



FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024

# OAKWOOD SCENE

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



## CITY NEWS | Property Tax Vote on March 19

On March 19, Oakwood residents will vote on a 2.41 mill property tax to provide funding for police, fire and EMS services, to maintain the city roadways and other public infrastructure, and to maintain parks and public recreation facilities. This tax issue replaces a 3.75 mill issue that expired last year and that had been in place over the past ten years. The 2.41 mill value is set so

that the tax issue will cost the same to property owners as did the expired issue. The issue will raise about \$1.1 million annually and will cost about \$84 per year for each \$100,000 in residential property valuation.

*(continued on page 2)*



## SCHOOL NEWS | Moving Farther Together as #OneOakwood

Under the leadership of Superintendent Neil Gupta, Oakwood Schools is undergoing a district-wide strategic planning process. As Oakwood Schools journey forward administrators are committed to developing a plan that is transparent, collaborative, and one that is sure to enrich the educational experience of every Oakwood student.



## LIBRARY NEWS | Read More in 2024

Studies show that reading can relieve stress as well as strengthen memory, vocabulary, and mental focus. Do your body some good in the new year! Wright Library has the tools to help you get started.

*(continued on page 10)*

CITY

P6: FIND OUT WHEN YOUR  
2023 OAKWOOD INCOME  
TAX RETURNS ARE DUE

SCHOOLS

BACK COVER: RICK AND JANE  
SCHWARTZ PERFORMING ARTS  
WING RIBBON CUTTING FEB 7

LIBRARY

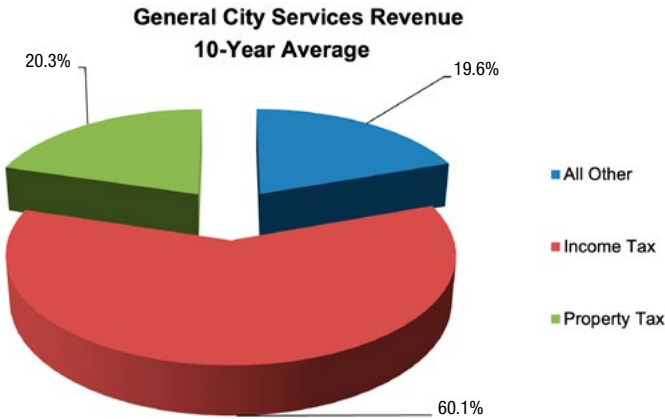
P11: PREPARING FOR  
THE SOLAR ECLIPSE IN  
OAKWOOD ON APRIL 8

# Property Tax Vote on March 19 - Note from City Council

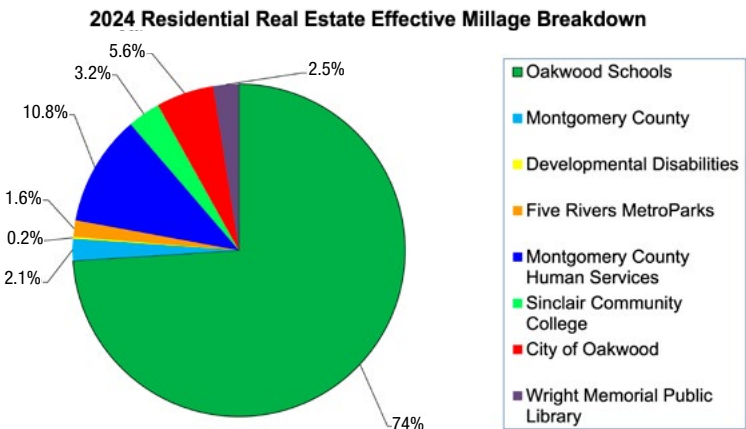
(continued from cover)

One of the primary responsibilities of City Council is to ensure that your tax dollars are spent wisely. The five of us, as your elected city officials, take this responsibility very seriously. We spend a significant amount of time overseeing how our city government spends money, and we use a 34-member citizen budget review committee to assist us in this effort. The committee includes residents representing each of our eight voting precincts. These citizens come from a variety of professional backgrounds and have a good understanding of what makes Oakwood special. As representatives of their respective precincts, they bring to our meetings their personal opinions and also the voices and opinions of their neighbors. The citizen budget review committee supports this replacement levy.

The pie chart below shows the five major sources of revenue that are needed to pay for our city services. As you can see, the property tax is a critically important component.



The chart below depicts how our total property taxes are distributed among the various agencies.



We all choose to live in Oakwood for different reasons, yet all enjoy our first-class city services. Please help us to continue providing these outstanding city services by voting YES on Issue #9, our Oakwood property tax.

