



City of Bellbrook

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

December 2015

Bicentennial Events

During 2016, Bellbrook will be hosting several events for the bicentennial celebration. The events and their dates are listed below. More information will be provided when available.

April

- Historical Museum 19
- Sugar Maple Festival 22-24

May

- Historical Museum 17

June

- Community Picnic 18
- Historical Museum 21

July

- Historical Museum 19

August

- Historical Museum 16
- Lions Festival 18-20

Bicentennial Logo

The Bicentennial Committee held a contest and selected a logo submitted by Angela Brown. The logo will be used throughout the celebration to represent Bellbrook's 200 years and our future. Angela, originally from Indiana, along with husband Jeff and two children moved to Bellbrook six years ago and appreciate the family-oriented community they have found in Bellbrook.

2016: Bellbrook Celebrates 200 Years

This upcoming year will be significant for the Bellbrook community as we celebrate 200 years. Planning for the anniversary celebration is being led by a committee of community members to help make 2016 memorable. The committee is planning a series of events from the Sugar Maple Festival to the Lions Club Festival. The idea is to leverage existing annual events to highlight our heritage, and conduct events that will provide a renewed sense of community. To help display our community's bicentennial, the streets of Bellbrook will be adorned with street banners.

Starting with the Sugar Maple Festival in April and completing the celebration during the Lions Club Festival in August, community members can participate in a variety of events. The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District will sponsor a community picnic in June at Sackett-Wright Park to include food trucks and a variety of activities dating back to the 1860s. The centerpiece of the picnic will be an authentic 1860s baseball game featuring the Dayton Clodbusters and a local team of community members. The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Historical Society and Bellbrook Historical Museum are playing a vital role in



the celebration to explain the history and events that shaped our community. Every third Tuesday from April to August, the Museum will host discussions on the history of the community. The summer of celebration will culminate on the final day of the Lions Club Festival with a fireworks display.

The Bicentennial Committee is seeking donations and sponsorships from community members and businesses. The committee is operating as the Bellbrook/Sugarcreek Patriotic Celebration Foundation with 501(c)(3) status through Greene Giving. By creating a foundation in affiliation with Greene Giving, individuals and businesses can contribute to the celebration as a tax-deductible donation. For more information, please contact the committee at bellbrook200yr@aol.com or visit their website.

For more information about the 2016 celebration and Bicentennial Committee, please visit their website at www.bellbrook200.com.

Eagle Scouts Honored

Boy Scout Troop 375 congratulates Ben Cross and Justin Havens on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. State Representative Rick Perales presented both Ben and Justin with an Eagle Scout coin and letter of recognition at the award ceremony held on November 8. Each Eagle Scout must complete a community project. Ben Cross rebuilt the Lions Club memorial pathway at Petrikis Park on West Franklin Street. Justin Havens created and installed a bike rack and bench at Bellbrook Middle School.

Boy Scout Troop 375 is based in Bellbrook and active in the community. for more information on the troop, go to their website at www.t375.org.

Pictured from left to right: State Representative Rick Perales, Ben Cross, and Justin Havens.





Bellbrook Senior Center

Plan to share a few moments of your Holiday Season at the Bellbrook Senior Center Christmas Carry-in Luncheon on Monday, December 14 at 12 pm. A Christmas ham will highlight the menu along with other dishes provided by everyone attending the luncheon. If you would like to participate in our cookie exchange, please bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to trade off during the cookie exchange activity and story. A door prize will also be given away at the conclusion of the luncheon provided by Pristine Senior Living Post-Acute Care of Bellbrook. The Bellbrook Senior Center is located at 3757 Upper Bellbrook Road in the Sugarcreek Education Services building, beside Bellbrook High School. For more information, contact Tim Brickey at (937) 376-5486 or tim.brickey@gcco.org.

