

City of Bellbrook

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

August 2015

Bellbrook History

1797

Joseph Vance Sr. builds a cabin in the area of Main and Walnut Streets

1816

The Village of Bellbrook is founded by Stephen Bell, Henry Opdyke and James Clancey

1832

The earliest account of police protection consisting of one Marshal

1923

A 35-gallon fire engine is purchased

1949

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Township Fire Department is organized

1950

A public water system is installed and the population reaches 400

1971

The citizens of Bellbrook vote to become a charter municipality

1974

The village surpasses a population of 5,000 residents and is recognized as a city

2016: Bellbrook Bicentennial Committee

2016 will mark Bellbrook's 200th year. A bicentennial committee has been formed to help guide the celebration. The basic approach is to start the celebration with the 2016 Sugar Maple Festival in April and conclude with the Lions Club Festival in August. In between, there will be events to highlight Bellbrook's history, celebrate its people, and bring the community together.

The committee is in the early stages of planning and is seeking volunteers and ideas. The committee meets monthly at the City of Bellbrook municipal building in the first floor Community Room. Please plan on attending the next meeting on Monday, August 24 at 7 PM; the committee welcomes organizations or individuals who would like to be involved in the planning and execution of this celebration.

Community members and organizations can also assist in the success of this celebration by contributions to a non-profit foundation being used to conduct the anniversary. The Bellbrook/Sugarcreek Patriotic Celebration Foundation will be accepting tax-deductible donations to support the celebration. The committee will soon have a website to both inform the community of celebration plans and instructions on how to donate.

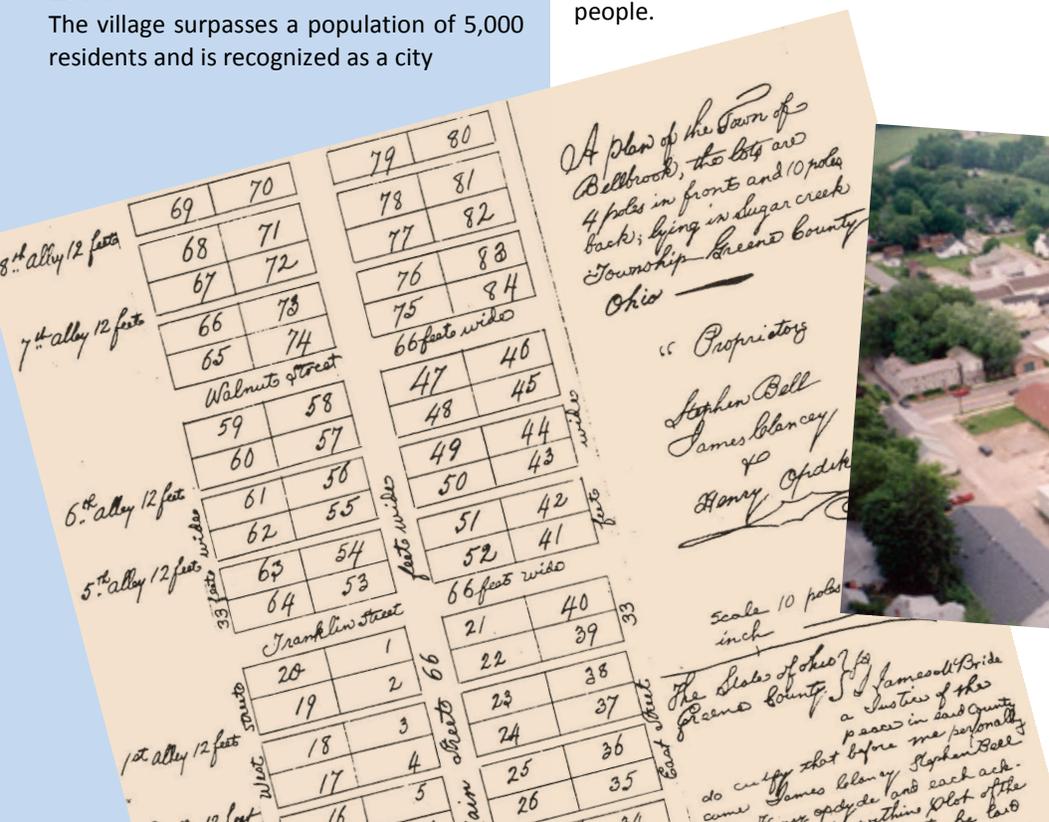
The bicentennial committee will be holding a contest to select a logo which will be used throughout 2016 to represent the bicentennial celebration. Please submit logo and celebration ideas to Gregg Sparks, Committee Chair, at Bellbrook200YR@aol.com for consideration.

