



Our Times
Defiance County Senior Services
December 2021

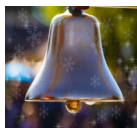
<https://www.defiance-county.com/senior-services>

Email: dcss@defiancecounty.oh.gov

Did you ever wonder about the stories behind a song? The Christmas Carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" teaches us that even though there is sorrow and tragedy in our lives and in the world, we can have hope. Here is the story behind the song.....

"Christmas Bells" was written in the midst of personal and societal tragedy. Two years prior to writing this poem, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's wife was fatally burned in a fire. In 1863, at the height of the American Civil War, his eldest son joined the Union Army against his father's wishes and was severely wounded. "Christmas Bells" expresses how material circumstances can try men's faith in God or indeed the idea of any innate goodness in the world.

This poem was later adapted and set to music in 1872 by *John Baptiste Calkin*, whereupon it became a Christmas standard. In 1956, composer *Johnny Marks* composed a new melody for the song which was then recorded by *Bing Crosby*, who used verses 1, 2, 6 and 7. *Crosby's version* became a hit, and Marks' version has since been used for over 60 notable commercial recordings.



Christmas Bells Poem

[Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#) - 1807-1882

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Defiance County Senior Services!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

*A note from our Transportation and Home-delivered meal managers
Dennis & Ginny*

It's that time of the year again. As the weather gets colder. We must be ready for weather emergencies. Please remember that our Transportation and Meal Route drivers are not a snow removal service. You will need to make arrangements to have your driveway and sidewalks cleared before your scheduled meal delivery or transportation run. This is for your safety and the safety of our staff. Also, please remember that we will not be doing transportation or meal delivery if there is a Level 3 snow emergency declared by the Defiance County Sheriff. For other hazardous road conditions, we will call you to let you know if we have to cancel transports or meal delivery. Thank you!



**Defiance County
Senior Services will
be closed on:**

**Friday, December 24
for Christmas**

**December 31
for New Years**



Masks are not required at either Defiance County Senior Services locations.

However, masks are **recommended** for those who have not been vaccinated. Remember frequent handwashing is one of the keys to continued good health!

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays!

Foot Care Clinic

Your feet will be happy to know...

the **Foot Care Clinic** is in
HICKSVILLE

Thursday, December 16

Call for Appointments
starting at 12:30 pm

419-542-5004

Defiance next date:

Wednesday January 5
appointment only

Call Dawn at
419-782-3233

***Diabetics-please continue to
see your physician or
podiatrist***



Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who made donations to Defiance County Senior Services and put a little sunshine in our lives!

Antwerp Manor

Beltone

MaryAnn Kelly of The Laurels of Defiance

Karen Oskey of Kingsbury

Dawn Ludwig of SKLD

Brookview Healthcare Center

1st Church of Christ -Hicksville

St. Mary's Catholic Church Volunteers

CSFP Volunteers

DCSS volunteers

Frederick Brink Memorial

Paul Warnimont Memorial

Beverly Comden Memorial



Transportation Update:

Due to staff shortages we regret we are unable to transport seniors to our buildings at this time. This policy will continually be re-evaluated and will be changed as soon as possible. If you need transportation to a **medical appointment, please call us as soon as possible** to make arrangements for transportation (or to cancel a ride). To better serve all seniors county-wide, **all medical transports are now scheduled through Dennis.**

419-782-3233

Join us for lunch

Defiance Dining

Monday thru Friday 11:30-12:30

Call for reservations by 1 pm one business day prior

419-782-3233

OR

Hicksville Dining

Monday & Thursday 12:00

Call for reservations by 1 pm one business day prior

419-542-5004

Home Delivered Meals

REMINDER: YOU MUST BE HOME AT TIME OF DELIVERY.

Area Office rules require you to be home for delivery, and you **MUST** call the day before if you will not be home for delivery or **no later than 7 am the day of delivery** (if you have forgotten to call)

To cancel your meal or for questions, please contact:

Ginny Wiseman at 419-782-3321

(The Hicksville location is not always available to pass on a message)

Reminder: Due to supply shortages, you may see substitutions in the menu. Thank you for understanding!

Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP)



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

1-2:30 PM DEFIANCE

12:30-2 PM HICKSVILLE

Please come to the east end of the Defiance Center or the parking lot at the Hicksville location for your food box. There is an application to complete for the food box which includes fruits, grains, vegetables, dairy and protein.

Questions? Please call Sue Weller—419.782.3233

REMINDER: No PETS in your car at pick-up.

Do you have shelf stable food in the house in the event of a weather emergency?

It would be a good idea to stock up on items such as crackers, tuna or chicken packets, peanut or other nut butters, granola and/or cereal bars, canned chili, dried fruit, jerky, bottled water, individually packaged fruit, gelatin, or pudding are all great options which do not require cooking or refrigeration. If you are dependent upon canned food, make sure you have a manual can opener in the event of a power outage.



Each participant may determine what they can comfortably contribute toward the cost of a meal. No senior adult will be denied a nutrition service due to inability to contribute.

Our suggested donation for a lunch is \$3.00 per meal. See Robin, Linda, Dennis, or your meal route driver for our **“Meal Deal” coupons**.

Twenty coupons for \$50.00 reduces your cost to \$2.50 per meal.

NOW THAT’S A DEAL!

Mark your calendars

SENIOR CENTER CHALLENGE!

Win a \$50.00 GIFT CARD!

What is the Senior Center Challenge?

Come into the Center and do an **activity** of your choice (Defiance OR Hicksville)

Complete the entry form as you check out for the day

The more you participate, the better your chance of winning!

See Dawn or Linda for more details or questions.

GOOD LUCK & HAVE FUN!

December drawing dates:

Defiance: December 17 at 11:30 am

Hicksville: December 27 at 12 noon

Congratulations!

OCTOBER WINNERS:

Defiance: John Briskey

Hicksville: Marilea Volkert

Note:

Lunch is NOT considered an activity.

Alzheimer's Support Group

The Alzheimer's Support Group meeting is Thursday, December 2, 2021.

12:30-2pm

The Alzheimer's Support Group meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

The Alzheimer's Association **requires** masks to be worn by all participants.

You do not have to walk this journey alone!

CHRISTMAS Bake & Craft Sale! Defiance County Senior Services

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

9 AM— 2 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

9—NOON

COME EARLY & BUY A LOT!

Baked goodies, many handmade items for Christmas gifts, ornaments and great gift-giving ideas.

If you are interested in donating baked goods or other items, please call Dawn at 419.782.3233.

Monday, Dec. 6 Snowman

free!



Dawn Ludwig says "You don't have to be skilled to do Art with SKLD!"

Call Dawn Knox to sign up to attend

419-782-3233

Limited to 12 persons

Cup of Joe

Free coffee & Donuts

@ Hicksville

Every Monday

@ 9 am

Christmas Open House
@ Hicksville 12/23/2021

9 am to 2 pm

Christmas card exchange,
Goodies & *Twas the night before Christmas*

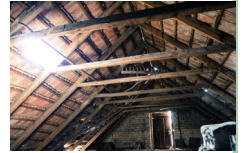
Christmas Bingo @ Defiance on 12/16/2021

12:30 with SKLD & Dawn

With special Prizes for Christmas!

Treasures in the Attic

(Part 2—continued from November) by Jackie Briskey



One of my treasures is a collection of journals written by my mother during the 1960's. Daily, she would record the weather, the temperature, as well as what went on in and around our home and community. I admire her dedication to this task. It was for her own self-satisfaction and eventually become proof of my father's whereabouts when a crime was committed in the area. I am proud to be the owner of these journals that contain Mom's handwriting.

