



JUNE / JULY 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 | Property Maintenance and Beautification

The city of Oakwood places significant emphasis on the maintenance and beautification of property. An Oakwood Citizens Housing Committee was originally established in 1968, and in 1992, renamed as the Property Maintenance Board. The 15-member Oakwood Property Maintenance Board (“PMB”) consists of three citizens from each of five property maintenance districts. The citizens serve in a volunteer capacity and are appointed by city council to five-year terms. The PMB is involved in enforcing the Property Maintenance Code and in implementing the Beautification Awards Program.



## SCHOOL NEWS | OHS Students Awarded Prizes in Competition

Congratulations to the 31 OHS students who were announced as winners in the 12th annual Harlamert Foundation Entrepreneurship Competition. Prizes totaling \$6,000 were awarded to these students, including a special trophy for their efforts. *(continued on page 8)*



## LIBRARY NEWS | The Next Chapter Construction Update with Library Director Kristi Hale

Wright Library Director Kristi Hale shares an update on the library’s construction project.

### 1. How is the library construction project going?

We are making very good progress on Phase I of the construction project, which includes the entire lower level and site work on the east side of the building near the park. We’re really looking forward to seeing people use the space: the new children’s area with adjoining outdoor space, dedicated computers for kids and teens, a study and hangout space for older kids. It’s going to be a great community learning space. *(continued on page 10)*

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## Property Maintenance Program

Each spring, City staff completes an inspection of the entire city via automobile to identify property maintenance violations. During the spring of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, only significant property maintenance violations were addressed through normal code enforcement procedures. Last month, city staff performed a community-wide property maintenance inspection. Compliance notices are being sent to property owners where violations were identified, and staff will follow an established protocol to ensure that corrective actions are taken. Property maintenance violations continue to be identified throughout the year, usually by the City Code Enforcement Officer, but also by PMB members, through citizen complaints, or by Oakwood Public Safety Officers. These additional violations are handled in the same manner as those identified through the annual inspection, as city staff pursues compliance with the code in an effort to maintain property values.

## Beautification Awards Program



The City operates a property beautification awards program. The purpose of the program is: 1) to encourage property owners to invest in projects that enhance the physical appearance of their property and neighborhood; and 2) to recognize property owners that have completed significant projects. Ten awards are presented to single family residences each month during May, June, July and August, two in each of the five property maintenance districts. One additional award is presented in each of those four months to a business property or to an apartment/condominium property. Monthly nominations are submitted to the City by members of the Property Maintenance Board and by the general public. Award winners are notified with a letter from the City and a sign is placed in their yard. The sign remains in place for one month, and is then moved to the yard of a following month's winner. A photograph is taken of each property and a video prepared, which is presented at a public council meeting in July (May and June winners) or September (July and August winners). Each winner is invited to attend the council meeting to receive a recognition certificate. Award winners are also recognized in the *Oakwood Scene* newsletter, on the City website, and in the *Oakwood Register*.

See the City website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov) or call (937) 298-0411 for more information.

## Independence Day Holiday Closing & Refuse Collection



City offices, including the OCC and Public Works Center, will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. Please note that trash pickup for all routes the week of July 5 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.

## June/July Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 7 and Monday, July 19. 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). 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 afterwards. 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.

## Serving on an Oakwood Board or Committee

Boards and committees are a great way for our residents to get involved and serve the Oakwood community. We currently have the following council-appointed committees with approximately 120 Oakwood residents serving as members:

Board of Health	Budget Review Committee
Planning Commission	Board of Zoning Appeals
Beautification Committee	Property Maintenance Board
Personnel Appeals Board	Tax/Water & Sewer/Assembly Appeals Board
ADA Compliance Committee	

If you're interested in serving our community, visit the City website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov) for a description of each committee, and to complete and submit a "Citizen Committee Application."

## City Drop Box Locations

The city of Oakwood has two secure drop boxes available for residents to submit payments, forms, employment applications, and other documents to the City.

There is a drop box located in the entrance foyer just inside the city building at 30 Park Avenue. This drop box is open 24 hours a day, and drops directly into a secured container in the city administration offices.

There is also a secure drive-up drop box located in the alley across from the city building, between 23 and 31 Park Avenue.

## Oakwood Community Center (OCC) 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 website for updates. We appreciate your understanding.

## Upcoming Leisure Services Department Events/Classes

**Preschool Story Hour at Smith Gardens:** the OCC, in conjunction with Wright Memorial Public Library, is pleased to present a virtual season of “Preschool Story Hour at Smith Gardens”. The Preschool Story Hour readings will be posted on the City Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cityofoakwoodohio](https://www.facebook.com/cityofoakwoodohio) on the following Fridays: June 25, July 30 and August 27 at 10:30 a.m.

**Southern Ohio Flying K9s Dog Show Performance:** Bring the whole family down to Old River Sports Complex to enjoy this show from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 10.

**Annual Ice Cream Social:** This tradition is held before school resumes in the fall and is scheduled for Sunday, August 8 at Shafor Park. Tickets will be available beginning Monday, July 5.

A complete listing of upcoming events, such as an “Ultimate Frisbee Camp”, “Kids Trivia (ages 7-12)” and “Tennis Lessons – Youth Beginner” is available on our online registration website at [OakwoodLeisureServices.com](https://OakwoodLeisureServices.com).

