



2015-16 member benefits and information Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce

We are happy to provide this list of benefits you receive as a member of the Bluffton chamber. After reviewing this material, we believe you will agree that your chamber membership is well worth the cost. We continue to seek new benefits for members and are always interested in your ideas. This packet also contains a membership form and list of members as of Aug. 28, 2015.

Core Bluffton chamber benefits

1 - Social media one-on-one consultations. Members may schedule a free consultation on social media with the a Bluffton University chamber intern. The intern will meet with you individually or with small groups from your business or organization. Based upon our own research, this benefit's value is from \$50 to \$200 per hour.

2 - Free monthly breakfast. Our breakfast meetings, from September to June, include a complete free breakfast, served by a Bluffton chamber business (restaurant or caterer). Our breakfasts average between 60 to 70 persons attending. It's a great place to meet other chamber members and discuss business. How much would you pay for a breakfast in a restaurant? If you attend nine breakfasts at a \$7.50 value, this benefit is worth \$67.50.

3 - Free booth in the spring arts and crafts show. All chamber members have an opportunity to have a free 15- by 10-foot booth in the May downtown arts and crafts festival. In return, the chamber creates an event to attract hundreds of persons to Bluffton. This is your free opportunity to promote your business - have a drawing for prizes, offer give-a-ways, sign up customers. This is a \$40 to \$50 value. (\$40 charge before May 1; \$50 for after May 1.)

4 - Free workshops on topics of special interest. In cooperation with Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs, the chamber offers several free workshops each year. These follow the monthly chamber breakfasts. Recent workshop topics have included:

- Quickbooks** - presented by a Quickbooks certificated instructor
- Taxes for small businesses** - presented by a CPA
- Social media overview** - presented by social media professionals
- Intellectual property (patents, trademarks, licensing)** - presented by a patent attorney.

You would easily pay between \$50 and \$100 or more to attend any of these workshops outside Bluffton.

5 - Group advertising opportunities. The chamber offers several group advertising opportunities during the year. For example, in 2015 the chamber reserved a full-page ad in the Ohio Magazine. This benefit provides an advertising opportunity at a considerable discount. Other opportunities are offered during the year.

6 - Bluffton University business showcase. Each September the chamber invites members to provide a noon lunch display of their products to all students at Bluffton University. Over 600 students participate. Chamber members receive a \$15 savings on the cost of a table at the showcase.

7 - Blaze of Lights. The chamber spends several thousands of dollars to promote Bluffton between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We plan the best small-town parade in northwestern Ohio, bring Santa Claus to town, place media ads in area radio stations and newspapers inviting people to Bluffton and provide free maps showing locations of Christmas light displays in our community. Over 500 maps were given away free this year. Chamber members have an opportunity to be listed in ads, posters, maps and other publicity.

8 - QR codes. The chamber provides free QR codes and QR window labels to all members.

9 - More free benefits

- All chamber members are listed on the membership page of www.explorebluffton.com. Your listing is linked to your website. The chamber's website experiences over 800 visits per month. The site is updated weekly.
- We encourage chamber members to "like" our facebook. The site provides timely information about the chamber. The site has nearly 300 followers.
- Chamber members receive up-to-the-minute high wind, tornado, heavy rain, ice and winter weather warnings via e-mail.
- Thanks to cooperation with Bluffton police, chamber members receive e-mail tips on scams, cons and shop-lifting warnings.
- You may participate in the chamber's gift certificate program. Gift certificates encourage purchases in Bluffton chamber businesses.
- Chamber members receive a free e-mail newsletter. It provides business updates, calendar listings, and goes to an audience of over 400 persons.
- Chamber members are part of an organization of nearly 200 members – the highest ever. We continue to add new members throughout the year. We have not increased our membership dues since 1997.
- Members have access to the official Excel file of all members, which includes addresses, emails and phone numbers. *(This list is only available to chamber members.)*

10 - Northern Ohio Are of Chambers of Commerce (NOACC)

In addition to local benefits, the Bluffton chamber is a member of NOACC, which offers a large assortment of benefit. Those benefits are found on its website: www.noacc.org.

Among those benefits include:

Health insurance: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Life, dental, vision & disability insurance: Anthem Life
Workers' compensation group rating programs: Benefits 1 Group
Managed care organization (MCO): University Hospitals CompCare
Office supplies & services: Independence Business Supply
Credit card processing: Heartland Payment Systems
Payroll processing: Heartland Payment Systems
Accounts receivables and collection management: AmerAssist
Transportation savings: CT Logistics
Shipping & freight services: FedEx
Website & email marketing: GHI Internet Services
Wellness Program: Wellness Council of Northern Ohio
Extra Value Programs: Visit NOACC website for updates

Breakfast sponsorship opportunity

Businesses have an opportunity to sponsor a chamber breakfast for \$250. That sponsorship enables the business to provide a 5-minute presentation, pass out literature to persons attending and invite as many members from the sponsoring business as you wish.

