



Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 142
Bluffton OH 45817

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 any businesses on Cherry St., Jefferson St. and Elm St. who wish to participate. If your business is not located downtown, we encourage you to adopt a lamppost downtown.

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 in your window, on lamp posts areas. If you use the lamppost, the figure must fit in a 4x3 foot area (staying within the bricks on Main St., not encroaching on the sidewalk). This is basically a foot on either side of the lamp post.

Please note, any scarecrow arms 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: Start late Sept, once flowerpots are removed and decorations to be removed on/by November 1, 2023 by the participating business. **Scarecrow/figures must be up on/by Friday, October 4, if at all possible, so we can take pictures of all figures/scarecrows.**

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 your business) will be given.
- 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 by community vote.
- 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.