These events may be cancelled or rescheduled as a result of COVID-19. Call the Oakwood Community Center at (937) 298-0775 for more information on these and other events.

## Bike Registration

Each year, a large number of bicycles are stolen in Oakwood. Many of these bicycles are found, but cannot be returned because the owners are unknown or the bike has not been reported as being stolen. The Oakwood Safety Department has a bicycle registration program designed to assist in recovering stolen bikes, and to help return stolen or lost bicycles to their rightful owners. There is no cost to register a bicycle. Please call the Oakwood Public Safety Department at (937) 298-2122 to complete the registration.



## Picking up after your Pets

Dogipot stations are available throughout the City to help pet owners with an easy and safe clean-up (see City website for map with locations). There are few things that aggravate neighbors more than a pet owner who does not clean up after their pet. Besides being an unsightly mess, a number of common diseases can be transmitted to pets and people through animal feces. Failing to clean up after your pet is fineable under the Oakwood General Offenses Code. Please be a responsible pet owner and help keep our Oakwood community clean.

## Leash Law

Dogs are required to be securely leashed and under the reasonable control of the owner, keeper or agent thereof whenever they are on public sidewalks, streets or any other public rights-of-way. This applies to all dogs in Oakwood, but there are certain exceptions for service animals and for dogs using the Creager Field Dog Park. Oakwood is densely populated and we have a very large number of dogs... around 1,000 registered in Oakwood, where we have around 3,800 homes. The leash law is designed to mitigate the unpredictability of dogs and to protect both citizens and other animals from unexpected and unwanted encounters. Even the most well-trained dogs, under the right set of circumstances, can be unpredictable. Citizens should be able to move about the public sidewalks and rights-of-way freely and without concern or fear from unleashed dogs.

## Trimming along Sidewalks

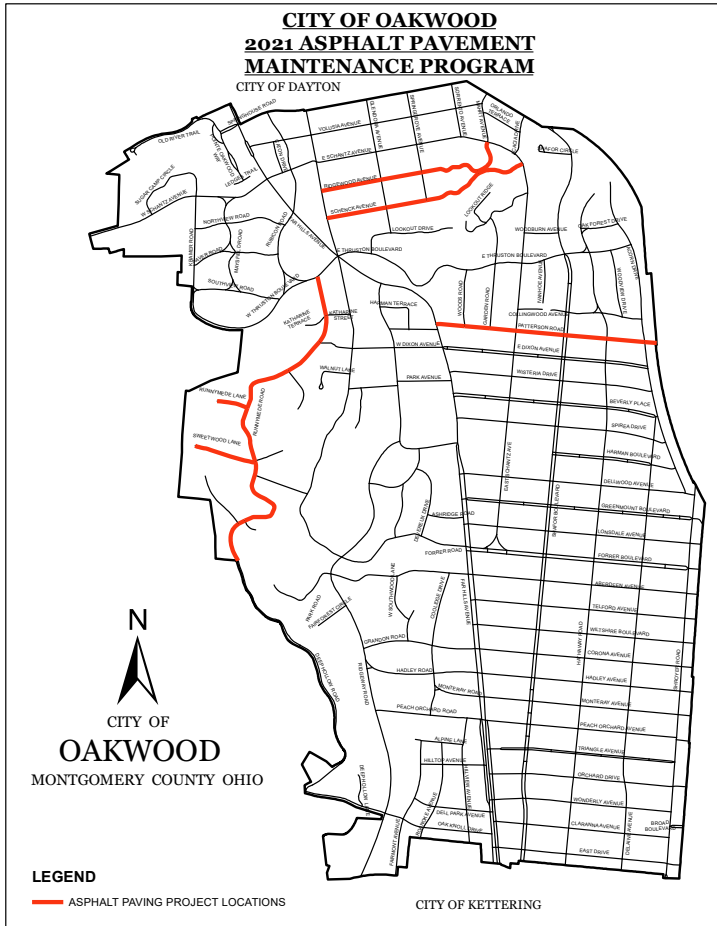
Oakwood is a walkable community! Please do your part, and keep all trees, bushes and other vegetation trimmed away from public sidewalks. City regulations require that no branches, bushes or other vegetation encroach across any sidewalk, and that a clear path is maintained up to eight feet above the sidewalk. Please contact Code Enforcement Officer Ethan Kroger via email at [kroger@oakwood.oh.us](mailto:kroger@oakwood.oh.us) or by calling (937) 297-2920 with any questions.



