



JUNE / JULY 2024

# OAKWOOD SCENE

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



## CITY NEWS | Smith Gardens 2024 Blanket Concert Series

The Friends of Smith Gardens and the city of Oakwood are pleased to present the “2024 Blanket Concert Series.” The series is a community favorite and this year’s schedule again offers something for everyone. Bring your blanket and join us at Smith Gardens, located at the corner of Oakwood Avenue and Walnut Lane. Parking is available on Oakwood Avenue, on some adjacent side streets, and around the City Building.

These concerts are FREE and open to the public. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in the Great Room at the Oakwood Community Center, 105 Patterson Road.

June 9, 7 p.m. - Madcap Puppets  
July 14, 7 p.m. - Honey & Huston  
August 18, 7 p.m. - Puzzle of Light

*(continued on page 2)*

## SCHOOL NEWS | Purple Star Schools

Oakwood Schools proudly announced that all five schools have received the prestigious Purple Star designation from Ohio’s Department of Education and Workforce. Each Principal and building team led Oakwood Junior High School, Lange School, and Oakwood High School to earn this honor, which showcases the district’s commitment to its 260 military students and families.

The rigorous application process involved appointing a staff liaison for military families and establishing

dedicated websites. Director Stephen D. Dackin praised the schools for meeting the criteria set by Ohio’s Purple Star Advisory Board.

Previously, Smith Elementary and Harman School earned Purple Star status in 2022. With this latest designation, all five Oakwood schools are recognized for three years, highlighting the district’s ongoing dedication to supporting military-connected students and families as they thrive in the Oakwood community.



Supporting Military Families



## LIBRARY NEWS | It’s Time for the Summer Reading Challenge!

Hey, Everyone! Studies show that summer reading boosts brain power for kids and adults, so start your summer adventure today at Wright Library. All ages can join the Summer Reading Challenge and win prizes weekly through July 31. New this year is Beanstack, an app to track your reading and complete fun challenges. Where will reading take you this summer?

CITY | P2: YARD DEBRIS DISPOSAL

SCHOOLS | P9: ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINS 12TH CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

LIBRARY | P10: GUIDE TO SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

## Smith Gardens 2024 Blanket Concert Series

*(continued)*

### Madcap Puppets:

#### Annie Oakley's Wild West Show

**Sunday, June 9, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

Madcap Puppets is based in Cincinnati, Ohio and is nationally recognized for engaging audiences through their original children's theatre production that include life-size puppets. They work to entertain and educate children and adults.

Come have a rootin' tootin' shootin' good time telling stories with Ohio's favorite gal, Annie Oakley! Hear Madcap's famous puppets tell some Midwest classic tall tales like Johnny Appleseed, Big Eared Bo, Davy Crockett, and Paul Bunyan! This life size play is sure to delight audiences of all ages. Bring the whole family to enjoy!



### Honey & Houston

**Sunday, July 14, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

Honey & Houston is an eclectic folk-rock quartet from northern Kentucky. Defined by the sweet, gypsy harmonies of songwriters Heather Turner and Lauren Houston anchored by drummer Daniel Peterson and multi-instrumentalist Mark Cretcher, the group manages to blend all of their diverse influences into an unpretentious blend that's all their own. Turner and Houston are like sisters from different mothers, who write and sing songs that jump from sweet country ballad to roadhouse rock.

### Puzzle of Light:

**Come celebrate 50 years of Smith Gardens. A very special day is being planned, so don't miss out!**

**Sunday, August 18, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

Puzzle of Light, is a world-flavored quintet with roots reaching deep into jazz, blues, folk, African rhythms, Middle Eastern harmonies, Brazilian chords and Old World sounds. The band leaps nimbly from one inspiration to the next, wrapping them all in the signature Puzzle sound; in the course of one set, listeners might hear sources as varied as Van Morrison, Leonard Cohen, Duke Ellington, Sting, Stanley Turrentine, John Hyatt and Dave Brubeck, among numerous original tunes.

## Yard Debris Disposal

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

### Do It Yourself:

DIY disposal may be done in three different ways:

1. Drop it in the yard debris area at the Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility at the J. David Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Boulevard. The facility is located in a well-lit area with video surveillance and is available 24/7/365.
2. Drop it off at the J. David Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Boulevard, on the first Saturday of the month between 8 a.m. and 12 noon.
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 or edge of the pavement, 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, boulevard, or gutter. Please make sure vehicles do not block the piles on the day of collection. It is against the law to place yard debris in the street. The only exception is for leaves during the fall published collection program. 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.