The Village of Bellbrook was settled in 1816 and named after one of its founders, Stephen Bell, who helped form part of what is now the downtown area. The town had a total of 84 plots and by 1820 had a population of 83. Now, Bellbrook is a city with around 7,000 residents and combined with Sugarcreek Township, the community includes over 15,000 people.

Pictured below: aerial view of current-day Bellbrook



Pictured left: first recorded plat of the Village of Bellbrook from 1816



69th Bellbrook Lions Club Festival: August 20 - 22

About the Lions Festival

Come join the Bellbrook community as it celebrates the 69th Bellbrook Lions Club Festival in downtown Bellbrook on August 20-22. The theme of this year's festival is "Community Pride". As always, there will be numerous activities for everyone. The festival is family-friendly and everyone is invited.

For more information, visit the Bellbrook Lions website at www.bellbrooklions.org.

The Bellbrook Lions Club Festival will be held at the former Sugarcreek Elementary School in downtown Bellbrook. All proceeds from the festival return to the community in the form of local projects, scholarships, or other donations the Lions Club makes throughout the year. The theme for this year's festival is "Community Pride," with the parade Grand Marshall being Kathy Schultz. On her own, she has been picking up trash and items that others have carelessly discarded around the Bellbrook area – now that's what we call "Community Pride!"

This is a great opportunity for community members to reconnect during the start of a new school year. The festival is considered a "homecoming," as it allows longtime residents, those who have moved away, and new residents to connect in a family environment and support local service projects.

New this year will be Friday nights "Bike Nite" at 5:30 PM on the Sugarcreek Elementary School grounds. This event is sponsored by Buckminn's D&D Harley-Davidson Sales and Service from Xenia, Ohio.

Amusement rides will be available all three nights with an armband special to allow continuous riding for the evening. Full dinners are available each evening with other meal items available at Lions food trailers. The annual raffle will be a cash prize of \$10,000, \$500, and \$250, so buy your tickets from a Bellbrook Lion for your chance at these prizes. If you have not attended the Lions Festival before, please consider coming this year to support the Bellbrook Lions Club. Help the Lions, Help the Blind.

Thursday, August 20

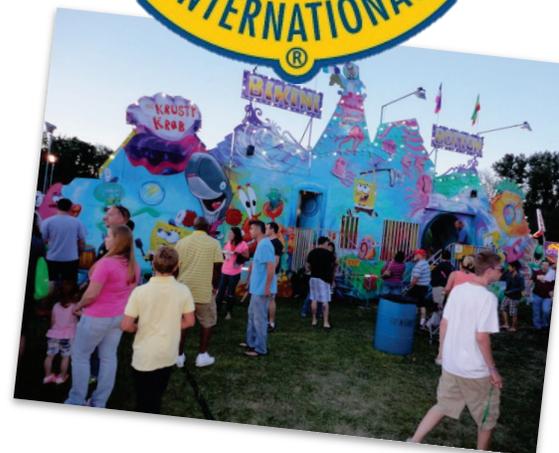
Open 6:00 PM
Close 11:00 PM

Friday, August 21

Bike Nite 5:30 PM
Close 11:00 PM

Saturday, August 22

Parade 4:00 PM
Raffle Drawing 11:15 PM



Bellbrook Historical Museum: Brick Fundraiser

To honor our many patrons who have made our journey possible, the Bellbrook Historical Museum held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, May 3 to commemorate the "Yellow Brick Road" fundraiser. This exceptional brick pathway of contributors leads into the side entrance of the museum. Beautiful weather, along with a supportive community, City of Bellbrook personnel, police, firefighters, museum trustees and staff, enjoyed a special day of celebration!

