "specials".

Onekama Days will be held August 4th, 5th, & 6th with the popular "Pig Out For Scholarships" featuring our pig roast and craft beer tasting.

Fall Festival will be held October 14th in the Village Park with Arts and Craft Show, Scarecrow Contest, food vendors, children's activities and more.

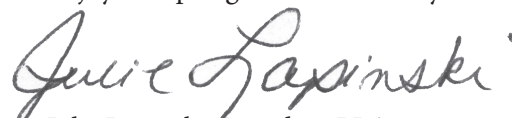
On November 18th Christmas in Onekama will be held at Onekama Schools. A craft show with artists from the surrounding area, local churches offering bake sales and the Chili Cook-off. November 19th Celebrations of Lights is held at the Farr Center at 6:00 p.m.

The PLA would like to thank all our hard-working volunteers, our generous donors, and all our friends and supporters. We cannot do it without you!

If you have not had the opportunity to volunteer, I hope you will consider doing so. Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet wonderful people and make lasting friendships. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in volunteering at 269-832-2392 or jlapinski@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Enjoy the spring and summer days to come!


Julie Lapinski, President PLA

Village News

Spring is just around the corner, but that still means we should remember to be visible when walking or biking, especially at night. Wearing bright or light colored coats and hats makes you more visible. Dark clothing makes it very hard to see you.

The November election results:

Village President-Roger Burger; President-Pro-Tem-Rod Hudson; Regular council members-Ralph Drumm, Wayne Miller, Alice Hendricks and Suzanne Schwing. Village Clerk-Ruth Hudson; Village Treasurer-Nikki Jach.

Planning Commission members-Chair-Bonnie Miller; Vice-chair-Sand Beauvais; Steve Hall; Council Representative-Alice Hendricks.

Zoning Board of Appeals members: Rudi Milasich, Ken Burda, and alternate Suzanne Halloran.

There are vacant positions on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. In some instances, according to State regulations, township residents may be allowed to serve on these commissions.

Work is to be done on the Farr Center windows and hopefully floors in the Clerk's, Treasurer's and Zoning Administrator's offices, as well as the floor in the large hall. The ability to have work done is provided by annually putting funds away for 3 or more years. However, there is more work to be done in the kitchen, bathrooms and exterior of the building.

Rates for renting the Farr Center and park facilities remain the same. In 2016 the Village Tax payers financially supported those facilities with a total outlay of \$25, 576. The Village received donations in the amount of \$2635. Organizations that use the facilities at no charge are the PLA, Lions, Watershed, Garden Club, Jr. Clio, The Guild and the PLA's sponsored Farr Friends. In the past some of the organizations have made financial contributions to the village for ongoing maintenance, which was greatly appreciated.

Also on the agenda this summer is the removal of the "wings" on the bath house which will afford a better view of the lake from M-22 and the parking lot. We look forward to the park opening, and if all goes well, the swim area.

We thank our maintenance staff for clearing our streets and roads daily (and at times twice a day) last year and for keeping them in good shape throughout the year.

Enjoy Spring!
The Village

Summary of Township Minutes for February, 2017

Mark Sohlden, County Road Commission Manager, presented the annual report that set forth local projects/work completed for 2016. He also listed federal and state funded projects as well as the proposed 2017 local projects/works. There was discussion about the 2016 Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating for federal aid for paved primary roads, transportation funding update, information on maintenance and equipment. Two new full-time truck drivers and three seasonal employees were hired.

Al Taylor reported that MDOT is reviewing the M-22 "Scenic-By-Way" signs before deciding to install them.

Pauline Jaquish, County Commissioner, reported that the Michigan Land Bank for foreclosed, blighted properties is looking into property in Bear Lake.

Jeff Dontz, re-elected Chairman of the County Commissioners, said that the audit showed a balance of \$235,000. Meetings are continuing on the Collaborative Sewer initiative. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will open the old casino building as a child development center by the end of February.

Ken Kott of the Manistee Recreation Association said Onekama Township has 39 residents participating in MRA activities. He requested that the Township contribute between \$2700 to \$2990 or match the 2016 contribution of \$3000.

Al Taylor, Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission, said they are awaiting experts reports on Traffic, Marina and Zoning for consideration of the amendment to the SUP for Portage Point Inn.

Al Taylor reported that the fireworks sponsored by the PLA, may be launched from a pontoon boat. Petunia plantings and concerts have been scheduled. Banners need replacing.

