



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2024

# OAKWOOD SCENE

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

## CITY NEWS | Smith Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration and Blanket Concert

*Smith Gardens is a community treasure and is celebrated as: "An intimate setting and strolling place of rest...an open, green, colorful, quiet retreat on a busy street... a breathing space of green shade, and color for busy people".*

This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Oakwood receiving Smith Memorial Gardens as a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W. Smith. On Sunday, August 18, the city will have a 50th anniversary event and special blanket concert at the Gardens. It will begin at 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

*(continued on page 2 with additional event information)*

## CITY NEWS | Ice Cream Social

The annual Ice Cream Social will be held this year at Shafor Park from 3:30 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, August 11. Tickets for this event include a chicken dinner, drink and ice cream. Advance tickets are available for purchase at the OCC. Oakwood Clubs and Organizations may set up a table in the "Avenue of Organizations" by contacting Karen Earley at the OCC. Call (937) 298-0775 for additional information.



## SCHOOL NEWS | Welcome Back, Oakwood!

*A message from Superintendent Dr. Neil Gupta:*

The start of a new school year is always one of my most favorite times. The hallways are buzzing with excitement as students and staff are re-energized from the summer break. I love reconnecting with our school community and hearing about what everyone has done throughout the summer months. Whether it was traveling, spending time with loved ones, working

or reading a good book - I hope you enjoyed it!

Many of our Oakwood Schools staff and students were busy this summer, working together to make the 2024-25 school year the best yet! Read more inside for an overview of our summer work and exciting initiatives on the way!

*(continued on page 9)*



## LIBRARY NEWS | Summer Fun and Back-to-School

Whether it's soaking up the last of the summer days or prepping for the new school year, Wright Library has you covered! Join us for fun and fascinating programs for the whole family. Assure your safe and happy home using a Tool & Gauge Makerbox from the Library of Things collection. Get your Library Card and see all that Wright

Library has for teachers and students. Wright Library is also pleased to join Superintendent Neil Gupta and Oakwood City Schools for a very important Community Read series to talk about the anxiety epidemic in today's teens. Learn more about events, resources, and more inside this edition!

CITY | P7: COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER

SCHOOLS | P9: WELCOME BACK OAKWOOD!

LIBRARY | P11: WRIGHT LIBRARY CELEBRATES KATHARINE WRIGHT'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

## Smith Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration and Blanket Concert

*(continued)*

The event will start with a group from the Ohio School of Falconry in Columbus who will demonstrate the sport of falconry. It promises to be a great display and performance including several birds of prey. Then at 5:30, Stan the Magic Man will join the celebration. Additionally, as a part of the celebration there will be a beautiful sculpture on display built by well-known local artist, Michael Bashaw. At 7 p.m. Oakwood City Council will conduct a formal opening of the celebration and will recognize Leisure Services Director Carol Collins for 50 years of public service to Oakwood. Thereafter, by the last blanket concert of the season will commence. It will feature the popular group, the Puzzle of Light. Members of the Smith family will be present to celebrate this 50th anniversary. Refreshments will be served during the event.

Located at the corner of Walnut Lane and Oakwood Avenue, Smith Gardens is open to the public from sunrise to sunset, year around. It provides a spectacular splash of intense color eight months out of the year and is a favorite place for many in our community and throughout the Dayton region.

Just shy of an acre, Smith Gardens includes landscape design incorporating several rock garden areas. The rock for these gardens was transported in the 1930s from the Yellow Springs area and provides the foundation for the overall garden layout and design. Incorporated in the middle section of the Garden is a sloped rock garden with a flowing stream running into a pond stocked with an abundance of goldfish and water lilies. Perennials line the east side of the Gardens with several hundred plant varieties in irregularly shaped and curved beds. On the northwest side of the Gardens is a garden



house with a patio where visitors may sit, rest and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the setting. The Gardens offer exceptionally beautiful views in the spring, summer and fall months with thousands of blooming bulbs, annuals and perennials.

Smith Gardens was graciously donated to the city by Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W. Smith, who lived on the south side of Walnut Lane, across the street from the Gardens. Receipt of the Gardens was accomplished through two actions of Oakwood City Council. On December 16, 1974, Council adopted Ordinance No. 2899 “to accept the donation of certain real estate from Jeannette H. Smith, and to authorize the creation of a certain trust account for the maintenance of a portion of said real estate.” The ordinance goes on to read: “This city hereby accepts two deeds of gift from Jeannette H. Smith donating certain real estate to the City of Oakwood, one parcel of which to be known as Smith Memorial Gardens and the other parcel to be sold to obtain funds for the maintenance of said Garden.” On December 30, 1974, Council adopted Ordinance No. 2901 which established the Carlton W. Smith and Jeannette H. Smith Memorial Garden Trust.

The City of Oakwood was honored to receive the gift 50 years ago and is pleased that the community continues to recognize the beautiful gardens as a tremendously valuable and singularly unique public space. It has served as a beautiful venue for countless weddings, proposal and photo shoots and has been nationally recognized in Ohio Magazine and in the book “Green ByWays” as being one of the finest public gardens in the state of Ohio. It has long been considered “a secret treasure on an ordinary street.”

