



Oct. 25, 2013

Vol. 5, No. 19

This newsletter goes to 390 addresses
and is posted on www.explorebluffton.com

Current membership at 189

Tickets on sale now; event is Nov. 9 at Bluffton Airport

Here's your invitation: "Come Fly with BCE"

Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs (BCE) invites chamber members to attend its annual fall fundraiser "Come Fly With Us," at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Bluffton Airport, according to Brendon Matthews, BCE board president.

The event offers an opportunity for BCE clients to showcase their services. One of those clients, Glideslope Aviation, LLC, owned by Rebekah Gambrell of Bluffton, is housed at the airport. Gambrell was BCE's 2013 Ropp Triplett Business Plan Competition winner.

Persons attending will have an opportunity to bid on an unusual array of silent auction items. Guided tours of the airport and Lifelight, housed at the airport, will take place. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar is available.

In addition, several new Bluffton business owners will be introduced.

"We are proud of BCE's accomplishments in the past year," said Matthews. "This event provides recognition of our clients and supporters."

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Tickets are available at First National Bank, Citizens National Bank, from BCE board members and at the BCE office in Centennial Hall on the Bluffton University campus.

Ada mayor Nov. 8 chamber breakfast speaker

David Retterer, mayor of Ada, is the Friday, Nov. 8, Bluffton chamber breakfast speaker. Most Bluffton residents know him by his wife, Deb, a pharmacist at Greg's Pharmacy. More information on the breakfast will come next week.

A Human Resource workshop, led by Sally Siferd, will follow the breakfast at 8:45 a.m. More details coming.

Four “Santa Saturdays” sponsored by the chamber

Santa Claus is coming to town. The chamber has scheduled Santa several times in November and December. Here's where and when:

Saturday, Nov. 23 – Santa arrives in the old Bluffton fire truck at 10 a.m. and will be in Common Grounds, 101 S. Main St., from 10 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, Nov. 30 – Both Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be in the Blaze of Lights parade at 5 p.m. Following the parade, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be in the Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 132 N. Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 7 – Santa will be in the Shannon Theatre, 119 S. Main St., from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Greg's Pharmacy will be set up to take complimentary photos of youth sitting on Santa's lap.

Saturday, Dec. 14 – Santa will be in First National Bank, 112 Cherry St., from 10 a.m. to noon. Greg's Pharmacy will be set up to take complimentary photos of youth sitting on Santa's lap.

BCE offers cash prizes for “Big Idea” business concept

Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs (BCE) is accepting entries for its “Big Idea” business concept contest. The contest is open to residents in Allen, Hancock, Putnam and Hardin counties.

The contest offers cash prizes for the best new business concepts submitted, according to Denise Durenberger, BCE executive director and assistant professor of business at Bluffton University.

A panel of judges will select the winners. Cash prizes of \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$25 for third place will be awarded.

The deadline for contest entry is Friday, Nov. 15. Winners will be invited to attend a special BCE event and will be featured on the BCE website.

“Entries will be judged on uniqueness, potential for commercialization and long-term viability in the marketplace,” said Durenberger.

VISIT www.blufftonentrepreneurs.com FOR ENTRY FORM AND RULES.

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Board:

Sally Siferd, president, Tammy Whitlow secretary, Aphaphanh Nussbaum, Adam Stedke, Jamie Mehaffie, Derek Dukes, Mark Alliman, Bob Inniger, Doug Luginbill, Luke Young and Larry Hoffman. Fred Steiner, CEO

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 142, Bluffton, OH 45817;
blufftonchamber@gmail.com; Phone: 419-369-2985 www.explorebluffton.com

Blaze of Lights update

The Village of Bluffton will “Deck the Halls” for this year's Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce's Blaze of Lights held Saturday, Nov. 30.

This year's event, using the “Deck the Halls” theme has many of the traditional Blaze features plus some new features.

Events begin at 4 p.m. with Chad Hartson of Napoleon, award-winner ice sculpturer, creating an ice art statue on Bluffton's Main Street. This is Hartson's third appearance at the Blaze. The Blaze parade starts at 5 p.m. and travels south on Main Street from Snider Road.

