



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

December 10, 2023



SANTA DELIVERY *News*

*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 150 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 Monday, December 11, 2023 from 8am to 8pm and will close at 5pm Friday, December 22, 2023. The Kiwanis Civic Center will be open beginning Sunday, December 17, 2023 from 10am to 8pm and will close at 5pm on Friday, December 22, 2023.

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 Sunday, December 24, 2023. 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. Families outside the delivery area can see Santa at 5:30pm at Chase Bank, 5638 Manchester Road in New Franklin.

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.

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



Christmas Eve Santa delivery is just two weeks away. As of this writing all routes are now staffed. If you are new to volunteering on Christmas Eve, please talk to Connie and she can find a job for you. Her email is liberty644@aol.com. A sign-up sheet will be available again on Wednesday to choose the times you can be at the Civic Center to accept gifts. We would like two volunteers there at all times. The Civic Center will be open daily 10:00 am to 8:00 pm from Sunday December 17th until 5:00 pm on Friday December 22nd. Gene Cole will be at the Civic Center on Saturday 12/23 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm to install lights and speakers on vehicles.



Community Cash Back is an easy, local fundraiser for non-profit organizations like ours! Simply save your receipts and turn them in to Cathy at any meeting. We did very well with this program last year, so hopefully we can do even better this year. We'll have some contests, drawings, and incentives over the next six months. The program runs from August 1, 2023 to February 15, 2024. Save those receipts, we've gotten off to a great start, and have already received enough receipts for the minimum filing. Keep them coming, thank you.

COVENTRY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event was held on Sunday, December 3rd at the Clock Tower. Many thanks to our club members that braved a cold, rainy, windy night to hand out club literature, some goodies, candy canes, reindeer food, as well as hats and gloves for those who needed them. Thank you to Al for setting up the tent, bringing the sleigh down, and taking the lead on the event.



Coventry Tree Lighting Event



Friends in Tents (FIT) has asked us to please hold a sock collection for their clients that live in tents. With winter fast approaching many do not even have the basics for cold weather. They do have a need for some children but the majority of the socks needed are for adults. Next time you are out shopping pick up a few pair and bring them to the Civic Center. There is a bin available for the collection right inside the door, and will collect from now until the end of the year.



PLK has been given an amazing opportunity to raise funds for our club. Phantom Fireworks has donated two game tickets thru Lindsay Nagy, (there will be a choice of five dates) where you will sit in the scoring box and have access to the Lexus package; upscale five star restaurant food, beverages, and inside access to places not open to the public. This package cannot be purchased and will be a once in a lifetime evening for the lucky winner. You can purchase tickets through Wednesday December 13th, the cost is \$10 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$25.00. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held on December 13th at 7:00 pm. ALL TICKETS AND MONEY MUST BE TURNED IN BY WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13TH, BEFORE THE DRAWING. Many thanks to Kelley and Connie Nagy for chairing this event and handling all of the details.

Connie and Kelley Nagy, Cathy and Dale Dietz, and Al Grzeschik were at the Tudor House holiday event selling tickets for the raffle just this afternoon. The camel was part of the live Nativity Scene. Thanks everyone, every little bit helps.



New Member

At the Board Meeting on November 29th, the application for membership from Lynda Farkas was accepted. Lynda is a resident of New Franklin and is a retired educator. Larry Hunter is Lynda's sponsor. An induction date will be set soon. Please welcome Lynda to our Kiwanis family.

Thank you!

Many thanks go out to Al Grzeschik and Kevin Powell for taking care of some much needed electrical work out in front of the building. Lines were dug up and wiring replaced and everything is working fine now. Thank you both for your time and effort to get this job done.



COOKIES WITH KIWANIS

Our annual Cookies with Kiwanis event will be held on Sunday December 17th at 2:00 pm at the Kiwanis Towers on Portage Lakes Drive. There will be cookies, finger foods, and drinks for the Tower residents and the Kiwanis members. Santa will visit and have a gift for each one of the residents. If you can donate cookies or appetizers for the event, or if you can volunteer at the event, please contact Rosanne Edwardson at rmihaly1005@hotmail.com

BIRTHDAYS:

12/16 Jim Davis
12/24 Barry Terjesen
12/25 Baby Jesus

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Frank Smith - 18 years
Cassie Freeman - 18 years
Bob Fowler - 8 years
Shelley Somerville - 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

12/10 Bob & Jenny Fowler

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

>December 17, Cookies with Kiwanis / Portage Lakes Towers 2:00 pm
>December 23, lights & speaker hook up for vehicles, 5-7pm
>December 24, Christmas Eve Santa Delivery

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

>January 10, Regular Meeting and Board Meeting
>January 10, Guest Speaker, Geoffrey Kansa speaking about his career in the Coast Guard

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 \$14.00, 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: www.plkiwanis.org and please check out and like our Facebook page too, 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.