The special anniversary Smith Gardens concert this year features Puzzle of Light. Puzzle of Light is a world-flavored quintet with roots reaching deep into jazz, blues, folk, African rhythms, Middle Eastern harmonies, Brazilian chords, and Old-World sounds. The band leaps nimbly from one inspiration to the next, wrapping them all in the signature Puzzle sound; in the course of one set, listeners might hear sources as varied as Van Morrison, Leonard Cohen, Duke Ellington, Sting, Stanley Turrentine, John Hyatt and Dave Brubeck, among numerous original tunes.

## Upcoming Leisure Services Department Events/Classes

### ORCHARDLY PARK CRAFT DAY

The last Orchardly Park Craft Day will be held on Monday, August 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Orchardly Park. Projects are most appropriate for ages 3 to 6, but all ages are welcome. A parent or guardian must be in the park with the participating child during this event. Registration is not required.

### PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR AT SHAFOR PARK

The Department of Leisure Services, in conjunction with Wright Memorial Public Library, will have the last Preschool Story Hour of the season at Shafor Park on Friday, August 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Spend a magical morning with Wright Library Youth Services Staff as they read enchanting stories with your preschoolers. In case of rain, story hour will be held at Wright Memorial Public Library.

**A complete list of upcoming events is available on our online registration website at [OakwoodLeisureServices.com](http://OakwoodLeisureServices.com). Call the Oakwood Community Center at (937) 298-0775 for more information.**



## August/September Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 5 and Monday, September 16. Both meetings will take place at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. The regular sessions are preceded by open work sessions scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. The regular sessions are televised live on the city website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov), and on cable TV (Spectrum Ch. 6, TV Tuner Ch. 5.203 and AT&T U-verse Ch. 99). The meetings are also accessible via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Links to the meeting will be posted to the city website at 4 p.m. on the meeting date. Meeting videos will be rebroadcast for a week or so afterward. Please check your cable guide or [www.mvcc.net](http://www.mvcc.net) for broadcast times. Meeting videos can also be viewed on the city website.

## Orange Notices on Trash Cans and/or Recycling Containers

Where necessary, the Public Works Department will place orange tags to communicate why your trash and/or recycling containers could not be collected. With our unique back-door collection service, we strive to provide you the service you expect, while keeping our workers safe. The orange tags will list the reason for non-collection such as: vehicle in driveway; locked gate; refuse not out; oversize can; can exceeds 60 pounds; or more than three refuse cans. Once the marked reason is addressed, contact the Public Works Department at (937) 298-0777 so we can come back for collection. The city website provides detailed information on our refuse and recycling guidelines, and our Refuse Handbook is available on the website as well. Please contact the Public Works Center if you have any questions.

### REFUSE NOT COLLECTED DUE TO

- Vehicle in driveway
- Locked gate
- Refuse not out
- Oversize can
- Can exceeds 60 pounds
- More than 3 refuse cans

