

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2021

# OAKWOOD SCENE

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

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## Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OIC)

Last year, a group of Oakwood community leaders established the OIC. The OIC is a citizen-driven organization with the mission “to study, promote, and celebrate an inclusive, equitable, diverse and welcoming environment and community for everyone who lives, works, visits, or passes through Oakwood.” In October 2020, Oakwood City Council, the Oakwood Schools Board of Education, and the Wright Memorial Public Library Board publicly recognized the establishment of the OIC and expressed strong support for the OIC mission and purpose. For more information about the OIC, and to become a member, please visit the OIC website at [www.oakwoodic.org](http://www.oakwoodic.org).

## CITY NEWS | 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.

*(continued on page 2)*

## SCHOOL NEWS | Honored Alum Leaves Million Dollar Gift to Schools

A 1947 Oakwood High School graduate and a trailblazer for women in engineering, Ruth Herman's unwavering support of Oakwood Schools and her passion for education will live on through current and future students thanks to a generous gift from her estate.

*(continued on page 8)*

## LIBRARY NEWS | Wright Library Construction Begins; Capital Campaign Continues

The 2021 construction project is underway at Wright Library.

“We’re calling it The Next Chapter: Wright Library’s Revitalization Project because, as book lovers know, there’s nothing more exciting than turning the page to the next chapter of a beloved story — and we are very excited about the next chapter in the Wright Library story,” said Library Director Kristi Hale.

*(continued on page 10)*

CITY

P3: FIND OUT WHEN YOUR  
2020 OAKWOOD INCOME TAX  
RETURNS ARE DUE

SCHOOLS

P9: OAKWOOD STUDENTS  
PLACE IN COUNTY-WIDE  
CONTEST

LIBRARY

P10: WRIGHT LIBRARY  
EARNS FIVE-STAR  
RATING

*(continued from cover)*

Through ACORN, we 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](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov/acorn-program)



## February/March Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular public sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 1 and Monday, March 1. 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. 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. 5.03 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](http://www.mvcc.net) for broadcast times. Meeting videos can also be viewed online at the city website.

## 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. 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 employments. Equal Opportunity Employer.

## 2020 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, 2021. 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 website, and submit your request by April 15, 2021. 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, 2021 will be subject to a 15% late payment penalty and interest.

The 2020 Oakwood income tax return is available on the City’s website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://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 return, please contact the Tax Department at (937) 298-0531 to schedule an appointment. 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 April 13-15, when the office will be open until 6:00 p.m.

## 2021 Vectren Gas Line Project

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

## 2021 City Budget

On December 14, 2020, Oakwood City Council approved a 2021 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 (search: 2021 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 beautiful neighborhoods, unmatched public safety, excellent public works, recreation and leisure services, an outstanding public school system and public library, and, most importantly, an involved citizenry that values community. 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.

## 2021 Capital Improvements

The 2021 Budget appropriates \$1,247,000 for capital improvements and capital equipment. We make significant investments each year in our public infrastructure and capital equipment. This is critically important to maintain our city and comprehensive public services. Major 2021 capital expenses include the following:

- Asphalt Street Repaving Program: \$200,000
- Storage Building/Shop at Public Works Center: \$175,000
- Police Department In-car and Body Cameras: \$120,000
- Multi-lift Dump Truck w/ Plow and Salt Spreader Replacement: \$150,000
- Orchardly Park Safety Surface Replacement: \$55,000



## Oakwood Community Center Events

The Leisure Services Department continues to monitor the status of COVID-19 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.

## Oakwood Community Center Upcoming Events/Classes

- **Irish Dancing:** February 22 through March 15.
- **Pre-School Basketball Clinic:** Saturday mornings, February 27 through March 20 for ages 4-5.
- **Family Sundae Bingo:** Sunday, March 7 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Friends of Smith Gardens Perennial Sale:** Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17 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 (937) 298-0775.

## Presidents Day Trash Pickup



Please note that trash pickup for all routes the week of February 15 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.

