



Aug. 30, 2013

Vol. 5, No. 15

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

Current membership at 182

Registration underway now

# **Bluffton University business showcase set for Sept. 19**

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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).

## Workshop on 2014 Health Care Reform Act follows breakfast **Sept. 13 chamber breakfast introduces many new persons to business community**

The first chamber breakfast of 2013-14 is Friday, Sept. 13. Our speaker will be announced next week. Sodexo Bluffton University Dining Service is the breakfast sponsor and will cater the free breakfast.

Following the breakfast, at 8:45 a.m. will be a free workshop presented by Steiner and Granger Financial Services. They will offer an presentation on the 2014 Health Care Reform. Daryl Steiner will explain how the program works, will provide information on how to participate and will answer questions from persons attending.

Also following the breakfast, in the small meeting room, Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs will hold its annual reorganization meeting.

Several persons new to the Bluffton business community will be introduced at the breakfast. They include:

- Lauren Osting, director of Bluffton Child Development Center
- Chris Keller, chief administrative officer of Bluffton Hospital
- Shelly Matijevich, director Bluffton Community Preschool

The breakfast meeting is still in the development stage and additional persons will be introduced and the agenda will be expanded.

**You may RSVP for the Sept. 13 breakfast and or health care seminar now at [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com)**

## **State sales tax rate goes up Sept. 1**

Neil Reichenbach of Reichenbach and Steiner, CPAs, reminds chamber members that the Ohio sales tax rate will increase by one-quarter percent (.25 percent), on Sept. 1.

He said, "You should increase the sales tax that you charge to your customers on all invoices dated on or after Sept. 1 by one-quarter percent. Also, make the appropriate changes in your computer, cash register and manual calculations."

He provided a partial listing of various county sales tax rates.

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Allen County current rate 6.5 percent   | New rate on Sept. 1: 6.75 percent |
| Hancock County current rate 6.5 percent | New rate on Sept. 1: 6.75 percent |
| Hardin County current rate 7 percent    | New rate on Sept. 1: 7.25 percent |
| Putnam County current rate 7 percent    | New rate on Sept. 1: 7.25 percent |
| Auglaize County current rate 7 percent  | New rate on Sept. 1: 7.25 percent |

## **Bluffton Community Preschool has new director**

The Bluffton Community Preschool, which meets at the First United Methodist Church, 116 Church St., announces new director, Shelly Matijevich, who brings over 20 years of early childhood development experience as well as a love for children.

Her career includes being a teacher, supervisor and manager.

The Preschool had a new substitute teacher in Linda Headings during the 2012-1013 school-year and has recently hired her as the teacher for the three-year-old classes.

Previously, Headings has taught at the first grade and kindergarten levels, as well as working six years in a preschool Montessori program. She holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and has a special interest in children's literature and early literacy.

Matijevich and Headings join returning staff members, Amber Bingley (four-year-old teacher) and Irina Groman, teacher's assistant.

The Bluffton Community Preschool is still accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school-year. Please contact Matijevich at (419) 358-0268 or e-mail [blufftoncommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:blufftoncommunitypreschool@gmail.com) for enrollment information and/ or questions.

## **Chris Keller named Bluffton Hospital CAO**

Chris Keller, vice president, clinical services, Blanchard Valley Health Systems, is the new Chief Administrative Officer of Bluffton Hospital.

She replaces William Watkins, who has accepted a new assignment in the BVHS in Findlay. For the past 18 months in addition to his duties as Bluffton's CAO, Watkins has also served as CAO of Blanchard Valley Medical Practices.

Watkins joined the hospital staff in July of 1979 as Director of Finance and eventually became CAO. Keller will work at the Bluffton Hospital on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and will continue as vice president of clinical services in Findlay on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She joined the BVHS in August of 1994.

## **BFR Labor Day Weekend 5K, Walk, Pump and Run Aug. 31**

BFR Sports and Fitness holds its Labor Day Weekend 5K or Walk, which featuring a Pump and Run on Saturday, Aug. 31.

- The 5K run/walk (including pump and runners) starts 9:15 a.m.
- The fun run/walk starts at 10 a.m.
- Race day check for the 5K pump and run starts at 7:45 a.m.
- Race day check in for the 5K run and walk is from 8:30 to 9 a.m.
- Race day check in for fun run starts at 8:30 a.m.

The 5K course will start at BFR and follow a street course through Bluffton and end at the Buckeye Park. The Fun Run course will take place on the path around the Buckeye Lake.

Persons may still register for the event on Saturday morning.

### **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.

#### **August**

- Friday, Aug. 30 - First home football game, BHS vs. C-RHS, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 31 - BFR Sports and Fitness 5K and Pump and Run

#### **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

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#### **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

# **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

Fundraiser for Main St. banners; only a few team spaces remain!

## **Southgate Lanes-Chamber hosts first-ever bowling scramble**

Southgate Lanes and Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to sponsor a Business Bowling Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the bowling alley, 9700 N. Dixie Highway, Bluffton.

“The event is a fundraiser for the chamber’s Main Street banner project,” said Derek Dukes of the bowling alley. “Ten four-person teams will compete in the evening scramble. Bowling begins at 5 p.m.”

The winning team receives:

- Southgate names one of its 2013-14 leagues after the winning business
- Southgate posts a 3 by 5 foot advertisement on its wall naming the winning business
- A traveling trophy goes the winning business

The event is similar to a golf scramble. Ten teams, each made up by a Bluffton chamber member business, will bowl three games. After each member of the team has completed a frame, only the best score will be used for that team’s frame.

In this scramble however, crowd participation can help any team’s score.

“Each team will have a stack of cards that represents one pin each. Any person attending the event, but is not bowling, may ‘donate’ one pin to a team’s total score,” said Dukes. The Southgate Lanes staff will monitor donated pins.

“Businesses are encouraged to bring promotional items to the scramble to try to ‘win over’ people walking in the door,” said Dukes. “In addition, door prizes will be drawn throughout the evening from the donated pin basket. Anyone who donates a pin will automatically be entered for door prizes.”

The first 10 teams who registered will compete. The entry fee is \$100 per team (\$25 per person). Bowlers do not need to be employees of registered teams, however teams must be chamber members.

In addition, any business is welcome to donate door prizes. For more details on the scramble contact Derek Dukes at Southgate Lanes, 419-358-6966, or Fred Steiner of the chamber at 419-369-2985. Bowlers should be ready to bowl 30 minutes for the scramble begins.