



Scarecrow Decorating Contest

You're invited to take part in a Scarecrow Decorating Contest. Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce wants to encourage businesses to decorate downtown area for Fall season, with a fall/scarecrow theme.

These decorations would either be attached to the lamp posts along Main Street or storefront window decorations, but the overall requirement is that they be three-dimensional. If lamppost or store window is not an option, consider using ½ bale(s) of straw as base for a seated figure, placed on the brick part of the sidewalks (on Main St). The area to be decorated includes downtown from The Centre on N. Main to Hair Emporium on S. Main, plus Cherry St. on down to Blended Roots (246 Cherry St), Jefferson St. to Lantern Nutrition, Elm St. to Community Market, and Vine St.

MATERIALS: Scarecrows/figures must be firmly secured, and weather-resistant, able to withstand sun, wind and rain. Suggested materials are burlap, chicken wire, straw, corn husks and stalks and rubber foam, as these are all weather-resistant materials. Consider spraying Scotchguard® on the inside and outside of any fabrics used, to prevent mildew. Please note, nylon and polyester fabrics are more weather resistant. Stuffing can be made from plastic bags or bubble wrap, for example. We suggest no newspaper or water-soluble packaging peanuts used in stuffing, as these do not hold up well once wet.

DIMENSIONS: The minimum size is 4 ft. tall. The maximum height is 7 ft. Scarecrows and props to be placed on lamp posts or sidewalks must fit in a 4x3 foot area (staying within the bricks, not encroaching on the sidewalk). This is basically a foot on either side of the lamp post.

Please note, any scarecrow arms used need to run parallel to the road, not sticking out across the sidewalk.

Props may be used, if they stay within the required area, but please ensure they're securely fixed to scarecrow or base, and/or unlikely to move during inclement weather.

DURATION: Starting October 1 and decorations to be removed on/by November 1, 2022 by the participating business. **Scarecrow/figures must be up on/by Friday, October 7.**

REQUIREMENTS:

- All participating businesses need to let Liz Gordon-Hancock (organizer) know they will be taking part, and designate a specific lamppost or location for their figure. Due to limited availability, lampposts will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, but some consideration of location (to be near participating business premises) will be included.
- Each scarecrow/decoration should have a waterproof sign, noting the name of the business responsible, to help identify it to voters/judges.
- No vulgar or inappropriate messages as well as scary, gruesome or bloody scarecrows please. Also, no political or religious issues. This is intended to be family friendly and fun. The Chamber reserves the right to disqualify entries they feel to be distasteful or not family friendly.
- Winner will be decided on Oct 22 Discovery Day.
- Neither the Chamber nor the Village of Bluffton is responsible for maintaining your scarecrow decorations. Do not put anything of value or importance on your figure. The Chamber and its agents may use photographs of and stories about the scarecrows for publicity and promotion of the event.