



the SENIOR CALLER

WOODLANDS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER



October
2026

VOL. 57 - ISSUE 10

710 N. Opportunity Dr. - Columbia City, IN 46725
Office Hours: Mon-Thu 8 am - 4 pm / Fri 8 am - 1 pm
260-248-8944 1-800-290-1697
TTY Relay 800-743-3333

www.whitleycountycouncilonaging.org



Woodlands SeniorActivity Center



[the.woodlands.wcco](https://www.instagram.com/the.woodlands.wcco)

ABOUT OUR CENTER



OUR MISSION

To enable the senior citizens of Whitley County to live confident, dignified, independent and productive lives through education, programs and services.

OUR SERVICES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| * Transportation | * Senior Caller Newsletter | * Health Programs/Exercise |
| * Weekday Lunches | * Tax Assistance (Feb-Apr) | * Educational/Informational Programs |
| * Home Delivered Meals | * Social Gatherings & Entertainment | * Non-Perishable Food Pantry & Bread Pantry |
| * Lending Library | * Medical Equipment Rental Program | * Pet Food Pantry |
| * Information & Referral | * Incontinence Items | * Woodland Trips |
| * Food Share Programs | | |
| * Annual Senior Fair | | |

TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: All programs and services are provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with WCCOA.

OUR PEOPLE

CORPORATION OFFICERS

Shelbi Brown/President 260-610-8020
Larry Barr/VicePresident 260-229-5945

Duane Janssen/Treasurer 727-687-7958
Joan Western/Secretary 260-229-9902

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Barr	260-229-5945
Shelbi Brown	260-610-8020
Jennifer Esterline	916-747-5003
Clay Geiger	260-609-9032
Dr. Christopher Grindrod	260-481-6455
Duane Janssen	727-687-7958
Marlin Leininger	260-466-5231

Sue Lewis	260-441-6551
Barb Overdeer	260-609-5210
Kaliebe VanEmon	260-580-2647
Joan Western	260-229-9902
Virginia Wright	260-609-5249
Jane Yohe	260-248-8373

STAFF DIRECTORY

Ron Clark	Executive Director	ext 300
Nancy Bledsoe	Office Manager	ext 400
Sheila Troyer	Nutrition Manager	ext 100
Sarah Ross	Transportation Manager	ext 600
Aimee Ray	Activities Manager	ext 900
Front Desk	-----	ext 102

CONTACT US

Call 248-8944 for a ride! Toll Free: 1-800-290-1697

Hours: 7am - 5pm Monday - Friday.

A 48 hour notice (prior to 1 pm) is necessary.

INFORMATION WE NEED

- Name, address, phone number, birthday, any disabilities, and if the client has Medicaid.
- Appointment date and time.
- Destination, including address.
- Name and address of the responsible parties.

PRICING

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Fees - One Way</u>	<u>Fees - Round Trip</u>
1-4 miles	\$6	\$12
5-10 miles	\$8	\$16
11-15 miles	\$12	\$24
16-25 miles	\$15	\$30
Over 25 miles	\$17	\$34
Out of County	\$29	\$58



Stated mileage are for trips made within Whitley County.

- * Children under 12 ride free with an adult. Adults must provide car seats if needed.
- * Veterans: \$20 Round Trip for trips outside of Whitley County.
- * Working Seniors 60+: public rates apply.
- * Seniors 60+: donation only; service is not denied to anyone who is not able to donate.

Exact payment is required. For your convenience, you may buy Transit Punch Cards for \$40 per card (a \$45 value).

CLIENTS MUST BE READY 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO SCHEDULED PICK-UP TIME

All vans are sanitized throughout the day for your safety.



WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ron Clark has worked for over 10 years in leadership roles at Brightpoint, The League for the Blind, and has worked closely with several local nonprofits in Fort Wayne and the surrounding area. His experience in operations, project management, fundraising, marketing, and community engagement makes him a strong fit to lead the organization to the next level.

As Executive Director, Clark will support the Council on Aging's mission while strengthening relationships throughout Whitley County. His priorities will include community engagement, organizational sustainability, fundraising and resource development, partnerships, volunteer involvement, and continued support for programs and services benefiting older adults.

"I've always believed that strong organizations are built through strong relationships," Clark said. "Whether working with donors, volunteers, employees, board members, community leaders, or the people an organization serves, my approach has always been to listen first, understand what people need, and then work collaboratively to find solutions."

