

# City of Bellbrook Community Report

August 2014  
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## Help Support the Bellbrook Historical Museum

The Bellbrook Historical Museum Trustees and the City of Bellbrook invite the community to help with the continuing restoration of the Bellbrook Historical Museum by purchasing commemorative bricks. Proceeds from the Commemorative Brick Fundraiser will go toward the restoration of the Museum building. ***Pave a path for the future of your beloved Museum!***

For a \$50 donation, your personalized, engraved brick will be placed at the side entrance to the Museum grounds. Initial installation of bricks is planned for the Fall of 2014.

For more information, questions can be directed to Janis Stratis, Historical Museum Trustee, at [brx4bellmu@yahoo.com](mailto:brx4bellmu@yahoo.com). To order your brick, go the fundraiser website at [www.polarengraving.com/bellbrookmuseum](http://www.polarengraving.com/bellbrookmuseum). Please order your commemorative brick no later than Labor Day, September 1.

The Bellbrook Historical Museum focuses on our rich, local history. Visitors are able to see artifacts and pictures from before the area was settled to modern times. The displays consist of many items that have been donated from local residents. Exhibits rotate several times throughout the year. The Museum is owned by the City of Bellbrook and managed with the assistance of the Historical Museum Trustees.

For more information about the Bellbrook Historical Museum, to plan your visit, or to get involved, please go to the Museum page on our website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org).

## Museum Hosts Third Grade Tours

The Bellbrook Historical Museum recently hosted their annual Bell Creek Intermediate school Third Grade tour. The students experience a unique field trip in that they walk down the hill to visit the Museum and also learn about the City. The children are met by local historian and retired Bellbrook High School teacher Steve Berryhill. Steve shares some of the early history of Bellbrook and takes them past what was once Stephen Bell's home. The students learn about the Bellbrook area's role in the Underground Railroad, the Bellbrook train, Sleepy Tom the horse, the Magnetic Springs Hotel, and more. One of the student's favorite artifacts is the Della Hopkins-Knox bench in the front hallway of the Museum. In 1900, Della carved the black walnut bench with a pocketknife; the bench is an amazing piece of art!

Thank you to Museum Trustees Debbie Staton, Mary Lou Eppers, and resident George Simmons who assisted with the tours.

The Museum hopes the students will bring their families back this summer to show off what they learned! The Museum is open on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturdays from 12 pm to 4 pm.

*Drawings by Muriel (bottom left) and Madeline (bottom right).*



## Community News

### Winters Library

If you have not visited the Winters-Bellbrook Library in a while, stop by and see what is new!

#### Did you know?

- ◆ Thousands of children use the Library every year for reading, programs, and schoolwork.



- ◆ Residents of all ages rely on our public computers and Internet access to do research and look for jobs.
- ◆ Homebound, elderly, and disabled residents depend on our book delivery services.
- ◆ The Library brings people into downtown Bellbrook with an average of over 300 people walking through the doors every day.
- ◆ The Library continually looks for new ways to help its patrons *Discover, Learn, and Grow!* In addition to traditional services, great books, movies, music; and the Library provides

access to e-books and premium online research resources. Their newest digital service, *Hoopla*, offers streaming movies, music, and audiobooks.

- ◆ The Library offers opportunities for fun and learning with programs for kids and adults. Upcoming events include a cookbook sale, story times, book clubs, LEGO building, programs on organizing, health insurance in retirement, planning for college, crafts, and lots more.
- Visit [www.greenelibrary.info](http://www.greenelibrary.info) for more information!

### Sugar Maple Festival Neighbors of the Year

The Sugar Maple Festival Neighbors of the Year award winners are **Barbara Astor**, **Elaine Long**, and **Kathy Schultz**. Each award winner shares a love for walking and help to beautify the community by picking up litter on their travels. Barbara Astor walks for exercise and found that she could no longer ignore the litter that she passed daily. As a poet who writes about nature in words, Barbara decided to respect nature in deeds. Elaine Long began training to walk the El Camino de Santiago, a nearly 500-mile pilgrimage in northern Spain. Her walking takes her through downtown Bellbrook to Sugarcreek Educational Concepts where she is a teacher. Kathy Schultz remembers picking up litter on her way to and from school as a young girl. Walking in Bellbrook takes her west of downtown on Franklin Street through a beautiful wooded area, which was full of trash. She decided to adopt the area as her own project and has made it litter free.

Congratulations and thank you to these award winners for helping to keep our community beautiful.

