

# Bellbrook

## Community Events

- Night Easter Egg Hunt & Campfire, 8PM @ Sackett-Wright Park.....April 4
- Lioness Garage Sale, 8 AM.....April 8 & 9
- Good Friday (City offices closed).....Apr. 10
- State Wildflower Hike, 2 PM @ Morris Reserve.....April 26
- Sugar Maple Festival @ Downtown Bellbrook.....Apr. 24-26
- Ohio's Edible Wilds, 7 PM @ Sweet Arrow Reserve.....May 6
- Teen Volunteer Training, 6:30 PM @ Park District Headquarters.....May 6
- Neighborhood Walk, 6 PM @ S. Lakeman/ Moss Oak areas.....May 13
- Neighborhood Walk, 6 PM @ Hess/Lower & Upper Hillside areas.....May 20
- Bellbrook Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale, 9 AM @ 51 S. East St.....May 23
- Community Garage Sale.....May 21, 22, & 23
- Memorial Day (City offices closed)....May 25
- Neighborhood Walk, 6 PM @ Vineyards/ Sable Ridge areas.....May 27
- River Festival, 12 PM @ Bellbrook Park.....Jun. 13
- Fourth of July (City offices closed in observance on July 3rd, 2020).....Jul. 4
- Fun & Games MESS-tival, 6 PM @ Washington Mill Park.....Jul. 25
- Neighborhood Walk, 6 PM @ Green Meadow Ranch area.....Sept. 10
- Neighborhood Walk, 6 PM @ Ivy Crest/ Lakeview areas.....Sept. 17
- Neighborhood Walk, 6 PM @ Downtown Bellbrook area.....Sept. 24

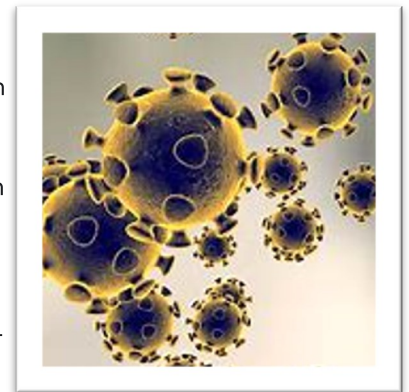
## City of Bellbrook Newsletter

April 2020

### COVID-19 Information

At time of publishing, the COVID-19 response state-wide had escalated to include cancellation of events, closure of colleges and universities and travel bans.

City officials are closely monitoring the situation and in constant contact with local health and emergency management officials. We ask that you stay informed by credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control and the Ohio Department of Health along with Greene County Public Health.



The Ohio Department of Health has opened a call center to answer questions regarding COVID-19. The call center will be open 7 days a week from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and can be reached at

**1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).**

Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts. They will be available to answer questions and provide accurate information about COVID-19, the risk to the public, and the state's response.

As this situation evolves we ask that residents take all necessary precautions to keep yourself, your family and your community safe including:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing
- Stay home when you are sick
- Clean "high-touch" surfaces daily (doorknobs, light switches, bathroom fixtures, phones, keyboards, desks)

### Franklin Street Pilot Crosswalk

The City has been committed to walkability. A vital component is ensuring pedestrian safety in the community. Based on feedback from citizens, the City will be installing a temporary midblock crosswalk to connect the Dairy Shed and the Library along West Franklin Street. This is a busy area frequented by all and especially the younger population. The Service Department will paint striping and add a free-standing sign in the middle of the roadway. City staff will monitor the traffic and pedestrian patterns to determine if the crosswalk makes sense as is or if it needs adjustment. We welcome any and all feedback as this is tested. The crosswalk will be installed prior to the Sugar Maple Festival and will remain in place for one to two months depending on how the walk is received.

Please exercise caution in this area as pedestrians will be utilizing this new crossing! If a pedestrian is in the walkway, motorists must yield.



## Sugar Maple Festival



As of publishing, the Sugar Maple Festival is still scheduled. However, in light of recent events and mandates related to COVID-19, City officials and the Festival Committee are closely monitoring the situation. Any updates to the event will be posted on the festival website, the city website and social media.

We urge everyone to use their best judgement in attending any event in light of the current situation and we will take every precaution under the direction of public health officials to ensure the safety of our community.