Garden Club

You may have noticed the planters in the Old Village district have transformed from the beautiful summer flowers to winter greenery. Club members have been busy maintaining these planters as well as the Jeanette Dunham Garden at the Winters Library and the Wright Iris Garden and the Butler-Klyce Shade Gardens behind the Bellbrook Historical Museum. We hope you have visited and enjoyed these gardens over the summer. What you cannot see is the courtyard at Stephen Bell Elementary where club members have cleaned up the "learning gardens" planted each spring for classes to observe and enjoy. Though all of these beds have been put to rest, we gardeners do not rest and continue to be busy and involved.

This year's Garden Club programs include: An annual carry-in luncheon on January 27 is a good opportunity for prospective members to be introduced to the club. On February 24, club members will learn about Kitchen Gardens. March 23 is "Show and Tell" which is always a great time of sharing lessons learned about home gardens. On April 27, the topic is Good Bugs/Bad Bugs and on June 22, members will tour the VA Hospital's Historic Gardens and Grotto. In July, a local beekeeper will host a presentation on honeybees. The Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 am. Please view the complete schedule at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org or contact Vickie Carter at vcarter@woh.rr.com or (937) 848-2562.

Lions Club

In honor of Charter Member Lion Bill Penewit's exemplary service to the Bellbrook community and to the Lions Club, the Lions' clubhouse, at 2757 Dayton-Wilmington Road has been named, the *William 'Bill' Penewit Lions Center*. As things in this world change, some things stay the same. The Bellbrook Lions Club has been a constant in the community for many years. The club thanks Lion Bill Penewit and 55 others who started the club. They also thank the many Lions who have worked so hard for many years to help maintain their significant impact to the community.

Winters Library

As winter returns to Bellbrook, consider what the library has to offer you: books and DVDs for cozy afternoons, audiobooks for vacation travel, holiday music, and fun programs. When it is cold and blustery outside, remember you can access great online resources through the library website. Download e-books, e-magazines, movies and music, all without leaving your living room! The library's newest online service is a free Driver's Education Program, which includes practice tests and driver's manuals for car, motorcycle, and commercial drivers to help you prepare for the written portion of the Ohio BMV driver's license test. Check out these and many more resources, free with your library card!

Historical Museum

The Museum staff and Trustees have been working on the *Yellow Brick Road* commemorative brick fundraiser. These funds are being used to restore parts of the Museum building and certain artifacts. Museum hours of operation are Wednesdays 10 am – 2 pm and Saturdays 12 pm – 4 pm. The museum staff may be reached at (937) 848-2415. Please stop by to visit us and see our many local exhibits and artifacts! After all, "There's no place like home!"

Pictured right: the completed walkway with commemorative bricks from the Yellow Brick Road fundraiser.



Park District

Please join the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District at Bellbrook Park on December 12 for the 5th annual Christmas in the Park and Gingerbread House Contest! The park lighting ceremony begins at 5 pm with local music groups performing seasonal favorites, hot chocolate and a visit by the big jolly man himself. Canned food items or new/gently used winter hats and gloves will be collected and donated to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center. There will also be a bake sale that will benefit Partnerships for Success, a high school group that partners with the Park District to hold this event. Also, check out the new lineup of programs in the park district's January to April newsletter available on December 1. For more information, contact the Park District at (937) 848-3535 or visit their website at www.bellbrookcreekparks.org.



Bellbrook Beautification Awards 2015

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. At least 10 homes and several businesses are chosen each year to receive the Beautification Awards. The City of Bellbrook is proud to announce the 2015 award winners below. Congratulations to our winners!

