

A joint publication provided
by the City of Oakwood,
Oakwood School District
and Wright Memorial Public Library

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

OAKWOOD SCENE

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CITY NEWS | Work for the 2020 Census!

Every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the nationwide census. The Census Bureau is recruiting to fill important positions. Census positions provide the perfect opportunity to earn extra income while helping your community. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine Ohio's representation in Congress, as well as how certain funds are spent for schools, hospitals, roads, and more. In addition to supporting your community, census jobs offer great pay every week, flexible hours, and paid training. Applying is easy: visit 2020census.gov/jobs to learn more. Potential applicants can also call 1-855-JOB-2020. Applicants must be 18 years old, a U.S. Citizen, and have a valid SSN and email address.

SCHOOL NEWS | OSF Celebrates 10 Years of Recognizing Teaching Excellence

Oakwood Schools Foundation is seeking nominations for the 2020 Parker Love of Teaching and Lifelong Learning Award. In 2010, former longtime Oakwood teacher Beverly (Bev) Parker established the award in memory of her late husband, Robert (Bob) Parker.

(Continued on page 8)



LIBRARY NEWS | A Letter to the Community

As Wright Library Trustees, it is our honor to be careful stewards of this 81-year-old community gem in the heart of Oakwood. On March 17, 2020, Oakwood residents will vote on a 1.5 mill levy for Wright Library. The decision to put a levy on the ballot was not made lightly. Wright Library needs additional revenue to offset a decade of reductions in state funding, combined with rising costs of materials, wages, healthcare, and facility maintenance. With no increase in local tax support since 2009, Wright Library operates with less revenue today than it received in 2008. Beginning in 2020, revenues will fall short of operating expenses. Without additional levy funds, operating expenses and building maintenance and repairs are expected to deplete the library's reserves by 2024.

(Continued on page 11)

CITY | P3: RECYCLING TIPS

SCHOOLS | P8: STUDENTS BUILD BRIDGE
BETWEEN OHS, ALUMNI
AND OAKWOOD SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

LIBRARY | P10: SPECIAL EVENTS AT
WRIGHT LIBRARY

2020 City Budget

Oakwood City Council approved a 2020 budget that provides the financial resources needed to continue providing comprehensive city services and maintaining the city public infrastructure. The budget was prepared with review, input and endorsement of the 35 member citizen budget committee and is accessible on the city website at www.oakwoodohio.gov. (search: 2020 Budget) Near the beginning of the document is the City Manager's Budget Message. It provides a summary of the budget and explains how the budget is structured within the five major categories shown below:

- General City Services
- Refuse Program
- Water Service
- Sanitary Sewer Service
- Stormwater Management

Oakwood continues to be the premier residential community in the Miami Valley. We have this distinction because of our beautiful neighborhoods, unmatched public safety, public works services, recreation and leisure offerings, excellent schools and library, and, most importantly, our citizens.

The following qualities of Oakwood continue to be examples of the benefits of living in this city.

- We have the safest community in the region, with very low crime and very low fire loss.
- We have an extremely fast police and fire response time, and we answer every call with highly trained professionals.
- We have qualified paramedics and EMTs on-duty at all times to respond to medical emergencies. On average, medical help arrives in less than two minutes – unparalleled in the area.
- We have well-maintained streets, sidewalks, public trees and landscaped boulevards.
- Although most of our housing stock is over 70 years old, our citizens maintain their homes and properties in very good condition and our home values prove it.
- Our city parks, public pool, community center and public natural areas are wonderful community assets.
- Our overall community ambience is second to none.

Summer Employment Opportunities



Applications for summer employment with the city of Oakwood are now available at the OCC, the city building and on the city's website at www.oakwoodohio.gov. Students 16 years of age and older are eligible for lifeguard and concession positions at Gardner Pool. Students interested in general maintenance and landscaping positions must be at least 18 years of age at the time of employment. Equal Opportunity Employer.

2020 Capital Improvements

The 2020 Budget appropriates \$2,233,100 for capital improvements and capital equipment. We make significant investments each year in our public infrastructure and capital equipment. This is critically important to maintaining our city and comprehensive public services. Major 2020 capital expenses include the following:

- Asphalt Street Repaving Program: \$200,000
- Concrete Street Repair Program: \$200,000
- Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repairs: \$175,000
- OCC Recreation Program Software: \$55,000
- Gardner Pool Deck Replacement: \$145,000
- Ridgewood Storm Sewer Improvement: \$160,000
- Replacement of a Street Maintenance Truck: \$85,000
- Replacement of a Refuse Packer Truck: \$300,000
- Replacement of a Sewer Maintenance Truck: \$330,000

2020 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project

The 2020 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair Project will take place in the northeast quadrant of Oakwood bounded by Irving Avenue, Springhouse Road, Far Hills Avenue, Patterson Road and Acorn Drive. The purpose of the project is to maintain the concrete structures located within the city rights-of-way in good, safe condition. We have begun inspecting the areas and marking sections of concrete requiring repairs. Residents affected by the work will receive personal notification regarding their responsibilities. Please call Public Works Foreman David Shuey at 298-0777 if you have any questions. For those who choose to do the repair work themselves, please remember to obtain a permit in advance and that all work must be completed and inspected by May 15.