## Asphalt Roadway Repaving

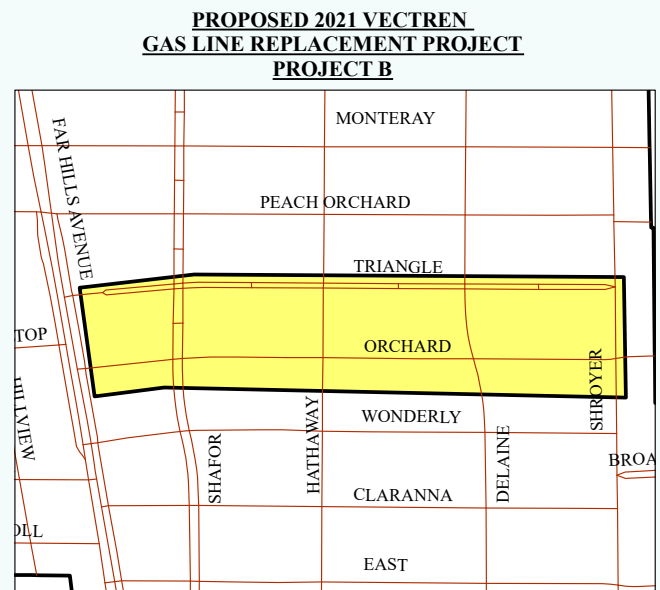
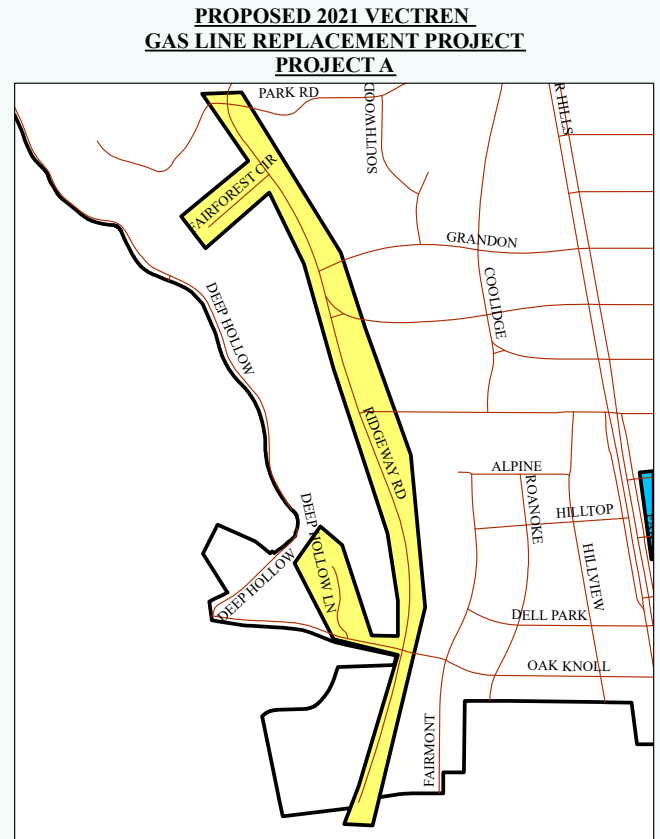
A city contractor will repave the asphalt streets below this summer. Call Foreman/Engineering Technician Tom Long at (937) 298-0777 if you have any questions. Property owners on these streets will receive individual notification of the construction schedule.

- Patterson Road
- Schenck Avenue
- Runnymede Lane
- Ridgewood Avenue
- Runnymede Road
- Sweetwood Lane



## 2021 Vectren Gas Line Replacement Project

Vectren is replacing underground gas distribution pipes and home service lines in the Oakwood neighborhoods identified in yellow on the maps below. In all work areas, Vectren is installing new polyethylene pipes in place of old steel and cast iron pipes and is moving indoor gas meters to outside wall locations. This is the continuation of a multi-year Vectren infrastructure replacement project in Oakwood. Oakwood residents personally affected by the work will receive detailed information from Vectren. Please feel free to contact Public Works Inspector/Foreman Tom Long at (937) 298-0777 with questions about the work, or reference the Vectren pipeline projects map at [www.vectren.com/gas-system/map](http://www.vectren.com/gas-system/map).



## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The city of Oakwood has prepared the 2020 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for the City's public water system. This was done in accordance with federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The report can be viewed on the City website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov/ccr.pdf](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov/ccr.pdf). The report includes detailed information about the operation of our City water system during the 2020 calendar year. The report shows that the City operates the public water system in compliance with all state and federal rules. A paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report is available on request by calling the Public Works Center at (937) 298-0777.

# Yard Debris Disposal

As you work on your yard, please remember that there are two options for disposing of yard waste:

