



Sept. 6, 2013

Vol. 5, No. 16

This newsletter goes to 405 addresses  
and is posted on [www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com)  
Current membership at 182

- Sept. 13 breakfast • Sept. 13 Health Care Reform workshop
- Sept. 19 business showcase • Sept. 28 bowling fundraiser

## Four major events on chamber of commerce September calendar

Four major events are on the September Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce calendar.

### **Friday, Sept. 13, breakfast**

#### **RSVP required**

Jay Begg, Allen County Commissioner chair, is the speaker of the first chamber breakfast of the 2013-14 season. In addition, several new persons to the Bluffton business community will be introduced at the meeting.

Bluffton University dining service, Sodexo, is the breakfast sponsor and will provide a complete free breakfast. Service begins at 7 a.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. and takes place in the third floor of the Bluffton town hall.

### **Friday, Sept. 13, Health Care Reform Act workshop**

#### **RSVP required**

Following the breakfast, at 8:45 a.m. Daryl Steiner of Steiner and Granger Financial Services, will present the latest information about the 2014 Health Care Reform Act. The workshop free.

### **Thursday, Sept. 19, Bluffton University business showcase**

#### **Registration form inside**

Chamber members have an opportunity to introduce their products and services with Bluffton University students. The business showcase, held in Marbeck Center has a 10:45 a.m. set up time. The showcase starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 1:30 p.m. Chamber members may reserve a table for \$25 (\$50 for non-chamber members). A registration form for the showcase is inside this issue. Monday, Sept. 16, is the registration deadline.

### **Saturday, Sept. 28, Southgate Lanes-Chamber bowling scramble**

#### **More details inside**

Six teams are already signed up and only four team spots remain for this first-ever bowling scramble fundraiser. Funds raised benefit the chamber's downtown banner fund. More details on how to participate are inside this issue.

# University business showcase signup deadline is Sept. 16

The Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce's annual business showcase at Bluffton University is Thursday, Sept. 19. The deadline for sign up is Monday, Sept. 16.

The showcase is an excellent opportunity for chamber member businesses to display their products and services to Bluffton University students. Over 500 students will be in the Marbeck dining hall during the showcase. Last year 25 businesses participated. We encourage as many chamber members as possible to participate. Businesses are encouraged to have lots of freebies to give to students. You may also want to consider having a drawing for a prize. Candy is permitted as a giveaway, but not food.

Each business receives one table. The cost for a table is \$25 for chamber members and \$50 for non-chamber members. Businesses registering will also receive one free lunch ticket.

A registration form is elsewhere in this newsletter. Persons with questions may contact the chamber at: [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com).

## Chamber seeks business interested in hosting a Fed Ex box

Several Bluffton businesses have asked the chamber to look into having a Fed Ex box in the village. Would you allow the chamber to place a Fed Ex box at your business? Please contact Fred Steiner at [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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.

### **Santa will visit Bluffton several times in November and December**

The chamber has invited Santa to town this fall. He will be in Bluffton on Nov. 9 during the downtown open house. Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus will also be here during the Blaze of Lights night on Nov. 30.

The chamber is working on plans to bring Santa back for two additional Saturdays in December. Watch the chamber newsletter for details.

# **Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce 2013 business showcase registration form**

This year's showcase is **Thursday, Sept. 19**, in the Bluffton University Marbeck Center Commons.

Set up 10:30 a.m.; showcase hours 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: - Monday, Sept. 16.**

\_\_\_\_ Yes! We plan to attend. Please reserve us a display table.  
Tables will be provided for your display

**Business name:**

**E-mail:**

**Do you need more than two chairs: No      Yes**

**How many?\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please enclose payment of \$25 (for chamber members)  
and \$50 for non-members**

**Please note:**

- Business showcase participants will receive a lunch ticket during the event.
- The registration fee helps the chamber purchase significant door prizes from showcase participants to students.

**Make checks payable and mail to:**

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

# **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](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com); 419-369-2985

## **Lots of events in Bluffton this fall**

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.

### **September**

- Friday, Sept. 13 - Chamber breakfast, town hall, 7 a.m. breakfast; 7:30 a.m. program
- Saturday, Sept. 14 - Town Hall Concert Series, Lost Orchards, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 19 - Bluffton University business showcase
- Saturday, Sept. 21 - Bluffton University family day
- Saturday, Sept. 28 - 10th annual Bluffton fall festival
- Saturday, Sept. 28 - Chamber-Southgate Lanes bowling scramble fundraiser
- Saturday, Sept. 28 - Center for Autism & Dyslexia 5K, Sommer Center
- September-October-November, 3/50 downtown business promotion (sponsored by downtown merchants)

### **October**

- Friday, Oct. 4 - Bluffton High School homecoming parade
- Friday, Oct. 11 - Bluffton chamber breakfast
- Saturday, Oct. 12 - Bluffton University homecoming
- Saturday, Oct. 26 - Town Hall Concert Series, The Rough and Tumble, 7 p.m.
- Trick-or-treat night date to be announced

### **November**

- Wednesday, Nov. 6, Town Hall Concert Series, Moxie Strings, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 8, Bluffton chamber breakfast
- Saturday, Nov. 9 - Downtown holiday open house
- Downtown holiday garlands hung; Ream display posted on Presbyterian Church lawn, Dates to be announced
- Thursday, Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving
- Saturday, No. 30 - Blaze of Lights

### **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](http://www.explorebluffton.com)