- | | |
|---|--|
| Area
4220 Woodedge Dr. - Dee Welch
2046 S. Lakeman Dr. - Robert & Linda Guy | Area D
31 E. Maple St. - Margie Heckman
1195 Clearcreek Ln. - Beth & Kyle Rogers |
| Area B
2194 Ivy Crest Dr. - Mike & Cheryl Stone
2465 Tennyson Dr. - Bill & Ann Wharton | Area E
3857 W. Sudbury Ct. - Damon & Becki Wick
3941 E. Carmela Ct. - Don & Tammi Jones |
| Area C
4108 N. Linda Dr. - Chris & Kathy Kempton
1860 N. Belleview Dr. - Ann Bowers | Business Winner
135 E. Franklin St. - Third Season Restaurant |



The Fire Escape



Bellbrook Receives Improved ISO Rating

In September, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) issued a Public Protection Classification Summary Report based on a review of the fire suppression capabilities of the Bellbrook Fire Department. Because of the positive report, ISO has given Bellbrook a Community Classification of 2. ISO classifications are used by insurance companies when pricing residential and commercial property insurance.

ISO has graded 48,754 fire departments across the nation and less than 3% have earned a Community Classification of 2 or 1. The last review was performed by ISO in 2007 where the Fire Department received a Community Classification of 3. This improved rating is a direct result of the Fire Department's efforts including training, inspections, and education. According to the summary, "In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC grade is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC grade, assuming all other factors are equal."

Fire Department Hosts Community Events

The Bellbrook Fire Department wants to help you make sure your children are properly secured in your vehicle. To promote this important task, the Fire Department held a Drive Thru Child Safety Seat Inspection event on September 26. Anyone could drive up to the station and have their child seat inspected for free. If you missed the event and would like your seat inspected, please contact the Bellbrook Fire Department at (937) 848-3272 to schedule an appointment today.

The first week of October is National Fire Prevention week. The Fire Department participates in Fire Prevention Week by holding programs in the schools and the Open House at Station #2. The week consists of many educational programs to help raise awareness of fire prevention and safety. The Fire Department is always willing to answer questions or provide assistance to help make sure you and your family are safe. Feel free to call the Fire Department at (937) 848-3272 or visit the Fire Department page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.



Pictured above: Bellbrook firefighters extinguishing a fire at the department's Open House.

Pictured below: firefighters and paramedics during the Open House and Fire Prevention Week events.



The Works

City Council Updates

2016 Budget

During the months of October and November, City Council reviewed the proposed 2016 operating budget and five year capital improvement plan. Council will vote on the final budget during the December 14 regular meeting.

Water Billing Change

In August, City Council voted to eliminate the monthly minimum charge for irrigation accounts. Customers who use water for irrigation will now be charged \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons of water.

Waste Collection Contract

In September, Council approved an addendum to the existing waste collection contract with Rumpke. The current contract expires at the end of this year. The addendum extends the contract for one additional year at the price established in the original bid. Residents will not see an increase in their monthly waste collection bill.

Salt Settlement

The Ohio Attorney General recently settled a lawsuit with two salt companies. The settlement related to the pricing of salt from 2008-2011. As a result of this settlement, the city received a reimbursement of \$6,498.65. This money has been applied to the Street Fund to purchase salt in the future.

November Election

On November 3, the Mayor and three current Council Members were reelected to City Council. Mayor Bob Baird was elected to a new term that will expire in 2017. Council Members Jon Martin, Elaine Middlestetter and Dona Seger-Lawson will begin new terms that will expire in 2019.

Retaining Wall at Pioneer Cemetery

The retaining wall at Pioneer Cemetery on Upper Bellbrook Road has been replaced. The contractor was able to install a new wall without removing the former wall. This solution was proposed to provide the least amount of disturbance to the historical cemetery.

Stormwater Improvement at Vemco Drive and Firebird Drive

The replacement of a drainage culvert at Vemco Drive and Firebird Drive has been completed. The improvement will assist with storm drainage issues in the area.

LED Lighting Replacement – Green Business Certification

In July, City Council approved an agreement to replace all light fixtures at each city facility with energy efficient LED lights. The city had no upfront cost, but will break even after 10 years. Over 20 years, the city stands to save over \$220,000 by reducing energy usage, taking advantage of available rebates and decreased costs for supplies and materials.

