

Bellbrook

Community Events

Holiday Music @ Bellbrook Presbyterian Church.....	Dec. 4
Bellbrook FOP Shoe Program.....	Dec. 11
Winters Wonderland @ Winters-Bellbrook Library.....	Dec. 13
Christmas in the Park @ Bellbrook Park.....	Dec. 14
Ugly Sweater Holiday Party @ Winters-Bellbrook Library.....	Dec. 17
Christmas Eve.....	Dec. 24
Christmas Day.....	Dec. 25
Holiday Glow Walk @ Ron Kehl Park.....	Dec. 27
New Years Eve.....	Dec. 31
New Years Day.....	Jan. 1, 2020
Chili Cook-Off @ Park District Headquarters.....	Jan. 26
The Great Valentine Hunt @ Sweet Arrow Reserve.....	Feb. 9

Note: City Offices closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. Happy and Safe Holidays!

Banner photo by courtesy of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Parks District

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

December 2019

2019, A Year in Review

What a year it has been! And it isn't even over yet! Here are some of the highlights of 2019 in Bellbrook. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of accomplishments! It has been a busy year and we are already looking forward to what 2020 has in store for us.



In January the For Bellbrook By Bellbrook group was formed. This group was formed to bring the business community together to network and strategize how to help grow the downtown. It meets every week and has since its start in January. Nearly 20 people meet each week including our City Manager and members of Council.

In April 10 bike racks and nine benches were installed downtown through fundraising. \$14,100 was raised in two months which enabled the purchase and sponsorship of each of these pieces to enhance the downtown.

In February four Little Free Libraries were created by members of the City's Service Department and installed around town. This is a collaboration with our local Girl Scout troop to keep them stocked and monitored to make sure they are in good condition. They have been a wonderful asset to the community and we thank the Girl Scouts for their hard work to keep them stocked!



In 2019, two grants for pedestrian improvements downtown were awarded. The first was for \$342,965 to build a walkway over the Franklin Street bridge at Little Sugarcreek which is set for construction in 2023 if not sooner. The second was for \$35,177 to add sidewalk and ADA compliant curb ramps along North West Street for safer access to the Plaza with construction set for 2020.



The City also hosted regular farmers markets downtown. The market started with one per month and quickly increased to two per month on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. We will continue to grow the market next year!

In July an assessment of downtown was completed and recommendations were presented to the community at a public meeting. The recommendations highlighted the need for a community organization to help move the community forward, addressing the downtown real estate conditions, engaging community and strengthening our identity. These recommendations have already started



to be put into place and we look forward to continuing to work on these in the future.

On September 14 the first Be Well Bellbrook health and wellness event was held alongside the Brook Mills 10k which had a sellout crowd of 300! Both events were extremely well received and will be back in 2020 even bigger and better!



We hope you found this glimpse into the year helpful and love what is happening in Bellbrook!

A Minute with the Manager



The holidays are here once again! I love this time of year for a number of reasons. It is all about traditions as we enjoy the holidays and also reflect as we enter the new year. 2019 has been a big year in Bellbrook. We have initiated and completed so many projects that this short section can't handle! Which is why this issue we dedicated the front page to the year in review. At time of print we

will still have a month left in the year, but I just couldn't keep this list to myself any longer! I hope that you have seen positive changes in the community and that you welcome what the future holds for Bellbrook. Your input and feedback as we make changes is of utmost importance. We are here to serve the community and want to hear from you if you have ideas or suggestions! Please know that my door is always open and I am only a phone call or email away. Talking about vision and the future of Bellbrook is my favorite topic!

Wishing you all the happiest of holidays and an even better 2020!

Melissa Dodd

City Offices Closed for Holidays

City offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Tuesday, December 24th

Wednesday, December 25th

Wednesday, January 1st

Monday, January 20th

Monday, February 17th

Please note that your trash may be delayed on some of these dates and those changes are outlined on the Service page.



