

# OAKWOOD SCENE

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CITY OF OAKWOOD, OAKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT AND WRIGHT MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

June/July 2007

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## CITY NEWS

### Safety Department Using CodeRED Emergency Notification System

The most important function of local government is to protect the safety of people and property. Oakwood and other cities in the greater Dayton area are now using a new, more effective way to alert residents to impending danger or other critical events. The system is called CodeRED. You are already included in the system if you have a listed home telephone number.

CodeRED combines two modern technologies – Geographical Information Systems (GIS: computerized maps) and high speed telephone dialers. Oakwood Public Safety officials can designate a specific area on a map and CodeRED will dial the phone

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Oakwood Schools Thank Community For Support

Dear Oakwood Residents,

We thank Oakwood residents for your overwhelming support of the District's Permanent Improvement Replacement Levy on May 8<sup>th</sup>. 80 percent of voters approved the levy and it passed in every precinct. We deeply appreciate the community's support of our schools!

This replacement levy will not be an additional cost to taxpayers because we were able to refinance the bonds sold after the 2002 levy at a lower interest rate. This offsets the millage increase of the Replacement Levy resulting in a zero increase in taxes.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### Summer Reading (and Prizes!) for Adults

Wright Library has promoted children's and teens' summer reading activities for many years, but now adults are invited to join the summer reading fun, too. From June 9 through August 5, adults can enter weekly prize drawings for reading books from Wright Library. No time to read? Try books on tape or CD, or downloadable audio books from the Library's web site at [www.WrightLibrary.org](http://www.WrightLibrary.org). Entry forms for prizes are available at the Library beginning June 9.

To participate, just check out a book from Wright Library, read it, and fill out an entry form. Participants must be at least eighteen years old. A "grand prize" will be awarded on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

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*(City News continued from page 1)*

numbers within that area at a rate of up to 60,000 calls an hour. The person receiving the call will get a voice message with the necessary information and instructions on how best to react. Oakwood Public Safety officials anticipate using CodeRED to contact residents about natural or man-made disasters, missing or abducted persons, public health items like boil-water advisories, and any other event where timely notice is likely to be essential or useful.

Residents with unlisted and cellular telephone numbers must register those numbers to be included in the new system. To register these alternate phone numbers, please call the safety department at 298-2122 or online at [www.mvcc.net](http://www.mvcc.net), then "government services" then "CodeRED Group" then "Click here to update your emergency contact information." Your information will remain completely private and will only be made available to notify you of critical situations.

The CodeRED project was initiated and organized by the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) and covers an area with a combined population of 273,000. MVCC member cities using CodeRED are Centerville, Germantown, Kettering, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood and Springboro. If you have questions, please contact the safety department at 298-2122.

### Motor Vehicle Registration Tax

Please remember to report your place of residence as Oakwood, Montgomery County, Ohio, when filling out your Motor Vehicle License Plate application. By listing Oakwood, you make sure the city receives its rightful share of motor vehicle registration fees and gasoline taxes.

### Keep Oakwood Beautiful

From time to time, residents contact city offices to discuss the ongoing problems of pets, specifically owners not cleaning up after their animals while walking them. Please respect your neighbors. Don't allow your pet to use your neighbor's lawn and tree lawns as a "dumping ground." Please clean up after your pets on all tree lawns and boulevards. Many residents already do so by carrying "pooper scoopers," plastic bags or other clean-up devices that can help keep Oakwood beautiful. Please help.

### Beautification Awards

If you know of someone in your neighborhood who has enhanced the beauty of our community by planting shrubs, flowers, trees and other landscaping, or by making significant architectural modifications or improvements to existing structures, there is an opportunity to recognize their efforts through the Oakwood Beautification Award Program. To nominate a property, please obtain forms from the City Building, the Oakwood Community Center, on the city's website at [www.mvcc.net/oakwood](http://www.mvcc.net/oakwood) or by simply calling the city offices at 298-0411. Awards are given during the months of May, June, July, August and September. Monthly winners are selected by citizen members of the Property Maintenance Board and Environmental Committee, and will have a sign recognizing their beautification efforts posted in their yard.

