

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

OAKWOOD SCENE

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

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CITY NEWS | NEW Online Event Registration

The Oakwood Community Center is thrilled to announce the launching last month of our new online registration program, MyRec! This new, streamlined website allows residents to set up their own household profiles, register and pay for classes, renew memberships, track their activities, search online through all of the current offerings and much more. Residents are encouraged to create a profile with all of their household information.

(continued on page 4)

SCHOOL NEWS | OSF's 'Philanthropy 101' Returns to Oakwood High School

Philanthropy 101, funded through The Oakwood Schools Foundation (OSF), is back by popular demand at Oakwood High School.

OSF board member Joel Frydman conceived this program and brought it to life with the help of his family foundation in 2014. The goal is to teach Oakwood students about philanthropy and to illuminate why it is important to give of one's time, talent and/or treasure to serve others.

(Continued on page 9)

LIBRARY NEWS | Wright Library Begins 'Next Chapter' Revitalization Project in Early 2021

A new chapter of the Wright Memorial Public Library story will begin in early 2021 as work begins on significant repairs and improvements to the library building.

The \$4.5 million revitalization project will address essential infrastructure repairs such as HVAC, lighting and elevator modernization, while also updating library spaces for children, teens, and adults. Construction will last about 12 months.

(Continued on page 11)

CITY

P2: JOIN OUR "HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS" AT A DISTANCE DRIVE THROUGH!

SCHOOLS

P9: NOMINATE A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

LIBRARY

P10: FIVE WAYS TO USE YOUR LIBRARY THIS WINTER

“Holiday of Lights” At A Distance Drive Through



This year, the “Holiday of Lights” will be held on Sunday, December 13 as a drive-through, similar to the Ice Cream Social that was held in August. The event will take place between 6:30 and 8 p.m. The City will close E. Schantz Avenue between Patterson Road and E. Thruston Boulevard to through traffic that evening. The OCC and Shafor Park will be lit with luminarias as will Shafor Boulevard. To participate, residents must come to the OCC by vehicle to be greeted by Santa’s helpers, see Santa on a carriage, listen to holiday music, enjoy the holiday decorations, receive a special treat and more. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing mandates, no walk-ups will be allowed. City leaders will greet participants near E. Schantz and E. Thruston and will direct them southward in two lines to receive treats near the OCC parking lot. Residents will drive up to one of two tents, receive their special treat while enjoying the holiday festivities, and will then exit on to Patterson Road. Participants must wear face coverings while receiving the treats. We hope this modified “Holiday of Lights” event will brighten the community at the onset of the winter season.

“Lighting Up” Oakwood – Sunday, December 13

The city of Oakwood, with assistance from the Oakwood Beautification Committee, is “LIGHTING UP” Oakwood with luminarias on Sunday, December 13 beginning at 6 p.m. Residents are invited to put luminarias out in front of their house and to consider participating with their neighbors. This event brightens the entire community at the onset of the winter holiday season. Luminarias will line Shafor Boulevard. The committee encourages neighborhood participation and hopes to see many citizens joining in the festive beautification effort.

Luminaria Kits

Luminaria kits are available at the OCC during regular business hours. They are sold at a cost of \$5.00 per dozen. The price includes white bags, sand and 10-hour candles.



Holiday Closings



City offices, the Community Center and the Public Works Center will be closed on Friday, December 25 for Christmas and on Friday, January 1 for New Year’s.

City offices, the Community Center and the Public Works Center will also be closed on Monday, January 18 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Please refer to the holiday refuse pickup article for the holiday refuse collection schedules.

Holiday Refuse Pickups

The refuse collection schedule during the Christmas and New Year’s holiday weeks is the same as a normal week.

The refuse collection schedule during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday week is shown below:

WEEK OF JANUARY 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

<u>Regular Schedule</u>	<u>Holiday Schedule</u>
Monday	Tuesday
Tuesday	Wednesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Thursday	Friday

Holiday Tree Disposal

The City will pick up holiday trees according to the normal yard debris collection schedule (see maps on page 3). Trees should be placed at the property frontage as close to the curb (on the property side) as possible. The trees should not be placed in the street or in center boulevard areas. Please remove plastic covers from trees. Evergreen wreaths and boughs, wires, ribbons and ornamental items should be placed with your regular household refuse items.

Special Pickups

The City’s special pickup program suspended during leaf season will begin again on Monday, January 4. You may schedule this service on or after January 4 by phoning the Public Works Center at (937) 298-0777.