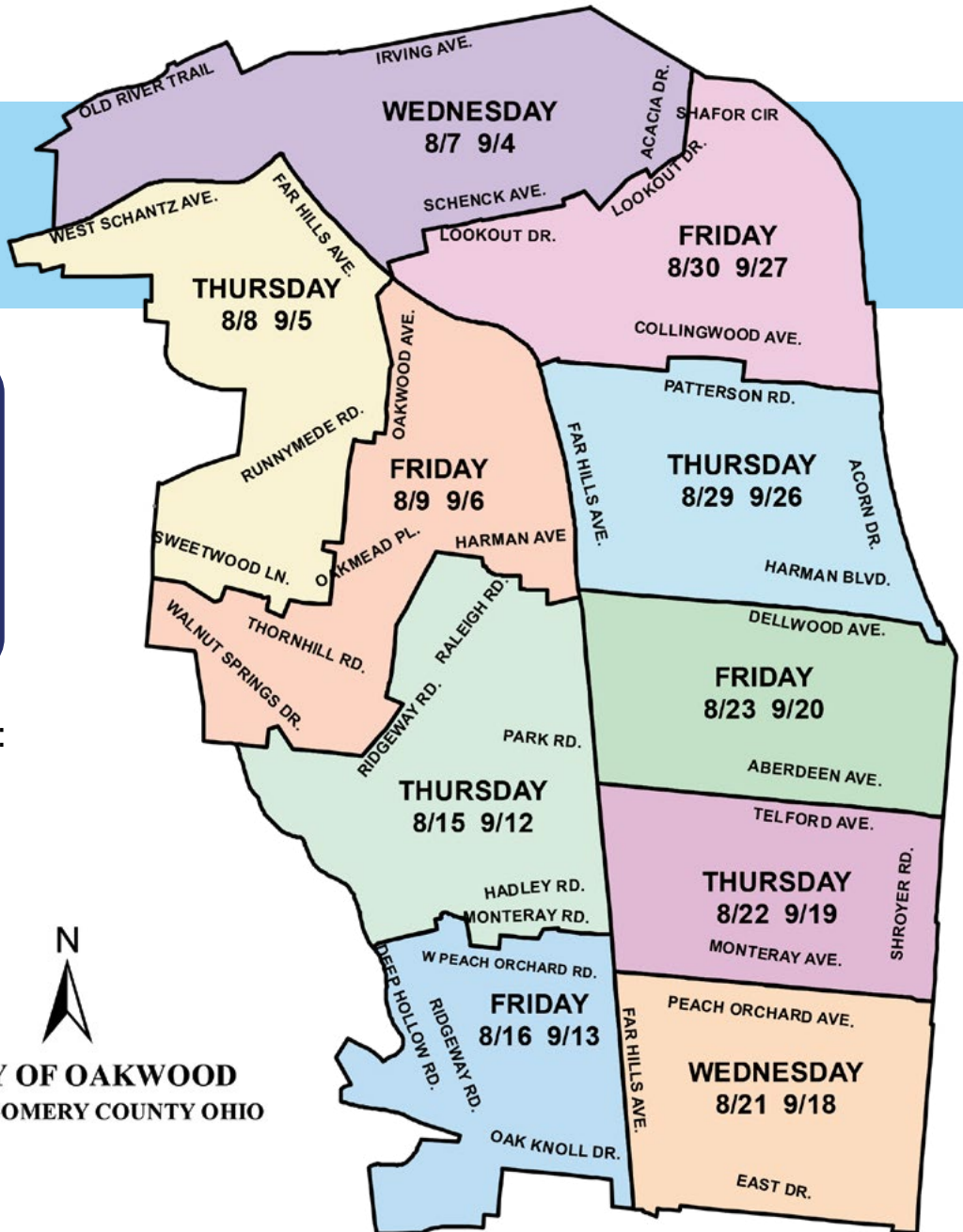


## YARD DEBRIS PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2024



Far Hills Ave. will be picked up on:  
**8/15 & 9/12**

Shroyer Rd. will be picked up on:  
**8/29 & 9/26**



**CITY OF OAKWOOD**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY OHIO

## Brush and Branch Trimming

Please take time this summer to inspect the trees and shrubs on your property frontage and in alleys. City ordinances require a clear height of 8 feet above the sidewalk and 14 feet above the street and alley. Also, vegetation must be cut so that it does not encroach the sidewalk, street or alley, or restrict your view as you pull out of your driveway. If you live on a corner lot, be sure that motorists have a clear line of sight from each side of the intersection. Citizens residing near stop signs and other street signs must ensure that vegetation does not obstruct the signs.



## NEW Hefty ReNew™ Program Offering Additional Recycling Options

The Hefty ReNew™ Program started in April 2024 and provides an option for hard-to-recycle plastics that were previously unaccepted in the recycling stream.

The Hefty ReNew™ Program allows residents to purchase specific orange bags from local retailers and place acceptable materials in these bags. Once the orange bag is full, simply place it in your current co-mingled container at your home or in the co-mingled recycle container at the Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility, at the entrance to the J. David Foell Public Works Center. For additional information about the program, visit Hefty's website at [hefty.com/products/hefty-renew](https://hefty.com/products/hefty-renew).



## Labor Day Refuse Collections

City offices will be closed on Monday, September 2 in recognition of Labor Day. Refuse collection will be one day later than usual that week. Monday's route will be collected Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be collected Wednesday; Wednesday's route will be collected Thursday; and Thursday's route will be collected Friday.



## Special Pickups

To arrange for a special pickup (furniture, appliances, etc.), complete the online special pickup form on the city website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov) or call the Public Works Department at (937) 298-0777. Items for special pickup must be placed on a driveway or other paved surface and must be accessible by city equipment. **Special pickups are not available during the published fall leaf collection season from mid-October through the end of the year, so please plan your projects accordingly.**



## Oakwood Farmers' Market

The Oakwood Farmers' Market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday through October 12. The market organizers invite the community to join in celebrating another great farmers' market season. The Oakwood Farmers' Market is located at 22 Orchard Drive, and is open seasonally on Saturdays. For more information, visit [oakwoodfarmersmarket.org](http://oakwoodfarmersmarket.org).

## 2024 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project

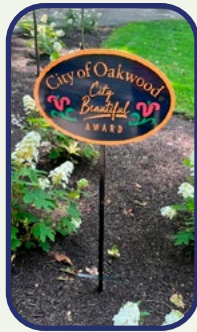
The 2024 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair Project is well underway in the Far Hills Business District. The purpose of the project is to maintain the concrete structures located within the city rights-of-way in a good, safe condition. Please call Public Works Foreman David Shuey or City Engineer Chris Kuzma at (937) 298-0777 if you have any questions about the project.

## Oakwood Beautification Awards

The Oakwood Beautification Award Program recognizes property owners who have enhanced the beauty of our community by undertaking exterior improvements to their home, rental property or business. Awards are given during the months of May, June, July and August. Monthly award winners are selected by members of the Beautification Committee, and will have a sign placed in their yard to recognize their beautification efforts.

