2016 FALL/THANKSGIVING/HOLIDAY RESOURCE GUIDE
Prepared by United Appeal for Athens County
Call 2-1-1 or visit www.211athenscounty.org for updates and additional resources!

The following is a list of opportunities available around Athens County during fall and the upcoming Thanksgiving/holiday season. Included in this guide are food basket giveaways/meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas, along with volunteer and donation opportunities for the holiday season. If you are interested in finding out more about these opportunities or others, please call 2-1-1 or visit www.211athenscounty.org.

Events/Giveaways/Meals

Athens County Public Library

Albany Branch (Wells), 5200 Washington Road, Albany, Ohio  (740) 698-3059
Athens Branch, 30 Home Street, Athens, Ohio  (740) 592-4272
Chauncey Branch, 29 Converse Street, Chauncey, Ohio  (740) 797-2512
Coolville Branch, 26401 Main Street, Coolville, Ohio  (740) 667-3354
Glouster Branch, 20 Toledo Street, Glouster, Ohio  (740) 767-3670
Nelsonville (Main), 95 West Washington, Nelsonville, Ohio  (740) 753-2118
The Plains Branch, 14 South Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio  (740) 797-4579

In addition to providing computers for public use and lending books and bicycles, Athens County Public Libraries hosts programs for people of different ages and interest. These include basic sewing, knitting and crocheting; baby storytime; Spanish conversation; yoga; and more. For information on times and locations, visit www.myacpl.org.

Community Food Initiatives

94 Columbus Road, Athens, Ohio

Community Food Initiatives offers many workshops and events, including breadmaking, cheesemaking, and gardening. Usually, there is a $5 fee for non-members. Annual CFI membership is $25. For more information on planned workshops, visit the Facebook events page https://www.facebook.com/CommunityFoodInitiatives/events?key=events.

Athens City Engineering and Public Works Department– Leaf Pick-Up

30 Curran Drive, Athens, Ohio

Final week will be December 19-22, 2016
The Athens City Engineering and Public Works Department will provide bagged leaf pick-ups through their yard waste program. There is a $1.50 charge per bag. Visit www.ci.athens.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/1385 for map. To request a pickup, call (740) 592-3343 and leave a message or call the Engineering and Public Works Department at (740) 593-7636.

Open Enrollment for Health Insurance

November 1, 2016-January 31, 2017
Two ways to enroll: To search options and enroll online go to: www.healthcare.gov
or For free in person assistance go to: https://www.getcoveredamerica.org/connector/

Salvation Army – Christmas Food Voucher

70 North Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio through December 6, 2016*
The Salvation Army will be providing free food vouchers to low income Athens and Meigs County residents who have not received a 2016 Thanksgiving food box from the Salvation Army. Call to apply by December 6, 2016. For more information, please contact the Salvation Army at (740) 797-1305 Monday through Thursday from 9 am-2 pm.
*First 75 eligible families will be accepted. As of 11/21/2016, more than 75 applications have been received.

Salvation Army – Christmas Toys Program

70 North Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio through December 6, 2016*
The Salvation Army will be accepting applications until December 6, 2016 from low income Athens and Meigs County families with children (newborns to 18 and in high school). Required documents include proof of id, social security cards for all family members, proof of income, proof of residency, and proof of custody. For more information, contact the Salvation Army at (740) 797-1305 Monday through Thursday from 9 am-2 pm.
*First 100 eligible families will be accepted. As if 11/21/2016, more than 100 applications have been received.
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Athens County Children Services – Santa Tree Donations Accepted
The Market on State, 1002 East State Street, Athens, Ohio
November 18, 2016-December 12, 2016
Athens County Children Services is holding their annual Santa Tree program for low-income children in Athens County. Individuals and organizations may donate by selecting a child's ornament from the “Santa Tree” in The Market on State and drop off gifts at the Present Return Box at The Market on State, 1002 East State Street, Athens, by December 12. Anyone with questions, or interested in “adopting” or donating to an entire family, should contact Athens County Children Services at (740) 592-3061. The agency also needs toy donations for these children, along with donations of money and sealed gift wrap. Donations are also accepted online at athenscountysantaproject.blogspot.com or can be mailed to ACCS, Attn: Santa Tree, PO Box 1046, Athens, OH 45701. For information, call Athens County Children Services at 740-592-3061.