- Mayor William Duncan
- Vice Mayor Steve Byington
- Council Member Rob Stephens
- Council Member Leigh Turben
- Council Member Healy Jackson

## Oakwood Community Center Events

### Upcoming Events/Classes

**Little Kickers Spring Outdoor Soccer (ages 4,5,6):** Designed especially for children in between pre-school indoor soccer and youth co-ed soccer. Emphasis is on fun, education, sportsmanship and teamwork. No leagues or individual standings or statistics will be maintained. Practices and games will be held on Saturday mornings at Old River Sports Complex, 225 Old River Trail. Dates are from April 6 through May 22, 2024.

**Magic Workshop:** Saturday, April 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the OCC. Spend a magical morning with Stan the Magic Man as he will have participants learn simple magic tricks and balloon sculptures. A fun-filled morning is being planned, so don't miss out.

The Oakwood Community Center has plenty of activities for everyone! Please visit the OCC's online event registration website to view current activities at [OakwoodLeisureServices.com](http://OakwoodLeisureServices.com) or contact the Community Center at (937) 298-0775.

## New Mailing Address for Oakwood Income Tax Returns

The Income Tax Department has contracted with Fifth Third Bank to process tax payments and image tax documents via Fifth Third's Wholesale Lockbox. This will allow tax payments to be processed efficiently and provide added security, eliminating most of our storage needs for paper records.

Individual and business tax returns and all income tax payments should be mailed to:

City of Oakwood, Ohio  
P.O. Box 632195  
Cincinnati, OH 45263-2195

Fifth Third Bank will scan your documents and process your tax payment. The city will post payments to your account through data transmission and will continue to review all tax returns.





## 2024 Construction and Public Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Each year, the city of Oakwood engages in and oversees various capital improvement projects to maintain and improve the City's infrastructure. This year, we have several significant and notable projects planned.



### 2024 Far Hills Asphalt Mill and Overlay

As work from multiple projects completed over the past two years leaves Far Hills Avenue with many patches, 2024 will include the removal and replacement of the entire asphalt roadway surface from the south to the north corporation lines in the city of Oakwood. The Ohio Department of Transportation Urban Paving Program will provide 80% of the funding for this resurfacing project. This roadway was last resurfaced in 2011.

### Gardner Pool Liner

Last year, the city replaced the entire concrete deck at Gardner Pool. This year, the city will install a pool liner system. The liner system will significantly extend the life of the pool tank, which is about 50 years old.

### Concrete Street Repairs

Repairs will be made to several concrete streets around Oakwood. The list of roadways to be included in the 2024 project will be printed in the *April/May Oakwood Scene* newsletter.

### Annual Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair Project

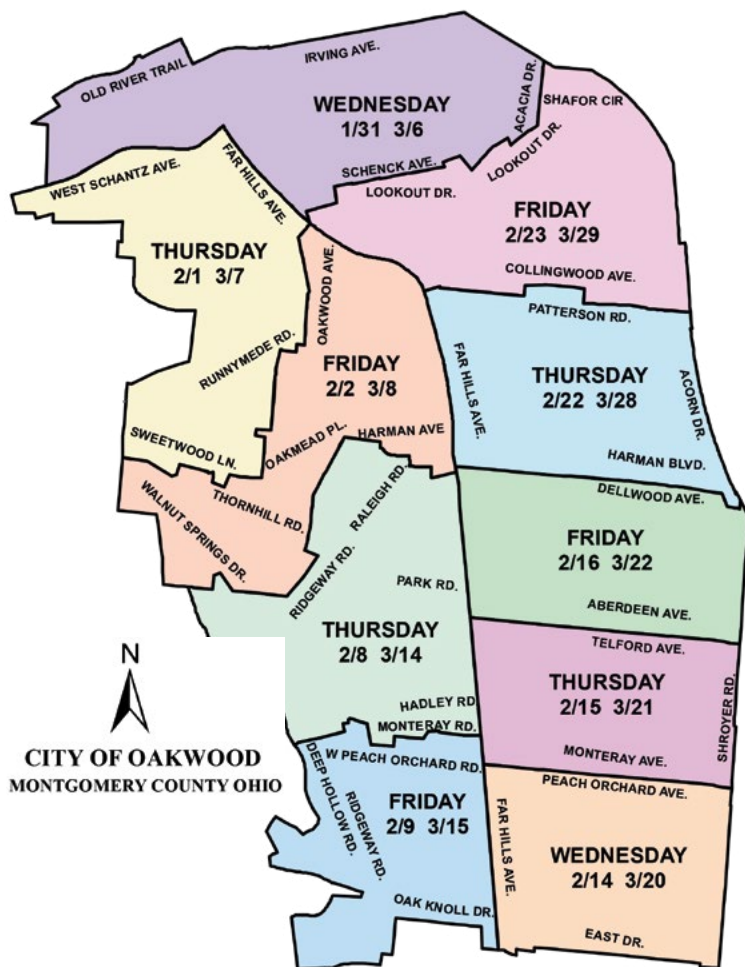
The 2024 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair Project will take place in the Far Hills Business District. The purpose of the project is to maintain the concrete structures located within the City rights-of-way in a good, safe condition. City staff will inspect the areas and mark sections of concrete requiring repairs. Residents and businesses affected by the work will receive personal notification regarding their responsibilities. Please call Public Works Foreman David Shuey at (937) 298-0777 if you have any questions. For property owners who choose to do the repair work themselves, please remember to obtain a permit in advance and that all work must be inspected and completed by the date in the notification.