February/March Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 3 and Monday, March 2. Both meetings will take place at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. The regular sessions are preceded by an open work session beginning at 6:30 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend any of these meetings. The regular sessions are televised live on cable TV (Spectrum Ch. 6, TV Tuner Ch. 5.03 and AT&T U-verse Ch. 99). Meeting videos will be rebroadcast for a week or so afterwards. Please check your cable guide or www.mvcc.net for broadcast times. Within a day or two after the regular sessions, meeting videos can also be viewed online at the city website.

2020 Vectren Gas Line Project

Vectren will continue its gas line replacement project this year. The next edition of the *Oakwood Scene* newsletter will provide details on the work areas and project scope.

Co-Mingled Recyclables

Oakwood collects recyclables using scooters with divided dump beds – one side for regular trash and the other side for recyclables. Plastics, glass, paper, metal cans, and cardboard as described below are to be co-mingled in one or more containers marked as recyclables. All items should be clean and free of food and grease. Please make sure that co-mingled recyclable products are placed loosely in the properly marked container. The items should not be placed in plastic bags. Free “Recyclables” stickers to mark containers are available at City Hall and at the Foell Public Works Center.

It is increasingly important that our co-mingled recycling stream contains only recyclable materials. In years past, the guidance was “when in doubt, throw it in the recycling container”. The guidance now is “learn what is recyclable and what is not, but when in doubt, throw it in the regular trash”. The success of recycling and the recycling markets is largely dependent on the quality of the recycling stream.

- **ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS:** Small containers and bottles that have a small mouth and a wider base, such as plastic milk containers, soft drink bottles, jugs, detergent & water bottles and shampoo containers. Empty and crush.

UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC ITEMS: Plastic items without a bottle neck, plastic tubs, trays & cups, plastic cutlery, clamshell plastic containers, plastic bags, straws, toothbrushes, coffee cup lids, plastic toys & bikes, plastic buckets and plastic wrap. Also, foam and polystyrene are presently not recyclable and should be placed in with the regular trash. *Please place loose foam packing material in bags before placing it in with your regular trash so that it does not fly out of our refuse scooters and then blow around your neighborhood.*

- **ACCEPTABLE GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS:** All colors of glass bottles and jars. Lids and locking rings should be removed, if possible.

UNACCEPTABLE GLASS ITEMS: Ceramic & porcelain, drinking glasses, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs and dishware.

- **ACCEPTABLE METAL BEVERAGE AND FOOD CANS:** Aluminum, steel, bi-metal cans, and empty aerosol cans are recyclable. Lids and tips should be removed.

UNACCEPTABLE METAL ITEMS: Needles, sharps & medical equipment, metal hangers, metal pots, pans & pipes and metal wire.

- **ACCEPTABLE NEWSPAPERS/PAPER:** Newspapers may be co-mingled with all other recyclables. You may also include junk mail, glossy inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, copier paper and all other clean paper products.

UNACCEPTABLE PAPER ITEMS: Paper plates & cups, take-out coffee cups, hardbound books, tissues, laminated paper, photos, photo paper or specially treated paper, toilet paper, paper towels or contaminated items.

- **ACCEPTABLE CARDBOARD/CARTONS:** Cardboard and carton items including cereal, pasta, cookie and cracker boxes, food and beverage cartons, gift boxes, mailing tubes, corrugated cardboard and brown paper bags may be co-mingled with all other recyclables. *Please cut or break down boxes and remove plastic items that may be affixed to the cardboard.*

NOTE: Large quantities of the cardboard should be dropped off in the containers at the Creager Field parking lot. These containers are available 24-7.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ITEMS SHOULD **NOT** BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR CO-MINGLED RECYCLABLES

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Plastic bags | • Hazardous or flammable material | • Anything exposed to gas or oil |
| • Pressurized tanks | • Paint cans (spray & liquid) | • Batteries |
| • Clothing & sheets | • Wood & yard waste | • Car parts |
| • Hoses & chains | • Scrap metal | • Styrofoam |
| • Cassette & VHS tapes | • Electronics | • Coat hangers |



Please visit the following websites for more information on recycling:

www.mcswd.org (Montgomery County Solid Waste District)

www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items (Rumpke)

Presidents Day Trash Pickup



Please note that trash pickup for all routes the week of February 17 will be one day later than usual. Monday's route will be picked up Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up Wednesday; Wednesday's route will be picked up Thursday; and Thursday's route will be picked up Friday.

Oakwood Community Center Upcoming Events/Classes

- **Junior High Dance**, Friday, March 20, from 8:30 to 10 p.m.
- **Annual Junior High Winter Break Trip**, Thursday, February 20, at Laser Web.
- **Pre-School Basketball Clinic**, Saturday mornings, February 29 through March 21 for ages 4-5.
- **Egg Coloring and Picture with the Easter Bunny**, Thursday, April 9 from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. and from 7 to 7:45 p.m.
- **Friends of Smith Gardens Perennial Sale**, Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18 at the Oakwood Community Center. Hours are 3 to 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

For more details and information about these events, please contact the Community Center at 298-0775.