### Additional Refuse Program Reminders:

Under no circumstance should you place anything in the street, boulevard, or gutter (except leaves during the published 10-week collection period 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 top 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/refuse-recycling](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov/refuse-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.
- 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.



## Trash Can Reminder

Please remember that our city public works employees empty your trash containers by hand 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. Recycling should remain loose (not bagged.) 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 some alleys, must have fully removable lids, be 35 gallons or less, and must not weigh more than 60 pounds.

## 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:

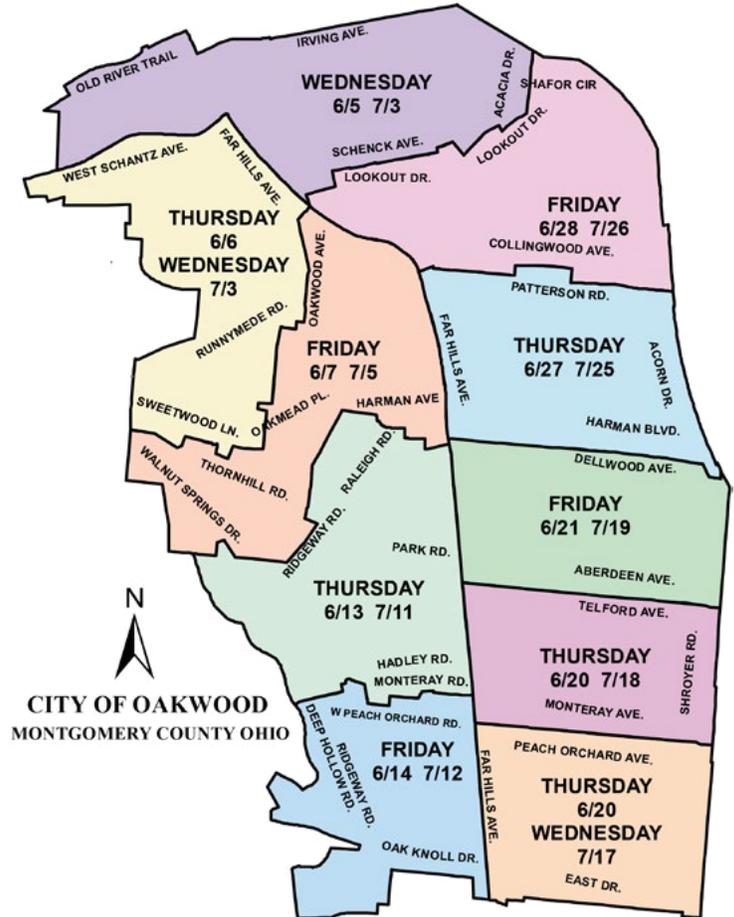
- Residents may drop off the material at the Montgomery County Solid Waste District Moraine Transfer Facility, 1001 Encrete Lane, free of charge. The drop off center is open during the months of March – October from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. See [www.mcswd.org](http://www.mcswd.org) for additional information.
- Alternatively, residents may use the quarterly Oakwood Rotary Club Hazardous Waste Collection program. The remaining 2024 collection dates are Saturday, July 20 and Saturday, October 19. 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!



## Summer Styrofoam Recycling Event

The city of Oakwood is partnering with Green Oakwood to provide a summer Styrofoam recycling event for the Oakwood community. Styrofoam will be collected (only during the time of the event) at the Yard Waste and Recycling Drop-Off facility located at the front entrance to the J. David Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Boulevard, on Saturday, July 20. Watch the city's website and Green Oakwood's Facebook page for collection hours. Green Oakwood will transport the collected Styrofoam to the Montgomery County Environmental Services Styrofoam recycling event.

## YARD DEBRIS PICKUP SCHEDULE JUNE & JULY 2024



Far Hills Ave. will be picked up on:  
**6/13 & 7/11**

Shroyer Rd. will be picked up on:  
**6/27 & 7/25**

## Juneteenth Holiday Closing & Refuse Collection

City offices, including the OCC and Public Works Center, will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 in observance of the Juneteenth federal holiday. Trash pickup for Monday and Tuesday's route will be unchanged; Wednesday's route will be picked up Thursday; and Thursday's route will be picked up Friday.

