



DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

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 | “Lighting Up” Oakwood – Sunday, December 12

The city of Oakwood, with assistance from the Oakwood Beautification Committee, is “LIGHTING UP” Oakwood with luminarias on Sunday, December 12 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 the center of Shafor Boulevard. The committee encourages neighborhood participation and hopes to see many citizens joining in the festive beautification effort.

SCHOOL NEWS | Inside the Bandroom

Stand outside your front door on a fall afternoon and you will hear the echoes of trumpets, drums, and clarinets coming together to play the Oakwood High School fight song, “Stand Up and Cheer.” The Oakwood Pep Band is practicing for Friday night.

Band is the second most popular co-curricular at Oakwood Junior and Senior High. Students at Oakwood begin practicing on instruments in fifth grade with instrumental learning before formally joining band in sixth grade. At the high school level, students can pursue jazz band or participate in the Pep Band. *(continued on page 8)*

LIBRARY NEWS | Wright Library Debuts New Holds Pick Up Locker

It's easier than ever to pick up books and other materials from Wright Memorial Public Library thanks to a new holds pick up locker located in the library's Park Level vestibule.

Library users can select the locker when they place items on hold. Patrons can scan their library cards to retrieve their books. The locker is funded by a grant from the Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation. *(continued on page 10)*

CITY

P4: IMPORTANT INCOME
TAX INFORMATION

SCHOOLS

P9: FALL IN THE SCHOOLS

LIBRARY

P11: CHECK OUT WRIGHT
LIBRARY'S WINTER
READING CHALLENGE

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 of Lights”



On Sunday evening, December 12, 2021, the Holiday of Lights festivities will take place at Shafor Park beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Bill Duncan will welcome those attending, followed by the lighting of the holiday tree. Entertainment will be provided by the Oakwood High School Band who will be performing holiday songs and entertainment. This will be followed by a visit from Santa Claus arriving on an Oakwood fire truck. Children will be able to talk with Santa after his arrival in the park. Also, this year, there will be horse drawn carriage and wagon rides for the family to see the beautiful display of luminarias decorating and lining the streets of the community. The public is invited and encouraged to attend this community event.

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 some program modifications and possible cancellations. Protecting the health of our community is our number one priority. We appreciate your understanding.

Holiday Closings



City offices, the Community Center and the Public Works Center will be closed on Friday, December 24 for Christmas and on Friday, December 31 for New Year's.

City offices, the Community Center and the Public Works Center will also be closed on Monday, January 17 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Please refer to the holiday refuse pickup article herein 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 17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Regular Schedule

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

Holiday Schedule

Tuesday
Wednesday
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 3. You may schedule this service on or after January 3 by phoning the Public Works Center at (937) 298-0777.

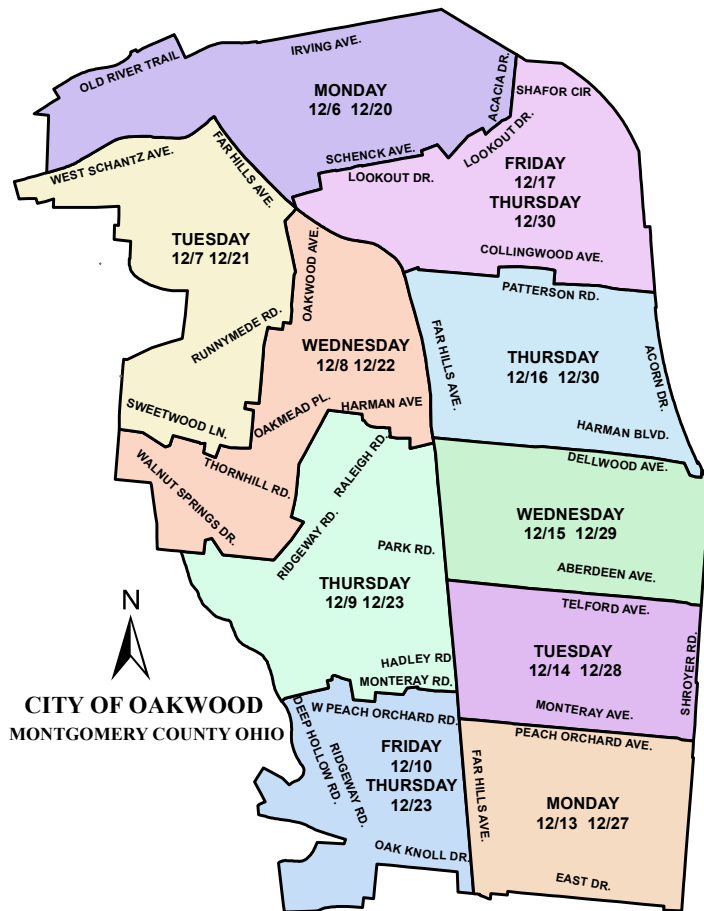
Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-off at Public Works Facility

