

City of Bellbrook Community Report

April 2014
Volume 20, Issue 1

A Publication of the City of Bellbrook

36th Sugar Maple Festival Flower Power: Celebrating the 60's April 25 – 27, 2014



Come join the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community as it celebrates the 36th Annual Sugar Maple Festival in downtown Bellbrook from April 25 to 27. The theme of this year's festival is "Flower Power: Celebrating the 60's." 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 25

Main Street Closure 10 am
Franklin Street Closure.....5 pm
Dog Show Registration.....6 pm
Dog Show6:30 pm
Food Vendors..... 6:30 - 8:30 pm

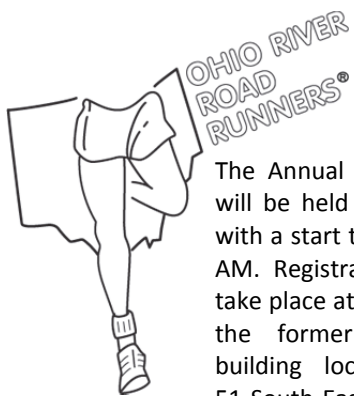
Saturday, April 26

Pancake Breakfast.....8 - 11 am
5K Registration.....8 am
5K Run Start9 am
National Anthem.....11:30 am
Parade Start11:30 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 27

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

Annual 5K Race



The Annual 5K Race will be held April 26 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 2014 Sugar Maple Festival Commemorative Plate was designed by Kenleigh Cain. Kenleigh is a student in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District.

The Commemorative Plates will go on sale Monday, April 21, 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 2014 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 (937) 750-9925 or hollyx2jb@hotmail.com.



Entertainment Schedule

Friday, April 25

The Rejects 8 pm

Saturday, April 26

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 27

Bellbrook Park

Chris Katros..... 12 pm
Danny Voris.....1:30 pm
Muddy River Band 3 pm

Sugarcreek Township Fire Department

Fire Department Auto Extrication 2 pm

36th Sugar Maple Festival: April 25 – 27, 2014

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 14 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.

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

Saturday, April 26

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

Sunday, April 27

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

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 26 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.

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 25. 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 26. 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).

Come Explore at the Festival...

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

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 provides many programs and classes for all ages throughout the spring and summer months. Activities include a garden speaker series, summer camps, nature programs, fitness classes, stargazing, family movie nights, tween, youth and preschool programs, and much more. The *Music in the Park* series is back this year and is free to attend. All shows will be held at Bellbrook Park with the Community Center as a rain location. All concerts are from 7 PM to 8 PM. New events include Family Bingo on May 3 and Sundaes in the Park on July 2. For more park and program information, please contact (937) 848-3535 or visit the Park District's website at www.bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org.

The Bellbrook Garden Club plant sale will be Saturday, May 17, from 9 am to 1 pm at 51 South East Street. Sun and shade-loving perennials, wildflowers, grasses, herbs, and succulents will be for sale at reasonable prices. Members will be on hand to assist you and answer any gardening questions you might have. The proceeds from this sale fund scholarships and grants for the students and teachers of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District. For more information, please contact Pam Ryan at (937) 848-9588.

In April, a second grade class will be planting a sugar maple tree at Stephen Bell Elementary School. This is the culmination of a grant funded by the Club.

The Club is continuing several community service projects. They will be working in the Old Village area at Winter's Library, the Historical Museum, as well as decorating the large planters downtown.

To learn more, visit their website at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org.

Bellbrook Historical Museum Spring is just around the corner and the Museum continues to offer new and exciting exhibits to the citizens of the Bellbrook community. The Museum has been repainted and new LED lighting has been installed in its exhibit spaces. They have a new exhibit in the Rotating Exhibit Room. This exhibit highlights the role of Bellbrook and the surrounding area in the historic

Underground Railroad. Join us as we explore the people, places and events that took place over one hundred years ago. These things and many more await the Museum visitor each Wednesday from 10 AM to 2 PM and Saturday from 12 PM to 5 PM. The museum is easy to find at 42 North Main Street. Stop by to see treasures of historic Bellbrook.



