

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

April 2015
Volume 21, Issue 1

A Publication of the City of Bellbrook

37th Sugar Maple Festival

Oh the Places You'll Go!

April 24 – 26, 2015



Come join the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community as it celebrates the 37th Annual Sugar Maple Festival in downtown Bellbrook from April 24 to 26. The theme of this year's festival is "Oh the Places You'll Go!" honoring the works of Dr. Seuss. As always, there will be numerous activities for everyone. Entertainment includes live music, a parade, children's activities, crafts and food vendors. Other activities include a 5K run and a dog show. Come be a part of the fun!

For more information, visit the festival website at www.sugarmaplefestival.com

Event Schedule

Friday, April 24

Main Street Closure 10 am
Franklin Street Closure..... 5 pm
Dog Show Registration..... 6 pm
Dog Show 6:30 pm
Food Vendors..... 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, April 25

Pancake Breakfast..... 8 - 11 am
5K Registration..... 8 am
5K Run Start 9 am
National Anthem..... 11:30 am
Parade Start 11:30 am
Entertainment..... 12 - 7 pm
Children's Activities..... 12 - 6 pm
* Craft and Food Vendors open 10 am - 7 pm
** Entertainment open 12 - 7 pm

Sunday, April 26

Children's Activities..... 12 - 4 pm
* Craft and Food Vendors open 11 am - 5 pm
** Entertainment open 12 - 5 pm

Entertainment Schedule

Saturday, April 25

National Anthem to be sung from Reviewing Stand prior to parade – 11:30 am

Bellbrook Park

Bellbrook Jazz Band 1:30 pm
Todd the Fox..... 2:45 pm
The Measures 5:15 pm

Sugarcreek Township Fire Department

Bellbrook Dance Academy..... 12:30 pm
Fire Department Auto Extrication 2 pm

Sunday, April 26

Bellbrook Park

Chris Katros..... 12 pm
Sweet Heart Event 1:30 pm
Danny Vorhis 3:30 pm

Sugarcreek Township Fire Department

Fire Department Auto Extrication 2 pm

Annual 5K Race



The Annual 5K Race will be held April 25 with a start time of 9 am. Registration will take place at 8 am at the former school building located at 51 South East Street.

The race takes place on Washington Mill Road. This is an Ohio River Road Runners Club event. For more information please visit www.orrrc.org.

Festival Commemorative Plates

The 2015 Sugar Maple Festival Commemorative Plate was designed by Chris Bottenmiller. **This will be the last year the commemorative plates will be sold.**

The Commemorative Plates will go on sale Monday, April 20, at Dot's Market. They will continue to be sold at Dot's Market during the festival and the week following. Dot's Market is located at 118 West Franklin Street (State Route 725) in Bellbrook. During the festival, the plates can be purchased at the Sugar Maple Festival tent in Bellbrook Park. The 2015 plates will be sold for \$17. Previous festival plates can be

purchased at a discounted price of \$8 (limited years and quantities available).

To purchase one of these Commemorative Plates, please contact Holly Levine at hollyx2jib@hotmail.com.



37th Sugar Maple Festival: April 24 – 26, 2015

School & Children's Activities

School Sugar Maple Festival school activities chair, Teresa Paul, will be meeting with students at Stephen Bell Elementary during their library time the week of April 20 to share how maple syrup is made. Each student will have the opportunity to taste some real maple syrup donated by Bline Farms. Maple cookies will be provided for all students at Stephen Bell, Bell Creek Intermediate, Sugarcreek Education Center and Happy Child Preschool.

Food

Vendors The Sugar Maple Festival will once again offer a wide variety of food for festival-goers. Come hungry to the festival because every type of festival food favorites will be offered along Main Street.

Pancake Breakfast The annual "all you can eat" pancake breakfast will be held Saturday, April 25 at the Bellbrook United Methodist Church from 8 am – 11 am. Costs are \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

Syrup Maple Syrup will be available for purchase in Bellbrook Park. Syrup prices: 32 oz. (\$20), 16 oz. (\$12), 12 oz. (\$10) and 8 oz. (\$8). Bline Farms in Clark County produces the syrup. Farm owner, Jeff Bline, will give a presentation about maple syrup for children at 1 PM on both Saturday and Sunday of the festival.

Festival Activities

Recycle Sculpture Contest Help the festival spread the word about recycling and discarding less waste by using your imagination and creating a unique sculpture out of recycled materials! Sculptures will be displayed during the festival weekend from Friday to Sunday. For more information on the contest, visit the festival website.

Crafts The Sugar Maple Festival will once again offer an assortment of local and regional arts and craft vendors.