The City just completed a project to relocate the 24/7 public-access recycling facility from the Creager Field Dog Park parking lot at the corner of Shafor Boulevard and Irving Avenue to a larger area at the entrance to the Public Works yard at 210 Shafor Boulevard. The move creates a more efficient drop-off operation and much safer environment for the heavily used facility by removing it from the dog park parking lot. The facility includes dumpsters for disposal of cardboard, comingled recyclables and an area for green waste dumping. Oakwood was the first community in Montgomery County to establish a city-wide recycling program. The recycling 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.

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.

LEAF AND YARD DEBRIS PICKUP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2021

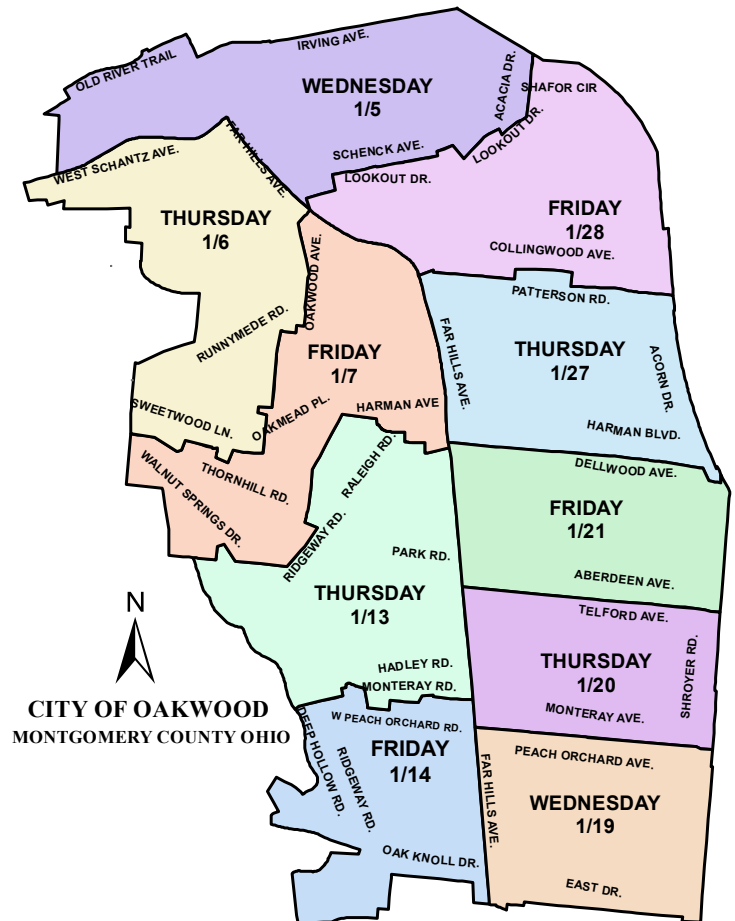


FAR HILLS AVE. WILL BE PICKED UP ON: 12/9 & 12/23
SHROYER RD. WILL BE PICKED UP ON: 12/16 & 12/30

Leaf Pickup

Autumn leaf pickup service is scheduled to conclude on Friday, December 17. 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 at the 210 Shafor Boulevard Recycling and Yard Waste drop-off facility. Small amounts can be placed in regular household trash cans.

YARD DEBRIS PICKUP SCHEDULE JANUARY 2022



FAR HILLS AVE. WILL BE PICKED UP ON: 1/13
SHROYER RD. WILL BE PICKED UP ON: 1/27



Fourth Quarter Estimated Tax Payment Due 1-17-2022



If you estimate that you will owe \$200 or more when you file your 2021 City of Oakwood income tax return next year, you should be making quarterly estimated tax payments. The fourth quarter estimated tax payment is due January 17, 2022. 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 website. Contact the tax office at (937) 298-0531 with any questions.