### Harman Boulevard Median

A center median is proposed to be constructed in the 400 block of Harman Boulevard to match the center medians in the 200 and 300 blocks of Harman Boulevard.



## YARD DEBRIS PICKUP SCHEDULE FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024



Far Hills Ave. will be picked up on:  
**2/8 & 3/14**

Shroyer Rd. will be picked up on:  
**2/22 & 3/28**

## Presidents Day Trash Pickup

Please note that trash pickup for all routes the week of February 19 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.



## Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Thruston Boulevard (Five Points) Intersection

At the December 4, 2023 public meeting, Oakwood City Council voted unanimously to suspend work on a project that considered the conversion of the Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Thruston Boulevard intersection along State Route 48, often referred to as Five Points, from a traditional traffic signal to a roundabout. In 2022, the city of Oakwood commissioned a comprehensive traffic signal study with the purpose to develop a long-range plan for major capital improvements to Oakwood's traffic signal system, which consists of 17 signalized intersections. Last May, the primary focus of the study was directed on the Five Points intersection. The traffic study concluded that a roundabout could function well at Five Points. In June and July 2023, the city showed the citizens of Oakwood and the Dayton region how a roundabout at Five Points could function and obtained extensive public input and feedback. The public reaction was mixed. While there was support for building the roundabout, there was also opposition. A roundabout at Five Points would be a significant change to how the intersection functions. City leaders concluded that there remains enough unfamiliarity with how roundabouts operate which is in large part what compelled the city to no longer advance the project at this time. For the time being, the city will continue to maintain the existing traffic signal. All of the work completed in studying the roundabout option will be very useful in the future when the city may reconsider this matter.



## Holiday Closing

City offices, the Community Center and the Public Works Center will be closed on Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day.

## February/March City Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular public sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 5 and Monday, March 4. Both meetings will take place at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. The regular sessions are preceded by an open work session scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. The regular sessions are televised live on the City website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov), and on cable TV (Spectrum Ch. 6, TV Tuner Ch. 5.203 and AT&T U-verse Ch. 99). The meetings are also accessible via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Links to the meeting will be posted to the City website at 4 p.m. on the meeting date. Meeting videos will be rebroadcast on television 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 at any time.

## 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, and camp counselors must be at least 18 years of age at the time of employment. Equal Opportunity Employer.

## 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.



## 2024 City Budget

On December 4, 2023, Oakwood City Council approved a 2024 budget that provides the financial resources needed to continue providing comprehensive city services and maintain the city public infrastructure. The budget was prepared with review, input and endorsement of the 34-member citizen budget committee and is accessible on the City website (search: 2024 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 excellent school system and public library, and, most importantly, an involved citizenry that values community and neighborliness. We take pride in and understand what it takes to keep Oakwood unique. The following qualities of Oakwood continue to be examples of the benefits of living in this city:

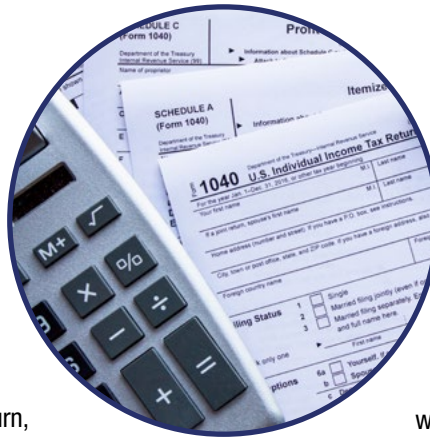
- We have the safest community in the region, with very low crime and very low fire loss.
- We have an extremely fast police and fire response time, and we answer every call with highly trained professionals.
- We have qualified paramedics and EMTs on-duty at all times to respond to medical emergencies. 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 75 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.



