



**Old Fashioned Christmas**  
 Special gathering with family & friends  
 Decorated Christmas Tree with presents to open  
 Table full of Hearty Food & A Cozy Fire  
 Hot Chocolate for everyone  
 A couple dashes of Cheer & A Bunch of Memories  
 Mixed in with a mound of Love & Sprinkle with peace on earth  
 This makes for the best Christmas ever!



**Are You Wanting To Add Someone To Your Household?**

If you are currently a participant in the Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher Program, you may add additional members to your household after your first year lease is completed upon Landlord and Housing Authority approval. You may ask your Housing Specialist - Dwayne or Jenni for a Request To Add A Household Member Application. In addition to completing and returning the application to the Housing Authority, you must submit the following for the requested new household member:

- ◆ Photo ID (for persons 18 years old and older)
- ◆ Social Security Card
- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ All Income (including income from Social Security, SSI, Employment, Unemployment, Child Support, Cash Assistance from the Dept. of Jobs & Family Services, etc.)
- ◆ All Assets (including Bank Accounts, Life Insurance, etc.)

Once the application and verification have been submitted, the Housing Authority will review your request and notify you if it has been approved.

You must report birth, foster children, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child to Housing Authority within 10 days of the event.

To add a Live-in Aide to your household, the Housing Authority requires a letter from your physician stating that for medical reasons it would be in your best interest to have an aide live with you.

All household changes must be reported to the Housing Authority, failure to comply with the designated guidelines will result in termination or your rental assistance.



*The Housing Authority Wishes You Happy Holidays!*



# Fayette Metropolitan Housing Authority

December 1, 2016

NEWSLETTER

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## A Christmas Miracle

**In December 1997 in Wisconsin ...** A little boy and his grandmother came to see Santa at The Mayfair Mall in Wisconsin. The child climbed up on Santa's lap, holding a picture of a little girl. "Who is this?" – asked Santa, smiling. "Your friend? Your sister?" "Yes, Santa." – he replied. "My sister, Sarah, who is very sick." – he said sadly. Santa glanced over at the grandmother who was waiting nearby and saw her dabbing her eyes with a tissue. "She wanted to come with me to see you, oh, so very much, Santa!" – the child exclaimed. "She misses you." – he added softly. Santa tried to be cheerful and encouraged a smile to the boy's face, asking him what he wanted Santa to bring him for Christmas. When they finished their visit, the grandmother came over to help the child off his lap, and started to say something to Santa, but halted. "What is it?" – Santa asked warmly. "Well, I know it's really too much to ask you, Santa, but ..." – the old woman began, shooing her grandson over to one of Santa's elves to collect the little gift which Santa gave all his young visitors. "The girl in the photograph... my granddaughter well, you see ... she has leukemia and isn't expected to make it even through the holidays." – she said through tear-filled eyes. "Is there anyway, Santa, any possible way that you could come see Sarah? That's all she's asked for, for Christmas, is to see Santa." Santa blinked and swallowed hard and told the woman to leave information with his elves as to where Sarah was, and he would see what he could do. Santa thought of little else the rest of that afternoon. He knew what he had to do. "What if it were MY child lying in that hospital bed, dying?" – he thought with a sinking heart, "This is the least I can do." When Santa finished visiting with all the boys and girls that evening, he retrieved from his helper the name of the hospital where Sarah was staying. He asked Rick, the assistant location manager how to get to Children's Hospital. "Why?" – Rick asked, with a puzzled look on his face. Santa relayed to him the conversation with Sarah's grandmother earlier that day. "Common....I'll take you there." – Rick said softly.