Optimist Club Hometown Heroes

At the September 14, 2019 Saturday Street Fair the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club awarded their Hometown Hero awards. Each year they present a police officer and firefighter from both Sugarcreek Township and Bellbrook departments with the award. This award is typically nominated



by each of the Chiefs. This year the Optimists Club decided to do something different and honor the Chiefs themselves for their hard work and dedication to the community.

We are lucky to have Police Chief Doug Doherty and Fire Chief Jim Neidhard both keeping our community safe!

Employee Service Awards

Each November employees are awarded for their years of dedicated service. This year 9 employees were recognized at the November 12 Council meeting

- Office Bob Loudermilk—Police—35 years
- Sergeant Jim Burns—Police—25 years
- Paul Stroud—Service—20 years
- Ronnie Hearrell—Fire—20 years
- Lt. Jon Nickerson - Fire—10 years
- Taylor Click—Fire—5 years
- Officer Josh Warren—Police—5 years
- Chief Doug Doherty—Police—5 years
- Chief Jim Neidhard—Fire—5 years

This year each service award recipient received gift cards from various Bellbrook businesses as a way for the City to help support local.

City Wins Auditor of State Award

The City of Bellbrook was awarded the Ohio Auditor of State Award for excellence in financial reporting for the 2018 fiscal year. This award is given to entities that demonstrate effective and accountable financial practices. The City prides itself on its fiscal responsibility and plans to continue that level of excellence for years to come.



Council, Commissions, and Boards

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

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

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.

- Mike Schweller, Mayor
- Darryl McGill, Deputy Mayor
- Elaine Middlestetter, Council Member
- Nick Edwards, Council Member
- Forrest Greenwood, Council Member
- Dona Seger-Lawson, Council Member
- Dr. David VanVeldhuizen, Council Member

Mayor Schweller Wins 2 Year Term



On November 5, Mayor Schweller won his first two year term as Mayor. He will serve as the 10th Mayor of Bellbrook since becoming a City in 1974. Mayor Schweller brings a wealth of experience to the position. He served 10 years on the Planning Board, 23 years on City Council and 15 of those years as Deputy Mayor. After former Mayor Bob Baird moved outside of the City and into the Township this summer Schweller assumed the position of Mayor officially on June 18, 2019. Mayor

Schweller will serve a two-year term that will expire December 31, 2021.

Thank You to Seger-Lawson and McGill

The Mayor, City Council and staff would all like to thank outgoing Council Members Dona Seger-Lawson and Darryl McGill for their dedicated service to the City.



Mrs. Seger-Lawson has served on Council since 2012 when she was first elected. She served two full terms after her re-election in 2015.



Mr. McGill has served since taking over for Jon Martin in 2016. Mr. McGill served as Deputy Mayor after Mayor Schweller assumed his role as Mayor in 2019.

City Council Welcomes 2 New Members

At the November 5th general election, three seats for council were up for election as well as the Mayor's position. Tim Taylor and Ernie Havens were both newly elected to City Council. Elaine Middlestetter was re-elected as well. All three members will serve four-year terms which will expire December 31, 2023.

Ernie Havens has been married 30 years and is the father of two Bellbrook graduates. He began his career in the US Navy Submarine Force. He attended Wright State University and earned a degree in Engineering Physics. He currently owns Cuda Composites and publishes Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Neighbors. He was a former Bellbrook scoutmaster and is a Bellbrook Lion. He is excited to roll up his sleeves and pitch-in to serve the City of Bellbrook.

Tim Taylor and his wife Katie have lived in Bellbrook for 10 years with their five children. Mr. Taylor, a USMC veteran, retired from the City of Dayton Fire Department in June. Tim still volunteers his time providing Fire Safety presentations where requested, and respectfully serves at the pleasure of the Dayton Fire Honor Guard. Mr. Taylor indicated he's truly appreciative of the opportunity he's been given by Bellbrook's citizens and plans to faithfully work for a better Bellbrook, and to earn the overwhelming support he's received.