Fire Chief Clinton Osburn reported 23 Fire/Rescue runs for January.

Mary Reed reported that the Lake Management Plan for 2016 will be available online in March and hard copies will be distributed. Exotic invasive species have been monitored for eight years. 164 acres of Eurasian water milfoil was treated in 2009 and in 2016 it was down to 21.35 acres. 83 acres of phragmites were treated in 2009, less than an acre in 2016.

Onekama Home to the Rug Hookers

Every Thursday, rain, shine or snow, a group of dedicated hookers meets at Trinity Lutheran Church. They work on their respective projects, give each other advice and enjoy time together working on their pieces of art.

Every year they host a "rug school" in the Onekama public school. 6 experts teach their individual techniques. Beginners are welcome, contact Bee Capper at beenoel@charter.net for details. School runs from June 19 to the 23. There will be a rug exhibit on June 14, open to the public.

SCHOOL NEWS

A Person You Should Know:

Jarrold Berard is a Senior at Onekama High School. He is the son of Thomas and Janet Berard, and hopes to attend the University of Notre Dame, Michigan State or the University of Pennsylvania this Fall. To supplement his learning, Jarrod has taken dual enrollment courses at West Shore Community College during his junior and senior years of high school. He has taken such classes as College Algebra, American government, Intro to Philosophy, Introduction to Business, US History - 1877 to present, Business Law, Principles of Salesmanship, and Art Appreciation. Although Jarrod has a full academic schedule he is on the Varsity Basketball team and the Quiz Bowl Team.

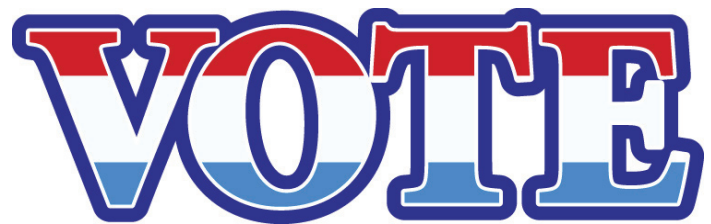


Onekama Schools Score Well on new SAT

In 2016 all juniors in the state of Michigan were required by law to take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). The 31 Onekama students scored very well. They scored an average of 1069 as compared to the state average of 1001 and county average of 962. The 1069 placed the Onekama students in the upper echelon of all students in the northern region. By comparison, Traverse City Public, the largest school in the region scored 1054.

One of our students Jarrod Berard scored exceptionally well and had one of the highest 600 scores in the state and highest in Manistee County. He is currently a National Merit finalist (top 7500 in the United States) and will be notified soon on his overall ranking.

We wish all the Onekama Seniors good luck in their future endeavors.



MAY 2ND

May School Election:

Bond Proposal:

The School District is asking the voters to consider a zero mill increase bond proposal in the amount of \$1,700,000 which will be amortized over 16 years. The bond proceeds would be used to replace the 1997 and 2005 roofs, replace the unit ventilators and condensing units, upgrade the boilers and heating system and add a new stairway in the parking lot.

Sinking Fund:

The School District is asking the voters to consider a 1 mill sinking fund millage over 10 years. The funds would be used for technology and capital improvements such as, replacing the middle school gym and shop roofs, update parking lot lighting, update playground equipment, continue 1 to 1 technology with 3 cycles of technology upgrades, upgrade and maintain athletic facilities and expand security system.

For additional details, contact Superintendent Kevin Hughes at 231-889-4251.

GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Onekama Consolidated Schools is once again hosting its golf scramble at the Heathlands on Sunday, April 23 from 10am-3pm. This fundraiser supports the Middle School Student Council with their Portager Pride Pack program, which assists families in need with food and personal products. The students shop and then fill bags twice a month and send them home with students.

This is a way for the community to help those that need help. So, get a team together and play some early season golf and help those families in need. If you can't join the golf tournament but would still like to help, the school does accept donations. You can send a check (no cash) to:

Onekama Consolidated School
 Attention: Naomi Kolehmainen
 5016 Main Street
 Onekama, Michigan 49675



PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION Summary of February 16, 2017

Minutes

Simons reported that the Invasive Species Committee has met with Lake Manager and reviewed her report for 2016. PLM company is getting the permits necessary so that our invasives may be treated again this year. There was a discussion relative to beetles being used at the East end of the Lake to help eliminate Purple Loose Strife. Also, discussion that while Crystal Lake continues to fight "swimmers itch" Portage Lake complaints are very few. Further testing of Stream #9 will be scheduled this year.