## 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. “Recyclables” stickers to mark containers are available at City Hall or 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. Remember three things...“KNOW WHAT TO THROW”, “EMPTY, CLEAN AND DRY”, and “DON’T BAG IT.”

- **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, tubs (butter, sour cream, cottage cheese tubs as well as yogurt and fruit cups) & water bottles and shampoo containers. Empty, rinse and crush.

UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC ITEMS: Plastic items without a bottle neck, trays, 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, pizza boxes free of food debris and grease, 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/carton items listed above should be broken down and 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](http://www.mcswd.org) (Montgomery County Solid Waste District) • [www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items](http://www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items) (Rumpke)



## Key File/Knox Box Programs

The Oakwood Public Safety Department offers two programs that provide Oakwood Public Safety Officers with the ability to swiftly gain access to homes, businesses or institutions in the event of a lockout or other emergency, and without the need to damage doors, windows or other parts of a structure.

**Key File:** The department maintains a secure key file in the Public Safety Dispatch office for residential property owners that wish to provide a key in case they are locked out or have other emergencies that require quick entry into the home. Providing a key to the Safety Department is a safer alternative to leaving one hidden outside the property. Additionally, if the Safety Department responds to a serious situation requiring immediate access to a property, having a key on file in Dispatch could prevent the need to damage property to gain entry.

**Knox Box:** As an alternative to the Key File, and for commercial and institutional properties, the department offers a Knox Box program. Property owners purchase and install a Knox Box on the exterior of the structure and place a key to the property inside the box. The Safety Department is able to access the box in case of emergency and quickly retrieve the key to the structure.

For questions about either program, please contact the Public Safety Department at (937) 298-2122.



## 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](http://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

Credit card security continues to be a challenge, particularly with the very heavy use of credit cards for online purchasing. 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 (937) 298-2122 to file the report.

## New Sponsor for the Historical Society

Maintaining a 2 acre, wooded lot is challenging, especially when the trees are 30' tall! The Oakwood Historical Society takes care of the grounds and tree-lined drive at the Long-Romspert Homestead. Some of the trees were dangerously overgrown, threatening to do harm to their garage or any car parking along the wooded driveway. Property Manager, Larry Bilderback and volunteer/neighbor, Brian Sell, were able to trim the lower branches, but they obviously needed a professional for the taller limbs.



MBI, a local tree service in Waynesville, kindly offered to do the work as a new sponsor for the Historical Society. Given the right equipment and the skilled hands of a professional, MBI

was able to remove and dispose of all the overgrown branches, making the grounds of the Long Romspert House Museum, beautiful and safe again. Many thanks to Larry and Brian and especially MBI for their generosity and professional service.