Changes on Planning Board

In September, Planning Board Chair Dr. David VanVeldhuizen assumed a vacant seat on City Council after the departure of Mayor Baird.

Mitchell Thompson then assumed the role as Chair of Planning Board.

The Community Affairs Committee of City Council then interviewed and recommended a replacement for Planning Board. Tim Tuttle was then selected and sworn in at the October 28th meeting of City Council.

Tim has been a resident of Bellbrook for three years and is a stay at home dad to his three children. He served as the Deputy Auditor for Clark County for over 10 years. We are happy to have Tim serving!



Holiday Schedule for City Council

With the holidays upon us, City Council will have an adjusted schedule in December and will meet only once. The only meeting in December will be the 9th with the meeting on the 23rd cancelled.

Sidewalk Regulations Now Outlined

In October, Bellbrook City Council adopted an ordinance that further expands and clarifies the cities' sidewalk ordinance in relation to repair, construction, maintenance, and replacement.

The sidewalk ordinance was updated due to the old regulations being vague and not being able to fulfill its intended purpose. Clear standards for sidewalks were not fully outlined.

The newly approved ordinance clarifies what constitutes a sidewalk in need of repair in addition to outlining when a new sidewalk needs to be constructed and requires specific standards for the construction of a new sidewalk.



Having a clear and concise sidewalk ordinance will further enhance the city's ability to encourage walkability in the community as well as removing obstacles that may impede that walkability.

New Special Event Permit

The City of Bellbrook recently adopted an ordinance requiring a permit for special events to take place in the city. For example, events that would disrupt the flow of traffic or require city facilities, such as parades or festivals will now require a special event permit. Smaller events such as garage sales, will not require a special event permit.



The newly approved ordinance will ensure that the City is aware of any special event and are able to notify all necessary city departments and plan for the event accordingly. Safety is of the utmost importance for events within the City and this will allow for the proper planning for those as they continue to grow as they have. This will also allow the organizer of the event to advertise legally within the city.



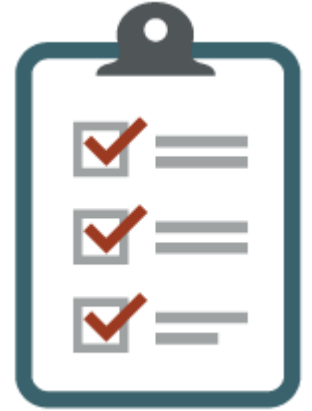
Demolition Requires City Permit

The demolition of major structures now requires a permit be obtained from the City of Bellbrook before a demolition can commence.

A demolition permit will still need to be obtained from Greene County first. The Greene County permit mainly addresses the abatement of hazardous materials such as asbestos and requires a plan for the structure to be safely brought down.

The new City permit will address restoration and how the property will look after the demolition is complete.

The purpose of the new permit and associated ordinance is to ensure that a property is left in a natural "park-like" state so that the property can be easily developed in the future.



Smaller structures such as: fences, storage sheds (no larger than 250 sq. ft.) and above ground swimming pools will not require a demolition permit from the city.

Board Meeting Info Added to Website

There are three boards that meet which include Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals/Property Review Commission and the Village Review Board. The meeting information for each of these boards including meeting packets that include agendas and minutes have all been added to the City website. We hope that adding this information to the website helps to inform the community on the work that all of the boards are doing.



To view any of the information, you can visit:

http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/council_documents



About the Service Department

The Service Department operates and maintains the water system serving the city and part of Sugarcreek Township. Currently, the city has one employee with a Class 2 Operator's License and five employees with a Class 1 Operator's License. The Ohio EPA requires the city to have a minimum of one employee with a Class 1 Operator's License. The water system serves over 9,000 people in the city and township. The department also maintains city streets, storm sewers, and city buildings.

Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

During the Christmas and New Year's holidays, trash will be delayed by one day. Trash will be picked up on Saturday those two weeks.



