

February

Bluffton Senior Center

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	Exercise 1:30 pm	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Exercise 1:30 pm	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	Exercise 1:30 pm Bingo 2:30 pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	Toenail Clinic 10 am Exercise 1:30 pm	22	23	24	25	26	27
28							



The Golden Age News

Published monthly by:

Bluffton Senior Citizens Center

132 N. Main St - Bluffton Ohio - 45817

419-358-8971

srcenter@wcoil.com

www.blufftonseniors.org

FEBRUARY 2021

I am getting excited at the prospect of all you getting the vaccine and life getting back to some normalcy. Please know that all of our COVID 19 precautions will still be in place for the foreseeable future. Half the staff is not eligible at this time to get the vaccine and it is going to be some time until all senior citizens who can get the vaccine will be able to get it. Plus, they say we don't reach full immunity until three weeks after the second shot. All this to say, keep wearing a mask and washing your hands and keeping your distance. We have to develop herd immunity and that is still going to take a while.

REMEMBER If you are sick or not feeling well or if you have been around someone who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or if you are waiting on a COVID test or if you have been traveling out of state to a highly effected area, we ask that you refrain from coming into the Senior Center to help protect other members and the staff. THANK YOU.

TAX ASSISTANCE

With the pandemic, it doesn't look like we will be getting volunteers to help with taxes in Bluffton again this year. The tax aide office, who trains the volunteers, will have free tax assistance this year in their Lima office, 419-228-9405. Here is a list of local tax preparers:

Judy Augsburger 419-615-0049

Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer and Regula 419-222-2001

Reichenbach and Steiner 419-358-1723

90TH BIRTHDAYS

We missed a couple of January Birthdays in the last newsletter. Angela Schroeder and Colletta Mullenhour each turned 90 years young last month. Don't worry, we made sure they got their red rose and Life Membership last month. Congratulations Colletta and Angie and sorry we missed you.

We are now in the stage of the vaccine schedule that affects most of you. At this point, vaccines are offered in county of residence. Here is the info we have at the time of publishing. Feel free to call for updates.

Tentative dates for older Ohioans to receive vaccines:

- Jan. 19, 2021 – Age 80 and older
- Jan. 25, 2021 – Age 75 and older
- Feb. 1, 2021 – Age 70 and older
- Feb. 8, 2021 – Age 65 and older

Allen County Public Health will begin taking appointments on January 14 for the first round of Phase 1B Vaccinations – individuals age 80 and above. This age group is the first priority in the state of Ohio's Phase 1B group. Only individuals age 80 and above can make appointments at that time. (75 and up should be able to call the week of the 19 and so on.) Clinics will be held by appointment only, based on vaccine availability. To make an appointment, individuals must call 419-228-INFO (419-228-4636). This number is a direct number for scheduling – please do not call the regular health department phone number. Moving beyond this first week of clinics, Allen County Public Health will continue to offer the vaccine by appointment, based on vaccine availability. The public will be notified when appointments open up again. Please monitor local media for updated information on clinics and how to make appointments as we receive more doses, and move through Phase 1B.

Bluffton Hospital is offering vaccines to Bluffton residents in the order set by the state. Call 419-369-2323 to make an appointment.

Lima Memorial Hospital is also offering vaccines. Call 419-998-4491 to make an appointment.

Mercy Health – St. Rita's is offering vaccines to patients of their providers. Call 419-996-5000 to make an appointment.

Hancock County Health Dept has an on line sign up for the vaccine. Go to their website to sign up. If you need help with the internet, please call us or call 50 North in Findlay for help.

Putnam County Health Dept is taking phone reservations for those in the proper age group. Please call 419-538-7001 between 9 am and 2 pm.

Hardin County had its first vaccine clinic on Jan 20 and it was full. Please call 419-673-6230 to register for the next clinic. I am unclear if they are signing up people in age order only. You will need to call to find out.

Auglaize County Health Dept is taking reservations. Please call 419-738-3410.

HOBBY CENTER

We put some of Deb Hohenbrink's handmade cards in the display case in January. These beautiful cards are for sale in the store so you can still see them if you missed it. Thanks Deb for the beautiful cards. In February, Keith Sommer will share some of his bells. If you have a hobby, collection or art work that you would be willing to share, let Tonya know.

DUES ARE DUE

We are still taking 2021 dues. If you have not paid them yet, they are due now. The dues went up this year to \$20 per person. If you do not feel comfortable coming into the Senior Center, you may mail your dues to 132 N. Main St., Bluffton, OH 45817. If you go South for the winter, please let us know so we can hold or forward your newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, just email Tonya at srcenter@wcoil.com and we will put you on the list.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

We are going to put off our Garage Sale until March 25 through 29 so that all our volunteers have a chance to get the vaccine and we can run the sale safely. We are taking items for the sale now. Please do not bring any clothing or shoes. Please make sure the items are clean and usable. If you need help getting items into the Center, please call ahead so a staff member can help.