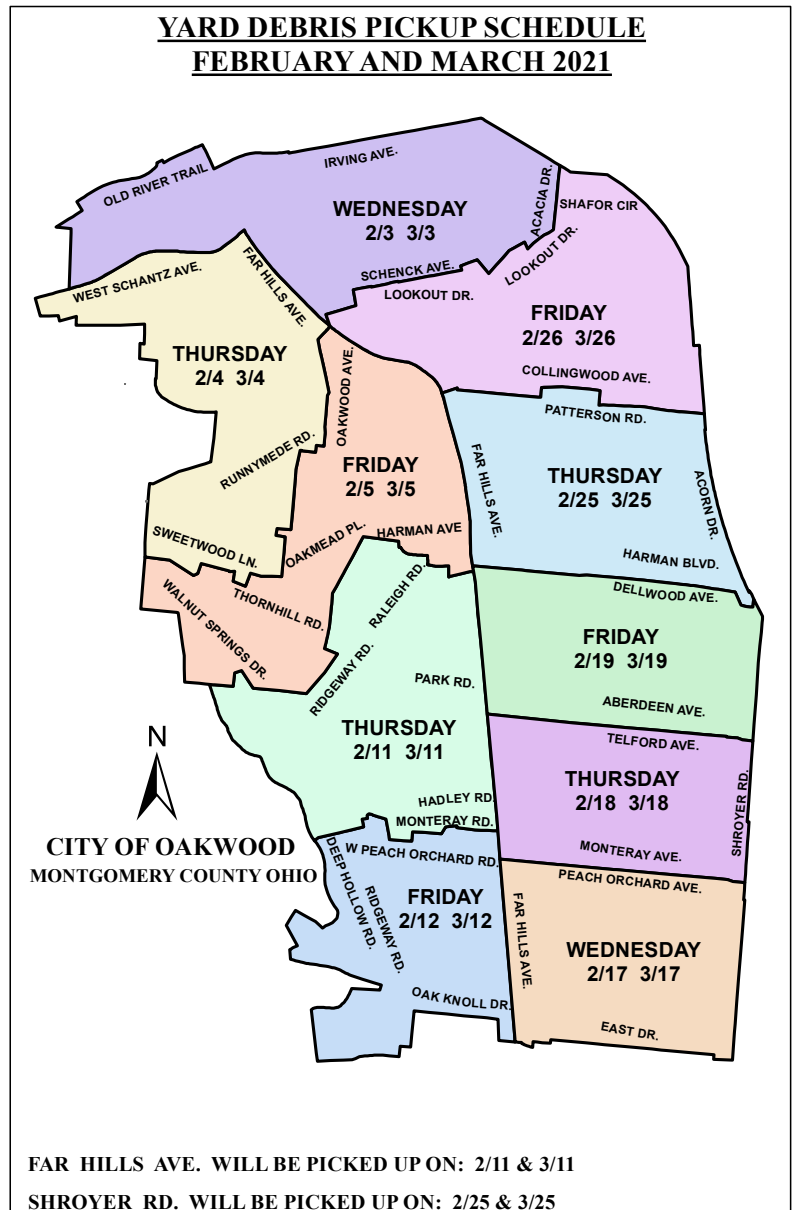


## Residential Fire Inspections



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 (937) 298-2122 and speak with one of our certified Fire Inspectors.



*(Continued from Cover)*

Herman, an Oakwood Dream Builder, passed away Oct. 4, 2020 at the age of 90. After earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from Wittenberg University, and doing graduate work in engineering at The Ohio State University, Herman served as Senior Electronic Engineer in the Support Technology Division, Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.



In her long and illustrious career, she was awarded the Scientific Research Society of America Research Award, the S.D. Heron Award from the Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory, the Patricia Kayes Glass Award for Outstanding Women Scientists and Engineers, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for Scientific Achievement from the Department of the Air Force.

In 2013, Oakwood Schools honored Herman with the Distinguished Alumni Award for outstanding leadership in her field and service to her community. Through the generosity of Herman's estate gift to Oakwood Schools Foundation, her support to the Oakwood Schools and students will live on.

## Memorial Scholarship Seeks Support



For more than 20 years, Randy Neff contributed to the lives of Oakwood Schools' students as a beloved math teacher, coach and athletic director. Now, you can help his legacy continue.

Support the Neff family of Oakwood as they raise funds to endow the Randy Neff Memorial Scholarship in the long-time educator's memory. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the next \$5,000 in gifts will be matched, doubling the impact of every thoughtful contribution.

For more information about Randy's legacy and the effort to support student scholarships in his honor, visit the Randy Neff Memorial Scholarship Go Fund Me page at: <https://gofund.me/7469341d> or contact the Oakwood Schools Foundation at [contact@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org](mailto:contact@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org).

## OSF To Recognize Excellence in Teaching



Nominations are now being accepted for the Oakwood Schools Foundation Parker Love of Teaching and Lifelong Learning Award.

Saying her family benefited in many ways from Oakwood's outstanding school system and wanting to give back to the schools in a special way, former longtime Oakwood teacher Beverly Parker created the award in 2010 in memory of her late husband Robert Parker.

Since 2010, 10 deserving teachers have received the award, consisting of a \$1,200 prize, which is divided between the recipient and the teacher's school, and framed artwork designed by an Oakwood High School 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), Lori Morris (OHS) and Leslie Blythe (OJH/OHS).