## 2023 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 Oakwood return is due the same date as your extended federal return – October 15, 2024. 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 web site, and submit your request by April 15, 2024. 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, 2024 will be subject to a 15% late payment penalty and interest.



The 2023 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. Full-year residents with W-2 wage income only will be able to file their 2023 City of Oakwood income tax return online. Visit the City's website for additional information.

If you need assistance with the preparation of your Oakwood return, please contact the Tax Department at (937) 298-0531. 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 12 and 15, when the office will be open until 6:00 p.m.



## Electric Scooter Use in Oakwood

Electric scooters are a lot of fun and a great way to get around, but they can also present challenges in a walking community like Oakwood. As we see more of them in use around the city, please remember the rules for safe and legal operation on public streets and sidewalks:

1. When used on sidewalks, electric scooters are subject to the same rules that apply to bicycles. This means that scooter operators must always yield the right of way to pedestrians on foot. Reckless operation – which includes erratic riding, hand-held cell phone use or other distracted riding, unsafe speeds, or other careless behavior – is prohibited. When crossing a street, riders should cross with the appropriate light or walk/don't walk signal if one is present. Otherwise, they have the right of way as long as they are in a crosswalk and exercise due caution not to enter the street in front of oncoming traffic.
2. When used in the streets, the law treats electric scooters the same as a jogger or pedestrian using the street. This means users must ride on the left side of the road to ensure that they can see oncoming vehicular traffic. In addition, while scooters are permitted on most residential streets, they are prohibited on busier thoroughfares including Far Hills Avenue, Shroyer Road, Patterson Road, West Schantz Avenue, and the section of Oakwood Avenue between Far Hills and Irving Avenues.

## 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 or purse. A credit card can easily get misplaced or stolen, yet they tend to stay put when placed within a slot in your wallet or purse.
- Limit the number of cards you possess. Only carry those cards that you use regularly.
- 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, for sure, but also get in the habit of routinely checking your purchases online. 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 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 compromised.

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.



## Do Not Place Yard Debris in the Street or in Center Medians

The city of Oakwood offers several options for disposal of yard debris. Residents may place piles of yard debris – brush and branches – into the tree lawn area at their property frontage just behind the curb or edge of pavement for pickup by the city. Residents should not place yard debris in front of other properties, nor should they place yard debris in any roadway center medians.

**Under no circumstance should residents place anything in the street or roadway gutter (except leaves in the fall during the posted 10-week leaf collection schedule).** Any amount of debris in the street is an obstruction and disrupts the stormwater collection system by diverting water away from the intended storm drains. Debris in the street can be dangerous to vehicles and is hard to see at night. Debris in the street also interferes with on-street parking and is a danger to pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists.

Placing anything in the street is a violation of Oakwood Codified Ordinance 901.01 (A)(3). The city's code enforcement officer responds to yard debris piles placed in the gutter or street by leaving a door-hanger notice at the property affording two business days to remove the obstruction from the street. After two days, the city will remove the obstruction and will charge the property owner \$150.

Property owners who routinely use the city's monthly collection program and wish to construct a hard surface pad (e.g., concrete, brick, paver) for debris placement should contact the code enforcement officer at (937) 297-2920 or see the city website for permitting information.

In addition to the monthly pick-up, the city offers other options for disposing of yard debris, such as the 24/7 Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-off Facility at the J.D. Foell Public Works Center. Also, residents are provided two free special pickups per year, which can be used for yard debris. Additionally, dumpsters are available to be delivered free of charge for large amounts of green waste. More information on these options is available by contacting the Public Works Center at (937) 298-0777.



## Parker Love of Teaching and Lifelong Learning Award Nominations are Open

Calling all parents, students, community members, alumni, and Oakwood Schools staff! Nominations open now through March 15th for the annual Parker Love of Teaching and Lifelong Learning Award.

Designed to recognize the impact educators have on the community and celebrate their contributions, this award consists of a \$1,200 prize, divided between the recipient and an academic department, grade or program of the recipient's choosing, and public recognition for their service to the children of Oakwood.

Oakwood Junior High French teacher Mary Haucke-Davis won the award in 2023. Now in its 14th year, The Oakwood Schools Foundation looks forward to awarding another deserving teacher this spring.

To learn more about the award, its criteria, past recipients, and to nominate a teacher, please visit [oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org](http://oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org).