The 2017 Asian carp plan builds upon prior Asian carp strategies by applying "lessons learned". The commission also discussed the different carp species with the "silver carp" the only real danger to the Great Lakes. There is funding by both Federal and State agencies currently in place to contain these destructive species.

May reported that he had met with Senator Booher and they again discussed the harbors of Michigan and their problems. Senator Booher was to contact Representative VanderWall. May is also writing a letter to the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force indicating their lack of support for the small harbors of the Great Lakes and asking for their assistance with Federal programs as well as enacting those which are to provide funding for dredging and infrastructure repair in the future. Currently there are (8) harbors with less than (6) feet of water. Leland Harbor is closed and many more harbors on the Great Lakes are in danger of closing if money isn't allocated to fund Great Lakes dredging.

Melissa Bosman, an engineer for the Corps of Engineers, is leading the group in charge of developing our engineering study and subsequent repairs. She stated that they are on schedule, that soil borings have been taken, and they are working on (2) alternatives for the infrastructure reconstruction, one being sheet piling and the other rubble or boulders as our wall structure. The Corps is developing cost estimates data which will be provided shortly being generated. The Harbor Commission has been asked for opinions on the plan and our recommendations to move forward.

Jim is going to write a letter to the MBIA (Michigan Boating Industries Association) asking for their help in acquiring funding for dredging and infrastructure repairs for the Great Lakes. There will also be a similar letter sent to Governor Snyder and President Trump.

RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY!!!!

Bins are located in the Onekama township parking lot.

What is acceptable?

Paper: Printer Paper, Envelopes, Unwanted Mail, Newspaper, Magazines, Catalogs, Phonebooks, Paper Bags, Cardboard, and Cereal Boxes

Plastic: Bottles, jugs, containers marked #1-7 (Empty and rinsed) and Grocery bags marked #2 and #4 (clean and dry)

Metal: Steel Cans, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans, Aluminum Foil, Empty Aerosol Cans (all empty and rinsed), lids to bottles

Glass: Empty, rinsed and lidless bottles and jars of any color

Questions? 855-246-9346 or visit manisteecountymi.gov

News from the Portage Point Inn

Portage Point Inn has been a premiere destination in Onekama since 1903 for reunions, group retreats and special events of all kinds.

Portage Point Inn & Marina continues to be a premiere year round destination for individuals, families, and couples. Between on-site lodging, access to two lakes, exciting amenities, large banquet hall, marina, bar, and fun family events, we have something to offer for everyone. Condo and cottage rentals are available for weekly and nightly stays.

Need to reserve your summer boat slip?

Portage Point Resort has a deep water marina currently capable of handling vessels up to 100' in length. Our marina includes utilities, showers, and pump-out capabilities. Boaters will enjoy quick access to the channel from our slips as well as full access to the beautiful grounds and amenities of Portage Point Inn. Call Resort Harbor Master Jeff Sternberger at 231-889-7501 today.

Weddings, Reunions and More!

Say "I Do"! The historic Portage Point Inn offers the perfect venue for your lakefront wedding. Now booking for 2018 with a few dates still available for 2017

Upcoming Events:

Murder Mystery Weekend - April 21-23. RSVP by April 7

Big Band Dinner & Dance - Saturday, May 20.

Upcoming Events: (here is the link to the two upcoming events at PPI and can give you all the details to include - <http://www.portagepointresort.com/events-calendar/>)

Blarney Castle Update March 2017

Demolition has been completed and construction begins! The new Blarney Castle Market and Gas Station is expected to be completed by Fall 2017. They are getting ready to pour concrete supports and reframing the building. Underground tanks will be installed around May, 2017. Monthly update information can be found on the 1,-Onekama, Michigan Facebook page.

The store will be larger than a convenience store but smaller than a grocery market. It will have a wide variety of fuels available – unleaded regular and premium, recreational gas (premium without ethanol) and low Sulphur and off road diesel.

