

**Portage
Lakes
Kiwanis**

The Communicator

FEBRUARY 20 , 2013

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Special points of interest:

- What's happening in Your Community?
- Have you joined a committee yet
- Saying of the week.

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OUR COMMUNITY

Tonight was the 3rd annual " President ' s of Non Profit Organizations in Portage Lakes showcase.

Does anyone know how many non-profit organizations there are in Portage Lakes? Or of how many wonderful things they do through out the year?

It ' s staggering!

I have spent most of my life in this area and had no idea of the terrific things and groups that are available in this area.

Tonight with the guidance of Mr. Larry Hunter and Mr. Chuck Seeley most of these organizations were brought together to share a meal, fellowship and share what their organizations do.

Though I have read through the brochure (that was passed out this evening) several times over the past few weeks. And it did provide a brief description of each organization in attendance this evening, — It was nothing compared to hearing each group speak.

The fund raiser' s that are put on through out the year. The volunteer projects that each of them participate in. The fund raisers that are put on. And the invitations to come and visit a meeting were overwhelming.

The dedication & pride that these individuals have for our area is amazing. And it ' s not just about the area it ' s all about what is inside this small community, the children, the adults, the animals and right down to the plants. As well as the water in the lakes.

As a child and even a teenager I swam and boated in these lakes. Played in the parks. And the thought never occurred to me that someone takes there time to clean the Kids Zone at state park so that it remains a safe healthy environment for children as well as their families to enjoy through out the year. Or that the lakes though they are nature and man made need to have a drawdown done bi

yearly. And once that is done they have to figure out where to deposit what they have taken from the bottom of the lakes.

There is even a Disc Golf Course— who would have known...

Or, even what camp Y-Noah provides for it ' s campers - a safe non bullying, self esteem building outdoor area.

Do you know how long many of these organizations have existed? On the next page is a brief overview of what they all shared with us this evening.

If you would like more detailed information please visit the individual websites for each group.

Thank you to everyone who participated tonight. Just one more example of why I am proud to say I grew up in the Portage Lakes Area and am now raising my children here.

Our Community con't

PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS

Al Grzeschik, President

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

CONTACT INFO: 330-644-8967 or www.PLKiwanis.org

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Margo Erme

Our purpose is to establish closer relations between the library and its

constituents, promote an informed interest in library functions, resources, services and needs, act as a liaison between the library and the community, provide supplemental income to help meet library objectives and stimulate gifts and bequests to the library through ways approved by the Board of Trustees of the Akron Summit County Public Library.

CONTACT INFO: 330-644-7050

TAMMY'S TOTES

Tammy Raess

Tammy's Totes is a group of community members and friends working together to provide emergency totes filled with toiletries and basic essentials for families displaced by a fire or disaster. We also provide a support system to help families after a disaster and try to help them locate other donated items such as clothes and household items.

CONTACT INFO: Visit the Tammy's Totes Facebook page

PIRATE DAYS COMMITTEE

Larry Hunter, Chairman

The purpose of Pirate Days is to encourage tourism, increase business and provide a venue for non-profit organizations to have fundraising activities. The committee coordinates all activities.

Pirate days are July 19 – 21, 2013.

CONTACT INFO: 330-644-1540

SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY

Margaret Frost, Chairman

Celtic Beltane Festival – May 18, 2013 will be held on the grounds of the Tudor House, adjacent to Portage Lakes State Park. Proceeds benefit Pegasus Farm, a premier therapeutic riding center in Northeast Ohio since 1985.

CONTACT INFO: mfrost@nls.net

TUDOR HOUSE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sylvia Johnson

The Commission is an advisory board to the officials of the City of New Franklin in regards to events, maintenance and other matters concerning the Tudor House.

CONTACT INFO: 330-882-4324

COVENTRY AARP CHAPTER 3820

Alan Giles, President

Established in 1984, the chapter has approximately 160 members. We meet at the Kiwanis Civic Center on the 2nd Monday of the month. Two banquets are held each year to raise money for contributions to various organizations in our community.