For event updates—please visit the festival website at [www.sugarmaplefestival.com](http://www.sugarmaplefestival.com)



### Festival Events:

#### Friday, April 24

- Main Street Closure.....10 AM
- Franklin Street Closure.....5 PM
- Beer & Wine Garden.....5 - 10 PM
- Food Vendors.....5 - 9 PM
- Dog Show Registration.....6 - 6:30 PM
- Dog Show.....6:30 PM
- Live Band - Full Frontal.....6 - 10 PM

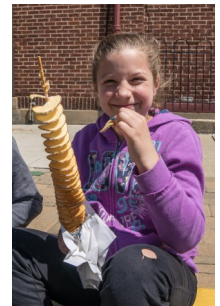


#### Saturday, April 25

- Pancake Breakfast.....8- 10:30 AM
- 6K Registration.....8 AM
- 6K Run Start.....9 AM
- Free Shuttle.....9 AM - 5 PM
- Craft Vendors.....10 AM - 7 PM
- Food Vendors.....10 AM - 9 PM
- National Anthem.....10:30 AM
- Parade Start.....10:30 AM
- Children's Activities in Park.....11 AM - 4 PM
- Entertainment in Park.....Noon-4:30 PM
- Beer & Wine Garden.....5 - 10 PM
- Live Band - Spungewurthy.....6 - 10 PM

#### Sunday, April 26

- Free Shuttle.....10:30 AM - 5 PM
- Craft and Food Vendors.....11 AM - 5 PM
- Entertainment.....11 AM - 4:30 PM
- Children's Activities in Park.....Noon - 4 PM



### Be Well Bellbrook

The Be Well Bellbrook Health and Wellness event will be returning this year! We will have another fun filled day with fitness demos/mini classes, the farmers market, health and wellness vendor booths and the Brook Mills 10k race all happening at the same time! There will truly be something for everyone!

If you are interested in participating by leading a fitness demo or having a vendor booth, visit our website at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org) and click on Community and Events.



### Brook Mills 10k Race

The Brook Mills 10k race will be returning again this year! This year's race will be held on Saturday, August 22 at 7:30 am. There will also be a 1k kids fun run again!

This year's race will expand to hold more runners after last year sold out! The race will also be the Road Runners Club of America Ohio State 10k Championship race! This is sure to be an exciting event if you are a runner or a spectator!

The race is again partnered with the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Family Resource Center as a fundraising event.

Run on a beautiful course through Bellbrook and help the Family Resource Center at the same time!

Register before the event sells out: [www.brookmills10k.com](http://www.brookmills10k.com)



## HGTV Hometown Takeover Video Shoot



On the brisk morning of Saturday, February 1 approximately 75 members of the community gathered for a group shot in the main intersection of downtown. This was part of the video submission for HGTV's Hometown Takeover contest. The video was shot and donated by Cory Weaver of Full Frame Photography. He created a beautiful video highlighting all that is Bellbrook for submission in the contest. The winner of the contest will receive a whole town overhaul to be featured in a six episode series that will air in 2021. Submissions were due by February 4 and are currently under review. Even if Bellbrook is not a contest winner, this was still a fun event that got the community together on a snowy morning to have coffee, chat and just come together in a show of community support!

## Second Saturday Street Fairs Expanding

Bellbrook Plaza will again be bringing back their Second Saturday Street Fairs! These events are continuing to expand as well! The 2020 season will run from **May to October** and will feature food, music, vendors and more! These family friendly events will be sure to have something for everyone! There will be even more vendors this year along with a beer tent! Local food options will also be included as part of the event. Be sure to check these events out as each will have different offerings!

**2nd Saturday  
Street Fairs**

**Bellbrook Plaza  
6-9pm**

## Bellbrook Historical Museum



One early sign of spring? Your museum is now open! We now have a new Acquisitions Exhibit. We will be featuring recent acquisitions that will be added to our permanent collections. Watch for more exhibits to come featuring these new artifacts. Our rotating exhibit room is now featuring beautiful paintings and information about the

Covered Bridges of Bellbrook -Sugarcreek Township and Greene County. For over 100 years the covered bridge played a very important role in the development of the transportation system of Ohio. We had 14 covered bridges in our area. The first being built in 1853 on State Route 725 over the Little Miami. We would love to have the children come in and color a picture of the famous Washington Mill Bridge so we can hang it in our Rotating Exhibit Room and also help us to finish a puzzle of a covered bridge.

Museum is open **Wednesdays 10am to 2pm and Saturdays 12pm to 4pm.**

## Farmers Market Returning

The Farmers Market will return for its second full season this year! The market will again take place on the second Saturday of every month from May to September with October being weather dependent. **Market times are to be announced but will still be in the morning.** The market is held in the city building parking lot located at **15 East Franklin Street.**



Applications are on our website for interested vendors, musicians and food trucks. There is no fee for the booth space. Space is first come, first served and limited to 20 vendors so get your applications in early!