Once complete, the Easy Mart and the Spirit stations will be shut down and the underground storage tanks and pipelines will be emptied, decommissioned and removed. Future use of the two properties has not yet been determined

Onekama Days Fireworks

The 2017 Onekama Days Fireworks will be launched from the water. For the past two years, the fireworks have been launched from the Heathlands Golf Course after the water level of Portage Lake eliminated the launch site on near Easy Street. Launching on land reduced the visibility of the fireworks and it reduced the locations for watching the fireworks. Recent negotiations with our supplier yielded this change, which should improve the viewing and increase the locations for watching the fireworks this year. Plans are to launch in the water near Easy Street. Mark your calendars for August 4th at dusk, with August 5th being a rain date

Are You New to the Area or Do You Have a New Neighbor?

The Portage Lake Association's Welcome Committee would love to welcome new neighbors! Contact Julie Lapinski at 269-832-2392 to arrange a time for the delivery of a welcome bag.



Onekama Elementary Hits the Slopes

By Kiara Bromley and Marilyn Bowers

On February 22nd and 23rd, the Onekama Elementary visited Crystal Mountain for Good Behavior Ski Day. The event was for the elementary students that had displayed good behavior throughout the school year. It's a great opportunity for the students, and no other school around does anything like it. Students always look forward to Good Behavior Ski Day, and everyone was excited to ski. "I like to ski. I like going on the big hills. I went with my friends Logan and Kaylee," said Garrett, a first grade student. Heather, a fourth grade student, says her favorite part about ski day is skiing with friends. To go skiing, you had to have all of your winter gear, and you had to have special boots for the skis.

Onekama High School's National Honor Society sends volunteers as chaperones for Good Behavior Ski Day each year. These chaperones help and guide the elementary students on the slopes and especially on the daunting chairlifts. Michele, a senior, helped kids on Totem Park (the learning area), and once they had demonstrated a proficient ability to start and stop, she helped them on the chairlift and on the big hills. "I really enjoy going to Good Behavior Ski Day. It's always nice to see the kids being rewarded for their hard work and good behavior, and it's cool to see them get better throughout the day," said Michele. Overall, everyone had a great, safe visit to Crystal Mountain for Good Behavior Ski Day.

Onekama Ski Team Dominates

by Ashley Elo

The Onekama Ski Team had an amazing season. It started a little slow because of weather conditions but the team pulled through. The boys got first in their conference and competed exceptionally well at regionals. The boys were able to get fourth overall out of 12 teams at regionals. The entire boys team only missed going to state by 15.5 points. However, Joe Buswinka and Keagan Thomas qualified as individuals to go to State in both slalom and giant slalom where they competed at Boyne Highlands. The girls got last in their conference but when going to regionals Riley Drilling also qualified to go to State in both events, leading the girls to ninth place out of 12 teams. The ski team works very hard on the slopes in many different weather conditions and are made up of six schools; Brethren, Bear Lake, Manistee High, Manistee Catholic, Onekama, and Baldwin. There will be many members returning to the ski team so you can bet that next year they will have the same amazing results.



Farr Friends Continues to be a Popular Program for the PLA

Farr Friends is a program that the PLA started last year to create an opportunity for newcomers to meet locals and for folks to socialize on Thursday afternoons at the Farr Center. Monthly specials/lectures will continue this spring, as well as games and conversation.

The spring schedule is as follows:

April 13- Games and Conversation

April 20- Kevin Hughes, School Superintendent - to speak about bond proposals.

April 27- Games and Conversation

May 4- Games and Conversation

May 11- Give and Take Event- bring things you don't want and that someone else might need. This event will take place from 2-6pm. (See more details below)

May 18- Games and Conversation

May 25- Games and Conversation and planning for fall events

In all of our lives we discover that our "wants and needs" change over time. In recognition of this, the Farr Friends' Advisory Committee thought it would be fun to host an event called Give and Take, on Thursday, May 11, from 2 to 6 pm. Unlike a typical rummage sale, no money will be exchanged. Instead we are asking community members to "give" any items they no longer need or use and to "take" items that will be helpful in their current stage in life. Items should be dropped off at Farr Center at 2 pm, and any that are not taken by 6 pm will be given to the Onekama Thrift Shop.

Farr Friends will take a break for the summer months of June, July and August. It will start up again in September with the History of Camp Tosebo being featured on Sept. 21. During the summer months, any newcomers or locals looking to socialize can attend the Monday Night Concerts in the village park. Folks gather under the pavilion for shared potluck meals before the concerts.

The Farr Friends wish to thank Alisha Richley who made a very attractive sign that is displayed outside the Farr Center during the Friends' gatherings. If you see it, stop by and see what is happening.

