

Bellbrook

Community Events & Important Dates

December 10 – Christmas in the Park (Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District)

December 23 – Christmas Eve Observance (City Offices closed)

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 26 – Christmas Day Observance (City Offices closed)

December 31 – New Year's Eve

January 1, 2023 – New Year's Day

January 2, 2023 – New Year's Day Observance (City Offices closed)

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

December 2022

Message from the Mayor



Season's Greetings to the Bellbrook Community. It seems four seasons have flown by again and as we enter the holidays, it is a time to give thanks and celebrate the past year. During this time, we have recently honored our Veterans in the community and we continue to be thankful for their service. We also thank those currently serving in the military, their families, and their sacrifices which provide the freedoms we have in our Country. While this past year has posed many challenges, I hope everyone had an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the good things in their lives that have occurred.

As I reflect on the past year, I am forever thankful for the community engagement of our Bellbrook residents. During the past year, we have seen great events, activities, and actions that have strengthened Bellbrook. In addition, the City government has listened to priorities and developed projects now underway to improve the quality of life in Bellbrook. With the input of residents, we are at exciting times, pulling together great projects and goals that continue to shape and improve our community. We have welcomed many new businesses and will continue to provide for the needs of Bellbrook. Whether it is improvements in infrastructure, livability, safety, or quality of life, I am excited to see so many things on the agenda going into next year.

I am honored to serve as your Mayor and to continue working with our citizens. I remain committed to making myself available to anyone who wants to help keep Bellbrook the great community that it is. Finally, I want to personally wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Trash Collection Rate Increase for City Residents



Effective January 1, 2023, trash collection rates will increase by \$6.00 per month for City residents (\$21.50 per month, \$64.50 per quarter). This change comes as part of increased costs in the City's renewed agreement with

Rumpke. There will be no changes in routes, service day, recycling, container rentals, or level of service (unlimited); however, Rumpke defines "unlimited" trash as six containers or bags. If you have more than this amount or a larger item, please call Rumpke to schedule a bulk pick-up. For questions or concerns, please contact the City of Bellbrook Utility Billing Office at (937) 848-4638.

Bellbrook Museum Restoration



In mid-August, work began on the Bellbrook Museum to complete necessary repairs and other improvements.

While the work was being done, it was discovered that the building is an original log cabin, which holds significant historical value to the community. The project now includes restoring the building as a log cabin similar to its original condition. Project completion is estimated to be within the first quarter of 2023. The Bellbrook Museum invites everyone to stop by and visit! For more information, please call (937) 848-4666 or go to www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Outdoor Warning System (OWS)

The City of Bellbrook accepted proposals for the installation of an outdoor warning system in August 2022 and it was installed in November 2022. The system is called Sentry Siren, and it is an omnidirectional siren equipped with radio control and AC/DC battery backup. The Sentry Siren is activated by the National Weather Service's Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN), which uses real-time weather data published by EMWIN, along with state-of-the-art HD weather radar. Activation by the National Weather Service will be issued using the polygon shape model, which is intended to warn only the locations and people inside the polygon of impending severe weather. When a tornado warning is issued, the sirens activate the system and send out emails and text messages, and make social media posts with important weather updates. Based on FEMA's guidelines for covering atmospheric attenuation, it was recommended that Bellbrook have two warning devices for coverage of the entire City. The first location is behind Fire Station 22, on the corner of West Franklin Street and North Linda Drive and the second location is at the water towers on Ridgeway Road near North Main Street.



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 at cityofbellbrook.org/page/council_home.

October 16–22 Declared Stormwater Awareness Week

Mayor Mike Schweller and City Council presented a proclamation declaring the week of October 16 through 22 as Stormwater Awareness Week. The week brings a call to action to "Be the Change for Clean Water", urging everyone to be mindful of steps they can take to make sure our waterways are clean, preserved, and protected. During Stormwater Awareness Week, Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Ohio are urging residents to take one or more of the following actions:



- Check the weather report before applying fertilizer to your lawn or any oil/chemicals to driveways and sidewalks.
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood or local park.
- Make sure lawns have 3-4 inches of topsoil under the grass to reduce runoff.
- Plant native plants that have deep roots.
- Plant a tree in your yard or install a rain garden.
- Never allow anything but rain down the drain.