Commemorative bricks are available to honor your family or loved ones, to memorialize a special occasion, to endorse your business or club, or to give as a unique gift. There are order forms provided at the museum's side entrance (clear box next to the door), as well as our website www.polarengraving.com/BellbrookMuseum or by visiting the museum. Museum hours of operation are Wednesdays 10 AM – 2 PM and Saturdays 12 PM – 4 PM. The museum staff may be reached at (937) 848-2415. Please stop by to visit us and see our many local exhibits and artifacts! After all, "There's no place like home!"



Pictured above: Museum Board President, Dwight Bartlett, and Museum Trustee, Janis Stratis, speak to an audience at the Yellow Brick Road fundraiser ribbon cutting.

Follow the

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Pave a path for the future of your beloved Museum

Chamber of Commerce

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual golf outing on Thursday, August 20 at Sugar Valley Golf Club. The outing includes golf, cart, food, refreshments, and prizes for \$90 per player. The chamber is still accepting hole sponsors. For more information on the golf outing, chamber membership benefits, or chamber events, go to www.bellbrook-sugarcreekchamber.com or call (937) 848-4930.

Winters Library

The Greene County Public Library is happy to announce, beginning this September, **Winters-Bellbrook Community Library will be open Sundays, 1 PM to 5 PM, September through May.** This is a new service for Bellbrook area residents; the Winters Library has never before opened on Sunday! Beaver Creek, Xenia, Fairborn, and Yellow Springs Libraries also have Sunday hours.

As you begin to get into the "Back to School" state of mind, remember that the Library has many resources for the student in your house.

- Books! (hard copy and downloadable e-books)
- A borrowing agreement with libraries and universities all over the state which effectively extends our collection by millions of items.
- Premium research databases, some designed just for kids, available through the library website.
- Librarians who are always happy to help you find what you need!

For more information, go to www.greenelibrary.info or call (937) 352-4004.



Garden Club

The Bellbrook Garden Club had a busy spring "adding beauty to the path we go." A Garden Club grant assisted second graders at Stephen Bell Elementary plant evergreens on their playground. The club sponsored an Earth Day poster contest for Junior High art students and awarded prizes to: MiKayla Kinzeler (First Place), Sydney Fannin (Second Place), Krystal Barhona (Third Place), and Mackenzie Pitman (Honorable Mention). The club also passed out seeds at the Sugar Maple Festival. For many years, the Bellbrook Garden Club has maintained the gardens at the Bellbrook Historical Museum, Winters Library, Stephen Bell Elementary School, and the planters in downtown Bellbrook. All this and more has been made possible from the annual plant sale proceeds held in May. Thank you all!

Park District

The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District offers programs designed for all different ages at their eight parks. They now offer online registration for all programs and shelter rentals. This fall, they will begin offering day programs for seniors. For more details on the seniors program, please call the park district office at (937) 848-3535. The fall newsletter will be arriving in mailboxes the first week of August with more information about all of the park district's offerings.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center