Rick drove them to the hospital and came inside with Santa. They found out which room Sarah was in. A pale Rick said he would wait out in the hall. Santa quietly peeked into the room through the half-closed door and saw little Sarah on the bed. The room was full of what appeared to be her family; there was the grandmother and the girl's brother he had met earlier that day. A woman whom he guessed was Sarah's mother stood by the bed, gently pushing Sarah's thin hair off her forehead. And another woman who he discovered later was Sarah's aunt, sat in a chair near the bed with a weary, sad look on her face. They were talking quietly, and Santa could sense the warmth and closeness of the family, and their love and concern for Sarah. Taking a deep breath, and forcing a smile on his face, Santa entered the room, bellowing a hearty, "Ho, ho, ho!" "Santa!" – shrieked little Sarah weakly, as she tried to escape her bed to run to him. Santa rushed to her side and gave her a warm hug. A child the tender age of his own son – 9 years old – gazed up at him with wonder and excitement. Her skin was pale and her short tresses bore telltale bald patches from the effects of chemotherapy. But all he saw when he looked at her was a pair of huge, blue eyes. His heart melted, and he had to force himself to choke back tears. Though his eyes were riveted upon Sarah's face, he could hear the gasps and quiet sobbing of the women in the room. As he and Sarah began talking, the family crept quietly to the bedside one by one, squeezing Santa's shoulder or his hand gratefully, whispering "Thank you" as they gazed sincerely at him with shining eyes. Santa and Sarah talked and talked, and she told him excitedly all the toys she wanted for Christmas, assuring him she'd been a very good girl that year. As their time together dwindled, Santa felt led in his spirit to pray for Sarah, and asked for permission from the girl's mother. She nodded in agreement and the entire family circled around Sarah's bed, holding hands. Santa looked intensely at Sarah and asked her if she believed in angels, "Oh, yes, Santa... I do!" – she exclaimed. "Well, I'm going to ask that angels watch over you." – he said. Laying one hand on the child's head, Santa closed his eyes and prayed. He asked that God touch little Sarah, and heal her body from this disease. He asked that angels minister to her, watch and keep her. And when he finished praying, still with eyes closed, he started singing, softly, "Silent Night, Holy Night.... all is calm, all is bright..." The family joined in, still holding hands, smiling at Sarah, and crying tears of hope, tears of joy for this moment, as Sarah beamed at them all. When the song ended, Santa sat on the side of the bed again and held Sarah's frail, small hands in his own. "Now, Sarah," – he said authoritatively, "you have a job to do, and that is to concentrate on getting well. I want you to have fun playing with your friends this summer, and I expect to see you at my house at Mayfair Mall this time next year!" He knew it was risky proclaiming that to this little girl who had terminal cancer, but he 'had' to. He had to give her the greatest gift he could – not dolls or games or toys – but the gift of HOPE. "Yes, Santa!" – Sarah exclaimed, her eyes bright. He leaned down and kissed her on the forehead and left the room. Out in the hall, the minute Santa's eyes met Rick's, a look passed between them and they wept unashamed. Sarah's mother and grandmother slipped out of the room quickly and rushed to Santa's side to thank him. "My only child is the same age as Sarah." – he explained quietly. "This is the least I could do." They nodded with understanding and hugged him. One year later, Santa Mark was again back on the set in Milwaukee for his six-week, seasonal job which he so loves to do. Several weeks went by and then one day a child came up to sit on his lap. "Hi, Santa! Remember me?!" "Of course, I do." – Santa proclaimed (as he always does), smiling down at her. After all, the secret to being a 'good' Santa is to always make each child feel as if they are the 'only' child in the world at that moment. "You came to see me in the hospital last year!" Santa's jaw dropped. Tears immediately sprang in his eyes, and he grabbed this little miracle and held her to his chest. "Sarah!" – he exclaimed. He scarcely recognized her, for her hair was long and silky and her cheeks were rosy – much different from the little girl he had visited just a year before. He looked over and saw Sarah's mother and grandmother in the sidelines smiling and waving and wiping their eyes. That was the best Christmas ever for Santa Claus. He had witnessed – and been blessed to be instrumental in bringing about – this miracle of hope. This precious little child was healed. Cancer-free. Alive and well. He silently looked up to Heaven and humbly whispered, "Thank you, Father. 'Tis a very, Merry Christmas!"

By Susan Morton Leonard, Santa's wife - Santa's name: Mark Leonard or Santa Mark

### Motivational Message For The Month

#### Give More

If you've settled for less than you can be, now is a good time to stop settling. Today is your opportunity to get a whole lot more from life by giving more. If you sense emptiness in moments, that's your cue to fill them with more living. It doesn't have to be complicated, sophisticated or impressive, just real. You want more, you deserve more, but wishes and worthiness won't take you all the way. You must make it happen, and that's a great thing. You've provided life with a lot of positive contributions. Looking back, it's easy to see that making a difference is what makes you feel great, what makes you feel intensely alive. Now you can expand on that great feeling. Now you can further enrich your life by using your energy to enrich the lives of those around you. Be more, do more, give more than ever in your own unique way. And no matter what happens, your life will be far better for the effort.