Junior Weihrauch, parade director, said that 50 units are already signed up for the parade. He hopes that number will double by Nov. 30. Among parade units includes the Findlay Shriner's Clown unit, the Defiance Scarlet Strutters baton corp., many area fire department vehicles, lots of church and business floats, plus Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Organizations interested in being in the parade should contact Weihrauch, 20791 State Route 68, Arlington, Ohio 45814, or call 419-365-5304. **A PARADE APPLICATION FORM IS ON PAGE 7.**

New this year is a locally-produced theatrical performance by several area actors. Pat Rodabaugh is writing a drama that will reveal the story behind many of the historic Ream Holiday Folk Art cutouts that will be on display in the Bluffton Presbyterian Church lawn between Nov. 30 and Jan. 2. The performance is at 6 p.m. on the Blaze stage on Main Street.

The Bluffton High School show choir, directed by Kara Zink, will perform following the theatrical work.

Then at 7 p.m. the lights of the Ream display will turn on. John George, town crier, is the Blaze master of ceremonies. He will read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke prior to the lights being turned on.

Horse and wagon rides will be available at 6:15 p.m. Member of the SHANNON Service Club will sell tickets and assist riders getting on and off the wagons. The rides will embark in front of Common Grounds. A kiddie train ride will also be providing rides for youths at 6:15 p.m.

Several local food vendors will offer a variety of food throughout the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, who will be at the end of the parade, will meet with youngsters in the Bluffton Senior Citizens Center following the parade.

The Gift of Giving, light show extravaganza will open for the 2013 Blaze season on Blaze night. Located across from Harmon Field on East College Avenue, the 15-minute light show will be open each evening through Jan. 2.

Two holiday lighting contests take place this year. One involves downtown business windows. The other involves residences in the village. More details on those two contests will be announced soon. Free maps will be available online and in several Bluffton businesses. The maps show the locations of many of the light displays throughout the community. For additional updates on Bluffton's Blaze check the chamber's website at www.explorebluffton.com.

Burkholder, Brodman parade marshals; Everett Collier will “hit the switch”

The many pieces of Bluffton’s Blaze of Lights are coming together as the community approaches Nov. 30.

According to Terry Mullenhour, Village Cultural Affairs Committee chair, Everett Collier, retired Bluffton postmaster, will turn on the lights this year. He served as Bluffton’s postmaster for 13 years. He will turn the lights on at 7 p.m. following the parade and one hour of entertainment.

Collier has been active in several community events. He is a member of the Bluffton council, has performed in several local theatrical productions, including “Driving Miss Daisy,” presented last winter. At a previous Blaze, he recited the Christmas story from Luke, prior to the Ream holiday folk art light display being turned on.

Two community volunteers are this year’s parade marshals, according to Mullenhour. Roger Brodman and Jerry Burkholder each received that designation. Both are long-time volunteers in several community activities, including the setup and take down of the Ream display.

In addition, Burkholder has served as director of the Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce arts and crafts show since its inception.

This year’s schedule for Ream display set up follow:

- **Saturday, Nov. 2** - Lights will be hung on the Presbyterian Church lawn.
- **Saturday, Nov. 9** - Ream display cutouts will be placed on the lawn.

Mullenhour invites all community individuals and organizations to assist in both or either of these events. Please contact her at terry&keta@wcoil.com for more information.

Garlands on Main Street

Jon Kinn, Bluffton fire chief, said that the fire department will hang Christmas lights on Main Street storefronts on Saturday morning, Nov. 16. A rain date is Saturday, Nov. 23.

Downtown holiday open house Nov. 9

Downtown Bluffton merchants are putting together a Saturday, Nov. 9, holiday open house event. For more information contact Aphaphanh Nussbaum at Ten Thousand Villages.

Final farmers’ market is Saturday

The final Bluffton Farmers’ Market of the season is Saturday. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The market is in the Citizens National Bank parking lot. It will return on the first Saturday of May 2014.

Bluffton chamber fall calendar

The Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce announces several Bluffton fall events. Some of these are chamber sponsored, other chamber supported, while others are for information purposes. We will release more information on many of these event as they come closer on the calendar.