For more information, visit ohiostormwaterweek.org.

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*



October 13 Declared Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day

On October 10, Mayor Schweller and City Council presented a proclamation declaring October 13 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day to help raise awareness, provide support for treatment, and find a cure. One in eight women in the US develops breast cancer in her lifetime, and while metastatic breast cancer remains incurable, extensive research efforts are underway to develop effective treatments. As a community, we can push for critical research and advanced treatments.



Employee Recognition

At the October 24 City Council Meeting, eight employees were recognized for reaching milestone years of service with the City. The City is grateful for all of our employees and volunteers who work to provide excellent services to our residents and businesses. The City provides police, fire, street, water, and other services. Thank you to each of these employees for their hard work and dedication!

Stephen Carmin, Police Department – 30 years of service

Gregg Nartker, Fire Department – 30 years of service

Tony Vetter, Police Department – 25 years of service

Tony Ruble, Police Department – 20 years of service

Louis Schatzberg, Administration Department – 20 years of service

Mark Burns, Police Department – 15 years of service

Alex Fabrick, Service Department – 10 years of service

Melissa Jones, Administration Department – 5 years of service

Community



The City of Bellbrook wishes our community a safe & happy holiday season!

Winters-Bellbrook Library

Exciting news! The Winters-Bellbrook Library is now circulating Roku Streaming Sticks! If you're new to these, a Roku is a streaming device that allows you to try out some popular streaming services such as Disney+, Hulu, and Netflix, and maybe binge your favorites. You can find these now at every Greene County Public Library location, but they will be popular! You can place a hold on them at greenelibrary.info, or give us a call and we can help you with a request. This new service is for all patrons 18+ with Wi-Fi and a TV with an HDMI port.



Borrow & Binge

Watch your favorite shows on [prime video](#), [NETFLIX](#), [hulu](#), [Disney+](#), and more by checking out a Roku Streaming Stick today!

What you'll need:

- ✓ A Greene County Public Library Card
- ✓ Wi-Fi at home
- ✓ A TV with an HDMI port at home

Available only for ages 18+.
Loans are for a three-week period.



Also, you are cordially invited to join us on December 15th at 7 pm at the Bellbrook Presbyterian Church on Franklin Street for our annual holiday concert. Beaver Creek Brass will present holiday songs both familiar and lesser-known, along with interesting stories behind them. Everyone is welcome to attend. Join us for some holiday fun!

We hope that the Winters Library will help you get over the hump of the holidays or the rising costs of goods and services. We have loads of fun things in our collections for you to try, as well as programs for all ages that will entertain and delight.

Bellbrook Lions Club

BELLBROOK SHARK TANK



We Serve



Sponsored by
Bellbrook Lions Club

The Bellbrook Lion's Club wants to help fund and foster-to-success citizen ideas for making our community more beautiful and enjoyable for our residents. Therefore, this is a formal call for your ideas and enthusiasm. We want to help your dreams for our community become a reality. Just like the famous TV show SHARK TANK, we want to hear about your idea, and we want to get behind you to help make it happen. So, whether you are 5 or 105 years old please reach out to us quickly and share your idea. No idea is too small or too large.

We will accept formal and informal ideas and proposals via email to ernie.havens@gmail.com or gasparks@aol.com from now through January 2023. In early February, we will select proposals that we believe have the best chance of success and we will hold our own private episode of Bellbrook Shark Tank at the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning February 25. At this event we want you to pitch your idea to the members of the Bellbrook Lions Club Community Improvement Committee just like the entrepreneurs do on Shark Tank.

