

City of Bellbrook Community Report

August 2013
Volume 19, Issue 2

A Publication of the City of Bellbrook



67th Bellbrook Lions Club Festival

Coming Home
August 15th – 17th, 2013

Come join the Bellbrook community as it celebrates the 67th Bellbrook Lions Club Festival in downtown Bellbrook on August 15th – 17th. The theme of this year's festival is "Coming Home." As always, there will be numerous activities for everyone. The festival is a family-friendly atmosphere and everyone is invited to come out and join the fun!

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

Lions Festival Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 15th

Open6:00 PM
Close11:00 PM

Friday, August 16th

Open6:00 PM
Close11:00 PM

Saturday, August 17th

Parade.....4:00 PM
Car Show..... Afternoon & Evening
Raffle Drawing Closing

Come to the Festival!

The Bellbrook Lions Club Festival will be held at the old 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 "Coming Home" with the parade Grand Marshal being among the oldest military veterans in the community. The parade Grand Marshal will be Jim Martin, World War II veteran. This is a great opportunity for community members to reconnect just before the start of school. 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.



The 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 trailers. The annual raffle will be a cash prize of \$10,000, so buy your tickets from a Bellbrook Lion for your chance at this prize. If you have not attended the Lions Festival before, please consider coming this year to support the Bellbrook Lions Club.

Winters Bellbrook Community Library



The library is committed to helping parents help their children with early literacy skills. Did you know? Early literacy begins with you! It's never too early or too late to help your child develop language and other early literacy skills.

Why is it important for children to get ready to read before they start school? Children who enter kindergarten with pre-reading skills have an advantage. They can focus on learning to read instead of learning essential pre-reading skills. Children who start kindergarten ready to read have greater success throughout their school years.*

You can help your child get ready to read with simple activities every day. Five of the best ways are: talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing.

The Library is an excellent resource to support you as your child's first teacher. You can find picture books, music, story times, and the expertise of your local librarian.

Check out our new books and lots of fun programs coming up this fall at www.greenelibrary.info. **Discover. Learn. Grow. At YOUR library!**

*Source: Public Library Association, Every Child Ready to Read and Ohio Ready to Read

Community News

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District

Calendar Photo Contest Grab a camera, get out in the parks and capture the beauty of our special community. The Park District will choose the top 12 photos for a "Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Parks 2014 Calendar." The calendar will be available at

the Community Center in November. The deadline to submit a photo is September 25th. For more information, contact Alison Jenks at (937) 848-3535 or email at ajenks@bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org.



Greene County Council on Aging

Escape the heat of the "Dog Days of Summer" by joining in the various activities offered at your air conditioned Bellbrook

Senior Center. On the first and third Monday of each month, the Center offers a craft class from 1 PM to 4 PM. Every Thursday from 1 PM to 4 PM, during the Center's open hours, you can play various games such as Mah Jong, Scrabble, or bring one of your own to share. Friday mornings at 10 AM, end your week with an hour of meditating and relaxation during the

Center's chair yoga class. The center is located at 3757 Upper Bellbrook Road in the Sugarcreek Education Services Building. For more information and a complete schedule of activities offered, contact Tim Brickey at (937) 376-5486 or tim.brickey@gcco.org. Your Bellbrook Senior Center, "a gathering place for those 50 years young and better!"



Bellbrook Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is working on updating the Community Directory. If you have a local business, please verify we have the correct address and phone number. New directories will be available in December. You can also find the directory, chamber events, and other information on their website at www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com. Remember, the Chamber offers numerous discounts and benefits, such as health and dental insurance for members. Coming soon are additional B2B local discounts. Visit the Chamber office located at 64 West Franklin Street, or call them at (937) 848-4930.

Bellbrook Garden Club

A big thanks goes out to all who attended the Bellbrook Garden Club's annual plant sale in May. It was a big success as they made over \$2,500. Proceeds from the sale allow them to support the community through scholarships for students attending Bellbrook Sugarcreek Schools and other community projects.

They continue to beautify the Old Village

area, museum, and library with planters and gardens. Members take turns caring and weeding these areas for your enjoyment.

