



Sept. 2, 2011

Vol. 4 No. 1

This newsletter goes to 338 addresses  
and is posted on [www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com)

RSVP by Wednesday to attend - Judge Richard Warren speaker

## **Sept. 9 chamber breakfast may break attendance records**

With 50 RSVPs already in, it appears that the Friday, Sept. 9, Bluffton Area Chamber breakfast may break attendance records.

Bluffton native and Allen County Common Pleas Judge Richard Warren is the breakfast speaker. RSVPs are accepted until Wednesday, Sept. 7. Richland Manor will provide free breakfasts. Serving starts at 7 a.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. Citizens National Bank is September's breakfast sponsor.

Several introductions will take place at the meeting. They include Barry Schneck, who joined Richland Manor this summer. Denise Dernberger, Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs, lead affiliate mentor and member of the Bluffton University faculty. Other Friday guests include Raymond Harner of CG Pro Bikes, Columbus Grove; and Cody Ridenhour and Chad Stearns of Modo Media, Lima. Both are Bluffton University grads.

Special guests on Friday are fall varsity coaches from Bluffton High School and Bluffton University. Alex Hanna, BHS AD, and Phill Talavina, Bluffton University AD, will make those introductions.

Fortman Insurance Services, new chamber member and new Bluffton business, will be introduced. A chamber ribbon cutting at Fortman will take place following the breakfast.

Special recognition will be given to Everett Collier, recently retired Bluffton postmaster. During the breakfast, the chamber will officially hand over the Blaze of Lights silent auction to the Bluffton Public Library.

Breakfast musical entertainment from 7 to 7:30 a.m. will be provided by students of Krysti's Music Studio.

## 9 snowflake sponsors so far; Sept. 9 deadline to participate

Businesses, individuals and organizations may sponsor a downtown 4-foot lighted snowflake this year. The deadline for 2011 sponsorships is Friday. Sponsorships are \$399. The following sponsors are already part of the project:

- 1 - Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce
- 2 - DTR Industries Associates
- 3 - Dwight Bixel
- 4 - Ropp Triplett
- 5 - Tom and Anne Heimann and Bill and Paula McKibben
- 6 - R.D. Neff and Associates
- 7 - Bluffton Center for Entrepreneur affiliates
- 8 - Chiles-Laman Funeral Homes
- 9 - Bluffton Volunteer Fire Department

## 10 businesses signed up for business showcase at university - Sept. 15 deadline

Ten businesses are registered for the Sept. 22 Bluffton University business showcase. The deadline to register is Sept. 15. Chamber members pay \$25 to participate; \$40 for non-members.

- 1 - Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce
- 2 - Southgate Lanes
- 3 - Village Cut N Curl
- 4 - McDonald's Restaurants
- 5 - Community Markets
- 6 - Bluffton Family Recreation
- 7 - Bluffton Public Library
- 8 - Citizens National Bank
- 9 - Chase
- 10 - First National Bank

## Interested in being a board member?

Interested in being on the chamber's board? The board plans to expand the board to include two additional members. The chamber is particularly interested in persons who have not yet served on the board. Contact any board member or Fred Steiner for more information. Members may serve one or two three-year terms.

### **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

# Welcome Danielle Laing Bluffton PO officer in charge

Danielle Laing has returned home. The 1987 (Danielle Kihm) Bluffton High School graduate was named Bluffton Post Office officer in charge on Aug. 31. She and her husband, Steve, also a BHS grad, are parents of two children and live in the Columbus Grove school district. She is also postmaster at Alger. She has nearly 15 years experience in the post office.

## Some breakfast sponsorship still available

Contact the chamber to schedule a breakfast sponsorship. The sponsorships cost \$250. The chamber has the following monthly breakfasts available for sponsorships.

### **September - Citizens National Bank**

October - open

November - open

December - open

January - open

### **February - DTR Industries**

March - open

April - open

### **May - Bluffton University**

## Dates for your calendar

### **September**

Sept. 3 - Kalamazoo at Bluffton University, football, 2 p.m.

Sept. 9 - Chamber breakfast

Sept. 9 - Fortman Insurance ribbon cutting

Sept. 9 - Deadline for snowflake sponsorships

Sept. 13 - Bluffton University presidential forum, Founders, 11 a.m.

Sept. 15 - Blaze committee, 7 p.m., Luke's

Sept. 22 - Bluffton University business showcase, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*(registration deadline Sept. 16)*

Sept. 24 - Bluffton fall festival

Sept. 29 - Bluffton University artist series, The Four Freshmen,  
Yoder Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 30 - Bluffton High School homecoming parade

### **October**

Oct. 7 - Chamber board, town hall, noon

Oct. 8 - Bluffton University homecoming

Oct. 14 - Chamber breakfast

Oct. 20 - Blaze committee, Luke's, 7 p.m.

# **Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce 2011 business showcase registration form**

**This year's showcase is Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Bluffton University Marbeck Center Commons. Set up 10 a.m.; showcase hours 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

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

**\_\_\_\_ Yes! We plan to attend. Please reserve a display table for our business**

**Business name:**

**Address:**

**E-mail:**

**Tables will be provided for your display**

**Do you need more than two chairs:    No                    Yes:  
How many? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please enclose payment of \$25 (for chamber members) and \$40 for non-members**

**Please note:**

Bluffton University will provide two free lunches to each participating business and free coffee during the showcase. 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

# Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce

## Snowflake Sponsorship Form

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible.  
The chamber will invoice you for your sponsorship.

✓ Yes! We wish to become a Bluffton snowflake sponsor.

Billing address here:

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of snowflakes to sponsor at \$399 each.

✓ We are unable to sponsor a snowflake, but wish to contribute to the snowflake fund. \$\_\_\_\_\_ amount we wish to contribute.

**Name of the snowflake sponsor:**

**Is the sponsorship in honor or memory of anyone?**

*(This option is only available for sponsorships of \$399 or more)*

**All sponsors will be recognized in several ways including announcements:**

- in chamber newsletters,
- at the December chamber breakfast meeting,
- from the stage during the Blaze of Lights,
- on the chamber website,
- on Bluffton holiday lighting maps distributed free in November and December,
- on posters displayed downtown during the holiday season.
- and, each donor will receive a certificate of recognition from the chamber for participation in the snowflake project.

**RETURN THIS FORM BY  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2011 TO:**

**Snowflake Sponsorship**  
Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 142  
Bluffton, OH 45817  
*blufftonchamber@gmail.com*  
419-369-2985  
*www.explorebluffton.com*