## Meet the Newly Elected Members of the Board of Education

Oakwood Schools welcomes Nathan Reiter to the Board of Education. Currently a Quality Improvement leader in healthcare administration, Nathan also has a background in teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Nathan's passion and experience will be pivotal in shaping the future of our district.

Debbie DiLorenzo, appointed in 2022 to fill a vacant seat, has been elected to serve on the Board of Education. Twenty-one years ago, Debbie and her family chose Oakwood for its distinguished schools. Her passion for our children's growth and success is evident in her extensive volunteer work, from her involvement in the PTO to her support for the Wright Memorial Public Library. Debbie has been an integral part of our community, continually seizing opportunities to make a meaningful difference.

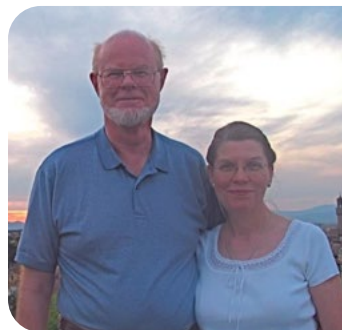


### Save the Date!

State of Schools: February 12, 2024  
Board of Education Meeting

## Donor Spotlight: Oliver Chamberlain, Celebrating the Arts in Memory of His Late Wife, OHS Valedictorian and Alumna, Kathryn Chamberlain

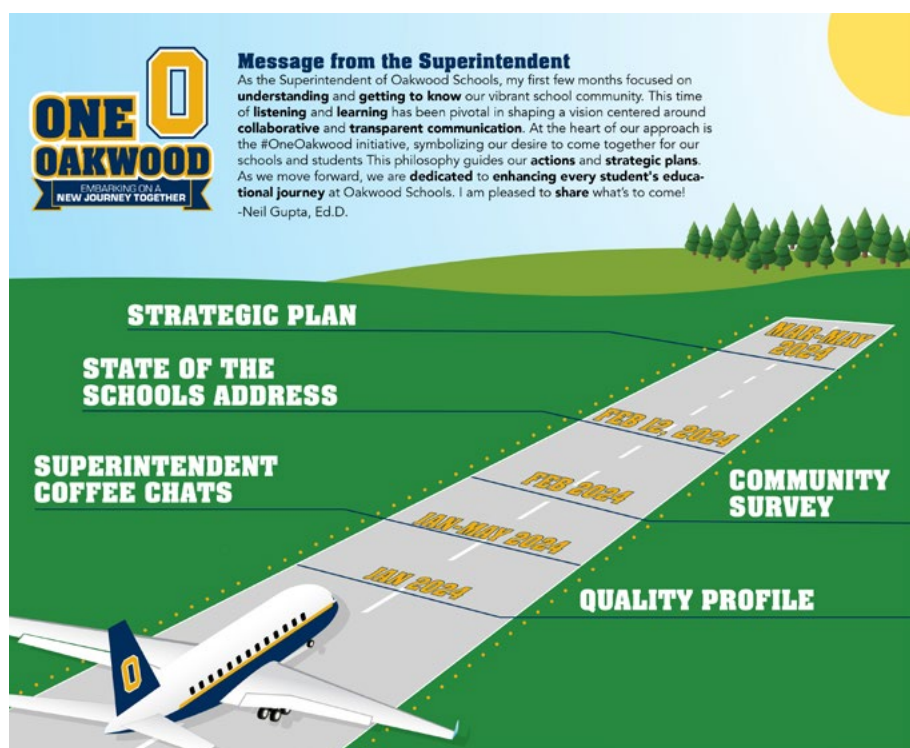
The Kathryn Chamberlain Student Scholarship Award and the Kathryn Chamberlain Teacher Leadership Award seek to honor the life and legacy of Kathryn (Iams) Chamberlain. Her life-long dedication to music, teaching, and arts administration inspired her husband Oliver to establish the awards. To learn more about Oliver's tribute and gift, visit [Oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org](http://Oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org).



*Oliver and Kathryn Chamberlain learning about the culture of Italy. Photo taken from Piazzale Michelangelo on the hill overlooking the city of Florence.*

## Embarking on a New Journey Together

At the heart of the Oakwood School's approach is the #OneOakwood initiative, symbolizing the schools' desire to come together for students and families. This philosophy guides the school's actions and strategic plans. In the coming months, there will be multiple opportunities to engage with the schools in new ways.





## Empowering Generosity: Sponsorship of Philanthropy Program Amplifies Impact on Charities

In Oakwood High School's Wall Street 101 course, led by instructor Natalie Johnston, students are not only learning about financial markets but are also embracing the role of philanthropists. Through the Philanthropy 101 program, students have the unique opportunity to delve into the world of local nonprofits, gaining firsthand experience and knowledge about charitable initiatives.