Come Explore at the Festival...

The Bellbrook Historical Museum Trustees will again showcase the Bellbrook Historical Museum. Look for new exhibits and interesting presenters as you tour the museum with docents from the museum. A rotating exhibit will feature their exhibit on the Dille time capsule. Their booth will be selling Sugar Maple cookies, history books, updated disks, prints of some of our historic buildings and much more.

Mini-Sweetheart Contest Girls age 3 to 7 years old wearing a princess dress can join the Sweetheart and Junior Sweethearts in a parade at Bellbrook Park on April 26 at 1:30 pm. All participants receive a prize.

Children The festival offers multiple FREE activities for children of all ages. Visit the game tent in Bellbrook Park.

Saturday, April 25

- ◆ **12 – 6 pm** Face tattoos, hair painting and carnival games
- ◆ **2 pm** Hula Hoop Contest
- ◆ **4 pm** Jump Rope Contest

Sunday, April 26

- ◆ **12 – 4 pm** Face tattoos, hair painting and carnival games



Approximately 75 booths will line the streets. For more information, contact Pam Ryan at (937) 848-9588 or pryan@woh.rr.com.

Dog Show The annual show will be Friday, April 24. Registration is at 6 pm behind the old school building at 51 South East Street. Food and beverages will be available at the show. The rain date is Saturday, April 25. For more information about the show, please visit the festival website.

Free Shuttles run from Bell Creek Intermediate School on Upper Bellbrook Road to Bellbrook Park during festival hours. The Sugar Maple Festival Committee is currently looking for more drivers. If interested, contact Louie Schatzberg at (937) 760-8401.

Handicapped Parking will be available at 26 North West Street (BellHOP Cafe).

The Bellbrook Garden Club booth will highlight the club's objective to stimulate interest in gardening and share how the club members contribute to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community. Look for the winning Earth Day posters from Bellbrook students, a worm compost farm display, educational handouts, club project photos from the school and community gardens and more. Members of the Bellbrook Garden Club and reference materials will be available to help with gardening questions.

Bellbrook Park offers many activities during the festival. Situated in downtown Bellbrook, it will be the location for maple syrup, unique food vendors and the festival's Commemorative Plates. Bellbrook Park also hosts live entertainment and children's activities. Other attractions will include an educational display from the Greene County Park District, activities from the Bellbrook Garden Club, and the popular free trees available at the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District booth.

Community News

Community Organization News

The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District is proud to announce their newest park is now open for exploration! Sweet Arrow Reserve is located at 789 Little Sugarcreek Road. They have multiple programs and hikes led by park staff to help you get to know the property. Registration is now open for their spring and summer programs throughout all of their parks and facilities. They have a variety of programs from fitness classes to concerts in the park, something for all ages. The park district also has many volunteer opportunities. Volunteering for the park district is more than just service hours, it is connecting and creating memories with your community. To see all of the dates for these programs and opportunities please visit their website at www.bellbrookcreekparks.org or call the park district office at (937) 848-3535.



The Bellbrook Garden Club Through all of the snow and cold weather, the Bellbrook Garden Club continues to be busy planning for spring activities. While at the Sugar Maple Festival, visit the Garden Club booth and learn about pollinators. They will be handing out a variety of seed packets to interested gardeners as well as answering questions you may have about gardening.

The 14th annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 9 am to 1 pm. They will hold the sale at 51 South East Street in downtown Bellbrook. Club members are potting hundreds of sun and shade perennials, wildflowers, grasses, herbs, and Wright irises for the sale. Members will be available to answer your gardening questions and make suggestions. The proceeds help to fund scholarships and community projects.

The Club will be discussing Plant Division and Propagation at their April 22 meeting. Several summer garden tours have been scheduled for June and July. For more information, visit the Garden Club's website at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

New Location The Chamber office has moved to 41 West Franklin Street (across from the Valero gas station). Stop in and see their new location!

Sugar Maple Festival Come visit their tent in Bellbrook Park during the festival and pick up the new Community Directories featuring area information, maps, and local business listings.

Community Garage Sale This Chamber sponsored event will be held May 14 – 16. You may register on their website, call the office, or visit their Sugar Maple Festival tent. Registration begins on April 1. Additional signs may be displayed since City Council has lifted the enforcement of the Sign Ordinance *for this special event only*. Addresses and maps will be available on their website and at local businesses the week before the event.

Benefits Check their website for discounts on health benefits, Worker's Compensation, energy savings, credit card processing and many more services.

Golf Outing Save the date for August 20!