Parents, students, community members, alumni, other faculty members and administrators can nominate teachers who meet the award criteria, which includes teaching in Oakwood Schools for at least five years. The award criteria and the nomination form can be found on the OSF website at: <https://www.oakwoodschooldfoundation.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, March 15, 2021. For more information, contact Dante Connell, OSF Director, by email at [contact@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org](mailto:contact@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org) or by phone at 297-5332.



## District Forms Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Task Force

Equity is the foundation framing every aspect of the educational system from curriculum adoption to professional development. With this vision in mind, Oakwood Schools has established an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to lead the District in creating that solid foundation.

The task force is compromised of staff members representing each of the five buildings in the District and a variety of age groups and disciplines. Members are currently developing an action plan, which will be shared with all District employees and the community.

To follow the group's work, visit the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion page on the Oakwood Schools website at <https://www.oakwoodschoools.org/resources/diversity>.

## Show Goes on in Oakwood Schools

Oakwood Schools' staff continues to find creative ways to provide opportunities for students, while following COVID-19 protocol. From holding classes outside to creating virtual presentations, the performing arts staff is living by the saying, the show must go on.

"We have had two concerts so far this year. We streamed our high school program virtually via YouTube in a collaboration with the St. Paul's Episcopal Church," Orchestra teacher Jordan Millard said.

Millard says there have been a number of scheduling challenges but his students are up to it.

"Students only get one dress rehearsal where all the sections get to play together before the performance which is not the easiest thing to accomplish but our students have done a great job with it," Millard said.

In December, the OHS Jazz Ensemble performed, socially distant, in the Pit, recording the show and sharing on YouTube. Band Director Adam Uhlenhake wrote the song, appropriately titled "Quarantine," the group performed.

The various choral groups are also taking their music public, sharing links of their recordings of different songs.

"The High School choirs, Synergy and the Junior High a cappella group, Cantus, have been making recordings. We plan on doing more of that during third quarter," Choir Director Jeremy Storost said.

The theatre department is moving forward with its annual spring musical after successful productions, including the Junior High play in January. The OJH production, "The Crazy Cowgirls of Pemberley Ranch," was live streamed with tickets sold through a third party vendor.

In March, OHS will present "Disney's High School Musical." The show will be recorded in and around OHS and available online March 18-20.

"We are all doing our best to continue sharing through these challenging times," Millard said.

To see the latest productions and learn about future shows, visit the Oakwood Fine Arts Boosters web page at <https://www.oakwoodschoools.org/community/fab>.

## Oakwood Students Place in County-Wide Contest

Six Oakwood students were honored at the virtual Good Life Award Celebration in December after placing in the top 10 in the 15th Annual Dottie Yeck Good Life Award Writing Contest organized by the Washington-Centerville Public Library.



More than 700 students in grades 7 – 9, living or attending school in Montgomery County, participated in the contest. This year's challenge was for students to write about how they have coped with life changes due to the pandemic.

Oakwood High School Freshman Sarah Merithew placed second and received \$500. Freshman Sasha Guseva placed third and received \$250 and Laila Bluber placed fourth and received \$100. All three students are in Emily Sullivan's class at OHS.

Receiving Honorable Mention were freshmen Caroline Woessner, from Kelsey Jackson's class, and Rupert Clark and Abby Poprocki, from Sullivan's class.

To read the honored essays, visit 2020 GLA Winners | Dottie Yeck Good Life Award Writing Contest | Washington-Centerville Public Library ([wclibrary.info](http://wclibrary.info))

## 2020 – 2021 School Year

### FEBRUARY

- 8** Oakwood Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
- 12** No School for student - Staff Professional Development
- 15** No School - President's Day
- 16-19** No School - Winter Break
- 22** Classes Resume

### MARCH

- 8** Oakwood Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
- 29-31** No School - Spring Break (March 29 - April 5)

For the latest list of happenings in the Oakwood Schools go to [www.oakwoodschoools.org](http://www.oakwoodschoools.org) and check out our calendars.