Bellbrook Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

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 15 to 17. You may register on their website, call the office, or visit their Sugar Maple Festival tent. 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 21!

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

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Family Resource Center Have you started your Spring Cleaning? Each week the Family

Resource Center serves numerous financially needy families from our local community. The Center is a government non-profit organization and they rely on donations from the local community, organizations, and individuals like you! Additionally, they need items such as peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, laundry soap, and deodorant for their Ministerial Association Food Pantry. *Wish List* items can be found on the Greene County Family and Children First website at www.co.greene.oh.us/fcf. Go to the Quick Links section on the bottom right corner of the page and select *Bellbrook/Sugarcreek FRC Wish List*. Please call (937) 848-3810 to schedule an appointment if you would like to make a donation. They can provide a donation receipt for tax purposes. Thank you for supporting our community!

Bellbrook Senior Center In February, the Bellbrook Senior Center marked its five-year anniversary. From day one, the mission of the Center has been to provide a space for individuals 50 and older in Bellbrook and the surrounding community for fellowship, fun, learning, and exploring opportunities to improve their lives. They have experienced growth in the variety of activities offered and the number of individuals who share in one or more of these activities every week. Most importantly, new and lasting friendships have been made because of having the Center open during these five years. Make plans to join them on Monday, April 21 at 12 noon for the Easter Carry-in Luncheon. For questions regarding the Center's activities, contact Tim Brickey at (937) 376-5486 or tim.brickey@gcco.org.

Synergistic Gardens Synergistic Community Gardens located on North Lakeman Drive is offering FREE 20' x 20' garden plots available to those with the determination to make things grow. Participants will receive free resources to aid in the growing of their garden, including seeds, plants, tools, and horticulture assistance. They are looking for new gardeners for this coming year! Contact them **now** to reserve a space and to set a time to take a tour. Contact them at synergisticgardens@gmail.com or (513) 541-3553.

Winters – Bellbrook Community Library

The Library is pleased to introduce ***Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!*** By registering with this program, children who live in Greene County from birth to age five will receive by mail a brand new book each month to keep for free! The Greene County Library Foundation (a non-profit organization supporting the Greene County Public Library) has partnered with Dolly Parton, United Way of Dayton, Soin Medical Center, and others to provide access to this wonderful program! Reading regularly to preschoolers gives them a boost toward a successful education, and this program will help parents with this activity. One of the goals of the Greene County Library is to foster childhood literacy, so they are proud to be part of this project! For more information, visit the Library's website at www.greenelibrary.info.



Bellbrook Lions Club

Bellbrook Entry Signs This spring, Eagle Scout, Nathaniel DeLong, will be refurbishing the Bellbrook community signs for his Eagle Scout project. The Bellbrook Lions Club is sponsoring this project. Residents will see a better representation of current community service organizations. The Lions Club regularly sponsors projects for aspiring Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Community Assessment Do you see a need within the community or have an idea to help improve where we live? If so, let your voice be heard. The Bellbrook Lions Club is conducting a Community Needs Assessment through May to identify and

plan for different projects throughout the community where they can be most effective. Visit the Club's website for the assessment questionnaire. They will also have a booth at the Sugar Maple Festival to receive additional input.

Community Flea Market The Club is hosting a Community Flea Market during the Bellbrook Community Garage Sale on May 17. The event will be held in the parking lot of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools Board of Education offices at 3757 Upper Bellbrook Road. Residents can rent two parking spaces, approximately 20' X 25' for \$20. The number of parking spaces is

unlimited. Sellers keep all of their profits. A Goodwill truck will be available for any items people do not want to take home.