*Students presenting Victory Project*

Students selected five local nonprofit organizations for in-depth study and analysis. The organizations—Clothes That Work, For Love of Children, Families of Addicts, Maple Tree Cancer Alliance, and Victory Project—actively participated by hosting students at their offices, sharing insights into their missions, and explaining the significance of their work. The students then presented their findings to a panel of judges consisting of Oakwood Schools Foundation Trustees Yusaku Kawai, Dori Spaulding, and Maria Beecher as well as industry leaders Mackensie Wittmer of The National Aviation Heritage Alliance and Vince Russell of Johnson Investment Counsel.

The success of this year's Philanthropy 101 program is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. The Angela and Joel Frydman Family, Johnson Investment Counsel, Jessup Wealth Management, and The Dayton Foundation played a crucial role in funding the program, enabling students to engage with local charities in a meaningful way.

Donor support is not only instrumental in facilitating the program but also determines the financial awards available to be granted to the participating nonprofits. By supporting Philanthropy 101, donors are not only nurturing the next generation of philanthropists among Oakwood Schools students but also directly benefiting local charities.

To learn more about the Philanthropy 101 program, explore the selected organizations, review past participants, and contribute to future awards, visit us at [oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org](http://oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org).

# 2024 HOMECOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 18

Parade/Bonfire

SEPTEMBER 20

Homecoming Game

SEPTEMBER 21

Homecoming Dance

## Oakwood Schools Gathers Community Feedback

This Spring, Oakwood Schools will launch a strategic planning process. Our focus is to develop a clear and effective launchpad that prioritizes the strategic allocation of resources and places student achievement and well-being at the forefront. We want your input:

- **Superintendent Coffee Chats**  
Oakwood Community Center - Teen Center Room  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
Feb 8, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 9
- **Community Survey:** Oakwood community members will be invited to participate in a survey about the future of the schools. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Oakwood Schools Release 2023-2024 Quality Profile



Oakwood Schools is proud to release the 2023-2024 Quality Profile which demonstrates the remarkable achievements of our district from academic rigor, to pride in our sports, arts, clubs and more. Scan this QR code to see the full report.

## 2024 School Year

### FEB 2024

**12** 7 p.m. Oakwood Board of Education Regular Meeting

**19** No School - Presidents' Day

**20-23** No School - Winter Break

### MAR 2024

**11** 7 p.m. Oakwood Board of Education Regular Meeting

**25-29** No School - Spring Break

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

**Stay connected with Oakwood Schools!**

@OakwoodSchools 
 @Oakwood\_Schools 
 @Oakwood\_Schools



Find a topic you enjoy and read at least one page a day in 2024. Books, poetry, comics, history, sci-fi, cookbooks...

### YOU CHOOSE.

Here are some programs to get you started.

### Adult Winter Challenge is On!

Get s'mitten with our collections - read books and watch movies for a weekly spin on the prize wheel. Challenge ends February 18. Register at [wrightlibrary.org/winter-challenge](http://wrightlibrary.org/winter-challenge)

### Wright Library Book Club

Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.

*Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

Set in 1960s New York, this book encompasses crime novel, hilarity, race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

Mar. 12 at 7 p.m.

*The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner

A forgotten history. A secret network of women. A legacy of poison and revenge from 18th-century London to present day.

### Next Chapter Book Club

Mondays at 6 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Lively discussions for adults with developmental disabilities.



## Wright Library: A Gathering Place

### Tech Tutoring

Wednesdays in February & March  
Take control of your technology with one-on-one assistance from a librarian. Drop-in from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Appointments also available upon request.

### Genealogy Interest Group Goes Digital

Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn more about Wright Library's new digitization equipment to help expand your genealogy research. *Genealogy Interest Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month.*

### Wright Library Poets

Feb. 20 & Mar. 19 at 7 p.m.

Open writing group for adults to share, improve, and enjoy. Beginners welcome.

### Crochet & Connect

Feb. 11 & Mar. 10 at 3 p.m.

Bring a project and connect with other crocheting enthusiasts. All skill levels welcome.

### Far Hills Speaker Series

February 18 - see page 11

March 17 - The Great Flood of 1913 with Mark Risley

April 21 - Aullwood Audubon's Rich History and On-going Efforts to Help the Bird Population Rebound with Nenita Lapitan

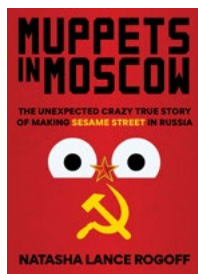
*The Far Hills Speaker Series is presented by the Oakwood Historical Society and Wright Memorial Public Library.*

### Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.