**Stay connected with Oakwood Schools!**

 @OakwoodSchools  @Oakwood\_Schools  @Oakwood\_Schools

*(continued from cover)*

As construction begins, the Wright Library Foundation's capital campaign continues. The campaign reached 70 percent of its \$1.5 million goal by the end of 2020. The philanthropic funding will help bring the library project to its full potential. Gifts of \$5,000 and above will be recognized within the building, and gifts may be pledged over multiple years. There are three easy ways to give: Contact Kristi Hale at 937-250-6824 or via email [hale@wrightlibrary.org](mailto:hale@wrightlibrary.org); by check made payable to The Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation; or online at [wrightlibrary.org/revitalize/capital-campaign](http://wrightlibrary.org/revitalize/capital-campaign).

## Meet Elizabeth Schmidt, Wright Library's New Adult Services Coordinator

After 12 years as a staff librarian, Wright Library's Elizabeth Schmidt will lead the library's adult services department.

She replaces Brian Potts, who was promoted to Operations Coordinator.

Schmidt began her career at Wright Library in September 2008. She has secured several grants for the library, leading its Let's Talk programming in recent years.

Schmidt is excited to host an Oakwood-wide community read in April to discuss the book *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas Tallamy with an accompanying presentation by the author.

"It's a hopeful guide for humans who want to join a grass-roots effort to change our planet one small plot of land at a time," she said.

*Nature's Best Hope* is available as an ebook or eaudio book from Hoopla as well as in print.



## Library Earns Five-Star Rating

Wright Memorial Public Library moved up in the annual Library Journal Star Library ratings, earning a prestigious 5-Star rating.

The library is among the top 10 libraries in per capita usage in the nation in the 2020 Library Journal Star Libraries Report.

The Library Journal index, based on 2018 statistics, measures how much the local community uses key services of their public library compared to peer libraries. Wright Library received a 3-Star rating in 2017, and a 4-Star rating in 2018 and 2019.

"We are ecstatic to have received the 5-Star designation," said Library Director Kristi Hale. "It affirms just how deeply the community values and uses our services and collections."

The five-star rating is the library's first since Library Journal began the rating system thirteen years ago.

Wright Library ranked 10th overall of libraries evaluated in its expenditure category (\$1 million – \$4.9 million).

The rating is based on physical item circulation, e-material circulation, library visits, program attendance, public computer usage, Wi-Fi sessions and electronic retrievals from library databases such as Consumer Reports, Ancestry, and others.

# Nature's Best Hope

*Presented by Wright Library*

## Nature's Best Hope

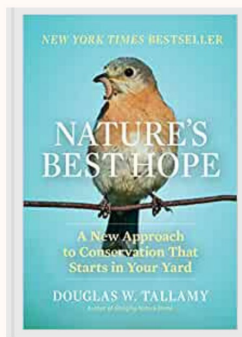
**Community Read + Virtual**

**Author Visit**

**by Douglas W. Tallamy**

**Related Programming**

**throughout March & April**



## Register Now for Winter Events

Virtual events abound. Visit [wrightlibrary.org/calendar](http://wrightlibrary.org/calendar) for registration and details:

### For Adults

- Adults Read YA
- Antiracism 101 Series
- Book Club
- Far Hills Speaker Series
- Financial Workshops
- Genealogy Interest Group
- Write@Wright Writing Workshops
- Wright Library Poets

### For Children

- Art Appreciation
- Baby Storytime
- Books and Blocks
- Crafty Kids
- Game Time
- Kids Writing Club
- Scholastic Storytime
- Terrific Tales

### For Teens and Tweens

- Fourth Friday Teen Trivia
- Teen Advisory Board
- Teens Building Solidarity For Change
- Tween Hangout