"I grew up in South Whitley and graduated from Whitko. I still have family that lives in the area, so I have ties to the community. I want the Council on Aging to be an organization that people throughout Whitley County know, trust, and feel connected to," Clark said. "There is tremendous opportunity when a community comes together around a shared purpose, and I am looking forward to being part of that work."

"The Board of Directors is thrilled to welcome Ron Clark as the new Executive Director of the Whitley County Council on Aging. Ron brings extensive nonprofit leadership experience and a proven ability to strengthen programs, build community partnerships, and expand an organization's impact. His background in fundraising and community engagement makes him uniquely suited to lead our organization. This has been a transformative year for WCCOA and Ron's leadership represents an exciting next step. The Board looks forward to supporting him as we continue growing our programs and services and fulfilling our mission of enabling aging adults of Whitley County to live confident, independent and productive lives," stated WCCOA Board President, Shelbi Brown.

UPCOMING TRIPS

contact Miranda at
trips@wccoa.biz with any questions!



Whitley County
Council on Aging

Activities

Tuesday October 13th Chocolate Thimble

Join us for a fun and delicious experience at Chocolate Thimble. We will have the opportunity to tour the kitchen and get a behind-the-scenes look at how these treats are made. You will also get to hand-make your own chocolates!! Following the tour, we will go to Golden Corral for lunch before coming back to town!

Cost is \$60, due by September 28th

November 17th: Firekeepers Casino

Let's try a new casino!! Senior Tuesdays offers \$5 in Red Hot Credits!

Cost is \$30 due by November 10th!

Monday December 7th 40th Annual Gingerbread Festival

First stop will be at IHop for a pancake breakfast. Then we are heading to downtown Fort Wayne for one of the community's holiday traditions. There will be over 100 gingerbread house creations to adore with designer's from age 10 to elite artist. While you're there you will have the opportunity to walk through the History Center of Fort Wayne. You will be learning and seeing all kinds of history about the city!

Cost is \$45, due by November 23rd!

NOTE BREAKFAST IS AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE

FALL *fest* & BREWS

710 N OPPORUNITY DRIVE COLUMBIA CITY INDIANA

OCTOBER 4, 2026

NOON-4 PM: FREE KIDS & FAMILY ACTIVITIES, FOOD, GAMES, PUMPKIN PAINTING, BOUNCE HOUSE, HAY RIDES, CLOWNS, DIRTY SODAS & MORE !!

5PM-8PM: ADULTS 21+ ONLY

- **FOOD (FREE WILL DONATION) WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.**
 - **COFFEE, WINE, BEER & SPIRITS,**
 - **50/50 RAFFLE**
 - **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE**
 - **PERFORMANCE BY THE HUBIE ASHCRAFT BAND!**
- BRING LAWN CHAIRS FOR A PARTY!**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

CHAMPION PARTNERS



FRIENDS OF WCCOA



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Whitley County
Council on Aging





Soup & Pie Fundraiser

\$10

**Wednesday, October 7
11 am - 1 pm**

Soup Choices:

Cream of Broccoli
Vegetable Soup
Tomato Basil

Bread Choices:

Garlic Breadstick
Italian Bread
Cheesy Garlic Biscuit

Pie Choices:

Sugar Cream
Cherry Crunch
Pecan

**these are 10 oz servings*

- Choose 1 of each item.
- Place your order by calling the Woodlands.
- Pick up your order via drive-thru @ the main entrance of the Woodlands.