Two of the Club's members won honors at the local Trinity Flower Show in the artistic category. Mary Lou Boudinot received a blue ribbon and Best of Show, while Carol McNabb won two second place red ribbons.

If you are interested in learning more about the Club, visit them at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org or contact Club President, Krista Miller, at bellbrookgardenclub@gmail.com. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The location varies depending on the activity.

Bellbrook Historical Museum

The past couple of months have been very exciting for the Museum! First, we have been able to increase the hours of operation to include being open on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM, in addition to our Saturday hours of 12 PM to 4 PM. Second, we have hired Janet Alison, our first curator, to add expertise to the museum experience. Janet will be available to help guide visitors through the Museum as well as assist in research and related activities. Third, the Museum has procured a substantial grant from the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Historical Society that will enable us to upgrade and enhance our lighting throughout the entire facility, including the Crowl Funeral Building. And last, but certainly not least, the Rotating Exhibit Room is proud to present a new exhibit, *Tools of the Trade*, a retrospective of the tools that shaped our lives in the late 19th century. Please join us for a pleasant and educational experience.



Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Are you new to the area and looking for ways for your daughter to meet new friends?

Girl Scouts is the nation’s premier leadership organization for girls. They help girls discover themselves, connect with others and take action in their communities.

Girl Scouts also offers adult volunteers many unique and rewarding opportunities to make an impact by working directly with girls or within an administrative position.

For more information, please contact Kim Conklin at (937) 279-6514 or email kimconklin@girlscoutsofwesternohio.org.



City News

City Council Updates

Charter Review Commission During the first half of 2013, 16 Bellbrook residents met at a series of public meetings as the Charter Review Commission. The purpose of the Commission was to review the City Charter and recommend changes to City Council. On June 10th, the Commission delivered their report to Council. The proposed changes can be found in the Recommended Revised Charter on the website. On July 22nd, Council decided to place these recommended changes on the ballot. Voters will be asked to cast their ballot on the changes in November. To view the recommended changes, visit our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Unpaid Water Bills Until May of this year, current property owners were responsible for unpaid water bills of previous owners. Council changed the water ordinance to place the responsibility on the owner of the property when the water was used.

Solicitation Ordinance In July, Council approved an updated Peddlers, Solicitors and Canvassers ordinance. This update is to keep the City’s regulations current with recent case law. See below for more information on the new solicitation regulations.

Annual Wage Increase Following Council approval in July, most City employees received a 2% wage increase effective August 1st. This wage increase was included in the 2013 budget. In addition to the wage increase, employee wage scales were also adjusted to remain consistent with other local governments.

Traffic and General Offenses Codes After a thorough review by the Police Department and the City Prosecutor, several sections of the traffic and general offenses codes were repealed by Council. The sections removed either duplicated existing State laws or were no longer needed.



Municipal and Zoning Code Highlights



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 Authorizes Contract with Greene Central for Dispatch Services

On June 17, 2013 City Council passed a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for dispatch services. This decision was made by Council after nearly 18 months of discussions, review, and deliberations. The Bellbrook dispatch operation has consistently provided excellent services to our residents for many years. However, with resources from the State of Ohio being reduced or eliminated (i.e. local government funds, estate taxes, etc.) and additional property taxes not approved by the electorate, the City made the difficult decision to cease local dispatch operations effective September 14, 2013.

The City has entered into an agreement with the City of Xenia to participate in their dispatch operations known as Greene Central. Sugarcreek Township has also entered into this agreement with Xenia. This cooperative effort will save both the City and Township considerable money over the coming years. In addition to Bellbrook, Sugarcreek and Xenia, Greene Central also provides dispatch services to the Greene County Sheriff's Department, several township fire departments and several village and university law enforcement agencies. Greene Central has been in operation since 1989.



The agreement calls for the City of Xenia, through its management of the Xenia/Greene Central Communications Center, to begin providing 9-1-1 call answering, public safety dispatch, and communications services in September. Xenia will expand its center and increase its active console stations from four to five to cover the added jurisdictions. Bellbrook and Sugarcreek will move to phase out their independent dispatch centers. Up to four dispatchers currently employed by Bellbrook and Sugarcreek will be eligible for administrative transfers to help fill the newly created positions within Xenia/Greene Central. Contract partners acknowledge the operational benefit of incorporating dispatchers with practical experience and knowledge of the new jurisdictions being served by Xenia's communications center.