Tax Tip – Working Remotely from Home

Help direct your tax dollars to your community and yourself. Oakwood residents who were working remotely, at home, during the pandemic but still had their wages subjected to a work-city tax can request a refund from their work city. Not only will your tax dollars be shifted to Oakwood, but you will not be subjected to the work city credit limitation of 90%. If you can provide a list of dates that you worked at home during 2021, along with vacation, holiday and sick days for which you were compensated, the Tax Department will prepare the necessary tax return for you. Please contact the Tax Department with any questions at 937-298-0531.

December/January Council Meetings



City Council will meet in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 13 and Monday, January 3. 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, 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 for broadcast times. Meeting videos can also be viewed on the City website.

2022 Dog License Information



2022 dog licenses will be sold at the Oakwood city building from Wednesday, December 1 to Tuesday, February 1, 2022. 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.

Vacant House Checks

Are you planning a winter getaway for an extended 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.

To take advantage of this program, visit our website at www.oakwoodohio.gov 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.



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 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 own 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), stairway 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 installed and 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/>.



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.

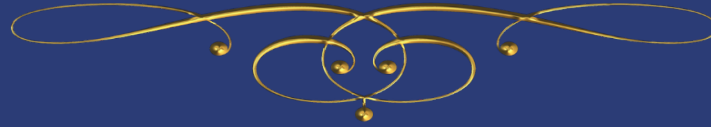
Please heed these safety tips and have a safe and happy holiday season.



New Broadband Utility Entering Local Market

Point Broadband has arrived in the Dayton area as a new internet and telecommunications provider that will install a comprehensive underground fiber optic network and offer fiber-to-the-home services. Point Broadband is already working in Springboro and informed city officials that Oakwood is their next target market, with plans to begin fiber construction here as early as January 2022. The City will share information about the project in the coming months via the city website, Facebook page, and public meetings. After right-of-way construction permits are issued, residents will see crews marking underground utility locations with temporary paint and/or small flags. The Point Broadband work will take place in the public right-of-way, including the treelawn areas between the curb and sidewalk, and in utility easements as they install the fiber optic cable, cabinets and pedestals. Point Broadband will announce when construction will begin in specific neighborhoods via a series of messages including letters, postcards, and yard markers. City staff will monitor the work to ensure compliance with required site restoration and screening. When completed, this new fiber optic network will be another option for Oakwood residents and businesses seeking to purchase internet connectivity and other telecommunications services.





In Memory...

The city of Oakwood mourns the loss of two dedicated public servants.

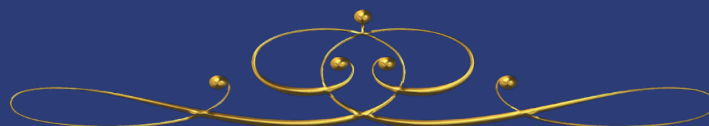


Public Safety Officer Jesse Schaffer passed away on September 28, 2021. He joined the Safety Department in May 2018.



Refuse Truck Driver Erwin Johnson passed away on November 2, 2021. He joined the Public Works Department in October 1986.

We are forever grateful for their service to the Oakwood community.





Oakwood band members practicing in their current classroom space.

Continued from cover

While participation in the band has grown, space in the band room has not. “Right now, we are very crammed into our current space. We are elbow to elbow in our current space and it’s very loud,” Oakwood band director Adam Uhlenhake said.

As part of Flourish, The Oakwood School Foundation’s campaign for the fine and visual arts, the band facilities at OJH/OHS will receive a major upgrade. A new band room, including finely tuned acoustics and storage space, will be included in the new Arts Wing. The classrooms will also be located close to Schantz Avenue and Mac Hummon Stadium, making it easier for the Pep Band to move instruments between the school and the stadium for games.

“To have a space specifically designed for rehearsing music and having enough room for kids to spread out and to properly address balance, and blend, and intonation, and all of the basic things that make our ensemble sound great is going to be an awesome thing,” Uhlenhake said of the plans.

The Foundation looks forward to making these plans a reality for Oakwood students. The campaign is completely privately funded and has been developed with Oakwood Schools’ Master Facilities Plans. To learn more about Flourish, contact Brandy McFall at brandy@oakwoodschoollfoundation.org or visit <https://flourishcampaign.org>



The Oakwood Schools
FOUNDATION

Enhancing Excellence in Education

ANNUAL FUND FOR STUDENTS

Join us to continue
making an impact for
students today and for
generations to come!

Make your tax-deductible gift to the
ANNUAL FUND for STUDENTS today:

www.oakwoodschoollfoundation.org/community/osf/annual-fund

contact@oakwoodschoollfoundation.org

937-297-5332

Oakwood Students Deepen Understanding of Local Area Charities

Students in Oakwood High School’s Wall Street 101 class again are having the opportunity to learn about five area charities as part of the Oakwood School Foundation’s annual Philanthropy 101 program.