2019 Oakwood Income Tax Returns Due April 15

The city of Oakwood has a mandatory filing requirement for all residents.

Every individual, 18 years of age or older, who resides in Oakwood, must file an Oakwood City income tax return, whether or not there is any taxable income to report. Retired residents who have income derived exclusively from non-taxable sources (interest, dividend, social security and/or pension income, etc.) must first file a final return in order to be exempt from the filing requirement.

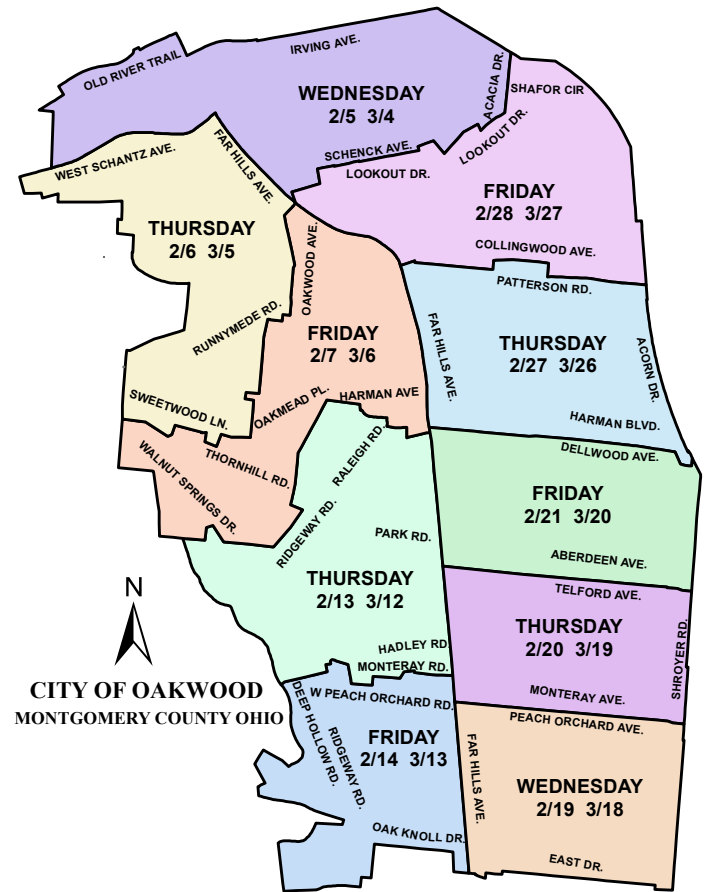
If you have filed for an extension of time to file your federal return, you will automatically receive an Oakwood extension. You should attach a copy of your federal extension to your return when filing so that you will not be charged a late filing penalty. Your extended return is due the same date as your extended federal return – October 15, 2020. If you do not have a federal extension, you may still obtain an Oakwood extension. Simply complete an extension request form, located on the City's web site, and submit your request by April 15, 2020. As always, an extension of time to file your returns does not extend the time to pay your taxes. All taxes paid after April 15, 2020 will be subject to a 15% underpayment penalty as mandated by the State of Ohio.

The 2019 Oakwood income tax return is available on the City's web site at www.oakwoodohio.gov. If you do not have internet access, forms will be made available at the City administrative offices, Wright Memorial Public Library and the Oakwood Community Center.

If you need assistance with the preparation of your Oakwood income tax return, please visit the Tax Department before March 31, 2020. Normal business hours for the tax office are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended hours will be provided on Monday – Wednesday, April 13 - 15, when the office will be open until 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding your city of Oakwood income tax return, please contact the Income Tax Department at 298-0531.

YARD DEBRIS PICKUP SCHEDULE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020



FAR HILLS AVE. WILL BE PICKED UP ON: 2/13 & 3/12
SHROYER RD. WILL BE PICKED UP ON: 2/21 & 3/26



Residential Fire Inspections



Home fires can happen at any time, but they generally increase during the winter months. You can make your home a safer place by requesting a Residential Fire and Safety Inspection from the Oakwood Safety Department. These inspections are conducted by request only. Home inspections provide an opportunity for residents to learn about fire safety issues and for Oakwood Safety Department inspectors to provide recommendations on measures to improve the safety of home occupants. If you would like to arrange for a fire inspection, please contact the Oakwood Safety Department at 298-2122 and speak with one of our certified Fire Inspectors.

ACORN Program

The Public Safety Department offers the ACORN (Assisting and Contributing to Oakwood Resident Needs) Program. The program is designed to assist our senior residents, and our at-risk residents. Our goal is to provide peace of mind through proactive community outreach, implementing safety plans and advocating for the well-being of our senior and at-risk population. Through ACORN, we will offer services involving:

- Health and welfare visits
- Safety Officer secure access to your home
- Personalized medical information forms in case of emergency
- Emergency contact information for loved ones
- Assistance with in-home needs
- Book delivery from Wright Memorial Library

Additional information about the program is available on the City's website at www.oakwoodohio.gov/acorn-program

Door-to-Door Soliciting and Canvassing –“No Solicitation” Designation



The city of Oakwood provides residential property owners with a means to prohibit certain types of door-to-door solicitation and canvassing. This is addressed in Chapter 733 of the Oakwood Codified Ordinances and can be accomplished by residents requesting that their property be included on the city's "Do Not Solicit" list.

