



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

April 7, 2025



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at the Tudor House. The event will run from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, with the egg hunt beginning at 12 noon. This is a free community event for children. We'll have games, prizes, the balloon pop, visits with the Easter Bunny and of course the egg hunt. The Little Roaming Railroad will join us again this year with free train rides for both children and adults. The Manchester Education Association will be selling lunch and raffle basket tickets with all proceeds supporting student scholarships. We are also excited to welcome GASP (Guardians Advocating Child Safety and Protection). They will be on site providing free take-home child fingerprint and ID kits for families.

We will be stuffing eggs at the Civic Center this Wednesday, April 9th and finish on April 16th if necessary. Please join us at 6:30 pm if you can help. We will also need volunteers on the day of the event, if you can help please arrive at 9:30 am. and park in the State Park parking lot. Connie Nagy is the chair of this event and can answer any questions you may have.



We will again have a Kiwanis float in the New Franklin Memorial Day parade. The date will be Monday May 26th. The parade route runs from Grace Bible Church on Manchester Road to the Manchester Cemetery on Nimisila Road. If you have any ideas on how to decorate the float or would like to volunteer to help out that day, please see Steve Hess who is the chair of this event. **SAVE THE DATE, WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

spruce up

Be sure to come in and visit the Civic Center and check out the new chairs and cabinets. They look really nice. Thanks to Al and his crew for making this happen. Stay tuned, there is more to come!



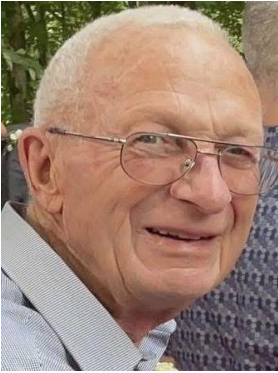
GUEST SPEAKER

On April 2nd, Benjiman Elson from REM Ohio came in to speak with us about the wonderful things their agency does. They have a branch office right here on Portage Lakes Drive and they offer a variety of services and programs for people with special needs and their families. Their programs and services are structured around the needs of each individual they serve, and are designed to promote independence, skill development, and growth in the communities they call home. Ben also brought us some nice giveaways!

Please try to attend meetings when we have a guest speaker, to support both our speakers and our speaker program. Many thanks to Steve Hess and Chuck Seeley for arranging our guest speakers.

CLUB ELECTIONS

Club elections will be held on Wednesday, May 14th this year. We are specifically in need of a Vice President. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position or if you would like more information, please contact Al Grzeschik.



Please keep the family of member Jim Welton, who has passed away, in your thoughts and prayers. We are saddened by this news and offer our deepest condolences. Jim will be missed.

January 7, 1944 — March 20, 2025

James Dague Welton, age 81, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on March 20, 2025 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Beloved husband of Margaret (Tarbet) of 57 years. Father of Christine Webb (Paul, deceased), Julie Rankin (Gary) and Kimberly Grace (deceased). Brother of Jack Welton (deceased) and Barb, Nancy (Bob) McKnight. Brother in law of Bob Tarbet, Kris Nakoneczny (Greg), Mike Tarbet (Kathy). Loving grandfather of Kyle (Clarissa), Taylor (Shevalle), Ryan (Ashley), Allie (Jeff), Cody, Issy, Zach (Taylor), Abby and Sophie. Uncle of many nieces and nephews.

James was a proud veteran of the US Army. He was a firefighter/medic with the Copley Fire Department for over 30 years and proudly served as Road Superintendent for Copley Township during that time. His most important role in his life was taking care of his family. After retirement, James and Margaret enjoyed many adventures together traveling with their RV. One that will be remembered most are the winters they spent in Port Aransas, Texas.

We will find comfort knowing that he will always be watching over us and protecting those he loved the most. Graveside services will be held at Copley Cemetery on Friday, May 2 at 10:00am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation or Copley Fire Association.



The Coventry Parks Advisory Committee will host 'Food Truck Mondays' one Monday each month this summer at the Coventry Clock Tower. There will be great food and fun on June 9th, July 14th, and August 11th from 5 to 8pm. There will be tables set up to sit down and eat. Our club will set up an 'information' table on these three dates to let the Portage Lakes community know what our club is up to. Save these dates if you will be able to come down and help out. More details to follow.



Please continue to bring in food for our Blessings in a Backpack program. We 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 kids 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.



At our Board Meeting on March 26th, we accepted the application for membership from two new members. Barry Shaffer is joining our club and his sponsor will be Bob Fowler, along with Mark Barbernitz and his sponsor will be Larry Hunter. We look forward to working with these men and welcome them into our Kiwanis family. We will get to know them a little better upon their induction. A ceremony date will be set soon.



