



Nov. 11, 2011

Vol. 4 No. 10

This newsletter goes to 350 addresses
and is posted on www.explorebluffton.com

1,406+ linear feet of garland

New garlands, snowflakes and pole wraps going up this weekend

You should soon be able to read a book on Main Street Bluffton at anytime after the sun goes down. Main Street will be bright enough.

On Saturday, approximately 1,406 linear feet of new Christmas garland, 13 4-foot lighted snowflakes, and 19 lighted pole wraps will be hung by the Bluffton Fire Department. It's all in anticipation of this year's 25th annual Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Blaze of Lights. (The lights will not be turned on until the week of Thanksgiving.)

Here's a final breakdown of costs for the project:

\$4,407	for 13 lighted snowflakes (paid for by sponsors)
\$11,987	for garland, (paid for by 43 participating businesses)
\$5,249	for shipping, extra lights, pole wraps (paid for by the chamber)
\$21,643 total project cost	

Also:

13 light poles will have snowflakes and unlighted pole wraps

29 poles will have no snowflakes and lighted pole wraps

This is the first time since the Ream display was first set up in downtown Bluffton that Bluffton's downtown will have a new lighted presence for the Christmas holidays.

What about the old garland?

Businesses own their own old set of garland. These may be used in anyway the businesses see fit, so long as they are not hung in place of the new garland. In addition, the fire department has a couple dozen 12-foot strands of lighted pole wraps that will no longer be used. These are for sale for \$10 a strand from the fire department.

Welcome four new chamber members

The chamber welcomes four new members:

- Vicki Oates, Absolute Body Therapy Massage, Vine Street
- Brett Stratton, S & S Concessions, Tom Fett Road
- Gary Crawfis, County Kettle Corn, Beaverdam
- Hilty Memorial Home, Joy Reichenbach, administrator, Pandora

BCE dinner-art auction tickets available until 6 p.m.

The third annual Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs is Saturday, Nov. 12, at The Centre, 601 N. Main St. Tickets may be purchased until 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11, from Dick McGarrity, 419-369-4216, or Brendon Matthews, 419-604-9354.

The event will be emceed by Nancy Yeager and Everett Collier will be auctioneer. The evening begins with a preview and cash bar at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., and the auction will take place from 7-9 p.m.

The auction will include 25 pieces of donated art:

Beverly Amstutz, Apples (sketch); Portrait Sample (mixed media)

Andreas Baumgartner, Liminal Spaces (manipulated digital composite)

Tracy Branan, Community Spelling B (photo montage)

Bruce Chesser, Basket Pot; Eared Pot (ceramics)

Barbara Fields, Venezia (ink and watercolor); Wear a Painting (fiber art)

Jim Fultz, Impediment (acrylic, resin and watercolor on panel)

Judith Greavu, Butterfly Ray (copper-glazed stoneware), Fantasy Ray (fused glass)

Marianna Hofer, Pink Schwinn (black & white photograph);

Glassware #2 (hand-tinted photograph)

Anita Lehman, October Bloom (acrylic and clay)

Min Linsey, Jazz Band (5 figures, shaped and painted wood);

Nap Time (acrylic with custom frame)

Gregg Luginbuhl, Jar; Footed Bowl (ceramics)

Carolyn Rich, Cylindrical Pot (stoneware)

Britanny Sinnema-Jackson, Russel (large stoneware pot)

Heather Smith, Who's Guarding Your Oil? (block print)

Phil Sugden, Phew Tal, Nepal (oil base ink etching)

Jean Triplett donation, Bluffton Merchants Band by Will Triplett

(black and white photograph)

Oscar Velazquez, Italian Countryside (watercolor)

Blaze parade reminder - still time to enter

We invite your business to consider an entry in the Blaze of Lights parade. Line up is on Snider Road at 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26. The parade starts at 5 p.m. Please notify the chamber if you have yet to register.

Senior Center Christmas garage sale Nov. 11-12

The Bluffton Senior Citizens Center Christmas garage sale is Friday Nov. 11, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Christmas trees, decorations, ornaments, crafts, lights, music and more. Everything you need to get ready for the holidays. Plus other garage sale items, curtains, books, etc.

Peanut brittle

Peanut brittle, made each Monday, is also now on sale at the Center. The best peanut brittle in Ohio is only \$5 a pound, while supplies last.

MHCO Service Group bake sale Nov. 18

The Service Group of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold a Thanksgiving bake sale. The event is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18, in the lobby of Mennonite Memorial Home, 410 W. Elm St.

The sale includes a variety of cinnamon rolls, pies, cakes, cookies and breads. All proceeds go to the The Service of MHCO.

BB Investments & Beyond Budgeting economic briefing

BB Investments and Beyond Budgeting will hold an Economic Briefing 2011 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15, in the third floor of the Bluffton town hall, according to Beth A. Boehr.

Robert Ostrander, president, Centerpoint Life Planning and Savings Without Sacrifice, is the presenter.

Following the briefing, for those interested in attending, there will be a reception with refreshments at Beyond Budgeting/BB Investments, 119 Vine St., Bluffton. That will include a question-answer session with Ostrander.

Thanks to Bluffton High School volunteers

Several Bluffton High School students with the assistance of Mike Minnig, BHS principal, and Greg Denecker, Bluffton superintendent, in late October volunteered to unload the garland order that arrived via truck from Minnesota. The garland has been in storage until this weekend.

Student helpers were: Jeremy Basinger, Jane Sycks, Ashlyn Miller, Lindsey Buettner, Ellis Barnes, Ryan Stoneburner and Jamie Wickert.

Thank you for assisting in this project.

Dates for your calendar

November

Nov. 12 - BCE art auction and dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 15 - Blaze of Lights committee, Common Grounds, 8 p.m.

Nov. 26 - Blaze of Lights; 4 p.m. activities start downtown;
5 p.m. parade; 7 p.m., lights go on

December

Dec. 2 - Chamber board, town hall, noon

Dec. 9 - Chamber breakfast, David Rodabaugh, speaker, 7 a.m.

Dec. 9 - Navigating the world of workforce information, led by John Spencer –
Workforce Specialist, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, 8:45 a.m.

January

1 End of Blaze of Lights and Gift of Giving light show

Only two breakfast sponsorship available

Contact the chamber to schedule a breakfast sponsorship. The sponsorships cost \$250. The chamber has the following monthly breakfasts available for sponsorships. Here's is the sponsor list and the months still available. The sponsorships for 2011-12 support the Blaze costs for the holiday garland.

September - Citizens National Bank

November - open

December - Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer & Regula, CPAs

January - open

February - DTR Industries

March - Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio

April - First National Bank

May - Bluffton University

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Board:

Aphaphanh Nussbaum, president; Brendon Matthews, treasurer, Sally Siferd, secretary, Robert Neff, Jamie Mehaffie, Matt Luke, Luke Young, James Grose, Tammy Whitlow. Fred Steiner, CEO Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 142, Bluffton, OH 45817; blufftonchamber@gmail.com; Phone: 419-369-2985; www.explorebluffton.com

2011 Bluffton, Ohio

Blaze of Lights parade application

2011 Blaze theme: "Winter Wonderland"

Please send parade application to:

Junior Wehrauch

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. 26, 2011
- Line up 4 p.m., at The Centre parking lot, 601 N. Main St., Bluffton
- (north of the Bluffton Community Swimming Pool)
- Application deadline: Friday, Nov. 18, 2011

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