Many other items are in my possession but they are not my most valued treasures. That title belongs to the treasures that no one can take away from me, and no flood or fire can destroy. The treasures in my attic are the memories of my ancestors that I hold near and dear to my heart. The memories of my Grandpa Henderson with his white hair and his gentle ways is one treasure that is stored for me. The happy nature of my father which made people like him and want to be around him is a treasure that no one can take away. And all the wonderful food that my mother prepared for our family and friends with no recipe will stay in my mind forever. I have the treasured memories of warm summer days spent picking strawberries, and swimming in the nearby river; days of walking our one mile road to the mailbox or the neighborhood grocery store; evenings spent sitting in the swing on our front porch with my family watching dusk turn into dark and hearing the whippoorwill nearby or the croak of the bullfrog down by the river. And those cold winter nights as I slept in my nice warm comfortable bed wedged between my two older sisters is a memory I will always keep.

Treasures do not need to be material things. They don't need storage space nor do they need to be dusted, preserved and cleaned. Valued treasures can be what is remembered of your childhood days. Mine remain in the attic of my mind and I can always recall them anytime I choose. And the best part is, I don't need to keep them to myself. I can share them as I write my stories for anyone to read, especially my children and grandchildren. These treasures in the attic of my mind are PRICELESS.

Defiance Only

"Senior Sweet Treats"

Join us once a week in the **Lobby** for sweets (Muffins, cookies, donuts, fruit).

Enjoy coffee and conversation with fellow seniors and enjoy a sweet treat compliments of the Defiance Activity Program and **The Laurels of Defiance**.

Monday Mornings @ 9 am

JOKES FOR THE SEASON

Have a laugh—it's good for your health.

1. What do you call a broke Santa?
2. What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?
3. How does a snowman lose weight?
4. What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?
5. How does Santa keep his bathroom tiles immaculate?

Answers:

1. Saint Nickel-less
2. Cookie Sheets
3. He waits for the weather to get warmer.
4. Santa walking backwards.
5. He uses Comet!






Defiance Activities December 2021

For Information
Call Dawn 419-782-3233

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
		1 9:30 Pepper 10 Dominoes 12:30 Corn Hole	2 9:30 Pepper 10– Yahtzee 12:30 Alzheimer's Support Group 12:30 Bingo by Brookview	3 9:30 Pepper 10-Tai Chi 10:30 Hearing Aide Cleaning by Beltone 11:30 Birthday Lunch 12:30 Trivia with Dawn
6 9 Sweets & Coffee with Laurels 9:30 Pepper 10 Boggle 12:30-2 Crafts with SKLD	7 9:30 Pepper 10 Bible Study 10 Tai Chi 12:30 Line Dancing	8 9:30 Pepper 10 Yahtzee 12:30 Lawn Darts	9 9:30 Pepper 10-Dominoes 11 Christmas Carols with Phyllis Healy on the piano. Then again at 12pm come and Join us for some Christmas spirit	10 9:30 Pepper 10 Tai Chi 12:30 Trivia with Dawn
13 9:00 Sweets & Coffee with Senior Center 9:30 Pepper 10 Farkle 12:30 Bingo by Senior Center	14 9:30 Pepper 10 Bible Study 10 Tai Chi 12:30 Line Dancing	15 9:30 Pepper 10 Dominoes 12:30 Corn Hole	16 9-2pm Dawn's Christmas Bake & Craft Sale 9:30 Pepper 10 Boggle 12:30 Christmas BINGO with SKLD & Dawn	17 9-12pm Dawn's Christmas Bake & Craft Sale 9:30 Pepper 10 Tai Chi 11:30 Activity Gift Card drawing
20 9 Sweets & Coffee by Senior Center 9:30 Pepper 10 Dominoes 12:30 Bingo by Kingsbury Place	21 9:30 Pepper 10 Blood Press. by Brookview 10 Bible Study 10 Tai Chi 12:30 Line Dancing	22 9:30 Pepper 10 Chinese Checkers 12:30 Lawn Darts 1-2:30 Senior Food Boxes	23 9:30 Pepper 10 Yahtzee 12:30 Bingo by CHP	24 Closed for Christmas Holiday
27 9 Sweets & Coffee by Laurel's 10 Yahtzee 10 Nails & Tales by SKLD 12:30 Lawn Darts	28 9:30 Pepper 10 Bible Study 10 Tai Chi 12:30 Line Dancing	29 9:30 Pepper 10 Farkle 12:30 Corn Hole	30 9:30 Pepper 10 Chinese Checkers 1-2:30 New Year Bingo Celebration by Senior Center	31 Closed for New Years 
Merry Christmas!				