## Independence Day Holiday Closing & Refuse Collection

City offices, including the OCC and Public Works Center, will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Trash pickup for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday's route will be unchanged; Thursday's route will be picked up Friday.

## Party Tent Rental

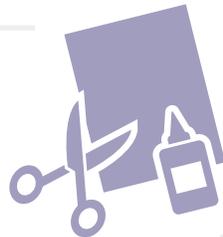
It's the time of year for planning outdoor parties and weddings. Here are few things to keep in mind if you plan to place a party tent on your property. For any tent larger than a standard 10x10 popup style, you will need to obtain a zoning permit. It is important to include the following items with the permit application:

- A clear drawing of your property and the proposed tent location
- A certificate of flame retardancy
- Dates of installation and removal

Most reputable tent rental companies will take care of obtaining the proper permit(s) on your behalf, and will provide the necessary items listed above. Other things to keep in mind include yard placement, tent height (look out for power lines), a plan for how the tent will be secured to the ground, and plans for on-street parking for your guests. We understand permits can add to the cost and logistics of planning an event, but they are designed to look out for your best interest and the safety of you, your guests, and your property. For questions about tent requirements, call the zoning office at (937) 297-2920 or email [zoning@oakwoodohio.gov](mailto:zoning@oakwoodohio.gov).



## Upcoming Leisure Services Department Events/Classes



### PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR AT SHAFOR PARK

The OCC, in conjunction with Wright Memorial Public Library, is pleased to present another fun season of "Pre-School Story Hour at Shafor Park." Spend a magical morning in the Park with Wright Library's Youth Services Staff as they read enchanting stories with your preschooler in mind on the following Fridays: June 28, July 26 and August 30.

### ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

This tradition is held before school resumes in the fall and is scheduled for 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, August 11 at Shafor Park. Tickets will be available beginning the middle of July.

**A complete list of upcoming events is available on our online registration website at [OakwoodLeisureServices.com](http://OakwoodLeisureServices.com). Call the Oakwood Community Center at (937) 298-0775 for more information.**

## Property Maintenance

The city of Oakwood places significant emphasis on the maintenance of property. An Oakwood Citizens Housing Committee was originally established in 1968, and in 1992, renamed as the Property Maintenance Board. The 24-member Oakwood Property Maintenance Board ("PMB") consists of three citizens from each of eight voting precincts/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.

Each spring, city staff completes an inspection of the entire city to identify property maintenance violations. Compliance notices are sent to property owners where violations are identified, and staff follows 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. Awards are presented to single family residences, a business property and/or to an apartment/condominium property each month during May, June, July and August, up to two in each of the eight voting precincts/property maintenance districts. Monthly nominations are submitted to the city by members of the Oakwood Beautification Committee and by the general public. Award winners are notified with a letter from the city and a sign is placed in their yard for approximately one month. 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) and September (July and August winners). Each winner receives a recognition certificate from City Council. Award winners are also recognized here in the Oakwood Scene, on the city website, and in the Oakwood Register.

**Visit the city website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov) or call (937) 298-0775 for more information.**

## 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 the Code Enforcement Officer via email at [zoning@oakwoodohio.gov](mailto:zoning@oakwoodohio.gov) or by calling (937) 297-2920 with any questions.



## Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box

A locked prescription drug drop-off box is available in the lobby entrance to the city building located at 30 Park Avenue. This drop box offers a way for residents to conveniently dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and is accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



The items that are accepted for safe disposal include: prescription medications, medication patches, over-the-counter-medications, vitamins, medication samples, and unwanted medications for pets. Items that cannot be accepted include: liquids of any kind, gels, ointments, needles, inhalers, aerosol cans, and medications from businesses or clinics. This program is not designed for commercial use. Businesses should dispose of medications according to state and federal guidelines. All items collected from the drop box are processed for destruction according to state and federal law.

## Water 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 public water distribution system. Property owners with backflow devices have been notified of the requirement to have the annual recertification completed. Please call Utility Billing at (937) 298-0400 with questions.

## Stormwater Management 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 published 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.
4. Clean up after your pets as the bacteria in animal waste is very harmful to the streams and rivers.

