

Vol. 6, No. 6
 402 subscribers
 and is posted on
 www.explorebluffton.com
 Current membership at 187

May 1, 2014

briefly

43rd annual arts and crafts festival comes to town May 10

A handful of spots remain, but they are filling up quickly, for the Saturday, May 10, Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce arts and crafts show, according to Jerry Burkholder, show director. This year's show has 85 vendor spots available, which is an expansion from last year.

If all spots are filled, which is anticipated, vendors will fill spaces on Main Street from the town hall to the post office. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's show features:

- Entertainment
 - 10:30 a.m. - Bluffton High School jazz band
 - 11 a.m. - Bluffton High School show choir
- Farmers' Market - Citizens National Bank parking lot, 8:30 a.m. to noon
- Llama exhibit from Hard Rock Llama Co., rural Ada
- Hickle Pony Rides, Mt. Blanchard
- Bluffton business exhibits
- Sidewalk sales from downtown businesses

Craft show sponsors:

Major sponsor: **Bluffton Farmers' Market**

Also:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Bluffton Aeration Services | • Mennonite Home |
| • Bluffton Hospital | • Communities of Ohio |
| • Bluffton Icon | • Shannon Theatre |
| • Citizens National Bank | • Ten Thousand Villages |
| • Edward Jones | • Et Cetera Shop |
| • Greg's Pharmacy | |

Soccer Club brings 50+ teams here May 10-11

The Bluffton Soccer American Cup will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 10-11, at multiple locations in Bluffton. The Bluffton Soccer Club will be hosting this tournament for recreational and travel youth soccer teams.

“We are excited at the prospect of growing this tournament each year and are anticipating 50+ teams for this year’s tournament with a goal of 100 teams,” said Jamie Mehaffie of the club.

He added: “This soccer tournament represents the largest fundraiser for the Bluffton Soccer Club and helps to purchase equipment, supplies and uniforms for the 200+ Bluffton youth who participate in the program. We are also hopeful to continue working towards our goal of developing a soccer complex for the youth in Bluffton.

Soccer committee members:

Dennis Gallant Dan Lee, Jared Reichenbach, Steve Smucker, Joel Steinmetz, Jamie Mehaffie, Christian Nygaard , Lori Staley, Lindsay Conrad, Jermiah Weyer, Travis Kleman.

Shirley’s Gourmet Popcorn Co.

open house on Friday

Shirley’s Gourmet Popcorn Co., 119 S. Main St., Bluffton, will host an open house Friday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pete and Kim Suter invite chamber members to stop by and visit, try some new popcorn flavors and enjoy a free hot dog and soda.

During the open house Shirley’s will be giving away its signature red tote bags and handy clips with every purchase. In addition, every in-store and online purchase from May 1 to May 10 will include a free small bag of Caramel To Die For, which Pete describes as “the base for an entire range of our delicious products - from Buckeye to Chocolate Almond to our caramel popcorn balls.”

Stratton Greenhouses 65th anniversary this weekend

Steve and Susie Stratton invite chamber members to the Stratton Greenhouses 65th anniversary weekend. It takes place, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3-4.

Located at 9915 Lincoln Highway, Bluffton, anniversary hours are:

Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: noon to 5 p.m.

The celebration includes gardening demonstrations, free food and drawings for five \$100 gift cards.

Grob CEO is May 9 chamber breakfast speaker

Ralf Bronnemeier, chief executive officer of Grob Systems, Bluffton, is the featured speaker of the Friday, May 9, chamber breakfast. He will provide chamber members with updates on Grob's plant and apprentice program.

Members wanting to place items on the May agenda should contact blufftonchamber@gmail.com.

May's breakfast provider is Richland Manor. The free breakfast is served from 7 to 7:30 a.m. The breakfast meeting is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The meeting is in the third floor of the Bluffton town hall.

Please RSVP to blufftonchamber@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Here's the May Day-commmencement weekend schedule

Bluffton University announces May Day and commencement activities May 1 to May 4. Events are free and open to the public unless noted otherwise. The events follow:

May 1

May Day Musical: "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall. Tickets, \$13 for reserved seats and \$5 for general-admission bleacher seats, are available online at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or in person from 2-4 p.m. weekdays at the Sommer Center box office.

May 2

May Day Musical: "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall. Tickets, \$13 for reserved seats and \$5 for general-admission bleacher seats, are available online at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or in person from 2-4 p.m. weekdays at the Sommer Center box office.

May 3

May Day: A full schedule of events is available at www.bluffton.edu/blufftonalumni/may-day/schedule.html.

Alumni Choir Sing: 9:15 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall, open to former members of any Bluffton choir.

May Day Ceremony: 11 a.m., Centennial Hall lawn, including the Maypole dance by first-year students, crowning of the May Day king and queen, and recognition of graduating seniors.

Music Honors Recital: 1:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall.

