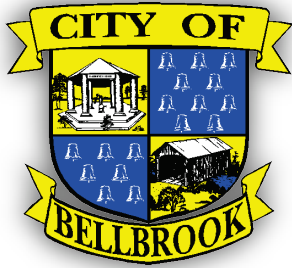


City of Bellbrook Community Report

December 2014
Volume 20, Issue 3

A Publication of the City of Bellbrook



Thank You from the Bellbrook Historical Museum

The Bellbrook Historical Museum staff and the Board of Trustees would like to thank the community for supporting our **Yellow Brick Road** fundraiser. Because of the generosity of families, individuals and local businesses, the museum will now be able to implement plans for our restoration goals and improvements. Currently, all personalized, engraved bricks that were ordered throughout the summer and early fall, are being installed along the side entrance of the museum. When finished, the City of Bellbrook officials, along with the museum staff and volunteers, will be celebrating this journey by having a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of the many patrons who made this possible. Once the brick pathway draws near completion and the weather is suitable, all donors will be notified via email or phone as to when the ribbon cutting ceremony will take place. At this time, the ceremony will most likely take place in the spring

If you missed your opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick to honor your family or loved ones, to commemorate a special occasion, or to endorse your business or club, the museum will have more brick spaces available to place additional orders starting in the spring of 2015. There will be more information at the Sugar Maple Festival or by simply contacting the museum.

Due to the wonderful support of the community, the success of our **Yellow Brick Road** fundraiser ensures that the Bellbrook Historical Museum is on course to fulfill our mission, *"To preserve the past for the museum's future."* After all, *"There's no place like home!"* **Thank you again for your generosity.**



Visit the Museum The museum is **FREE** to the public and is open on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturdays from 12 pm to 5 pm. The museum is closed on major holidays. Group tours are welcome. For more information, museum staff can be reached at (937) 848-2415, or visit the Museum page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

If you have been to the museum before, come again to see what is new! If you have never visited, we would love to meet you!

Bellbrook Beautification Awards 2014

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 2014 award winners below. Congratulations to our winners!

Area A

2136 Bonnie Dale Drive – Connie Lockhart
2151 Plantation Drive – Gene & Janice Spicer

Area B

3931 Elizabeth Circle – Rob & Becky Smith
3895 Weed Place – Gary & Heidi Simon

Area C

1938 Sugarwood Circle – James & Mary O'Rourke
4058 Glennberry Court – Dave & Lisa Hyatt

Area D

184 Washington Mill Road – Rose Schaurer
120 North Main Street – Steve & Lynn Lutz
3567 Big Tree Road – Bud & Sue Lindeman

Area E

3771 East Sudbury Court – Carol Matney & Roger Spivey
3919 Jacob Hills Court – Dave & Mary Ellen Carpenter

Business Winner

92 West Franklin Street – Connor & Koch Funeral Home



Community News

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce meets the first Thursday of each month and provides opportunities to join other businesses, residents, and community leaders to *strengthen our businesses and community*. The Chamber offers member discounts for health insurance, dental insurance, prescription discount and hearing plans, DPL Energy, credit card processing, workers' compensation, and more. Check out their website at www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com for more information or call the office at (937) 848-4930. The website provides a community calendar of events and much more. Please let the Chamber know if you want an event posted on their website. A free Community Directory containing important information about our area is available to all residents and businesses. Also, be sure to like them on Facebook!

Winters Bellbrook Community Library

The Winters-Bellbrook Community Library would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the voters for supporting their recent operating levy. They appreciate the vote of confidence and are happy to continue offering great service to the community, as they have for over 100 years in Bellbrook.

Remember, at this time of year especially, that you have access to Consumer Reports online through the library website for gift buying advice. In the library, you can find holiday movies and music, crafting and cookbooks, good books for relaxation, and many programs for fun times. Upcoming holiday events include a concert by Musici Anonymi, a special Polar Express story time, ornament making, an American Girl Tea Party, and more! Please check out the library website for more information at www.greenelibrary.info.