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

## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The city of Oakwood has prepared the 2023 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 2023 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.

## City Construction Projects

- Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project: The 2024 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair Project will take place in the Far Hills Business District.
- ODOT Urban Paving Program: Barrett Paving will repave the entire length of Far Hills Avenue in Oakwood as part of the ODOT Urban Paving Program. The project is anticipated to take place in June and will take about 3 weeks to complete, weather permitting.



## 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 although the State of Ohio recently legalized fireworks in some settings, most fireworks remain illegal in the city of Oakwood. The only types of fireworks that can be legally purchased and discharged in Oakwood are trick and novelty devices. These include items that smoke, sparkle, snap, and snake. Other fireworks such as bottle rockets, firecrackers, roman candles, and even large aerial mortars may be legally sold at fireworks stores around Ohio, but cannot be discharged in Oakwood. Oakwood Codified Ordinance 549.01 prohibits anyone from discharging, igniting, or exploding any fireworks within the city. Anyone found in violation of this section is guilty of a criminal misdemeanor of the third degree.

### 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.

## Online Portal for Bill Payment Options

The online billing and payment portal offers more ways to view and pay your utility bill, plus the addition of 24/7 phone payments and pay by text. Residents can receive and view bills electronically, make a payment with credit/debit card or e-check, and choose to go paperless. A quick, one-time payment can be made without registering or you can create an account to enjoy more features like setting up automatic payments, saving payment information for later use, and viewing history.

1. Easy-to-use online portal to access your account and make payments.
2. Registration is not required.
3. Go Paperless – get your bills via email.
4. Save time with automatic payment options:
  - **AutoPay** – automatically pay the invoice amount on the due date.
  - **Recurring Scheduled Payments** – set up a schedule to pay a fixed amount or the invoice balance on a specific day of the month.
  - **Receive email reminders** when your bill is ready, when a scheduled payment is pending and a confirmation after making a payment.
  - **Pay by Phone** – check your account balance or make a payment 24/7 by calling 1-844-892-9642.
  - **Pay by Text** – get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay through text message with your default payment method (sign up when making an online payment or within your account).
5. Online payment options will also be available to make payments for income tax and billings on other city services (permits, refuse dumpsters, etc.).

Visit the city website for more information.

## June/July Council Meetings

City Council will meet in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3 and Monday, July 15. Both meetings will take place at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. The regular sessions are preceded by an open work session that typically begins 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 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.

## City Drop Box Locations

The city of Oakwood has two secure drop boxes available for residents to submit payments, 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 accessible 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.

## 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.



## 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.

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



### 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.

## Auditorium Upgrades Benefit Students, Oakwood Community

The Oakwood Auditorium stands as a vibrant hub for the arts in both the schools and the larger Oakwood community. It's more than just a place for performances—it's the primary setting for a wide variety of events, including concerts, plays, musicals, classes, guest speakers, and more. The Oakwood Schools Foundation's Flourish Campaign for the Performing and Visual Arts is launching a new fundraising effort to support non-structural upgrades that will elevate the Auditorium's role in the community and empower students to achieve their full potential.

**This campaign's success will bolster three critical areas:**

1. **Elevate Student Performances:** The planned upgrades to rigging, electrical systems, sound and microphones, stage lighting, and window shades will enhance the production quality of student performances, allowing them to shine brighter on stage. These improvements will create a more professional and engaging atmosphere for all events.
2. **Prepare Students for Future Careers:** With enhanced stage technology and improved acoustics, students will gain hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment, offering them valuable skills and knowledge for careers in the performing arts, event production, and technical support.
3. **Empower Students for Life:** By providing a state-of-the-art environment, the Auditorium becomes a space where students can develop confidence, teamwork, and communication skills—essential qualities that will benefit them throughout their lives.



These crucial enhancements will significantly impact its functionality and appeal. These upgrades include new rigging, electrical systems, sound equipment, stage lighting, window shades, and acoustic treatments.

Your support in this campaign will not only enhance the Auditorium's ability to host a broader range of events but also play a critical role in shaping the educational and career paths of Oakwood's students. Join us in keeping the Oakwood Auditorium a thriving and inspiring place for everyone. To learn more about the campaign, email [contact@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org](mailto:contact@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org), or call 937-297-5332.