Recycle Day The Bellbrook Lions will be holding a Recycle Day in conjunction with the Community Flea Market on May 17. The Club has arranged with Greene County to provide a document shredding truck on site, as well as recycling other items including electronics and paint.

For more information about the Bellbrook Lions Club and its activities, contact Club President Gregg Sparks at gasparks@aol.com or visit the Club's website at www.bellbrooklions.org.

City News

Mayor's State of the City Address



Mayor Bob Baird

On February 24, 2014, Mayor Bob Baird gave the annual State of the City Address before City Council and members of the public.

I am happy to report the City of Bellbrook remains one of the most fiscally sound cities in our region. Bellbrook ended 2013 with estimated revenues totaling \$6.73 million and expenses totaling \$6.72 million, resulting in an unencumbered fund balance of \$4.77 million.

While Bellbrook remains fiscally strong, we still must deal with the ramification of funding cuts by the State of Ohio. In 2008, Bellbrook received \$208,000 in local government funds from the State of Ohio and in 2014, this amount has been reduced to \$82,000. Additionally, Bellbrook had received an average of \$90,000 per year over the past 10 years from the State of Ohio Estate Tax, which has now been eliminated.

As a result of these funding cuts, as well as the costly upgrades required to implement the statewide Multi-Agency Communications System (MARCS), Bellbrook made the difficult decision to contract our dispatch operation with the City of Xenia. This action will save the city nearly \$125,000 a year for the next five years and eliminates four full-time and two part-time positions. The decision to contract dispatch was not made lightly and numerous options were considered. Ultimately, the decision was made to team with Sugarcreek

Township and contract both of our dispatch operations to the City of Xenia's Greene Central Dispatch Center. Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township residents now have one dispatcher for both areas and the ability to have a backup dispatcher for times when we receive a high volume of calls. Another benefit is that we are now on the same radio channel with Sugarcreek Township, so all calls are heard by both police and fire departments who can aid in back up situations.

Bellbrook's water systems continue to perform well and our water rates remained unchanged for the third year. The past year saw a major increase in new construction and water tap in fees. Tap in fees were at their highest level since 2006.

Mayor's State of the City Address Continued

2013 was also our first year for our new waste collection contract with Rumpke. The new contract resulted in increased services and a reduction in our monthly waste collection fee from \$16 per month to \$13 dollars per month.

Our road/service department has had a challenging winter. The winter of 2013/2014 has been one of the harshest winters in a long time. I would like to thank all our employees for their hard work and long hours keeping our roads cleared. The Bellbrook road department has done an excellent job keeping our roads cleared and, unlike other cities, Bellbrook has maintained an adequate supply of road salt.

2013 was also a year of many retirements and promotions.

Fire Department Personnel:

- ◆ Captain Phil Michael retired
- ◆ Athena Haus and Anthony Bizzarro promoted to Captain
- ◆ Kevin Glueckert promoted to Lieutenant
- ◆ Jon Nickerson hired as full-time Firefighter/Paramedic
- ◆ Chief Scott Hall announced his retirement plans for early 2014
- ◆ Jim Neidhard named Fire Chief effective February 2014. Chief Neidhard has over 24 years of experience in both fire and EMS service, including seven years as Deputy Fire Chief for Washington Township.

Police Department Personnel:

- ◆ Lieutenant Matt Savino announces his retirement plans for May 2014
- ◆ Chief David Helling announces his retirement plans for March 2014
- ◆ Douglas Doherty named Police Chief effective March 3, 2014. Chief Doherty has over 25 years of experience in law enforcement, including 11 years as a Captain for the City of Xenia Police Department.

Administration Personnel:

- ◆ Clerk of Council Jill Rosner retired in July 2013
- ◆ Carrie Smith named Clerk of Council

City Council:

- ◆ Council Member Denny Bennett retires after serving 16 years
- ◆ Jon Martin did not seek re-election after serving 4 years
- ◆ New City Council members Nick Edwards and Forest Greenwood elected

I would like thank all of our retired/retiring employees for their many years of public service and would like to wish them all a long and happy retirement.

