



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

November 10, 2024

SANTA DELIVERY *news* November 2024

Portage Lakes Kiwanis will continue the holiday tradition that started in 1951, delivering gifts on Christmas Eve to children in the Portage Lakes area. Santa Delivery started with one sleigh and a small group of volunteers. It has now grown to 16 sleighs and over 160 volunteers covering most of Coventry Township and the City of New Franklin.



Please note this year the **package drop off** locations will be the Coventry Fire Department and the New Franklin Fire Department. These drop off locations open on Friday, December 13, 2024 from 8am to 8pm and will **close at 3pm** Sunday, December 22, 2024. The Kiwanis Civic Center will be open beginning Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 12pm to 6pm and will **close at 3pm** on Sunday, December 22, 2024.



Gift packages are limited to NO LARGER THAN THE SIZE OF A SHOEBOX. There will be route books and delivery labels at the drop off locations. PLEASE NOTE SOME ROUTE NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED.

Sleighs will leave at 5pm from the Kiwanis Civic Center on Tuesday, December 24, 2024. Loudspeakers will announce Santa's arrival to streets along the routes. Please have the children dressed and ready to greet Santa and have outside lights on to make stops easier to find.

Participating parents with physically challenged children who are not able to meet Santa on his sleigh are asked to call 330-644-8967 to make arrangements so these kids won't be missed.

Families outside the delivery area can see Santa at 5:45pm at Chase Bank, 5638 Manchester Road in New Franklin.



This long-standing Santa Delivery tradition is made possible through the continued support of Kiwanis Rose Remembrance Day.



-725 Portage Lakes Drive - Akron, Ohio 44319 - Post Office Box 19186 - (330) 644-8967 - www.PLKiwaniis.org



HOLIDAY 'HELPING' PROJECTS

Our club has taken on two projects to help those in need this holiday season. We will be gathering items to fill buckets for a nonprofit agency in New Franklin called Wednesday's Child. The buckets will be given to adults and children that are struggling in hopes of adding some happiness to their holidays. We are asking club members to bring in donations as you are out shopping. Our goal is to fill at least 15 buckets. We will need to turn in our donated buckets by December 10th so please start bringing in items as soon as possible. Some ideas are: water bottles, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, notebooks, pens, highlighters, band aids, decks of cards, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, hand sanitizer, flashlights, combs, chap stick, stuffed animals, small toys, word search puzzle books, deodorant, crayons, markers, handheld games, granola bars, gum/mints, play dough. These are just suggestions, be creative! We will have a box inside the Civic Center to put your items in.

The second project is one we have done off and on for several years; Blessings in a Backpack. We will collect non perishable food items for our local school districts to help children that rely on school breakfast and lunches. The food will be sent home with children over weekends and holiday breaks to make sure they have something to eat; many families are struggling. Some suggestions would be single serving macaroni and cheese, fruit cups, crackers, peanut butter, or any food item with an easy pop top. We are also collecting hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, etc. When you are out shopping please consider adding a few items to your cart and dropping them off at the Civic Center. There are receptacles outside the Civic Center so you can drop your donation off any time or you can bring them in any Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Both of these projects are in direct line with the Kiwanis mission statement...
Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.






GIRLS NIGHT IN HOLIDAY GATHERING

Our fifth annual Girls Night In Holiday Gathering will be held on Friday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm at the Civic Center. We will have a light dinner, make a few make -n- take Christmas crafts (don't worry, super easy), play a game, have an ornament exchange, and lots of girl gab. There is no cost to attend this event, you will just need to bring your holiday smile and a Christmas ornament valued at \$10 or less. All Kiwanis female members are invited along with all male members spouses or significant other. This is a really fun and relaxing event. Please RSVP by Monday November 18th if you would like to attend.



It's that time of the year again! The Acme Cash back Program will run from August 1st through February 2025. This is another super easy way to earn money for our club. Please save your receipt every time you shop at Acme. At the bottom of the receipt it will show how much community cash back you earned. Our club will get 5% of all the receipts we file at the end of the program. You can bring your receipts to any meeting and give them to Secretary Cathy. Thank you

Below is the information for Ohio District Governor Kelly Brown's Dinner to be held on November 21st at the Wayne County Schools Career Center in Smithville, Ohio. Any club member is welcome to attend this event. Tickets are \$20.00 for each attendee. A buffet dinner will be prepared by the Culinary Arts students. **THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS TOMORROW NOVEMBER 11TH.**

Kiwanis 

Division 16 Governor's Dinner

November 21, 2024

6-8 p.m.

Wayne County Schools Career Center

518 W Prospect Street

Smithville OH 44677

The Details:


Guest of Honor: Kelly Brown, Ohio District Governor

Cost of Attendance: \$20 per person includes dinner buffet prepared by the WCCSC High School Culinary Arts Students

Each Club is encouraged to sponsor two Key Club or Circle K members to attend.