Bellbrook Garden Club

Bellbrook Garden Club is an active group that enhances our community. This fall the club awarded grants at Stephen Bell Elementary School and Bell Creek Intermediate School to further gardening education. They continue to plant and maintain many areas of downtown Bellbrook. The club is looking for people who love gardening, want to be part of making our community more attractive, and desire to share gardening knowledge. Visit one of the following meetings or check out their website at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org.

January 27 Carry-in Luncheon & Flower Arranging demonstration by Lynn Thompson at the Community Center located at 2751 Washington Mill Road. Program starts at 10 am.

February 24 Program on Ferns, tentative location in the Sugarcreek Township building located at 2090 Ferry Road. Program starts at 10 am.

March 23 Garden Design by Mary Lou Boudinot and Vickie Carter. Location to be determined. Program starts at 10 am.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District

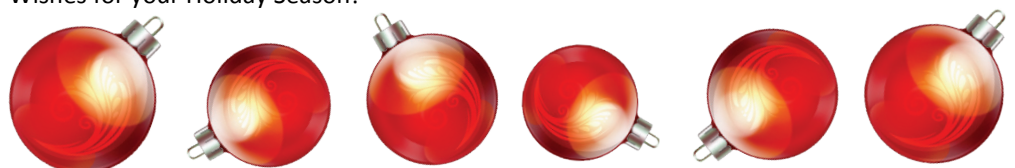
Please join the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District at Bellbrook Park on December 6 for the 4th annual *Christmas in the Park* and *Gingerbread House Contest!* The park lighting ceremony will begin at 5 pm and includes local music groups performing the seasonal favorites, hot chocolate, and a visit by the big jolly man himself. Canned food items or new/gently used winter hats and gloves will be collected and donated to the Family Resource Center. There will also be a bake sale to benefit *Partnerships for Success*, the high school group that partners with the Park District to produce this event. For more information, contact the Park District at (937) 848-3535.

Bellbrook Senior Center

On Monday, December 8, at 12 pm, join the Bellbrook Senior Center for their Christmas Carry-in Luncheon. Festive hors d'oeuvres will highlight the menu as they come together to celebrate the holiday season. Local singer, songwriter, and musician, Jim Buckner, will add his talents to the luncheon with holiday music. Plan on joining in the songfest by offering your favorite Christmas Carols for a group sing along. A door prize will be awarded at the conclusion of the luncheon. The Bellbrook Senior Center is located at 3757 Upper Bellbrook Road, in the Sugarcreek Education Services Building, beside Bellbrook High School. If you have not stopped in, be assured that when you do, you will be greeted with friendly smiles and feel right at home. The Bellbrook Senior Center is a community partnership with the Greene County Council on Aging, Sugarcreek Schools, and many wonderful volunteers and supporting organizations and businesses. For more information, contact Tim Brickey at (937) 376-5486 or tim.brickey@gcco.org.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Family Resource Center

As we near the Holiday Season, are you looking for ways you could support a less-fortunate, low-income neighbor? The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center currently has about 50 families requesting Holiday Kindness Assistance. Many of these families cannot afford the additional expense of providing Christmas presents for their children. There are several ways you can help these families. You can "adopt" a family, which could consist of a parent and one child, or two parents with multiple children. You can pick the size family you would like to support. As a sponsor of an "adopted" family, you will receive a list of possible gift ideas including clothing, shoe sizes, favorite colors, and hobbies. We request that all presents be turned into the Resource Center by December 12. Other options include providing gift cards so that someone else can do the shopping for you or providing one present for a family in need. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. Please contact Carolyn Destefani at (937) 848-3810 or cdestefani@co.greene.oh.us if you would like to help. Best Wishes for your Holiday Season!