- Ralph Marston

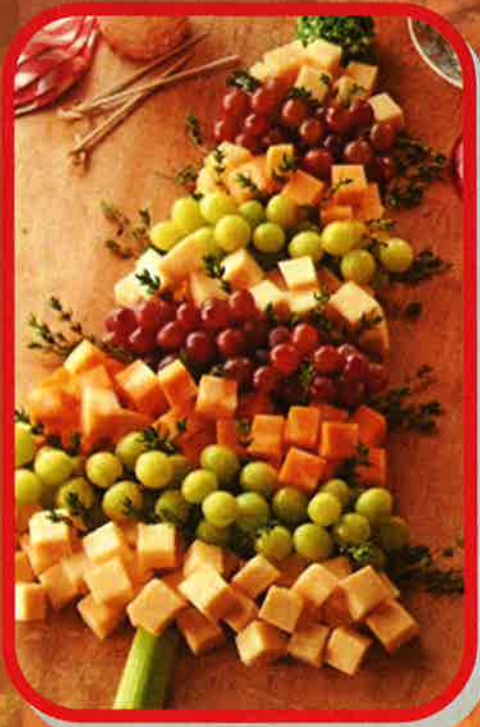
### Special Points of Interest.

- ◆ **Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.**  
- The Grinch
- ◆ **From home to home and heart to heart, from one place to another. The warmth & joy of Christmas brings us closer to each other.**  
- Emily Matthews
- ◆ **I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.**  
- Charles Dickens

# Christmas Tree Holiday Party Ideas

## Cheese & Grapes

On a **Wooden Cutting Board or Platter** - Arrange **Bite-size Cheese Cubes** (Colby, Cheddar, Swiss, Provolone, Colby-Jack & Pepper-Jack), **Red & Green Seedless Grapes** and **Fresh Parsley** into a Christmas Tree as shown in the picture - using a **Celery Stick** for the trunk.



## Pita Appetizers

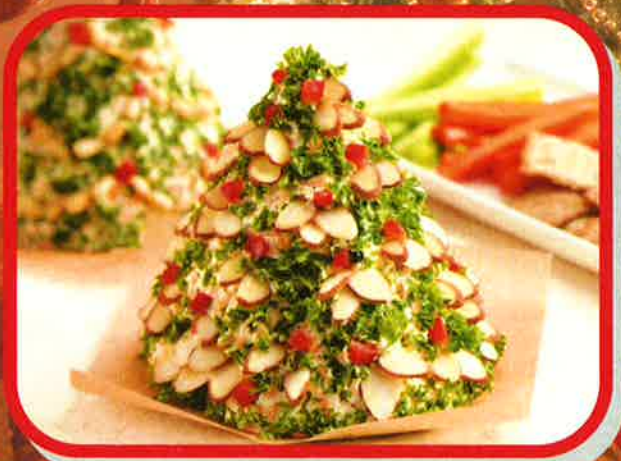
- ◆ 4 flavored or plain Pita Folds or Pita Pocket Breads (about 6 inches in diameter)
- ◆ 16 thin Pretzel Sticks, halved
- ◆ 1/2 cup Light Sour Cream
- ◆ 1/2 cup Guacamole
- ◆ 2 tablespoons finely chopped Parsley
- ◆ 1/4 teaspoon Garlic-Pepper Blend
- ◆ 1/4 cup very finely chopped Red Bell Pepper

Cut each pita fold into 8 wedges. Insert pretzel stick half into center of bottom of each wedge to form "tree trunk." In small bowl, mix sour cream, guacamole, parsley and garlic-pepper blend. Spread about 1 teaspoon sour cream mixture on each pita wedge. Blot bell pepper with paper towel to remove excess moisture. Sprinkle about 1/4 teaspoon bell pepper on each wedge or arrange to form a garland. If desired, cover and refrigerate up to 8 hours before serving.



## Cheeseballs

- ◆ 3 packages (8 ounces each) Cream Cheese, softened
- ◆ 4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (16 ounces)
- ◆ 4 tablespoons basil pesto
- ◆ 2 tablespoons grated onion
- ◆ 1/4 teaspoon yellow mustard
- ◆ Red pepper sauce
- ◆ 1/4 cup finely chopped parsley
- ◆ 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- ◆ 2 tablespoons chopped red bell pepper
- ◆ Assorted crackers



Stir together cream cheese, cheddar cheese, pesto, onion, mustard and 2 or 3 drops pepper sauce. Divide mixture in half, cover and refrigerate about 4 hours until firm enough to shape. Shape each half into cone shape to look like a pine tree. Roll trees in parsley, pressing it evenly onto trees. Press pine nuts onto trees in string form for garland. Press bell pepper pieces onto trees for ornaments. Serve with crackers.