This year, students are learning about choosing to support one of five local charities: Therapeutic Riding Institute, Kettering Backpack Program, K12 Gallery for Young People and Tejas, Bogg Ministries, and the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center.

The five charities made presentations in November as part of Wall Street 101’s “Charity Week.” Students learned who the organizations served and how their operations depend on donations from the community.

Following the presentations, students then selected one of the non-profit groups for a virtual tour to deepen their understanding about the organization’s day-to-day operations. After completing their research and tours, student teams develop and present their Philanthropy 101 cases to a panel of judges composed of OSF board and community members.

OSF is grateful for OHS Principal Dr. Paul Waller and business teacher Natalie Johnston for their continued support of the Philanthropy 101 program. The Foundation is also deeply grateful for ongoing financial support of the program from the Angel and Joel Frydman Philanthropic Fund, Vince Russell and the Johnson Investment Counsel, as well as Robert Wagner and family.



Former Wall Street 101 students learn from a representative of the Victory Project, a past charity participant in the Oakwood Schools Philanthropy 101 competition.”

Fall in the Schools

There are so many traditions and great activities going on in Oakwood Schools during the fall. From Homecoming to trips to Houk Stream, our students and staff take full advantage of everything the Oakwood community has to offer.



It's thumbs up for Lange from the Class of 2034. The kindergarten class is nearly halfway done with their first year of school and loving new lessons, new activities and new friends.



Fall fun at OJH. The Oakwood Junior High sponsored an after school Fall Festival in September, complete with games, snacks and more on the Alumni Plaza.



Recognizing high school royalty. The 2021 OHS Homecoming Court was recognized during halftime of the game Oct. 1. Elise Houdeshell and Jack Benbow were named Queen and King.



A musical interlude at Harman. Members of the Harman band took advantage of the beautiful weather during the fall to practice and perform outdoors.



Houk Stream makes for a wonderful outside classroom. Smith students and staff take many lessons outdoors, taking advantage of the natural resources found in Oakwood.

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming
& Reunion
Weekend 2022

September
22 & 23
2022



Oakwood Alumni Association

2021-2022 School Year

DEC 2021

20 - 31 No School – Winter Break

JAN 2022

3 Classes Resume

**17 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.

Stay connected with Oakwood Schools!

[f](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodSchools) @OakwoodSchools [t](https://www.instagram.com/Oakwood_Schools) @Oakwood_Schools [i](https://www.instagram.com/Oakwood_Schools) @Oakwood_Schools

Continued from cover

"The locker adds convenience and accessibility for library users," said Wright Library Director Kristi Hale.

"Everyone should be able to use the library. We are awaiting the arrival of a door system that will extend open hours in the vestibule which will allow easier access regardless of work schedule or life situation," she said.

To learn how to use the library's new holds pick up locker visit, wrightlibrary.org/reserve/locker or call (937) 294-7171.

Humanity Under Oppression Art Exhibit and Reception

Muslim Youth Outreach (MYO+) teens have tutored refugee students in Dayton and for the past year have been providing virtual tutoring to displaced Syrians within Syria, near Turkey's border. The exhibit features the teens' artwork and reflections on genocide, ethnic cleansing, and mass atrocities.

See it in the library Dec. 1-15. Meet the artists at an outdoor reception on Dec. 5th at 2 p.m.



Planning an End-of-Year Charitable Gift? Consider the Wright Library Foundation

Your end-of-year gift to Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation makes a difference for the community: from inspiring young readers to making the library more accessible to all.

In the past year, donations from the community have powered an outdoor falconry demonstration, theater performances, a new holds pick up locker, a writing workshop series, expanded access to materials from libraries across the state through SearchOhio, and more.

In the fall, the Foundation funded two live theater performances held outside the library, making it possible for families to enjoy a Covid-safe performance.

"The Wright Library Foundation gave me the opportunity to share the magic of live theater with my six year old, who has missed out due to Covid," said Angela Mwandia, an Oakwood resident. "Seeing the wonder and excitement in his face was delightful."

Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. This year, take advantage of a new tax benefit when you give: Individuals who take the standard deduction may deduct charitable gifts to the Library Foundation up to \$300, and married couples filing joint returns can deduct Foundation gifts up to \$600.

To give online, visit wrightlibrary.org/foundation. Gifts may also be made in person at the library or by mail to 1776 Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419.