OCTOBER

THE WOODLANDS 260-248-8944

WALK-IN MEALS AVAILABLE

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR DINE-IN

\$7 PER MEAL

\$10 FOR TENDERLOIN MEALS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 10:00 Alzheimer's: "Healthy Brain & Body" 11:30 Pizza Burger 12:30 Euchre <i>Cash Bingo <u>will not</u> take place this evening.</i>	2 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 Breakfast Casserole
5 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:00 Health Class w/Darcy: "Healthy Aging" 11:30 Corn Dog 12:00 AIHS Respite Care 12:30 Movie 01:00 Mahjong	6 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Bible Study w/Cheryl 11:30 Swedish Meatballs 12:00 Dominoes 12:30 Bible Study w/Bob	7 09:00 Pixie Bingo: Partner <i>The Waters</i> <i>*Players must bring prizes!</i> 09:00 Line Dancing 10:15 Drumming Class 11:30 Ham Salad Sandwich & Cream of Broccoli Soup 12:30 Painting w/Evie 12:30 Hand & Foot Game	8 BIRTHDAY WISHES 11:30 Fried Fish 12:15 Entertainment by Scotty Rocker 06:30 Grieving Friends Support Group <i>Cash Bingo <u>will not</u> take place this evening.</i>	9 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 French Toast Casserole
12 11:30 Pizza 12:00 AIHS Respite Care 12:30 Movie	13 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Bible Study w/Cheryl 11:30 Veggie Lasagna 12:00 Dominoes 12:30 Bible Study w/Bob	14 09:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Chair Exercise 10:45 Blood Pressure Check 11:30 Meatloaf 12:30 Hand & Foot Game 01:00 Volunteer Center Project	15 11:30 Turkey Tetrazini 12:30 Euchre Tourney 05:00 Cash Bingo	16 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch N Learn: Nicole from 3 Rivers Bank <i>*Deli Style Lunch for all meals.</i>

19 09:00 Board Meeting 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 Beef Liver & Onions 12:00 AIHS Respite Care 12:30 Movie 01:00 Mahjong	20 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Bible Study w/Cheryl 11:30 Creamy Chicken Mushroom Pasta 12:00 Dominoes 12:30 Bible Study w/Bob 12:30 Bones Theater Movie 01:30 The League	21 09:00 Pixie Bingo: Partner <i>Aspen Insurance</i> *Players must bring prizes! 09:00 Line Dancing 10:15 Drumming Class 11:30 Ham & Beans with Cornbread 12:30 Hand & Foot Game	22 10:00 Book Club with Peabody Library 11:30 Stuffed Cabbage Roll 12:30 Euchre 05:00 Cash Bingo	23 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch N Learn: <i>Frank from Elara Hospice Care</i> Delivery Only: Smorgasbord
26 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 Tenderloins 12:00 AIHS Respite Care 12:15 Entertainment by Jonah Keen 12:30 Movie	27 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Bible Study w/Cheryl 11:30 Sloppy Joe 12:00 Dominoes 12:30 Bible Study w/Bob 06:00 Empower Whitley Women	28 09:00 Line Dancing 10:15 Drumming Class 11:30 Salmon Patty 12:15 Miller's Games 12:30 Hand & Foot Game	29 11:30 Smoked Sausage, Green Beans & Potatoes 12:30 Euchre 05:00 Cash Bingo	30 09:00 Euchre 09:00 Strong & Balanced 10:00 Line Dancing 11:30 Chicken Cordon Bleu 12:00 Halloween Dress Up Contest

* Take-Out & Delivery: Orders must be placed 2 business days in advance. The meal is \$7. There is a \$2 charge for meal delivery. Please note that shifting of food may occur during delivery; therefore, be cautious when opening the container(s). Evening dinners are not available for delivery.

* A Garden Salad can be ordered in place of any meal.

* This menu is subject to change at the discretion of our kitchen staff.



Nutrition Fundraiser

Add something special to your
Thanksgiving Feast
for just **\$20** each!

✦ Chicken Dressing

✦ Pumpkin Pie Bars

Each pan serves
15-20 people

ORDER BY: NOVEMBER 16
PICK-UP ON: NOVEMBER 24 OR 25
ALL ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

SHORT-TERM EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Walkers, canes, crutches, and shower chairs: \$10 rental fee.

Wheelchairs and knee scooters: \$25 rental fee.

* * * * *

Incontinence items are also available. Each recipient is allowed one package per month.

FOOD PROGRAMS

WEEKEND MEALS

Order as many weekend meals as you like by Wednesday at noon, then pick them up on Friday or have them delivered. Call the Woodlands for more details.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD PANTRY

The senior food pantry is available to seniors **50+** who find themselves short on non-perishable grocery items. It can be used as a supplemental food source **one time per month**. Pantry days/hours: Monday and Thursday from 9 am - 11 am & 12 pm - 3 pm.

WOODLANDS FOOD SHARE PROGRAM

Seniors living on a limited income and in need of additional food items on an ongoing basis can apply for a supplemental food program. The program provides a 10 to 15 lb bag of shelf-stable food items **one time per month**. Call the Woodlands for more details.