### May 2024 Winners

Althea Harper & Stewart Adam, 347 Schenck Avenue  
 Karleen Materne, 40 W. Schantz Avenue  
 Jeff & Susan Purks, 626 Garden Road  
 Ashley & Jon Coyne, 810 E. Schantz Avenue  
 Marsh & Dick Stevens, 40 Wiltshire Boulevard  
 Brenda & Christian Hess, 25 Aberdeen Avenue  
 Jeffrey & Kimber Coudron, 147 Hadley Avenue  
 Carol Fleck, 416 E. Peach Orchard Avenue  
 Laura & Robert Peterson, 2626 Delaine Avenue  
 Vladimir Benin, 406 Claranna Avenue  
 Caitlin & Joseph Deer, 310 Dellwood Avenue  
 Chris & Terri Jones, 145 Peach Orchard Road  
 Jacqueline & Joshua Gall, 1180 Harman Avenue  
 Sarah & Benjamin Martin, 9 Wisteria Drive  
 Brad & Maria Gecowets, 1201 Runnymede Road  
 The Little Exchange, 45 Park Avenue



### June 2024 Winners

Charrisa Rand, 621 Orlando Terrace  
 Jane Maney, 300 Southview Road  
 Marilyn & Gary Mitchner, 108 Patterson Road  
 Patty & Paul Vanderburgh, 320 Acorn Drive  
 Janet & Gregory Schnittger, 404 Wiltshire Boulevard  
 Connie Filbrun, 233 Aberdeen Avenue  
 Beth & Jeremy Wilson, 324 E. Peach Orchard Avenue  
 Karen Ciabrone, 338 Wonderly Avenue  
 Doug Kinsey, 315 Triangle Avenue  
 India & John Clarke, 112 Beverly Place  
 Maria & Reji John, 203 Greenmount Boulevard  
 Taylor & Mike Russell, 420 Kramer Road  
 Lorna Waters-Tellez, 1660 Ridgeway Road  
 Nicholas Fischio, 30-34 Wisteria Drive  
 Dr. Thomas Olsen & Mary Boosalis, 524 Walnut Springs Drive  
 Wright Library, 1776 Far Hills Avenue

## Lawn Treatment on City-Owned Public Lawn Areas

Well-kept lawns and green spaces within the city are an important part of the health of these areas and maintaining Oakwood's ambiance. The city has used Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for a number of years on the city-owned public lawn areas which include parks, boulevards, athletic fields, and around public buildings. IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment. Our practices include adherence to proper mowing heights and the use of sharp blades on mowers which helps reduce the amount of chemicals used in all of the public areas. The city requires that all lawn care contractors, whether treating for pests or weeds, are properly licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and follow all applicable laws and rules promulgated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

In our parks, lawn care treatments require the posting of temporary signage in conspicuous locations at least two days prior to treatment. The day of treatment, the city Horticulturist and/or Recreation Supervisor meet the contractor on-site prior to the application of any treatment. They ensure that children are not present in the area to be treated and that the area is otherwise clear for the application, before allowing the contractor to proceed with lawn treatment. Immediately following treatment, the city verifies that all signs are properly placed, and are then promptly removed 24 hours thereafter. Only areas with weeds and pests are spot sprayed, not the entire green space as this is a part of the IPM practice to limit chemical use yet still keep the community greenspace as healthy as possible. Questions about our maintenance of lawns and green spaces should be directed to City Horticulturist Brian Caldwell at (937) 298-0775.

## Johnny Appleseed Tree Planting Project

The city of Oakwood and the Oakwood Beautification Committee will again offer trees for purchase through the Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Project. Applications and detailed brochures describing the project and the tree species will be available in late September at the OCC and on the city website. Oakwood property owners may choose from four or five varieties of trees. The trees selected will be approximately 2 inches in diameter and will be discounted at 50%. One tree will be allocated for each approved property site at the discounted price but must be planted in the city right-of-way (property frontage). Trees will be planted in the latter part of November or early December. They will be planted by a local nursery, wrapped, staked, mulched and guaranteed for one growing season. Call Brian Caldwell at the OCC (937) 298-0775 for more information.

## Back to School Safety Tips

As summer comes to an end and students prepare for a new school year, the Oakwood Public Safety Department offers the following back to school safety tips.



### Tips for Drivers

Drivers need to be aware that school is back in session and students will be walking and riding their bicycles to and from school.

- Watch for children running into the street in and around intersections and always come to a complete stop at stop signs.
- Watch for children entering the street from behind parked vehicles.
- When driving your child to school, deliver and pick them up in a designated area.
- Watch your speed when entering school zones. Traffic safety is one of the cornerstones of law enforcement services provided by the Oakwood Public Safety Department and school zone speed limits are strictly enforced.

### Tips for Walkers

As a walking community, Oakwood pedestrian traffic drastically increases when a new school year starts. Parents and students should be cautious of their surroundings as they commute to and from school.

- Pay attention to all traffic signals.
- If crossing Far Hills Avenue, cross at one of the four designated locations where a crossing guard is located (Far Hills Avenue & Aberdeen Avenue, Far Hills Avenue & Park Avenue, Far Hills Avenue & Patterson Road, and Five Points intersection).
- Plan a safe walking route to school. Choose the most direct route with fewest street crossings.
- Look both ways when crossing a street, even if you have a green light.



### Bicycle Safety Tips

Bicycles are a popular way for students in Oakwood to commute to and from school.

- Don't take short cuts; follow the same path of travel as if you were walking to and from school.
- Always wear a bike helmet that is properly sized.
- Ensure the bike is properly maintained.
- Avoid wearing headphones. Music and podcasts can be distracting and cause a person to ignore potential hazards.

### Personal Safety for Kids

- Encourage your children to be alert and aware of their surroundings.
- Teach your children to report suspicious persons to you, teachers, police officers or other responsible adults.
- If encountered by a suspicious vehicle or person, children should take notice of the color and model of vehicle, license plate number, detailed description of subject including clothing, and any other distinguishing marks.

In an effort to keep everyone safe, the Oakwood Public Safety Department encourages parents to discuss these safety tips with your children. Do not assume your child knows what to do.