Soon, there will be excitement in the air as students think about the upcoming school year. However, a few children in our Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community may not be quite as enthusiastic if they fear that their families cannot afford to purchase the back-to-school supplies that their teachers are requesting. The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center is a non-profit government organization that is here to help local, low-income families. Last year, the center assisted 75 students with their school supplies that were donated by members of the community. The center is asking for assistance in helping these children. Please consider donating new or gently used school supplies such as: backpacks, pencil bags, paper, #2 pencils with erasers, colored pencils, markers, dry erase markers, bottles of glue and glue sticks, pencil sharpeners, 3-ring binders (1 and 1.5 inch), pocket folders with clasps (plastic folders preferred), graph paper, highlighters, pens, facial tissues, paper towels, wipes, plastic bags (gallon, quart, snack sizes), tape, scissors, scientific calculators, compasses, protractors, rulers, and flash drives. The Family Resource Center will accept donations Tuesday through Thursday at 51 South East Street in downtown Bellbrook. It is best to schedule a drop-off time with Carolyn Destefani at (937) 848-3810. Donation receipts can be provided for tax records if desired. Thank you!

Historical Museum

The staff and volunteers of the Bellbrook Historical Museum welcomed the third graders in May for their annual tour of the museum. Museum Trustee Board President, Dwight Bartlett, surprised the students and brought antique school desks and supplies to recreate a 19th century one-room schoolhouse. The children were thrilled to sit in the desks, ring the schoolteacher's bell, and see pictures from the 1914 Bellbrook High School graduating class photo (eight students). Other interesting pictures included the first wooden school bus in Sugarcreek Township and a collapsible metal lunch box. Steve and Sharon Berryhill, with their daughter Anji, guided the students around downtown Bellbrook and inside the museum to hear stories of our past. Debbie Staton brought in an old pencil box that had Herbert Hoover on the cover as President (1929-1933). Alice Wiseman shared stories about school days and how teachers taught in a classroom with students of varying ages and grades. The museum has received lovely thank you note pictures of what the kids liked best. The schoolroom was the most popular attraction for the students! A close second was visiting George Simmons upstairs and hearing his special stories about life in Bellbrook. Thank you to all of the parents who came as chaperones!



The Works

City Council Updates

School Security

The City of Bellbrook Police Department has provided additional security services to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District during school hours and home football games. In July, Council approved agreements with the school district to help pay for these additional services.

Tax Budget

In July, Council approved the annual tax budget ordinance. The tax budget is a financial plan for the operations of the next calendar year. The budget is submitted to the county budget commission and used to fix property tax rates. This is not the final budget that Council approves for the following fiscal year.

Annual Wage Increase

Following Council approval in July, City employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, received a 2% wage increase effective August 1. This wage increase was included in the 2015 budget. In addition to the wage increase, certain employee wage scales were also adjusted to remain consistent with other local governments.

Erosion Control

In April, City Council approved revisions to the Erosion Control, Sediment Abatement, and Stormwater Management section of the Municipal code which provides control standards on construction and development projects.

Subdivision Regulations

The city's subdivision regulations provide a framework for developers to follow when planning a new housing or commercial project. The regulations were updated by Council in June.

Permitting Fees

Certain permitting fees in regard to Erosion Control, Sediment Abatement and Stormwater Management were revised in June.

Rezoning

Several lots on West Franklin Street were rezoned in order to better fit with neighboring zoning districts.

Water Main Extension and Downtown Replacement Project

The downtown water main project is nearly complete. The contractor added a new water line to connect two major parts of the water system. This additional line will help ensure future stability in the system. North Main Street will be repaved in conjunction with the annual paving program.

2015 Paving Program

The Service Department continuously monitors city streets and repairs potholes. Please call (937) 848-8415 to report any potholes you may find. The streets being repaved this year are Washington Mill Road, Beryl Drive, Garry Drive, a section of Bledsoe Drive, and a short section of West Franklin Street.

Stormwater Improvement at Vemco Drive and Firebird Drive

The city engineer has designed improvements to a drainage culvert at Vemco Drive and Firebird Drive to assist with storm drainage issues in the area. Bids are currently being collected with a goal to award the project in August. The project is anticipated to be complete by November 1.

Water Meter Replacement Program

The water meter replacement program started in 2009 and will be completed in 2015. The program involves either upgrading meters or replacing older meters. The upgrade consists of a low frequency radio transmitter which allows Service Department employees to remotely read the meters from a vehicle on the street. This system has decreased meter reading time from several days to less than four hours per month. The upgrade also provides more accurate readings.