United Campus Ministry
18 North College Street, Athens, Ohio
November 24, 2016  5:30 pm
United Campus Ministry is providing a free Thanksgiving meal on November 24 (Thanksgiving) to Athens County residents and OU students. Meal begins at 5:30 pm. For information, contact United Campus Ministry at (740) 593-7301.

North Pole Nelsonville
Nelsonville, Ohio
November 25 – December 24, 2016

Final Friday on the Square
November 25, 2016  5:30 pm-9:30 pm
Discover unique handmade items, giveaways, raffles and more.

Hocking Valley Scenic Railway Santa Trains
Weekends, November 26 - December 18, 2016
Visit www.hvstry.org for information on dates, times, and tickets.

Lighting of the Public Square
December 2, 2016  6 pm

Christmas Parade
December 3, 2016  10 am

Fireman's Breakfast
December 3, 2016  7 am-11 am
Join the Nelsonville Fire Department at the Nelsonville Elk's Lodge for their Annual Fireman's Breakfast.

The Littlest Angel
December 2, 3, 4 2016

Santa's Workshop, 37 Public Square
Weekends, December 3-24, 2016  12 noon-6 pm

Nelsonville Holiday Home Tour
December 10, 2016  6 pm-8 pm
Tour of beautiful homes within walking distance of the Nelsonville Public Square. Tickets available at Santa's Workshop.

Winter Wine Express
December 16, 2016  7 pm  (description below)

Athena Cinema – Holiday Film Festival
Saturdays, November 26-December 17, 2016
20 South Court Street, Athens
The Athena Cinema is hosting a series of screenings of Christmas films. The cost of admission per person will be a minimum donation of one non-perishable food item or cash donation, which will be donated to area food pantries. Tickets are limited and available one week in advance of each show. Donations may be dropped off in exchange for tickets during regular lobby hours (Monday-Friday  4 pm-10 pm and Saturday-Sunday  2 pm-10 pm). Movies will be shown at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm on November 26 (Nightmare Before Christmas), December 3 (Elf), December 10 (Muppets Christmas Carol), and December 17 (Miracle on 34th Street). Also, on December 10 at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm there will be special evening showings of Scrooged starring Bill Murray. For more information, contact Athena Cinema at (740) 592-5106 or www.athenacinema.com.

OU Campus Recycling – Annual Winter Food Drive
November 28, 2016-December 11, 2016
Live Healthy Appalachia Holiday Workshop
First Presbyterian Church of Nelsonville, Ohio
November 29, 2016   6 pm-8 pm
Join Live Healthy Appalachia for a hands-on workshop, preparing and sampling five delicious recipes using affordable, seasonal ingredients. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by noon on Monday, November 28, 2016. $5 per person, payable at the door. Pre-register online at http://www.livehealthyappalachia.org/event-registration/?ee=138.

Athens Uptown for the Holidays

Tree Lighting Celebration and Arrival of Santa
Athens County Courthouse, Court Street, Athens, Ohio
December 1, 2016   6 pm-8 pm
Thursday, December 1– 6 pm-8 pm - The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Kickoff to the Holiday Season will include the tree lighting, arrival of SANTA, horse-drawn wagon rides, shopping, dining, musical entertainment, and children's activities. Free pictures taken with Santa courtesy of The Athens News.

Visits with Santa
Inside the 5 On Court Building, 5 North Court Street, Athens, Ohio
Thursday, December 1, 8, and 15 – 6 pm-8 pm

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides
Begins in front of Court House, Athens, Ohio
Thursdays, December 1, 8, and 15 – 6 pm-8 pm

Gingerbread House Display
24 West State Street, Athens, Ohio
Friday, December 2-Friday, December 30, 2016 – 12 noon-4 pm (Tuesday through Saturday)

Gingerbread House Competition
24 West State Street, Athens, Ohio
December 1, 2016
The 2016 Uptown for the Holidays Gingerbread House Display and Competition is accepting entry forms and $25.00 fee (checks made payable to Athens Gingerbread) at the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 667 East State Street, Athens, OH 45701 until November 1, 2016. The houses should be delivered to the Southeast Ohio History Center, 24 West State Street, Athens on December 1 between 4 pm and 6 pm. The houses will be displayed to the public at the Southeast Ohio History Center, 24 West State Street, Athens through December 30, 2016. Entry forms and more details are available at www.athensgingerbread.com.

Athens City Parking Garage
7 East Washington Street, Athens, Ohio
Fees will be temporarily suspended for the municipal parking garage on Thursdays, December 1, 8, and 15, 2016 after 5 pm and all day Saturdays, December 3, 10, and 17, 2016. This suspension does not apply to the two-hour meters in the garage. For more information, please call the mayor's office at (740) 592-3338.