The transition to Greene Central is scheduled to occur during the week of September 15th. **Resident's 9-1-1 and non-emergency telephone access will not be interrupted.** In case of an emergency, residents are strongly encouraged to **call 9-1-1**. For non-emergency matters, residents can still call (937) 848-8484 to speak with a dispatcher. During and after the transition, residents will likely hear different people when they call dispatch – please remember that these dispatchers are here to help you.

Finally, City Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated dispatchers that have worked for the City. The most difficult part of the decision making process was acknowledging that the City would be losing quality employees.

Please contact City Manager Mark Schlagheck at (937) 848-4666 or m.schlagheck@cityofbellbrook if you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Emergency Dispatch – Information to Know

- ◆ **Emergencies – CALL 9-1-1!**
- ◆ Non-Emergencies – Call **(937) 848-8484**. The dispatcher can take your information or direct your call to the proper place.
- ◆ Fire Department information or non-emergency matters – Call **(937) 848-3272** during business hours (calls will be answered if staff is available).
- ◆ Street/Water Issues (i.e. water main breaks, fallen trees across roadways, road hazards, etc.) - Call **(937) 848-8415** during business hours or **(937) 848-8484** after business hours.
- ◆ The Administration/Police Building at 15 East Franklin Street will be open during business hours. The building will not be accessible after normal business hours.

When You Call for the Paramedics

With the transition of dispatching services, our Bellbrook Fire & EMS will begin to provide medical information and pre-arrival instructions over the phone utilizing a concept known as Emergency Medical Dispatch or EMD.

The Greene Central Communications Center utilizes the highly recognized International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Priority Dispatch system. It is a system that uses key questions to quickly prioritize medical emergencies. The system allows dispatchers to give the caller instructions to assist sick or injured persons until help arrives. Dispatchers may give relatively simple instructions, for example, to control bleeding with direct pressure, or very advanced instruction such as the step-by-step procedure to administer CPR. The dispatcher who takes the initial call remains on the phone when pre-arrival instructions are necessary while another dispatcher will quickly and properly determine the nature and priority of the call and dispatches the appropriate response resources. Additional communications of any information the caller gives is forwarded to the Paramedics until the responding Emergency Medical Service equipment and personnel arrive.

Callers to 9-1-1 requiring medical assistance should remain patient and make every effort to answer the questions being asked by the dispatcher to ensure that proper assistance and resources are sent to their location.

The Fire Escape

Open House

The Bellbrook Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to invite the entire community to join us at our annual Bellbrook Fire Department Open House on Tuesday, October 8th, 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.



The Policeman's Badge

One Text Or Call Could Wreck It All Campaign

The Bellbrook Police Department has been participating in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *One Text Or Call Could Wreck It All* campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of distracted driving. The Police Department has been on the lookout for distracted drivers to help keep our city streets safe.

Police Crime Watch

Each week, the Police Department publishes a summary of activity and calls for service. This publication is entitled, "Crime Watch." The intent for publishing this information is to let residents know of the type of crime and issues that occur here in Bellbrook. To read these reports, go to the Police Department page on the website.

For more helpful information to keep you, your family, and neighborhoods safe, go to the Police Department page on the city's website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

The Works: Right-Of-Way

What is the Public Right-Of-Way?

The public right-of-way, also referred to as the R.O.W., is the land on which the streets are located, including land on both sides of the street. In most residential areas, the right-of-way extends 10 feet from the edge of the pavement.

Purpose of the Right-Of-Way

- ◆ Can be used for public improvements.
- ◆ Contains street signs, fire hydrants, storm sewers both underground and open ditch, sidewalks, and driveway approaches.
- ◆ May be used for public utilities such as water lines and sanitary sewer lines.
- ◆ Gives the City the ability to assure proper sight distance for both pedestrians and motorists.

Public Right-of-Way Maintenance

Property owners are required to maintain the public right-of-way along any road frontage. Maintenance includes lawn mowing, tree trimming, maintaining driveway approaches, and sidewalks.