**FUN**  
*Christmas Tree Ornaments*  
to make with your Kids!



*Peppermint Candy Ornaments*

- ◆ Peppermint Candies
- ◆ Metal Christmas-Themed Cookie Cutters
- ◆ Non-Stick Cooking Spray
- ◆ Parchment Paper
- ◆ Toothpick
- ◆ Twine or Ribbon

Preheat oven to 350F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spray the inside of each cookie cutter with cooking spray. Lay cookie cutters on baking sheet and fill with a layer of peppermints. Bake for 3-9 minutes. Keep an eye on candy as it melts, remove from oven when candies have melted together. Lightly coat a toothpick with cooking spray and use it to make a hole in each group of candies. Let candy sit inside cookie cutter until it re-hardens. Once hard, carefully stretch out the cookie cutter, pulling it away from the candy, to pop out your ornament. Thread the twine or ribbon through the hole you created, tie it in a loop & hang them on your Christmas Tree. Wrap these peppermint treats individually in plastic wrap, if you'd like. These ornaments may not last for more than a season but it's a fun (and inexpensive) project to create every Christmas season!



*Beaded Candy Cane Ornaments*

- ◆ Red, Green & White Pipe Cleaners
- ◆ Red, Green & White Craft Beads (with a large hole in the middle)

Twist a small loop at one end of the pipe cleaner. This is to keep the beads from slipping off the end. Have your child string the beads onto the pipe cleaner, alternating red, green and/or white beads. This part also makes a good sorting exercise with younger kids. When you get to the other end of the pipe cleaner, twist a small loop in that end as well. Bend the beaded pipe cleaner into a candy cane shape and hang on your Christmas tree!



# Toxic Black Mold Is A Real Danger to You & Your Family

## What Is Toxic Black Mold?

Toxic black mold or black mold is a name commonly used for *Stachybotrys chartarum*. It is one of the most infamous toxic molds because it can grow in houses and is extremely dangerous to humans. *Stachybotrys* is known as a toxic mold because it produces toxins called mycotoxins. Toxic black mold is a greenish-black gelatinous mold. It is usually slimy because of a wet layer on the top. However if a toxic black mold colony's water source runs out it can appear dry and powdery. There are several molds that look similar to toxic black mold.

## Where Toxic Black Mold Grows and What Causes It?

Toxic black mold grows best in warm conditions and is found in many countries throughout the world. Outdoors, toxic black mold grows in soil and on plant debris. Indoors, toxic black mold needs materials high in cellulose and low in nitrogen to grow on. This means toxic black mold can grow on many common indoor building materials. When toxic black mold does grow in the home it's usually in a place out of sight. Toxic black mold needs a lot of moisture for a long time before it can begin to grow. This is why it often grows where there has been a water leak hidden from view. Leaks inside walls, above ceilings or under floors are common causes of toxic black mold.

## How Long Before Toxic Black Mold Grows?

Toxic black mold does not grow as quickly or as easily as most molds. Toxic black mold needs a suitable material to be very wet for at least a week before it can begin to grow. While most molds take just one or two days to colonize, toxic black mold usually needs eight to twelve days. Once toxic black mold is growing though it usually forces out any other molds growing nearby and takes over its environment.



## What Are The Symptoms Of Toxic Black Mold?

The mycotoxins of toxic black mold cause people to suffer toxic symptoms. The general types of symptoms caused by toxic black mold include: Respiratory problems, Skin inflammation, Hemorrhage and Irritation of the mucous membranes. Other symptoms include: Damage to internal organs, Mental impairment, Tiredness, Nausea and Immune system suppression. Toxic black mold can cause permanent damage to your health. In extreme cases toxic black mold has even lead to death. Because of the serious health effects toxic black mold can cause, if you find it in your home you need to take steps to get it removed immediately. The longer you are around toxic black mold, the more it will damage your health.

## What Should You Do If You Fear Your Home Has Toxic Black Mold?

If you suspect you have toxic black mold in your home contact your Landlord and for more information contact the:

**Fayette County Board of Health**

**317 S. Fayette Street, Washington Court House, Ohio 43160**

**(740) 335-5910**



# The 12 DAYS of SAFETY

- Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform
- Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant
- If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered
- Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use
- When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places
- Designate a sober driver
- When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat
- Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F

*Happy Holidays*

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL  
nsc.org.



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