As part of this project, the city submitted an application to Dayton Regional Green and has received the Green Business Certification for each city facility.

Pictured right: nearing completion of the new drainage culvert at Vemco and Firebird Drives.

Snow Removal

The last several winter seasons have been challenging in regard to snow and ice removal. Given these factors, the Bellbrook Service Department will be working hard to keep the roads open for safe travel while also conserving the limited salt supply when possible. Each snow and ice event will be evaluated independently and the appropriate treatment will be applied. In some cases, this will be primarily plowing with limited salt usage. In other cases, more salt usage will be required.

Here are some suggestions that will assist the Service Department during snow and ice events:

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

Please contact the city if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about our snow removal practices. If a situation needs immediate attention, please contact Dispatch at (937) 848-8484.



Pictured above: new retaining wall at Pioneer Cemetery on Upper Bellbrook Road.



Waste, Recycling & Yard Waste Disposal

Waste Collection Holidays

Waste and recycling collection will be delayed one day due to the Christmas Day and New Year's Day holidays. Waste and recycling collection will take place on **Saturday, December 26** and **Saturday, January 2** for those weeks.

City Recycling Program

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

Bulk Pick-up

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

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

Yard Waste

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

Private Recyclers

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

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

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

Greene County Environmental Services

Xenia Drop-off Site
2145 Greene Way Blvd, Xenia

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.

City Council

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

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

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

Council Members Term Expires

Bob Baird, Mayor	2017
Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor	2017
Nick Edwards	2017
Forrest Greenwood.....	2017
Jon Martin.....	2019
Elaine Middlestetter	2019
Dona Seger-Lawson	2019

City Holidays

The City of Bellbrook non-emergency services will be closed for the following holidays:

- December 24 – Christmas Eve
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 15 – President's Day
- March 25 – Good Friday

E-Newsletter

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

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

Demonstration Powered by Extreme Dialogue 04/10/2009, Version 6.1.016 --

BELBROOK UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
35 NORTH WEST STREET
PO BOX 285
BELLBROOK, OH 45305-0285
TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(937) 848-4638
www.cityofbellbrook.org

Water Usage History

TYPE OF SERVICE	METER READINGS FROM	METER READINGS TO	METER READING PREVIOUS	METER READING CURRENT	GALLONS USED	BILLED AMOUNT
WATER	11/05/08	02/09/09	12,840	21,280	8,440	43.80
GARBAGE	05/01/09	07/31/09				51.00

SERVICE ADDRESS: BELLEMEADE DRIVE
ACCOUNT NUMBER: [REDACTED]

PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$0.00
CURRENT BILLING	\$94.80
AMOUNT DUE	\$94.80
DUE DATE	03/28/2009
AMOUNT AFTER DUE DATE	\$0.00

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

ACCOUNT NUMBER: [REDACTED]
CUSTOMER NAME: [REDACTED]
SERVICE ADDRESS: BELLEMEADE DRIVE
AMOUNT DUE: \$0.00
DUE DATE: 03/28/2009
AMOUNT AFTER DUE DATE: \$0.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
CITY OF BELLBROOK
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 285
BELLBROOK OH 45305-0285

Utility Billing

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

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

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

City Employees and Volunteers Recognized for their Service

At the November 9 City Council meeting, five employees and volunteers 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.

10 Years

- Nathan Hiester – Fire Volunteer
- Vince Vanscoy – Police Officer

15 Years

- Bev Daugherty – Service Secretary

20 Years

- Anthony Bizzarro – Fire Captain

25 Years

- Linda Stokes-Crowe – Volunteer EMS Provider

Pictured from left to right: Vince Vanscoy, Linda Stokes-Crowe, Nathan Hiester and Anthony Bizzarro.