Hydrant Flushing: Week of October 12

The Service Department will be flushing hydrants during the week of October 12 – 16. Flushing is done each year to inspect the hydrants and water system for proper operation.



Pictured above: installation of a new fire hydrant on North Main Street.

Pictured below: nearing completion of the new water line on North Main Street.



Between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM, avoid doing laundry and set water softeners to bypass. For more information, call the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638.

Street Sign Replacement Program

There is currently a federally mandated street sign replacement program. The Service Department has been actively working on this program for some time. This summer, you will see crews stopping at all signs and collecting information. This program will be completed in 2015. You can call (937) 848-8415 for additional information.



Waste, Recycling & Yard Waste Disposal

Waste Collection Holidays

Waste and recycling collection will be delayed one day due to the Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day holidays. Waste and recycling collection will take place on **Saturday, September 12** and **Saturday, November 28** for those weeks.

City Recycling Program

The City has a weekly recycling program. Special items such as hazardous waste, electronics, metal appliances and scrap metal are recycled by Greene County Environmental Services who can be contacted at (937) 562-5925. For more information on the recycling program, call the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638.

Bulk Pick-up

Large items may be picked up by Rumpke on Fridays. However, you must call ahead and schedule with Rumpke at (800) 223-3960.

For more information, visit the Utility Billing page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.



Yard Waste

The City does not provide leaf or yard waste collection service. However, residents may dispose of yard waste with regular trash collection. Rumpke will collect brush in bags or tied in bundles no larger than four feet long and two feet wide. Brown paper yard waste bags are not required by Rumpke. In addition to services provided by Rumpke, residents may dispose of yard waste at three private recyclers and two county facilities.

Private Recyclers

Tom's Mulch
2113 Ferry Road, Bellbrook
(937) 848-3422

Bio Source Landscaping Services
869 US Route 68 South, Xenia
(937) 372-5921

Eco-Green Recycling Enterprises
1290 E Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd, Fairborn
(937) 608-8010

Greene County Environmental Services

Xenia Drop-off Site
2145 Greene Way Blvd, Xenia

Beavercreek Drop-off Site
2260 Dayton-Xenia Rd, Beavercreek

Please call ahead for hours of operation. For additional information, please contact Greene County Environmental Services at (937) 562-5925 or visit their website at www.co.greene.oh.us and go to the Environmental Services page.

Municipal Code Highlight: Solicitation

The laws regulating solicitors in the City of Bellbrook were recently updated by City Council. The previous laws were approved nearly 40 years ago. The new regulations were written after receiving comments from residents and reviewing recent judicial cases.

The new regulations attempt to strike a balance between personal property rights and free speech. A distinction is made between a solicitor (commercial activity) and a canvasser (non-commercial activity).

Solicitors are required to be licensed by the City. The licensing process includes an application with specific identifying information and a background check conducted by the Bellbrook Police Department. The license issued by the City must be carried and displayed by the solicitor.

Residents who do not want solicitors to knock on their door can have a sign posted stating, **"No Peddlers, Solicitors, or Canvassers Invited"** or other similar language.

Any resident who believes that these regulations are being violated is encouraged to call the Bellbrook Police Department. The full solicitation regulations can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

City Council

The legislative and policy-making body of the City is comprised of a Mayor and six council members elected at large on a non-partisan basis. The Council hires a professional City Manager who operates the city on a day-to-day basis.

The Bellbrook City Council invites you to attend its regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

For more information about City Council, past meetings and current issues, call the Clerk of Council at (937) 848-4666 or visit the Council page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org

Council Members Term Expires

Bob Baird, Mayor	2015
Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor	2017
Nick Edwards	2017
Forrest Greenwood.....	2017
Jon Martin.....	2015
Elaine Middlestetter	2015
Dona Seger-Lawson	2015

City Holidays

The City of Bellbrook non-emergency services will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day; Wednesday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day; Thursday, November 26, and Friday November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving.