If you are interested in being added to the "do-not-solicit" list, you can complete one of the following:

- 1) Submit the "No Solicitation Form" from the city's website at www.oakwoodohio.gov
- 2) Detach the form below and mail it to: **City of Oakwood, Attn: Do Not Solicit, 30 Park Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419.**



As the owner or tenant of property with the street address of _____,

I hereby request that this property be registered on the city of Oakwood's "Do Not Solicit" list.

I understand and intend the following:

1. By registering my address on the "Do Not Solicit" list, all persons will be prohibited by law from contact canvassing, peddling, vending, soliciting, or requesting contributions at my property.
2. This prohibition does not apply to the delivery of advertisements, literature, or other information that may be left at my property, and does not apply to certain youth fundraising activity.
3. Registration of a property on the "Do Not Solicit" list expires after five years or upon the transfer of a property to a new owner or tenant, whichever comes first. Registrations can be renewed upon request by the owner or tenant.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Note: The city of Oakwood notifies property owners/tenants via postcard when their five year expiration date is reached. At that point, property owners/tenants must re-register to remain on the "Do Not Solicit" list.

Credit Card Security

Credit card security continues to be in the news with several high-profile data breaches. In each instances there was nothing the cardholder could have done to prevent their credit card data from being compromised. Nevertheless, there are several steps that you, as the cardholder, can take to improve the security of your credit cards.

General tips regarding credit cards:

- Handle with care - It is never a good idea to carry a credit card on its own outside of your wallet. A credit card can easily get misplaced or stolen, yet they tend to stay put when placed within a slot in your wallet.
- Limit the number of cards you possess. Only carry those cards that you use on a regular basis.
- Shred your credit card statements and any other paperwork that contains information regarding your personal identity before putting it in the trash.
- Check your monthly statements. It is the cardholder's responsibility to spot fraudulent charges and report them to the bank.
- Set up purchase notification alerts through your credit card company so you are immediately informed of any activity on your account.

When making online purchases, adhere to the following tips to protect yourself and your identity:

- Try to use the same credit card for all online purchases so if it is stolen, you will only have to deal with one credit card company.
- Never use debit cards for online purchases - credit cards typically offer better protections to the cardholder.
- Never save credit card information on shopping sites. While this may speed up the process, it puts you at greater risk of becoming a victim of fraud or theft.
- Change your passwords regularly. This should include your email accounts. Use a combination of letters, numbers, symbols, and capital letters to make yourself less vulnerable.
- Don't use public Wi-Fi to make online purchases. Most public Wi-Fi spots offer little to no security protection and your personal information could be easily comprised.

It is imperative that you report the loss or theft of your credit cards, ATM cards, or debit cards to the card issuer as soon as you become aware of loss, theft, or misuse of your account information. The vast majority of credit card companies have toll-free numbers and 24-hour service to deal with such emergencies. In most cases, the credit card company will request that you contact your local police agency to file a report. If your credit card company makes this request, please contact the Oakwood Public Safety Department at 298-2122 to file the report.



Your IRA Can Make History!

It may be possible to use your IRA to support the Oakwood Historical Society and save on your 2019 taxes up until this April's filing date. Your tax and investment advisors can help you to determine how this type of donation affects your tax status.

Members with IRA accounts must begin drawing a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from that account at age seventy and a half, whether or not they need the funds. These required distributions increase the account holder's tax liability because they are taxed as ordinary income. However, if the required distribution is transferred directly from the IRA to a 501(c)3 organization, the account holder's tax liability is reduced and the Society, which is a 501(c)3 organization, can use the donation to further its mission.

Although Society Board Member Leigh Turben cautions that she can't advise a person regarding IRA distribution options, she welcomes every opportunity to explain why supporting the work of the Society has long-lasting value. Contact her at (937) 750-0494.

Make Your Event Something Special At the Homestead



The Long-Romspert Homestead and House Museum is open for tours upon request, and can be rented for meetings, family reunions or picnics, showers, birthdays or other festive occasions.

The 17-room home is unique because its original farmhouse structure retains its mid-19th-century Victorian Italianate architecture, and its 1920's house addition exemplifies early 20th century suburban Arts & Crafts architecture. The Homestead, located at 1947 Far Hills Ave., makes history experiential and any event special. For information call (937) 299-3793.

Facebook and Instagram Teaching Tools

The Historical Society's Facebook and Instagram pages provide parents an easy tool to interest Oakwood's youngest citizens in our community's history. The almost daily posts include "Then and Now," pictures of Oakwood homes, "Guess the Antique," and "Did you know?" capturing interesting facts about Oakwood's history. More than 2000 followers regularly check these postings.



Oakwood Historical Society



OakwoodHistory

A Valued Partnership...