## Historical Marker – Four Mile Tavern

Oakwood's fifth historical marker developed by The Oakwood Historical Society commemorates the Four Mile Tavern, a storied building that dated to the early 1800s. The marker was installed with the assistance of the City of Oakwood in the sidewalk near the corner of Far Hills and Hilltop Avenues.

This marker is the third historical marker that The Oakwood Historical Society has unveiled thanks to a generous grant from The Rotary Club of Oakwood.

The Four Mile Tavern served as a place of respite for travelers and a gathering place for those living in the nearby rural area. The tavern was named for the four mile journey from downtown Dayton along Lebanon Pike. It was demolished circa 1912.



## Leisure Services Director Carol Collins – 50th Anniversary

In conjunction with the Smith Gardens 50th anniversary event, the city will celebrate 50 years of public service by Leisure Services Director Carol Collins. On April 11, 2024 Carol Collins became the longest serving city employee in the history of Oakwood at 49 years, seven months and 23 days, and on August 19, 2024 Carol reaches the amazing 50-year milestone. Carol joined city staff on August 19, 1974 after graduating from The Ohio State University. She served as City Horticulturist from her hire date until March 30, 1998 when Carol was promoted to Leisure Services Director.

As Horticulturist, Carol was responsible for the public landscaping and public space beautification all around Oakwood, with primary emphasis on Smith Gardens. Upon being appointed Leisure Services Director, Carol retained responsibilities for overseeing Smith Gardens and all other horticulture work around the city, and also assumed responsibility for all recreation and leisure activities offered by the city, including community festivals and celebrations, public parks, natural areas, Gardner Memorial Pool, Old River Sports Complex and the all programs at the Oakwood Community Center. Congratulations to Carol!



## Free Community Document Shred Event

It's time to get rid of those unneeded papers you've been saving! Bring the items to the J. D. Foell Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Blvd. on Saturday, September 28 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Shred-It will be onsite providing document destruction services. In addition to paper products, they can destroy microfilm, microfiche, and other materials of a secure or confidential nature. All material will be destroyed beyond recognition on-site and, if recyclable, will be baled and shipped to paper mills to be manufactured into new paper products. Any non-recyclable material processed will be disposed of in a secure location. If you have confidential papers or other material of a private nature being stored at your home and would like to have it destroyed, please take advantage of this opportunity. There will be individuals on hand to assist you with unloading your documents. This event is free of charge. Please be prepared to present identification confirming residency.



## Congratulations to the OHS' Newest Graduates

On behalf of the Oakwood Alumni Association, congratulations to the Oakwood High School Class of 2024! We are excited to see your impact on the world!



### Come Back Lumberjacks!



**SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**  
 7:30-9 PM: Social Hour  
 9-11 PM: Post-Game Tailgate Party

**Alumni and Oakwood Residents Welcome**  
 (Must be 21 or older)

Join us...  
for friends, music, appetizers, and fun  
in support of the **Oakwood Auditorium!**

Register now 

**Dayton Country Club**  
 555 Kramer Rd., Dayton, OH 45409



For more information and to register for the event, visit our website or use the QR code above.

Thank you to our Presenting sponsor: 

[oakwoodschooldfoundation.org/come-back-lumberjacks](http://oakwoodschooldfoundation.org/come-back-lumberjacks)

## OSF to Host its 10th Annual Homecoming Party!

Oakwood Schools Foundation is THRILLED to welcome back newer Lumberjacks, alumni from near and far, as well as the entire Oakwood Community to its 10th annual Come Back Lumberjacks event on the evening of September 20th, during and after the homecoming game.

This free party celebrates shared memories and the bonds forged in Oakwood and is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones—but that's not all! We invite you to take part in the 2024 Class Challenge by making a donation to support enhancements to the Oakwood Auditorium. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on current and future students, providing them with invaluable opportunities to thrive. Together, let's show our support and make a difference in the lives of those who follow in our footsteps.

## Mack Hummon Inducted to MVFCA Hall of Fame

The Miami Valley Football Coaches Association honors football coaches that have not only accomplished many milestones throughout their coaching careers but have served as mentors and leaders in the Miami Valley. We are excited to share that Mack Hummon was honored as a member of the 2024 MVFCA Hall of Fame. The award was accepted on behalf of the Hummon family by Jeff Hartley, OHS Class of 1984.



## Oakwood Schools to Honor Former Educators

Oakwood Schools will honor the 2024 Sam Andrews Educational Hall of Honor inductees on Thursday, September 19th at 4 p.m. at NCR Country Club. Congratulations to our 2024 Hall of Honor Inductees:



**Barbara Granzow Acker, OHS Teacher, 1999-2020**



**Rob Guizzo, OHS Teacher, 1975-2018**



**Sue Hundt, Preschool Teacher, 2012-2021**



**Beverly Parker, Harman School Teacher, 1966-1994**



**Janet Bourne, Smith Elementary Administrative Assistant, 1999-2018**

The community is welcome to join in this celebration. To make reservations, contact Sandi Branham at [branham.sandi@oakwoodschoools.org](mailto:branham.sandi@oakwoodschoools.org) or (937) 297-5332.