CONTACT INFO: agiles5@neo.rr.com

YMCA CAMP Y-NOAH

Michael Ohl, Executive Director

Camp has been magical, exciting and fun for over 80 years. Under the watchful eye of our trained counselors, campers get a chance to explore in a safe, nurturing outdoor environment away from computers, phones and video games. We use 275 acres to engage campers' imaginations as they set out to play our theme games, sleep under the stars, explore our 20-acre lake and meet other people face to face.

CONTACT INFO: www.gotcamp.org

GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lori Howerton, CEO

The Green Chamber of Commerce is a business organization whose members are the driving force interconnecting and enriching the business and the community. A multitude of opportunities for business-minded people to build relationships, acquire pertinent information, and gain valuable benefits are offered. All are welcome to join us on a Friday morning to learn more.

CONTACT INFO: info@greencoc.org

GOODYEAR BOATING & YACHTING ASSOCIATION

Frank Keiser, Commodore

Established in 1955 on Cottage Grove Lake, the organization promotes an interest in the safety, functional and social aspects of boating among association members.

CONTACT INFO: Barb Aman, 330-882-0233

SOUTH SUMMIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Joe Fazek, C.E.O.

Our chamber is dedicated to helping businesses and business people expand their customer base. We are a legislative advocacy group working for growth of the individual and corporate entities in and around the South Summit County area. We endeavor to increase the visibility and profitability of our members.

CONTACT INFO: 330-745-3141

MAPS AIR MUSEUM

Kim Kovesci, Executive Director

MAPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about the history of aviation and its impact upon society. We have been in existence for over 23 years. We display 38 aircraft ranging from a glider to an F-14 Tomcat and our "Gallery of Heroes" contains 40 displays of artifacts and memorabilia from our nation's wars and conflicts.

CONTACT INFO: kovesci.kim@mapsairmuseum.org

SECRET SISTERS

Lisa Geiger

The Secret Sisters originally formed as a group of women who shower gifts, thoughts and prayers on their sister throughout the year. We are in our 3rd year and have grown to support and volunteer in local organizations and fundraisers. Last year many sisters volunteered with the Kiwanis during Rose Day and Pirate

Days. We are also actively involved in the T.J. Mozik Memorial fundraiser. If you are in need of volunteers or support for your organization, we are here to help.

CONTACT INFO: 330-437-5541 or geiger990@gmail.com

MEMORIALS OF ANGELS

Barbara Freeman, President

Memorials of Angels is a non-profit organization that provides headstones to children when the family cannot afford to do so. For more information, go to www.memorialsfangels.com.

CONTACT INFO: EpitapherBarbara@aol.com

PORTAGE LAKES POLAR BEAR CLUB

Kelly Pariso, Founder

We help charitable organizations raise funds through our annual Polar Bear Jump. 2013 marks our 10th year. The event provides a fun and safe

way for people of all ages to give back to various charities, thus keeping true to our mission of "Freezing our bodies and warming our hearts." We

encourage local businesses to participate, and will continue to grow this event to create awareness for the Portage Lakes area.

CONTACT INFO: portagelakespolarbearclub.com

DRAGON DREAM TEAM

Marilyn Purdy, President

Launched in 2007, the DDT is Ohio's first all breast cancer survivor dragon boat team. Based at Craftsman Park, the team has two pink dragon boats, 70 members and practices three times a week on the beautiful Portage Lakes. The DDT provides support to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients in Northeast Ohio through its "Boatloads of Hope" Outreach Program. The Dragon Dream Team will be hosting

the first Portage Lakes Dragon Boat Community Festival on July 13, 2013.

CONTACT INFO: dragondreamteam.org

PORTAGE LAKES PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION

Paul Toth, President

We are an organization dedicated to helping the Purple Martins feed, breed and interact with the environment to the best of their bird ability.

CONTACT INFO: 330-644-1540 or http://members.tripod.com/sassyoh_4/

portagelakespurplemartins/

FRIENDS OF PORTAGE LAKES STATE PARK – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SPACE PROJECT

Jim Frost, Treasurer, Friends of Portage Lakes State Park, Chairman, EES

Formerly called the Bird and Butterfly trail, the EES will be located in Portage Lakes State Park and will incorporate elements of the Bird and Butterfly trail with additional educational elements.

