Bellbrook

Community Events & Important Dates

August 5 — Bellbrook Police Department National Night Out

August 6—Bellbrook Fire Department "Touch-A-Truck" Event

August 19—20 — Bellbrook Lions Club 75th Annual SummerFest

September 5 — Labor Day (City Offices closed)

September 10 — Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Clean-Up Day

October 3-7 - Fire hydrant flushing

October 11 — Bellbrook Fire Department Open House

October 31 — Halloween & Trick-or-Treat

November 8 - Election Day

November 11 — Veterans Day (City Offices closed)

November 24 — Thanksgiving Day (City Offices closed)

November 25 — Day After Thanksgiving (City Offices closed)

Engage Bellbrook

The City has launched a resident engagement space to seek input from our community to better understand the needs and perceptions of our service to the community and identify areas for improvement. Surveys will become available on a variety of topics at engage.cityofbellbrook.org. Please visit the City's website and social media pages to stay informed on when surveys are available.

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

August 2022

Message from the Mayor



Greetings Bellbrook! I hope everyone has enjoyed some great times these past few months as we come into the final month of summer. This year's restart of the Sugar Maple Festival set records for attendance and activities while kicking off some good weather and all the great things Bellbrook has to offer. We are now looking forward to the annual Bellbrook Lion's Club "Summerfest" on August 19th and 20th to continue celebrating the organizations and people who make up this great community.

City Council has been working hard to listen to what the priorities of the community are, and we have started taking action on several important projects. For the past couple of years, we have focused on improving downtown, and our most recent action was to implement the Streetscape Study. We are excited to put the first improvement project to bid that will create safe crossings on Franklin Street and N. Main Street as well as some landscaping and streetscaping. The next priority identified is stormwater management, and the City has put to bid improvement projects to help eliminate past and potential future problems including culvert replacement/repair, and new storm drainage. The next project the City is currently working on is the installation of outdoor warning sirens with a bid for that project underway.

We are excited to continue bringing improvements to the City of Bellbrook with a focus on improving the quality of life for all of our residents. We have introduced several new tools on the City website to make sure we are engaged and responsive to the needs our residents identify. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to access our City website for the latest developments around town. As always, please continue to reach out and help shape the future of Bellbrook.

Community Improvement Grant Awarded



The City received a grant in the amount of \$75,000 in contribution to crosswalk and roadway improvements downtown. The overall project cost is estimated to be \$200,000, which the grant is substantially assisting with. The same grant was awarded

to help pay for the Streetscape Study in the amount of \$25,000.

It is with great support from the Greene County Board of Commissioners that we are able to fund not just a study for improvement to Downtown Bellbrook, but also fund the actual projects. The project is expected to be bid out late summer of 2022 with construction starting early spring of 2023.

Age-Friendly Community Grant Awarded

The City was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Del Mar Healthcare fund through the Dayton Foundation after receiving a recommendation by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Institute for Equitable and Livable Communities Steering Committee. The grant will be used for a Phase 1 assessment for the

AARP livable, age-friendly community multiyear planning effort. The City is registered in the AARP's program and ready for the next steps of this process. The next phase is a multi-year plan to improve downtown walkability, housing, recreation space, zoning code, and in-home aging.



City Council



City Council is the legislative and policy-making body of the city. The Council comprises a mayor and six council members elected at-large on a non-partisan 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 pm. For information about City Council, past meetings, and current issues, call (937) 848-4666 or visit the City Council page on our website (cityofbellbrook.org/page/council_home).

Meet Your City Council Members

- Mike Schweller, Mayor
- Forrest Greenwood, Deputy Mayor
- Elaine Middlestetter, Council Member
- T.J. Hoke, Council Member
- Ernie Havens, Council Member
- Brady Harding, Council Member
- Katherine Cyphers, Council Member



ARPA Funds Update

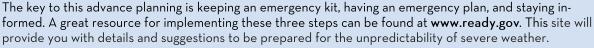
The City was awarded a total of \$769,292 from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). To ensure the use of these funds is transparent for City residents, we are providing an update on how some of the funds are being used:

- Stormwater/drainage improvement project on Lower Hillside Drive
- Drainage improvements in problem areas (to be identified and announced at a later date)
- Downtown streetscape projects on priority areas (walkability and safety)
- Outdoor tornado/emergency sirens (plans for project installation and completion in fall 2022)

Seasonal Information

Severe Weather

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and strong winds. Everyone needs to know what to do in the case of a weather emergency. In general, it is recommended that everyone be prepared to sustain themselves for a minimum of three days.