In 2015-16 chamber breakfasts take place:

Sept. 11	Jan. 8	May 13
Oct. 9	Feb. 12	June 10
Nov. 13	March 11	
Dec. 11	April 8	

How you may help us

Your special events

The chamber wants to promote your event in 2015-16. Please send the chamber dates and names of your organization's special events planned this year. We will post them on our website, in our newsletter, on Facebook and will continue to remind members of these activities. Please don't assume we know all the event going on this year! It's up to you to inform us.

Send information to: blufftonchamber@gmail.com

Promotions, anniversaries, retirements

Please notify the chamber if your business or organization has promotions to announce, new officers elected, business anniversary celebrations or retirements of key employees. We can help publicize these events.

Ribbon cuttings

We love ribbon cuttings. We can attend or help plan any ribbon cuttings or special events in your business.

Breakfast speakers and workshop topics

Our monthly breakfast meetings are held the second Friday of each month from September to June in the third floor of the Bluffton town hall, 154 N. Main St. Breakfast serving starts at 7 a.m. and our meeting take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Our speakers come from several sources:

- Our own members who share about their businesses
- Local and regional officials

We frequently hold special interest workshops following our chamber breakfasts. They begin at 8:45 a.m. and continue for approximately 1 hour. These workshops are free for members.

We welcome suggestions for breakfast speakers and for workshop topics.

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Board:

Larry Hoffman, *president*, Tammy Whitlow, *secretary*, Mark Alliman, Jason Brandt, Derek Dukes, Bob Inniger, Connie Kruse, Doug Luginbill, Sally Siferd, Phil Zimmerly.

Also: Jamie Mehaffie, *village liason*, Fred Steiner, *CEO*

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce contact information:

PO Box 142, 154 N. Main St., (town hall) Bluffton, OH 45817
• blufftonchamber@gmail.com • Phone: 419-369-2985, ext. 118
• www.explorebluffton.com • And on Facebook

Special events planned in 2015-16

Farmers' Market

The chamber is in charge of the Bluffton Farmers' Market. It is one of the most successful markets of its type in northwestern Ohio. It has between 20 and 30+ vendors each week. The market is open from the first Saturday in May through the final Saturday in October. The market is in the Citizens National Bank parking lot, 102 S. Main St. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to noon, rain or shine.

For more information, market rules and regulations contact:

Greg Probst, market manager
blufftonfarmersmarket@embarqmail.com

2015 chamber events

- Free chamber breakfast - September to June, second Friday of each month
- Monthly cash mob - Third Thursday of each month, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Downtown sidewalk sales - in cooperation with downtown merchants
- 3/50 Project - promote shopping local - in cooperation with downtown merchants
- University business showcase - Thursday, Sept. 17, Bluffton University
- Bluffton Fall Festival (this event is chamber supported, but organized by a separate committee), Saturday, Sept. 26
- Blaze of Lights - Saturday, Nov. 28
- Saturday Santa - visits from Santa Claus on Saturdays in December

2016 chamber events

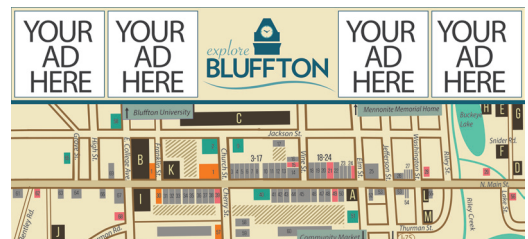
- Arts and crafts show - Saturday, May 14 (*tentative date*)
- Ride to Remember - family-oriented bike rides of 10 to 100 miles (*June 2016, tba*)
- Fireworks - which follow National Night Out at the Bluffton Community Swimming Pool, Aug. 4

Map-signage project

The chamber is created several 3- by 2-foot outdoor weatherproof maps showing businesses and other locations in Bluffton. This project will launch in the fall of 2015. Advertising opportunities to chamber members are available. A map prototype is below:



Chamber
QR code
to our
website:



Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce members as of Aug. 28, 2015

Bluffton University student members:

Emily Huxman, Amanda Lotz,
Timothy Pitonyak, Charles Miller,
Marisa Jones

Individuals, organizations, businesses, industrial members

315 Walnut, LLC
A to Z Meats

AdvoCare
Alison King Designs
Allen Economic Development Group
Ameriprise Financial
Anderson Tractor Supply
Apollo Career Center
Augsburger Tax Services
Basinger Plumbing and Heating
Beer, Deb

Begg, Jay
Beyond Budgeting
Blanchard River Broadcast Co.
Bluffton Aeration Service
Bluffton American Legion
Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurship
Bluffton Child Development Center
Bluffton Community Pre-School
Bluffton Elementary PTO

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce members as of Aug. 28, 2015