## Welcome Back, Oakwood!

*A Message from Superintendent Dr. Neil Gupta*

*(continued)*

### Training and Professional Development

We dove head-first into professional development and learning opportunities. A group of educators took part in a STEM Summit (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to learn about new initiatives and best practices to prepare our students for the future. We look forward to taking a strategic look at our STEM initiatives at Oakwood and supporting this important work in our classrooms.

We also have teachers who started Ohio's comprehensive training for the "science of reading," a research-backed method for teaching reading. It focuses on essential skills like phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension to help every child become a proficient reader. By enhancing teachers' knowledge and instructional techniques, we know our students will benefit.

### Safety & Security

Safety and security in a school district go far beyond locking doors and state-of-the-art security cameras. While those things are important, we know to create a welcoming and safe environment for all students, it takes other key initiatives to build a culture of inclusion and respect.

This summer, we reviewed our PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and support systems). We also worked with leaders across the district to discuss the 3R's: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Build Relationships. You can expect both of these initiatives to be part of the fabric of our safe school environment work into the future.

### Strategic Planning

I'm excited to announce we continued to move forward on our Strategic Planning process this summer. After feedback from our steering committee and a community-wide survey, we are nearing the reveal of a new mission and vision statement for Oakwood Schools. This work will be revealed first to our staff at our Staff Opening Day and then to our Oakwood community. Throughout the 2024-25 school year, we will continue to communicate and share updates on this important Strategic Planning work. Our Oakwood Community is an important part of this process, and we're excited to bring you along on this journey with us!

## Welcome OHS Principal

The Oakwood City School District is pleased to announce the hiring of Matthew Salyer as the new principal of Oakwood High School. Salyer, a Carlisle resident, is currently the principal at Van Buren Middle School in Kettering.

Salyer was selected for the role after a rigorous and extensive selection process. He brings 17 years of educational experience to the position, including three years in school administration and 13 years as a teacher at Oakwood Junior and Senior High School. Welcome, Mr. Salyer!



## Auditor of State Award



Oakwood Schools has been honored with the Auditor of State Award with Distinction, one of only 45 districts in Ohio to receive this recognition. The award is given to local governments and school districts that achieve a "clean" audit report, demonstrating accurate and transparent financial management.

"By keeping accurate financial records, governing bodies demonstrate their commitment to efficient, effective and transparent service," said Auditor of State Keith Faber.

The award is presented to only four percent of public entities that filed financial reports with the State of Ohio in 2023. "This award demonstrates the hard work of our team to provide exceptional education while being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars," Treasurer Laura Sauber said.

Full audit reports for Oakwood Schools can be found on the State Auditor's website.

## Trip of a Lifetime

*Oakwood High School teachers Alex Brouhard (left) and Matt Deters (right) stop for a photo in the Tatra Mountains in Southern Poland. The social studies teachers are learning about Polish history and culture as part of The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad initiative through Wittenberg University.*



## Athletic Hall of Fame

The Oakwood High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024 will be honored at a banquet at NCR Country Club on Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. This year's inductees are Carl "Fritz" Emde (Class of 1953), Jeff Requarth (Class of 1971), Shannon Tully (Class of 1991), Emily Badger (Class of 1998), and Cara Wald (Class of 2007).

The 1979-80 Girls Basketball Team, led by Head Coach Joe Gural, will also be honored. This impressive group of young ladies ended their season at 22-2. They were undefeated in the SWBL at 9-0 and were Sectional Champions and AA District Finalists.

The 2024 inductees will also be recognized at halftime of the football game on August 23. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased online by visiting oakwoodathletics.net and clicking on "Tickets/Passes"



## Ride for WRIGHT



August 31, 2024

From Julio Quintero, Wright Library Foundation Board and Book Pedalers Team Captain: Pedal for pages with the Book Pedalers Cycling Team in the Dayton United Way Tour de Gem on August 31. Join the team for a fun ride through our Gem City's streets to raise funds for Wright Public Library, a cornerstone of our community. Whether you are a seasoned cyclist or a casual rider, there is a route for you! All donations in support of the Book Pedalers will make available "Doorway to Dayton" free museum passes to Wright Library card holders.



## September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

Does your child have their own library card? September is a smart time for students to visit Wright Library, sign up for a library card, and be entered to win a library prize basket. Whether you're upgrading your skills, scouting for knowledge, or connecting with other heroic readers, a library card is your key to an arsenal of books, school resources, museum passes, and more.

## Library of Things Feature: Home Safety

[wrightlibrary.org/things/devices](http://wrightlibrary.org/things/devices)

When troubleshooting home or auto issues, Wright Library may not be the first place that comes to mind, but it should be! The Library of Things Makerbox Collection contains a variety of diagnostic tools to help you find peace of mind in your happy home. *Note: New patrons must have a library card for 60 days to be eligible to borrow Makerboxes.*

### Air Quality Monitor

If you're concerned about off-gassing from pressed wood or particles emitted from wind-blown dust, mold spores, pollen, or wildfires, this monitor can detect dangerous levels in areas such as a baby's room, workshop, or next to a gas fireplace.

### Radon Detector

Monitor your home's air quality for radon, a naturally occurring, radioactive, odorless, and tasteless gas that's around us every day. This battery-operated digital detector can be placed anywhere in your home and the first indication of your radon levels can be seen within 24 hours.

### Vehicle Diagnostic Reader

This diagnostic tool can help you determine why the Malfunction Indicator Light or the ABS/SRS warning light is on in your car or truck.

