

City of Bellbrook Community Report

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Come Visit the Bellbrook Historical Museum

The Bellbrook Historical Museum was established in 1965 after Evelyn Brock deeded the property at 42 North Main Street to the City of Bellbrook to be used as a historical museum maintained by the village and opened to the public. Prior to Evelyn Brock, the property was owned by William and Harriet Williams and Horace Crowl. The building dates back to the early 1800s and was originally built as a log cabin.

The Museum Today As part of the agreement between the city and Evelyn Brock, the Museum is managed by a board of trustees appointed by City Council. The trustees oversee the displays, provide attendants, assist in raising funds, and make recommendations to the City Manager relative to management and maintenance of the property. In 2013, the city hired Janet Allison to be the Museum Curator to work alongside of the trustees to operate the Museum.

Exhibits The Museum features regular rotating exhibits. The current exhibit, Christmas Traditions in Bellbrook, celebrates holiday seasons of time gone by. Visit the Museum and step back in time! Planned future exhibits include the history of the Underground Railroad and Native Americans in our community. The Underground Railroad exhibit will provide information about the people who helped the refugees and the buildings used as temporary refuges. The Native American exhibit will provide information about the Shawnee Indians and other Native Americans. The Museum welcomes suggestions from the community on what you would like to see as a rotating exhibit at your museum. The Museum works to gather and save information so that we have it for future generations.



Bicentennial Bellbrook will be celebrating an important birthday in 2016! Bellbrook will be celebrating 200 years as a community. The Museum would like to invite community members to volunteer to help plan celebration activities. 2016 will be an exciting year for our community.

Hours of Operation 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.

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

Bellbrook Beautification Awards 2013

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. 10 homes and several businesses are chosen each year to receive the Beautification Awards. The City of Bellbrook is proud to announce the 2013 award winners below. Congratulations to our winners!

Area A

4279 Bellemeade Drive – Dean & Mary Buell
2066 South Lakeman Drive – Mike & Tema Stethem

Area B

2471 Firefly Drive – Doug & Donna Merrill
2383 Barnett Drive – Dean & Dawn Moore

Area C

1519 Justin Court – Mark & Theresa Ribbink
4278 Beryl Drive – Tom & Joan Lyle

Area D

3600 Big Tree Drive – Jeff & Angela Brown
200 Washington Mill Road – Jan & Shelly Betts

Area E

3948 Carmela Court East – Louis & Patricia Orban
3986 Carmela Court West – Hank & Shirley Dodson
4008 West Franklin Street – Jim & Margaret Dalton

Business Winner

90 East Franklin Street – Law Offices of Patricia Campbell



Community News

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce



Free Community Health Clinic A free medical clinic serving *uninsured and underinsured* residents of southwestern Greene County, northern Warren County, and southeastern Montgomery County is coming to Bellbrook! The **Open Arms Health Clinic** will be located in the Bellbrook Professional Building (next to Skyline Chili) at 4403 State Route 725 Suite E. The clinic will treat common illnesses in an effort to encourage people to seek treatment. The clinic will be accepting patients in January 2014.

Visit the Open Arms Health Clinic during their Open House on December 13 and 14 from 3 to 5 pm. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held December 13 at 4 pm. For more information, you can contact the clinic at (234) 281-5780 or visit their website at www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org.

Community Directory In January, the Chamber will have a new Community Directory available for residents and businesses. Come to the Chamber office at 64 West Franklin Street or call them at (937) 848-4930 to obtain a copy. Be sure to visit their website at www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com for Chamber events and information. The chamber offers many local business discounts!

Boy Scouts

The Bellbrook area offers a number of Cub Packs and Boy Scout Troops. Cub Scouts is a year round program for boys in grades 1–5 and is uniquely designed to promote character development, community service, and fitness. Boy Scouts is an outdoor program designed to develop character, citizenship, and fitness. The advancement and merit badge program offered through Boy Scouts provides opportunities for Scouts to be introduced to a lifelong hobby or rewarding career.

The Scouts' newest program is *Venturing* and is designed for young men and young women ages 14 – 20. Young people in *Venturing* learn leadership skills and participate in challenging outdoor activities.

For information on how to get involved in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts or *Venturing*, please contact Greene County Director David Mauch at (937) 831-6545 or by email at dmauch@bsmail.org.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District

Come out for a Bellbrook Park tradition on Saturday, December 14, from 5 to 7 pm for *Christmas in the Park*! The *Christmas in the Park* lighting ceremony will begin at 5 pm followed by local music groups performing seasonal favorites, hot chocolate, and a visit by the jolly man himself. Canned food items or new or gently used winter hats and gloves will be collected for the Bellbrook

Family Resource Center. There will also be a bake sale that will benefit *Partnerships for Success*, a high school group that volunteers to partner with the Park District for this event. The event will also include the 5th annual Gingerbread House Contest. For more information on *Christmas in the Park* and other Park District programs, please contact (937)-848-3535 or visit them at www.bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org.