Trash Pickup Rate Increase

As part of the 2020 Budget, it was determined that the cost of trash pick up would need to increase to cover expenses. The rate will go from \$14 per month to \$15.50 per month for a rate increase of \$1.50.

The new rate will be reflected on bills received in January. If you have any questions about your bill, please feel free to contact the Utility Billing office.

Utility Billing

Have questions or concerns regarding Utility Billing? Please feel free to call our Utility Billing Office at **937-848-4638**, or visit our website for more information at http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/utility_billing.

We are also open to talk in person Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The office is located on the second floor of the city building on West Franklin Street.

Little Sugarcreek Road Update

In August LJB, Inc. engineers presented City Council with findings related to Little Sugarcreek Road and what is occurring to cause the slips that the road has experienced. It was found that there was movement at the bedrock level. This finding was a result of taking three borings and then analyzing the data. There was a recommendation made to drill into the bedrock and pour concrete pylons to reinforce the hillside. The concrete needs to go eight feet deep into the bedrock. Since only one small section of the road was studied, where the recent slips have occurred, cost estimates were only made based on that section. The next step in the process will be to have several more borings done along the stretch of road to understand how deep the bedrock is exactly. Once we have that data, better cost estimates can be created for the proposed option. The full study can be found on the main page of our website.

We understand that this is a significant project and we will be sure to explore all options prior to committing to a solution.

The graphic below depicts what the concrete reinforcements would look like but would be underground in our case and not visible from the surface.



Snow Removal

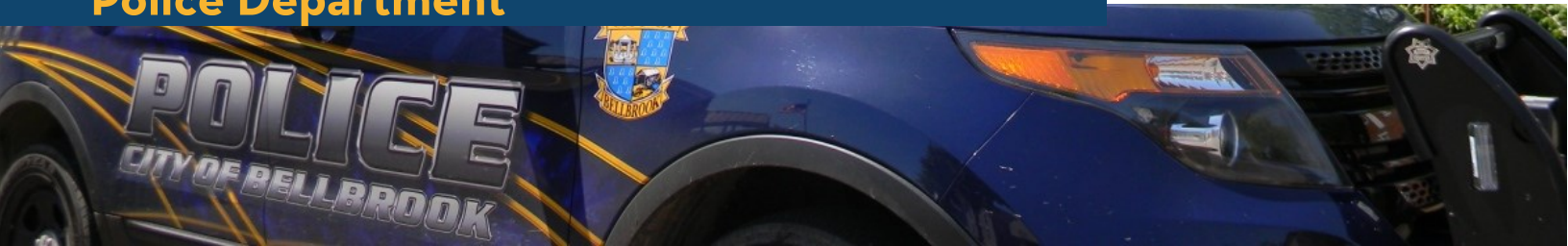
Tis the season of snowfall! Please remember to:

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



The Bellbrook Service Department works hard to keep roads open for safe travel while conserving salt when possible. Each snow and ice event is evaluated independently and the appropriate treatment will be applied. Please contact the city if you have any questions or concerns. We thank you for your understanding!

Police Department



Holiday Season Tips

As the Holiday Season draws closer, the Bellbrook Police Department is reminding everyone to **PLEASE** secure your vehicles and do not leave valuables behind. Every year during the holidays the Bellbrook Police Department takes multiple calls from residents who left their vehicles unattended and their valuables were taken by thieves during the night. This obviously creates anguish and concern for residents and the police officers trying to recover the valuables.

Myth: Residents believe if they leave their car unlocked, thieves don't break the windows to their car and steal the items.

Fact: These thieves are opportunists and are looking to make easy thefts from unlocked cars. They will check hundreds of cars at night by just pulling on car doors. They don't normally break windows because this would create a lot of noise and police would then be called into the area.