Vacant House Checks

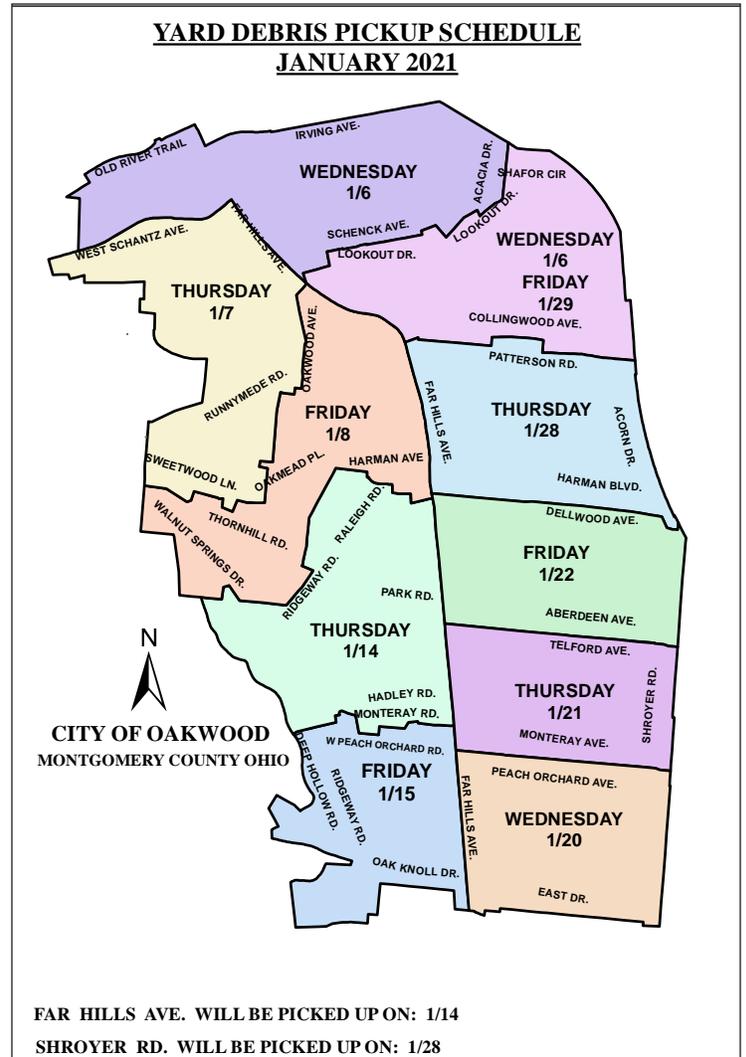
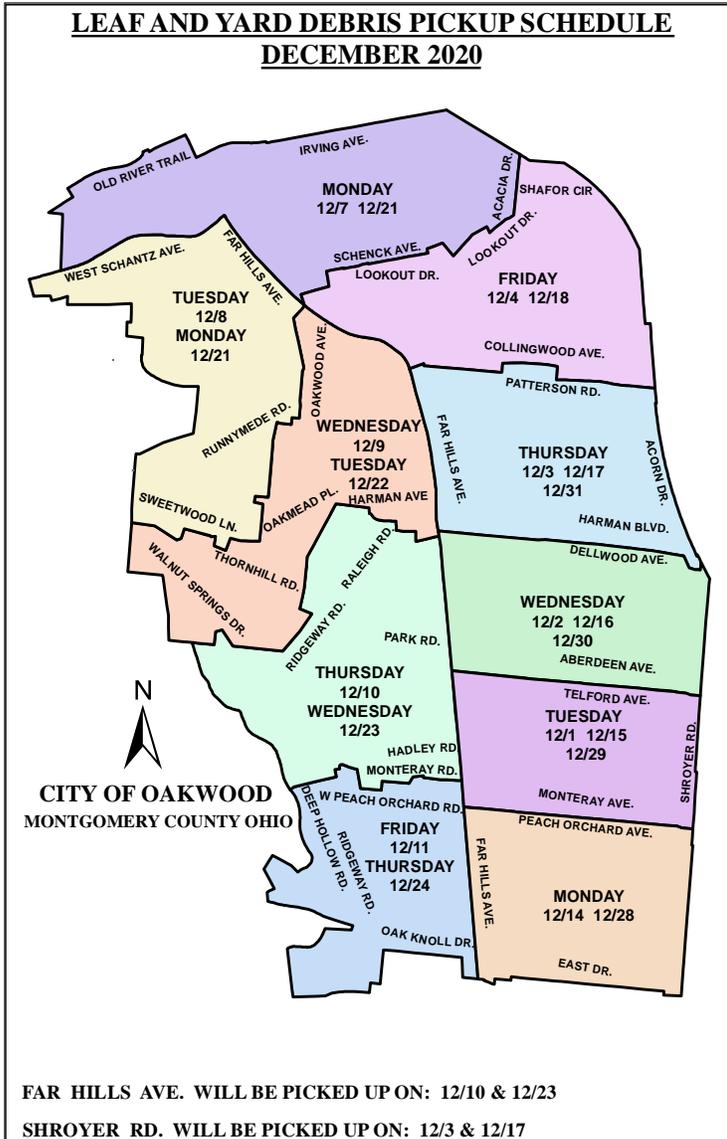
Are you planning a winter getaway for a long weekend, for a whole week, or for a month or longer? Please remember that the Oakwood Public Safety Department offers a free Vacant House Check (VHC) program to all Oakwood residents. The VHC program is a crime prevention tool that can be beneficial in protecting your residence. Once enrolled in the program, Public Safety Officers will make periodic checks of your residence while you are away and make notification to your emergency contact number should a problem be discovered.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Public Safety Vacant House Checks". It includes fields for "Address", "Phone Number", "Email", "Registration Date", and "Return Date". There are also checkboxes for "New Emergency Contact" and "Emergency Contact Name & Telephone Number". A note at the bottom states "We reserve the right to cancel any request for a vacant house check if the information provided is incomplete or incorrect."