## Do It Yourself:

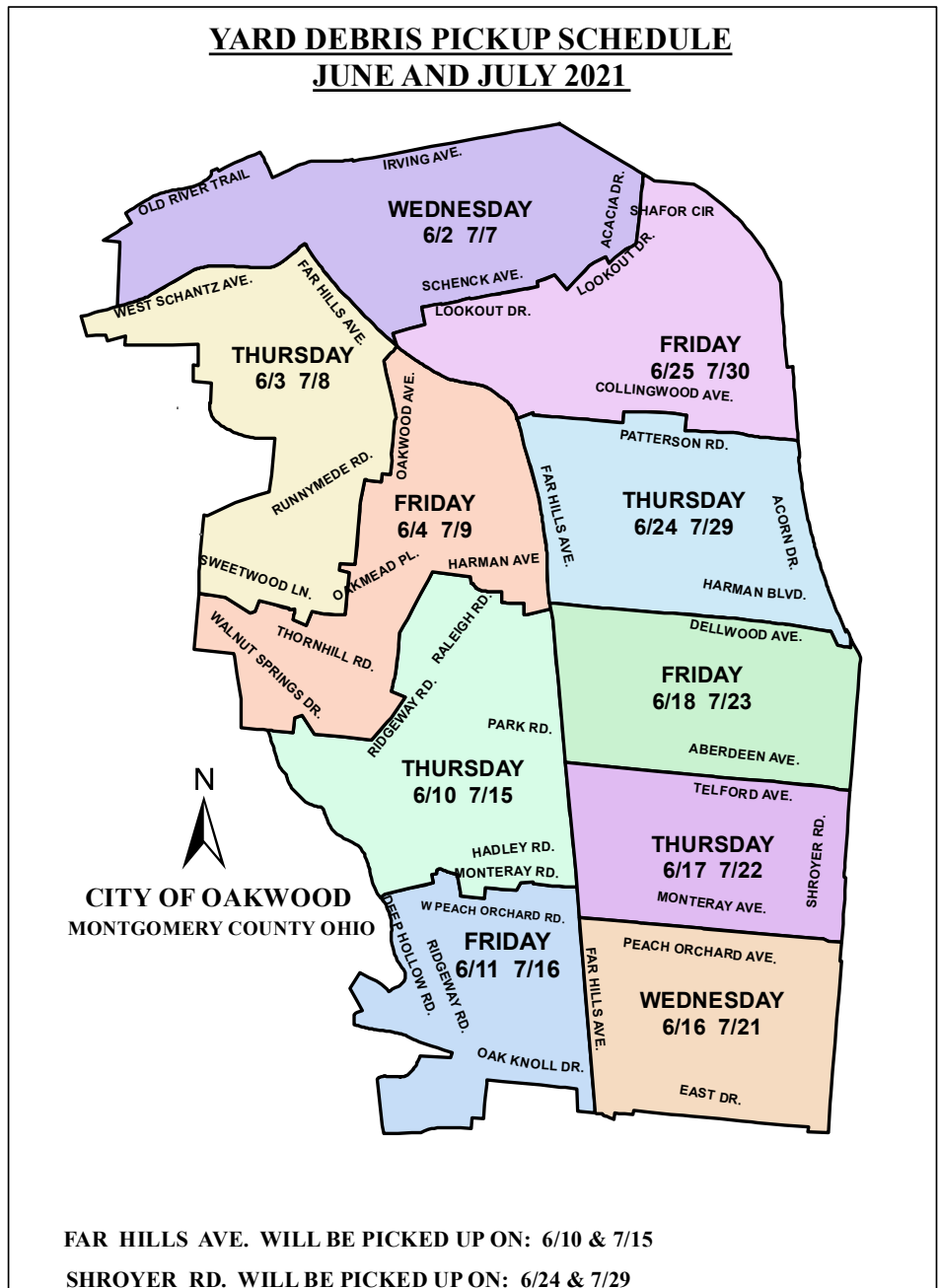
- DIY disposal may be done in three different ways:
  - 1) Drop it off at the Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Blvd, on the first Saturday of the month between 8 a.m. and 12 noon; or
  - 2) Drop it in the yard debris dumpsters at the Creager Field parking lot (corner of Shafor and Irving). The dumpsters are available 24-7; or
  - 3) Call (937) 298-0777 to schedule a dumpster delivery to your property, and load it up. This is free of charge if the dumpster is used exclusively for yard debris (green waste).

## Monthly Collection by the City:

- Place piles of yard debris (brush and branches) into the tree lawn area just behind the curb, ideally just a day or two before your scheduled pickup (see map herein). Branches should be no longer than 6 feet and all material should be placed in manageable piles for easy pick up. Do not place piles around trees, fire hydrants, cable TV boxes, posts/poles, or in the street or gutter. Please make sure vehicles do not block the piles on the day of collection.

## Additional Refuse Program Reminders:

- Under no circumstance should you place anything in the street gutter (except leaves in the fall) or anything except yard debris in the tree lawn area.
- Small amounts of leaves, small twigs, dead flowers and other such incidental green waste items may be placed in with your regular trash.
- Do not stack loose yard debris around or on tops of trash cans. All debris must be placed in cans with removable, tight-fitting lids.
- Please learn what is recyclable and what is not. See: [www.oakwoodohio.gov/trash-recycling](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov/trash-recycling)
- Remember the 35-gallon size limit and 60-pound weight limit on cans, and that cans must have lifting handles and removable lids. No toter-style containers except those city-provided for some alley properties.
- Please recycle as much as you can... it saves us money.
- Remember the three (3) can limit for regular trash (or one roll waste container for alley properties). There is no limit on the number of recycling cans.
- Grass clippings are not accepted, either with regular trash, with curbside collected yard debris, or in dumpsters.
- Contractor generated material is not accepted.





## Fireworks and Fourth of July Safety Tips

The Fourth of July is a great time to celebrate and spend the day with your family and friends. Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Unfortunately, many people ignore the inherent dangers associated with fireworks and expose themselves to the risk of burns and other bodily injury. It is estimated that around 9,000 people each year receive emergency medical treatment due to fireworks related injuries with 40% of the injured being less than 15 years of age.

It is important to know that most fireworks are illegal in the State of Ohio. The only types of fireworks that can be legally purchased and discharged in Ohio are trick and novelty devices. These include items that smoke, sparkle, snap, and snake. Other fireworks such as bottle rockets, firecrackers, and roman candles may be legally sold at fireworks stores around Ohio, but the purchaser must sign an affidavit indicating that they will transport the fireworks out of Ohio within 48 hours. Furthermore, Oakwood Codified Ordinance 549.08 prohibits anyone from discharging, igniting, or exploding any fireworks within the City. Anyone found in violation of this section is guilty of a Misdemeanor of the third degree.