All ideas are welcome and will be given serious consideration. Ideas may include one-time events, park ideas or amenities, or even big ideas like one we heard recently called Fly Bellbrook which involved a zip line ride over Main Street from the high school to Ferry Road.

Sugarcreek Cares



Sugarcreek Cares, a 501c3 dedicated to making our community more inclusive, is pleased to announce its inaugural Black History Month Video and Art Contest. Students in grades 6-12, who live in Bellbrook-Sugarcreek, can submit a video (up to 5 minutes)

or visual artwork that celebrates prominent figures or events in African American history.

Submissions will be judged on: persuasiveness, clarity, creativity, and historical significance. Students can earn \$100, \$50, or \$25, with a total of \$700 in prize money, across 2 age groups and 2 categories. Submissions will be judged by a panel with representatives from Sugarcreek Cares, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, the City of Bellbrook, Sugarcreek Township, and local businesses, including Key Bank and Edward Jones. The submission deadline is February 5, 2023. Contest guidelines and submission link: www.sugarcreekcares.org/contest



Community

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center

The first-ever “Evening of Opportunity” Gala will be hosted by the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center (BSCSC) on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Sugar Valley Golf Club, 1250 Mead Road, in Bellbrook. Attire is “black-tie optional.”

The Gala will start with a cocktail hour from 6 pm - 7 pm, followed by dinner and dancing. There will be live music, a photo booth, auctions, and other fun opportunities to make the evening memorable while helping to support the Center. You will also hear directly from the clients your donations are supporting. Client sponsorship opportunities are available, so don't miss out on giving a client the opportunity for an evening to remember! Individual tickets start at \$130, and celebrants can also choose to host a table, champagne toast, and more. Reservations are now available at www.bsccsc.org

Since 2000, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center (BSCSC) has been providing support and essential needs to our local community. The BSCSC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to 'bridge the gap' for members of the community by offering support in ways that meet the unique needs of each individual. The Center's goals are to meet immediate needs by providing food, household items, and emergency clothing while working with clients over the long term to help build skills and utilize resources that will enable them to reach their goals.



Contact Information:
Jenn LeClaire, Event Coordinator
937-848-3810, jenn@bsccsc.org
51 S East St, Bellbrook, OH 45305

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Optimist Club



The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club supports community youth programs to encourage children to be good citizens. We are looking to grow our membership and encourage anyone interested in making a difference in a child's life should consider joining. We partner with many local organizations, like Bellbrook Schools, Community Support Center, Bellbrook-Winters Library, and local park districts.

The Optimist Club meets the third Thursday of each month at noon at the BellHop Cafe. And, the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Buffalo Wild Wings. Please join us.

www.bellbrooksugarcreekooptimist.com

Open Arms Health Clinic



Everyone is invited to our Christmas Open House on December 10th at the address above, 12:30 pm–2 pm. Enjoy refreshments and meeting volunteers and students who provide FREE care to those who are uninsured or under-insured. We offer non-urgent, free basic interim care including long-COVID guidance and treatment of several acute and chronic illnesses. We are not an emergency department.

Moving into our 10th year, Wright State Boonshoft Medical Students continue to assist in a variety of roles. There is also a need for experienced medical volunteers (flexible Tuesday evenings) and a part-time volunteer Executive Director (only nine meetings annually on third Thursdays of the month); in addition, there are open seats for a Community Representative and other Board Members, to serve with our new President of the Board, Amy Stone. We also offer other opportunities for those who enjoy planning and setting up events, doing your choice of fundraising activities, gathering/ordering supplies, or helping with recruiting and outreach by sharing our brochures. Thanks for everyone's efforts to keep our community healthy and happy as the winter and holiday seasons greet us! Please call (937) 848-2939 or stop by at 4403 West Franklin Street (Suite E).