On a sad note, we also mourned the passing of retired City Councilman Ralph Fussner in 2013. Ralph had a distinguished career with the State Highway Patrol and served multiple terms on city council. Ralph was a strong advocate of public safety and spent many years as our public safety committee chairman.

In the coming year, we will continue to cope with declining revenue from the State of Ohio and while facing the challenges of maintaining expected service levels with diminishing resources. We will continue making every effort to find ways to reduce expenses and maintain the level of services our residents expect. The city of Bellbrook remains one of the most desirable communities in the region in which to live and our schools are consistently ranked as one of the top districts in the area. We have great public services and are one of the few cities in the State of Ohio without an income tax. Bellbrook is a wonderful community, and I am proud and honored to serve as your Mayor.

Bob Baird
Mayor, City of Bellbrook

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.

City Council Updates

Vineyards Subdivision Section Two In February, City Council approved the Planning Board’s recommendation to accept a preliminary plan and layout for the Vineyards Subdivision Section Two. The Planning Board held several public meetings and gained input from the developer, neighbors, and city staff. Section Two includes 27 homes which the developer hopes to have completed in the next several years.

Joint Meeting with Township Trustees City Council has begun a series of joint meetings with the Sugarcreek Township Board of Trustees to develop discussion on City/Township cooperation.

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.

2014 Budget City Council approved the 2014 Annual Budget and 2014-2018 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.

Water Rates In February, Council decided not to increase water rates in 2014. This is the third consecutive year that water rates have remained stable. The average quarterly water bill for a resident remains at \$102.75 based on 7,500 gallons per month.

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

Meet Your Fire Department at the Sugar Maple Festival!

We will have our famous "Fire Dogs" and Eaglette Gyros. Proceeds from the Fire Department’s sales will go toward the "Firefighter Mike Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund." Come get your "Fire Dog!"

As always, 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.



Fire & Police Chiefs Retire

Fire Chief Scott Hall retired from the City of Bellbrook Fire Department on February 1. Chief Hall served the City of Bellbrook and surrounding community for over 33 years as a first responder. Hall led the Fire Department as Fire Chief for 15 years in a part-time capacity while working full-time for the City of Huber Heights Fire Department. Prior to serving as Fire Chief, Hall served as Captain, Lieutenant, and Volunteer for the department.

Chief Hall oversaw the development of the Fire Department to a combination part-time and full-time department. Hall was active in emergency response organizations outside of the city as well. “His commitment to the community and customer service is unmatched,” said City Manager Mark Schlagheck.

Police Chief Dave Helling retired from the City of Bellbrook Police Department on March 14. Chief Helling served the City of Bellbrook for 16 years as Police Chief.

Prior to serving as Police Chief, Helling worked in various roles with the City of Xenia Police Division and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



Retired Fire Chief Scott Hall

New Leadership for Fire & Police Departments

Fire Chief Jim Neidhard was selected as the city's new Fire Chief on January 21. He began his position on February 3 and oversees a \$1.17 million operating budget and a combination of paid and volunteer staff of 37.

A native of the Dayton area, Chief Neidhard has 24 years of experience encompassing both fire and EMS service, including seven years as the Deputy Fire Chief for Washington Township Fire Department (Montgomery County). During his career, Chief Neidhard has performed roles in Fire Administration, Emergency Management, public education, and other critical Fire Service activities. He is a member of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association and numerous community groups. Neidhard has a Master of Public Administration degree from Wright State University and degrees from both The Ohio State University and Sinclair Community College. Additionally, he has completed the Ohio Fire Executive Program through the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association.

"I look forward to leading a department already known for its excellence in fire and EMS services," said Chief Neidhard, "and being a part of a community that is passionate about its heritage and its future."