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Our club has been offered the chance to sell 50/50 raffle tickets to the racing fans at the Norton Raceway Park (formerly Barberton Speedway) on Saturday, May 31st. Thanks to the members that have volunteered to sell the tickets. We will retain half of the money collected with the other half going to the ticket winner. We will hope for perfect weather and a big crowd that night. Anyone that wants to come hang out and watch the racing is welcome. Ticket prices are: Adults 16+ \$15, Seniors 62 and over \$10, Kids 6-15 are \$10, and kids 5 and under are free.



The 'Clean up Portage Lakes Drive' event will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:00 pm. We will have teams take different parts of Portage Lakes Drive, from the Clock Tower to Manchester Road and pick up all the trash we can. Afterwards we will fire up the grill and Chef Al will fix burgers and dogs for dinner. Many hands will make the work easier, so please plan to help if you are able.



OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TICKET RAFFLE

Our club will again participate in the Buckeye Ticket Raffle fundraiser. We will sell raffle tickets for \$5.00 each, our club will keep \$3.00 for every ticket sold and the other \$2.00 will be sent back to the Columbus Kiwanis Foundation. The winner will receive 2 tickets to all seven OSU home football games. The seats are in Section 22C, Row 26 which is around the 45 yard-line. Steve Hess will be our Club Chair for this fundraiser. We can begin selling tickets in the middle of May. The drawing for the winner will be held on Monday, August 18, 2025. This is a simple way to earn a few extra dollars for our club. Last year our own Stanley Vaughan sold the winning ticket!

Community Events coming up:

The Dragon Dream Team will host their annual 'Breast of Friends' Gala fundraiser at Guy's Party Center on April 5, 2025 from 6 to 10pm. Please see their website for additional information.

The Portage Lakes Advisory Council will hold their annual 'Run to the Beach' on Saturday April 19th. This event will begin at 7:15am and end at approximately 10am. Please register at their website portagelakesadvisorycouncil.org if you would like to attend or participate.

The Coventry Schools Foundation will hold their annual fundraiser 'A Taste of Coventry' on April 22nd, from 6 to 9pm at Gather at the Lakes. Sample local cuisine, enter the basket raffle, and bid on silent auction items. Please see Crystal Cianciola for tickets.

Wednesday's Child will be hosting their annual Plant Sale at our Civic Center on Saturday, May 3rd. Plan on attending to get your spring plants and posies.

The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association will again hold their Education Days for Coventry and Manchester Middle School students. May 21st will be Manchester and May 22nd will be Coventry. If you are able to help, please contact Kay Lukac at kaylukac@yahoo.com, the Purple Martin Association is always looking for good helpers.

Friday, May 30th will be the Nolley Elementary School Fun Fair. This is a fun event for children, students, and families in New Franklin. Our club will be helping out with kitchen duty and serving food. Save the date if you can volunteer that night.

The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association will hold their annual Martifest on Sunday, June 29th at the State Mill Boat ramp. Please let Kay know if you will be able to help.

The Dragon Dream Team will hold their annual Dragon's on the Lake Boat Festival at the Portage Lakes State Park on Saturday July 19th. This is an all day event that more than 1,500 people will attend and will be a day of community, camaraderie, and competition. Our club will help out transporting people from the parking area down to the beach area.

BIRTHDAYS:

04/03 Connie Vaughan

04/20 Vicki Kepnes

04/30 Steve Hess

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

JohnSchermesser - 44 years

Glen Sheets (honorary) - 30 years

Anthony Ponikvar - 3 years

Helen Thigpen - 2 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

04/01 Don & Marie Reilly

04/03 Paul & Betty Schuckert

04/03 Anthony & Marcia Ponikvar

04/11 Bob & Rebecca Goff

04/15 Debbie & Mike Rubino

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

Nancy Terjesen

Frank Smith

- >April 9, Easter Egg stuffing at the Civic Center
- >April 10, New Division meeting, 6:00 pm at Civic Center
- >April 16, Easter Egg stuffing at the Civic Center if needed, also PLK 75th anniversary meeting after the regular meeting
- >April 19, Easter Egg Hunt at the Tudor House
- >April 23, Clean up Portage Lakes Drive, 6:00 pm
- >April 30, Regular meeting & Board meeting

- >May 26, New Franklin Memorial Day Parade
- >May 30, Nolley School Fun Fair
- >May 31, Norton Raceway Park 50/50 fundraiser
- >June 29, Martinfest, State Mill Boat ramp
- >July 19, Dragons on the Lake Festival
- >July 26, Pirate Day on the Lake, Portage Lakes State Park



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

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.