The Little Miami Watershed Network

Don't Wash Your Car in the Driveway

Is washing my car at home in the driveway bad for the environment? Yes! When you wash your car at home, all the stuff you want off your car (road muck, traces of exhaust residue, oily grit, gasoline) and the soap you use can run down your driveway, into the street, and then into the nearest storm drain. From there, it will go directly to the Little Miami River or one of her tributaries. Car residues contain heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and other chemicals that are toxic to aquatic wildlife. Even the soap you use can also be harmful to fish. It can break down the protective layers on their skin and gills; this impairs their breathing and makes them more susceptible to infections.



Is going to the carwash really any different? Yes! Commercial carwashes collect the water and treat/filter it so it can be reused. After multiple uses, it is sent to the sanitary sewer system to be treated, just as the water from your home is.

If you are going to wash your car yourself, follow these tips:

- Park your car on the grass or gravel so the water soaks into the ground.
- Use non-toxic, biodegradable soap, and use it sparingly
- Use an adjustable hose nozzle, so you use less water, and the hose is not constantly running.
- Rinse and wring sponges or cleaning rags into a bucket. Do not hose them down in the grass or on the driveway.
- Pour any excess soapy water down the drain in your house so it goes into the sanitary sewer system.

The Little Miami Watershed Network's vision: "A sustainable, high-quality Little Miami watershed for people and wildlife, now and in the future."

To learn more or get involved, go to www.lmwn.org or contact execdirector@lmwn.org.

Community

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist



Our Avenue of Flags continues to thrive. We now are placing over 500 flags in Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township on five holidays. If you would like a flag for Labor Day, Veterans Day, and the five holidays in 2023, go to our website bellbrooksugarcreekoptimist.org and sign up or get a subscription form at the BellHop Café. The cost for

Scan for more information!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER

the last two holidays in 2022 and all five in 2023 is \$65. Subscriptions should be received before August 22 to ensure you get your flags in time. In other news, our informal social gathering meets at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Sugarcreek Plaza on the first Wednesday of each month. We gather at 5:30 pm for fellowship and food. Our guest speakers have provided some local insights for our enjoyment. Everyone is welcome at the Wednesday Evening Optimist Gathering. For more information, call (937) 469-7644. Our monthly meetings on the third Thursday at noon continue at the BellHop Café.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center

We are here for you!

Services we offer Social Services assistance, weekly food pantry, support groups, life skills classes, household necessities, free community programs, school supplies, birthday & holiday gifts, and more!

Want to get involved?

- Monetary support
- Donate food, clothing, old cell phones, etc.
- Support special programs (Birthday Wishes, Holiday Gift Drive, school supplies)
- Help in the Community Garden
- Teach a class
- Assist with the food pantry and more!

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

It has been an exciting start to 2022 at The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce! We continue to grow and expand our networking opportunities to serve our local business community better. We meet the first Thursday of every month from 8:55 — 10:00 am at the Sugarcreek Township Administrative Building on Ferry Road – we would love to have you join us! In addition, we have started working on updated member directories that will be available in print and online. If you are not yet a member but would like to be included in the directory, you can join on our website at www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com.

Our 32nd Annual Golf Outing will take place at Sugar Valley Golf Club on August 11th. To register to play in the outing, visit our website – we would love to see you there! The Chamber is sponsoring a Holiday Craft Show on November 5th at Bellbrook High School. All items in this show must be hand-made, and booth space is still available. Contact us at 937-848-4930 for more information.

We want to congratulate the graduating class of 2022 and thank our Scholarship Sponsors! This year, the Chamber awarded four scholarships to BHS seniors pursuing a Degree in Business. Congratulations to: Lily Jones, Jenna King, Connor Peh, and Hunter Puterbaugh!

Winters-Bellbrook Library



Hello, I'm Joanna Sullivan, and I go by Miss Jo with the kiddos! After completing a master's in education at Wright State University, I worked with students of various grades in Montgomery and Clinton counties before beginning a career in youth services at the public library. Now I've had the pleasure of serving kids and their families for over ten years, and I'm excited to be Winters-Bellbrook Community Library's newest Youth Services Librarian! I know Miss Joanne is very missed, and I plan to follow in her footsteps

as I create wonderful experiences for kids and families to enjoy at the library and within our community.