Fire Chief Jim Neidhard



Police Chief Doug Doherty

Police Chief Doug Doherty was selected as the city's new Police Chief on February 18. He began his position on March 3 and oversees a \$1.75 million operating budget and a staff of 13.

A native of the Dayton/Englewood area, Doug Doherty has 25 years of experience in Law Enforcement, including 11 years as a Captain for City of Xenia Police Division. During his career, Doug Doherty has performed roles in Police Administration, Emergency Management, public education, and other Law Enforcement activities. He has received numerous awards during his service for the City of Xenia. Doherty is a graduate of both the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

"I look forward to serving the citizens of Bellbrook and becoming a part of this community," said Chief Doherty. "I am thankful to follow Chief Helling, who set a high standard for the Bellbrook Police Department. My commitment to the City of Bellbrook, its citizens, and the proud members of the Bellbrook Police Department will be on display every day, as I work hard for all of you."

Policeman's Badge: Neighborhood Safety Tips for Parents

Unfortunately, no neighborhood is immune to crime. However, there are steps you can take to help keep your neighborhood safe.

- ◆ **Know where your children are.** Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check in or be home. When possible, have them leave a phone number of where they will be.
- ◆ **Help children learn important phone numbers.** Have your children practice reciting their home phone number and address, and your work and cell phone numbers. If they have trouble memorizing these, write them down on a card and have them carry it at all times. Tell your children where you will be and the best way to reach you.
- ◆ **Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood.** Do you want them crossing busy roads? Playing in alleys or abandoned buildings? Are there certain homes in your neighborhood that you do not want your children to go?
- ◆ **Get to know your children's friends.** Meet their parents before letting your children go to their home and keep a list of their phone numbers. If you cannot meet their parents, call and talk to them. Ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.
- ◆ **Choose a safe house in your neighborhood.** Pick a neighbor's house where your children can go if they need help. Point out other places they can go for help, like stores, libraries, and police stations.
- ◆ **Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists.** Role-play talking out problems, walking away from fistfights, and what to do when confronted with bullies. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.
- ◆ **Work together with your neighbors.** Watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another.
- ◆ **Call 911 in an emergency.** Do not hesitate to call and speak with an officer if you have any questions or concerns.

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.



Water Rates Remain Steady

The City of Bellbrook will not increase water rates for the third straight year. At the City Council meeting on Monday, February 10, 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.

According to the annual *City of Oakwood Water and Sewer Rate Survey*, water rates increased in communities throughout the region by an average of 3.8% in 2012 and 3.4% in 2013. The City of Bellbrook has not increased rates during those years and is currently below average in what residents pay for water service. 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 Sugarcreek Township.

Water Quality Report

The 2014 Water Quality Report is available to water customers on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org/waterqualityreport.pdf. For more information, contact the Utilities Department at (937) 848-4638 or visit the Utilities page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Holidays

The City of Bellbrook non-emergency services will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day and Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Service Department: The Works

The Bellbrook Service Department has been busy with the cold winter. They have been keeping the streets clear, fixing water main breaks and working on various parts of the water system.

The following streets are being considered for paving in 2014:

- ◆ Ambridge Drive
- ◆ Birch Bark Court
- ◆ Kensington Drive (Tareyton Drive to Possum Run Drive)
- ◆ Leicester Road
- ◆ Locus Bend Drive

- ◆ Maple Leaf Court
- ◆ North Belleview Drive
- ◆ Sugarleaf Drive
- ◆ Tareyton Drive (North Belleview to Kensington Drive)

Report the following issues:

- ◆ Potholes in the roadway
- ◆ Street lights that are out
- ◆ Stormwater drainage issues in the street

You can report the above issues by calling the Service Department at (937) 848-8415.



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

2014 Dates for Special Collections:

April 12	September 13
May 10	October 11
June 14	November 8
July 12	December 29
August 9	

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.