If you are a victim of a theft, call the Bellbrook Police Department and we will do our very best to recover your valuables. The Bellbrook Police Department has multiple officers trained in recovering evidence from crime scenes. You will likely see these evidence boxes being deployed at a scene. These boxes contain many tools to not only recover evidence, but to safely secure any evidence for possible testing at a crime lab. Our evidence boxes contain: gloves, fingerprint dust and brushes, tape, envelopes, bags, tins, pipettes, plastic sheeting, boxes, scissors, tweezers, shoe covers and containers that safely secure bio-hazard items and needles.

The best way to keep from being a victim of theft is to lock your vehicles and do not leave valuables in your car unattended.



Police Department Neighborhood Walks

In September, the Chief and officers participated in their Neighborhood Walks. These walks are held every spring and fall and happen in different neighborhoods each date. This is a wonderful chance for the department to informally connect with the community and for residents to meet the officers. This has been such a fun event for the department and something that they really look forward to. Be on the lookout for the 2020 dates and if you see the officers out walking, stop and say hello!



Sign Up for Emergency Notifications

The City uses Hyper-Reach to send emergency notifications of various types. If there is a weather emergency issued that could affect your specific area, you will automatically receive a notification. The City is also able to utilize this service for other types of notifications such as water issues, missing persons, and more.

This system uses the 911 database which is limited to landlines only. If you would like for your mobile number to receive notifications you must sign up.

To sign up, visit the following link:

<https://secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignupw.jsp?id=32861>



Fire Department



The Bellbrook Fire Department is a combination department with 7 full-time employees, 10 part-time employees, and 3 resource members. The fire services provided to the citizens of Bellbrook have a Class 2 Public Protection Classification (PPS), placing the community in the top 3 percent of those evaluated throughout the nation. The department operates 2 engines, 1 ladder truck; 3 ambulances, and 3 staff vehicles. They also have 9 paramedics, 10 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 1 medical director.



On October 8th, the Bellbrook Fire Department hosted its annual Open House. Each year, it is our privilege to open our doors to the public and allow them a closer look at the services we provide each and every day. We were pleased again with such a great turnout from the community with over 1,500 in attendance. With displays and demonstrations ranging from vehicle extrication to our showing what happens when you throw water on a grease fire, there is something for everyone to see. The Fire Prevention Week theme this year was, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. We want to stress the importance of testing your smoke detectors, choosing an outside meeting place, and practicing a home fire drill. If you have any questions regarding anything you saw during the Open House, please give us a call at (937) 848-3272 and we will be happy to help.

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Holiday decorating tips:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Winter_Holiday_Safety.pdf

Did you know the Bellbrook Fire Department has a certified car seat technician to make sure your most precious cargo is protected!

Hard Facts about Safety in Cars

- Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States.
- Correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent.
- More than half of car seats are not used or installed correctly.

<https://www.safekids.org/car-seat>

Call today to schedule an appointment to make sure your child's safety seat is installed properly: (937) 848-3272.



2019 Beautification Awards

At the October 28 City Council meeting the 2019 Beautification awards were presented. Each year, ten homes and one business are chosen to receive the awards. This year the committee was in transition to new leadership and the awards were delayed but we were still able to present them! This is a community tradition that we certainly do not want to see fade away! The list of award winners are listed below:

Business

6 W Franklin St. - Bella Realty Group

Area A

4269 Clearview Court - Michael & Joni Dingledine

2223 S Lakeman - Robin & William Logsdon

Area B

4035 Eckworth - Alex & Diana Fabrick

4098 Maxwell - Dale & Bronne Wilson

Area C

4216 Beryl Drive - James & Patricia Brady

1665 Cedar Court - Dale & Susan Steele

Area D

3588 Big Tree - Hannah & Matthew Couch, Doug & Annie Smith

143 Upper Hillside - Roger & Sharon Dohner

Area E

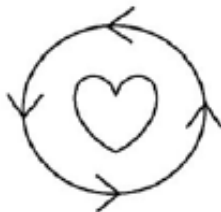
1905 Little Sugarcreek - Thomas & Vicki Craycraft