### Kill-a-Watt Makerbox

Find power-wasting appliances and calculate your home's cumulative electric expenses.

### Thermal Imaging Camera

Spot hidden fuses, plumbing issues, air leaks, and other home problems.

## Around Town with the Wright Library Book Peddler

Wright Library is excited to introduce an upgrade to its iconic mobile library. Thanks to grant funding from the Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation through generous donations from Enterprise Roofing and the Wright Library Book Pedalers Cycling Team for the Dayton Tour de Gem, the Wright Library Book Peddler is now powered by a Cannondale Adventure Neo 4 Electronic Bicycle and equipped with an iPad, scanner, and Mobile Hot Spot. You can check out books or get a library card from the Book Peddler at any of these upcoming events:

- Oakwood Farmers' Market - August 10 & 24; September 7 & 21
- Oakwood Ice Cream Social - August 11, 2024
- Oakwood Historical Society Classics on the Lawn Car Show, BBQ and Open House - August 18, 2024

## Preserving the Past

Let your old media live again.



Schedule a 2-hour session at: [wrightlibrary.org/services/memory-lab](http://wrightlibrary.org/services/memory-lab)

or get an overview of our new digitization equipment during a Tech Tutoring drop-in. August 7, 14, 21, 28 & September 4, 11, 18, 25



## Genealogy Interest Group

Wednesday, August 14 & September 11 at 6:30 p.m.

In-person and virtual gathering to learn about library resources to aid in your genealogy research.



## Katharine Wright Birthday Celebration

Sunday, August 18, 2-4 p.m.

Join Wright Library as we celebrate Katharine (Wright) Haskell's 150th Birthday. Stop by the library for a memorable selfie with Katharine, make-and-take crafts, reading suggestions, and of course, cake.

## Book Clubs

### Wright Library Book Club

(Age 18+) August 13 at 7 p.m.

*Groundskeeping* by Lee Cole

September 10 at 7 p.m.

**The Next Chapter Book Club** (For adults with developmental disabilities) | Mondays at 6 p.m.



## Youth Programs

### Hands-on Flute for Kids

Sunday, August 4 at 2 p.m. (Ages 4-12)  
Gretchen Germann of Gift Flute Studio provides a hands-on experience of the wonder of the flute and flute accessories.

### Terrace Series: Seussical the Musical Junior

Saturday, August 24 from 1-2 p.m. (Families)  
Children's Performing Arts of Miamisburg perform highlights of your favorite Seuss stories in song.

### Paws to Read on "Woof Wednesdays"

Wednesday, September 11 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. (grades K-6)  
Reading to a therapy dog promotes a positive association with reading. Child must be able to read independently for one 15-minute time slot. Registration preferred. Walk-ins accepted pending availability.



### Family Fun with Dog Man

Saturday, September 14. Drop-in 2-4 p.m. (Pre-K - Grade 3)  
Celebrate everyone's favorite hero hound, Dog Man, with fun hands-on crafts and activities.

### Let's Go LEGO

Sunday, September 29. Drop-in 2-4 p.m. (All ages)  
Drop in for imaginative building at this free-play program.

## Teen & Tween Programs

### Tween Hangout

Tuesdays September 3, 10, 17, 24 from 3:15-4:30 p.m. (Grades 4-7)  
Weekly fun with games and crafts including Shrinky Dinks, Buttons, Perler Beads, and more.

### Teen Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 11 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Grades 7-12)  
Plan and participate in volunteer projects for the library and community. Applications are available at Wright Library or [wrightlibrary.org/youth/teen-volunteers](http://wrightlibrary.org/youth/teen-volunteers)

## Storytime at Wright Library

### Baby Storytime

(Ages 0-18 months) Mondays at 10:30 a.m.  
September 9, 16, 23, 30

### Terrific Tales

(Ages 3-5 years) Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
September 3, 10, 17, 24

### Books & Blocks

(Ages 18-36 months) Fridays at 10:30 a.m.  
August 2; September 6, 13, 20, 27

### Preschool Storytime at Shafor Park

(Ages 0-5 years)  
Friday, August 30 at 10:30 a.m.

## Adult Programs

### American Secrets (Virtual Tour)

Thursday, August 8 at 7 p.m.  
Take a virtual tour of the National Cryptologic Museum to learn more about America's involvement in cryptology from the Revolutionary War through the 20th century. Watch the livestream at Wright Library or RSVP for a ZOOM link at [wrightlibrary.org/events](http://wrightlibrary.org/events).  
*In partnership with the National Security Agency and Oakwood Unsung Heroes*



### Wright Library Poets

Tuesday, August 20 & September 17 at 7 p.m.  
Open writing group for adults to share and enjoy.

### Crochet & Connect

September 8 at 3 p.m.

### Far Hills Speaker Series

September 15, 2 p.m. - Victory in the Pacific: Stories of Local Veterans and Their Role in WWII, presented by Ken Serey

October 20, 2 p.m. - Oakwood Notables in Woodland Cemetery, presented by David Schmidt

November 17, 2 p.m. - Lucky Eddie: The Life, Times and Family of Dayton US Congressman Edward G. Breen, presented by Edward F. Breen

Limited seating. Zoom option available.