Here are a few reminders and safety tips concerning fireworks:

### Fireworks Safety

- Children should never be left alone when discharging fireworks. Handle and discharge trick and novelty devices only under adult supervision.
- Appoint one adult to be in charge. This person should know the hazards of each type of firework being used.
- Carefully read and follow the instructions and warning labels on the package.
- Light only one sparkler at a time. Many dismiss the fact that sparklers can be dangerous and should be handled only by children over the age of twelve. Sparklers can burn up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and can easily ignite clothing and hair. Sparklers are the most common cause of fireworks-related injuries in children under five.
- Never use malfunctioning fireworks. Do not attempt to re-light, alter or fix a “dud” firework.
- Always keep a bucket of water and garden hose nearby in case of fire.
- Have a cell phone handy in case you need to make an emergency call for assistance.
- Lastly, please do not consume alcohol while lighting any fireworks. Fireworks must only be used by individuals who are not under the influence.

If you are planning a fireworks celebration, leave it to the professionals. Attend one of the professionally licensed fireworks exhibitions. The Oakwood Public Safety Department wishes everyone a safe Fourth of July celebration.

## Barbeque Safety Tips

Summer barbeques and cookouts with family and friends are fun, but far too often we forget that grilling can be dangerous. Recent studies conducted by the National Fire Protection Association show that outdoor cooking is the cause for approximately 10,200 residential structure fires annually, sends over 19,000 people to the emergency room to be treated for grilling related injuries and causes \$123 million dollars in direct property damage with July being the peak month for grill fires. For these reasons, the Oakwood Public Safety Department reminds every one of the “Do’s and Don’ts” of outdoor cooking.

### Do:

- Store your grill at least fifteen feet away from your house on a level surface. Grills should not be used underneath overhangs either, as the fire could flare-up into the structure above. Leave sufficient space from siding and eaves.
- Clean your grill regularly. If you allow grease and fat to build up on your grill, this provides more fuel for a fire. Grease is the primary cause for flare-ups.
- Check your gas grill for leaks. Frequently check the connections on your gas grill between the propane tank and the grill.
- Check to ensure your gas grill ignitor is functioning correctly. If your grill does not immediately ignite, turn the grill off for several minutes with the lid open before trying to ignite again.
- Keep decorations away from your grill, such as hanging flower baskets or pillows from outdoor patio furniture.
- Keep a water spray bottle handy so you can immediately control minor flare-ups.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill.

### Don’t:

- Don’t turn on the gas to your grill while the lid is closed as it can cause a fireball to explode upon opening the lid.
- Don’t leave your grill unattended. Plan ahead so you are able to continuously monitor the grill while cooking.
- Don’t overload your grill with food. Overloading the grill with fatty meats can potentially cause large flare-ups creating hazardous conditions.
- Don’t use a grill indoors, this includes an enclosed porch. Charcoal grills produce carbon monoxide (CO), which can be fatal in unventilated areas.
- Don’t immediately cover your grill when done cooking. Remember the grill will remain hot for a period of time after cooking. Only cover the grill after it has cooled.
- Don’t leave your propane tank valve open. Always check to ensure the valves are firmly turned off.
- Don’t store spare propane tanks near the grill.

Practice sensible, safe barbecuing for an enjoyable summer grilling season.





## Hazardous Waste Disposal

It is very important that no hazardous materials are co-mingled with the regular weekly refuse. This includes paints, herbicides, pesticides, oils, antifreeze, and other such materials. There are two ways for residents to properly dispose of household hazardous material:

- Residents may drop off the material at the Montgomery County Moraine Transfer Facility, 1001 Encrete Lane, Moraine and drop them off free of charge. The drop off center is open from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. See [www.mcswd.org](http://www.mcswd.org) for additional information.
- Alternatively, residents may use the quarterly Oakwood Rotary Club Hazardous Waste Collection program. The remaining 2021 collection dates are Saturday, July 24 and Saturday, October 23. Call (937) 296-5155 to sign up for the service. This service is provided free of charge, but the Oakwood Rotary Club accepts donations. Donations to the "Oakwood Rotary Club Foundation" can be placed in an envelope and left with the items being disposed, or may be mailed to: Oakwood Rotary Club Foundation, PO Box 512, Dayton, OH 45409. All donations support charitable projects and community events led by your Oakwood Rotary!

## Backflow Device Certification

The State of Ohio Plumbing Code and Ohio EPA Regulations require that a backflow prevention device be installed on water piping to any equipment (e.g., irrigation systems, boilers, etc.) that is capable of contaminating or polluting the water distribution system. A backflow prevention device allows water to flow in only one direction, thus eliminating the possibility that contaminants could enter the City's water system under a backflow condition. Under Chapter 919 of the Oakwood Codified Ordinances, backflow prevention devices must be tested upon initial installation, and must be re-certified annually by a State of Ohio Certified Backflow Tester. The re-certification confirms that the device is functioning properly, and is providing the necessary protection to the City's water distribution system. Property owners with backflow devices have been notified of the requirement to have the annual recertification completed. Please call Theresa Rushlow at (937) 298-0400 with questions.