Good relationships evolve over time and typically involve hard work. Historical Society Business Manager Linda Pearson can attest that this rings true of the relationship the Society has forged with local Boy Scout troops over the past 10+ years.



Eagle Scout Candidates Logan Connolly and Kyle Lethander present their projects to Society Board.

the homestead years later to lead their own Eagle Scout projects.

In 2016, Jack Froelich completed a sub-ground downspout drainage project along the south side of the house to direct rainwater away from the foundation and fixed a second area on the west side of the summer kitchen where water pooled. Ben Keller, former volunteer coal-bin-cleaner, led his 2017 project to ready the kitchen garden in time for the summer children's programs. Tasks involved weeding the area, prepping the soil, painting the surrounding wood fence, and reinstalling a heavy-duty chicken wire lining inside the fence's interior.

Having learned from his 2015 experience, Peter Salisbury chose a project that didn't involve dirt. He rebuilt the Homestead's 15-year-old accessibility ramp, securing antique porch railings found at a salvage store.



Jack Froelich and adult helper addressing drainage problems.

There isn't a clear record of when the Society-Scout relationship started, but one of the most memorable projects was the coal bin renovation—surely the dirtiest of projects undertaken.

This 2015 endeavor led by Robbie Keller required scout scrubbers to don hair bonnets, face masks, and a full covering of plastic armor. The scouts sealed the walls and applied multiple coats of paint before installing donated shelving units.

Three members of this cleaning team, Ben Keller, Peter Salisbury, and Logan Connolly returned to

Logan Connolly also traded his coal bin dirt for sawdust. Logan restored the 1920s era garage, so now it serves as both a storage area and an exhibit hall for vintage automobile artifacts depicting the early days of motoring. Logan also constructed period-specific, wood-framed screens to cover the garage windows and the transoms located above the front doors of the main house, markedly enhancing ventilation in both areas.

In 2018, Boy Scout Kyle Lethander pressure washed, primed, and painted the exterior

of the Homestead's original 1860s Summer Kitchen. This outbuilding once served as a detached cooking facility, and occasionally it serves that same function to this day.

Scout Ben Williams has plans to lift and level the foundation of the Homestead's springhouse for his eagle project in early spring 2020. This single room structure once "refrigerated" meat, fruit, and dairy products. Tree roots have caused the structure to shift. Leveling it requires some solid engineering and big equipment.

According to Pearson, scouts recognize that their work on the Long Romsper Homestead benefits the entire community. "They like making history with us," said Pearson.



Boy Scout Ben Keller and helper secure the garden from small intruders.

Publications about Oakwood's History Available

The Oakwood Historical Society seeks to capture, share, and preserve local history. To this end, the Society is excited to make its 2018 Speaker Series lectures on World War II available on a DVD. The DVD entitled "Dayton's Secret Role in World War II" includes four separate stories:

Dayton Codebreakers - Historian Jim Charters presents his findings on Dayton's clandestine role in WWII. Charters reveals the remarkable story of Joseph Desch, the WAVES, and the Dayton Codebreakers.

Polonium in the Playhouse - Linda Carrick Thomas, the granddaughter of chemist Dr. Charles Thomas, tells the story behind the Manhattan Project's secret chemistry work conducted in her family's Runnymede Playhouse in Oakwood, Ohio.

The Spy in the Manhattan Project - Mound Laboratories Scientist Dr. Donald Sullenger divulges how George Koval, an American scientist working on the Dayton Project, actually was a Soviet intelligence officer, recognized posthumously as a Hero of the Russian Federation.

A Conversation with Betty Halley Jones - In her own words, Betty Halley Jones discloses the personal sacrifices she endured to work in a top-secret environment leading several atomic bomb detonator development programs during her 34-year career with Monsanto Chemical Company.

The DVD is available for \$20 and can be purchased online through the Society's website, oakwoodhistory.org.



Seeking Nominations for Parker Love of Teaching, Lifelong Learning Award

(Continued from page 1)

The Parker family benefited in many ways from Oakwood's outstanding school system and wanted to give back to the schools in a special way. Based on the belief that teachers in Oakwood are exceptional and give much of themselves for the betterment of the children in the community, the Parker Award honors one Oakwood teacher who uniquely inspires students.

Since 2010, nine deserving teachers have received the award, consisting of a \$1,200 prize, divided between the recipient and the teacher's school, and framed artwork designed by an OHS art student. Past winners are: Janet Block (Lange), Kathy Allan (OJHS), Tony Rainsberger (OHS), Ron Nelson (All buildings), Susan Kuntz (Harman), John Edwards (Harman), Nate Thompson (Smith), Lynne Irwin (Smith) and Lori Morris (OHS).

Parent, students, community members, alumni and Oakwood staff members can nominate any teacher who meets the criteria. The award criteria and the nomination form are found at: <https://www.oakwoodschoools.org/community/osf/parker-love-of-teaching>.

Nominations and letters of support are retained for one year. If a candidate is not selected as the winner, the nominator may simply submit the current nomination form and the candidate will be reconsidered.