Bellbrook Garden Club

Fall was a busy time for the Bellbrook Garden Club. The Club cleaned up the gardens at the Museum, Library, and added winter arrangements to the planters in Downtown. They have also worked in the courtyard at Stephen Bell Elementary School. In November, grants were awarded to elementary teachers for activities that support the Club's mission "to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening and aid in protection of nature, trees, plants and birds."

The Ohio Association of Garden Clubs recognized Lois Fink as an Outstanding Garden Club Member for our region. Lois has served in many positions within the Club and continues to be a dedicated member. Pat Thoerner was welcomed as a Life Member as she has been an active member since 1993.

The Club has gained three new members in the last several months. If you are interested in learning more about the Club, visit their website at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org.

Bellbrook Senior Center

The Bellbrook Senior Center wishes to invite the 50+ crowd to their Holiday Carry-in Luncheon on Friday, December 13th at 12 Noon. Bring a favorite holiday dish to share as they enjoy festive hors d'oeuvres, holiday music, and a cookie exchange. Please bring a dozen of your favorite homemade cookies with the ingredient label for the exchange. The Bellbrook Senior Center is thankful for the many friends who grace our center throughout the year. This is your Center and they hope you will take advantage of the resources they provide. For additional information or to receive their bi-monthly newsletter, contact Tim Brickey at (937) 376-5486 or tim.brickey@gcco.org.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek

Family Resource Center

In August, Carolyn Destefani was appointed as the new Social Service Specialist for the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center. The Center is housed in the old Sugarcreek Elementary School building at 51 East South Street. The facility is dedicated to strengthening the community and its families through information and referral services, collaborative program planning, volunteerism encouragement, and youth asset-building. All services provided by the Center are free and confidential.

Contact the Center at (937) 848-3810 or visit their website at www.co.greene.oh.us and go to Departments > Family & Children First > Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center.

Winters Bellbrook Community Library

It's no surprise that the Library loves books! They have new books and old books, fiction and nonfiction, hardbacks and paperbacks, books on CD, and downloadable e-books and e-audio for your electronic devices!

They love readers and provide lots of opportunities for readers to get together. Their current book clubs include Ready Readers (grades K-2), Dare to Dream (grades 3-5), the M.S. Book Club (grades 6-8), and the Middle Earth Book Club (for teens who enjoy the Hobbit series). The Winters Book Discussion Group (for adults) reads a wide variety of interesting books. All of these groups welcome new members at any time.

They love talking about books and helping people find something good to read. Ask them in person, or "Ask a Librarian" through their website. They will be happy to help you find your next great read! Stop by this winter and discover what the library has to offer you – books, magazines, movies, music, and lots of fun programs.

Upcoming events include: story times, holiday crafts, LEGO Builders Club, an American Girl Doll holiday party, Basics of Geocaching, Crochet for Teens, card making, and much more.

Please check their website for more information at www.greenelibrary.info.

City News

Home Rehabilitation Assistance



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

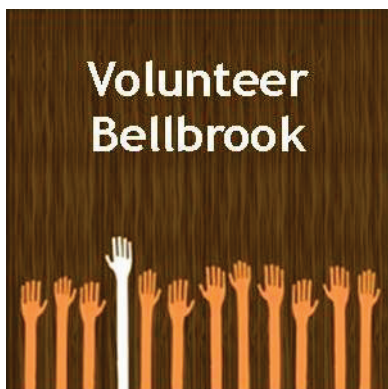
*FY 2013 Income Limits for Greene County

City Council Updates

2014 Budget City Council is currently reviewing the 2014 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.

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 and a copy is available on our website.

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.



Volunteer Bellbrook

Over the past three 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. On the other hand, there are those who want to lend a hand to help neighbors. 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 City would like to thank **Bellbrook United Methodist Church**, the **Bellbrook Lions Club**, **Louis Schatzberg**, and **Tim Elam** for their contributions in 2013.

Death of Former Council Member Ralph Fussner

Former Council Member, Ralph Fussner, died on July 30, 2013. Ralph grew up in Cincinnati and attended both the University of Cincinnati and Wittenberg College. He then joined the Ohio State Patrol where he eventually became the Xenia Post Commander and retired in 1990. Ralph served on the Bellbrook City Council for 17 years and applied his professional expertise while serving on the City Council's Safety Committee. Ralph was a strong supporter of the City of Bellbrook and the surrounding community.



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 28th, 2013.**

Also, trash collection will be delayed one day due to the New Year's Day holiday. Trash collection will take place on **Saturday, January 4th, 2014.**

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



The Works: Snow Plow Safety

During and after a winter snow storm, snow piles accumulate at the end of driveways and along the streets. These snow piles are seen as potential forts and igloos by many children.

The Service Department wants to warn families to not let children play in these snow piles. A passing snow plow may push snow on top of the pile causing the pile to collapse.

