**Holiday Hours:**
Our office will be closed from Wednesday, December 22, through Friday, December 31, 2021. We will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 8:00am. This closing is due to The Ohio State University closing offices on December 27, 28, and 29, in addition to our regularly scheduled holidays. Due to being short-staffed, we are also closing on December 22 and December 30. We apologize for the inconvenience and look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Have you visited the Community Christmas display at Harter Park in Union City? It’s well worth the drive as they have thousands of lights, unique displays, and a laser show (weather permitting). On Tuesday, December 21, Hands Across the Darke will be manning the gates. Hands Across the Darke will receive 25% of that night’s donations for helping. Come out on the 21st, see the lights, and say hello to our Hands Across the Darke members!

The 4-H Committee voted last week to waive the county-wide activity fee in 2022. Thanks to support from generous donors, the committee is able to sustain our 4-H program without the activity fee.

**Friendly Reminder:** Officer books (secretary and treasurer, mandatory) are due to the Extension Office by 4:30pm on Friday, January 21, 2022. Also due are Premier Member forms, County Medal Applications, Ohio Achievement Records, Darke County 4-H Alumni Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, and Community Service Award.

https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/award-applications  
https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/club-resources  
https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/member-resources

**News You Can Use:**

1. As you complete your online shopping, don’t forget to designate the 4-H program to receive a donation through Amazon Smile. **Amazon Smile:** Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844 and Amazon donates to the Darke County 4-H Committee. (It comes up as The Ohio State University, but donations go to our 4-H program!)

2. **County Medal Applications:** any 4-Her wishing to be recognized for outstanding 4-H project work is invited to submit a completed county medal application. Forms are available on the website: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/member-resources Completed applications are due to the Extension Office by 4:30pm on Friday, January 21, 2022.

3. **Volunteer Screening for 2022:** Letters have been mailed to those volunteers who need to complete their fingerprint background check for 2022. If you are one of the lucky people to receive a letter, please do not procrastinate. Complete this as soon as possible. Save your receipt and bring the form enclosed with your letter to the Extension Office so we can process your reimbursement.
4. **New 4-H Volunteer Applications**: Applications for those wishing to apply to be a new Darke County 4-H Volunteer in 2022 are now available. Completed applications must be submitted to the Extension Office by February 1, 2022 in order to be considered for 2022. Hard copies of the application packet are available from our office or download the information from the web: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-4-h-volunteer-application

5. **Darke County 4-H Alumni Award**: This award is presented to a Darke County 4-H alumnus who has demonstrated distinctive achievement in their career or community service and who attributes part of their success to their participation in the Darke County 4-H Program. One recipient will be selected and will be recognized during the spring kick-off program in March. Completed applications are due to the Extension Office by 4:30pm on Friday, January 22, 2022. https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/award-applications

6. **Sharon Fourman Memorial 4-H Volunteer of the Year Award**: completed applications are due January 21, 2022. See the website for details. https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/award-applications

7. **Cheryl Leugers Memorial 4-H Community Service Award**: New for 2022! Applications are currently available (online or from our office). This award is designed to recognize a 4-H club who has completed and outstanding community service project or activity during 2021. See the application for details. Completed applications are due January 21, 2022. https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/award-applications

8. **Hands Across the Darke**: In-person meetings have resumed. They meet the first Tuesday of each month, 7pm, Extension Office. This organization is open to any youth in grades 5-12 who is interested in participating in a variety of community service activities. Please share this meeting day/time with any youth who might be interested in attending. **Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 4, 2022.**

9. **Darke County United Way**: Did you know that you can designate your United Way pledge to be given to the Darke County 4-H program? Simply write “Darke County 4-H” on the designation line.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Darke County 4-H Program!

Questions? Contact Rhonda at 937.569.5003 or williams.418@osu.edu