In the future, you'll see a focus on family programming, including monthly Family Nights and Drop-in Crafts during the school year. Every so often, we'll host Family Game Nights and Movie Nights. For our elementary students, we will start a new STEAM-oriented program series called Elementary Explorers, and we'll revive our monthly book club for upper elementary grades! For our youngest patrons, we'll continue Wednesday morning storytimes, expanding to three different sessions, including baby storytime, toddler storytime, and preschool storytime. We will also aim to offer a sensory storytime and a Saturday storytime every so often, so be sure to keep an eye on our events calendar!

We are gearing up for more fun at Winters while we continue to read, discover, learn, and grow together!

Bellbrook Historical Museum

One week in May was dedicated to hosting the third-grade class from the Stephen Bell School.

Museum staff and volunteers designed a tour highlighting key points of Bellbrook's history and pointed out artifacts that appeal to kids. This annual event provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about Bellbrook's history.

Visit the Museum's rotating exhibit room. First, witness the extraordinary saga of Sleepy Tom, Bellbrook's world-recordholding <u>blind</u> trotting horse. Then, look closely at a collection of women's finery from the late 1800s and early 1900s, including hats, clothing, and shoes. A spe-



cial attraction comprises a unique collection of fans from all over the world. Did you know that the way you hold a fan conveys a different meaning? See the fans and learn the secret meanings.

The Museum makes history come alive. Guests enter the Museum and experience the past. Many share remembrances that the artifacts reveal. It may be that their grandmother used similar items displayed throughout the Museum, or they recall childhood experiences with the artifacts. A visit brings back so many wonderful memories.

Located at 42 North Main Street in Bellbrook, the Museum is



open Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm and Saturdays from 12 pm to 5 pm. Our front door is getting repaired, so please enter through the side door on Walnut Street. We look forward to visiting with our old friends and meeting new ones!

Community

Open Arms Health Clinic

BELLBROOK OPEN ARMS HEALTH CLINIC, providing FREE basic health care and treatment for individuals who are uninsured or under-insured. We are located at 4403 West Franklin/State Route 725, Suite E, and during various pop-up clinics around town.

We have several ongoing volunteer positions: office assistants (medical or non-medical), physician for Tuesday evening clinics, executive director (part-time, no summer monthly Board Meetings), and 1-2 event coordinators for occasional activities to match your skills and interests. If you or someone you know is interested, please leave a message at (937) 848-2939 or submit an inquiry through our website. All staff serve on a volunteer basis and work with a team of caring medical professionals, students from WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine, and generous community members. We are 100% self-funded and appreciate donations, large or small, by mail or online! Thanks to our neighbors and friends for your enthusiastic and loyal support for almost ten years! Please visit us at www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org and facebook.com/OAHCBellbrook.

Bellbrook Garden Club

Look out for invasive jumping earthworms degrading the soil's top layer. You can help limit the worms' spread that threatens gardens, forests, and lawns. The worms live in the top six inches of soil, eventually making it the texture of coffee grounds that cannot hold roots. Jumping worms displace beneficial earthworms, disrupt food chains and change soil chemistry. The worms resemble the nightcrawler, but they jerk quickly. While the nightcrawler has a reddish band nearer its center, the jumping worm has a whitish band around the body near one end.

To kill these worms, handpick and seal them in plastic bags, leave them in the hot sun, then put the bags in the trash. Besides digging, you can determine if you have these worms by pouring a mustard solution (1/3 cup dry mustard in one gallon of water) on the soil to bring them to the surface so you can bag them. You also can help control them by 1. working diatomaceous earth into the top six inches of soil; 2. covering the soil with plastic for at least three days at a time and letting the heat kill the worms and cocoons. Adult jumping worms die after the first freeze, but their cocoons survive and hatch after temperatures reach 50°F.

You can visit us at bellbrookgardenclub.org and contact us through bellbrookgardenclub@gmail.com.

BELLBROOK-SUGARCREEK COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

What: Teams will work together to:

- Clean up parks, City, and Township
- Support community members who need assistance with outdoor chores
- Learn recycling how-to's

Who: Everyone is invited for a morning of community clean-up

<u>Where:</u> Attendees will meet at the Community Support Center / Lions Festival parking lot (51 S. East Street, Bellbrook)

When: September 10, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

<u>Register:</u> by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera app





With any questions, please email info@bscsc.org or call (937) 848-3810

Police Department

Theft Prevention Tips

Summertime brings out fun times in the sun – but it also brings out people looking to take advantage of you. Every year, BPD sees the number of thefts from motor vehicles rise as the weather gets warmer. To help prevent the anguish of a theft from your car, truck, or RV, here are some simple tips to help keep you from being a target:

Keep your car doors and windows closed and locked. Close your sunroof. "...But they'll just break a window" – not true! The vast majority of thefts are from open and unlocked vehicles.