BOARD MEETING

Our next Senior Center Board Meeting will be Thursday, February 25 at 1:30 p.m. Board members will receive more information as we get closer.

WINTER WEATHER

Winter is here. If Bluffton Schools are closed due to winter weather, ALL Activities at the Bluffton Senior Center will be cancelled. If the weather turns bad in the middle of the day, please call ahead to check on activities. We use WLIO-TV Hometown Stations, Lima to announce closings and cancellations. If Bluffton Schools go to remote learning, we will cancel activities based on conditions so please don't hesitate to call before heading out. 419-358-8971.

TOENAIL CLINIC

Our next toenail clinic is set for Monday, February 22, at 10 a.m. If you want an appointment for February, call 419-358-8971. You **must have an appointment** to be seen on that day. Cost of the clinic is \$10 due the day of the clinic. Please do not come more than 10 minutes ahead of time and please wear a mask.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Community Meals will continue as a drive through behind the Senior Center in February. Please enter from the Family Dollar side of the alley and exit behind the police station. The dates are February 4 with the Bluffton Lions Club and February 18 with Bluffton Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m.

EXERCIS CLASS

Exercise class with Joy will be every Monday and Wednesday in February at 1:30 p.m. as long as we all stay healthy. Only 10 people may be in a class at a time so **reservations are required**. All equipment used must be sanitized after use so please don't put it away. Masks must be worn into the building but may be taken off during the exercise.

LINE DANCE CLASS

The next Line Dance Classes will be Tuesday, February 9 and 23 at **11 a.m.** The class is limited to 10 people. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** Please call 419-358-8971 to make your reservation. Masks must be worn into the building but can be removed for the dancing. Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the class starts. Cost is \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. Classes will continue the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

DOMINOS

Mexican Train Dominos is on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. There will only be four people allowed at a table. Masks will be required at all times. We will have hand sanitizer on each table and recommend that it be used often. **Reservations are required** so that we have a space for everyone. **NO SNACKING** will be allowed during the game but we recommend that players bring their own water bottles.

JAM SESSIONS

Jam Sessions with Charlie Saylor are resuming on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. The group is limited to ten people and **MASKS MUST BE WORN at ALL TIMES.** The Mask must cover the nose and mouth. Listeners are welcome.

BINGO

We will only have one Bingo game in February on Monday, February 15 at 2:30 p.m.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Please call 419-358-8971 to make your reservation. Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the game starts. Please wear a mask. Each seat will have four cards available. Players will choose two to play with. If your friends who are not members wish to play, they will need reservations and will have to give us their address and phone number when they register for contact tracing purposes.

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Thelma Ridenour Wolford

Crime Victim Services Observes Increase in Email & Text “Phishing” Scams

Elder Victim Ministry, a program of Crime Victim Services, is seeing an increase in “Phishing Scams,” where victims give out passwords, Social Security or bank account numbers to what looks like a legitimate request from a company.

Protect yourself. 1.) Use security software and keep it updated. 2.) Take advantage of “two-factor authentication” where you enter a password plus an extra passcode sent by text or a fingerprint scan. This is especially important for software that accesses your finances. 3.) Test requests. Look up the company number and call them to verify. Run it by someone you trust before taking action.

If you think that you gave away important personal information, report to law enforcement. Elder Victim Ministry has recovery steps to follow: 419-222-8666 (Lima) or 419-523-1111 (Ottawa). The FTC recommends forwarding a phishing email to reportphishing@apwg.org and a phishing text to SPAM (7726).

TRIPS

The state mandate says we cannot do any trips at this time. We hope to resume travel as soon as everyone gets the vaccine for COVID-19. Meanwhile, we are still making plans this year hoping that we will be able to travel sometime 2021.

BUS TRIPS WITH DEBBIE

Since we can't do day trips at this time, Debbie has been coming up with short trips that you can do on your own. Flyers are available at the Senior Center for each outing with restaurant recommendations and phone numbers for calling ahead. Debbie has a new one to some DIFFERENT local museums and is working on more all the time. Hopefully soon, she will be planning actual Day Trips.

Washington D.C. Rescheduled! New Date will be April 9-12, 2021! New brochures are in the Senior Center for this trip and we openings if you still want to go.

COACH TRIPS WITH TONYA

Wisconsin's Northwoods Aug 28 – Sept 3, 2021 Join us on a trip to find the hidden treasures of the famed Northwoods. We will visit a ginseng farm, a cranberry bog and will have supper where John Dillinger's gang had a shootout. A \$250.00 deposit is due at the time of sign up and prices start at \$1777. Brochures available at the Senior Center.

New England Rails and Resorts October 3-11, 2021 The new brochures are in at the Senior Center. The trip is full at this time but we are taking stand by. A \$250.00 deposit is due at the time of sign up.

THE ADS IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO
PRINT AND SEND IT TO YOU FOLKS! Thank you!



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