PET FOOD

PET PANTRY

Dog and cat food is available for pick up **once per month**. The Pet Food Pantry days/hours are Monday and Thursday from 9 am - 11 am and 12 pm - 3 pm.

Pet food is available dependent on supply.



HEALTH & WELL-BEING

FOOTCARE BY TIFFANY, RN

Thursday, October 8

Call 248-8944 x5 to schedule.

\$45 



HAIRCUTS & EYEBROW WAXING BY LYNDAH

Wednesday, October 14

Call 248-8944 x5 to schedule.

Haircut \$10 / Cut & Style \$11 / Men's Haircuts \$5 / Eyebrow Waxing \$5



MANICURES BY LYNDAH

Wednesday, October 21

Call 248-8944 x5 to schedule.

Filing \$3 / Polish \$5 / Filing & Polish \$8

Please bring your own nail polish.



MASSAGE

Massage by Annette Bear, LMT

Thursday, October 29

Enjoy a 15-minute chair massage!

\$15 ~ Call 248-8944 x5 to schedule.

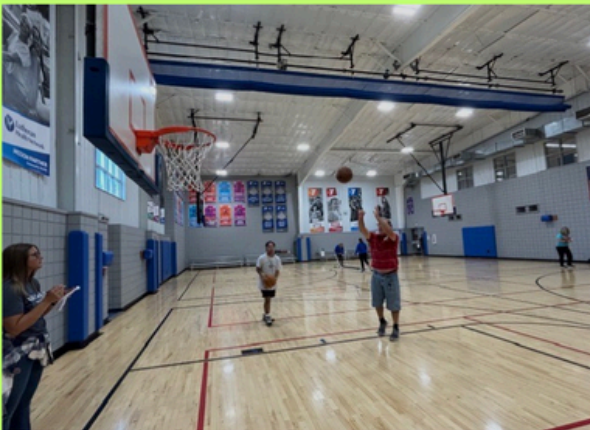
All equipment will be sanitized prior to each appointment time.



ONE ON ONE WITH DARCY

Darcy Hoopingartner, NP, from the Whitley County Health Department, is offering confidential one-on-one sessions. Need to talk to someone about a personal, medical, or mental health issue? Come see Darcy at the Woodlands! Call 248-8944 x5 to schedule.





THANK YOU

to our Senior Games sponsors!

Absolute Angels- Gold sponsorship

Bowen Health- Annual sponsor for the Woodlands

Mobility Plus- providing scooters for our scooter races

Nugen Law- Gold sponsorship

Paige's Crossing- miniature golf, skee ball, and go-karts!

That Yellow Top Guy- 3D printing all our gold, silver, and bronze metals for the award ceremony

The Wild Rhinestone- yard tetris

The YMCA- providing a location for pickleball, airplanes, and basketball shots



WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT THE HEART OF GOLD AWARDS

This event is an annual celebration of kindness for local citizens and has become a tradition to honor Whitley County's most important people who care.

Our WCCOA award recipients were:

Shelbi Brown- Board President

Aimee Ray- Activities Director

Miranda Brunner- Activities Coordinator

A special "Thank You" to our nominator, Darcy Hoopingarner, from the Whitley County Health Department!



ADVERTISEMENTS

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260-373-9800



[https://www.parkview.com/
medical-services/hospice-care](https://www.parkview.com/medical-services/hospice-care)



1900 Carew Street, 46805



Advertise with us! Please call the Woodlands for more information, 260-248-8944.

Volunteer with SHIP and help others with THEIR Medicare questions!



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

Navigating Medicare

**We need YOU to help your neighbors
in Whitley County!**

SHIP is driven by highly trained, certified volunteers who are committed to helping people with Medicare determine the best health insurance choices for their individual situations and to understand their Medicare benefits and options: Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement Plans, Part D drug coverage, long term care options, and financial assistance programs.

Learn more at

www.in.gov/ship/become-a-ship-volunteer
or call **(800) 452-4800**.



Whitley County
Council on Aging



WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING INC.
710 N Opportunity Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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“YOUR BEST LOCAL RESOURCE FOR SENIOR SERVICES”

Thank you WCCOA Sponsors!

Aspen Insurance - Heidi Darley

Bowen Health

Cedar Creek Assisted Living, Warsaw

Miller's - Oak Pointe

The Waters