To take advantage of this program, visit our website at oakwoodohio.gov/vacant-house-checks/ and submit a house check request, or contact the Oakwood Public Safety Department Dispatch Center at (937) 298-2122. You will need to provide the following information: duration of your trip, vehicles parked in the driveway, a local emergency contact person, notification number that you can be reached at while you are away, and the names of anyone who will be at your residence while you are away.

Leaf Pickup

Autumn leaf pickup service is scheduled to conclude on Friday, December 18. The leaf pickup schedule is the same as the yard debris schedule. Please rake leaves directly to the curb or gutter unbagged, ideally just a day or two before the scheduled pickup. Please spread out large piles to avoid blocking roadways. Also, no brush, branches or other yard debris should be included with the leaves. This other yard debris should be placed off the street behind the curb or dropped off in the dumpsters at Creager Field. Small amounts can be placed in regular household trash cans.



Yard Debris Collection

Yard debris (no grass, sod, soil or bags) may be placed between the sidewalk and curb for automatic collection by the City. Pieces should be no longer than 6 feet in length and in a manageable pile that is away from trees, poles, fire hydrants and other obstructions. City laws prohibit the placement of any debris in the streets or boulevards, except leaves during the fall leaf collection season. The December yard debris collection is bi-weekly. The monthly collection schedule begins again in January.





(Continued from cover)

NEW Online Event Registration

The front office staff will be notified when a profile is set up and will update all current individual or family memberships. Once the December OCC brochure is out, residents will be able to register completely online or they can preregister, print off the registration form and mail it to the OCC with a check. Please note, a preregistration enrollment does not secure a spot in the class until payment is received. Members will also be asked to submit to the OCC an individual photo for each family member. The front office staff will upload photos in the membership profile and assign an official OCC key fob to each family member. The key fobs will be mailed to the family and will be used for entering the health center and the pool if memberships are current. This will eliminate the need to reprint passes every year.

As always, the OCC front office staff is here to help, if needed. If you have any questions while setting up your profile, please call us at (937) 298-0775.

Oakwood Community Center Events

The Leisure Services Department continues to evaluate the COVID-19 situation and reviews upcoming events on a case-by-case basis, which may result in possible cancellations. Protecting the health of our community is our number one priority. Please check the City’s website for updates. We appreciate your understanding.



2021 Dog License Information

2021 dog licenses will be sold at the Oakwood city building from Tuesday, December 1 to Monday, February 1, 2021. The base fee for an annual license is \$20, the same as last year, but applies to spayed/neutered dogs only. The fee for unaltered dogs is \$24.

There are several exclusions to the \$4 non-spayed/neutered fee:

- If the dog is 9 months old or less.
- If the dog is too old or has a medical condition preventing the dog from being spayed/neutered (the owner must provide a veterinarian’s certification).
- If the dog is used or intended to be used for breeding or show (a Breed Registry number is required).
- If the dog is used or intended to be used for hunting (The owner’s hunting license number is required).

If veterinarian certification, breed registry number or hunting license number are provided to avoid the \$4 extra fee, the license must be purchased by mail or in person at the Montgomery County Auditor’s office or the Animal Resource Center. Multi-year and permanent dog licenses are also available for purchase, but only by mail or in person at the Montgomery County Auditor’s office at 451 W. Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45422.