When you give, we're building a better future together.

**BUILDING
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE
TOGETHER**



Wright Memorial
Public Library
FOUNDATION

Special thanks to Val Smith for the design of the Foundation Mailer.



1) Madison Maxey measuring the temperature of an e-textile, 2018. Photo by L. Fontana, courtesy of Madison Maxey. 2) Ayah Bdeir with littleBits. Photo by M. Senese for Make Magazine. Courtesy of Ayah Bdeir. 3) Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, Courtesy NASA.

Smithsonian Poster Exhibition “Picturing Women Inventors” Opens Mid-December at Wright Library

When we think of inventors, most think of Thomas Edison or Alexander Graham Bell. What about women inventors? Although they may not be as well known, women have always solved problems by inventing.

The Smithsonian’s “Picturing Women Inventors” Poster Exhibition will be on display at Wright Library from Dec. 18 through Jan. 18. The stories on these posters illustrate that the creativity of women inventors ranges across diverse backgrounds and interests throughout American history.

Picturing Women Inventors is a series of eight posters that explores the inventions of 19 highly accomplished American women. Astronauts, computer pioneers, and businesswomen join athletes, engineers, and even teenagers in this remarkable group of inventors.

Patrons are invited to view the display and build their own invention prototype with Legos from the library’s collection. The Lego builds will be displayed in the library.

Do Winter Wright! Read, Listen, and Watch to Earn Prizes in Our Winter Challenge

After the holiday buzz, when the long dark winter starts to get you down, treat yourself to this cozy challenge from Wright Library.

Here's how the winter challenge will work:

- Read or watch five books or films in any combination during the challenge to win a prize.
- Audiobooks count too!
- Come into the library to check out print books, books on CD, and DVDs, or go online for ebooks, eaudiobooks, and streaming videos through Ohio Digital Library, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

Not sure how to access Wright Library’s online resources? Call at (937) 294-7171, email research@wrightlibrary.org, or stop by to get connected.

Visit wrightlibrary.org/winter-challenge to learn more about how to log your reading and earn prizes!

 A graphic for the Winter Challenge. It features a light blue sky with white snowflakes, a white ground with several dark green pine trees, and a small silhouette of a person skiing. The text is centered and reads:

Do Winter Wright
Jan 18-Feb 28

**Take a trek through WMPL's
 book and film collections**

wrightlibrary.org/winter-challenge

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

Oakwood Schools Board of Education Thanks Members For Long-Term Commitment

January 2022 will bring new faces to the Oakwood Schools Board of Education with two long-time members stepping aside. Mike Miller, an Oakwood High School Class of 1981 graduate, and Cassie Darr, an OHS Class of 2000 graduate, will end their terms Dec. 31, 2021.

Miller says he initially ran for a seat on the Board as a way of giving back to the District that set him up "to be successful and a lifelong learner."

"The administration, both then and now, are a group of people who I admire and they work tirelessly at being the best possible. I never thought it would be 12 years of commitment, yet it is something I am honored to have done," Miller said.

For Darr, the idea of joining the Board came from a former mentor.

"I was encouraged to run for the Board by my former Harman principal, Dr. Mary Jo Scalzo. She is someone I've always looked up to and her gentle nudge was all I needed. I feel incredibly blessed to have grown up in Oakwood and received an excellent education," Darr said.

During their tenure on the Board, both have many accomplishments of which to be proud. For Miller, creating partnerships to strengthen the District and provide opportunities for current, past and future students has been a goal he's proud to say he has seen achieved.

"I'm proud of pulling the Oakwood Alumni Association and the Oakwood Schools Foundation into a complementary partnership. Looking at what this partnership continues to evolve into is something beyond what I imaged when this effort first started," Miller said.

Darr says she has enjoyed working with other educators and is proud of what their collaborations have made possible.

"I am so honored to have collaborated with this incredible group of educational leaders. We have some of the most committed and passionate educators leading this District and I've learned so much from them," Darr said.

As they look to the future of the District, the pair has high hopes for students and the state of education.



Mike Miller



Cassie Darr

"My hope is our students are prepared, proud and poised to engage a complex world. Having a strong academic foundation is the beginning of becoming a lifelong learner. I hope the energy we have seen at the board level also is directed toward Columbus. Our state needs a constitutional funding model for our schools," Miller said.

"In public education, we educate ALL kids and we must focus on the whole child. We currently have great momentum with our focus on Social Emotional Learning, as well as, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. I look forward to seeing how these two initiatives positively impact our students for years to come," Darr said.