

**Business showcase  
registration deadline  
MONDAY!!!**

Sept. 21, 2012

Vol. 4 No. 37

This newsletter goes to 393 addresses  
and is posted on [www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com)

Current membership at 174

✓ Monday deadline to register for showcase

## **22 businesses registered for Sept. 27 university showcase**

Twenty-two chamber members have registered for the Bluffton University business showcase planned for Thursday, Sept. 27, at Marbeck Center. This event is an opportunity for businesses to introduce themselves to Bluffton University students. Over 500 students will be in the dining hall during the showcase.

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. Contact [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com) for more details.

**A REGISTRATION FORM IS IN THIS ISSUE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY BY MONDAY - YOU MAY PAY FOR YOUR BOOTH AT THE EVENT IF NECESSARY.**

The following businesses have registered as of Friday:

Common Grounds  
Richland Manor  
Community Markets  
Town and Country Flowers  
Southgate Lanes  
It Works - Deanna Huffman  
Chase  
First National Bank  
Et Cetera Shop  
Ten Thousand Villages  
Book ReViews

Bluffton Hospital  
Holiday Inn Express  
Greg's Pharmacy  
McDonald's Restaurant  
Citizens National Bank  
Twin Lakes Park  
Village Cut 'N' Curl  
Touch of Sun Tanning  
BFR Sports and Fitness  
Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer & Regula CPAs,  
Fortman Insurance

# Here's the schedule for Sept. 29 Fall Festival

Bluffton celebrates the arrival of fall at its ninth annual Fall Festival, Saturday, Sept. 29, at five locations in the community. Most events are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Mennonite Memorial Home**

Mennonite Memorial Home, 410 W. Elm St., is the hub for all free transportation. Visitors may park at one of the venues and enjoy free horse and wagon rides, or vans that goes to other locations. The vans arrive and depart every 15 minutes from Maple Crest, Swiss Homestead, Bluffton Middle School, downtown and the Mennonite Home.

Two horse-drawn wagons will be take people from the Mennonite Home to downtown and back during the day.

At 10 a.m. Mennonite Memorial Home will host a silent auction of handmade items such as pottery, woodworking and a bake sale with pies, cakes, breads and cookies. Bids will be accepted for silent auction items until noon.

TLU Rescue will show rescued animals and a veterinarian will be present for questions. Alpine horn presentations will be given from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kettle corn will be made and sold throughout the day.

Lunch, provided by the MMH Women's Service Group, will feature shredded chicken, pulled-pork sandwiches and other offerings. Horse and wagon rides, a kiddie train, face painting and a hay dig for hidden prizes is available for youth.

## **Maple Crest Senior Living Village**

Maple Crest Senior Living Village, 700 Maple Crest Court, off Augsburg Road, will offer entertainment from the Don Hurless Trio at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The third annual antique tractor show will also take place. A kiddie tractor pull is at 1:30 p.m. with registration at 1 p.m.

Maple Crest will host a fishing derby for all ages from 2-3:30 p.m. with prizes for different categories of fish caught. Food is available and features cinnamon ice cream with homemade apple crisp along with hot dogs and more. Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will also debut its new popcorn flavor, "Home Sweet Home" made by Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn Co., Bluffton.

## **Main Street Bluffton**

On Main Street will be free kid's activities, including inflatables, games, snow cones, face painting and more. A farmers' market is from 9 a.m. to noon, plus matinees at the Shannon Theater with all seats \$4.

# Fall Festival schedule continued

A quilt show at the Bluffton Middle School will feature local and historical quilts, demonstrations with a full-color program guide. The middle school is a new location for the quilt show this year.

The Bluffton Public Library will hold a book sale and a “make and take” activity for kids. Library events conclude at 2 p.m.

Forever in Stitches will feature a demonstration of long-arm quilting and will hold a quilt “stash & stuff” swap event.