The Little Miami Watershed Network

The trees have lost their leaves, temperatures are dropping, and the days are getting shorter. Winter is coming! Soon the weather forecasters will start talking about snow and ice, so it's time to get out your winter coats, snow shovels, and for many homeowners, road salt. Salt and other chemical deicers help melt the ice and allow us to get to work and the other places we need to go. Unfortunately, when road salt breaks down in the water to Sodium (Na) and chloride (Cl) and becomes a source of chloride contamination in our lakes and streams. Both water quality and aquatic life are adversely affected by chloride contamination. Thus, salt and other deicing products (which all contain chloride) should be used sparingly and only in certain conditions.

Here are a few ways to reduce your salt use.

Be prepared:

- Redirect downspouts away from sidewalks and driveways.
- Make sure you have the right tools. Inspect your current shovels and scrapers. It may be time to head to the hardware store to buy new ones.

Remove the snow:

- Shovel throughout the snowstorm, and go out early before the snow starts to pile up.
- Don't let the snow pile up and become compacted.
- Scrape any compacted snow or ice.

Check the temperature:

- Salt doesn't work below certain temperatures. Check the product instructions to determine if the salt will work.
- If it is too cold, you can use sand to add traction. Clean up any extra sand and dispose of it properly.
- Salt is unnecessary if it is a warm day and the ice is starting to melt on its own.

Apply salt:

- When the storm is over, and the snow has been removed.
- Only to areas covered with ice.
- In the correct quantity. Check the instructions, using more salt doesn't make it work better or faster.



Source: www.franklinswcd.org/be-smart

Police Department

TikTok Auto Theft Trend

There has been an increase in KIA and Hyundai auto thefts over the last few months. While not an epidemic in our area, these thefts have crept their way into Bellbrook and Sugarcreek - if you own a KIA or Hyundai, you want to be aware! The ease of theft is due to these vehicles not having an ignition immobilizer when the ignition key or key fob is not present. To help combat this trend BPD, as well as the manufacturer recommends one (or more!) of the following:

- Use of a steering wheel lock device ("the Club")
- Seek professional installation of a car alarm or kill switch
- Always lock windows and doors
- Park in a well-lit or secured location
- Install a GPS tracking device



Scams Abound During & After the Pandemic

One of the fastest-growing calls that BPD investigates is the FRAUD complaint. Many types of fraud exist - these are some of the more common ones that BPD investigates:

The "Phishing" scam - You receive an email or text message that appears to be from a well-known source (bank, mortgage company, etc.) and the message asks you to divulge your personal information: SSN, birthdate, account or password information. Don't do it! Financial institutions will never ask for your account or password information.

The "Lotto" scam - You receive a letter, text, or email informing you that you've won a lottery or prize in a foreign country. You are told the winnings will be released to you after a "fee or tax" is collected. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is! - Don't fall for this ploy.

The "IRS" scam - You receive a telephone call from the "IRS" threatening arrest by local police if you do not immediately pay a fee or fine on "past due taxes" - Don't fall for it! - The IRS will never telephone you directly to demand a resolution on a tax issue.

There are many, many other scams that BPD has investigated. Protect yourself by being aware of what scams are common. For more information, go to the Federal Trade Commission website at www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/identity-theft.



Rumpke Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

For City residents, the regular Friday collection will be delayed one day (Saturday) during the week of major holidays if they fall on a weekday. The regular schedule will resume the following week.

2022

Christmas Day - collection on Friday, December 30 (no change)

New Year's Day 2022 into 2023 - collection on Friday, January 6 (no change)



2023

Memorial Day - collection on Saturday, June 3

Independence Day - collection on Saturday, July 8

Labor Day - collection on Saturday, September 9

Thanksgiving Day - collection on Saturday, November 25

Christmas Day - collection on Saturday, December 30

New Year's Day 2023 into 2024 - collection on Saturday, January 6 (1/6/2024)



Here are Rumpke's guidelines on holiday pick-up schedules:

- If the holiday is the day of or a weekday before your service day: Service will be delayed one day that week
- If the holiday is on a weekday after your service day or Saturday/Sunday: Service will remain as scheduled

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 Medical Technicians, and one medical director.