The Dairy Barn – Holiday Bazaar and Barn Sale
8000 Dairy Lane, Athens, Ohio
December 2, 2016   3 pm-8 pm; December 3, 2016   10 am-5 pm
Over 40 local vendors, children's activities, a barn sale upstairs and several raffles for local arts and crafts. For information call 740-592-4981, email at clair@dairybarn.org, or visit www.dairybarn.org/event-view/2016-holiday-bazaar/.

CASA/GAL – Reindeer Run
398 West State Street, Athens, Ohio
December 3, 2016   8 am-11 am
The Reindeer Run is a wacky, fun-filled 5K fun run and walk featuring a special visit from Santa, prizes for everyone, a Jingle Bell Cheer Squad, and a Hot-Chocolate After-Party. This year's event will debut a Kids 1 Mile Adventure Run. All proceeds benefit the children served by the Athens CASA/GAL Program. To register online, visit www.athenscasa.org.
Athens Community Center – Lunch with Santa
701 East State Street, Athens, Ohio
December 3, 2016 11 am-12:30 pm
The Athens Community Center will be hosting Santa on Saturday, December 3, 2016 with crafts, cocoa, and lunch. Tickets are on sale now: $6 per child and $3 per adult.

Stewart City Park – Christmas Tree Lighting
Stewart, Ohio
December 3, 2016 6 pm
Public is invited for caroling, hot chocolate and cookies. Attendees may place ornament on tree in memory of a loved one.

Starlight Ball Fundraiser
Baker Center Ballroom, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
December 3, 2016 7 pm-12 midnight
The Annual Starlight Ball, hosted by the Child Conservation League (CCL), benefits local children’s organizations and causes. This year's event is Saturday, December 3 and is $75.00 a person. Cocktails begin at 7 pm, dinner will begin at 8 pm, and dancing to music provided by "The Light of Day". To register by check, stop by Cornwell Jewelers, 77 North Court Street, Athens, or mail to Elizabeth Jones, 537 Chestnut Street, Nelsonville, Ohio 45764. To register online, visit https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=z7q46gnab&oeidk=a07edclq6z0803e8728.

Southeast Ohio History Center – Holiday Home Tour in Athens
December 4, 2016 1 pm-4 pm
Continuation of last year's East End home tours. Reserve tickets by calling (740) 592-2280. $15 per person 12 and up, $10 per person for members of The Southeast Ohio History Center. Visit www.athenshistory.org/events/ for information.

United Campus Ministry
18 North College Street, Athens, Ohio
December 5, 2016 through January 7, 2017
United Campus Ministry will not be providing free meals on Thursdays at 5:30 pm and Saturdays at 1 pm while their kitchen is being remodeled. The remodeling work is scheduled between December 3 and January 7. For information, call United Campus Ministry at (740) 593-7301.

Community Food Initiatives – Healthy Cooking for the Holidays
First Presbyterian Church of Nelsonville, Ohio
December 6, 2016 6 pm-7:30 pm
Join Certified Health Educator, Ruth Dudding, of the Athens Health Department for this Healthy Cooking for the Holidays workshop at the First Presbyterian Church or Nelsonville. Workshops are free for CFI members and $5 for non-members.

Gourmet Your Way – Freezer Raid for Community Food Initiatives
ACEnet, 94 Columbus Road, Athens, Ohio
December 7, 2016 4 pm-6 pm
Gourmet Your Way is donating 10% of sales to Community Food Initiatives from their Freezer Raid on Wednesday Dec 7! Each month, Gourmet Your Way opens their freezer to customers to sell meals already assembled and ready for pickup. All meals and sides serve 6, so an entree that costs $36 is $6 per serving. Entrées range in price from $33 to $42, depending on the item. For more information, visit http://www.gourmetyourway.biz/.

Hocking Hills State Park - Christmas in Ash Cave
Ash Cave, State Route 56, South Bloomingville, Ohio
December 10, 2016 5 pm-7 pm
Bundle up for the weather and enjoy candlelit walk back to Ash Cave. Warm up by an open fire. Refreshments. Listen to or join carolers. Old fashioned Santa. Help decorate tree for wildlife. Free. Call 740-385-6561 or 740-385-6842 for details.