### Bellbrook Garden Club

The Bellbrook Garden Club thanks the entire Bellbrook community for supporting their annual plant sale this past May. The sale was a success due to those who donated plants and those who purchased them. Profits are used to provide scholarships for students and grants for teachers in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District. The teacher grant awarded to second grade teacher Mary Kay Walblay

resulted in the planting of a Sugar Maple tree at Stephen Bell Elementary School.

The club has been busy again this year planting the gardens around Winter's Library and the Bellbrook Historical Museum, as well as the pots in the downtown area. Club members take turns maintaining these areas throughout the summer months.

Anyone with an interest in gardening is invited to learn more about our club. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month and include a wide variety of topics, tours, and projects. The club invites comments or questions and is accepting new members. For more information, please visit their website at [www.bellbrookgardenclub.org](http://www.bellbrookgardenclub.org) or email them at [bellbrookgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:bellbrookgardenclub@gmail.com).

### Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center

#### Back to School Supply Drive

Soon, there will be excitement in the air as students think about going back to school. However, some children in our community may not be quite as excited if they fear that their families cannot afford to purchase the necessary school supplies. With your assistance, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center would like to help these children! The Center supports financially challenged families in our community and your donations are tax deductible with donation receipts provided upon request. For more information about needed school supplies or to donate any new or gently used school items, please contact Carolyn Destefani at (937) 848-3810 or [cdestefani@co.greene.oh.us](mailto:cdestefani@co.greene.oh.us). The Center is located at 51 South East Street in Bellbrook. Thank you for your support!



### 68<sup>th</sup> Bellbrook Lions Club Festival: August 14 – 16

Come join the Bellbrook community as it celebrates the 68<sup>th</sup> Bellbrook Lions Club Festival in downtown Bellbrook on August 14 – 16. The theme of this year’s festival is “Community Connections.” As always, there will be numerous activities for everyone. The festival is a family-friendly atmosphere and everyone is invited to come out and join the fun!

For more information, visit the Bellbrook Lions Club website at [www.bellbrooklions.org](http://www.bellbrooklions.org).



#### Thursday, August 14

Open ..... 6:00 pm  
Close..... 11:00 pm

#### Friday, August 15

Open ..... 6:00 pm  
Close..... 11:00 pm

#### Saturday, August 16

Parade ..... 4:00 pm  
Raffle Drawing..... 11:15 pm



The Bellbrook Lions Club Festival will be held at the old Sugarcreek Elementary School in downtown Bellbrook. All proceeds from the festival return to the community in the form of local projects, scholarships, or other donations the Lions Club makes throughout the year. The theme for this year’s festival is “Community Connections” with the parade Grand Marshals being leaders of the City of Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township governments. The parade Grand Marshals will be Bellbrook Mayor Bob Baird and Sugarcreek Trustee Scott Bryant. This is a great opportunity for community members to reconnect just before the start of school.

The festival is considered a "homecoming" as it allows longtime residents, those who have moved away, and new residents to connect in a family environment and support local service projects.

The amusement rides will be available all three nights with an armband special to allow continuous riding for the evening. Full dinners are available each evening with other meal items available at Lions trailers. The annual raffle will be a cash prize of \$10,000, \$500, and \$250, so buy your tickets from a Bellbrook Lion for your chance at this prize. If you have not attended the Lions Festival before, please consider coming this year to support the Bellbrook Lions Club.

### Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District

#### Calendar Photo Contest

Grab a camera, get out in the parks, and capture the beauty of our special community! The top 12 photos, voted by the public, will appear in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District’s 2015 calendar. The deadline to submit photos is October 8.

Voting on Facebook and in person at the Community Center will take place from October 13 – 24. The calendar will be available at the Community Center in November. Please contact Alison Pifer at (937) 848-3535 or email her at [info@bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org](mailto:info@bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org) for more information.



City News

City Council Updates

School Security

The City of Bellbrook Police Department has provided additional security services to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District during school hours and home football games. In July, Council approved agreements with the school district to help pay for these additional services.

Tax Budget

In July, Council approved the annual tax budget ordinance. The tax budget is a financial plan for the operations of the next calendar year. The budget is submitted to the county budget commission and used to fix property tax rates. This is not the final budget that Council approves for the following fiscal year.

Annual Wage Increase

Following Council approval in July, City employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, received a 2% wage increase effective August 1. This wage increase was included in the 2014 budget. In addition to the wage increase, certain employee wage scales were also adjusted to remain consistent with other local governments.