CONTACT INFO: jfrost@nls.net

FRIENDS OF PORTAGE LAKES STATE PARK

Jody Holloway, President

The Friends are organized to foster a partnership between outdoor enthusiasts and Portage Lakes State Park that ensures a better place for nature and wildlife education, while setting high conservation standards and raising a strong sense of responsibility for future generations.

CONTACT INFO:

www.friendsofportagelakes.org

PORTAGE LAKES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Kelly Pariso, President

A reinvigorated group for 2013, PLCC is a collaboration of club leaders that facilitates dialogue and resources between service organizations in the Portage Lakes area. Our Candidates and Issues Night in the fall was a huge success. Look for more events in the spring and summer.

CONTACT INFO: portagelakescouncil.com

WARM UP PORTAGE LAKES

Betty Sherrill, Spokesperson

We are a group that knits and crochets afghans, hats and scarves for people in need in the Portage Lakes community. We meet at the Coventry Senior Center (336 Willowview Drive) From 10 to noon every Monday.

CONTACT INFO: bsherrill@earthlink.net

PORTAGE LAKES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Carol Eubank, President

We strive to collect, preserve and maintain the history and early records of the Portage Lakes. We present programs pertaining to local history at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Tudor House, 655

Latham Lane, City of New Franklin, Ohio.
Check us out on Facebook.

CONTACT INFO: 330-644-3748

PORTAGE LAKES ROWING ASSOCIATION

Mark Shupe, President

PLRA was founded in 2005 and offers recreational and competitive rowing opportunities for adults in the Akron and Canton area. New for 2013 is an adaptive rowing program for amputees led by our head coach Matt Walle. In May, we'll host a half-day clinic for those who have never rowed before called Introduction to Rowing. Those interested can join the coached Novice program which practices one evening each week and Sunday morning.

CONTACT INFO: portagelakesrowing.com or (330) 333-2ROW

PORTAGE LAKES DISC GOLF ASSOCIATION

Steve Godar, President

We have constructed a disc golf course at the State Park. Disc golf is played like regular golf except that you are throwing a disc (Frisbee) into a basket rather than using a golf club and a ball.

CONTACT INFO: www.pldga.com

PORTAGE LAKES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Lynn Stamp, President

The Portage Lakes Advisory Council is made up of appointees by their home governments of Coventry Township, City of New Franklin, and City of Green. PLAC uses a variety of approaches in a team framework to facilitate, educate, promote and evaluate the Portage Lakes community. Through PLAC's help and influence, many improvements/benefits have occurred.

CONTACT INFO:

www.portagelakesadvisorycouncil.org or 330-644-2422

TURKEYFOOT ISLAND CLUB

Gil Maringer, President

Contact Info:

www.turkeyfootislandclub.com

PROJECT ELIMINATE

This is a project that we are completely dedicated to raising money for. Just \$ 1.60 will save a mother and her unborn child from a very serious infection that cause a very painful death.

And it doesn't take much. Contact **Jeff Goodwin** or **Vicki Kepnes** and obtain you baby bottle. Then start collecting change look in your car. Ladies check the bottom of your purses we all know there is always loose change down there. Drop it in your baby bottle and when it is full return it to the club and get another empty bottle. To date we have collected approximately \$ 400.00 towards our \$ 1,200.00 goal. Again it doesn't take much time and it does go to a very worthy cause.

Polar Bear Jump

UPDATE

This event took place last Saturday—February 16th, 2013 at the Portage Lakes State Park Swim Beach.

Though it was extremely cold and volunteers from Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club had to cut a hole in the ice for Jumpers to participate.

Along with the Portage Lakes Polar Bear and Portage Lakes Chicken who was sporting his bright yellow "To Chicken to Jump" T-shirt, there was a record number of 900 jumpers for the 10th year of this event..

Among those 900 jumpers were our own PLK members Scott Shookman, Dale Dietz, Al Grzeschik and Dana Roderick.