Council Members

- Bob Baird, Mayor
- Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor
- Nick Edwards
- Forrest Greenwood
- Elaine Middlestetter
- Joe Ritzel
- Dona Seger-Lawson

Waste Collection Holidays Please note that trash collection will be delayed one day due to the Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays. **Trash collection will take place on Saturday, May 31 and Saturday, July 5 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 Utilities Office at (937) 848-4638.

Bulk Pick-up Large items may be picked up by Rumpke on Fridays. However, you must call ahead and schedule 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 Utilities page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Greene County Closes Local Yard Waste Collection Site

The Greene County Commissioners have decided to permanently close the local Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Yard Waste Site. Last year, the site was closed pending further notice.

Residents do have options to dispose of yard waste. First, Rumpke does collect yard waste as outlined above. Second, the County has made arrangements for residents to dispose of yard waste at no extra cost at two private recyclers and two county facilities.

Private Recyclers:

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.



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.

The Bellbrook City Council would like to invite you to attend its regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Meetings begin at 7 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

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.

2014 Financial Overview

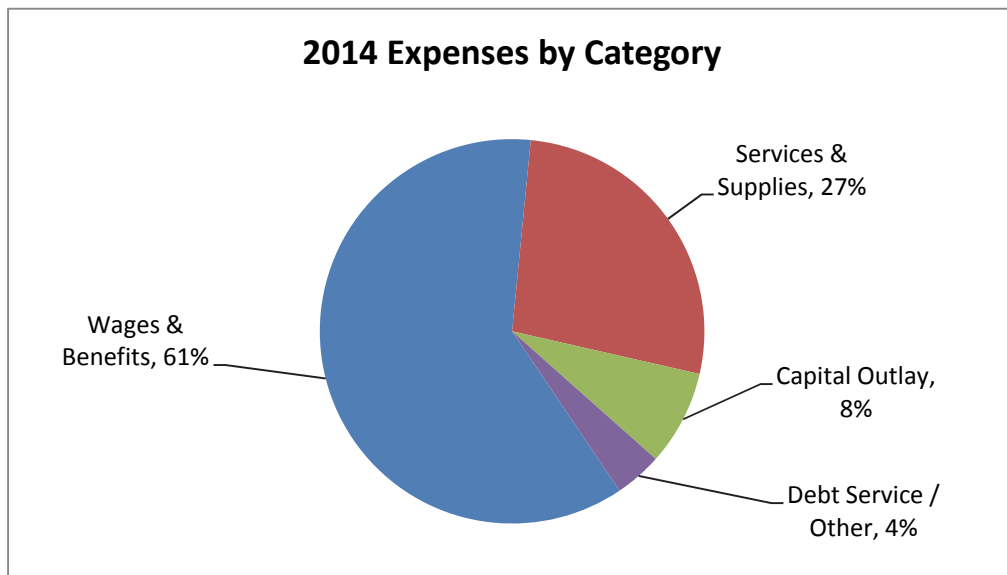
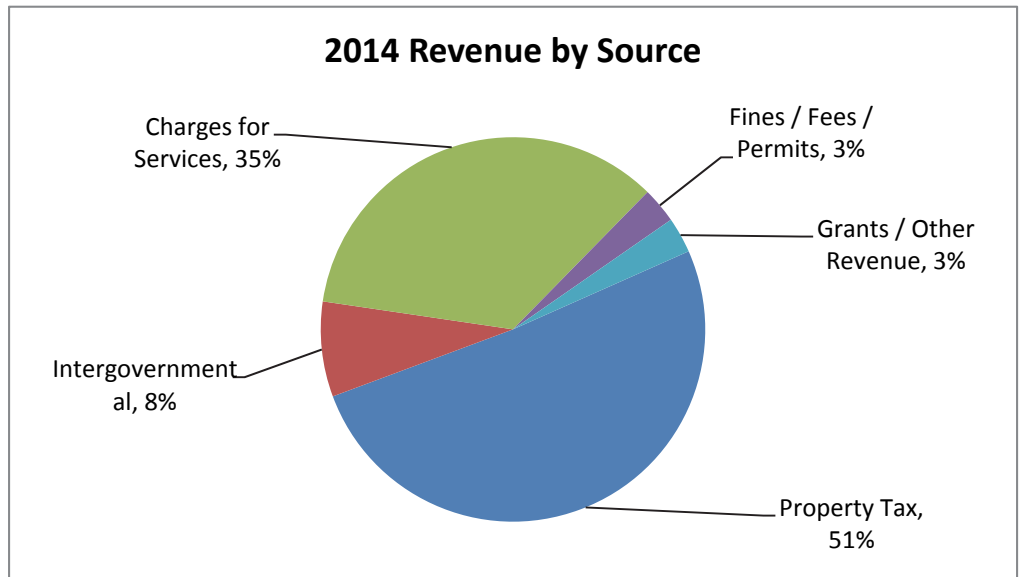
In December 2013, the Bellbrook City Council adopted the 2014 Annual Budget and the 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Program.