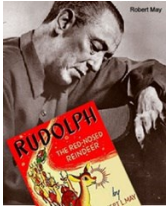
HICKSVILLE ACTIVITIES—DECEMBER 2021

Call Linda for Information 419-542-5004

MONDAY	THURSDAY
<p style="text-align: center;">Happy Holidays from everyone at the Hicksville Center! Lunch served 12 noon Monday & Thursday. Please call one day in advance for your reservation. 419.542.5004</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>9 am Inspirational Reading—Christmas Time 10 am Christmas Carols 1 pm Christmas Craft</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>9 am Cup of Joe—FREE Coffee & Donuts 10 am Yahtzee 1 pm—BINGO with Antwerp Manor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>9 am Kids funny Letters to Santa 10 am Chair Exercises 1 pm Shuffleboard</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>9 am Cup of Joe—FREE Coffee & Donuts 10 am Yahtzee and board games 1 pm Skipbo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>9 am Christmas Wishes/Bible Study 10 am Spoons 1 pm “The Price is Right”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>9 am Cup of Joe—FREE Coffee & Donuts 10 am Board Games 11 am Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest 1 pm “JOLLY” BINGO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>9 am—2 pm OPEN HOUSE Christmas Card Exchange. Goodies, Christmas music & fun. “Twas the Night before Christmas”</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>9 am Cup of Joe—FREE Coffee & Donuts 10 am Skipbo 12 noon December Activity Gift Card drawing 1 pm SENIORS CHOICE! Corn Hole, BINGO, Cards, board games, etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p> <p>CARDS, GAMES & GOODIES ALL DAY! BRING IN THE START OF THE CELEBRATION with YOUR SENIOR CENTER FRIENDS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon—Sparkling Cider Toast to 2022!</p>

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

[Lydia Hutchinson](#) | December 2, 2016 |



As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND HISTORICAL FACTS.

The Christmas wreath first originated as a symbol of Christ. The holly represents the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion and the red berries stand for the blood he shed. So when you see a wreath this holiday, you'll remember the reason for the season.



The [National Confectioners Association](#) says a choirmaster originally gave the red-and-white-striped candies to young children to keep them quiet during marathon church services. Grandmas who still sneak the kids sweets during droning sermons, history is on your side. It wasn't until a German-Swedish immigrant decorated his tree with candy canes in 1847 that they became popular as a Christmas candy.



Recipes for family gatherings

Corn Casserole

1 (15 1/4oz.) can, drained, whole Kernel corn

1 (14 3/4 oz.) can cream-style corn

1 cup sour cream

1/2 cup (1 Stick) melted butter

1 (8 oz.) package jiffy corn muffin mix

In a large bowl, stir together the 2 cans of corn and the corn muffin mix, sour cream and butter. Pour into a greased casserole dish and bake at 350 for 40 –45 minutes, or until golden brown.

Enjoy!



Easy Chili Cheese Dip

1 can Hormel chili no beans

Equal parts Velveeta cheese cut into cubes

Mix chili and cheese in small crockpot until warm or warm in a microwave in a microwave safe bowl. Stir well.

Serve with tortilla chips, Fritos or vegetables



Do you know what Vampire Power is?

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Council occ@occ.ohio.gov

When we turn our power off on our appliances and electronic but leave those devices plugged in they continue to use power and can add to the electric bill. The power used by electronic devices when not in use is called *vampire power*. According to Energy Star the average household spends \$100 every year on vampire power. Annually vampire power costs Americans \$19 billion.