Thanks also go out to Steve Szilvagy for printing the reminder posters of the Farr Friends meeting dates. If your business or church would like a poster for your window or bulletin board, please let Faye Backie know at 517-281-2011.

Finally, many thanks to Dylan Savela of the Manistee Advocate newspaper who regularly features stories about Farr Friends and has taken photos at the gatherings. We appreciate his support and the publicity.



Onekama Lions Club Update

The Onekama Lions Club are gearing up for spring. We are particularly excited to celebrate our club's 50th anniversary! And the 100th anniversary of Lions International!

Weekly Bingo returns on Thursday, April 20 at 6:00pm at the Lions Building at the Manistee County Fairgrounds. All are welcome. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

The first All You Can Eat Breakfast is scheduled for May 6th. Breakfasts are held the first Sunday of the month. As with all Lions fundraisers, the proceeds go to Lions projects that benefit our community and other charitable causes.

Lions Clubs focus on vision and eye projects. Please drop off your old prescription glasses at our drop box just south of the Onekama Post Office.

Onekama Days is August 4-6. There will be live music, great food, teen dance, car show, beer tastings, demo derby and car racing, fireworks and more!

We encourage other groups to plan activities and are happy to include them in our Onekama

Days publicity. We are particularly interested in children and family-friendly events. Also, Onekama Days sponsorships are available at the \$25, \$100 and \$250 level. Contact Roz Jaffe for more information on Onekama Days at roz-jaf@charter.net

And "Like" our Onekama Lions FaceBook page for regular updates on all Lions events.

YOUR VISION IS OUR CREATION

LARSEN'S

LANDSCAPING

& LAWN CARE

Tranquility

right in your own yard.

Ponds

Retaining Walls

Patio Pavers

Hydroseeding

Fertilization

Lawn Mowing



NEW LOCATION!

North Branch Office
3021 Schoedel Rd.
(corner of M-22 & Schoedel)
(231) 398-9900

Scottville • 231-757-3850

design • installation • maintenance

PLA Fundraising in 2017

Dear PLA Supporter,

This year we are taking a break from our traditional annual fund raiser, which usually occurs in late June. We are planning several other ways of raising money this year (see below) and we're hoping that you will consider making a cash donation. This will help us continue the many things we do to make the Onekama area a great place in which to live, play and stay. We are asking our business partners to consider web-based ads and coupons or to sponsor our Monday Night Concerts, Onekama Banners, Christmas lights, the Petunia Parade, Fall Festival or the Onekama Day Fireworks. We'll be sending more details as they are available.

We plan to raise funds through our yearly donation envelopes for the Petunias, Fireworks and Celebration of Lights. In addition, we are planning several silent auctions at the Concerts in the Park, Fall Festival and Christmas in Onekama, two raffles with drawings during Onekama Days and at Christmas, on line auction(s) and possibly a dinner event in the summer with a silent auction table.

Here's how we use the money we raise:

- *PLA Quarterly Newsletter, web site and FaceBook pages*
- *Annual Petunia Parade, summer banners and Christmas lights along M-22 in the Village of Onekama*
- *Monday Night Concerts in the Park*
- *Onekama Days' events (pig roast, craft beer tasting, car show, fireworks)*
- *Onekama School projects and scholarships*
- *Fall Festival*
- *Support for large community projects*

We hope you'll continue to contribute to our efforts!

Thanks!

Portage Lake Watershed Forever

FACING FORWARD: Michigan Shoreline Stewards

To those of us who remain in Michigan during the Winter, Mother Nature has been something of a tease - some cold but not much; some snow but not much. Essentially she has denied us bragging rights and left us slightly deficient in Vitamin D.

Fortunately, what with turning the clock ahead an hour (a hellish scheme, if you ask us), and the appearance of rising temperatures, we are able to square our shoulders, inhale deeply, and begin to think about spending as much time as possible out of doors.

If you live on the water, this means cleaning up shorelines, assessing whatever damage may have occurred since last fall, and figuring out what you can do to protect lakeside property and water quality.

Enter the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Along with the National Shoreline Partnership, they have created an on-line education program for lakeshore property owners, "**Michigan Shoreline Stewards.**" The tool provides a 15-30 minute survey to assess property, coupled with tips and information about best management practices.

When completed, the Shoreline Stewards assessment gives a score and suggestions for improving conditions specific to your particular situation.