December/January Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14 and Monday, January 4 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 these meetings. The regular sessions are televised live on the City’s website at www.oakwoodohio.gov and cable TV (Spectrum Ch. 6, TV Tuner Ch. 5.03 and ATT Uverse 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. Meeting videos can also be viewed on the City’s website online at www.oakwoodohio.gov.

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is upon us and many will be traveling, shopping, or attending special holiday events. This often leads to our homes being unoccupied for extended periods of time during the day and evening hours. Unfortunately, this is also the time of the year when others are looking for the opportunity to take advantage of unoccupied homes or distracted shoppers.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department offers the following holiday safety tips:

If you are planning a quick getaway, have a neighbor watch your home and retrieve any packages, newspapers, or mail daily. If planning to be away for an extended period of time, have someone shovel any snow from your walks and driveway. Additionally, leave lights on or set timers. Make your home appear occupied. Accumulating packages, newspapers, mail, a dark house, and snow covered driveways all make your home an easy target for would-be burglars casing a neighborhood. Lastly, whether going on a quick getaway or extended vacation, contact the Oakwood Public Safety Department by calling (937) 298-2122 and request officers conduct a Vacant House Check on your residence.

Shop during daylight hours when possible. If you must shop at night, consider going with a friend or family member. Dress casually, avoid wearing expensive jewelry, do not carry large amounts of cash, and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to maintain clear visibility and freedom of motion.

Additionally, don't allow yourself to get easily sidetracked and lose awareness of what is happening around you. Be cautious of strangers approaching you for any reason, such as handing out fliers, asking for directions, or where a store is located. Many criminals use this simply as a method to distract you. Keep your purse or wallet in your immediate sight at all times and secure your credit cards after every transaction.

If shopping during the late afternoon or evening hours, park in a well-lit space, or an area that will be well-illuminated once it is dark. Also, if possible, park near the store or malls main entrance. After shopping, end your cell phone conversation before walking to your vehicle. Walk with a purpose to and from your destination. Have your keys ready and lock your doors immediately upon entering your vehicle. Remember, when making multiple stops, place shopping bags and gifts in the trunk or out of plain view. Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time.

Please heed these safety tips and have a safe and happy holiday season.



Recycling at Creager Field

There are dumpsters at the Creager Field parking lot for disposal of cardboard, comingled recyclables, and green waste. These containers are accessible 24-7. This recycling facility has been in place for over 25 years to provide Oakwood residents with a convenient way to maximize recycling. Oakwood was the first community in Montgomery County to establish a city-wide recycling program. The program began in the late 1980s and continues to be a priority service provided by the Oakwood Public Works Department. For more information about the comprehensive Oakwood refuse and recycling program, please see the City website at www.oakwoodohio.gov.

Fourth Quarter Estimated Tax Payment Due 1-15-2021

If you expect to receive taxable income that is not subject to withholding by your employer at a rate of 2.5% or greater, you may be required to make estimated tax payments if you expect to owe \$200 or more when you file your 2020 city of Oakwood income tax return next year. The fourth quarter estimated tax payment is due January 15, 2021. Penalty and interest may be imposed for late or non-payment of your estimated taxes. Payment vouchers are available in the tax office and on the City's website. Contact the tax office at (937) 298-0531 with any questions.





Snow Plowing and Salting Policy

The safety of our public roadways and sidewalks is a high priority in Oakwood. In the event of a major snowfall, the City takes the following actions to keep streets, alleys and sidewalks clear:

Street Plowing: During heavy snowfall, we plow every street at least once. Please help us during snowfall events by not parking your vehicle on the streets, unless absolutely necessary.

Street Salting: Major streets and intersections take priority, along with steep hills. Flat residential streets may also be salted, but generally to a lesser degree due to environmental and cost considerations.

Sidewalk Plowing: When there is an accumulation of approximately 1" or more of snow, we dispatch our sidewalk plows. Plows will typically make one pass through the city. Please remember that while our city offers this unique sidewalk plowing service, under city ordinance *it is the property owner's responsibility to keep sidewalks at their frontage clear of snow and ice.*

Alley Plowing: Alleys are plowed after an accumulation of approximately 4" or more of snow.

Driveway Plowing: If you are plowing your driveway, please make arrangements so that the snow is not pushed into or across the street. Also, please remember that it is the property owner's responsibility to make certain their driveway is clear of snow and ice to allow the City refuse vehicles to collect the weekly trash in a safe and efficient manner.

Pre-Sale/Pre-Rental Inspections

Thinking of selling or renting your home? The city of Oakwood has a Pre-sale/Pre-Rental Inspection program. To transfer legal ownership of any real estate premises within the city of Oakwood, or to rent a property, the current owner must obtain a pre-sale/pre-rental inspection and receive a Certificate of Occupancy for the buyer or tenant. This program was established in 1968 to ensure that properties are code-compliant at the time of sale or rental, or brought into compliance shortly thereafter. Inspections are good for one year, so this can be done ahead of time and avoid a time crunch when you have obtained a buyer or tenant.