- Thieves don't want to be seen or heard, so breaking glass is very risky!
- If you have a car alarm, be sure to set it.
- Park your car in a secure and well-lit area. Thieves don't like to be seen!
- Most importantly remove valuables from your vehicle and make sure things you choose to leave in the vehicle are out of sight.

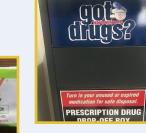
These tips can help keep your vehicle and belongings safe. Unfortunately, few precautionary measures are entirely fail-proof, and it's important to have a backup plan. A comprehensive *auto insurance policy* will ensure you will be compensated for your loss if theft occurs. Also, note that some homeowner policies do not cover thefts from vehicles if your vehicle is not physically parked on your property – such as on the street in front of your residence – check your specific policy to verify.

As always, if you observe something that doesn't look right, *it usually isn't!* Call BPD to report it at (937) 848-8484.



The Bellbrook Police Department now has a drug drop-box in the Police Department lobby. You can drop your unwanted or unused over-the-counter and prescription medications at this location for safe and secure disposal. As another option, the BPD also has a limited supply of Dispose-Rx packets, which is an at-home solution for unwanted medications which allows for safe disposal from your home.

The drug drop-box is available in the Police Department lobby of 15 East Franklin Street, 8:00 am through 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

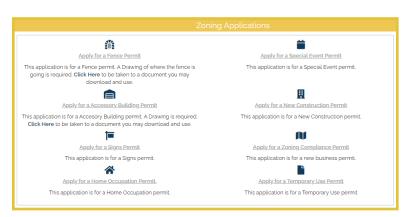


Planning & Zoning

New Online Permit Portal

The City has launched a new online portal for permits. This portal allows residents to apply online for fences, accessory buildings, special events, and other permits. Residents may also use this portal to submit property maintenance code violations to our Community Development Administrator.

Most permits have an associated fee, and the City accepts cash or checks for permit fees. Payments are accepted via mail, dropbox, or in person at 15 East Franklin Street. To access the portal, please visit our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org and click on the "Forms & Permits" icon. Please call (937) 848-4666 with any questions, concerns, or issues.



Do I Need a Permit for That?

Here is a list of common projects requiring a permit issued from the City to ensure safety and compliance with our zoning code: fence/wall, shed, addition, detached garage, deck, swimming pool (above & in-ground), permanent & temporary signs, remodeling, and driveways. When in doubt, always feel free to call the City at (937) 848-4666.

Forms









Fire Department

Your Bellbrook Fire Department

The Bellbrook Fire Department is a combination department with seven full-time employees and 13 part-time employees. The fire services provided to the citizens of Bellbrook have a Class 2 Public Protection Classification (PPS), placing the community in the top 3 percent of those evaluated throughout the nation. The department operates two engines, one ladder truck, three ambulances, and three staff/support vehicles. They also have 11 paramedics, 9 Emergency Medicals Technicians, and one medical director.



Fire Prevention Week



Join NFPA® in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW). This year's FPW campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape™", works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on an early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

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 11, from 6 pm to 8 pm. This collaborative event will be held at Bellbrook Fire Station #2, 4254 West Franklin Street. The whole family is encouraged to visit our 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 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.



Open Burning

The summer is a popular time to cook out with friends and family. The Fire Department has the following regulations to follow when having an outdoor fire:

- The only material that can be burned is clean, dry wood as a fuel source.
- No yard waste, rubbish materials, or prohibited materials (defined by the Ohio Administrative Code) may be burned at any time
- If the fire is contained in an approved container, such as an outdoor fireplace, barbecue pit, etc., the fire must be at least 15 feet from a structure or combustible materials.
- For an open fire not contained, the fire must be at least 20 feet from a structure, wood fence, neighboring structure, or combustible materials. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 20 feet of the fire must be eliminated prior to the ignition of a fire.
- The fire must be attended to while burning and must be extinguished if it is not attended to.
- A portable fire extinguisher, garden hose, bucket of sand, or other suitable means for extinguishing the fire must be provided.
- The fire must not create an offensive or objectionable condition that interferes with the neighboring residents use and enjoyment of their property. If this occurs, the Fire Department is required to request the person responsible for the fire to extinguish the fire or extinguish it itself. The Fire Department is required to extinguish fires that create hazardous or nuisance conditions.