### Mark Your Calendars

#### June/July City Council Meetings:

- June 11, 7:30 P.M. – Regular
- June 25, 5:00 P.M. – Work Session
- July 16, 7:30 P.M. – Regular

All meetings are held at 30 Park Avenue and are open to the public. In lieu of attending, you can view the regular council meetings on Channel 21, one of your local cable channels (please see [www.mvcc.net/](http://www.mvcc.net/) for a schedule). The pre-council work session for each meeting begins at 6:00 P.M.

**Holiday Closing:** Wednesday, July 4, 2007. City offices, including the Public Works Center and the Community/Health/Teen Center will be closed.

### Story Hour at Smith Gardens

The OCC, in conjunction with the Wright Memorial Library, is pleased to present another fun season of "Story Hour at Smith Gardens". Spend a magical morning in the Gardens as the Children's Librarian, Jennifer Sommer, reads enchanting stories to your preschooler.

Friday dates: June 22, July 27 and August 24 at 10:00 A.M. In case of rain, meet in the Garden House.

**Smith Gardens Blanket Concerts**

The Friends of Smith Gardens and the city of Oakwood are pleased to announce the 2007 Blanket Concert Series.

**Sunday, June 24 – Madcap Puppets**

“Cart Tales” It’s a small cart – just a wagon, really – but oh the magic it holds! It belongs to Quincy Wilder: World traveler, fearless adventurer and amazing storyteller. With some assistance from you – yes, you there in the audience! He will pull giants, fairy tale folk and creatures of all sorts from his magical cart. With stories from all corners of the globe, he will make you laugh, gasp and shriek with delight. Great concert for the whole family.

**Sunday, July 22 – The Fries**

Back by popular demand! The Fries are an acoustic trio that specializes in three part harmonies in every song, featuring Crosby, Stills and Nash, Beatles, America, Jimmy Buffet and the Eagles to name a few. Join us for this local favorite!

**Sunday, August 26 – Chazz**

This eclectic mix of song styles features Tom Scheidt and Kimberly G in a musical fun-fest. Enjoy tunes from Muddy Waters, Bonnie Raitt, Harry Belafonte, Alan Jackson, Sade, Diana Krall, and Bobby Marley – then top it off with bagpipes and good ol’ Rock-n-Roll!

All concerts begin at 7:00 P.M. Rain location is the Oakwood Community Center, 105 Patterson Road. Information concerning inclement weather will be announced on the Leisure Line, 297-2935 after 6:00 P.M. on show days. Smith Gardens is located in the 800 block of Oakwood Avenue on the corner of Walnut Lane. Parking is available on side streets or the municipal lot off of Park Avenue. The concerts are free and open to the public.

**Building and Zoning Permits**

If you are considering a significant home improvement this spring, such as a room addition or a deck, please contact City Inspector Dave Bunting (297-2920) for zoning and permit information. Since many major improvements require public hearings through either the Board of Zoning Appeals or the Planning Commission, it is important to begin planning well in advance of when you hope to have the project completed. Other improvements such as fences, patios, driveways, play structures and air conditioning condenser units, just to name a few, also require permits. If you hire a private contractor for any home improvement, please make sure they secure the necessary zoning approval and permit **before** starting work.

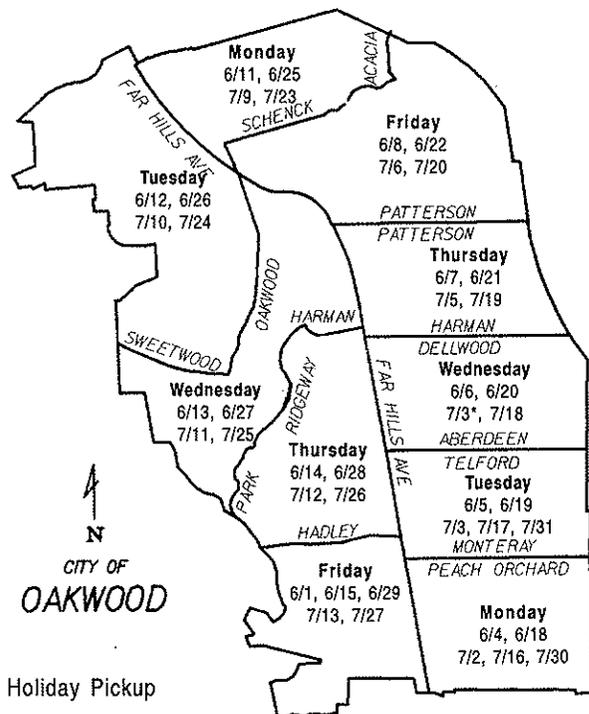
**Public Works Needs Your Help**

The Public Works Department asks all citizens to remember the following rules regarding our yard debris pickup service:

- Please try your best to coordinate placement of brush and branches with our collection schedule noted on the map below which shows that we collect the entire city every two weeks.
- Please remember that all brush/branch items are to be trimmed to lengths that are no greater than 6 feet and placed off the roadway, just behind the curb. The material must never be placed in the street. The only exception to this is leaves during the fall leaf pickup program.
- The refuse foreman is currently in the process of placing door hanger notices on properties with material in the street to aid in the education process. Please refer to page 5 of the refuse regulations handbook for the steps the city is taking to keep material from being improperly placed in the roadway.
- Small quantities of twigs or branches no longer than 3 feet should be bundled and placed with the regular household refuse, or clipped into small pieces and placed in garbage cans with the regular trash.

Remember that the city does not pick up grass clippings or brush and branch material generated by contractors.

**Curbside Yard Debris Collection Schedule**



The following two roads are scheduled as follows:  
 Far Hills Avenue: 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26  
 Shroyer Road: 6/7, 6/21, 7/5, 7/19

## Oakwood Community Center

**Swim Lesson Registration for Group Lessons:** Registration will be held at the OCC on Wednesday, June 13 beginning at 7:00 P.M.

**Safety Town Program:** For the 14<sup>th</sup> year, we will offer a Safety Town program for ages 5 and 6. The program will be held Monday-Friday, June 25-29 from 1:30-3:30 P.M. at Orchard Park Elementary School in Kettering. Register at the OCC. Class is limited to 30 students and the registration deadline is June 20.

**Oakwood Dolphins Swim Team:** Swim team begins on Monday, June 11. The season runs through Sunday, July 28. Any Gardner Pool member 18 and under may register to be on this team.

**3rd Annual city of Oakwood Tennis Tournament:** June 15-June 28.

Call the OCC at 298-0775 for more information on these and other events.

## 2007 Curb, Walk and Apron Project

The 2007 concrete curb, sidewalk and driveway apron repair project will start in June and continue through the summer. Residents who received notices are reminded that June 15 is the deadline to complete the required sidewalk repairs (don't forget the permit and inspection). After that date, the city will include the work under a city contract and will assess costs as explained in the notice. Please call Bart Bornhorst at 298-0777 with questions.

## Fourth of July Trash Pickup

Please note the changes in trash pickup for the week of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monday's route will be picked up Monday; Tuesday's route will be picked up Tuesday; Wednesday's route will be picked up Thursday and Thursday's route will be picked up Friday.

### Water Report

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Consumer Confidence Report for the city's public water system. This report was prepared in accordance with federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. It includes detailed information about our city water system. As the report shows, the city provides high quality water for its residents and businesses and operates the public water system in compliance with all state and federal rules.

## Recycling Services

Under the City of Oakwood's voluntary program, all recyclables may be comingled in a single can, or multiple cans if needed. These cans must be marked with recycling stickers. The stickers are available at 30 Park Avenue and 210 Shafor Blvd. Can size and weight limits are the same as the regular trash can – 35 gallons or less volume and less than 60 pounds. In the recycling can, you may place glass; plastics with the 1 and 2 designations in the triangle on the bottom; aluminum, steel, and bi-metal cans; newspaper; cardboard; paperboard (like cereal boxes); junk mail; magazines; and phone books (small quantities only please due to weight – phone books may also be placed in the cardboard containers at the Creager Field parking lot).

The web site link below provides the Montgomery County Solid Waste District's guidance on what may and may not be recycled. The city of Oakwood uses refuse trucks that have separate compartments for the garbage and recyclables. These materials are dumped in separate areas at the Montgomery County Transfer Station. Waste Management then picks up our recyclables and transports them to their sorting facility where they are processed.  
[http://www.mcswd.org/Community/SWD\\_Dropoffs/cans\\_paper\\_page1.htm](http://www.mcswd.org/Community/SWD_Dropoffs/cans_paper_page1.htm)