Faculty Showcase: 2:30 p.m., Musselman Library, featuring Dr. Martina Cucchiara, assistant professor of history, sharing excerpts from a Jewish German woman's World War II-era diary; Dr. Paul Neufeld Weaver, associate professor of education and director of

cross-cultural programs, discussing a new cross-cultural opportunity for students in Guatemala; and Dr. George Lehman, Howard Raid professor of business and director of graduate programs in business, addressing The Collaborative MBA, a new program in which Bluffton is working with Eastern Mennonite University and Goshen College.

May Day Musical: "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall. Tickets, \$13 for reserved seats and \$5 for general-admission bleacher seats, are available online at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or in person from 2-4 p.m. weekdays at the Sommer Center box office. The box office will also be open from 1-5 p.m. the day of this performance.

May 4

Commencement: 2 p.m., Salzman Stadium.

News about our members:

• Bluffton Hospital

The Echocardiography Laboratories at Bluffton Hospital and Blanchard Valley Hospital (BVH) have been reaccredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL). The Bluffton and BVH echo labs perform echocardiograms, a non-invasive test that detects and manages heart disease.

• Blanchard Valley Health Systems

Congratulations to the Blanchard Valley Health Systems Corporate PR and Marketing Department. The department has been named the winner of three 2014 Healthcare Advertising Awards in the 31st Annual Health Care Advertising Awards competition, sponsored by the Healthcare Marketing Report.

• BFR Sports and Fitness

Beginning May 1 and continuing through August 30, BFR Sports and Fitness is offering four months of membership for the cost of three from May 1 to Aug. 30, according to Carole Enneking, director. Individuals (14 years of age or older) will receive full membership benefits with this special. The price of \$89.67 includes access to the fitness center, indoor track, discounts on class and training fees plus open recreation hours.

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Board:

Larry Hoffman, president; Tammy Whitlow secretary, Aphaphanh Nussbaum, Adam Stedke, Jamie Mehaffie, Derek Dukes, Mark Alliman, Bob Inniger, Doug Luginbill, Sally Siferd, Branden Fortman, Phil Zimmerly. Fred Steiner, CEO.

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

• Apollo Career Center

A recent financial audit of Apollo Career Center by the Auditor of State's office has returned a clean audit report. Apollo Career Center's excellent record keeping has earned it the Auditor of State Award. Greg Bukowski, Apollo Career Center treasurer, "We are proud to receive the award again and very appreciative of our professional and dedicated staff."

• Shannon Service Club

The Shannon Service Club of Bluffton is inviting sponsorships to decorate Main Street with American flags.

- The purchase of flags is open to businesses, organizations or individuals.
- For \$25 per flag, you can be the sponsor of a flag.
- For each flag that you sponsor, you may name someone that you wish to honor or memorialize.

• Bluffton Family Practice

Bluffton Family Practice, the medical practice of Dr. Darrel R. Hotmire, D.O., held an open house April 26, at its 582 Harmon Road office. The open house celebrates the new building of the practice and enabled the public to meet Cindy Stechsulte, RRT, PA-C, who recently joined the practice.

• Community Market

The Bluffton Community Assistance Corp. recently received a \$1,500 check from "Making Change" from Fresh Encounter, which is a fundraising campaign that is in cooperation with community markets and great Scott supermarkets. The funds raised were part of a collaborative effort between Community Markets, local customers and Making Change.

• Hilty Home

Jason Cox of Bluffton is the new executive director of Hilty Home, Pandora, according to Laura Voth, CEO of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio. Cox has been serving as executive director of Oak Grove Healthcare Center, Deshler, for the past three years and has experience working with other long-term care facilities.

Welcome new member!

We welcome our newest members of the Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce:

• Findlay-Hancock County Chamber

123 East Main Cross Street

Findlay, Ohio 45840

419-422-3316

www.findlayhancockalliance.com/chamberofcommerce.aspx

• Riley Creek Pharmacy/Pharmacy Solutions

112 East Main Street, PO Box 296

Pandora, Ohio 45877

419-384-3303

www.rileycreekpharmacy.com

Over 70

crafters plus:

- free entertainment
- food vendors
- llama exhibit
- pony rides
- farmers' market
- business displays

Supporting sponsors:

- Bluffton Aeration Services
419-358-1936
- Bluffton Hospital
419-358-9010
- Bluffton Icon
419-889-3065
- Citizens National Bank
419-358-8040
- Edward Jones
419-358-2622
- Greg's Pharmacy
419-358-5946
- Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio
419-358-1015
- Shannon Theatre
419-358-1141
- Ten Thousand Villages
419-358-7233
- Et Cetera Shop
419-358-4201

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce event

Bluffton arts & crafts show

Saturday, May 10
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
downtown Bluffton

Major sponsors:

Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce
Bluffton Farmers' Market