Please visit the Chamber website at www.bellbrookcreekcchamber.com for additional Chamber events and information or call the office at (937) 848-4930.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Family

Resource Center Do you have a special skill, activity, or craft you could share with local students in our community? The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center runs an after-school Kid's Club Program one day each week. There are approximately 15 middle school age students who attend the program. Kid's Club meets in a classroom environment near downtown Bellbrook. If you have a great craft idea, a walking field trip, can teach an exercise class, or have a unique animal or self-help program that you think would benefit these pre-teens we would like to invite you to teach for one afternoon. The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Family Resource Center is a community-supported, non-profit government organization that supports local low-income

families and operates the Ministerial Association Food Pantry. If interested in supporting our Kid's Club, please contact Carolyn Destefani at (937) 848-3810.



Bellbrook Senior Center Join the Bellbrook Senior Center for their Mother's Day Celebration on Monday, May 11 beginning at 12 noon. Following the carry-in luncheon, explore your creative side with their "Card Creation Craft" from 1 pm to 4 pm. If you interested in making homemade cards to give to family and friends for birthdays and holidays, this is your opportunity. All supplies will be furnished by the Senior Center. All you need to bring is your desire to use your creative imagination to design your own personal cards. Please RSVP for the celebration by contacting Tim Brickey at (937) 376-5486 or tim.brickey@gcco.org by Wednesday, May 6.

The Bellbrook Lioness Club Garage Sale will be held April 8 – 9 from 8 am to 7 pm at the Bellbrook Lions & Lioness Center located at 2757 Dayton-Wilmington Road. Proceeds benefit the Bellbrook Lionesses who give back to our community so generously. Please support them by visiting their BIG sale!

The Bellbrook Lions Club will be holding their spring Interstate 675 cleanup on Saturday, April 25. The club is in need of volunteers to help in the effort. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older in order to participate. Volunteers will meet at the Bellbrook Lions & Lioness Center located at 2757 Dayton-Wilmington Road at 8:30 am. For more information or if you would like to participate, call club President Kirk Barrett at (937) 239-0581 or Lion Ed Hammer at (513) 316-1127.

The Lions Club would like to thank everyone who supported their pancake breakfast and blood drive in February. Both events were a success and will help the club continue operations and charitable donations this year.

Winters – Bellbrook Community Library

New Hours The Winters-Bellbrook Library has expanded its operating hours! Library hours are as follows:

Monday-Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm

Friday: 10 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Additionally, starting in September 2015, the Winters-Bellbrook Library will be open on **Sundays** from 1 pm to 5 pm for the months of September through May!

Book Sale Winters-Bellbrook Library will be holding their annual book sale during the Sugar Maple Festival. The book sale will be held in the library on Saturday, April 25, from 10 am to 5 pm. Come by to browse for great deals on used books.

Stop by the library to check out books, movies, music and magazines. Also available are downloadable books, movies, music, and magazines for your electronic devices through the library’s digital services. Plan to join in the Summer Reading Program, which is just around the corner. Check out these and other fun programs at www.greenelibrary.info. Discover Learn Grow at YOUR library.

Bellbrook Historical Museum: Yellow Brick Road Ribbon Cutting and Dille Exhibit



The City of Bellbrook Service Department is currently laying the commemorative bricks at the Bellbrook Historical Museum from the “Yellow Brick Road” fundraiser! The plan is to have the bricks in place for the Sugar Maple Festival. The ribbon cutting ceremony will occur on Sunday, May 3, at 2 pm on the grounds of the Bellbrook Historical Museum. This special ceremony is to honor all of the many patrons who contributed to this fundraiser. If you missed your opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick 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, the Museum will

have more brick spaces available to place additional orders. Order forms will be available at the Museum during the Sugar Maple Festival. Make an order today on the

fundraiser website at [www.polarengraving.com/Bellbrook Museum](http://www.polarengraving.com/BellbrookMuseum) or by visiting the Museum during open hours. Currently, the Museum is displaying an exhibit on the Dille property and family in the rotating exhibit room. You can visit the Bellbrook Historical Museum on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturdays from 12 pm to 4 pm. The Museum staff may be reached at (937) 848-2415.



Pictured Left: Former Dille Mansion at the corner of Feedwire Road and Wilmington Pike

City News

City Council Updates



Police and Fire Department Annual Reports On February 23, Fire Chief Jim Neidhard presented the Fire Department report providing an overview of the department’s 2014 fire and emergency medical service activities. On March 9, Police Chief Doug Doherty presented the Police Department report providing an overview of the department’s 2014 enforcement and crime prevention activities. Both reports can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Increase Tap-in Fees On February 9, City Council had an extensive discussion with City staff concerning water rates and the status of the water system. On March 9, Council voted in favor of increasing fees charged for tap-ins to the water system.