**15 MILLION+ SONGS**  
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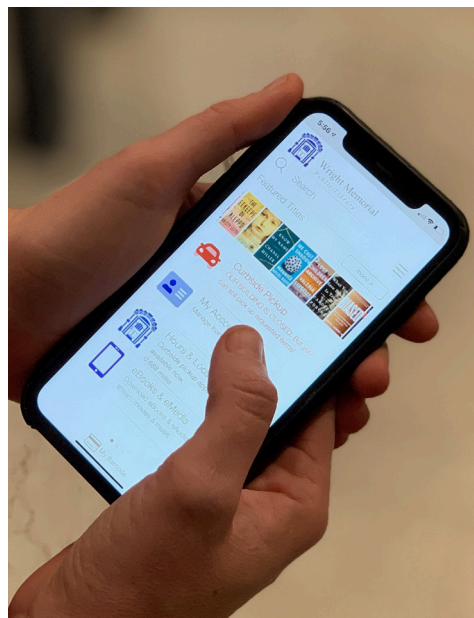
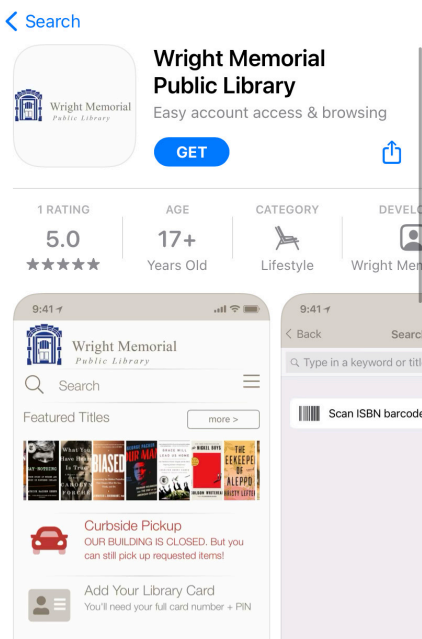


## Freegal: Stream and Download Music With New Service

Introducing Freegal! Wright Library now offers access to 15 million+ songs, including Sony Music’s catalog of legendary artists through Freegal® Music, a free music service comprising music from over 40,000+ labels with music that originates in over 100 countries. There is no software to download, and there are no digital rights restrictions. All you need is your library card number and pin—usually the last four digits of your phone number.

## Want to Use the Library More Easily? Try the Mobile App!

The Wright Library mobile app, available for both Apple and Android devices, is better than ever. Search the catalog and request items, store your virtual library card, manage multiple accounts, browse featured titles, access remote printing and other online library resources easily, and more. Learn more at [wrightlibrary.org/apps](http://wrightlibrary.org/apps).



## Staying Home for Winter & Spring Break? Explore With the Library!

More than 200 children and teens played and learned with the library at special programs during December’s school break! Join in the fun at the library’s Winter and Spring Break programming found here: [wrightlibrary.org/fieldtrips](http://wrightlibrary.org/fieldtrips)



## City of Oakwood

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## Impacting Our Community - Mary Barnett



As a nurse working in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit of a local hospital, Mary Barnett thought she had seen it all. Until March 2020, when everything changed.

“This last year has definitely been a one of a kind year with a lot of uncertainty and questions.”

As the Licensed District School Nurse for Oakwood Schools since March 2014, Barnett has

guided the District through that “uncertainty” and done her best to answer questions from parents, students and staff.

“I am really proud of how our staff, students and community rallied around each other and worked together to keep our students in school and as safe as possible.”

That work has meant many extra hours for Barnett, who along with husband Rick, has four children. One has followed in Barnett’s

footsteps and is working as a nurse, two are in college and one is a freshman in high school. While Barnett and her family don’t live in Oakwood, she says the community has come to feel like home. “Having this job has allowed me to see and experience the tradition of Oakwood. I love the community and atmosphere in the community.”

Throughout her time in the District, Barnett has worked in all five school buildings, providing health education and information to students and parents. Looking to the future of the District, she sees Oakwood “continuing to be successful and providing more and more educational, cultural and performing arts opportunities for students.”

As for dealing with the pandemic and keeping her students and staff safe, she believes there’s good news there too.

“With the vaccine being released I see light at the end of the tunnel, and I really think this has brought the staff, students, school and community closer and made us appreciate what we have in our school system even more.”