This program is especially important to a community like Oakwood with an aging housing stock. It helps to protect property values by ensuring homes are continuously maintained.

How it works:

- Sellers submit a pre-sale/pre-rental inspection form to the city (available on our website), and the inspection is scheduled.
- An inspector will meet the property owner (or real estate agent) and perform an inspection of both the interior and exterior of the property for compliance with the building, zoning, and property maintenance codes. You can prepare for this inspection – things we will be looking to confirm include placement of smoke detectors (one in every bedroom, plus one per floor), hand rails, and other safety requirements, functioning plumbing and electrical fixtures and devices, as well as general property maintenance. Also the inspector will verify that HVAC equipment has been properly inspected through the city of Kettering's building department.
- Once an inspection is complete, and any violations are remedied, the city prepares a Certificate of Occupancy, which is necessary for closing on the property or prior to the move-in of a new tenant.

If you have any questions about the process, or are preparing to sell or rent your home, call the city's Zoning Office at (937) 297-2920, or email us at zoning@oakwood.oh.us and we will walk you through the process. More information is available on the city's website at <https://oakwoodohio.gov/pre-sale-inspection-program/>.



Meet our Public Works Foremen

Our Oakwood Public Works Department provides a broad range of municipal services. The department is led by Doug Spitler, PE with administrative services provided by Missi Seifert. The following foremen see to the daily delivery of the services.



Tom Long
Foreman/Engineering
Technician

Tom oversees large construction projects, such as annual street repaving work, utility line work, and Vectren's gas line improvements. He is responsible for ensuring that contractors perform construction operations in a proper, safe and efficient manner, and that they keep property owners informed of impacts to their neighborhood. Tom is also responsible for maintaining the 17 roadway intersections controlled by traffic signals, and all the street signs in Oakwood. He also oversees routine tree trimming operations.



David Shuey
Roadway Foreman

Dave is responsible for the day to day maintenance of the 50+ miles of Oakwood streets and alleys, including the stormwater drainage systems. This includes pothole repair, pavement crack sealing, repair of stormwater inlets, maintenance of utility manholes and snow removal operations. He is also responsible for the maintenance of all sidewalks, roadway curbs and driveway aprons (SCA), and manages the annual SCA program. Dave also oversees the maintenance of the Public Works Facility, and the operation of the vehicle and equipment maintenance shop.



Chris Harold
Refuse Foreman

Chris oversees our comprehensive refuse program. This includes the pickup of weekly household trash and co-mingled recyclables; monthly yard debris (green waste) pickup; special pickups; fall leaf pickup and spring mulch program; dumpster program for do-it-yourself projects; recycling facility at Creager Field (Dog Park) parking lot; and the monthly debris drop-off at the Foell Public Works Center. Chris also serves as Derek's primary back-up in the operation and maintenance of the water and sanitary sewer systems.



Derek Shell
Water Plant Superintendent &
Water/Sewer Line Foreman

Derek is responsible for the Oakwood Public Water System (PWS) and the sanitary sewer collection system. He is the Ohio EPA certified operator of record for both utilities. As Water Plant Superintendent, Derek is responsible for the production, treatment and distribution of Oakwood water. This includes operating the eight water production wells, three water treatment plants and the 1.5 million gallon water tower. Derek is also responsible for the day to day operations and maintenance of the water distribution and sanitary sewer systems.



OSF's 'Philanthropy 101' Returns to Oakwood High School

In Philanthropy 101, upperclass students enrolled in the Wall Street 101 high school course form teams then select one of five local charities to research. This year, students chose from the following local charities:

Boys and Girls Club Dayton, Building Bridges, Families of Addicts, Rebuilding Together Dayton and the Ronald McDonald House Charities Dayton.

Each Dayton charity makes a presentation to the two sections of Wall Street 101, explaining who they serve and how much each depends on donations. As part of the unit, students will visit the charities virtually this year to gain a better understanding of how each organization operates. To drive the idea of volunteerism home, OHS seniors can work at the selected charities during senior community service days in May.

After completing research and observations, student teams develop and present their Philanthropy 101 cases to a panel of judges comprised of OSF board and community members. Upon deciding which team made the strongest case for the need for funding, OSF awards \$3,000 to the winning charities.

OSF is grateful to OHS Principal Paul Waller and business teacher Natalie Johnston for their support of this venture. The Foundation deeply appreciates

ongoing financial support from The Angela and Joel Frydman Philanthropic Fund, Vince Russell and Johnson Investment Counsel as well as Robert Wagner and family.