Water Rates In February, Council decided not to increase water rates in 2015. This is the fourth consecutive year that water rates have remained stable. The average quarterly water bill for a resident remains at \$67.65 based on 13,500 gallons per quarter.

City Council Updates...Continued

Water Main Extension and Downtown Replacement Project On February 20, a motion was made by City Council to authorize the bidding of the Water Main Extension and Downtown Replacement Project. This project will take place along North Main Street and in the downtown area and will be completed in 2015. Bids have been received and are being reviewed by the city engineer, city staff, and Council.

New Board Members City Council has appointed several new board members for the City. If you are interested in serving on a board, please contact the Clerk of Council at (937) 848-4666.

2015 Budget City Council approved the 2015 Annual Budget and 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program in December. The approved budget documents can be found on the Finance page on the City's web site at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Council Videos The City broadcasts video of council meetings through Bellbrook TV on Time Warner Cable and AT&T U-Verse (channel 99). Council meeting videos are also posted on the website for you to watch at your convenience. Visit our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org and go to the Council page.



The Fire Escape

Annual Awards Banquet The Bellbrook Fire Department held their annual awards banquet on January 10, 2015. The event is held each year to recognize members of the department for their service to the Bellbrook community. It is also an opportunity for the department to gather and discuss the past, present and future. 2014 was a year of change for the Bellbrook Fire Department with a change in leadership, as well as the departure and addition of several members of the department.

In an address to those in attendance, Fire Chief Jim Neidhard spoke about the personnel of the department. "It is my belief that those of you who still climb out of the cab of an engine or roll a cot into someone's front door to provide aid are the most important part of this organization. You will be the ones that the residents will remember, the ones who truly make a difference in their lives. The Chief is listed at the top of fire department organizational charts in departments across the country; it's my contention that, in terms of importance, those charts are upside down."

The following awards were presented to members of the department:

- 2014 Image Award:** Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Provider David Stover
- 2014 Robert J. Tobias Rookie of the Year:** Volunteer Firefighter Amanda Current
- 2014 Larry Gosnell Volunteer of the Year:** Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Provider Wes Williams
- 2014 Patriot Award:** This award is given to those members who serve in the military. See below for the members and their years of military service.

12 Years – Lin Stokes-Crowe	9 Years – Ed Crowe	4 Years – C.J. Kline
2 Years – Zachary Juniper	1 Year – Adam Watson	

Meet Your Fire Department at the Sugar Maple Festival! We will have our Fire Dogs and Eaglette Gyros. Fire and emergency medical equipment will be on display during the festival, so make sure to give us a wave as our trucks pass by during the parade on Saturday. Visiting your Fire Department at the festival will also be an excellent opportunity to gather information on how you can join our team and support your community.



Pictured Above: Firefighter/EMS Provider David Stover (left) and Fire Chief Jim Neidhard (right)

Pictured Right: February Ice Rescue Training



Municipal & Zoning Code Highlights

In an effort to keep residents informed, certain provisions of the Municipal Code and Zoning Code have been highlighted below.

Property Maintenance Code In today's economy, it is important to do all we can as homeowners or tenants to ensure that the highest property values are maintained in our community. Stable property values are maintained when the appearance of a residential lot and house are neat, clean and orderly. The city works to enforce the Property Maintenance Code to encourage maintenance of property and protect the rights of neighbors. Please see below for a list of common property maintenance violations:

- ◆ **Vegetation** – Code enforcement officers are out on a regular basis throughout the spring, summer and fall to inspect properties for overgrown grass and bushes. Grass must be kept below 8 inches in height. Bushes and weeds must be trimmed and not permitted become overgrown.
- ◆ **Accessory Structures** – Structures such as garages, sheds, permanent outdoor play equipment and fences need to be structurally sound and in good repair at all times.
- ◆ **Junk Vehicles** – No inoperable or unlicensed motor vehicle should be parked on a property. No vehicle is allowed to be in a state of disassembly. Vehicles such as these are not allowed to be parked outside of a residence but may be placed inside a garage and out of view.
- ◆ **Outside Storage** – The storage of miscellaneous items must be within an enclosed structure or screened according to the Zoning Code. Miscellaneous items can include indoor furniture, automotive parts, building materials and other items that are not common for outdoor yard recreation or use.
- ◆ **Brush Piles** – One brush pile per property is allowed.
- ◆ **Protective Treatment** – All exterior surfaces of a structure are to be waterproof and free from peeling paint or rotting materials.
- ◆ **Gutters** – Roof drains and downspouts are to be maintained and in good repair. Roof water should not cause a nuisance to your neighbors.
- ◆ **Garbage Cans** – Garbage and recycling pickup is on Friday of each week. Garbage cans are allowed to be placed in the public right of way (end of your driveway) beginning on Thursday of each week and must be picked up by Saturday. Garbage cans must also have a tight fitting lid to keep rodents out of your garbage.