The nomination deadline is Monday, April 6. For more information, contact Dante Connell, OSF Director, by phone at 297-5332 or by email at contact@oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org.



The Oakwood Schools
FOUNDATION

Enhancing Excellence in Education

Pursuing its mission, "Enhancing Excellence in Education," the Oakwood Schools Foundation provides significant annual support for the quality initiatives, including teacher and administrative grants, scholarships and special wish list items. For more information about the Oakwood Schools Foundation, please contact Dante Connell, Director, at (937) 297-5332 or contact@oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org or visit our website at: <https://www.oakwoodschoools.org/community/osf>.

Students Build Bridge Between OHS, Alumni and Oakwood Schools Foundation

The Oakwood Student – Alumni Ambassadors are getting a big boost after a mid-year recruitment effort. The group recently added 9 new members to its ranks. The role of the SAA is to build awareness of the Oakwood Schools Foundation and Oakwood Alumni Association organizations among students, faculty and community members.

New members for this year include: juniors Sara Joly, Patrick O'Hara; sophomores Piper Ashley, Azalea Biteau, Tess Patton and Jake Schairbaum; and freshmen Emerson Davis, Tyler Goolsby and Claudia Schnell.

Group members will be focusing on a special project that will not only define the Oakwood Student – Alumni Ambassadors to the rest of the school, but will also make a difference for students preparing to graduate and move on from OHS. The project in development will be a day-long team-building and informational event for juniors, similar to the popular Freshman Challenge held annually.

Additional SAA members include: seniors Grace Almoney, Natalie Bramer, Sydney Hardern, Rylan Quigley and Sophie Schnell; juniors Lucas Butler, Albert Choi, Ben Goeller, Natalee John, Amelia Merithew, Canaan Smith and Mason Talarczyk; and sophomores Cecilia Dalrymple and Isabel Rubin Alvarez. SAA members were chosen through an application process. OSF and the Alumni Association are fortunate to have such a talented team representing the organizations.



L to R: Front row: Jake Schairbaum, Amelia Merithew, Cecilia Dalrymple, Azalea Biteau, Grace Almoney, Emerson Davis Back Row: Rylan Quigley, Natalee John, Tess Patton, Sydney Hardern, Sophie Schnell, Claudia Schnell



If you are interested in supporting the Oakwood Alumni Association or would like any other information on the Alumni Association efforts, please contact Oakwood Alumni Association Director Amy Martin at (937) 371-1479 or alumni@oakwoodschoools.org.

Sam Andrews Educational Hall of Honor

Sam Andrews Educational Hall of Honor nominations are being solicited for fall of 2020, is a wonderful way to recognize and celebrate past teachers, staff and/or administrators who have made significant accomplishments in their careers, making a difference in Oakwood Schools students' lives, community and education and maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character.

Recipients of this prestigious award are honored at a reception, have a plaque hanging at Oakwood High School and will also be recognized at the Homecoming football game.



Please consider nominating one of our past outstanding teachers, staff and/or administrators! If you would like to submit a nomination for the 2020 award visit www.oakwoodschoools.org/Community/SamAndrewsEducationalHallofHonor or if you have questions, please contact Sandi Branham at branham.sandi@oakwoodschool.org or (937) 297-5332. The deadline to submit nominations is February 28, 2020.

Stay up to date with Oakwood Schools



Stay up to date with Oakwood Schools by receiving emails, newsletters and other district communication. Go to www.oakwoodschoools.org/resources/email-mailing-list

and create or update your account today. To receive important district-wide information, subscribe to the Superintendent Information list. You can also subscribe to "School Information" lists for our different buildings and "Class of" lists for different grades. Don't miss any important information!

February/ March 2020

FEBRUARY 2020

- 5** 7:00 p.m. **OJH Choir Concert**
- 6** 5:00 p.m. **OJH Parent Conferences**
- 6** 5:00 p.m. **OHS Curriculum Night**
- 6** 5:30 p.m. **8th Grade Parent Meeting**
- 6** 7:00 p.m. **OHS College Credit Plus Meeting**
- 10** 7:00 p.m. **OJH Winter Sports Recognition**
- 12** 7:00 p.m. **OJH Winter Band/Orchestra Concert**
- 13** **Dayton Ballet Performs at Lange**
- 14** **No School – PD Day**
- 17** **No School – President's Day**
- 18** **No School – Winter Break Begins**
- 24** **Classes Resume**
- 24** 7:00 p.m. **OHS Speech & Debate Showcase**
- 24** **Kindergarten Registration Opens**

MARCH 2020

- 3** 6:30 p.m. **OHS Winter Sports Banquet**
- 4** 7:00 p.m. **OJH/OHS Spring Sports Player/Parent Meeting**
- 5** 7:00 p.m. **OHS Orchestra Concert**
- 6** **OHS NHS/BOLD Parent Night Out**
- 10** 8:00 a.m. **State Funded ACT Test**
- 13** **End of 3rd Quarter Grading Period**
- 13** 7:00 p.m. **Young@Art**
- 14** 8:00 p.m. **OHS Turnabout Dance**
- 18** **OHS Junior Experience**
- 19** **OHS Spring Musical, Cinderella**
- 20** **OHS Spring Musical, Cinderella**
- 21** **OHS Spring Musical, Cinderella**
- 25** **OHS Grade Cards Mailed**
- 30-APRIL 3** **Spring Break**

For the latest list of happenings in the Oakwood Schools go to www.oakwoodschoools.org and check out our calendars.