City News

City Council Updates

2015 Budget City Council is currently reviewing the 2015 budget. The budget outlines the financial goals of the city for the upcoming year and contains important information for future years. Go to the Finance page on our website to view the current budget and additional information pertaining to city finances.

New Council Member On October 13, City Council appointed Jon Martin to fill the Council seat vacated by Joe Ritzel. Jon previously served on City Council from 2010 to 2013.

Animal Control Services On November 10, City Council approved a new agreement with Greene County for stray cat services.

Personnel Manual The city recently reviewed its current policies and adopted an updated Personnel Manual covering city employees. This comprehensive document details a variety of human resource policies.

The complete Municipal Code and all recently passed ordinances and resolutions can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbellbrook.org under the City Council tab.



City Employees and Volunteers Recognized for their Service

At the November 10 City Council meeting, eight 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

- ◆ Edward Crowe – Volunteer Firefighter

15 Years

- ◆ Ron Hearrell – Part-time Firefighter
- ◆ Rick O’Grady – Service Worker
- ◆ Paul Stroud – Service Worker

20 Years

- ◆ Jim Burns – Police Officer
- ◆ Eileen Minamyler – Administrative Assistant

30 Years

- ◆ Bob Loudermilk – Police Officer

37 Years

- ◆ Dale Wilson – Service Director

Home Rehabilitation Assistance Available

The Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) is designed to provide financial assistance to income-eligible homeowners whose property is in need of repair. Repairs can include heating, electric, plumbing, roofing, and other critical components of a home. This is a grant program that can only be used for owner-occupied homes. To obtain funding, a homeowner must meet the income requirement (see table).

The CHIP program is administered by the Greene County Department of Development. Applications are currently being accepted. If you would like more information, please contact Cherise Schell at the Greene County Department of Development at (937) 562-5644 or email her at cschell@co.greene.oh.us.



Persons In Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Income Limits*	\$33,750	\$38,550	\$43,350	\$48,150	\$52,050	\$55,900	\$59,750

*FY 2013 Income Limits for Greene County



Volunteer Bellbrook

Over the past four years, the City has been able to call on the services of Volunteer Bellbrook. In 2010, the program was started to provide help to those in need by connecting community volunteers with the elderly and disabled who need assistance.

All over the community, there are those in need of assistance with property maintenance and also those who want to lend a helping hand. The City has compiled a list of volunteers that range from church groups and civic organizations to individuals. If you are elderly or disabled and are in need of assistance with basic property maintenance, please call Don Buczek in the Administration office at (937) 848-4666.

The Works: Winter is Here Once Again!

Following the harsh 2013-14 winter season, road salt is in short supply. Salt prices increased by more than 80%. In addition, salt suppliers have indicated they will not be able to replenish community supplies during the winter season.

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:

- ◆ Remove all parked cars from the street.
- ◆ Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
- ◆ Remain off the road during snow and ice storms unless travel is necessary.
- ◆ 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.

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

Waste & Recycling Holiday Schedule

Please note that trash collection will be delayed one day due to the Christmas Day holiday. Trash collection will take place on **Saturday, December 27, 2014.**

Also, trash collection will be delayed one day due to the New Year's Day holiday. Trash collection will take place on **Saturday, January 3, 2015.**

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

The Fire Escape

Christmas Tree Safety The Bellbrook Fire Department would like to offer these Christmas Tree Safety tips.

- ◆ Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- ◆ Before placing the tree in the stand, cut two inches from the base of the trunk.
- ◆ Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.
- ◆ Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- ◆ Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- ◆ Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- ◆ Replace any string lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

- ◆ Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- ◆ Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Courtesy National Fire Protection Association

Remember, fires don't take a holiday! By taking some precautions, you and your family can celebrate a fire-safe holiday season. For more information on Winter Fire Safety, call the Bellbrook Fire Department at (937) 848-3272 or visit the Fire Department on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.