E-Newsletter

If you wish to opt out of receiving the newsletter through the mail, you may receive it via email. If you wish to sign up for the email list, please email Don Buczek at don.buczek@cityofbellbrook.org and identify your residential address and include the email address where you wish to receive the newsletter.

As always, the city publishes the newsletter in PDF format on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

The Policeman's Badge

Community Forums

The Bellbrook Police Department has hosted several community forums for residents this summer. The forums have focused on safety topics to help inform citizens of how they can be prepared for various emergencies. Each forum has been led by a member of the police department. On June 3, Sgt. Keith Salyers and Det. Tony Vetter presented *Identity Theft and How to Avoid Scams*. On July 15, Officer Tony Ruble presented *Active Shooter Preparedness*. The last forum presented by Lt. Steve Carmin on *Computer Awareness and Safety Tips for Parents* will be held on August 17 at 7:00 PM at the Bellbrook Community Church (3815 West Franklin Street).

Bellbrook Police Officers Receive Leadership Award

Two Bellbrook Police Officers were given the department's Leadership Award at the Bellbrook City Council meeting on Monday, May 11. Police Chief Doug Doherty presented the award to Sergeants Brian Meade and Keith Salyers for their contributions to the Bellbrook Police Department.

The Leadership Award is given to officers who have displayed leadership within the department. Recipients must exhibit strong values, consistent behavior, and serve as an example for other members of the department. The recipients were given a maroon ribbon to be worn on their uniform.

Promoted to Sergeant in March 2014, Brian Meade immediately displayed his leadership skills in his new position. Sergeant Meade has contributed to improving policies and daily functions, as well as the hiring of two new part-time officers and implementing an online patrol schedule. Brian leads by example with having the highest number of OVI arrests and a significant drug arrest.

Keith Salyers was promoted to Sergeant in March 2015. He was instrumental in helping the department operate smoothly during the change in department command in 2014. Sergeant Salyers served as the department's Detective for 12 years and has a successful case history that would rival many detectives in the local area. Keith currently serves as a mentor to the department's new Detective and as a shift commander.



Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

One of the deadliest and most often committed, yet preventable crimes [drunk driving], has become a serious safety epidemic in our country. To help with this issue, the Bellbrook Police Department has been participating in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of drunk driving. The Police Department has been on the lookout for impaired drivers to help keep our city streets safe. The department is also on the lookout for drivers and passengers not wearing proper seatbelts. The campaign dates are August 19 to September 7.



Pictured above:
Sgt. Brian Meade



Pictured right:
Sgt. Keith Salyers

The Fire Escape



Open House

The Bellbrook Fire Department would like to invite the entire community to join us at our annual Bellbrook Fire Department Open House on Tuesday, October 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

This collaborative event will be held at Bellbrook Fire Station #2, 4254 West Franklin Street. The whole family is encouraged to visit your fire department and view the various fire, emergency medical displays, and safety presentations. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the fire department members who find it rewarding to voluntarily serve our community. Those residents interested in being part of our exciting fire and emergency medical service team can obtain application information at the event.

Your Bellbrook Fire Department

The mission of the Bellbrook Fire Department is to enhance the quality of life in our city and to provide a healthy and safe environment. This is accomplished through the cultivation of community partnerships and promoting progressive public education and awareness.

Utility Billing

The Utility Billing office is the first place to go for your water and waste collection needs. The Utility Billing function includes waste collection billing for Bellbrook residents and water service billing for Bellbrook residents, businesses, and portions of Sugarcreek Township.

For questions regarding your water or waste collection service, please contact the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638. You can also visit the Utility Billing page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

The Utility Billing office is located on the first floor of the Administration building at 15 East Franklin Street. A payment drop box is located at the front entrance to the building. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.