Zoning Code The Zoning Code regulates the placement of buildings, vehicles, signs and other items on property in the city.

- ◆ **Vehicle Parking** – Vehicles, trailers, boats or recreational vehicles are **not** permitted to be parked in the grass on any property in the city. Vehicles must be parked in the garage, driveway or on the street and be operable. Trailers, boats and recreational vehicles can be parked in the garage, driveway or in the side yard or rear yard on a hard surface or compacted gravel.
- ◆ **Animals** – The city limit is 4 dogs and/or cats. Be sure to pick up your pet's waste whether it's on your own property or on your neighbor's property and keep your dog on a leash when walking.
- ◆ **Signs** – Garage sale, contractor and real estate signs are only allowed on the property where the activity is taking place and for limited periods. The code protects the rights of property owners residing on street corners to prevent the placement of these types of signs on private property. Lead-in signs at intersections and signs placed on telephone poles or traffic signs are not permitted. The only time the code is relaxed is during the Community Garage Sale in May with the approval of City Council.
- ◆ **Permits** – Many projects done to improve your residence or business require a Zoning Permit, Greene County Building Permit or both.

For more information on Property Maintenance and Zoning Code enforcement, you can visit our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org and go to the Zoning page. You can also call the Administration office during business hours at (937) 848-4666.

Bellbrook Beautification Awards

For many years, volunteers from the community have taken part in honoring homeowners with properties that are well-maintained and stand out from the rest. Ten homes and several businesses are chosen each year to receive the awards. A home or business may only win an award once every five years.

The committee begins their process in late June and takes several weeks to make their final decisions. The City is divided into five sections with each section having two homes selected along with one or two businesses. Properties are voted upon by committee members and then are presented with a plaque by the City Council in the fall. They also receive an engraved landscaping stone with the words, "Bellbrook Beautification Winner."

For more information, visit our website and go to the Bellbrook Information page. You can also contact Bronne Wilson, Committee Chair, at (937) 848-3458 or email her at bronnew@gmail.com.



The Works

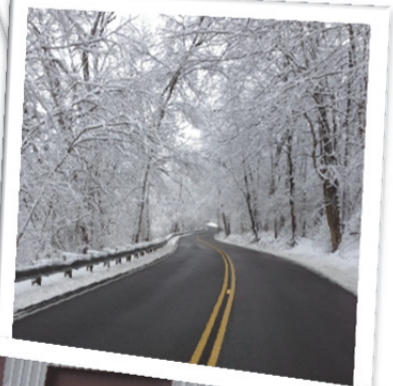
Water Meter Replacement Program The water meter replacement program started in 2009 and will be completed in 2015. The program involves either upgrading meters or replacing older meters. The upgrade consists of a low frequency radio transmitter which allows Service Department employees to remotely read the meters from a vehicle on the street. This system has decreased meter reading time from several days to less than 4 hours per month. The upgrade also provides more accurate readings.

Street Repairs and the 2015 Paving Program The Service Department has been busy patching potholes. Please call (937) 848-8415 to report any potholes you may find. The streets being considered for the 2015 Paving Program are Washington Mill Road, Beryl Drive, Garry Drive, a section of Bledsoe Drive, and a short section of West Franklin Street.

Catch Basin Cleaning The Service Department cleans all storm sewer catch basins each year and is nearly complete for 2015. Keeping catch basins clear of debris allows storm water to be collected and prevents potential high water issues and property damage. Remember that catch basins are for storm water only. If you see anybody putting yard waste, motor oil, or any foreign objects into a catch basin, report this activity immediately to the Service Department at (937) 848-8415.

Yard Restorations The Service Department will soon begin yard restorations from damage created from the winter activities. The damage may be caused from water system repairs or snow plowing operations. You can call (937) 848-8415 to verify that your address is on our list.

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.



Water Rates Remain Steady

The City of Bellbrook will not increase water rates for the fourth straight year. At the City Council meeting on Monday, February 9, City Manager Mark Schlagheck made a presentation to Council concerning water rates and the status of the City's Water Fund. Given the stability of the Water Fund and the city's management of the water system's resources, Council decided to hold water rates at current levels. The last water rate increase was passed by Council in February 2011. The Bellbrook Service Department also presented a video to provide Council and the public with an overview of the water system.