Council Members	Term Expires
Bob Baird, Mayor	2015
Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor.....	2017
Nick Edwards.....	2017
Forrest Greenwood.....	2017
Jon Martin.....	2015
Elaine Middlestetter	2015
Dona Seger-Lawson	2015



Pictures from Fire Prevention Week 2014

Above: Officer Tyler Peters

Below (L): Officer Jon Nickerson

Below: Lt. Gregg Nartker and Sparky the Dog



The Policeman’s Badge

Christmas Safety The Bellbrook Police Department would like to offer these Christmas Safety tips.

- ◆ Be sure doors and windows of your home are locked when you leave, even for just a few minutes.
- ◆ Do not display presents where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Hide them when you leave town.
- ◆ Keep lights and a radio or television on, so your home looks occupied, even if you are away.
- ◆ Be cautious of strangers asking for charitable donations. Ask for identification and other contact information.
- ◆ Keep record of serial numbers on existing or new property.
- ◆ Avoid leaving large empty boxes on the curbside for trash pickup, as this may indicate to burglars that it may be worth stealing from the home.

Vacation House Check The department provides a free residential security check for residents who go on vacation or are away from their home for an extended period of time. For more information on the program, go to the Police page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org or call (937) 848-3252.



Halloween School Lunch On Halloween, several members of the department visited Stephen Bell Elementary school to help serve lunch to the students.

Pictured above (L-R): Lori Wilson, Chief Doug Doherty, Officer Tony Vetter, Sharon Orbash, and Officer Keith Salyers.

Christmas Tree Disposal



Christmas trees may be disposed of for free with normal waste collection during the month of January.

Please cut the tree in sections no longer than four feet in length.

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 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.

City Holidays

City 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 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ◆ February 16 – President’s Day

Environmental News

Stormwater: Healthy Streams = Healthy Watershed

Bellbrook is blessed with an abundance of water, both above and below ground. The beautiful streams, creeks, and rivers in our community will remain only as we take upon ourselves the responsibility to be vigilant stewards of our property, both individually and as a community. Thank you for working together in our community to protect our local stream quality. Following are seven qualities of a healthy stream. See how many you can find on your next streamside walk in your local park or neighborhood!

- ◆ Healthy streams are connected to a floodplain
- ◆ Healthy streams have trees, grasses, and undergrowth on the floodplain
- ◆ Healthy streams have riffles, runs, and pools
- ◆ Healthy streams have insects, fish, salamanders, and frogs
- ◆ Healthy streams have a minimal algae growth, bank erosion, and sediments
- ◆ Healthy streams have room to flood without harmful impact to properties

Ohio EPA published a report titled *Biological and Water Quality Study of the Upper Little Miami River, 2011* on February 20, 2014. This report provided results of a Little Miami River stream quality monitoring study. The results showed that the water quality of the river in the Washington Mill area is classified as “exceptional to very good”. This classification meets the Exceptional Warm-water Habitat goals for this local tributary.



City of Bellbrook
15 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

PRSRT 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

Life in Letters Gallery & Full Frame Photography

Located in downtown Bellbrook at the intersection of Main and Franklin Streets, Life in Letters Gallery and Full Frame Photography offer photography and custom framing services. They specialize in letter photography, which is capturing images of objects in nature that resemble letters. They have over 500 letters that they have personally captured (mostly from the Dayton area) which can be customized to fit your project. In addition to letter photography and custom framing, they take portraits and wedding photography and video.

Cory and Kerry Weaver opened Life in Letters Gallery and Full Frame Photography in 2008 and employ their close friend, Justin Oster. They decided to turn their passion for photography into a business. The brothers opened their original store at the Greene but decided to move to Bellbrook in 2013. They love having their store in the community where they grew up. One part of their business that they love is to be able to customize projects for their customers.

Location

7 East Franklin Street
*In downtown Bellbrook at
the Main Street intersection*

Hours

Tue. – Fri. 10 am to 5:30 pm
Sat. 10 am to 4 pm

Phone

(937) 919-5390

Website

www.lifeinlettersgallery.com
www.ffpohio.com