City Council

The Bellbrook City Council would like to invite you to attend its regular meetings on the second and fourth 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](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org)

Council Members

Term Expires

Bob Baird, Mayor.....	2015
Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor .....	2017
Nick Edwards .....	2017
Forrest Greenwood .....	2017
Elaine Middlestetter .....	2015
Joe Ritzel.....	2015
Dona Seger-Lawson .....	2015

City Holidays

The City of Bellbrook non-emergency services will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day; Tuesday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day; Thursday, November 27, and Friday November 28, in observance of Thanksgiving.



The Fire Escape

Severe Weather Preparedness

Recently, the area has experienced several instances of severe weather. It's important for everyone to know what to do in the case of a weather emergency. In general, it is recommended that everyone be prepared to sustain themselves for a minimum of three days. The keys to this advance planning is through keeping an emergency kit, having an emergency plan, and staying informed.

A great resource for implementing these three steps can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). This site will provide you with details and suggestions to be prepared for the unpredictability of severe weather.

Open House

The Bellbrook Fire Department would like to invite the entire community to join us at our annual Bellbrook Fire Department Open House on Tuesday, October 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

This collaborative event will be held at Bellbrook Fire Station #2, 4254 West Franklin Street. The whole family is encouraged to visit your fire department and view the various fire, emergency medical displays, and safety presentations. This is a great opportunity for you to meet

the fire department members who find it rewarding to voluntarily serve our community. Those residents interested in

being part of our exciting fire and emergency medical service team can obtain application information at the event.

**Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives**

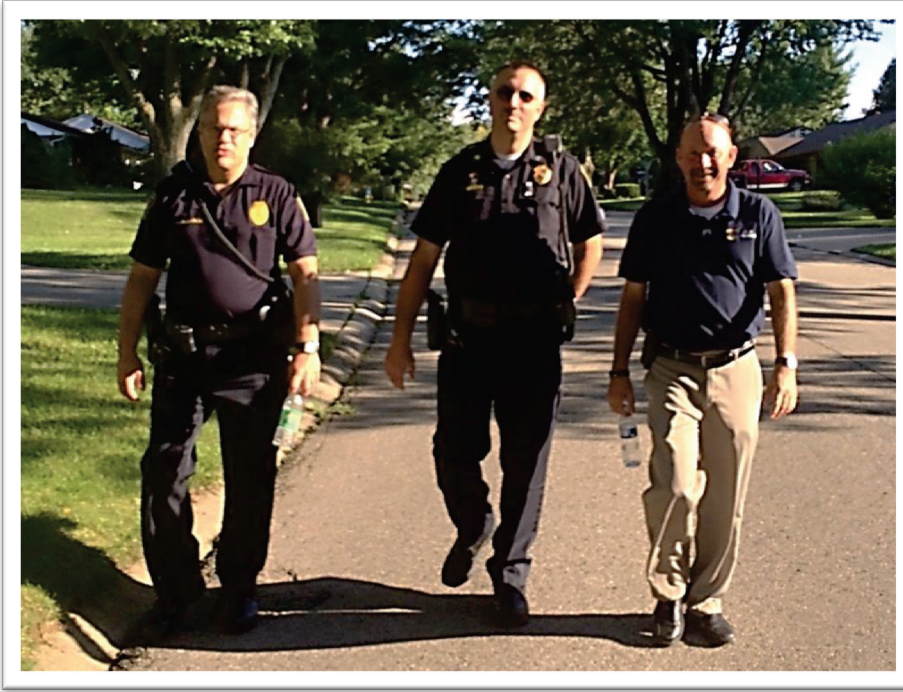
**Test Yours Every Month!**

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014  
Go to [FPW.org](http://FPW.org)

## The Policeman's Badge

### Police Department Changes

The City of Bellbrook Police Department has always served the citizens of this community in a professional and service oriented manner. In the past several months, the department has undergone a lot of change. On March 3, Doug Doherty took over as Police Chief. In late March, Steve Carmin was promoted to Lieutenant to replace the retired Matt Savino. Additionally, Brian Meade was promoted to the rank of Sergeant to replace Steve Carmin. With these changes, the top three command positions in the Police Department have been filled with new personnel.



*Pictured above from left to right: Lt. Steve Carmin, Sgt. Brian Meade, and Mayor Bob Baird*

### Neighborhood Walks

The changes in command personnel prompted Chief Doherty to bring a fresh outreach idea to the Bellbrook community. The idea of identifying different parts of the community and having the command officers walk these neighborhoods was born. Once a week, throughout the summer months, Chief Doherty, Lt. Carmin, and Sgt. Meade walked the neighborhoods. The purpose was to become more familiar with the streets, residents, and identify issues within the various neighborhoods. Most importantly, the walks have allowed the citizens an opportunity to meet the Police Department command staff and talk about their individual concerns. The idea to get out of the offices and cruisers to speak with people face to face has shown to be extremely popular. The leadership of the Bellbrook Police Department remains committed to serving and providing Bellbrook residents with the best customer service.

### Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

The Bellbrook Police Department has been participating in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of drunk driving. The Police Department has been on the lookout for impaired drivers to help keep our city streets safe. The campaign dates are August 15 to September 1.

### Vacation House Checks

The Police Department provides a free residential security check for residents who go on vacation or are away from their home for an extended period. The Vacation House Check program is part of the Bellbrook Police Department's greater goal of keeping the City of Bellbrook a safe community in which to live and work.

To register your home for the Vacation House Check program, please contact non-emergency dispatch at (937) 848-8484 or come to the Bellbrook Police Department office. At the time of registration, you will be asked about the dates of vacancy, security systems, other people who have access to your property, vehicle(s) that will be left on the property, and an emergency contact person. Whenever possible, please provide the requested information with advance notice before departure.

As a resident who has registered your property while you are away, you can expect a Vacation House Check to be done one time per shift depending on officer availability. An officer will inspect the residence for unlocked or damaged windows and doors, evidence of forced entry or suspicious activity, verification of vehicles left on the property, verification of people found on the property, and any obvious mechanical malfunctions. Please be sure to have your house number displayed on your mailbox or otherwise visible from the street.

The Bellbrook Police Department wishes you safe travels!



## Utility Billing Office Moved to Administration Building

The Utility Billing office has moved to the City of Bellbrook Administration building at 15 East Franklin Street in downtown Bellbrook. The Utility Billing office can be found inside the Police Department lobby on the first floor. A new utility payment drop box has been installed at the front entrance of the building.

Office hours for the Utility Billing office have changed to 8:30 am to 4:30 pm,

Monday through Friday. The office will be closed on observed holidays. The Utility Billing office can be contacted at (937) 848-4638 or email them at [bellbrookutilities@cityofbellbrook.org](mailto:bellbrookutilities@cityofbellbrook.org).

For more information on water and waste collection services, please go to the Utility Billing page on our website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org).



## Waste, Recycling & Yard Waste Disposal

**Waste Collection Holidays** Please note that trash collection will be delayed one day due to the Labor Day and Thanksgiving holidays. Trash collection will take place on Saturday, September 6, and Saturday, November 29, for those weeks.

**City Recycling Program** The City has a bi-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 a pick-up with Rumpke at (800) 223-3960.

**Yard Waste** The City does not have a leaf or yard waste collection service. However, residents may use two Greene County sites located in Xenia and Beavercreek. There are also several private recyclers who provide services at no cost to residents. Please call Greene County Environmental Services at (937) 562-5925 for more information.

For more information, visit the Utility Billing page on our website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org).

## Utility E-Bills & Online Payments

City utility customers have an easy way to sign up for email utility bills and to pay their bills online using a credit card or checking account. A processing fee will apply for credit cards. For those of you who would like to use these options, you will have to register through the city's website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org). Go to the Utility Billing page for more information.

The City also accepts payments through bill payment systems used by banks. This is a popular option now as many people pay their bills through their banks or credit unions.

## Municipal and Zoning Code Highlights

### Barking Dogs

Habitual dog barking or howling is not permitted in the city. If you are experiencing a barking dog who is not being controlled by its owner, please call the non-emergency Police phone number at (937) 848-8484. An officer will be dispatched to the address in question. If the officer observes the dog barking, he or she will address the owner of the dog.

### Stray Dogs & Cats

Dogs at large are not permitted in the city. If you observe a dog at large, please call the non-emergency Police phone number at (937) 848-8484 as soon as possible. The

Dispatcher may direct you to call Greene County Animal Control during the day or will dispatch a Bellbrook Police Officer after hours.

Stray or feral cats can be harmful, especially to children or small animals. If you observe stray or feral cats in your neighborhood, please call Greene County Animal Control at (937) 562-7400.



## The Works

### Street Resurfacing

Each year, the city budgets for a selection of streets to be resurfaced. The streets on the list this year include: Ambridge Drive, Birch Bark Court, Kensington Drive (Tareyton Drive to Locus Bend Drive), Leicester Road, Locus Bend Drive, Maple Leaf Court, North Bellevue Drive, Tareyton Drive (North Bellevue Drive to Kensington Drive).

### Hydrant Flushing: Week of September 8

The Service Department will be flushing hydrants during the week of September 8 – 12. Flushing is done each year to inspect the hydrants and water system for proper operation. Between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:30 pm, avoid doing laundry and set water softeners to bypass. For more information, call the Utilities office at (937) 848-4638.