According to the annual *City of Oakwood Water and Sewer Rate Survey*, water rates increased in communities throughout the region by an average of 13% from 2012 to 2015. The City of Bellbrook has not increased rates during those years and is currently below average in what residents pay for water service. Sewer service is provided by Greene County. The city's water system produces about 300 million gallons of water each year and serves approximately 9,000 residents in both the City of Bellbrook and Sugar Creek Township.

Water Quality Report

The 2015 Water Quality Report is available to water customers on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org/waterqualityreport.pdf. For more information, contact the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638 or visit the Utility Billing page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Holidays

The City of Bellbrook non-emergency services will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day and Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Policeman’s Badge

Personnel Changes In March, Officer Tony Vetter was promoted to the role of Detective following the promotion of Detective Keith Salyers to Sergeant. Sergeant Salyers will join Sergeant Brian Meade in supervising shifts and special assignments. In October 2014, the department welcomed Officers Luke Terry and Josh Warren as part-time staff. 2014 was a year of adjustment for the department, including several retirements and a change in leadership.

Springtime Crime Prevention The Bellbrook Police Department continues to ask residents to think about these crime prevention tips as spring weather approaches:

- ◆ Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- ◆ During the spring weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- ◆ Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- ◆ Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesperson who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- ◆ In warm weather months personal property thefts increase. There is a tendency to leave items such as bicycles, gardening tools, lawnmowers, weed eaters, and other yard tools lying around in the open. Make sure you lock up your personal property in your garage or shed. It doesn’t take long for someone to ride by and quickly take your property. An open garage door or shed can also be inviting, keep them closed even when you are at home.
- ◆ Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- ◆ Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not “normal” to their neighborhoods and alert the Bellbrook Police



Police Department Town Hall Series

The Bellbrook Police Department will be hosting a series of lectures for the residents of our community. The Department will hold one lecture each in June, July, and August. Topics to be covered will be Internet Safety, Fraud and Identity Theft Protection, and Active Shooter training. Details are still being finalized. Please go to our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org for information and updates.

City Receives Auditor of State Award

A recent financial audit conducted in 2014 of the City of Bellbrook by the Auditor of State’s office has returned a clean audit report. Bellbrook’s excellent record keeping has earned it the *Auditor of State Award*.

“The City of Bellbrook appreciates this recognition from the Auditor of State,” said City Manager Mark Schlagheck. “We strive to be in compliance with regulations and standards. This award recognizes those efforts.”

The *Auditor of State Award* is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial audit. Entities that receive the award meet the following criteria of a “clean” audit report:

- ◆ The entity must file timely financial reports with the Auditor of State’s office in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).
- ◆ The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs.
- ◆ The entity’s management letter contains no comments in areas identified by the Auditor’s office.

To view the 2013 Audited Financial Statement, go to the Finance page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org or call the Administration office at (937) 848-4666.



Waste, Recycling & Yard Waste Disposal



Greene County Special Recycling Collection

One Saturday each month, Greene County Environmental Services holds a special collection for recyclables that are not picked up by Rumpke. Below is a list of accepted items. Please note this is not an exhaustive list. If you have any questions, please contact Environmental Services.

- ◆ Household Hazardous Waste
- ◆ Household Electronics
- ◆ Metal Appliances and Scrap Metal

2015 Dates for Special Collections:

April 11	September 12
May 9	October 10
June 13	November 14
July 11	December 12
August 8	

Your Local Representation

Bellbrook 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 pm.

For more information about City Council, past meetings and current issues, call the

Waste Collection Holiday Please note that waste and recycling collection will be delayed one day due to the Memorial Day holiday. **Waste and recycling collection will take place on Saturday, May 30 for that week.**

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.

Yard Waste The City does not have 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.

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

Yard Waste Collection

Residents do have options to dispose of yard waste. First, Rumpke does collect yard waste as outlined above. Second, Greene County 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.

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
- Nick Edwards
- Forrest Greenwood
- Jon Martin
- Elaine Middlestetter
- Dona Seger-Lawson

Greene County Commissioners

Greene County is governed by a three

member Board of Commissioners. There are other county offices that are not governed by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners

- Alan Anderson
- Bob Glaser
- Tom Koogler

For more information about the Board of Commissioners past meetings and current issues, call the Board at (937) 562-5006 or visit their website at www.co.greene.oh.us and go to the Board of Commissioners page.