- ◆ Do not plant bushes or trees close to the street.
- ◆ Do not install sprinkler systems in the right-of-way.
- ◆ Do not place electric pet fences in the right-of-way.
- ◆ Do not place a garage sale or for sale sign in the right-of-way.

Any work done in the right-of-way by a resident or contractor must be reported to the City. This ensures the work does not infringe on public safety or accessibility.

For questions or concerns please contact Dale Wilson, Service Department Director, at (937) 848-8415, or Eileen Minamy, Zoning Inspector, at (937) 848-8477.





The Works: Activities

Street Resurfacing

Each year, the city budgets for a selection of streets to be resurfaced. The streets on the list this year include: Moss Oak Trail, Vemco Drive, Regent Park Drive, and part of Beechwood Drive.

Hydrant Flushing: Week of October 7th

The Service Department will be flushing hydrants during the week of October 7 – 12. Flushing is done each year to inspect the hydrants and water system for proper operation. 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 Utilities office at (937) 848-4638.

Waste, Recycling & Yard Waste Disposal

Waste Collection Holidays Please note that trash collection will be delayed one day due to the Labor Day and Thanksgiving holidays. Trash collection will take place on Saturday, September 7th and Saturday, November 30th for those weeks.

City Recycling Program The City has a bi-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 Utilities 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 a pick-up with Rumpke at (800) 223-3960.

Yard Waste The City does not have a leaf or yard waste collection service. However, residents may use the Greene County central site located at 2145 Greene Way Blvd. in Xenia, which is open Monday through Thursday 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The site accepts leaves, grass and brush no longer than 4 feet and no more than 4 inches in diameter.

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

Utility E-Bills & Online Payments

City utility customers now have an easy way to sign up for email utility bills and to pay their bills online using a credit card or checking account (a processing fee will be added). For those of you who would like to use these options, you will have to register through the city's website at www.cityofbellbrook.org. Go to the Utilities page for more information.

The City also accepts payments through bill payment systems used by banks. This is a popular option now as many people pay their bills through their banks or credit unions.



Clerk of Council Retires

Clerk of Council, Jill Rosner, will be retiring from the City on July 23rd after many years of service to the City of Bellbrook and the City of Kettering. Overall, Jill has served 43 years in local government with the last 11 years in Bellbrook.

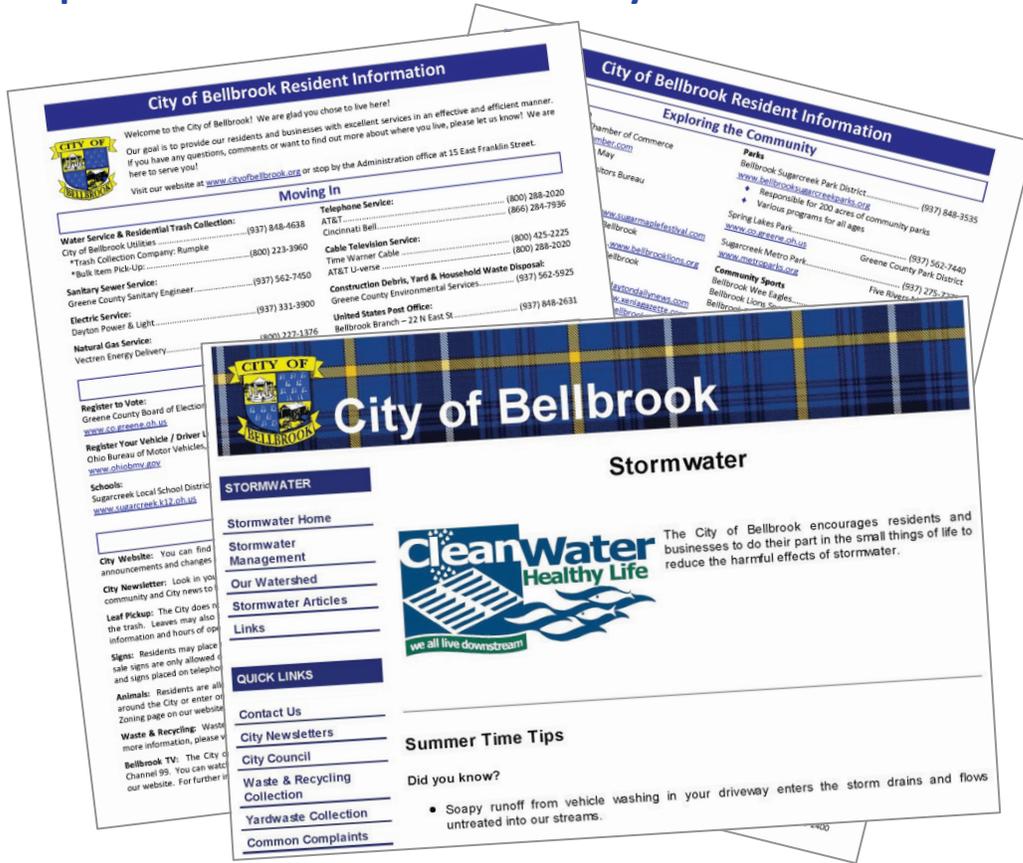
Jill worked 32 years for the City of Kettering moving from entry level work to managing the administrative support office. After retiring from Kettering, Jill did not feel as though she was done working and applied for the part-time Clerk position here in