Kennedy Museum of Art – Family Art Encounters
Lin Hall, The Ridges Building 1, 100 Ridges Circle, Athens, Ohio
December 11, 2016 2 pm-4 pm
Family Art Encounters is a drop-in program for children and adults to engage in shared activities. Art making projects are inspired by a featured artwork on display in the galleries, and are open-ended to accommodate a variety of ages. Activities are free and open to all ages accompanied by an adult. Visit https://calendar.ohio.edu/site/finearts/event/sunday-family-art-encounters-1/ for more information.
Rural Action – Holiday Open House
Kuhre Center for Rural Renewal, 9030 Hocking Hills Drive, The Plains  December 13, 2016  6 pm-8 pm
Meet the staff, updates on the work, tour the building, and enjoy drinks and appetizers. Kids activities, also. Bring a recycled, natural, or homemade ornament to help decorate the tree. Visit http://ruralaction.org/events/ for more information.

Community Food Initiatives – My Oh My I Made a Pie Workshop
ACEnet, 94 Columbus Road, Athens, Ohio  December 14, 2016  6 pm-7:30 pm
Join Tessa, of the Twisted Sisters Pretzel Company at ACEnet for this pie making workshop including wheat flour and gluten-free flour crusts. Workshops are free for CFI members and $5 for non-members.

Winter Wine Express Fundraiser
52 Public Square, Nelsonville, Ohio  December 16, 2016  7 pm
Stuart's Opera House is hosting a Winter Wine Express Fundraiser (December 16) to raise funds for the Stuart's Opera House. The tickets are $35.00 for coach and $45.00 for first class ($5 discount if purchased in advance). The train departs at 7 pm from the Nelsonville Depot at 33 Canal Street, Nelsonville. The ride lasts about 1-1½ hours. For more information, check the Stuart's Opera House website www.stuartsoperahouse.org or call (740) 753-1924 Monday-Friday 10 am-4 pm.

Athens County Community Singers Christmas Concert
ARTS/West, 132 West State Street, Athens, Ohio  December 19, 2016  7 pm
The Athens County Community Singers, a non-profit organization is a choir for “all voices”, those with and without disabilities. There will be a suggested donation of $10 at the door, as well as a Christmas CD available for purchase.

Athens City Engineering and Public Works Department– Holiday Tree Pick-Up
30 Curran Drive, Athens, Ohio  December 27, 2016-January 27, 2017
The Athens City Engineering and Public Works Department will provide bagged leaf pick-ups through their yard waste program. There is a $1.50 charge per bag. Free holiday tree pick-ups will take place between December 27, 2016 through January 27, 2017. To request a pickup, call (740) 592-3343 and leave a message or call the Engineering and Public Works Department at (740) 593-7636.

New Years Eve Train and Fireworks
Nelsonville Depot, 33 Canal Street, Nelsonville, Ohio  December 31, 2016  10:30 pm-12:30 am
Hocking Valley Scenic Railway is offering a train ride on New Years Eve. Ticket sales continue until 11:55 pm on December 29, 2016. The ride lasts about 2 hours. For more information or to make reservations, call (740) 249-1452 or visit www.hvsry.org/trainlist/#newyear.

Seasonal Flu Shots
Athens City-County Health Department
278 West Union Street, Athens, Ohio
Seasonal flu vaccinations are available at the Athens City-County Health Department. Call between 8:00 am-11:00 am or 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Monday through Friday for an appointment. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and have their immunization record present. For more information, please call (740) 592-4431.

Donation Opportunities
American Red Cross of Southeast Ohio
100 South May Avenue, Athens, Ohio
The Red Cross conducts blood drives at various locations and dates. For more information, call (740) 593-5273 or visit www.redcross.org/blood.
Donation Opportunities – continued

Athens County Children Services
18 Stony Brook Drive, Building 14, Athens, Ohio  
November 18, 2016 – December 12, 2016
Athens County Children Services is holding the annual Santa Tree program for low-income children in Athens County. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to donate by selecting a child's ornament from the “Santa Tree” in The Market on State beginning November 18, and drop off the gifts at the Present Return Box at The Market on State, 1002 East State Street, Athens, by December 12. Individuals and organizations who have questions, or who are interested in “adopting” or donating to an entire family, should contact Athens County Children Services at (740) 592-3061. The agency is also in need of toy donations for these children, along with donations of money and sealed gift wrap. Donations are also accepted online at athenscountysantaproject.blogspot.com or can be mailed to ACCS, Attn: Santa Tree, PO Box 1046, Athens, OH 45701.