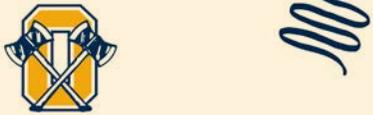


Hannah's Treasure Chest was one of the charities that benefited in 2019 from the Philanthropy 101 project. This year, students will research and present information about five different local charities.



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 visit our website at: oakwoodschoools.org/community/osf.



SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND
OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2021

oakwoodschoools.org/community/alumni/homecoming-and-reunion-information



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS – SEP 30

Nominate an outstanding alumnus for this special recognition. The awards banquet will be held at NCR Country Club. More information can be found at:

oakwoodschoools.org/community/distinguished-alumni-award



FRIDAY, OCT. 1

BOOSTERS TAILGATE and COOKOUT
- VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME
- COME BACK LUMBERJACKS HOSTED by THE OAKWOOD SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



SATURDAY, OCT. 2

TOUR of OAKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
- SELF-GUIDED TOURS of HARMAN AND SMITH



YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT IS VITAL TO THE CORE MISSION OF THE OAKWOOD SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Show your support for Oakwood Schools teachers and students by making a tax-deductible gift TODAY!



TOGETHER we are building a strong FOUNDATION for:

- * Learning
- * Leadership
- * Artistic Expression
- * Scientific Exploration
- * Technological Innovation

www.oakwoodschoools.org/community/osf/annual-fund
 or call 937-297-5332



Celebrate Oakwood Alumni - Nominate Distinguished Alumnus Today

In 2019 the Oakwood Alumni Association celebrated 9 incredible alumni who have made contributions near and far, to their communities and in their careers. We look forward to celebrating another outstanding group on September 30, 2021 at NCR Country Club from 6 to 8 pm.

The Distinguished Alumni Award celebrates alumni that have made significant accomplishments in their careers or dedicated themselves to service while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character. The only requirement is that the individual must have graduated over 15 years ago. This year we will accept nominees from classes 2006 and before. While the award has frequently been awarded to individuals approaching, or at the end of the careers, we hope to recognize our alumni who are achieving greatness at every stage of their career and lives.

The 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards event is a fun evening with heavy hors d'oeuvres, the awards ceremony, and friends and family of the recipients sharing stories and recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of our fellow alumni. Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are honored with a plaque hanging outside of the OHS auditorium as well as one for themselves, and are also recognized at the Homecoming football game the following evening. Please consider nominating an OHS alum! Nominations are due June 1st.

For nomination information, visit: [oakwoodschoools.org/community/distinguished-alumni-award](https://www.oakwoodschoools.org/community/distinguished-alumni-award) or contact Amy Martin at alumni@oakwoodschoools.org or 937.371.1479.



Dale Hatfield, OHS Class of 1956, was one of 9 alumni honored in 2019. To read their stories, visit the Oakwood Schools website at <https://www.oakwoodschoools.org/community/distinguished-alumni-award>.



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.

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](https://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!

2020 – 2021 School Year

DECEMBER

- 14** Oakwood Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
- 21 - 31** No School - Holiday Break

JANUARY

- 1** No School - Holiday Break
- 4** Classes Resume
- 11** Oakwood Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
- 18** No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

HOLIDAY BREAK WITH WRIGHT LIBRARY

Virtual FIELD TRIPS

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
 Pro Football Hall of Fame
 Dr. Seuss Museum
 Ernest Warther Museum
 Eric Carle Museum
 Columbus Museum of Art

Register now for your link wrightlibrary.org/fieldtrip

Sun., Dec. 20

The Solar System: A Planetary Tour from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 2 p.m., grades 2-6

Mon., Dec. 21

Prehistoric Life from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History 10:30 a.m., Zoom, grades prek-2

The Story of Pro Football, 2 p.m., Families

Tues., Dec. 22

A Morning with the Seuss Museum, 10:30 a.m., grades prek-2

Wed., Dec. 23

Model Trains from the Ernest Warther Museum, 10:30 a.m., Families

Balto: a History Of Humans, Huskies, and Health In Alaska 2 p.m., grades 1-6

Mon., Dec. 28

I See a Story from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, 10:30 a.m., grades prek-3

It's Not Black and White: How the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Defines "Race", 2 p.m., Teen

Tues., Dec. 29

Exploring Textures with the Columbus Museum of Art, 10:30 a.m., grades 1-8

The History of Oakwood's Favorite NFL Team, presented by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, 2 p.m., Families

Wed., Dec. 30

Inspired by Picture Books: Collage from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, 10:30 a.m., grades prek-12

Biomimicry Inventions from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 10:30 a.m., Tween

Wed., Jan. 6

Stress Down: Eustress-ing Me Out! from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 4 p.m., Teens

Virtual Events for Adults

All events are virtual, to register for the event link visit wrightlibrary.org/calendar or call 937-294-7171

Understanding Social Security - Dec. 3, 7 p.m.