Wright Library and the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton invite you to an author visit with Natasha Lance Rogoff who will discuss her book *Muppets in Moscow: The Unexpected Crazy True Story of Making Sesame Street in Russia*.

Meet in person at Wright Library to watch this livestream presentation (seating limited to 80).

Part of the Jewish Federation Cultural Arts & Book Series  
[jewishdayton.org/program/cultural-arts-and-book-series/](http://jewishdayton.org/program/cultural-arts-and-book-series/)



## Wright Library Foundation Exceeds Goal



Wright Memorial  
Public Library  
FOUNDATION

For over eighty years, Wright Library has proudly served the Oakwood community by providing diverse opportunities for lifelong learning and personal growth. Funding for many of the library's high-impact programs, materials, and services comes from the Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation, and we are humbled by the generosity of our donors to the 2023 Annual Campaign. The Foundation raised over \$70,000, surpassing not only the \$50,000 campaign goal, but also making this the best annual fundraising campaign in Library Foundation history. "I am so grateful to our generous and growing community of donors," said Library Director Kristi Hale.

"These gifts allow us to provide so many exciting collections and experiences that tax dollars alone would not allow. We can't wait to put these gifts to use for the community."

2023 initiatives included a lending collection of Roku devices with subscription streaming services, performing arts tickets, picnic tables in Katharine Wright Park, and programs such as the Falconry demonstration, Teen Exam Breaks, and a River City Puppets show.

In addition to its annual fund campaign, the Library Foundation also manages major gifts and estate giving to support the library's legacy. To learn more about the Wright Library Foundation and its donors, visit [wrightlibrary.org/foundation](http://wrightlibrary.org/foundation)

With gratitude,  
Kristi Hale, Library Director  
Juliet Glaser, Foundation Board President



## For Kids & Families

### Storytime at Wright Library

For littles, siblings, and caregivers

Baby Storytime (ages 0-18 months) Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Terrific Tales (ages 3-5 years) Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Books & Blocks (ages 18-36 months) Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

### Crafty Kids Drop-in

Saturdays starting at 10 a.m.

Ages: Pre-K - Grade 3 and their families

New crafts each week while supplies last

### Crafts for Kids

Feb. 12 at 6-8 p.m. | Theme: Valentine's Day | Grades: K-6

Mar. 11 at 6-8 p.m. | Theme: St. Patrick's Day | Grades: K-6

### Winter Animals Storytime

Feb. 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Ages: 3-5 | Siblings welcome

Read, sing, and craft about animals that live in the cold and snow.

### Family Game Night

Mar. 1 at 6-8 p.m.

Come as you are or bring your own. Snacks provided.

### Mama Mia!

Mar. 2 at 1 p.m. | All ages

Preview Oakwood High School's spring musical based on the songs of ABBA.

### St. Patrick's Day Irish Dancers

Mar. 16 at 2 p.m.

A lively St. Patrick's Day performance featuring dancers from Nugent School of Dance. Space limited to 80. First come, first seated.

### Paws to Read Returns!

Feb. 28 & Mar. 20 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Grades: K-6

Reading to a therapy dog promotes a positive association with reading. Child must be able to read independently for one 15-minute time slot.



## Teen & Tween Scene at Wright Library

### Tween Hangout

Feb. 6, 13, 27 & Mar. 5, 12, 19 at 3:15 p.m. | Grades: 4-6

### Puzzles, Perler Beads, & Pizza

Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. | Grades: 7-12

### Teen Breakfast & Books

Feb. 10 & Mar. 9 at 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Grades: 7-12

### Teen Advisory Board

Feb. 14 & Mar. 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Plan, promote, and participate in projects that serve the library and the community. If you would like to join the Teen Advisory Board, pick up an application at the library.

## Solar Eclipse

Join Wright Library as we celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event with entertaining and educational programs about space.

More at: [wrightlibrary.org/eclipse](http://wrightlibrary.org/eclipse)



### Family Fun with Solar Eclipses

Feb. 3 Drop in 2-4 p.m.

Ages: Pre-K - Grade 3 and their families

Solar eclipse activities with NASA Solar System Ambassador Kurtz Miller.

### TechFest 2024

Feb. 17 & 18 at Sinclair College

Celebrate all things eclipse at the Wright Library booth. See how a pinhole eclipse viewer works and learn how to make your own.