For more information and to take the survey, go to <http://www.mishorelandstewards.org/>

PLAN AHEAD Please check with the DEQ if you feel compelled to obliterate vegetation along your shoreline. In many cases, you will need a permit. Additional information is available on our website or from <http://www.michigan.gov/deq>



FACING BACKWARD: EPA Budget Cuts

If you didn't know already, the proposed federal budget, released on March 16, essentially cripples the Environmental Protection Agency. Funds that Washington has been providing to states and Native American tribes to assist with their efforts to clean their water and air, limit exposure to pesticides and toxic substances, and cleanup waste **would drop more than 40%.**

Large scale cleanup and restoration efforts on iconic waterways such as San Francisco Bay, **the Great Lakes** and Chesapeake Bay would **be scrapped entirely.**

Because we are an organization that is committed to protect our environment, we oppose reductions that will undermine the EPA's ability to effectively do its job.

Watershed Plan Update - Status

Last fall, PLWF submitted a grant application to the DEQ for money to support updating our plan - required by the DEQ and the US EPA every ten years. We learned recently that our request was **not** approved but was ranked very highly.

While we were disappointed not to receive the financial boost, we were not disheartened. We have been meeting regularly to identify a facilitator to guide us through the process and are working to name a Steering Committee to guide the development of the update. Members of this group will include representatives from the Watershed Council and from community stakeholders identified in the original plan. There will be more information later but, meanwhile, think about how you can help.

STATE OF THE LAKE: 2016



What follows is a synopsis of the Executive Summary of our 2016 State of the Lake Report.

Portage Lake has been managed over the past eight years to identify and reduce

the presence of exotic species, track plant trends, and improve water quality readings.

- In 2016, just over 21 acres of EWM, Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife and Narrow leaf cattails were controlled via chemical control methods.
- Extensive lake mapping, vegetation mapping and water quality testing were also conducted revealing an abundance of healthy native plants.
- Total phosphorus levels in 2015 and 2016, from all lake and shoreline basin samples

came back below those in recent years, showing a decline and a very positive outlook.

- Some tributaries around Portage Lake are bringing excess nutrients into the lake. This information is vital in determining the areas within Portage Lake where nutrient loading needs to be reduced.

Portage Lake was selected to be a sampling lake in PLM's DNR Grant study in 2015. PLM has partnered with Michigan Tech University in a 3-year study to genetically test milfoil plants to determine the plant response to various chemical herbicides. This exciting study is still underway but should assist with management decisions and the direction of the program in the future.

Read the entire report at: portagelakewatershed.com

FYI: Swimmers' Itch The data of the state-wide survey we participated in last summer to determine what factors contribute to this scourge are still being analyzed so the job is far from over. But Glen Lake, Lake Leelanau and Crystal Lake are seeking another \$250,000 state appropriation to fund a long term, science-based, coordinated approach. We intend to stay involved and keep you posted .

Come to Celebrate
10th Annual Fundraiser
July 22, 2017

Lakes & Streams Conference

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc's 56th Annual Conference will be held April 21-22 at Crystal Mountain and is well worth attending. . Go to mymlsa.org/ for details.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Concert Committee of Portage Lake Association is proud to announce its Summer 2017 lineup for the Monday Night Concerts in the Park. These concerts have been a community favorite for many years and have featured a wide range of music from local favorite performers to rising stars on the Michigan music scene. This summer will feature the following:

June 26-The Blue Water Ramblers, singers who take turns harmonizing with each other to create a tapestry of sound. Many folks will fondly remember their own song about the delights along M-22, and they have promised to feature this song for us again!

July 3 -Schrock Brothers Band. The Schrock Bros is an established Michigan based family trio comprised of brothers Andrew and Jasen Schrock, joined by their father Mark. They write and perform songs in the Americana roots/blues/folk/rock tradition, and sing them with soul and sweeping three part harmony accompanied by guitars, bass, and mandolin.

July 10-Rough &Tumble are an Americana-Folk Duo. Haunting, quirky, solemn, and spritely, The Rough & Tumble are for the faint of heart and the strong of will.

July 17-The Gratitude Steel Band returns to thrill folks in Onekama with their unique sound from their own steel drums. They play, in addition to the expected Reggae and Calypso, many of your old favorite Motown sounds and, just when you're certain you've heard it all, will break into a little Mozart. In the past, they've gotten us involved in dancing and even into an impromptu limbo contest. Come and enjoy the fun!