Frequently Asked Questions about Vampire Power:

Which devices use vampire power?

Many every day appliances and electronic devices like cable boxes, DVD and VCR players, cellphones, standby machines like microwaves and coffee machines, TV's, and even alarm clocks, usually use vampire power.

What can you do to control or eliminate vampire power?

Only connect devices to chargers while they are charging. Many devices have a light or indicator that indicates when batteries are fully charged. For example, a red light may change to green;

Do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet when not charging;

Shut down computers instead of logging off. Turn off monitors instead of leaving them in sleep mode; and

Unplug devices that are rarely used or when away from home for several days.

Which devices use the most vampire power?

The average home has 20-40 electronic devices, and the combined vampire power usage can be surprising. Some of these devices are coffee makers, cellular phone chargers, and televisions. Experts indicate that in the future you may use more vampire power as more devices are created with microchips and are connected to the Internet.

Is vampire power necessary?

Some vampire power is necessary for functionality and convenience. Vampire power enables monitoring of refrigeration temperatures, allows use of remote controls, keeps digital clocks running and charges cellular phones. But experts indicate that most vampire power is wasteful because of inefficient AC adaptors.

What should you know when purchasing a new appliance?

You should consider energy efficiency when shopping. Devices with the ENERGY STAR logo use less electricity and are energy efficient. ENERGY STAR website: www.energystar.gov. has a complete list of qualified devices. Ratings for ENERGY STAR devices change so energy efficiency is typically greater in new items.

Can a power strip reduce vampire power?

Regular power strips and surge protectors do not reduce vampire power. Smart power strips shut down devices in standby mode and eliminate vampire power.

Can you measure the electricity lost to vampire power?

Kilowatt meters can be purchased to measure the power used by a device in use and in standby mode. A meter is a great tool for teaching you about your electricity consumption and it could encourage you to follow power-saving tips.



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Staff
at Defiance County Senior Services.*

Christmas

WORD SEARCH



PRESENTS
NOEL
MIRACLE
LOVE
WINTER
TREE
GINGERBREAD
FROST
EVE
GARLAND

H
N
A

WHITE
CHRISTMAS
SNOW
JOY
PEACE
HOLLY
WREATH
HAPPY
SECRET
SANTA



Costume contestants L to R: Jackie Briskey, LoraLee Jones, Donna Aschemeier, Carolyn Fortman, Janet Elliot

Halloween costume contest Winners: 1st Place Donna Aschemeier

2nd Place Janet Elliot

3rd Place LoraLee Jones

Defiance County Senior Services	419-782-3233	dcss@defiancecounty.oh.gov
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Robin Murray, Operations Manager	419-783-4850	rmurray@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Dennis Vajen, Transportation Manager	419-782-3233	dvajen@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Ginny Wiseman, Nutrition Manager	419-782-3321	gwiseman@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Dawn Knox, Activities Manager	419-782-3233	dknox@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Penny Cryer, Maintenance Manager	419-782-3233	pcryer@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Linda McMahon, Hicksville Satellite Site Manager	419-542-5004	lmcmahon@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Sue Weller, Nutrition Assessor and CSFP Coordinator	419-782-3233	sweller@defiancecounty.oh.gov
Kitchen Staff– Cooks: Barb Davis, Mary Mansfield & Jamie Blank		
Transportation Staff–Drivers: Kate Webb & Dick Healy		
Home Delivered Meal Staff– Drivers: Doug Tadsen, Sandy Kaufman, Bob Federinko, Jennifer Lero, Rhett LaFountain, & Mike Rychener		

Defiance County Senior Services programs are funded by: Defiance County Senior Services Tax Levy; The Defiance County Commissioners; The Area Office on Aging of N.W.O.; Defiance County Senior Services Auxiliary and YOUR Generous Donations

Glaedelig Jul!

Vrolijk kerstfeest!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JOYEUX NOEL!