## Special Ed Audit Update | Oakwood and Beyond

Oakwood Schools has been listening to families and parents through its' Special Education Audit. The multi-year process aimed to gather feedback aimed to gather feedback and identify optimal program design and service delivery processes to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

As part of the feedback Oakwood received - the district hosted its' first-ever Oakwood and Beyond panel this Spring, bringing representatives from local colleges, universities, programming, and resources together for a discussion with our families. They had the opportunity to learn about a wide range of opportunities for students with IEPs and 504s after graduation from Oakwood. Scan for more detailed updates on our Special Education Audit.



## Reunion Planning Time is Here

Have you and your classmates started planning your upcoming reunion? Oakwood Alumni Association is here to help! Contact Oakwood Alumni Association Director Lauren Gentry at [alumni@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org](mailto:alumni@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org) for assistance with these special events.

# Reunion Planning Time Is Here!

Homecoming & Reunion  
Weekend 2024  
**September  
20 & 21**

Contact us with questions!

[alumni@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org](mailto:alumni@oakwoodschooldfoundation.org)

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Scan to view or visit our website at [oakwoodschooldfoundation.org/annual-reports](https://oakwoodschooldfoundation.org/annual-reports)

## ORDER TODAY!

Sip "Lumberjack style" with mugs and embossed leather coasters from Deneen Pottery to support **Oakwood Schools Foundation's Fund for Students.**

TO ORDER:  
Text **MUGS** to  
**53-555** or  
scan QR code

Mug  
\$30

Leather  
Coaster  
\$12

# Congratulations: 2024 Sam Andrews Educational Hall of Honor Inductees

**Barbara Granzow Acker**

OHS Teacher  
1999 - 2020

**Janet Bourne**

Smith Elementary  
Administrative Assistant  
1999 - 2018

**Rob Guizzo**

OHS Teacher  
1975 - 2018

**Sue Hundt**

Preschool Teacher  
2012 - 2021

**Beverly Parker**

Harman School Teacher  
1966 - 1994

The inductees, as well as previous recipients of the award, will be honored at a reception on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 4 p.m. at the NCR Country Club. If you would like to submit a letter to share with an

honoree and for reservations (\$25) contact the Board of Education, Sandi Branham at 937-297-5332, extension 11180 or email at branham.sandi@oakwoodschoools.org.

## Investing in Student Safety

A grant Oakwood Schools applied for in the 2022-23 school year is paying big dividends when it comes to student safety. The district was awarded \$257,188 through Ohio's K-12 Schools Safety Grant Program. These funds were allocated for capital expenditures that enhanced overall student safety, allowing Oakwood to invest in additional layers of safety to our buildings through the purchase and installation of new, state-of-the-art equipment.

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, the district installed new panic buttons, intercom systems, security cameras, a guest management system and access controls. Looking for more information on Oakwood School finances? Scan the QR code to access the treasurer's website.

### GRANT DOLLARS



## OHS Greenhouse Dedication

On April 13th, friends and members of the Class of 1972 gathered for light refreshments and to dedicate the newly renovated greenhouse. The program included remarks by Oakwood Schools Foundation Vice Chair Kevin Jones, Class of 1972 representative Ellen Ireland, Oakwood Schools Superintendent Dr. Neil Gupta, students, and teacher Heidi Edwards.

Ireland spoke to the power of setting a fundraising goal that meant something to their class—the greenhouse represented a place where students could find things like collaboration, conversation/discourse, connection, peace, reflection—things they wanted in their own lives. Heidi Edwards also wowed the attendees with her vision for the space, and how the Greenhouse is not just about science classes, but will extend its contribution to the Consumer Sciences class with fresh herbs for cooking, and vegetables for the Cafeteria's salad bar.

## We are the Champions!



Congratulations to the Oakwood Academic Decathlon Team for winning their 12th consecutive National Championship Division III title! The team is coached by Oakwood High School teacher Lori Morris and assisted by Marie Jergens.



**Thank you OHS Class of 1972 for your generous donations to the OHS Greenhouse!**



Wright Memorial  
Public Library

# ADVENTURE — BEGINS AT — YOUR LIBRARY.



Get started: [wrightlibrary.org/summer](http://wrightlibrary.org/summer)

**NEW this summer:** **beanstack**

Wright Library is excited to offer Beanstack as part of the Summer Reading Challenge. Beanstack is a nifty app to easily track your reading hours or titles and earn entries for prize drawings when you reach your goals.