2015 Financial Overview

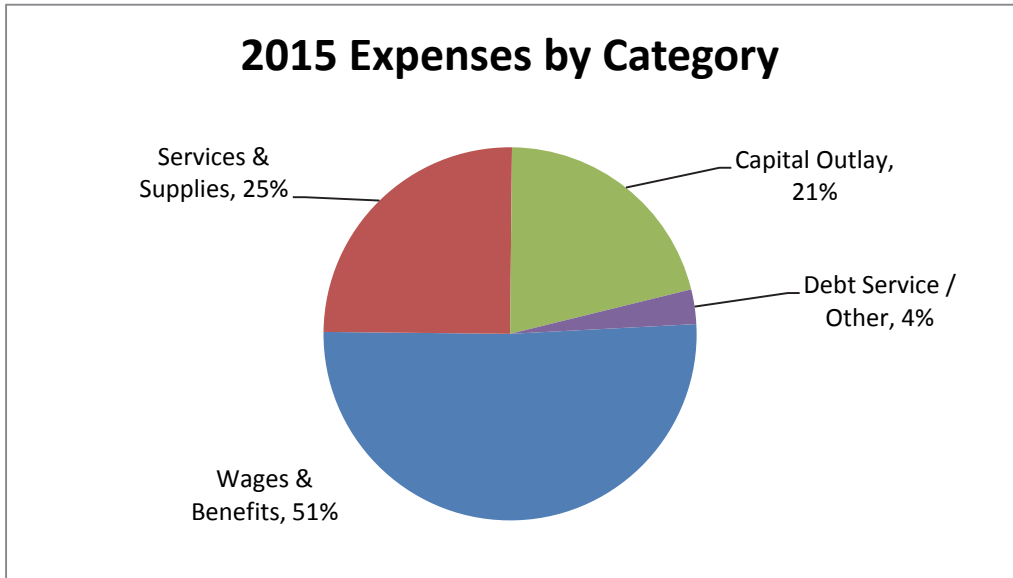
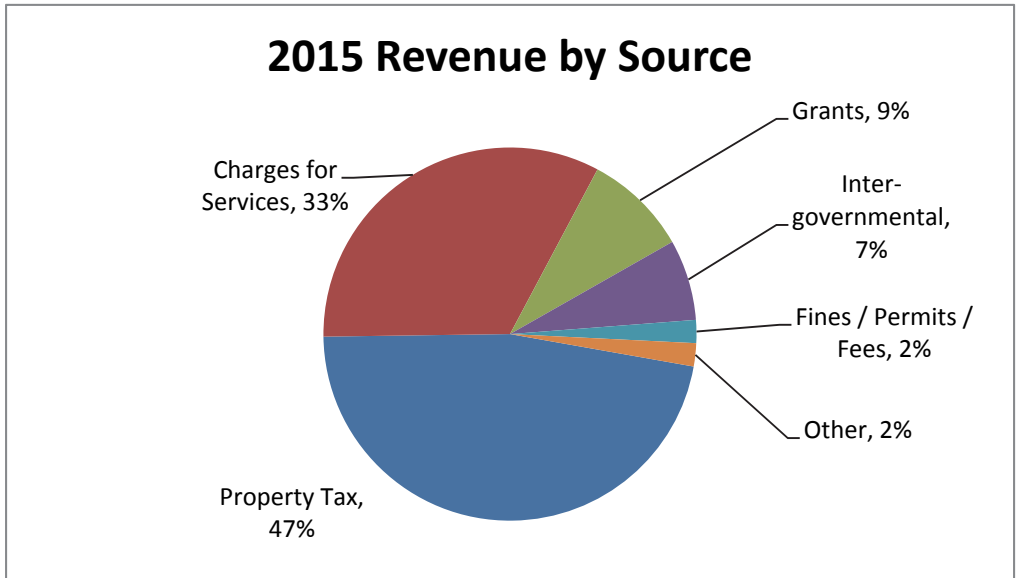
In December 2014, the Bellbrook City Council adopted the 2015 Annual Budget and the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program.

For budgeting purposes, the City breaks its finances into five categories: **Property Tax Supported Funds** (services provided using specific levies approved by the voters and other governmental funding – Police, Fire, General and Capital Improvements); **Transportation Related Funds** (services provided using funds that are restricted for transportation projects – gasoline tax, motor vehicle and permissive license tax revenue); **Water Related Funds** (services provided using funds from water customers including operating, capital and debt); **Waste Collection Fund** (services provided using fees from waste collection customers); **Other Funds** (services provided for other purposes).