1828 Von Hovel Court - Vernon & Kristen Oakley



Official Symbol for Kindness in Bellbrook

In August, community member Elizabeth Davis met with the City Manager to tell her about a movement related to kindness. The Tropical Kingdom kindergarten class of Tropical Elementary School in Merritt Island, Florida saw the need for more kindness in the world and set out to create a universal symbol. They decided on the symbol and adopted it in February of 2019. The symbol has since been recognized all over Florida and Bellbrook was the first to designate it as the official symbol for kindness in Ohio! At the August 26, 2019 City Council meeting, the kindness all around symbol was designated as the official symbol for kindness in Bellbrook. The symbol has since appeared on decals on cars and businesses as well as chalked on sidewalks and streets.



Save the Date!

We are excited to announce that Be Well Bellbrook and the Brook Mills 10k race and kids fun run will return in 2020! The date will be Saturday, August 22, 2020.



Be Well Bellbrook vendor applications will be on our website in March.

Registration for the race will open in January. Be sure to register early for the best price and to ensure your spot! This year's race sold out so you don't want to miss out on it!

To register, visit :

<https://www.brookmills10k.com>

Main Street Building Renovations

In May of 2019, the building located at 38 North Main Street was sold. It is being renovated and repurposed into what will be called The Livery by the new owners, Bellbrook residents Mike and Jessica Bettencourt. The Livery will be Bellbrook's very own event center. The space will be able to host small weddings, meetings, conferences, and special events in one of Greene County's oldest historic buildings! Through the renovations, the owners are working to keep the historic charm on the inside while providing the modern conveniences necessary for today's events and received approval of their plans by the Village Review Board in November. The owners love the community feel of Bellbrook and look forward to adding another great opportunity for people to experience the charm of our quaint downtown.



BUILDING UPGRADE FOR BETTENCOURT
38 NORTH MAIN STREET, BELLBROOK, OHIO

FRONT ELEVATION

REAR ELEVATION

OUTDOOR SEATING

Downtown Beautification Donations

We are always accepting donations for our downtown beautification fund! We have a few ideas and are working to identify our next project. 100% of funds raised will go towards downtown beautification efforts. And did we mention they are tax deductible! Use the QR code to donate!



Bellbrook By Design

Ready to share some energy and momentum with the awesome community of Bellbrook?

Bellbrook by Design is a new local organization formed in October and announcing their "public launch" through November. This group is intended to create a platform, voice, and organization for the Bellbrook community and was inspired during the "revitalization" conversations hosted by our City in early summer.

More details are available at <http://bellbrookbydesign.org/> (site under construction), but keep an eye open as information continues to be designed. The committee of 7 are a blend of local Bellbrook and township residents, and business owners. They need names, skills, interests and project ideas! The more of each the better our community can develop Bellbrook by Design.

Light Up Bellbrook

Bellbrook High School National Honor Society is organizing a community-wide effort to decorate downtown Bellbrook with luminaries. The luminaries will stretch from Dots to the Methodist Church and from the traffic light up the hill past Bellbrook park.

How to contribute: We would like each family in the community to create at least one luminary out of a recycled milk or water jug. You can... "Carve" the jug and or draw/decorate it OR simply leave it plain

The luminaries can be dropped off at your school's main office, the BHS main office, or the central office.

*NHS will provide sand and lights

We will place the luminaries the night of Christmas in the Park, December 14th, prior to the main event.

Please note: Milk jugs will *not* be returned after the event.



Winters-Bellbrook Community Library

The Winters-Bellbrook Library has seen a lot of new faces and farewells recently! Jo Ellen Fannin, the former Head Librarian, retired after 30 years of tremendous service in Greene County and will be missed. Also Adult Services Librarian Liz Anderson transferred to the Beavercreek location to be nearer to her family. We wish them well.

Sue Jeffery comes in as the new Head Librarian after 5 years as Head Librarian at the Cedarville Community Library, but 8 total years with Greene County Public Library. Sue hails from Massachusetts and her husband is Air Force Retired. Amanda Marquet, Teen Librarian, has decided to move into Adult Services and is excited for the new challenges.