Author Talk: Wright Family in Oakwood - Dec. 12, 11 a.m.

Genealogy Interest Group - Dec. 9 & Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m.

Book Club - Dec. 8 & Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

Holiday Craft Class - Dec. 22, 7 p.m.

Wright Library Poets - Dec. 15 & Jan. 19, 7 p.m.

Adults Read YA Book Club - Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

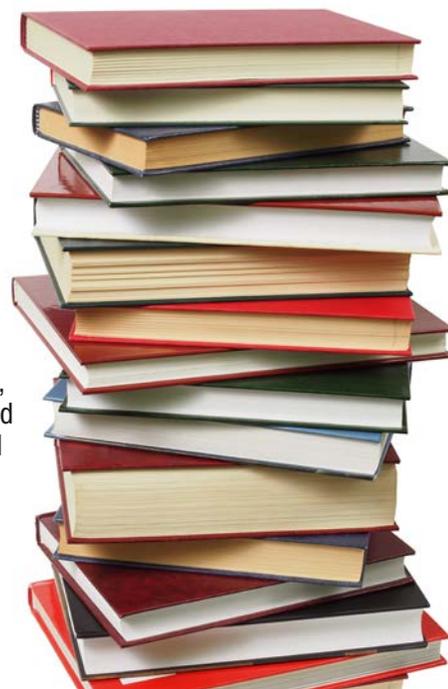
White Supremacy: A Deeper Look - Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

Top 5 Ways to Keep Busy This Winter

"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer, And that makes me happy." —Albert Camus

Add your library card to the list of indispensable tools for the winter, right along with snow boots and hot chocolate. You can read, listen, watch, and learn - for free - all winter long.

1. **Stock up on books.** Whether you download digitally or swing by for curbside pickup, it's easy to stay warm and safe while stocking up on books from Wright Library this winter.
2. **Get social.** Our virtual programs for all ages will take your family on virtual field trips to museums, bring friends together online for trivia nights, and expand your knowledge of history and more. Visit wrightlibrary.org/calendar to register for upcoming events.
3. **Learn a new skill.** Lynda.com and Great Courses are both free with your library card. Other library databases can also help you spend the winter months learning a new skill. Visit wrightlibrary.org/find to learn what's available.
4. **Explore our makerboxes.** Our makerbox collection includes an array of hands-on learning for all ages: telescope, engineering and coding, ukuleles, cake pans, and more. Visit wrightlibrary.org/makerboxes to see the full list. Each box can be borrowed for two weeks.
5. **Stream for free.** Tired of paying for streaming services or already binged all of Netflix? Try Kanopy and hoopla for movies, music, audiobooks, and more. Your library card unlocks it all.



(Continued from cover)

Wright Library Begins Building Revitalization Project in Early 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has offered some unexpected opportunities with lower construction costs and lower interest rates.

The library will stay open during the project but may have occasional closures for work that cannot be completed with the public in the building, said Director Kristi Hale.

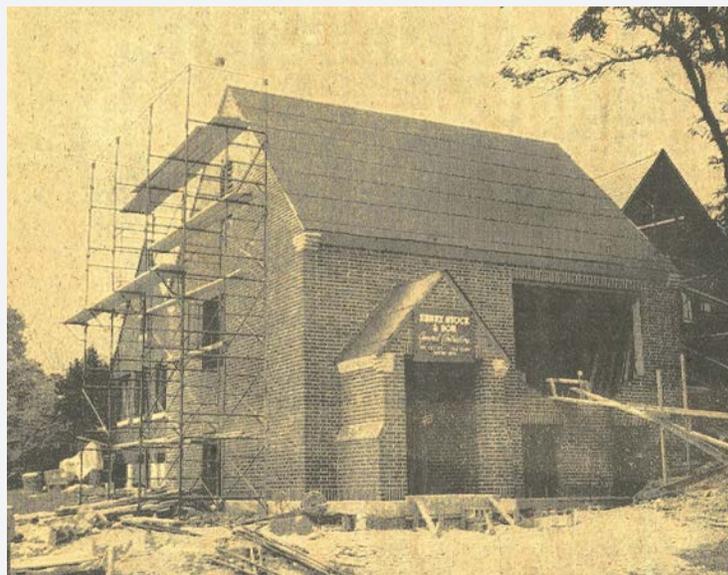
Wright Library trustees selected two local firms to lead the project: LWC Inc. will serve as the design team and Danis Construction was selected as construction manager at risk.