The following is a summary of these categories as approved for 2015:

	Revenue	Expenses	Difference	Ending Balance
Property Tax Supported Funds	\$3,743,751	\$4,243,622	\$(499,871)	\$2,409,501
Transportation Related Funds	387,510	434,257	(46,747)	104,296
Water Related Funds	1,983,050	1,949,688	33,362	1,655,221
Waste Collection Fund	398,740	411,150	(12,410)	232,362
Other Funds	23,200	41,886	(18,686)	3,115
Total	<u>\$6,536,251</u>	<u>\$7,080,603</u>	<u>\$(544,352)</u>	<u>\$4,404,496</u>

The City's largest revenue source is **property tax** and related state reimbursements at **\$3.1 million or 47%** of total revenue. The second largest source is **charges for services** which include water, waste collection and EMS charges. This accounts for **\$2.2 million or 33%** of total revenue. The third largest source of revenue is **capital grants**. Several projects will be completed this year with the assistance of grant funding. Capital grants account for **\$0.05 million or 9%** of revenue. The final significant source of revenue is **intergovernmental** which includes local government funds, gasoline taxes, permissive license taxes and motor vehicle registrations. This accounts for **\$0.5 million or 7%** of total revenue.



The City's most significant expense category is **wages and benefits**. Compensating the police officers, firefighters and service employees of the City costs **\$3.7 million or 51%** of the total budget of \$7.1 million. Other significant categories include **services and supplies** at **\$1.7 million or 25%** and **capital outlay** at **\$1.5 million or 21%** of total budget.

The complete 2015 Annual Budget and 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program is available by calling the Administration office at (937) 848-4666 or by visiting the Finance page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Zoning Permit Reminders

The Zoning Code regulates the placement of buildings, vehicles, signs and other items on properties in the city.

- ◆ **Signs** – Garage sale, contractor and real estate signs are only allowed on the property where the activity is taking place and for limited periods. The code protects the rights of property owners residing on street corners to prevent the placement of these types of signs on private property. Lead-in signs at intersections and signs placed on telephone poles or traffic signs are not permitted. The only time the code is relaxed is during the Community Garage Sale in May with the approval of City Council.
- ◆ **Permits** – Many projects done to improve your residence or business require a Zoning Permit, Greene County Building Permit or both.

For more information on Property Maintenance and Zoning Code enforcement, you can visit our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org and go to the Zoning page. You can also call the Administration office during business hours at (937) 848-4666.

Environmental News

Spring Into Action!

- ◆ Plant trees, shrubs and ground cover to help rainwater soak into the ground. Keep the soil covered; bare soil is the primary cause of erosion. Mulch bare areas with straw, grass clippings, stones or wood chips.
- ◆ Re-direct rain gutter downspouts into landscaped areas instead of onto paved surfaces such as driveways. Rain that falls onto paved areas washes pollutants into the storm drains.
- ◆ Consider growing clover in your lawn; its hardy, stands up to wear and produces nitrogen needed by other lawn grasses.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow. It flows from roof tops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows, runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water drains **directly** into Bellbrook's creeks, streams and rivers, **without receiving any treatment at sewage plants.**

Eight Tips for a Healthy Lawn

- Water** your established lawn properly
- Feed** your soil by leaving grass clippings on the lawn
- Mow** the right way
- Weed** control sensibly
- Aerate** your lawn
- Dethatch** your lawn
- Fertilize** appropriately
- Use** lawn substitutes or ground cover in place of grass



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 storm drains or directly into our local creeks is an important part in 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/or the environment.

KEEP CREEKS CLEAN AND STORM DRAINS CLEAR



City of Bellbrook
15 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON OH
PERMIT NO 41



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

Visit our website!
www.cityofbellbrook.org

Bellbrook Business Spotlight

Bellbrook Art & Frame

Since 1978, Ben Ewbank has been helping the Bellbrook community preserve and present its artwork. Ben began working for Bellbrook Art and Frame in 1978 and eventually bought the business in 1983. The store has operated in its current location since before Ben started in 1978. Bellbrook Art and Frame offers custom framing at competitive pricing. Ben has over 35 years of experience in the field and says that almost anything can be framed. All artwork stays on site and most work can be done within four weeks. Ben has been able to develop relationships with many loyal and longtime customers. Some of his most common work includes framing pictures and needle art. He does not get to frame much original artwork, but cherishes the opportunity when he does.

Ben has lived in Bellbrook since 1980 with short stints in Beavercreek and Kettering. Originally from Eaton, Ohio, he attended Grove City College in Pennsylvania to study Cultural Anthropology. He unexpectedly fell into his current work and loves what he does. You may find Ben on a dark night using his homebuilt telescopes.

Website

www.bellbrookartandframe.com

Phone

(937) 848-3381

Hours

Tue – Sat 9 am to 6 pm

Location

70 Bellbrook Plaza
*In downtown Bellbrook
next to Blueberry Café*