Congratulations to everyone who braved the outdoor temps and the 23* water temps to participate and help raise money for this very worthy cause.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR COMMITTEES

Easter Egg Hunt

Well as we all know it is almost that time of year for the annual "Easter Egg Hunt" preparations to begin.

The Easter Egg Hunt is held each year at the Tudor House Located in New Franklin. It will be held the Saturday before Easter on March 30th, 2013.

As well as the egg hunt, we are expecting Gasp to be there again this year and will also have the jump

house sponsored and provided by Camp Y Noah.

What can you do. Well there are always eggs to be stuffed. Volunteers needed for different events and the usual clean up once the event has ended.

Pirate on the Lake—this committee is currently meeting once a month to get a jump start on the events that will be happening in July. Want to know more, join a Pirate Meeting. We would love to tell you about it.

Have you joined a committee / or volunteered to help one of your fellow kiwanians yet?

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, CLUB ANNIVERSARIES, KEY CLUB NOTES & Kids Corner

BIRTHDAY'S

ANNIVERSARIES

Club Anniversaries

JAY FELDMAN 30 YEARS

ACME RECEIPTS

Though this program has ended for this year. We do still have the availability to turn in any receipts that we have. Please collect all of your receipts and turn them into Vicki Kepnes as soon as possible

Dates to Remember

- February 27 Regular Meeting/ Board Meeting
- February 28 Pirates on the Lake Meeting
6:30pm—Civic Center
- March 6th Membership Drive
- March 9th Mid year Education day
Columbus, Ohio
- April 16th Div 20 meeting—Sponsored
By PLK
Bellacino's—Stow, Ohio
- April 17th MAPS Air Museum 6 pm
Cost: \$ 10.00

Reminder:

To all Board Members

All Board Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month. Please try to be in attendance as much as possible

Just as a reminder this please let us know if there is something you would like to see in this newsletter. We try to write it up with the most informative information like events, dates times of things happening in our area. We are always open to suggestions and would like to know exactly what you would like to read about. Please e-mail the address on the bottom of page one.

KEY CLUB NEWS

ELLET

PLK Advisor—Mr. Jerry Schropp

Coventry

Plk Advisor's Jon & Cass Freeman

Manchester—

President Brooke Lowry

Secretary—Katie Adkins

Kiwanis Club Officers

As Mr. Jeff Goodwin will be stepping up in October from President Elect position to the President of Portage Lakes Kiwanis. We will need someone to fill the President Elect position. If you would like to know more about this position or are interested in being nominated for the position please see Al Grzeschik or Past President Frank Smith for details.

Div 20 Council Meeting February 19th, 2013

This meeting was held at Bellacino's in Stow, Ohio last Tuesday night.

Three members attended the meeting and were able to hear about projects and fund raisers that Kiwanis Clubs from local area's such as Ravenna, Stow, Kent and Akron have done. Or are currently working on.

We were also asked to host the Division 20 meeting which will be held on April 16th, 2013. There will be more details at this Wednesday's meeting on February 27th, 2013

KIWANIS FAMILY

Charlie Kepnes: Is recovering well from knee surgery. And at this time is going through physical therapy. But getting around pretty well under the circumstances.

Please keep Charlie in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy and safe recovery.

Family of Joan Poppenhouse—Joan is the widow of a former PLK Member & past President who passed away earlier this week. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the entire Poppenhouse family.

KIDS CORNER

Everyday we should all take time out of our day to smile, wave or say an encouraging word to someone. You never know how a few cheerful words can brighten someone's day especially a child:

Thank you— I really appreciate all your help. You are a very special person.

It only takes a minute

Membership Drive Month for

What you ask is Portage Lakes Kiwanis all about? Community & Children to start with, Next comes fellowship. Picture being part of a very large family. That is what we are all about. Come and join us on March 6th, 2013—6:30pm, civic Center located on Portage Lakes Drive in Coventry. Bring a friend or family member and learn about what we do, what personal rewards members have received since joining As well as hearing from each of the individual committees and how they are involved with the schools and community.

So make your reservations while there is still time. Contact Mr. Larry Hunter @ 330—644—1540.