The first phase of work will begin in the lower level, which will remain closed to the public. Repairs will address the HVAC, elevator, lighting, and other infrastructure needs. When completed, the lower level will house the children and teens area as well as audio-visual materials.

The second phase of work will renovate portions of the main level to house the Community Room, a new conference room, ADA-compliant restroom, seating area, and adult computer area. The work on the main level will not involve the historic restorations completed in 2018. Aside from the ADA-compliant vestibule necessary to reopen the parkside entrance, renovations will remain within the current footprint of the building.

The project is a public/private partnership of state and local tax revenue, the library's capital reserves, and private gifts raised

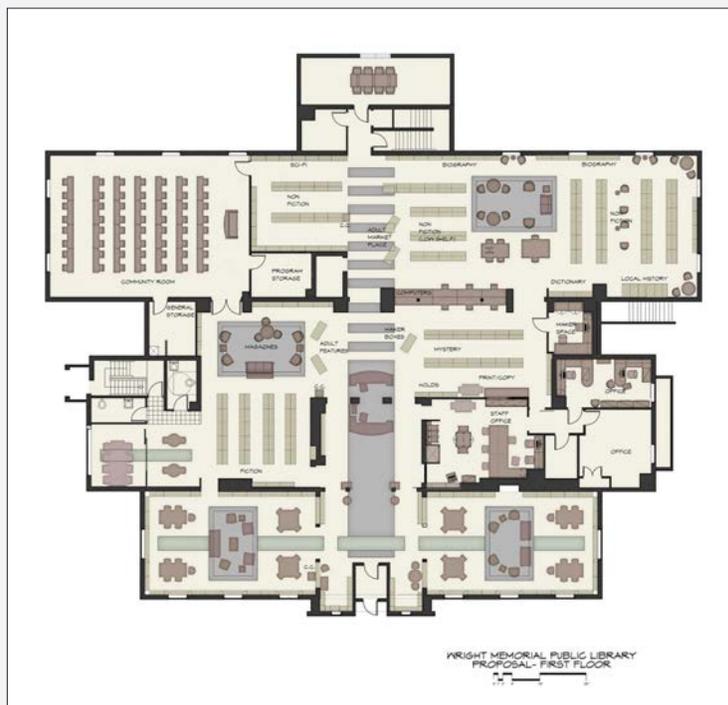
from the community. A capital campaign is underway to raise an additional \$1.5 million for the project. A \$500,000 gift from former Oakwood resident David L. Flory is the first donation to the capital campaign. The board of the Foundation is excited to let the community know that gifts of \$5,000 or more will be permanently recognized in our beautiful library. Those interested in donating to the capital campaign may contact Library Director Kristi Hale at (937) 294-7171 or hale@wrightlibrary.org.



A look at previous renovations to the library building in the early 60's.



Phase One will begin on the lower level in early 2021, addressing essential infrastructure repairs, creating spaces for children, teens, and audiovisual materials.



Phase Two will renovate portions of the main level of the library, creating a new community room, adult computer area, seating area, and ADA-compliant restroom.

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Fifth Grader, Cora Judy, is making a difference in Oakwood

With the goal of “bringing more joy and happiness” to Smith Elementary School students and the community, fifth grader Cora Judy is making a difference in Oakwood one smile and one high five at a time.

The ten-year-old says the last few months have been difficult.

“We have to socially distance and I miss giving people hugs and high fives,” Judy said.

So the elementary student did something about it. She created a high-five program in Oakwood, asking community members to decorate hand cutouts and then posting them in their windows.

“By making the air high fives, it tells people they aren't alone and people are thinking of you. Just because we are socially distanced doesn't mean we can't do socially distanced high fives. This is the next best thing to give air high fives. I just need to figure out how to give people air hugs,” Judy said.

When the high fives started showing up around the community, Judy says she was excited to see the impact her small idea had.



“I was excited to know people were doing it because it made me happy knowing other people care for each other. I liked going around and looking for the hands. It was fun.”

She also created a program at Smith Elementary to spread happiness. The program is called Circle of Friends and brings students together for different activities. The current COVID-19 restrictions have made it more difficult to bring students together, but she isn't giving up.

“We are working on a Zoom meeting coming up and trying to figure out how to bring about new projects with Mrs. Daniel,” Judy said. She has worked with Smith Elementary teacher Leslie Daniel since she came up with the idea for Circle of Friends.

“She helped bring this to life and joy to many students. I can't wait to get started on this group again and bring more joy and happiness to Smith students.”