Get connected with Oakwood Schools!

 @OakwoodSchools  @Oakwood_Schools  @Oakwood_Schools

Special Events at Wright Library in February and March

For a full schedule, visit wrightlibrary.org or pick up at calendar at the library.

Fred Marion presents Unlocking Your Writing Potential

Feb 8, 2-3:30 p.m.

You want to write. You have an idea for a book, or yearn to tell your own story. Maybe you've started writing but feel like you're getting nowhere. Maybe you're paralyzed by the blank page or screen. If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. Join Fredrick Marion for this afternoon workshop where you'll learn how to get past the most common roadblocks that stop writers from actually writing and hear the brutal truth about Marion's own journey from a repressed writer to a dedicated writer, one with a novel, an agent, and a promising future.



Author Sharon Short presents "The Art of Editing"

March 14, 2-3:30 p.m.

In most good books, the characters are three dimensional, the plot or subject is intriguing, and the story seems to unfold intuitively. This doesn't happen by accident, and it rarely happens in a writer's first draft. The hard work of editing and rewriting can take your novel, story, or memoir from just okay to amazing. Learn the ins and outs of editing, from minor tune ups to major structural or character changes and how to tell which is required for your work. Successful writer Sharon Short will help you look at your own work with a critical eye that will improve your writing and increase your chances of working with a traditional publisher.

Anti-racism Book Discussion

March (Check wrightlibrary.org for date and time)

Join us throughout the year to discuss books that explore racism, bias, and privilege as we work to build inclusive communities. Everyone welcome!

In March, we will discuss *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Extra copies are available at the library.

Presented in partnership with SURJ Greater Dayton (Showing Up for Racial Justice) Upcoming titles: Summer: *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi; Fall: *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad.

Wright Library earns 4-Star rating in 2019 Library Journal Star Library Report

OAKWOOD – Wright Memorial Public Library earned a four-star rating in the 2019 Library Journal Star Library Report, ranking 19th in the nation among libraries of its size.

This is the second consecutive four-star rating for Wright Library. The Library Journal index, based on 2017 statistics, measures how much the local community uses key services of their public library compared to peer libraries. The five key services measured are circulation, visits, program attendance, public internet use, and Wi-Fi usage.

"We are very pleased to be recognized again this year as a 4-Star Library. This designation is an affirmation that Wright Library is delivering on its mission, and that the services we provide are highly valued by the Oakwood community," said Library Director Kristi Hale.

Participate in Racial Wealth Gap Simulation with Hall Hunger Initiative

Feb 22, 2-3:30 p.m.

In the United States, hunger isn't caused by a lack of food, it's caused by poverty. To understand poverty, we have to understand the racial disparities in the United States. One way to explore this issue is the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation. Using the material designed by Bread for the World, the facilitators from Hall Hunger Initiative will guide participants through a fact-based exercise with specific examples of policies and their consequences. In about an hour, participants learn how federal policies created structural inequalities and how these policies increase hunger and poverty in communities of color. Registration requested at wrightlibrary.org, in person, or by phone at (937) 294-7171.

Family Fun, Silly Hat Party

Feb 13, Drop-in 6-8 p.m.

Wear your wackiest head-topper to our silly hat party! We'll have hat crafts, hat activities, hat snacks, hat photos, and even a hat-themed storytime. Come join this silly good time!

Step-by-Step Painting Party

February 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Grades 7-12

Learn to paint scenery step-by-step while enjoying sumptuous snacks.

Leap Year Carnival

Feb. 29, Drop-in 2-4 p.m.

Celebrate leap year at the library! Family fun with activities, crafts, and more.

Irish Dance Performance

March 17

The Nugent School of Irish Dance leaps, taps, and swirls to great delight of all who watch.

Teen Trivia Night

March 27, 7-8:30 p.m. | Grades 7-12

Teams compete on trivia games covering an array of topics. Snacks and prizes, too!

February, March Far Hills Speaker Series announced

The Far Hills Speaker Series, a partnership of the Oakwood Historical Society and Wright Library, will feature the behind-the-scenes story of a local history podcast and the forgotten heroes of the 1913 flood.

Inside Fifth and Ludlow: Creating a Podcast about Local History

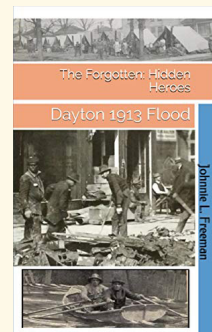
February 16, 3 p.m. | Wright Library Community Room

Join George Drake, Jr. for a discussion of the making of the podcast, Fifth and Ludlow.