The Bellbrook Fire Department wants to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season!

Winter Holiday Fire Facts

- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in almost half of the home Christmas tree fires.
- Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires were started by decorative lights. Candles started eight percent.
- Roughly two of every five home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.
- Year-round, more than one-third (35 percent) of home decoration fires were started by candles. This jumped to almost half in December when candles started 45 percent of such fires. Cooking started one-fifth (19%) of decoration fires.



Christmas Tree & Decoration Fires

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

Did you know? More than **1 in every 5** Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.

As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.

Carefully decorating your home can help make your holidays safer. Between 2015-2019, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 790 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees. For more information on holiday fires and how you can prevent them, please visit nfpa.org.

Source: NFPA's Applied Research

Can Santa Find You?



Every second counts during a fire, police, or medical emergency. Valuable time can be lost if your house number is not clearly posted where emergency responders can see it. Police officers, firefighters, and EMS responders can't provide lifesaving services to you and your family if they cannot find your house. The Bellbrook Fire Department is offering to provide you with a highly visible sign for responders to locate your residence in a timelier manner, potentially saving time...and lives!

The signs are made of aluminum with a reflective color backing and 3" reflective white numbers on both sides. They are 6" wide and 18" tall. They are designed to be installed on a mailbox post for the greatest visibility from the street. For information on how to order your address sign, call the 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.

Snow Removal

'Tis the season of snowfall! Please remember to:

- Move your cars off the street
- Do not plow, blow, or throw snow back into the roadway
- Do not allow children to make snow forts near the edge of the road
- Remain off the road during snow and ice storms unless travel is necessary
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously



The Bellbrook Service Department works hard to keep roads open for safe travel while conserving salt when possible. Each snow and ice event is evaluated independently, and the appropriate treatment will be applied. Please contact the city if you have any questions or concerns. We thank you for your understanding!

Christmas Tree Disposal

Rumpke will pick up trees during the month of January. Please note that trees over six feet in length must be cut and bundled.

Assistance Organizations

Below are several organizations that may be able to assist with utility bills and other needs during the holiday season.

- Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center: (937) 848-3810
- Greene County Job & Family Services: (937) 562-6000
- Community Action Partnership: (937) 376-7747
- United Way: (937) 225-3001
- St. Brigid Parish: (937) 372-3193
- Home Energy Assistance Program: 1-800-686-1557

2022 Paving Program



Street paving for 2022 has been completed. The streets in this year's program included Shore Drive, Knob Hill Drive, West Sudbury Court, Callaway Court, N. Sheffield Drive, N. Linda Drive, Sugarcreek Drive, and Knoll Drive.

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 storm-

water 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



"Small town friendly"

Bellbrook

15 E. Franklin Street
Bellbrook, OH 45305

City Council

Mayor Mike Schweller
m.schweller@cityofbellbrook.org

Deputy Mayor Forrest Greenwood
f.greenwood@cityofbellbrook.org

Elaine Middlestetter
e.middlestetter@cityofbellbrook.org

T.J. Hoke
t.hoke@cityofbellbrook.org

Ernie Havens
e.havens@cityofbellbrook.org

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
Utility Billing.....(937) 848-4638

www.cityofbellbrook.org



www.facebook.com/BellbrookCity



www.twitter.com/BellbrookOhio



Spectrum - 99.2
U-Verse - 99



Reasons to "Shop Small" this Holiday Season

Now more than ever, small businesses need your support. With the holiday shopping season upon us, here are reasons why you should consider Bellbrook small businesses:

- It keeps money in your community
- It creates & preserves a strong sense of community
- It lowers your carbon footprint
- It keeps local businesses thriving
- It helps real people - who you may know personally - do what they do better
- You'll feel good doing it!