## Storm Water Program

During 2007, the city of Oakwood will be undertaking numerous steps to comply with our EPA storm water permit. These activities include the following: Dry weather screening of manholes to locate illicit connections; mapping all outfalls of the storm sewer system; education of residents; adopting ordinances to require sediment and erosion controls on sites larger than 1 acre; street sweeping; and staff education on storm water impacts. The overall goal of this program is to improve the quality of the water in our rivers, lakes and streams by limiting pollutants that are released into these receiving waters. There are several ways that citizens can aid this effort: do not place any material in the street except leaves during the 10 week collection period in the fall; do not dump oil, lawn debris, or other materials into the storm sewer – this is a direct path to your streams and there is no treatment of this water; limit as much as possible the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides; and clean up after your pets in the yard as the bacteria in the waste is very harmful to the streams. The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) has many materials available if you would like additional information. These can be found at: <http://www.miamiconservancy.org/water/riversmart.asp>

*(Library News continued from page 1)*

Local merchants have donated some excellent prizes. The Library's web site will feature a blog where adult summer readers can discuss what they like and dislike about books they have chosen.

**Monthly Classic Mystery Movies**

“Whodunit@ Your Library” is the theme of this year's adult summer reading promotion. In keeping with the theme, monthly classic mystery films will be shown. All movies will be shown in the Library meeting room at 2:00 P.M., with popcorn and soft drinks provided.

• **June 24—*Gaslight* (1944)** In this suspenseful Victorian era mystery, a man tries to drive his wife insane while searching for priceless jewels. Starring Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, and Angela Lansbury in her film debut.

• **July 22—*The Big Clock* (1948)** George Stroud, editor of *Crimeways* magazine, is forced to cancel a vacation with his wife and instead must spend time with the lovely Pauline, whom he inadvertently discovers is his boss' mistress. Pauline is murdered and George realizes that all the clues are pointing to him. Starring Ray Milland and Charles Laughton.

• **August 5—*Witness for the Prosecution* (1957)** An unemployed man is accused of murdering a wealthy widow whom he befriended. Adapted from the Agatha Christie story and stage play. Starring Charles Laughton, Tyrone Power and Marlene Dietrich.

**Summer Family Blanket Concerts**

Summer Family Blanket Concerts are a Wright Library tradition. They are a great way to combine a trip to the library with a chance to relax, have fun with your kids, and chat with neighbors on a summer evening. The performances are geared to families with children, but are entertaining for all ages. This year's presenters were selected with an eye to supporting (in an informal, fun way) concepts taught during the school year. Concerts are held on the north lawn of the library. The Library's meeting room is the rain site. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating and bring a picnic supper if you like.

**June 11, 6:30 P.M.**—“Dr. HowanWhy,” also known as John Z. Gardiner, will entertain and educate with funny science stunts and lots of audience participation. Dr. HowanWhy brings inflatable sharks, slinkies, and rocket balloons to engage the audience in having fun with science.

**July 30, 6:30 P.M.**—Candace Wolf, a Storyteller-in-Residence with the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, will perform “The Moon in a Tortilla.” Spanish language, music, and geography are woven into a captivating performance that offers a vision of the Amazon Rain Forest, the era of the Spanish conquistadors, Mexican holiday celebrations, and the island cultures of the Caribbean Sea.

**August 13, 6:30 P.M.**—Tom Scheidt will present his “Positive Planet Show.” Tom will perform songs and stories, all with a positive message. He is a multi-talented performer, known to many for appearances with his eclectic band, Chazz, and for his portrayals of Thomas MacGregor, the Pirate.

**Let *BookLetters* Bring the Newest Titles to Your E-Mailbox**

You can be in-the-know (and on the “holds” list) for the newest titles at Wright Library by signing up for *BookLetters*. Wright Library will send you monthly e-mail messages about new books in your areas of interest. You can access the Library's catalog directly from your e-mail newsletter to place a hold on your favorites. To sign up, visit [www.WrightLibrary.org](http://www.WrightLibrary.org) and click on “*BookLetters* Sign-up.”



## CITY OF OAKWOOD 2006 Oakwood Water Quality Report



The purpose of this report is to educate the citizens and business owners in the city about their water system and to convey to the community a sense of confidence in the safe production, treatment and distribution of this invaluable natural resource.

The City of Oakwood owns and operates a public municipal water system that serves the residents and businesses throughout the community. The system is comprised of 8 production wells, 3 water treatment plants, 44 miles of underground water lines, 342 fire hydrants and a 1.5 million gallon water tower. The Director of Engineering and Public Works oversees the operation of the public water system. The Water Plant Superintendent is charged with the day-to-day operation of the system. The city's system produced 99.99% of the total city water demand in 2006. Any additional water needed was supplied from the City of Dayton Water System.