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 2014:

	Revenue	Expenses	Difference	Ending Balance
Property Tax Supported Funds	\$3,689,260	\$3,873,497	\$(184,237)	\$2,641,311
Transportation Related Funds	385,010	389,930	(4,920)	174,841
Water Related Funds	1,592,000	1,445,086	146,914	1,634,767
Waste Collection Fund	391,500	413,700	(22,200)	240,646
Other Funds	33,150	51,136	(17,986)	2,548
Total	<u>\$6,090,920</u>	<u>\$6,173,349</u>	<u>\$(82,429)</u>	<u>\$4,694,113</u>

The City's largest revenue source is **property tax** and related state reimbursements at **\$3.1 million or 51%** of total revenue. The second largest source is **charges for services** which include water, waste collection and EMS charges. This accounts for **\$2.1 million or 35%** of total 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 8%** 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 61%** of the total budget of \$6.2 million. Other significant categories include **services and supplies** at **\$1.7 million or 27%** and **capital outlay** at **\$0.5 million or 8%** of total budget.

The complete 2014 Annual Budget and 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Program is available by calling (937)848-4666 or by visiting the Finance page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Environmental News

Spring Into Action!

The Clean Water Act and USEPA regulations require that Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of pollutants be developed for all bodies of water that are subject to water quality monitoring. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and/or contain and still meet water quality standards. In 1998, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) identified the upper Little Miami River (LMR) watershed as a priority impaired watershed. Efforts and studies have been underway since then to calculate the appropriate total maximum daily load of pollutants for our local watershed and to establish measures to reach those goals.

The most recent OEPA report for these pollutant loads for the upper Little Miami River watershed was published in 2002. A second study was completed in 2011 with updated findings expected to be published in 2014-15. The 2002 findings pinpointed the major causes of impairment to the upper Little Miami River to be nutrient enrichment (**excess phosphorous**), sedimentation from development and habitat degradation due to reduced oxygen from these other pollutants. Restoration targets for the Little Miami River are the reduction of phosphorus by 60% and sediment by 30%. By reducing the oxygen depleting nutrients or pollutants, in-stream water quality should improve with the result that natural habitat quality may also return to higher levels.

Phosphorus nutrients are commonly found in **fertilizers, detergents and pesticides**, so consumer awareness and voluntary limitation of the amounts of these products used is essential to reducing the negative impacts to our local watershed. In the past few years, many major lawn and shrub care companies have eliminated phosphorus from lawn maintenance products. Most company findings have determined that the typical, established lawn has more than an adequate amount of phosphorus to support healthy grass and grass growth.

Before purchasing or scheduling your spring application of fertilizer, consider using a 0% phosphorus fertilizer for your established lawn and in treating other landscaping for pests. We all have a small part to play but together we can create a big impact in our local watershed by working together to return water quality to our local rivers, streams, and creeks.