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools
Bluffton Family Practice
Bluffton Family Recreation
Bluffton Farmers' Market
Bluffton Flying Service
Bluffton Foot and Ankle
Bluffton Golf Club
Bluffton Hospital/Blanchard Valley
Regional Health Center
Bluffton Icon
Bluffton Karate Center
Bluffton Lions Club
Bluffton Marathon
Bluffton News
Bluffton Pediatrics
Bluffton Post Office
Bluffton Public Library
Bluffton Senior Citizens Center
Bluffton Stone Company
Bluffton University
Bluffton Vet & Pet Care Center
Bluffton-Findlay KOA
Boehr Site Seeker
Book Reviews
Celebration of Health
Cellular Central
Centre at Bluffton, The
CG Pro Bikes
Chase
Chiles-Laman Funeral Home
Citizens National Bank
Clemens Development Systems
Comfort Inn
Comm3 Creative
Common Grounds Coffeehouse
Community Foundation, The
Community Markets
Country Kettle Corn
County Electric
Creating Hope Connections
Curling Iron
Damsel in Defense
Destress By Dyanne
Devine Interventions
Diamond Manufacturing of Bluffton
Diller Flooring & Interiors
Don Snyder Excavating, Inc.
Dough Hook, The
Dr. Matthew Jordan, DDS
Drive Time Driving Instruction
DTR Industries
Ebenezer Mennonite Church
Edward Jones
Elysian Fields Photography
Et Cetera Shop
Everett Tax Service
Fairway Inn
Faith Investment Services
Family Eye Care
Family True Value Hardware
Findlay-Hancock County Chamber
First National Bank
Food Store, The
Fortman Insurance Services
Fresh Modern Fabric
Friends of the Bluffton Public Library
Fultz Sign Co.
Galahadd's Quest
Gallery 323
Giesken Outdoor Advertising
Glidescope Aviation
Granary Gift Barn, The
Greg's Pharmacy
Green Hope Coaching
Groves Bears and Antiques
Hair Emporium
Headings, Ron
Hilty Memorial Home
Ideal Images
International College of Int. Medicine
J. B. Computer Services, Ltd.
J. Bankert Bookkeeping
Jeanne's Kitchen
Jerry Lewis McDonald's Restaurants
John Wagner Agency,
Nationalwide Insurance
Johnny Appleseed Metro Park
Jordan-Diller Insurance
Joy Stemen, Massage
Ken Lugibihl Auto & Truck Sales
Keneco Distributors
Krysti's Music Studio
Larson Barbecue
E. Lee Construction
Lima News, The
Lugibihl Ice Cream
Lugibihl Spray Service
Luke's Bar & Grill
M&R Plumbing and Heating
Marbee Printing
Masterpiece Signs
McDaniel's Trophies
Mennonite Home Communities
of Ohio
Montrose Square Apartments
Mustard Seed Café
Northwest Installations
Northwest Ohio OB/GYN
Northwest Physical Therapy
Ohio Means Jobs/Allen County
Omega Mechanical Design
Orange Township Trustees
P.S. Editorial
Pam Marsh Signature Homestyles
Pampered Chef
Pandora Family Physicians
Pandora Flooring and Supply
Patriot Concrete
Phil Cole Real Estate & Auction Co.
Polished by Joan
Post Printing Co
Powell Co., The
Probst Family Farm
Profit in Ag, LLC
PromoHits!
Putnam County HomeCare & Hospice
Quality Construction
R.D. Neff & Associates
RealLiving CCR Realtors
Reichenbach & Steiner, CPA
Richland Manor
Riley Creek Pharmacy
Riley View Community Apartments
Rock, Rev. Donald
Rodabaugh Law Office
Rodabaugh Services
Ruth Everett's Healing Touches
Samuel W. Diller Attorney at Law
Santa Gainey
Scentsy Consultant
SHANNON Service Club
Shannon Theatre
Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn Co.
Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer & Regula CPA
Signature Homestyles
Smith's Realty Professionals
Sodexo/Bluffton University
Dining Services
Southgate Lanes
Spallinger Combine Parts
Spectrum Salon
Sports Warehouse
State Farm Insurance
Steiner & Granger Insurance
Stoney's Barbershop
Stratton Auto Sales
Stratton Consulting Services
Stratton Greenhouses
Superior Energy Solutions
Swiss Community Historical Society
Swiss Mutual Insurance
Sycamore Lake Wine Co.
Tastefully Simple
Ten Thousand Villages
The King's Venture
Time Staffing, Inc.
Tommy Tire Sales
Tommy's Trailer Sales
Tower Automotive
Town & Country Flowers
Triplett Memorial Foundation
Triplett, Greg
Vetter Lumber
Village Cut 'n' Curl
Village of Bluffton
Webb Insurance Agency
Wessler Engineering



2015-16 Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce membership form

Company name:

Contact person:

Address:

Phone:

Website:

E-mail:

(Please provide names and e-mail addresses of as many employees or organization members on the back of this form. They will receive our chamber newsletters.)

Make checks payable to:

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce, PO 142, Bluffton, OH 45817

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$50 |
| <i>(Anyone person interested in our community may become a chamber member)</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietor or club/organization | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business with 1 to 10 employees | \$80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business with 11 to 20 employees | \$120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business with 21 or more employees | \$235 |

Additional option:

- Voluntary support of 2016 chamber fireworks fund \$_____

Used for media advertising and marketing of Bluffton's fireworks, which follow National Night Out celebration on Aug. 4 at the Bluffton Community Swimming Pool

- Your Bluffton chamber membership covers a 12-month period from the date you become a new member.
- Your Bluffton chamber membership may be tax deductible as a business expense, but not as a charitable expense.