**As the following information shows, the City of Oakwood's water system provides the residents and businesses with high quality water, that meets or exceeds all state and federal safe drinking water regulations.**

### Water Source

The City of Oakwood water system is supplied by groundwater pumped from its own eight production wells, which draw water from tributary aquifers flowing towards the Greater Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. From time to time, Oakwood buys water from the City of Dayton. The aquifers that supply drinking water to the City of Oakwood have a moderate susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitivity of the aquifers in which the drinking water wells are located and the existence of several potential contaminant sources within the protection zone. This does not mean that the wellfields will become contaminated, only that conditions are such that the ground water could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. More detailed information is included in the City of Oakwood's wellhead/drinking water source protection plan and susceptibility analysis, which can be obtained by calling the Director of Engineering and Public Works at 937-298-0777. The City of Dayton water is pumped directly from the Greater Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. For additional information regarding the City of Dayton's water please call the Division of Environmental Management at (937) 333-3725 or see their Consumer Confidence Report on the web at: <http://water.cityofdayton.org/water>.

### Additional Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Concerning Lead In Our Water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or habitually flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Again, additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## CITY OF OAKWOOD Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Sources of Contaminants
Copper <sup>1</sup>	07/30/04 - 08/12/04	Ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	0.275	ND – 0.305	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride <sup>2</sup>	06/16/06	Ppm	4	4	0.24	0.22 – 0.24	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead <sup>3</sup>	07/30/04 – 08/12/04	Ppb	0	AL=15	9.0	ND – 35.9	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Compounds	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Sources of Contaminants
Bromoform	7/12/06	Ppb	N/A	N/A	2.6	1.6 – 2.6	By-products of chlorination
Chloroform	7/12/06	Ppb	N/A	N/A	0.7	0.6-0.7	By-products of chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	7/12/06	Ppb	N/A	N/A	2.2	1.5-2.2	By-products of chlorination
Dibromo-chloromethane	7/12/06	Ppb	N/A	N/A	4.2	2.7 – 4.2	By-products of chlorination

Regulated in the Distribution System	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Sources of Contaminants
Trihalomethanes	07/12/06	Ppb	0	80	9.7	6.4 – 9.7	By-products of chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	07/12/06	Ppb	N/A	60	2.7	1.6-2.7	By-products of chlorination
Total Chlorine <sup>4</sup>	Weekly	Mg/l	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.76	0.72-0.81	Water Additive to Control Microbes

### Water Quality Table Footnotes

- None of the 20 samples tested for copper exceeded the current action level of 1.3 ppm.
- The City of Oakwood does not add fluoride to the water it produces.
- Two of the 20 samples exceeded the action level of 15 ppm.
- Highest running annual average.

How to Read This Table	Definitions
<p>This report is based upon tests conducted in the years 2001 – 2006.</p> <p><b>Key To Table</b></p> <p>AL = Action Level  MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level  MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)  pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)  N/A = not applicable  ND = Not Detected  Mg/l – Milligrams/liter</p>	<p><b>Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:</b> The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.</p> <p><b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:</b> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.</p> <p><b>MRDL:</b> Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.</p> <p><b>MRDLG:</b> Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.</p> <p><b>Detected Level:</b> The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.</p> <p><b>Action Level (AL):</b> The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.</p> <p><b>Range:</b> The range of all values for samples tested for each contaminant.</p>

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. Out of the 125 contaminants tested for, only the ones that were detected are listed in the chart above. Oakwood softens the water to an average of 12 grains per gallon. For more information, call the City of Oakwood at 937-298-0777 extension 5361. Find out more about the City of Oakwood on the internet at: [www.mvcc.net/oakwood](http://www.mvcc.net/oakwood)

Public Water System I.D. #5701915

### Professional Associations -- The City of Oakwood has employees who are members of:

- American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO)

*(School News continued from page 1)*

With May 8<sup>th</sup>'s voter approval, the district will receive additional funds for five years to be used for building repairs, equipment, furnishings and other items that have a useful life of at least five years. Permanent improvement funds cannot be used for salaries and other operating expenses.