Send payment to: Wooster Kiwanis, PO Box 1766, Wooster OH 44691 or VENMO @kiwoo1923

RSVP by November 11 to selliott@wccccc.org or via this link: <https://forms.gle/kK2a5PvhsFbeoVxq9>

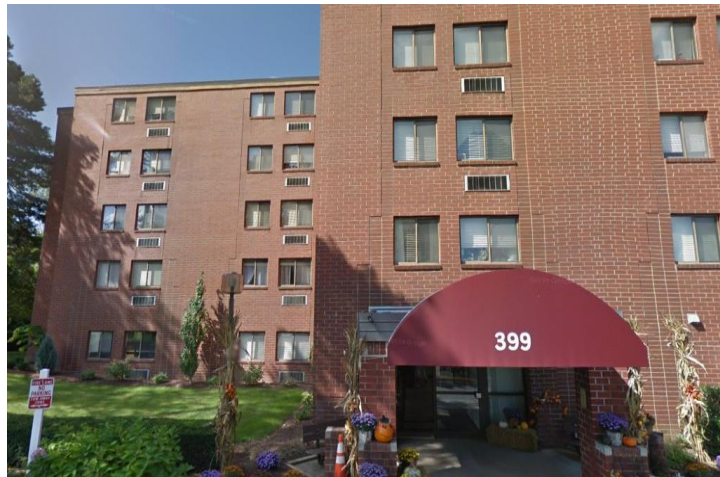


Our final speaker for this year will be Wednesday November 13th. Judy Hanna from Meals on Wheels will come in and talk with us about their agency. Please try to attend!

Many thanks to Chuck Seeley for arranging our speakers, he does a fantastic job. Please try to attend these meetings to support our speakers that take their time to come in and talk to us. You will not leave a meeting without learning something!



An Induction Ceremony was held for new member Lana Stryker at our meeting on November 6th. Lana is a Director at United Disability Service in Akron and is a Portage Lakes resident. She has already joined in on several of our events. Debbie Rubino is Lana's sponsor, and President Dietz led the ceremony. Welcome to our Kiwanis Family Lana, we are happy to have you.



Our annual Cookies with Kiwanis event will be held at the Kiwanis Tower on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. We'll have a meal with cookies and desserts. A signup sheet will be passed around so we get a variety of foods. Please mark the date and plan to attend. This will be a fun event for all.

LEGION OF HONOR AWARD



Congratulations to member Joe Reinmann who has received a Legion of Honor Award for being a 25 year member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Club. Joe joined the club back in July 1999. He does a LOT of behind the scenes work for our club, which includes handling most of our printing/ticket needs, serving as Club Secretary for several years and a whole lot more. Above is a photo of Al awarding our superstar! Thank you Joe for all you do for our club, you are appreciated.



Many thanks to Connie & Kelley Nagy, Juanita Gehm, Lana Stryker, Steve Hess, and Cathy & Dale Dietz for coming out on Sunday November 3rd to spruce up around the Civic Center. Steve power washed the entire outside of the building while the others cleaned up and organized all of the Christmas & Easter items that are stored in the back room. There is still much more work to be done and another clean up day will be scheduled down the road.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Secretary Cathy will be updating the membership roster soon. If your address, phone number, or email address has changed please let me know so we have current information. You can shoot me an email at cathy.dietz61@gmail.com

KIWANIS YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

At our meeting on November 6th, we reviewed Kiwanis International Youth Protection Program guidelines. Our club meets all requirements and I am happy to say our club has a 100% passed background check for all officers and board of director members. This is an important subject and mandatory to review the guidelines every year. Our club is always vigilant in protecting the youth that attends our events and programs. An email will go out to all members that were not present at the November 6th meeting for review.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >November 13, Judy Hanna, speaker from Meals on Wheels
- >November 21, Ohio Governor Kelly Brown Dinner
- >November 22, Girls Night In holiday event, 6:00 pm
- >November 27, NO MEETING, Thanksgiving Holiday

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >December 4, Regular meeting & Board meeting
- >December 8, Coventry Christmas Tree Lighting
- >December 11, Cookies with Kiwanis at the Tower
- >December 13, New Franklin & Coventry Fire Departments
open to take in Santa Delivery gifts
- >December 17, District 16 Meeting, Westfield Center
- >December 24, Christmas Eve Santa Delivery
- >December 25, NO MEETING, **Merry Christmas**
- >January 1, NO MEETING, **Happy New Year!**

BIRTHDAYS:

11/01 Jeff Goodwin
11/14 Becky Shookman
11/15 John Hercules
11/20 Benjamin Pearson
11/20 Crystal Cianciola
11/23 Al Bollas
11/30 Debbie Doan

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

No wedding anniversaries in November

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Denise Goodwin - 10 years
Jon Vielhaber - 2 years
Lynda Farkas - 1 year

KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS: Please keep our members and friends in special thought and prayer.

Vicki Kepnes
Nancy Terjesen
Kay Lukac

If you know of anyone that needs to be added to our family news/prayer chain, please let me know, cathy.dietz61@gmail.com

THE MORE
YOU VOLUNTEER,
THE HAPPIER
YOU BECOME.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

ALL ABOUT PLK...Our club is currently meeting every Wednesday. You can join us at 6:30 pm for dinner, which is catered by Lukity's Restaurant, a full meal for just \$15.00, or you can attend any meeting which begins at 7:00 pm. We'd love to have you.

We meet at the Civic Center, located at 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, OH 44319.
Telephone number (330) 644-8967.

Our website is: plkiwanis.org and please check out and like our Facebook page, under Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT - Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Published on the first and third week of the month, Cathy Dietz, Editor.