



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

December 15, 2024



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN ARE YOU READY?

***ALL THREE DROP OFF LOCATIONS ARE NOW OPEN; COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND NEW FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT OPENED ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, AND THEY ARE OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM, THEY WILL CLOSE AT 3:00 PM ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND.**

***THE KIWANIS CIVIC CENTER OPENED ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AND ARE OPEN FROM 12 NOON TO 6:00 PM DAILY AND WILL CLOSE AT 3:00 PM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND FOR GIFT DROP OFF.**

***LEAD CARS NEED TO COME TO THE CIVIC CENTER ON DECEMBER 23RD FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 PM TO HAVE LIGHTS AND SPEAKERS INSTALLED BY GENE COLE.**

***SLEIGHS WILL LEAVE THE CIVIC CENTER AT 5:00 PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY DECEMBER 24TH. A MEAL WILL BE SERVED AT THE CIVIC CENTER BEGINNING AT 3:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE.**

***SANTA WILL ARRIVE AT CHASE BANK, 5638 MANCHESTER ROAD IN NEW FRANKLIN AT 5:45 PM FOR FAMILIES OUTSIDE THE DELIVERY AREA.**

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact the Santa Delivery chair, Connie Nagy at liberty644@aol.com

Wednesday's Child Holiday Project

On Wednesday, December 4th we packed up the goods we have been collecting to help out Wednesday's Child serve children and adults that are struggling this holiday season and need assistance. We filled them up with all sorts of things; hygiene items, blankets, water bottles, snacks, gloves and hats, small toys, puzzle books, and a plethora of other items. We decorated them with wrapping paper, ribbons, and bows, and they looked great. Many thanks to everyone that donated to this project, it couldn't have done it without YOU. Also thanks to Connie & Kelley Nagy for spearheading the project and making sure we had everything we need and ensuring that everything got done.



Blessings in a Backpack

We have done this project 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. 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.



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

COOKIES (AND DINNER) WITH KIWANIS

Our annual Cookies with Kiwanis event was held at the Kiwanis Towers this past Wednesday December 11th. We had a good turnout of both our club members and residents that came down to have dinner with us and enjoy a visit with Santa and also received a small gift from Santa. A good time was had by all. Many thanks to everyone that brought in food and cookies to share. Thanks also to Rosanne Edwardson for taking charge of the event, to Al for bringing down everything we needed from the Civic Center, and thanks to Stan & Connie Vaughan for playing Santa & Mrs. Claus. A successful and festive event.



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



At our Board meeting held on December 4th, four new members were accepted into our club.

Theresa Otremsky, a Portage Lakes resident and member Marcia Ponikvar's mother has joined our club. Her sponsor is Anthony Ponikvar.

Judy and Scott Thompson were invited to a meeting by Al Grzeschik and have now joined our club. Their sponsor is Al Grzeschik.

Manchester Schools Superintendent Gary Hinton's membership application has also been accepted. Gary's sponsor is Gene Cole.

An Induction Ceremony will be held on January 8, 2025 and we will learn much more about our new members at that time. We welcome them to our Kiwanis family and look forward to getting to know them and working with them. Welcome aboard, we are glad you are here!



A special 'thank you' to Rick & Jeanette Bell from Summit Trailer for working diligently to have all of our Santa sleighs ready to go on Christmas Eve and also for repairing our lighted sign out front. We appreciate their kindness and help.



Light Up the Clock Tower

The Coventry Clock Tower holiday event was held on Sunday, December 8th. There were family friendly activities, complimentary refreshments, and the lighting of the Clock Tower. Our club had a booth and we had one of our sleigh's there with our own Bob & Mary Kansa as Santa & Mrs. Claus. A LOT of families came through the line to visit with Santa and to get a new winter hat and gloves. Many thanks to all members that volunteered to man the tent. Thanks to Bob & Mary for putting the Santa area together, thanks to Al for transporting everything we needed down to the event. Special thanks to Anthony & Marcia for donating hats & gloves. We had quite a few friends drop by to say hello including our Coventry Key Club members.



UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >December 17, District 16 Meeting, Westfield Center
- >December 18, Christmas Eve gift wrapping at the Civic Center, there will be pizza for dinner
- >December 22, ALL Santa Delivery drop off locations close on Sunday at 3:00 pm
- >December 23, lead cars need speakers and lights installed at the Civic Center from 5:00 to 7:00 pm
- >December 24, Christmas Eve Santa Delivery, meal at 3:00pm, please arrive no later than 4:00 pm
- >December 25, NO MEETING, **Merry Christmas**
- >January 1, NO MEETING, **Happy New Year!**
- >January 8, Regular meeting, Board Meeting, & Induction Ceremony
- >February 5, District re-alignment meeting at Civic Center 6:30 pm
- >February 19, President's Day Showcase at Civic Center

BIRTHDAYS:

12/16 Jim Davis

12/24 Barry Terjesen

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Frank Smith - 19 years

Bob Fowler - 9 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

12/10 Bob & Jenny Fowler

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

Vicki Kepnes

Nancy Terjesen

Stanley Vaughan

Frank Smith

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



Wishing our Kiwanis family members a wonderfully blessed holiday season with hearts full of peace, joy, and love.

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.