The Black Lab Trading Co., will have Bluffton author Steve Yoder signing his children’s book, “Look for Something Good,” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At noon the Bluffton Lions Club Foundation will draw the winner of the 1991 Corvette raffle. The drawing is at the farmers’ market.

At Community Market shoppers who spend \$50 will receive \$5 off the total bill (excludes tobacco and lottery tickets). Coupons are available at the service counter with one coupon per household.

## **Swiss Homestead**

The Swiss Homestead, 8350 Bixel Road, includes an open house of its 1840s Swiss homestead and 1854 bank barn. Events are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It will feature house, garden, barn and workshop tours, farm animals, blacksmithing and other period skill demonstrations, horse wagon rides, plowing demonstrations, and performances by a Swiss choir and other musicians.

For lunch, various country foods (soup, Swiss cheese, fresh-baked bread, cider, popcorn) will be available for a donation to the Society. New this year is an expanded children’s area with “king of the log” pillow fights, a straw bale maze, slingshot range, stilts and other old time games. The Buckeye Bernese Mountain Dog club will demonstrate the drafting/carting abilities of these beautiful dogs developed near Bern, Switzerland.

As a fundraiser, the Society will hold a hog roast from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Homestead. Music will be provided by the Bluffton High School Fiddlers, and also by Audrey Willis on the accordion. Tickets for the hog roast meal are \$8 and will be available throughout the day of the festival at the Homestead.

## **Suter’s Cider Press and Corn Maze**

Suter’s Cider Press and Corn Maze, 12200 Putnam Road (Road R), will host its annual fall corn maze. This year’s theme is “Fun on the Farm.” Visitors may pick a pumpkin from Suter’s fields, play outdoor games, shoot corn cannons, see the 1888 cider press and purchase apple cider.

# The chamber wants your opinion

## • Christmas “cash and carry” showcase at Marbeck?

Would your business participate in an early December showcase in Marbeck where you could sell retail items to students? The showcase would be promoted as an opportunity for students to buy Christmas presents for family or friends before they go home for the holiday. The event would be similar to the September business showcase. Table reservations would be \$25. Proceeds would go to a chamber “Promote Bluffton Fund.”

## • Move the arts and crafts show to September?

Would the arts and crafts show better serve the community if it took place during September fall festival? The show has always taken place in May. But, with five other events held on the same date in September in Bluffton, would it make better sense to move the arts and crafts festival to September?

**Please give your thoughts on both events to chamber board members or contact Fred Steiner at [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com)**

## Welcome two new chamber members:

Touch of Sun Tanning  
324 N. Main St.  
Bluffton  
419-358-9155

Village Cut ‘N’ Curl  
212 Cherry St.  
Bluffton  
419-358-7593

## Chamber calendar

### September

27th - Bluffton chamber business showcase at Marbeck Center

29th - Bluffton Fall Festival and Bluffton University family day

### October

12th - Chamber breakfast, town hall, 7 a.m.

19th - Bluffton High School homecoming and parade

25th - Bluffton community trick-or-treat night, 6-7:30 p.m

27th - Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs 4th annual art auction

### November

9 - Chamber breakfast, town hall, 7 a.m.

24 - Blaze of Lights

### 2013 events on the calendar

Arts and Crafts show is Saturday, May 11, 2013

Relay for Life is Friday and Saturday, June 21-22, 2013

### **Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Board:**

Sally Siferd, president, Brendon Matthews, treasurer, Tammy Whitlow secretary, Aphaphanh Nussbaum, Adam Stedke, Jamie Mehaffie, Matt Luke, Luke Young, Wally Buroker, Alison King. Fred Steiner, CEO Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 142, Bluffton, OH 45817; [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com); Phone: 419-369-2985; [www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com)

# Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce 2012 business showcase registration form

This year's showcase is **Thursday, Sept. 27**, 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, Sept. 24.**

**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 \$50 for non-members**

**Please note:**

Lunch tickets will be provided to showcase presenters.

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

**Please  
note date  
change to  
Sept. 27!**