We are thrilled to be your hometown librarians and serve your community.

Bellbrook Historical Museum



Come and celebrate the holiday season with us at your Museum. Take a walk-through time and relive all the happy memories. The rotating exhibit room will be filled with Santa's and Snowmen, past and present, and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Come in and help us finish decorating the tree with Candy Canes. A special treat this year, take your picture on the original **Historical Red Rambler Toboggan**. Then enjoy free hot cocoa and cookies all the month of

December.

It was a busy year for your museum with several private tours. Also, a special thank you to Heather Ficke of the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park Department and Steve Berryhill, our partners for the three-part History Series of early Bellbrook.

We will be closed January and February. We will open in March with a special exhibit of the covered bridges of the Bellbrook area. Thank you, Alice Wiseman, for bringing us all our great exhibits.

The museum is free to the public and is open on **Wednesday 10am to 2pm** and **Saturdays 12 noon to 4pm**. For more information museum staff can be reached at (937) 848-2415 or visit the museum page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org.



Buy a Brick at the Historical Museum

Looking for a creative gift idea this holiday season? Buy a brick at the Historical Museum and engrave it any way you'd like. It makes a great gift that will be around forever! Bricks are \$50 and can be bought by visiting the website below:



<https://polarengraving.com/bellbrookmuseum>

Changes in the Plaza

This year there have been so many changes! The Second Saturday Street Fairs were regularly held once per month and drew really great crowds! With live music, food trucks and vendors and kids activities, there was a lot for families to do!



A number of renovations have happened as well. First, the dangerous entrance in front of the Dairy Shed was closed and tables and benches were added in that area. This provided a safer environment for the many children who frequent the Dairy Shed on hot summer days.



Next, the entire parking lot was paved and re-striped for better parking and driving. The Dairy Shed got a new coat of paint. And the newest project is the removal of the vegetation along the fence and the installation of an obstacle course for kids!

A HUGE thank you to Brian Koch and Michael Nettis for all of your hard work on the Plaza! Their vision and efforts have been incredible. We can't wait to see what you dream up next!



And if you haven't been to the Plaza lately, you totally should give it a visit!

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

At their November 7 meeting, Chamber members voted to elect a number of new individuals into leadership positions.

The following were elected and will begin their positions on January 1, 2020:

- Justin Spargo, President
- John Calvert, First Vice President
- Chris Spivey, Second Vice President
- Pamela Jeltema, Secretary

Open Arms Health Clinic

Open Arms Health Clinic has been serving our neighbors and friends in need of FREE interim healthcare for almost six years. Recently, we have begun to offer wellness coaching in the areas of nutrition, sleep, stress management and exercise, in collaboration with the dedicated medical and psychology students from Wright State University. This new program is called Paths to Wellness, offered on selected Thursdays and Saturdays. You may inquire at (937) 848-2939 by leaving a message that will be retrieved weekly on Tuesday evenings, the same time slot for our FREE clinic visits, open from 6pm - 9pm at 4403 Suite E - on West Franklin/State Rte. 725.

Telemedicine is also becoming a reality through the expertise of these outstanding students and their mentors. Please take a moment to learn more about the clinic services, volunteer or donation opportunities, and our Holiday Open House in early December:



BellBook Book Club

Community members Brian Koch of Conner and Koch Life Celebrations and Dayton Monuments and Michael Sabin of BellHOP Café started the BellBook Book Club in September. The BookClub is held at BellHOP café at 8am every Thursday morning. They are almost finished with their first book, *The Experience Economy*, which was selected by Brian. They are looking for the next person to lead the book club and select the book. If you are interested, just let either of them know by showing up to one of the book club dates and introducing yourself!