*In partnership with the Oakwood Historical Society*

### Civil War Round Table Series

Sept. 19, 7 p.m. - Against the Odds: Lincoln and the Lincoln Presidency, presented by Ron Helms

Oct. 17, 7 p.m. - Ghosts of Gettysburg, presented by Allan Howey

Nov. 21, 7 p.m. - A Thriving Lincoln Legacy: Dayton Soldier's Home & Cemetery, presented by Clyde Hughes

*In partnership with Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Miami Valley Civil War Round Table*

### Oakwood Inclusion Coalition Interview

Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m.  
We all have stories to tell. Join Wright Library and the OIC as they interview different people from around the community.  
*In partnership with the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OAC)*

### Embroidery Party for Grown-ups

Thursday, September 26, 5-6:30 p.m.  
Enjoy light refreshments while learning how to embroider a tea towel to take home. Adults must register at [wrightlibrary.org/events](http://wrightlibrary.org/events)



## Library Closures

September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

# City of Oakwood

30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Montgomery County  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

## CITY OF OAKWOOD DEPARTMENT NUMBERS

City Manager's Office  
937-298-0600

Engineering & Public Works  
937-298-0777

Finance  
937-298-0402

Income Tax  
937-298-0531

Leisure Services/Horticulture  
937-298-0775

Human Resources  
937-298-0411

Planning & Zoning  
937-297-2920

Public Safety (non-emergency)  
937-298-2122

## CITY COUNCIL

William Duncan, Mayor  
Steve Byington, Vice Mayor  
Rob Stephens  
Leigh Turben  
Healy Jackson

## ADMINISTRATION

Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager  
Carol D. Collins, Leisure Services Director  
Cindy S. Stafford, CPA, Finance Director  
Chief Alan J. Hill, CLEE, Public Safety Director  
Robert F. Jacques, Esq., City Attorney  
Doug Spitzer, PE, Public Works Director  
Chris Kuzma, PE, City Engineer  
Ethan Kroger, Planning & Zoning Manager  
Sangita Anand, Human Resources Manager  
Dr. Stephen Enseleit, MD, Health Commissioner

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Wilson, President  
Laura Middleton, Vice President  
Debbie DiLorenzo  
Lauren Kawai  
Nathan Reiter

## ADMINISTRATION

Neil Gupta, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Laura Sauber, Treasurer  
Allyson Couch, Assistant Superintendent  
Kimbe Lange, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum  
Amanda Brown, Community Relations Director  
Frank Eaton, Business Manager

For more information please visit our website:  
[oakwoodschoools.org](http://oakwoodschoools.org)

## LIBRARY BOARD

Randale J. Honaker III, President  
Jennifer Enseleit, Vice President  
Lu Ann Stanley, Secretary  
Darrell Crowe  
Bob Eling  
Joseph Fulford  
Candice Powell

## ADMINISTRATION

Kristi Hale, Director  
Brenda Oliver, Fiscal Officer

## Oakwood Community Invited to Participate in Community Read with Wright Library and Dr. Gupta, Oakwood Schools Superintendent

Wright Library and Oakwood Schools will present a Community Read of *The Anxious Generation* by Johnathan Haidt. All community members are invited to read the book and/or participate in a series of discussions at Wright Library on topics addressed in Haidt's book.

### Community Conversations

October 24 & 30; Nov. 14 at Wright Library (limited seating)

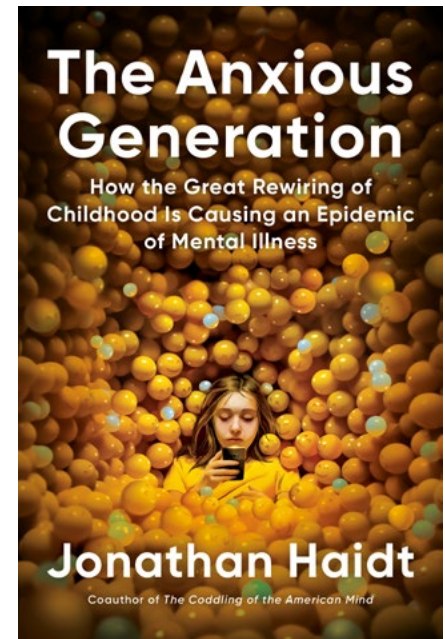
In *The Anxious Generation*, Haidt explores the collapse of youth mental health and presents a plan for a healthier, freer childhood. He discusses the decline of the "play-based childhood" and the arrival of the "phone-based childhood" in the early 2010s — and how this "great rewiring of childhood" has interfered with children's social and neurological development. The book also explains why social media damages girls more than boys, and why boys have been withdrawing from the real world into the virtual world, with disastrous consequences for themselves, their families, and their societies.

Haidt describes steps that parents, teachers, schools, tech companies, and governments can take to end the epidemic of mental illness and restore a more humane childhood.

Copies of the book are available through Wright Library Fast Reads and general circulation.

Wright Library also invites the public to a special panel discussion this fall, **Kids & Tech: A Parent's Guide**, with experts in child psychology, socialization, and technology.

Details at [wrightlibrary.org/events](http://wrightlibrary.org/events)



## Wright Library Book Love

Patrons love Wright Library's collection of over 60,000 print books. Find the ones that are right for you with any of the special services at [wrightlibrary.org/books](http://wrightlibrary.org/books)



SCAN HERE  
to learn more!