### Beyond the Playhouse: Mound Labs Mission in Space

Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. | Wright Library or virtual option

Presented by Doug Gabriel, president of the Mound Science and Energy Museum Association (MSEMA). You are probably aware that the rover makes excursions on Mars, but where does the power come from and how is it tied to Oakwood? Part of the Far Hills Speaker Series presented by the Oakwood Historical Society and Wright Library.

### Teen Breakfast & Books

Mar. 9 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Wake up with breakfast while talking about the April 8 Solar Eclipse.

PJs welcome!

### Storytime: Her Eyes Were On the Stars

Mar. 9 at 2 p.m. | Grades 1-3 + families

Children's author Jennifer Sommer reads her book about Nancy Grace Roman, Mother of the Hubble Telescope, with activities and a snack. Copies of her book available for purchase.

### Eclipse Talk

Mar. 21 & 28 at 7 p.m. | Teens & adults

A discussion about the Great North American solar eclipse with NASA Solar System Ambassador, Kurtz Miller.

### Solar Eclipse Viewing

Apr. 8

Wright Library will be closed 2:45-3:45 p.m. to witness this monumental event! Neighbors are invited to join us in Katherine Wright Park. No clouds, please! Bring your own eclipse glasses or pin-hole viewer.



A limited number of solar eclipse glasses will be available at eclipse-related programs made possible by a grant from The Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation and the Space Science Institute. One pair per attendee, while supplies last.



### Making Sense of the News (virtual)

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

Mandy Shannon provides strategies to identify bias and reduce the effect of information overload that can lead to the spread of misinformation.

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

# City of Oakwood

30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Montgomery County  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

## CITY OF OAKWOOD DEPARTMENT NUMBERS

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

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

Finance  
**937-298-0402**  
Income Tax  
**937-298-0531**

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

Human Resources  
**937-298-0411**

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

Planning & Zoning  
**937-297-2920**

## CITY COUNCIL

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

## ADMINISTRATION

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

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

## ADMINISTRATION

Neil Gupta, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Laura Sauber, Treasurer  
Allyson Couch, Director of Educational Services  
Kimbe Lange, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum  
Amanda Brown, Community Relations Director  
Paul Waller, Ph.D., OHS Principal  
Tim Badenhop, OJH Principal/  
Associate Principal 9-12 OHS  
Tyler Rhodus, Director of Athletics  
and Student Activities  
Cassie Schoch, Smith Principal  
Sarah Patterson, Harman Principal  
Suzanne Batten, Special Education Supervisor/  
Lange Principal

## LIBRARY BOARD

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

## ADMINISTRATION

Kristi Hale, Director  
Brenda Oliver, Fiscal Officer

## Nominate a Deserving Individual for the Sam Andrews Award

We invite you to nominate an Oakwood individual for the Sam Andrews Educational Hall of Honor. This honor pays tribute to Sam Andrews, a remarkable teacher, coach, and friend who devoted his life to education and community from 1944 until his passing in 1977. We encourage you to nominate someone who has made a difference in the Oakwood Schools community. The requirements for nominee(s) to be inducted are as follows: (1) The nominee may be living or deceased. (2) The nominee should be retired from employment or voluntary service with the Oakwood school system for two elections or cycles with consideration of Hall of Honor being held every other year. (updated by the committee, June 2020). (3) The nominee should have stimulated students to seek excellence in all of their endeavors. (4) The nominee should have displayed personal qualities of leadership. (5) The nominee should have inspired students to continue education, community interest, and public service throughout their lives. Please submit your nominations by February 29, 2024.

## Rick and Jane Schwartz Performing Arts Wing Ribbon Cutting

Join Superintendent Neil Gupta, members of the Boards of Education and the Oakwood Schools Foundation on February 7th at 12:00pm at the High School for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Rick and Jane Schwartz Performing Arts Wing. Tours of the facility will follow the ceremony.

## Oakwood Schools Give Back

This season, Oakwood students from K-12 collected nearly 30 barrels of food, winter gear and other necessities to share with the Food Bank, Inc.



## Oakwood Prepares for the Incoming Class of Kindergartners!

Kindergarten registration for the 2024 – 2025 school year will begin Feb. 26, 2024. To register, youngsters must be five years old on or before Sept. 30, 2024. Families must reside within the school district boundaries and demonstrate proof of residence as outlined in the District's Residency Guidelines found on the District website. To review the guidelines and begin the online registration process, visit the Oakwood Schools website at [www.oakwoodschoools.org](http://www.oakwoodschoools.org). Kindergarten Screenings will take place the week of April 15th at the Oakwood Community Center. A sign-up will be sent to families in Spring 2024 with signup information.