July 24-Awesome Distraction has been together for almost 5 years. Originally formed in 2011 by Nick Veine and Kyle Garber from Manistee, they have continued to impress audiences with their harmonies and musicianship. Recently they have brought in a powerful young singer named Chloe Pepera also from Manistee.

July 31-The Benzie Playboys ,a group of local musicians who will bring you the best in authentic Cajun/Zydeco Music.

August 7-Jim Hawley's 70's Show. Jim Hawley is well known in Northern Michigan for his musicianship and has traveled thousands of miles and played and performed at hundreds of colleges and universities all over the country, receiving high accolades along the way.

August 14-Our final concert for 2017, brings the Scottville Clown Band, for an evening of musical hijinks and mellifluous entertainment. The Band consists of musicians from all walks of life and all parts of the map. Their roots date back to 1903 when a musical group of Scottville merchants began to dress as hillbillies and entertained at local carnivals. In 1947, after WWII, Scottville merchant Ray Schulte reformed the group and created what is still known as the Scottville Clown Band. They hold just about every job imaginable, or are retired from them! Only a mere handful of members have a Scottville address. The rest come from all over Michigan, and beyond. Join the crowd for a grand evening of raucous fun from the Scottville Clown Band.

So with this fantastic lineup for your summertime entertainment, come enjoy the special Monday Night Concerts in the Park! All concerts are Monday evenings , from 7 to 9 PM, in the Onekama Village Park, on M-22, along the shores of beautiful Portage Lake. The concerts are free and open to the public; all are encouraged to bring their friends and families, their picnic baskets, blankets, lawn chairs and to enjoy an evening of live music.



Service Organizations

Junior Clio Club
onekamajrclioclub@gmail.com

League of Women Voters Manistee County

c/o Laurie Mason
3545 Glovers Lake Road
Arcadia, MI 49613

Onekama Lions Club
P.O. Box 321
Onekama, MI 49675
Website
231-889-9611

Portage Lake Association
PO Box 493
Onekama, MI 49675
information@onekama.info

Portage Lake Garden Club
PO Box 494
Onekama, MI 49675

Portage Point Summer Resort Corp.
PO Box 464
Onekama, MI 49675

The logo for the Jr. Clio Club features the text "Jr. Clio Club" in a stylized, serif font with a drop shadow effect, set against a dark red rectangular background.The logo for the League of Women Voters of Manistee County includes the letters "LWV" in a large, bold, blue font with a red underline. To the right, the text "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MANISTEE COUNTY -- MANISTEE COUNTY LWV" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.The logo for the Onekama Lions Club features the official Lions Club emblem on the left, which is a yellow circle with a blue "L" and the word "LIONS" around it. To the right, the text "Onekama Lions Club" is written in a large, bold, black font, with "Michigan - United States" in a smaller font below it.The logo for Portage Point Summer Resort Corp features the text "PORTAGE POINT SUMMER RESORT CORP" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, set against a white rectangular background.

Information:

Three Lakes Collaborative Sewer Initiative

Townships: Arcadia, Bear Lake, Onekama, Pleasanton
Village: Bear Lake Municipal sewer projects require commitments of local resources and have impacts that need to be understood by communities. By the time this newsletter is published, the first public meetings will have been held. Please make sure you look for accurate information about the proposal. It is in its beginning phases and there is still a lot to be determined.

If you have any questions, here is contact information:

- Arcadia-Greg Wisner - trustewisner@arcadiatwpmi.org
- Bear Lake Township-Jeff Hartun-haratunj@manistee.org
- Village of Bear Lake-Jeff Bair-jeffbair4@gmail.com
- Onekama-David Meister-musclecars@jackpine.net
- Pleasanton-Judy Girven-jgirven@ymail.com

More information is also available at:

<http://www.onekama.info/three-lakes-collaborative-sewer-initiative-project-2016/>



It is almost Spring! Time to think ahead to the Petunia planting, which will take place in May.

The petunias add wonderful color to the town.

If you would like to donate to this effort, you can donate on line at: <http://www.onekama.info/product/donate-to-the-pla/> or use the form below.

DONATION FORM



Make checks payable to Portage Lake Assoc. and send along with this form to:
PLA, PO Box 493,
Onekama, MI 49675

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Phone _____

Email Address _____

Please check what this donation should be used towards:

Membership \$30 annually

Concerts in the Park

Scholarship Fund

Petunia Planting

Other _____

Portage Lake Association
P.O. Box 493
Onekama, MI 49675