Snowflake Lights Update

We are so saddened that we are unable to put the lighted snowflakes back up this year. The City of Bellbrook does not own the poles that we were attaching them to. They are owned by Dayton Power and Light and Miami Valley Lighting. Due to changes in their policies, we cannot attach anything that requires plugged into electricity. Therefore, we are unable to hang them. We are looking for ways to possibly purchase our own decorative lighting poles downtown and be able to put them back up at some point! We know how much the community loved these and so did we! We promise to keep them safe until they can make their triumphant return!

Bellbrook's History

This page is dedicated to Bellbrook's history! So many have fond memories of old Bellbrook and those who don't are always interested in learning more so we thought we would share some interesting finds from our City archives. The focus in this issue is the building that now houses the Bellbrook Historical Museum.

Hidden in Plain Sight, Bellbrook's Biggest "Secret"

Article submitted by Dwight Bartlett

Did you know that there is a genuine log cabin, right in downtown Bellbrook? If you went to Bellbrook schools in the third grade you would know the answer immediately! That's because all third grade students tour the Bellbrook Historic Museum each spring as part of their curriculum to better understand and appreciate their community. And that museum is a genuine log cabin, built about 1825, according to Greene County tax records, making it one of the oldest standing structures in Bellbrook. The building was owned by a succession of families until 1965 when the owner, Evelyn Brock Deger generously donated it to the City. She included as a part of the donation a proviso that the property be used solely as a museum to reflect the history of the Bellbrook community. According to a Xenia Gazette article from April 10, 1979, the museum had a small apartment for a caretaker, Mrs. Carrie Jones.

Even in its infancy the Museum contained some very interesting artifacts. One of the first acquisitions was a Revolutionary War era sugar chest belonging to Alexander Berryhill. Berryhill, like a number of other Bellbrook residents, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and had the additional distinction of being an aide to General George Washington during the war. Another grouping of unusual artifacts was acquired from the estate of Della V. Hopkins, descendant of another pioneer family. Among the interesting items in this extensive collection are several hand carved black walnut furniture pieces including a writing desk, blanket chest, hall settee and a significant portrait of a young girl.

The Museum itself consists of the original log cabin, the exterior wall of which is partially encased in plexiglass, and a restored section on the inside of the structure. Once inside the rooms are characterized by low ceilings, especially upstairs, and doorway openings that can give anyone taller than 5'10" an unpleasant surprise. Downstairs there is a formal parlor and entry hall. The parlor is centered around a potbelly stove with furniture one could expect to find in a Bellbrook home of the Mid-Victorian period.

Progressing toward the rear of the house are three more rooms. The first is the Rotating Exhibit Room. Every three to four months the exhibits in this room are changed to reflect the seasons or to particularly highlight one of our collections such as vintage clothing, local artifacts, etc. the second room is the Artifact Room where the more permanent displays are presented. These include maps depicting the original layout of downtown and the township. The third area is the re-creation of an 1880s kitchen, including a wood-fired stove and authentic wooden icebox.

The succession of improvements and additions over the years is highlighted by the growing prosperity of the families who occupied the house for almost 200 years. The creation of the second floor bedrooms are the best examples of this prosperity. Beginning with only the basic square log structure in 1825 the pioneer cabin grew to be a modern Victorian-era home with heat, light, and eventually, running water and electricity.

If you haven't yet had the chance, make time during this holiday season to stop by, enjoy some hot chocolate, let the kids help put candy canes on the tree and enjoy Bellbrook's hidden "secret". We're open Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2PM, and Saturdays from 12PM - 4PM.



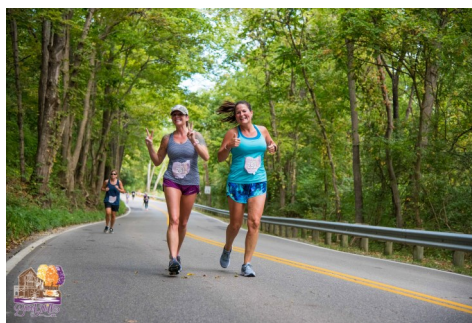


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COMMUNITY

A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