Stormwater Tips

Car Care

- Used motor oil can be recycled for reuse at a local oil change business.
- Park and wash your cars in the grass, keeping the dirty and soapy water from running from your driveway directly into the storm drain, or take your car to a commercial carwash where the water is typically filtered for reuse and ultimately treated at a wastewater treatment plant.
- Keep your car serviced. Tune-ups reduce the amount of pollutants which impact our water and our air quality.
- Repair leaks. Spots on your driveway or garage floor indicate leaks. Clean up spots and spills with cat litter or other absorbent materials and place in the trash. **Please do not** dump or hose pollutants into streets or storm drains.

Lawn Care

It is important to understand your lawn's environmental needs so you can tailor lawn care practices to suit our weather conditions, which allows for a dense, healthy, environmentally friendly lawn with less work and expense.

- Know your grass or turf type. Identify the grasses that thrive in the Midwest.
- Know your soil. A soil test can reveal your soil's pH, which will help you know its nutrient availability.
- Know your soil's fertility before fertilizing. Before adding any fertilizer to your lawn, consider that rainfall adds "free" nitrogen, phosphorous and sulfur in varying amounts.
- Know your watering schedule. Most lawns require about one inch of water a week, either from rainfall or irrigation.
- Know your pests. Weeds have a hard time invading a dense, healthy lawn. Some types of grasses produce compounds that reduce certain insects and disease problems.
- Know your lawn mower. Whether you own a gas powered, electric or reel type lawn mower, keep the mower blade sharp, so grass is cut cleanly, preventing moisture loss and disease spread.

Water Quality of the Upper Little Miami River

Rivers and streams in Ohio support a variety of uses such as recreation, water supply and aquatic life. The Ohio EPA periodically evaluates each stream to determine if the use designation meets the goals of the federal Clean Water Act. In 1998, only 19 stream miles in the Upper Little Miami River watershed reached full attainment status based on the Clean Water Act goals. The upper Little Miami River was again sampled at 22 locations in 2011 and was found to meet the biological goals at 21 sites, accounting for **53 stream miles** of continuous full attainment. The Ohio EPA's report "Biological and Water Quality Study of the Upper Little Miami River, 2011" was published on February 20, 2014 and provided results of the Little Miami River stream quality monitoring. These results showed that the water quality of the river in the Washington Mill area is classified as "exceptional to very good," thereby meeting the exceptional warm-water habitat goals for this local tributary.

Upper Little Miami River Watershed Biological Attainment

- Full
- Partial
- Non



City of Bellbrook
15 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON OH
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City of Bellbrook

15 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

Departments

Administration.....(937) 848-4666
Clerk of Council.....(937) 848-4666
Zoning.....(937) 848-8477
Police.....(937) 848-8484
Fire.....(937) 848-3272
Service.....(937) 848-8415
Utility Billing.....(937) 848-4638

www.cityofbellbrook.org

Bellbrook Business Spotlight

Romer's Bar & Grill

Since 2009, Romer's Bar & Grill has anchored the Sugar Bell Center on West Franklin Street. Greg Romer opened the sports bar with the goal to offer quality food at a reasonable price that often beats his competitors. Romer's has a full lunch and dinner menu offering homemade food, daily lunch specials starting from \$4.99, and daily dinner specials. The restaurant also hosts live trivia every Tuesday and Thursday nights. Romer's is family friendly and often hosts community sports teams, parties, and special events. Romer's gives back to the community by supporting our local schools and hosting fundraisers.

Romer's Bar & Grill has received several local awards at the Kickin' Chicken Wing Fest held each summer at the Frazee Pavilion in Kettering. In 2013, they won the judge's prize for Best Wings and in 2015, they won the people's choice prize for Best Wings and Best Boneless Wings.

Location

4439 State Route 725
*In western Bellbrook
next to Drug Mart*

Hours

Mon. – Fri. 11 AM to 2:30 AM
Sat. – Sun. 12 PM to 2:30 AM

Phone

(937) 848-7676

Website

www.romersbar.com