October

- Saturday, Oct. 26 - Final Bluffton Farmers’ Market of the season, 8:30-noon
- Saturday, Oct. 26 - Town Hall Concert Series, The Rough and Tumble, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 31 - Bluffton trick-or-treat night, 6-7:30 p.m.

November

- Friday, Nov. 8, Bluffton chamber breakfast
- Saturday, Nov. 2 - Ream lights hung in Presbyterian Church lawn
- Saturday, Nov. 9 - Ream cutouts placed on Presbyterian Church lawn
- Saturday, Nov. 9 - Downtown holiday open house
- Saturday, Nov. 9 - Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs fall fundraiser, Bluffton Airport, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving
- Saturday, No. 30 - Blaze of Lights

Citizens hosts 2014 economic forecast seminars

Citizens National Bank will host a series of free seminars featuring Robert J. Morgan, Senior Consultant with Austin Associates, LLC.

Business owners are invited to hear Morgan present his economic forecast for 2014. He will discuss current market conditions and what he expects to see in regards to unemployment, housing and the challenges facing business owners in the upcoming year.

Morgan will be speaking at three separate locations and a meal will be provided at each:

- Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 11:30 a.m. at Country Inn and Suites, 903 Interstate Dr., Findlay
- Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 11:30 a.m. at Willow Bend Country Club, 579 Hospital Dr., Van Wert
- Thursday, Oct. 31, at 11:30 am at Holiday Inn, 803 S. Leonard Ave., Lima

To RSVP for this event, visit www.cnboho.com/economicforecast/.

First National promotes two

First National Bank has promoted Patricia “Chic” Garlock to Findlay Business Development Officer and Kristine Lowry to Branch Manager of its Findlay West Office.

Garlock has over 25 years of banking experience in the Findlay community and has been with First National Bank since 2011. Lowry has over 22 years of experience in the real estate and banking industries.

Introducing the chamber's newest members!

New members since mid-September

Devine Interventions

Christine Clymer
308 Gove St.
Columbus Grove, OH 45830
419-659-2321
devine1int@gmail.com

The Community Foundation

Katherine Kreuchauf, president
101 W. Sandusky St., Suite 207
Findlay, OH 45810
419-425-1100
www.community-foundation.com
kkreuchauf@community-foundation.com

Dr. Matthew Jordan, DDS

122 Thurman St.
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-8677

Paula Scott

365 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-348-5329
pyzikscott@gmail.com

Jay Begg

3600 Begg Road
Columbus Grove, OH 45830
419-228-3700, ext. 1
jbegg@allencountyohio.com

Bluffton Elementary PTO

Melissa Knauss
102 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817
tfknauss@hotmail.com

Rebekah Gambrell

Glidescope Aviation
1080 Navajo Dr..
Bluffton, OH 45817
803-391-2423
Glideslopeaviation@gmail.com

Santa Gainey

Richard Gainey
916 Christopher Circle
Ada, OH 45810
419-235-9517
SantaGainey@gmail.com

Sycamore Lakes Wine Co.

Janice Hanneman
9660 Mayberry Road
Columbus Grove, OH 45830
419-659-2087
Sycamorelake@fairpoint.net

Fairway Inn

Danny
855 State Route 103
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-7000
blufftonfairwayinn@gmail.com
www.fairwayinnbluffton.com

Lisa Huston

Independent Scentsy Consultant
17866 TR 182
Arlington, Oh 45814
419-722-4861
lhuston182@yahoo.com

2013 Bluffton, Ohio Blaze of Lights parade application

2013 Blaze theme: "DECK THE HALLS"

Please send parade application to:

Junior Weihrauch
Parade Chairperson
20791 State Route 68
Arlington, OH 45814
1-419-365-5304 – Home number after 2 p.m.

Parade information:

- Parade, 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013
- Line up 4 p.m., on Snider Road, just off North Main St., Bluffton
- (north of the Bluffton Community Swimming Pool)
- Application deadline: Friday, Nov. 22, 2013

Name of group:

Contact person:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Description of parade entry

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 142, Bluffton, Ohio 45817
blufftonchamber@gmail.com; 419-369-2985