Bellbrook. The Clerk provides administrative support for City Council preparing legislation, agendas, minutes, and other tasks.

Jill is involved in the Community Foundation for Kettering and the Executive Women's Golf Association. She plans to spend more time with her family and play more golf.

Jill's replacement will be Carrie Smith of Spring Valley Township. Carrie brings prior experience in local government.

Helpful Resident Information on City's Website



The City of Bellbrook provides helpful information to residents on the city's website and various mailings and brochures. On the website, you can go to the Resident section and find information on moving to the city, getting settled in, and exploring the community.

If you are a new resident, relatively new, or have never gone to the city's website, make sure you take a moment to explore the site. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the city and we will be more than happy to help you.

You can also find information regarding:

- ◆ City Services (Police, Fire, Public Works, and Zoning)
- ◆ Financial Documents and Information
- ◆ Employment Opportunities
- ◆ Local Links and Events
- ◆ Much more!

Take a moment and visit our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Environmental News

Household Hazardous Wastes



Household cleaners, pesticides, paints, solvents...When it comes to home toxics, it pays to think small.

Purchasing the jumbo size container might seem like a great way to save money, but home toxics carry a hidden cost: **proper storage and disposal**. Special care must be taken to protect you, your family and the environment from accidental poisoning and contamination.

Shop smart. Plan your projects out in advance. Purchase only the amount of product needed to get the job done. You won't end up having to store or dispose of unused toxics.

Did you know that many household products are dangerous to our kids, pets, and the environment?

These materials pollute our waterways if washed or dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, used motor oil, and other hazardous products need to be labeled, stored, and disposed of properly.

So what can you do? Simple.

- ◆ Be aware of household products that can harm children, pets, and the environment. Pay attention to words such as "warning" or "caution" on product labels.
- ◆ Reduce waste and save money by purchasing only the materials you need.
- ◆ Keep unused products in their original containers with labels.
- ◆ Never dump hazardous products down storm drains, roadside ditches, sinks, or on the ground.

Take household hazardous waste products to the Greene County Environmental Services collection day held the second Saturday of every month from 9 AM to 12 PM at 2415 Greene Way Blvd in Xenia. For more information, contact the Greene County Environmental Services office at (937) 562-5925.

City of Bellbrook Community Report

City of Bellbrook
15 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, OH 45305

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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

We're on the Web!
www.cityofbellbrook.org

City of Bellbrook Community Report

Articles of Interest

- ◆ **67th Bellbrook Lions Club Festival**
Information regarding activities to do and things to see at the festival
- ◆ **Community News**
Information on community organizations and events happening this fall
- ◆ **City News**
Information on what is happening at the City and services that we provide our residents
 - **City Council Updates**
 - **The Fire Escape**
 - **The Policeman's Badge**
 - **The Works**
- ◆ **Environmental News**

City Council

The Bellbrook City Council would like to invite 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

Bob Baird, Mayor
Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor
Denny Bennett
Jon Martin
Elaine Middlestetter
Joe Ritzel
Dona Seger-Lawson