## Stormwater Program

The city of Oakwood manages stormwater run-off in accordance with rules and regulations established by the EPA. The Oakwood stormwater permit requires: 1) dry weather screening of sewer outfalls to verify absence of illicit sewer connections; 2) educating residents on stormwater matters; 3) sediment and erosion controls on construction sites larger than 1 acre; 4) regular street sweeping; and 5) staff education on stormwater impacts. The overall goal of the stormwater program is to improve the quality of the water in our rivers, lakes and streams by limiting pollutant release into receiving waters.

**There are several ways that citizens can aid this effort:**

1. do not place any material in the street except leaves during the 10-week collection period in the fall;
2. do not dump oil, lawn debris, or other materials into the storm sewer – this is a direct path to streams and rivers and there is no treatment of this water;
3. limit as much as possible the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides; and
4. clean up after your pets as the bacteria in animal waste is very harmful to the streams.

Additional information is available on the Miami Conservancy District (MCD) website at <https://www.mcdwater.org/water-stewardship/state-of-the-water/>.

## Trash Cans

Please remember that our city public works employees empty your trash containers each week. Given our unique back door service, in large part this is a manual process. For the safety of our employees, please ensure that all trash is bagged, particularly food waste. Except for city-provided toters in the alleys, please do NOT use a toter-style container for trash or recycling. All trash cans, except city-provided toters in alleys, must have fully removable lids.



*Continued from cover*

The annual contest, administered by The Oakwood Schools Foundation, thanks to generous financial support from program sponsor Irvin Harlamert (OHS '48), emphasizes the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit on the success of our society and encourages students to explore and understand the value of owning their own business or non-profit enterprise.

Participants in the 2021 competition were asked to shadow an entrepreneur virtually or in-person and submit a written summary that included a personal reflection. A record number of students entered the competition this year.

Winner of the "Inspired" award and \$200 each were: Grace Bauer (10), Cecilia Dalrymple (11), Carolyn Hardin (11), Finn Lynch (11), John Ruetschle (11), Luke Ruetschle (9), Jake Schairbaum (11), Jude Schauer (10) and Sylvia Vanderburgh (11).

Winners of the "Innovator" award and \$175 each were Emma Almoney (10), Rebecca Blumer (11), Sophia Bongiovi (9), Austin Choi (10), Sarah Connell (9), Katie Griffith (12), Jack Huff (9), Natalee John (12), Maeve Lynch (9), Neave Lynch (9), Quinn MacDonald (11), Andrew Munro (12), Henry Salisbury (11), Caleb Woessner (11), Caroline Woessner (9) and Eugene Young (11).

The "Creators" each received \$150 and included: Kelly Flannery (9), Dan Flannery (12), Sara Joly (12), Garrett Meador (9), Ryann Mescher (12) and David Salisbury (9).

To learn more about the students and the businesses that participated in this year's competition, access the highlight video on the OSF website: <https://www.oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf/harlamert-entrepreneurship>



Natalee John and Big Sky Bread Company

## Oakwood Schools Foundation Welcomes Two New Board Members

The Oakwood Schools Foundation welcomes two new members to its Board of Trustees. Amy (Borgert) Martin OHS '98 and John Hadley, have each been elected to serve a three-year term from 2021 – 2024.



Amy (Borgert) Martin  
OSF Board Member



John Hadley  
OSF Board Member

## Oakwood Schools Foundation 2020 Annual Report to the Community

The spirit of giving is alive in Oakwood! OSF provides unique, dynamic and innovative opportunities in the Oakwood Schools – keeping the curriculum current with the latest educational trends. OSF invites you to check out the 2020 annual report to see how the Oakwood Schools Foundation partners with educators and students on their educational journey. Visit: [www.oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf/](http://www.oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf/)

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

The spirit of giving is alive in Oakwood! We are grateful to you, our donors, alumni, community members, parents and friends for supporting the mission of The Oakwood Schools Foundation and investing in our students. Your generosity enables OSF to further its mission, Enhancing Excellence in Education. Below is a list of the many creative and exciting things we have been able to do because of your generosity:

<b>\$965,000+</b>	total grant money delivered since 1991
<b>\$65,040</b>	grant funding awarded to teachers and administrators in 2020
<b>\$20,704</b>	scholarships awarded to 20 deserving graduates from the Class of 2020
<b>\$5,030</b>	total prize money awarded to 21 participants in the 11th annual Hillman Foundation Entrepreneurship Competition
<b>\$3,500</b>	awarded to five local charities through OSF students in the sixth year of the Philosophy 101 initiative
<b>\$1,200</b>	awarded to Oakwood Junior High and to Family and Consumer Science teacher Linda Rippe, the 10th recipient of the Parker Lane of Teaching and Lifelong Learning Award

Please enjoy reading through our summary of activities for 2020. As you think about your plans for charitable giving, consider The Oakwood Schools Foundation and the dividends made possible by investing in our learning community. Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a difference in the lives of Oakwood students and teachers. Thank you for expecting the best of our schools and for your continued support.