When driving in the snow, please remember to be cautious and maintain a safe distance between you and a snow plow. Have a safe winter!

The Fire Escape

The Bellbrook Fire Department would like to offer these basic home heating and fire prevention safety tips.

Fireplaces and Heaters

- ◆ Before starting a fire in the fireplace, remove all decorations (including stockings hung by the fireplace) and be sure the flue is open.
- ◆ Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. They can burn extremely fast, throwing off sparks and can ignite creosote that has previously accumulated in the chimney.
- ◆ Always use a screen in front of the fireplace. Also consider using a fire-resistant carpet or mat (made for fireplaces) on the floor in front of the fireplace.
- ◆ Keep all combustible materials, including wrapping paper, at least three feet away from any heater - space heaters need space.
- ◆ When plugging in electric heaters, make sure that the outlet was designed to handle the load. Be safe. Do not plug anything else into the socket with the heater.

Smoke Detectors When properly installed and maintained, smoke detectors provide early warning when fire occurs. For the

greatest protection, install a smoke detector on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area. Test smoke detectors at least once a month to ensure that they are working properly. Vacuum the dust from inside the detector at least once a year. Batteries in battery-operated detectors should be changed twice a year or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another item's use. A disabled detector cannot save your life. Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years, or according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Escape Develop an escape plan with two ways out from each room. Practice your fire escape plan with the family - include fire drills in the middle of the night - to ensure

that everyone knows what to do if there is a fire and the smoke detectors sound.

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 (937) 848-3272 or visit the Fire Department on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.





The Policeman's Badge

Winter Driving The Bellbrook Police Department would like to offer these basic tips when preparing for winter driving.

- ◆ Slow Down – roadway conditions can change rapidly due to the weather, so please be prepared for the unexpected.
- ◆ Buckle Up – seatbelts, along with airbags, provide excellent advantages for occupants of any vehicle involved in a crash.
- ◆ Don't Drink and Drive – This is a very preventable crime. Use a designated driver, call for a ride, or stay where you are – please don't become a statistic.
- ◆ Space – One of the most common causes of accidents is called ACDA (assured clear distance ahead). It refers to leaving appropriate amounts of space between the car in front of you and your vehicle.
- ◆ Be Alert – We find more crashes being caused by driver's inattention: eating, talking to passengers, moving objects in the car, or talking and texting on the cell phone. None of these behaviors are worth being involved in a crash.

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 include the email address where you wish to receive the newsletter.

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

City Holidays

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

- ◆ December 24th – Christmas Eve
- ◆ December 25th – Christmas Day
- ◆ January 1st – New Year's Day
- ◆ January 21st – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ◆ February 18th – President's Day

Environmental News

Stormwater: Yard Debris & Household Wastes

Yard Debris Yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant materials like shrubbery trimmings and grass clippings, are a significant source of stormwater pollution...plus they can clog our storm drains. Debris can carry fertilizers and pesticides from your yard and deposit them in our streams.

Here are some ways YOU can help at home:

- ◆ Don't use your hose as a broom. Sweep up yard debris rather than washing it down the driveway or street. Compost or recycle your yard waste.
- ◆ Fertilize now rather than springtime. Fall fertilizations promote vigorous root growth and prevent fertilizer from leaching into our streams.
- ◆ Do a soil test and consider phosphorous-free fertilizers. Contact the Greene County OSU Extension Service office at (937) 372-9971 for more information.
- ◆ Choose fertilizers with "slow release" forms of nitrogen which are less likely to leach from your yard, through the storm drains, into our creeks, and into the Little Miami River.
- ◆ Read and follow manufacturer's instructions. More is NOT better!

Household Wastes Not all water pollution comes from big factories - it's also caused by little household chores, like washing off paint, cleaning with products that contain chlorine bleach, using drain cleaners and disposing of solvents such as stain removers or turpentine in the sink. So, please wipe or blot off excess paint with a paper towel before rinsing your paint or staining brushes. Avoid cleaning products marked "Poison" and "Danger" and choose environmentally friendly products instead. Contact Greene County Environmental Services at (937) 562-5925 to dispose of toxic chemicals at their monthly Household Hazardous Waste collection day.

Your streams are closer than you think – thanks for keeping them safe.

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

City of Bellbrook Community Report

Articles of Interest

- ◆ **Bellbrook Historical Museum**
Come visit the Bellbrook Historical Museum to learn about our history through new exhibits and programs
- ◆ **Community News**
Information on community organizations and events happening this winter
- ◆ **City News**
Information on what is happening at the City and services that we provide our residents
 - **City Council Updates**
 - **The Fire Escape**
 - **The Policeman's Badge**
 - **The Works**
- ◆ **Environmental News**

City Council

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 7:00 PM.

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

Council Members

- Bob Baird, Mayor
- Mike Schweller, Deputy Mayor
- Denny Bennett
- Jon Martin
- Elaine Middlestetter
- Joe Ritzel
- Dona Seger-Lawson