\*Beanstack is not required to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge

## Summer Reading Challenge June 1 - July 31

Whatever your interests, inspiration, or imagination, Wright Library has something for you. Read at your leisure or drop in for a book club; librarians are happy to be your reading tour guides.

All reading counts towards prize goals: hours read or books finished, audio books, reading on your own or to others, and having books read to you. Kids that have summer reading “homework” can apply that reading towards prizes too!

Don't forget weekly spins on the prize wheel! Let your summer reading adventures begin at **YOUR Wright Library!**



You can't go wrong with  
**WRIGHT READS**

### New Wright Reads Newsletters Just for You

A new series of curated book lists and other library offerings can now be delivered to your inbox. Sign up for the topics of interest to you at [wrightlibrary.org/newsletters](http://wrightlibrary.org/newsletters)

### Wright Library Book Clubs

[wrightlibrary.org/bookclubs](http://wrightlibrary.org/bookclubs)

**Book Club** - June 11 at 7 p.m.

*The Dry* by Jane Harper

**Book Club** - July 9 at 7 p.m.

*Natalie Tan's Book of Luck & Fortune* by Roselle Lim

**The Next Chapter Book Club**

Mondays 6 p.m.

For adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

**History Mystery Book Club**

July 18 at 7 p.m.

*Covered with Night* by Nicole Eustace

**Family Dinner Book Club**

Stop by Wright Library and enter to win a new title each month!

June: *I LOVE Strawberries!* by Shannon Anderson

July: *The Sweetest Scoop: Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Revolution* by Lisa Robinson



## Storytimes and More

### Storytime at Wright Library

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

June 3, 10, 17, 24; July 8, 15, 22, 29

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

June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 9, 16, 23, 30

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

June 7, 14, 21; July 12, 19

**Preschool Storytime at Shafor Park** (ages 0-5 years)

June 28, July 26, August 30 at 10:30 a.m.

### Paws to Read on “Woof Wednesdays”

June 12 & July 24 from 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. Registration preferred. Walk-ins accepted pending availability.

### Collection Feature: Fast Reads

It's easier than ever to find the popular titles you want in the Wright Library Fast Reads collection. Check them out for 14 days. No holds, no renewals, and slashed overdue fines to only 50 cents per day.



## Library Closures

June 19 in observance of Juneteenth

July 4 in observance of Independence Day

## Adventure Continues with these Special Programs

### Mushing with Noggin: Alaskan Sled Dog Adventures

Saturday, June 8 at 2 p.m. (All ages)

Meet Noggin and handler, Karen Land, and learn all about Alaskan sled dog adventures at this exciting, interactive presentation!

*Funding provided by Wright Library Foundation*

### On the Trail with Lewis & Clark

Sunday, June 23. Drop-in 2-4 p.m. (Grades 2-8)

Choose your own adventure to explore the Louisiana Purchase.

*Presented by the Cincinnati Museum Center and made possible by a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), awarded by the State Library of Ohio.*



### Family Game Night

Wednesday, July 10. Drop-in 6-8 p.m. (All ages)

Snacks and fun! Wright Library will provide a variety of games to choose from, or bring your own.

### Digging for Dinosaurs

Thursday, July 18. Drop-in 2-4 p.m.

(Grades 1-4)

A junior paleontologist's dream! Uncover fossils on a mock dinosaur dig and touch fossils from real dinosaurs. *Presented by the Cincinnati Museum Center and made possible by a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), awarded by the State Library of Ohio.*



### Conductor Cody's Magic Railway Adventures

Saturday, July 27 at 10:30 a.m. (Pre-K - Grade 3 and families)

All aboard for a magic show adventure with Conductor Cody, a magician with autism who celebrates different ways of thinking and invites us to join him as disability advocates. *Funding provided by Wright Library Foundation*



### Tie Dye Celebration!

Wednesday, July 31. Drop-in 6-8 p.m. (All ages)

Celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Challenge with tie dye in Katharine Wright Park! Bring your own white cotton items (2 max per person, please), and we will provide the necessary supplies. This program is weather dependent. Rain date is Friday, August 2, 6-8 p.m.