Chris Conrad, 088 '76  
Chair, The Oakwood Schools Foundation

Dr. Kyle Rappley  
Superintendent, Oakwood City School District

[www.oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf](http://www.oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf)



The Oakwood Schools  
**FOUNDATION**  
Enhancing Excellence in Education

Pursuing its mission, "Enhancing Excellence in Education," the Oakwood Schools Foundation provides significant annual support for quality initiatives, including teacher and administrative grants, scholarships and special wish list items. **For more information about the Oakwood Schools Foundation visit our website at: [oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf/](http://oakwoodschoos.org/community/osf/)**



## Distinguished Alumni Nomination Deadline is Approaching - Nominate Someone Today!

Every two years, the Oakwood Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates alumni who 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 the individual must have graduated more than 15 years ago. This year OAA is accepting nominees from classes 2006 and before. While the award has frequently recognized individuals approaching or at the end of their careers, OAA hopes to recognize alumni who are achieving greatness at every stage of their career and lives.

The 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards will be held at the NCR Country Club on the Thursday of Homecoming Weekend - Sept. 30. The event

is a fun evening with heavy hors d'oeuvres served before the awards ceremony. Friends and family of the recipients share stories and recognize the accomplishments and contributions of these accomplished individuals. Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are honored with a plaque hanging outside of the OHS auditorium, as well as one for themselves. They are also recognized at the Homecoming football game the following evening. Please consider nominating an OHS alum! Nominations are due June 1.

For more information about the award, please contact Amanda Venable at alumni@oakwoodschoools.org or 937-371-1062.



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 Amanda Venable at (937) 297-5332 or alumni@oakwoodschoools.org.

## OHS Students Recognized in State Art Competition

The artwork of many of Ohio's talented high school students, including Oakwood High School freshman Sasha Guseva, is now on display online in the 2021 Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition.

Now in its 51st year, the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition is dedicated to the educational and artistic advancement of talented young people in the state of Ohio. Organized by the

Ohio Department of Education, the annual competition is open to all of Ohio's 1,112 high schools, both public and private.

This year's competition began at the regional level with the first-ever virtual judging March 6 of more than 6000 entries from nearly 2500 students. Judges from the 15 regions around the state then selected pieces to move on to state judging. Three OHS students, Ian

Dinwiddie, Caroline Hamblin and Guseva had pieces advance to the state-level judging on March 13.

State judges then selected 342 pieces for the online state exhibition. Two of Guseva's pieces, "Liberty and Justine for All?" and "Nostalgia" were chosen as state winners.

To see all of the state-winning pieces, visit govart.org.



## 2020 – 2021 School Year

### JUNE

14

Oakwood Board of Education  
Regular Meeting 7 p.m.

### JULY

12

Oakwood Board of Education  
Regular Meeting 7 p.m.

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*

**2. When can we expect the lower level to reopen?**

Currently, we are on schedule to reopen the lower level in July.

**3. What should patrons know about using the library during the construction project?**

We're open! Patrons can browse for books, use the copier and computers, and soon, start attending some outdoor programs in-person. We're asking patrons to be mindful of how long they are in the library as both construction and social distancing recommendations continue to limit available space.

**4. You've talked about improving access to the library building with this project. How is that going?**

Improving accessibility is a major priority for this project. We spent time early in the project gathering input from people who were negatively impacted by the library's physical layout, and we incorporated much of their feedback into this plan.

When the project is finished, we will have more ADA-accessible parking spaces; an ADA-accessible restroom on the main floor as well as a family restroom on the park level; a new parkside entrance with an after-hours pickup locker; improved walkways to both entrances; wider aisles and more seating within the book stacks; and assisted-listening technology built into the large community room.

## Five Accessibility Improvements

Making Wright Library accessible to the entire community is a critical element of the Next Chapter construction project.

Here are five ways the library is improving its accessibility.

1. **Additional ADA - accessible parking spaces and new and improved walkways** for library visitors using a wheelchair or with limited mobility, these parking spaces will improve their ability to use the library. A new walkway will connect from the ADA-parking to the new parkside entrance of the building.
2. **Reopened parkside entrance with after-hours holds pickup** - an after-hours material pickup area at the new parkside entrance will be added for patrons who need to pick up holds outside of normal library hours or are unable to enter the building for health or other reasons.
3. **Improved restrooms** - new restrooms will include an enlarged, ADA-accessible restroom on the main floor and a family restroom with a special needs capacity changing station.
4. **Wider aisles and more seating** - throughout the building, we are widening aisles and adding new seating options that will make it easier to browse, relax, and work at the library.
5. **Curbside delivery** - implemented during Covid, our curbside delivery, as well as home delivery, will continue to help patrons who cannot or choose not to enter the building.

## A Look Inside the Lower Level Construction

Our elementary-aged library ambassadors toured the library's construction in early May.



*Library Ambassador Evey has her first glimpse at changes to the library's lower level. To her left, what was the Community Room will now be the Children's Room. Ahead, doorways open to a new youth computer lab, teen books, and study booths.*



*Library Director Kristi Hale shows where windows and french doors will be added to provide natural light and a view to Katharine Wright Park from the new Children's Room.*



*Evey's siblings enjoy feeling a sample of the turf that will be used in the new outdoor learning area of the Children's Room.*

## Use the Wright Library App for Info on the Go

Summer Reading Club registration and details aren't the only things you'll be able to access with the Wright Library App. Scan an ISBN barcode anywhere you are to see if the library owns the title; request books; toggle between users in your household to check account statuses; access Consumer Reports, NYT, WSJ and more. Visit [wrightlibrary.org/apps](http://wrightlibrary.org/apps) or scan the QR code on your phone's camera to download the Wright Library App.