We are grateful to the Oakwood community for the resources you have provided. We will continue working with our Business Advisory and Facilities Committees in keeping you informed about how these dollars are expended.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Kevin Philo, Treasurer*

*Dr. Mary Jo Scalzo, Superintendent*

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### **Oakwood Prepares for New “Value Added” Accountability System**

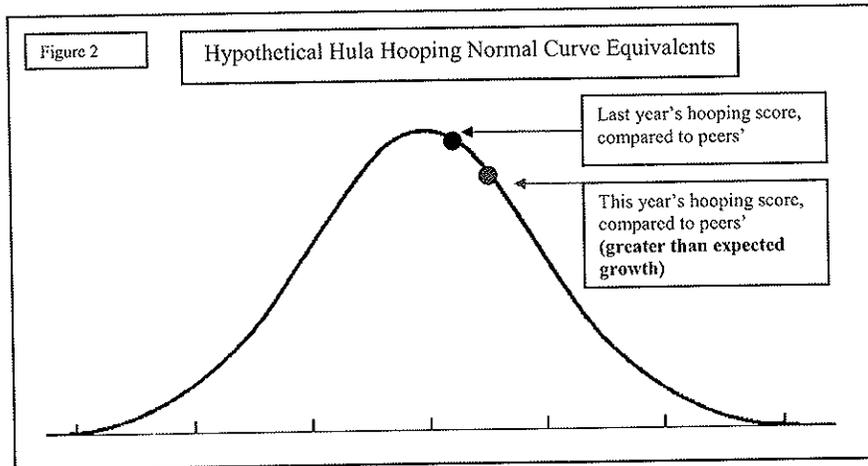
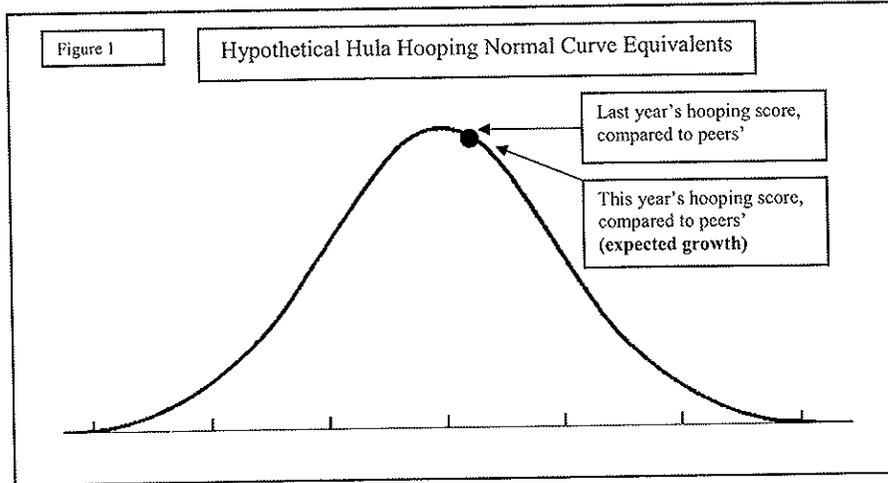
Ah, spring. Birds enraptured by song, flowers bursting forth their blooms, sun pouring down on freshly mowed lawns. And the ubiquitous bubble answer sheet—the hallmark of spring testing season. Each spring students take a battery of state-mandated tests, and each summer, schools and districts receive the results and use them to reflect on instructional practices, curricular materials, and leadership initiatives.

Amongst other analyses, we educators compare one year's scores to previous years', in the hopes of seeing longitudinal increases in achievement over time. Until now, however, it has been difficult to track student progress over time. We get, for example, 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading, writing, and math scores, and we can compare those scores to last year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading, writing, and math scores. But in a sense, in doing so we are comparing Granny Smith apples to Macintosh apples—students in one 4<sup>th</sup> grade class—though similar—are different creatures than the previous year's 4<sup>th</sup> graders. We educators have long lamented that the testing system hasn't compared this year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade performance to the performance of those same students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. *That*, we believe, would really show progress in a truer way than comparing this year's 4<sup>th</sup> graders to last year's.

Now we are able to do just that—through a statistical model known as Educational Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS). Value added looks at student growth from one year to the same point of time the following year and compares student growth to the normative growth of the student's peers across the state.