The most common complaint from neighbors is when recreational fires are not conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations or when the environmental conditions cause the smoke to migrate off the property into the residence of a neighboring property. Persons with chronic breathing problems can be affected by these conditions. We do not like to disrupt anyone's fun; however, we do have to follow the law.

If the Fire Department requests that you extinguish your fire due to non-compliance with the rules and regulations, or the fire causes an offensive or objectionable condition, you are bound by Ohio law to comply with the request. Failure to do so may result in you being charged with a violation of the open burning regulations.

If you have any questions concerning the Ohio Open Burning Regulations, please contact the Bellbrook Fire Department at (937) 848-3272.

Service Department



About the Service Department

The Service Department operates and maintains the water system serving the city and part of Sugarcreek Township. Currently, the city has one employee with a Class 2 Operator's License and five employees with a Class 1 Operator's License. The Ohio EPA requires the city to have a minimum of one employee with a Class 1 Operator's License. The water system serves over 9,200 people in the City and Township. The department also maintains city streets, storm sewers, and city buildings.

Hydrant Flushing

The annual fire hydrant flushing will occur the week of October 3 through October 7 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm daily.

Fire hydrant flushing is necessary for the general maintenance of the City's water system. It is also important to check the hydrants and make sure that they are working properly in case of an emergency.

Please avoid doing laundry during this time. If discoloration of laundry occurs, a special detergent is available from the City. If you use a water softener, please set it to "by-pass" during this week. Water may appear "rusty" during the process but will return to normal when the process is complete. Please call (937) 848-4638 with any questions or concerns.



Creek Maintenance

Bellbrook is home to many beautiful creeks and streams. It is vital that individuals do not dump anything into the creek. Dumping into the creek can harm creek health and the surrounding environment. This includes green waste (leaves, sticks, lawn clippings), trash & debris, animal waste, chemicals, or other materials that do not naturally occur in the creeks.

Please dispose of yard waste and other waste materials in garbage bags and place them with your regular garbage. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the City at (937) 848-4666.

2021 Water Quality Report



The 2021 Water Quality Report is available for residents on our website at www.tinyurl.com/bellbrookwater. For more information, contact the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638 or visit the Utility Billing page on our website.

Storm Drain Dumping & Stream Pollution

To report an illegal discharge, call the Bellbrook Service Department at (937) 848-8415 Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. After hours, call (937) 848-8484. Storm drains are designed to handle



stormwater runoff **only** and do not provide treatment to water or other substances that enter the system. The Bellbrook Service Department manages the storm drain system in the city. Public education and participation in reporting sightings or evidence of suspicious substances being dumped down a storm drain or directly into our local creeks are an important part of preventing water pollution. Odors, unnatural colors, or dead fish are signs that something harmful has entered the water.

As part of our Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program, we ask citizens who suspect that they have witnessed illegal dumping into a storm drain or water pollution to contact the Bellbrook Service Department at the numbers above. If you are not sure whether an illegal discharge has occurred, please report it, and we will determine whether action is required to protect the water supply and the environment.

What are some examples of illicit discharges?

- "Gray water" such as laundry, shower, or kitchen wastewater
- Paints, solvents, cleaning products, and other toxic household substances
- Gasoline, motor oil, brake fluid, engine coolant (antifreeze), and other toxic automotive products
- Septic tank pump-out and other types of human or animal waste.
- Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other agricultural products
- Leaves, grass clippings, or yard waste of any kind

KEEP CREEKS CLEAN AND STORM DRAINS CLEAR



15 E. Franklin Street Bellbrook, OH 45305

City Council

Mayor Mike Schweller m.schweller@cityofbellbrook.org

Deputy Mayor Forrest Greenwood f.greenwood@cityofbellbrook.org

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Brady Harding b.harding@cityofbellbrook.org

Katherine Cyphers k.cyphers@cityofbellbrook.org

Departments

Administration	(937) 848-4666
City Manager	(937) 848-4666
Community	
Development	(937) 848-4666
Police	(937) 848 3252
Fire	(937) 848-3272
Service	(937) 848-8415
	(937) 848-4638

www.cityofbellbrook.org



www.facebook.com/ BellbrookCity



www.twitter.com/ BellbrookOhio



Spectrum - 99.2 U-Verse - 99

Utility Billing

If you have questions or concerns regarding your water/trash utility bill, please feel free to call the Utility Billing Office at (937) 848-4638, or visit our website for more information at cityofbellbrook.org/page/utilities_online_payments.



The Utility Billing Office is also open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am—4:30 pm. The Office is located on the second floor of the City building at 15 East Franklin Street. Feel free to visit!