Athens County Public Library
Athens Branch: 30 Home Street, Athens  (740) 592-4272
Chauncey Branch: 29 Converse Street, Chauncey  (740) 797-2512
Coolville Branch: 26401 Main Street, Coolville  (740) 667-3354
Gloster Branch: 20 Toledo Street, Gloster  (740) 767-3670
Nelsonville Library: 95 West Washington Street, Nelsonville  (740) 753-2118
The Plains Branch: 14 South Plains Road  (740) 797-4579
Wells (Albany) Branch: 5200 West Washington Road, Albany  (740) 698-3059
The Athens County Public Libraries are accepting new, gently used, or handmade winter hats, scarves and other winter apparel donations to be distributed to needy persons through area organizations in January. Items that are in good condition may be dropped off at the circulation desks of that Athens, Chauncey, Coolville, Gloster, Nelsonville, The Plains, and Wells (Albany) libraries by December 31. Individuals who have questions should contact a library branch.

OhioHealth Home Care (formerly Appalachian Community Visiting Nurse Association, Hospice and Health Services)
444 West Union Street Suite C, Athens, Ohio
OhioHealth Home Care is accepting donations of canned chicken, tuna, corn, and cream of mushroom soup, bags of white rice, and jars of meatless pasta sauce. These will be used by community volunteers to prepare casseroles in the ACEnet kitchen on a monthly basis for hospice clients and their families. Donations will be accepted between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. For more information, please call (740) 331-7040.

Salvation Army
70 North Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio
The Salvation Army is accepting new toys for children up to high school age, food for Christmas, and monetary donations for these items. For more information, please contact the Salvation Army at (740) 797-1305 Monday-Thursday 9 am-2 pm.

The Plains United Methodist Church
3 North Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio
The Plains United Methodist Church is accepting monetary donations to sponsor Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes for people in need living in Chauncey, Millfield, New Marshfield, or The Plains. For information on making a donation, please contact the church at (740) 797-4163 Mon-Fri 9 am-1 pm.

United Campus Ministry
18 North College Street, Athens, Ohio
United Campus Ministry is accepting non-perishable food donations or money to buy food for meals for Athens County residents and Ohio University students. The meals begin at 5:30 pm on Thursdays and 1 pm on Saturdays. For more information, please contact the United Campus Ministry at (740) 593-7301 Monday-Friday 10 am-4 pm.
Volunteer Opportunities

Athens CASA/GAL Program
1 South Court Street, Athens, Ohio
Athens CASA/GAL Program is a group of every day citizens who train to be Court Appointed Special Advocates. Once trained, CASAs are appointed to look out for the best interests of children involved in juvenile court because of abuse or neglect. The CASAs build relationships with their assigned child and any important adults in the child’s life to gather information about the case. The CASA uses this information for juvenile court recommendations. Research shows that children experience better outcomes when they have a CASA. All the training needed to become a CASA is provided. Interested community members should email: info@athenscasa.org, call: (740) 592-3255 or visit: www.athenscasa.org.

Athens County Children Services
18 Stony Brook Drive, Athens, Ohio
Athens County Children Services needs volunteers to assist with the Santa Tree project through November 17. Volunteers are required to complete a volunteer application; submit to a police, fingerprinting, reference, and driving check; and an interview. For more information, call (740) 592-3061.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County – Mentors
449 East State Street, Athens, Ohio
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County needs caring mentors to provide emotional support and uplifting experiences to children facing adversity in our community. The majority of these children live below the federal poverty line and live with a single parent or guardian. Mentors in the BBBS program spend 4-6 hours a month with a child in need of emotional support. Appropriate activities often include free or low-cost options such as trips to the park, homework assistance, watching movies, playing sports or cooking. Mentors can be adults of all ages and there are no income expectations for mentors. If interested in becoming a mentor to a child facing adversity in our community and helping to change young lives for the better, forever, please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at (740) 797-0037.

Salvation Army
70 North Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio
The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to collect funds with the Salvation Army Red Kettle throughout the holiday season at various locations between November 19 and December 24. Call to apply. For more information, please contact the Salvation Army at (740) 797-1305 Monday through Thursday from 9 am-2 pm.

United Campus Ministry
18 North College Street, Athens, Ohio
United Campus Ministry is looking for volunteers to help prepare meals and raise funds to buy meals for Athens County residents and Ohio University students. Meal volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm and on Saturdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information, please contact the United Campus Ministry at (740) 593-7301 between 10 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday.

Happy Holidays