## Helpful Resident Information on Our Website

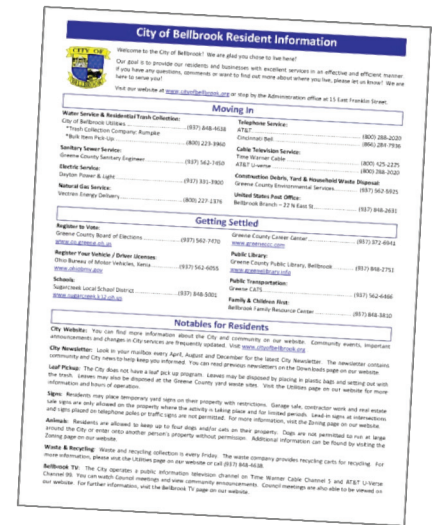
The City of Bellbrook provides helpful information to residents on the city's website and various mailings and brochures. On the website, you can go to the Resident section and find information on moving to the city, getting settled in, and exploring the community.

If you are a new resident, relatively new, or have never gone to the city's website, make sure you take a moment to explore the site. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the city and we will be more than happy to help you.

You can also find information regarding:

- ◆ City Services (Police, Fire, Public Works, and Zoning)
- ◆ Financial Documents and Information
- ◆ Employment Opportunities
- ◆ Local Links and Events
- ◆ Much more!

Take a moment and visit our website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org).



## Environmental News

### Storm Drain Dumping & Stream Pollution

#### Report a Suspected Illegal Discharge

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**



### Watershed Tour

The highest point in a watershed where rainwater begins its journey down the valley as a stream is called its **headwaters**. Headwaters are made up of many small streams in the watershed and form important wildlife habitats for fish and other animals. Vegetated buffers along these headwaters reduce pollution (nutrients and sediment) and flooding by controlling flow into the larger streams. Headwaters are protected by less regulation and are the most environmentally sensitive waters.

As the headwaters move downstream, they come together to form a wider, slower moving creek. Along both sides of the creek are flat areas or **floodplain**, which is land where the creek occasionally overflows. When a creek overflows, it deposits sediments from the water onto the floodplain, returning some of the eroded soil from the headwaters back onto the land. Human activities in this area of the watershed, however, can also have a major impact on the water and its quality that may accelerate the natural erosion of the stream bank, increase the amount of sediments carried by the creek or change the course of the stream.

Medium-sized streams empty into the main channel and contribute to the flow of a **river** moving through a wide flat floodplain along the bottom of the river valley. Because the water runs more slowly, some sediment settles out, forming a sandy or muddy river bottom. At the river's mouth, it empties into yet another body of water. Any sediments, debris, or contaminants still carried by the river, even from the farthest reaches of the headwaters, will be emptied into the receiving waters. As a result, what is found, or is not found in our major rivers, Great Lakes, and coastal areas will provide clues about the health of all of our nation's diverse ecosystems.

### Follow the Flow

#### Where does water go?

Not all water that falls on your property soaks into the ground. As water flows off your property, it can wash pollutants, such as soil, lawn chemicals, and pet waste into where we fish, what we drink, and where we swim.

It is up to all of us to protect our local creeks, rivers, and streams from polluted runoff.

City of Bellbrook  
15 East Franklin Street  
Bellbrook, OH 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](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org)

## Bellbrook Business Spotlight

### The Blind Spot: Window Covering Specialty Store

Located on the western end of Bellbrook in the center of Drug Mart Plaza, The Blind Spot is the area window covering specialty store offering blinds, shutters, draperies, soft treatments, and more. They offer consultations, measurements, repairs, cleaning, and other services.

Robert and Ima Jean Podiak started the business in 1983 on Wayne Avenue in Dayton and then moved to Sugarcreek Plaza where they remained for 25 years until moving to Bellbrook in 2012. The business has remained a true, family business. Daughter, Nancy Link, performs outside sales, measuring and consulting. Son, Jim, installs and granddaughter, Jacqueline Parker, works in the store. They believe their business has grown since their move to Bellbrook because of their location.

Come in and see what The Blind Spot has to offer!

**Location**  
4443 State Route 725  
*In western Bellbrook  
next to Drug Mart*

**Hours**  
Mon. – Fri. 10 am to 7 pm  
Sat. 10 am to 2 pm

**Phone**  
(937) 848-3044

**Website**  
[www.theblindspot1983.com](http://www.theblindspot1983.com)



# The BLIND SPOT