# Summer Reading Club Tales & Trails

## June 1 – July 31

### Registration Details

Find complete details and register online at [wrightlibrary.org/src](http://wrightlibrary.org/src) or on the Wright Library App, now through July 31.

#### TEENS, ELEMENTARY, AND EARLY LEARNERS

Pick up or download the Tales and Trails BINGO game card that's right for you. Link 3 squares and come to the library to collect your first prize! Select up to 10 new books of your very own for each B-I-N-G-O you complete. Read and play through July 31.

#### ADULTS - Tales and Trails Summer Reading Club is a Two-Part Challenge

##### First, reading BINGO is back.

The 2021 BINGO card is designed to help you blaze new trails out of a reading rut.

##### Second, hit the trails.

**Local Literary Trail:** Dive into your local history and learn more about the authors that called the Miami Valley home.

**Five River MetroParks Trail Challenge:** Journey into the great outdoors with Five Rivers MetroParks and share your progress on the library's in-house MetroParks trail map display.

### Special Programs

A full list of recurring and special events can be found at [wrightlibrary.org/calendar](http://wrightlibrary.org/calendar) or on the Wright Library App.

**YOUTH** - Youth Services will host both online and in-person outdoor events. Safety guidelines and protocols can be viewed at [wrightlibrary.org/SafeReopening](http://wrightlibrary.org/SafeReopening)

**Dream Maker Farm Petting Zoo** (Outdoor in-person)  
Sat., June 5, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Exploring Africa with The Center for Puppetry Arts** (Virtual)  
Wed., June 16, 2-3 p.m.

**MIT Museum's Out of the Box Engineering** (Virtual)  
Thurs., June 17, 2 p.m., Grades 6-12

**Beekeeping** (Outdoor in-person)  
Sat., July 17, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

#### ADULTS

**Discover the Ohio Literary Trail** (Virtual)  
Wed., June 16, 7 p.m.

**A Funny Program About Funny Programs** (Virtual)  
Thurs., June 24, 7 p.m.

**Celebration of Animation** (Virtual)  
Fri., July 16, 7 p.m.



Adults, read a book to earn entry into the weekly drawing.  
Connect 5 squares to choose a prize.

## A Note from Teen Librarian Diane Bengson

Wright Memorial Public Library worked hard to reach local teens and provide opportunities during this pandemic year. Teens volunteered through book buddies - a program that matched trained teens to young early readers - and as members of the Teen Advisory Board. Programs were offered online on topics such as writing, robotics, trivia and more. In the fall, Teens Building Solidarity for Change began to meet. This twice-monthly virtual group allowed Wright Library teens and teens from Dayton Early College Academy to have fun and to talk about issues related to race and current events. Several Oakwood teens agreed that this group was a highlight of their last year due to the honest and genuine sharing that took place.

**Looking ahead to Summer 2021:** Teens Summer Reading Club offers a variety of activities:

- A BINGO game card focused on reading and emotional/mental wellness activities allows players to earn laptop stickers and books to keep
- Virtual Programs from the MIT Museum and Intelligence Analysis from the International Spy Museum
- In-person outdoor programs including basket weaving, counted cross-stitch, and other opportunities to gather for social fun
- Volunteering opportunities

Find details about Teen summer activities online at [wrightlibrary.org/ysrc2021](http://wrightlibrary.org/ysrc2021)

## City of Oakwood

30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Montgomery County  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

### CITY OF OAKWOOD DEPARTMENT NUMBERS

City Manager's Office  
**937-298-0600**

Personnel & Zoning  
**937-298-0411**

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

Engineering & Public Works  
**937-298-0777**

Finance  
**937-298-0402**

Income Tax  
**937-298-0531**

Leisure Services/Horticulture  
**937-298-0775**



**Kevin Jones**  
*Oakwood Alum*

## Making a Difference Kevin Jones

A 1982 Oakwood High School graduate, Kevin Jones has stayed connected to his hometown and alma mater through the years. He moved from Kettering in 2015 and is proud to call Oakwood home once again.

"I see a bright future for Oakwood Schools because everyone invested in the community wants our families to have the best possible education and Oakwood Schools is providing that," Jones said.

Whether cheering on members of his extended family from the sidelines, hosting job-shadowing students from OHS or serving as a member of The Oakwood Schools Foundation Board, Jones says he enjoys making connections with students and their families.

"I have gotten to know so many students and their families over the years. It has benefited me not only socially but in business as well. I enjoy working with the Oakwood Schools Foundation because we all have the common interest of helping make Oakwood Schools the best!"

Jones is a senior partner with Robert K. Jones Insurance Agency, a business his father started in 1963. He has worked there since graduating from The Ohio State University in 1986 with a degree in Insurance and Risk Management. In addition to volunteering with OSF, Jones also supports the Howard Sales Memorial project and the Pam and Chip Seidl Scholarship fund.

While the last year has brought new challenges, Jones has worked to maintain connections and continued supporting the community and the schools.

"The last year has been a year of limited in-person meetings and events. Zoom meetings have become the new normal and probably will for some time."