Think of it like this: Let's say that one year ago from today I handed you a Hula Hoop and timed how long you could Hula Hoop before the hoop fell to the ground. Then I charted your hooping time compared to that of your peers. Now, one year later, I hand you the Hula Hoop again, and I again time how long you can Hula Hoop until the hoop hits the ground. Again I chart your hoop time compared to that of your peers. If you are as good at hooping compared to your peers this year as you were last year (same location on the normal curve), then you have made average—or “expected”—progress (see Figure 1 on page 9).

If, however, you are better at hooping compared to your peers this year than you were last year (“higher” location on the normal curve), then you have made greater than average or “greater than expected” progress (see Figure 2 on page 9). In either case, something “added value” to your hooping skills—perhaps hours of practice, great coaching from hooping experts, a top-of-the-line Hula Hoop, etc.



Similarly, in education, value added scores can help schools and districts determine the extent to which they are “adding value” to students’ learning—through instructional practices, curricular materials, parent engagement, leadership initiatives, professional development, etc. Indeed, expected value added composite gains for schools and districts are calculated through EVAAS, and expected gains are compared to actual gains. Schools and districts whose actual composite gains are equal to or greater than expected gains are thought to have “added value” to students’ learning.

Starting next year, with the 2007-2008 school year, the State of Ohio will be adding a value added metric to districts’ Local Report Cards (LRCs), the accountability tool used by the state to rank schools and districts into one of five levels, which are (from least to greatest): Academic Emergency, Academic Watch, Continuous Improvement, Effective, and Excellent. Since the inception of the State’s ranking system, Oakwood has been an “Excellent” district. The current LRC contains three accountability metrics: Indicators, Performance Index, and Adequate Yearly Progress (which is based on subgroups’ scores). Value added will be the fourth metric, and it will work like this: If a school or district shows below expected progress on value added for three consecutive years, the school’s/district’s rank will drop one level (e.g. from Excellent to Effective). Conversely, if a school or district shows above expected progress on value added for two consecutive years, the school’s/district’s rank will go up one level (e.g. from Academic Emergency to Academic Watch). For districts (like Oakwood) who are already “Excellent” *and* post above expected value added growth for two consecutive years, a new subcategory called “Excellent with Distinction” has been created.

*(continued on page 12)*

# June 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					SH Breakfast 8-10 a.m. OCC Spring Dance Perf. 3:15-7 p.m.	SH SAT 8 a.m.-12 p.m. OCC Spring Dance Perf. 1-4 p.m.
OCC Spring Dance Perf. 12-6 p.m.	Commencement		Plan Comm 4:30 p.m.			SH ACT 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
3	4	5	6	JH/SH Exams	8	9
	SH Summer School Begins City Council 7:30 p.m. Library Blanket Concert 6:30 p.m.			Meet JH Principal 6 p.m. Zoning App 4:30 p.m.		
10	11	12	13		15	16
	Library Board 7 p.m.		Basketball Camp 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.			
	18	19	20		22	23
			Football Camp 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.			
Mystery Movie at Library 2 p.m.						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# July 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			City Offices Closed Library Closed			Football Car Wash 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Zoning App 4:30 p.m.	Relay for Life 12 p.m.	Relay for Life 12 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	SH Football Lift-a-Thon 6-8 p.m. Library Board 7 p.m. City Council 7:30 p.m.					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Mystery Movie at Library 2 p.m.						
				HS Pre-Camp Marching Band 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Library Blanket Concert 6:30 p.m.					
29	30	31				

*(School News continued from page 9)*

The value added accountability system will be based on reading and math Ohio Achievement Test data from grades 4-8 (grade 3 is used as a baseline year). Oakwood has been preparing for value added for two years. All Oakwood teachers in grades 4-8 have been trained on value added, and we have been part of a pilot program called Soar that has allowed us to look at and analyze Oakwood's value added data. This data has helped us to reflect on our instructional practices, curricular materials, professional development, and leadership initiatives. In these ways, we are doing our best to be ready for the inclusion of value added as the fourth metric of the State's LRC accountability system.

It's important to note that all four metrics that will be used to judge schools and districts next year will be based on the same Ohio Achievement Tests and Ohio Graduation Test. The same data is "cut" in different ways for each of the metrics, but they are all four based on the same data set—student scores on all of those spring bubble sheets and answer booklets. Ah, the sounds of spring—and all of their complex implications for educators.

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