Let your old media live again.

**memory**  
**DIGITIZATION**  
LAB at Wright Library



Schedule a 2-hour session at:

[wrightlibrary.org/services/memory-lab](http://wrightlibrary.org/services/memory-lab)

Get an overview of the memory digitization lab on Wednesdays during Tech Tutoring. Drop in any Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. June 5, 12, 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

*Made possible by the Wright Library Foundation and Enterprise Roofing.*

## Adult Programs

### President Teddy Roosevelt and Alice: An Intimate Portrait of a Father and Daughter

Thursday, June 6 at 7 p.m.

A virtual history presentation with Susan Cannavino.

Register at [wrightlibrary.org/events](http://wrightlibrary.org/events) to receive your ZOOM link.

### Advance Directives

Thursday, June 20 at 11 a.m.

Learn more about Power of Attorney, Do Not Resuscitate, Medicare planning, veteran benefits, retirement home planning, and wills and trusts with Attorney George Lovett. All attendees can receive a free living will and healthcare power of attorney, and may schedule a free consultation.

### Lighting Up the Shadows

### Gardening for Fireflies, Lightning Bugs, & Glow-worms

Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Discover the hidden and threatened world of fireflies and the amazing diversity of their species, behaviors, and lifestyles. Learn gardening techniques to create a firefly-friendly yard.

### Making Sense of the News

Tuesday, June 25 at 7 p.m.

University of Dayton Associate Professor, Mandy Shannon, returns with tips for teachers, parents, teens, and all news consumers wanting to recognize and navigate the media maze of misinformation and bias in the age of information overload.

### Americorps Seniors

Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m. (Adults age 55+)

Learn how you can share your wisdom with the newest generation by becoming a school mentor with the Miami Valley Leadership Foundation. Hosted by Hiroko Schierman, Coordinator for Greene and Montgomery Counties Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP), also known as Americorps Seniors.

## Summer Tween Hangout

Weekly fun for grades 4-7, Tuesdays 4 p.m.

Tasting Party: June 4

Zombie Escape Room: June 11

Pickle Autopsy: June 25

Mystery in the Art Gallery: July 16

Crafts & Switch Games: June 18 & July 9, 23, 30

## Summer Teen Hangout

Weekly fun for grades 7-12, Wednesdays 4 p.m.

Tasting Party: June 5

Zombie Escape Room: June 12

Pickle Autopsy: June 26

Mystery in the Art Gallery: July 17

Crafts & Switch Games: July 10, 24, 31

## Drop-in Craft Days

### Kid's Crafts for Father's Day

Monday, June 10 from 6-8 p.m.

### Summer Crafts for All Ages

Sunday, July 21 from 2-4 p.m.

### Crafty Kids (pre-K to grade 3)

Saturdays 10 a.m. while supplies last

# 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

Planning & Zoning  
937-297-2920

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

## 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 Spitzer, 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

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Kimbe Lange, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum  
Amanda Brown, Community Relations Director  
Frank Eaton, Operations

For more information please visit our website:  
[oakwoodschoools.org](http://oakwoodschoools.org)

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Darrell Crowe  
Bob Eling  
Joseph Fulford  
Candise Powell

## ADMINISTRATION

Kristi Hale, Director  
Brenda Oliver, Fiscal Officer

## Coming Soon: Strategic Plan Revealed This August

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, Superintendent Dr. Neil Gupta embarked on a new journey with the Oakwood community for our schools and students. The philosophy centered around listening and learning to all community members and providing transparent communication. Over the last six months, the journey included:

- Coffee Chats with the Community
- State of the Schools
- Quality Profile
- Community Survey

This spring, a diverse group of community members, staff and even Oakwood students invested time coming together for "Together Towards Tomorrow," our strategic planning initiative. Throughout three sessions, the group convened to revisit Oakwood's mission and vision statements to build a shared vision that will guide the district for years to come.

Oakwood Schools would like to thank the Strategic Planning Committee for their dedication to this initiative. The district plans to reveal the new strategic plan to staff and then to the entire Oakwood community in August.

*"Every voice matters. We invite the entire Oakwood community to join this important conversation. Together Towards Tomorrow, we can achieve educational innovation and excellence."*

*-Dr. Gupta*



Strategic Planning:  
Together Toward Tomorrow