The Policeman's Badge

Community Forums

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

Community Engagement

The Police Department is continually looking for ways to engage with the community. Officers make daily visits to the schools to provide security and help our students feel comfortable with law enforcement. In August, the department entered into the Kable's Mill annual derby with their three-wheeled bike.



Prevent Thefts

- Keep all your doors and windows locked.
- Keep shades drawn to limit visibility from passersby.
- Keep holiday packages out of view.
- Keep your car locked at all times.
- Keep outside lights on at night.
- Do not open your door for people you do not recognize.
- Put indoor lights on timers so it appears people are home at varying times of the day and night.
- Do not post your holiday travel plans on social media.
- Do not post gifts you have received on social media.

In October, officers visited Stephen Bell Elementary and Bellcreek Intermediate School to serve lunch in their Halloween costumes.

Pictured left: members of the department with officers from Sugarcreek Township.

Pictured right: officers in their costumes with staff members from the schools.





Stormwater Tips

Streams

Bellbrook is blessed with an abundance of water, both above and under the ground. Many neighborhoods have streams that meander through them, attracting migrating birds, deer and other native wildlife. If you are one of those lucky owners that enjoy a back yard stream, here are a few tips to preserve and improve your stream’s health.

- **Don’t dump anything in your stream, even organic matter.** Yard waste is the second largest type of all discarded trash. When grass, leaves, or even pet wastes are placed in a stream and decompose, it eliminates oxygen in the water and produces a foul odor. Without oxygen, the fish, turtles, and other aquatic creatures cannot survive.
- **Do remove any trash from your back yard stream and teach others to do the same.** Clean water is a clear choice.
- **Don’t change the path of your stream.** Adding or removing natural boulders or vegetation changes the nature of a stream and can cause flooding or accelerated erosion downstream on your neighbor’s property. Let nature take its course.
- **Do practice being a good steward.** Caring for your backyard stream can increase your property value and provide a haven for many types of wildlife in the community, improving the quality of life for you and for generations to come.



Pickup After Your Pet

While most people connect animal waste problems to agriculture, studies have shown that improperly discarded pet wastes in urban and suburban areas can cause significant water pollution problems. Pet wastes contain several types of pollutants that contribute to water quality problems: nutrients, pathogens and ammonia. When pet wastes wash into our storm sewers or drainage ditches and end up in our local creeks and rivers, the release of its pollutants can kill fish and other aquatic organisms. These nutrients can also cause excessive growth of weeds and algae, which can make the water murky, green or even smelly so that the water body becomes unusable.

Here are some things **YOU** can do to help keep our creeks clear and our storm sewers clean:

- Pick up after your pet
- Don’t put pet wastes down the storm sewers
- Dispose of kitty litter properly
- Don’t feed geese or ducks



Article courtesy of the University of Connecticut, NEMO

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



City of Bellbrook

15 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

Departments

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

www.cityofbellbrook.org

Bellbrook Business Spotlight

Brookside Garage

The Hess family has been working on cars in Bellbrook since 1913. Glenn Hess operated Magnetic Garage at 15 North Main Street from 1913 to 1946. After the garage closed, Gerald and Wilma Hess started Brookside Garage in 1946 in its current location. Ron Hess started working at Brookside Garage in 1969 and has managed the business since 1983. Casey Hess, the current owner of Brookside Garage, is a fourth generation owner of the family business and has worked there full-time since 1991.

Brookside Garage offers complete automotive repair including tires, brakes, tune-ups, computer diagnostics and much more. They work on both foreign and domestic vehicles. Brookside is a member of the Tech-Net Professional Auto Service network who provides warranties on their work and the business is accredited with the Better Business Bureau.

Brookside Garage's motto is, "Keeping Your Family Safe for the Road Ahead Since 1946."

Location

43 North Main Street
*In downtown Bellbrook
next to Bellbrook Park*

Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8 am to 6 pm
Closed Weekends

Phone

(937) 848-6631

Website

www.brooksidegarageinc.com