Our rivers are closer than you think – thanks for keeping them clean and clear.

Statistics courtesy of OEPA



The Little Miami River Watershed: It's a Clear Choice

The **Little Miami River (LMR)** is a Class 1 tributary of the Ohio River that flows 111 miles through southwestern Ohio and joins the Ohio River east of Cincinnati. The Little Miami River is one of 156 American rivers designated by the US Congress or the Secretary of the Interior as a National Wild and Scenic River and lends its name to the adjacent Little Miami Scenic Trail.

The Little Miami River is part of a **watershed** that drains 1,757 square miles

through Clark, Montgomery, Madison, **Greene**, Warren, Butler, Clinton, Clermont, Brown, and Highland counties. The Little Miami River watershed is divided into two parts: the upper and the lower LMR watershed. Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township are located in the upper LMR watershed. On average, the river **discharges 1,737** cubic feet of water per second into the Ohio River and an average of **1,280** cubic feet per second flows through the river itself. After heavy rains, the river flow may rise to a dramatic **84,100** cubic feet per second!

There are eight tributaries of the Little Miami River, one of which is the **Sugar Creek**, located just **south of Bellbrook**. Bellbrook's local streams, Brewster's Run, Possum Run, and the Little Sugarcreek create a confluence and flow into the Sugar Creek just outside the city limits before it flows into the Little Miami River. Two dams, Caesar's Creek in Warren County and East Fork in Clermont and Brown counties, were constructed in the 1970s by the US Army Corps of Engineers to create Caesar's Creek Lake and Harsha Lake. The river's headwaters are located in Clark County and it empties into the Ohio River at Cincinnati.

Between the headwaters and its mouth, there is a **705-foot decrease in elevation**.

The Little Miami River is home to at least **87 species of fish**, as well as many species of **turtles, frogs, water snakes, birds, mammals, and invertebrates**. The river contains **36 species of mussels**, including two threatened species, one of which is endangered. The Little Miami River is protected by many nature preserves owned by state and local governments and Little Miami, Inc.

Many recreation opportunities on and around the Little Miami River exist in our locale. We can help maintain the natural beauty of the Little Miami River and our local streams by undertaking practices that positively affect its habitat and appearance. Using less fertilizers, picking up pet wastes, proper disposal of household hazardous wastes, keeping litter, chemicals and debris out of Bellbrook's storm sewer system all contribute to our local stream's quality of habitat which in turn affect the Little Miami River.

Our rivers are closer than you think – thanks for keeping them clean and clear.

Statistics courtesy of OSU Extension Office



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

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

Bellbrook Business Spotlight

TJ's Gardens: Bellbrook's Town Florist

Located in downtown Bellbrook at the east end of Bellbrook Plaza, TJ's Gardens is the area florist offering interior plants, home décor, handcrafted gift and gardens items by local artisans in addition to flower design. TJ's Gardens is owned and operated by Bellbrook resident Lynn Thompson. Lynn personally selects all flowers and plants for the highest quality. TJ's Gardens offers free delivery to orders in the Bellbrook/Sugarcreek community and standard delivery in the Dayton area. Specialty services include custom flowers for special occasions, sympathy work, and custom silk flower arrangements. TJ's Gardens offers "cash and carry" by the stem and stocks a wide variety of seasonal flowers.

Lynn has always had a passion for flowers and has turned that into a well-appointed small business to serve her community. She is a third generation entrepreneur; both her father and grandfather operated small businesses. Lynn opened TJ's Gardens in the spring of 2010.

Location

52 Bellbrook Plaza
*In downtown Bellbrook
next to BellHOP Café*

Hours

Mon. – Fri. 11 am to 6 pm
Sat. 11 am to 3 pm

Phone

(937) 310-1505

Website

www.tjsflorals.com