The Forgotten: Hidden Heroes

March 15, 3 p.m. | Wright Library Community Room

Join Johnnie Freeman, author of *The Forgotten: Hidden Heroes (Dayton 1913 Flood)*, for a presentation on some overlooked heroes of Dayton's past.



A Letter to the Community

(Continued from page 1)

The Library Trustees, administration, and staff are committed to providing quality, affordable library services that are tailored to the priorities expressed by our residents, patrons, and community partners – services such as:

- Literacy support to children from cradle to college, including early literacy programs that prepare Oakwood children for Kindergarten; in-school programs that help kids develop a passion for reading; and friendly staff that offer a safe after-school space for teens to study and socialize
- A community gathering place for lifelong learning where adults come to read, study, apply for passports, hold meetings, attend writing and book clubs, create resumes, apply for jobs, get documents notarized, and attend enriching programs and concerts
- Highly used collections of materials in various formats, including books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, mobile hot spots, museum passes, Makerboxes, research databases, and digital collections that meet the growing demand for 24/7 access to digital books, music, and movies, and more
- Technology tutoring and tech classes that help patrons stay connected in a digital world
- Homebound delivery and service to Brookdale Retirement Community that ensure that those who can no longer come to the library can still access what they've enjoyed for years

The levy will protect the library services that Oakwood values – a community gathering place with ample collections, technology access and instruction, educational programming, school outreach, and homebound delivery service. The levy will also maintain Wright Library's historic building with infrastructure repairs and needed updates to make the Library more accessible, efficient, and comfortable.

If the levy is defeated, the Library Trustees will be forced to make cuts to library services in order to make essential facility repairs that can no longer be deferred. These cuts would likely include reductions in staffing, materials, school support, technology support, hours of operation, educational programs, and special services like homebound delivery.

We Trustees are Oakwood residents, taxpayers, and library users. After careful deliberation, we voted to place this levy on the ballot, knowing that without additional funding, the library's much-loved and much used services will be greatly diminished – services that enrich the community in countless ways.

Community information meetings about the Wright Library levy will be held in Wright Library's Community Room on:

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.

Additional information is available at wrightlibrary.org/2020vision, or by contacting Kristi Hale, Library Director, at hale@wrightlibrary.org or 937-250-6824.

We encourage all Oakwood voters to get informed and vote on March 17.

Respectfully signed,

Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees

Joe Fulford, President

Randale Honaker III, Vice-President

Lu Ann Stanley, Secretary

Darrell Crowe

Bob Eling

Jennifer Enseleit

Josh Lounsbury

2021-2030 Revenue and Expense Projections

Without additional tax support:

Revenue (10 yr) \$20.3 million

Expense (10 yr) \$25.1 million

Funding Gap (\$4.8 million)

With new 1.5 mill levy:

Revenue (10 yr) \$25.1 million

Expense (10 yr) \$25.1 million

Funding Gap \$0

LEVY FAQ

How much will this levy cost Oakwood taxpayers?

A 1.5 mill levy will cost Oakwood property tax owners about \$52 annually per \$100,000 in assessed home value.

When was the last local tax increase for Wright Library?

A .5 mill operating levy increase was passed by Oakwood voters in 2009 - ten years ago. Based on current rates of inflation and state revenue estimates, the 2020 levy is expected to meet the library's needs for the next decade.

Where does my tax money go?

Oakwood property taxes support the City of Oakwood (8.5%), Oakwood City Schools (68.4%), Wright Library (1.3%), and other Montgomery County services (21.8%). Oakwood property taxes do not support any other library system.

How will the funds be used?

The levy will fund both long term operations and essential improvements and repairs that will make the building more accessible, efficient, and comfortable.

How many people use the library?

Wright Library averaged 420 daily visitors, loaned more than 400,000 items, and offered 576 educational programs, which were attended by more than 32,000 people.

City of Oakwood

30 Park Avenue
Oakwood, Montgomery County
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

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Impacting Our Community Janet Block



Once a teacher, always a teacher. After 25 years in education, Janet Block, the first ever recipient of the Oakwood Schools Foundation Parker Love of Teaching and Lifelong Learning Award, retired from Lange School. But that wasn't the end of her work with the children of Oakwood.

"Since my retirement in 2014, I have been privileged to volunteer at Lange School to help with reading, writing and assessments," Block said.

Block came to Oakwood Schools in 1996, first as a kindergarten teacher at Harman School and then at Lange School. Prior to Oakwood, she taught in Centerville Schools from 1989–1995, after earning her Bachelor of Education from the University of Toledo. She later went on to earn a Master of Science in Education at the University of Dayton.

"I have always loved the professional experiences of teaching and by volunteering I am able to stay in touch with colleagues and help support the young learners of Oakwood," Block said.

Block enjoys working with the students and staff at Lange. She says the staff is "deeply dedicated to supporting the academic and behavioral needs of each student."

"They exemplify great collaborative teamwork as they effectively guide each student to reach his or her full potential."

With three grandchildren and a husband of 42 years, Block has many activities that keep her busy but coming back to help the students of Oakwood is something she doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

"To quote Albert Einstein, 'I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.' I will always cherish and be appreciative of my learning journeys with Oakwood Schools."