## Winters-Bellbrook Community Library



As the weather warms, you'll see us out and about in our community more than ever in 2020.

In February we had our annual Food for Fines campaign to benefit the food pantry at the Bellbrook Family Resource Center. We

also had a 'pay it forward' option so people could help out their neighbors.

Due to community input, we started a brand new daytime book club which meets on the first Friday of every month. We also had a great program called "Stop Sabotaging Your Goals." The Winters Teen Advisory Group (TAG) completed their monthly service project for SISCA in February. Teens handmade snuffle mats, rope toys, and pom-pom toys out of fleece to donate to the non-profit animal shelter & pet adoption center. TAG meets on the first Thursday of each month to complete a community service project.

Starting this spring we are looking forward to loads of partnerships with the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Parks Department with trivia nights and a Campfire Book Talk - leading up to a Summer's worth of Walk and Talk book discussions and Story times in the parks.

We also can't wait to participate in the Sugar Maple Festival, Street Fairs, and other Community-Wide events.

Summer will be here and that means Summer Reading Program. Our kickoff is June 1<sup>st</sup> with a petting zoo and surprises for everyone in the family. Summer Reading runs **June 1<sup>st</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>.**



We love our community and hope to see you soon.

## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

Reminder: The Chamber office is located at 51 S. East St. Call (937) 848-4930 for additional info. Come visit our tent in Bellbrook Park during the Sugar Maple Festival and pick up the free Community Directory featuring local information, map and member listings.



We will be featuring a Pet Expo Friday of Sugar Maple Festival at Sugarcreek Elementary Building from 4pm to 6pm before the famous Dog Show. Pet related vendors and speakers will be on hand to help you with your pet needs.

The Community Garage Sale dates are May 21, 22, 23. Registration available on our website:

[www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com](http://www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com) (under events tab).

You may also stop at the Chamber tent at the S. Maple Festival to register your garage sale. The City and Township allow only garage sale signs on that weekend. Address lists will be available on our website a couple days before event. Lists also available at Dot's, Winters Library and Old Fort Bank.

## Bellbrook Lioness Garage Sale

The Bellbrook Lioness Annual garage sale is **Wednesday April 8** and **Thursday April 9** from 8am to 7pm at the **Lions Center (old Grange Building)** corner of Wilmington/Dayton and Conference Road. Proceeds from the sale go toward a \$2,000 scholarship for a Bellbrook Senior, Fruit Baskets for widowers at Christmas time and other community projects.

## Bellbrook Garden Club

Since 1941, Bellbrook Garden Club has served the community. Upcoming events are:

Poster Contest for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. Entries are handled through the school art teacher; club members judge on April 8. Winning entries will be displayed in the club's educational booth in Bellbrook Park at the Sugar Maple Festival, April 25-26.

Club members lead Stephen Bell second grade classes in making worm bins to learn about composting and soil during the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>.

During the Sugar Maple Festival visit the club's display in Bellbrook Park on planting for pollinators and organic pesticides.

Bellbrook Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale--**Saturday, May 23rd** from 9am to 1pm at 51 S. East Street--the old school parking area. Proceeds are used in service projects benefiting the community. Sale includes sun/shade perennials, wildflowers, ornamental grasses, groundcovers, herbs and "Wright Iris" grown by club gardeners who are on hand to answer questions about plants. Assistance is available for loading purchases in cars.

Interested in our programs and/or membership? Visit [bellbrookgardenclub.org](http://bellbrookgardenclub.org) for more information.



## Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club

The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimists invites you to participate in our patriotic community service program and fund raiser called Avenue of Flags. It's a wonderful way to honor our troops and help us support our youth programs and activities. For \$50 a year, we place a 3'x5' American Flag in front of your home or business for:

- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day



To participate, order your flag online: [BellbrookSugarcreekOptiminst.com](http://BellbrookSugarcreekOptiminst.com), call (937) 709-3077 or pick up an application at BellHop Café. We meet at noon on the third Thursday at BellHop Café. Everyone is welcome!

## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Parks District

Summer Camp registration opens on **May 1st!** Camps range from themed camps to teamwork games to hiking, so please visit [www.bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org/programs/summer-camps/](http://www.bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org/programs/summer-camps/) for more information on upcoming Summer Camp programs!



## Little Free Libraries

Don't forget to check out the City's Little Free Libraries! There are 4 Little Free Libraries that are maintained by local Girl Scout Troop 33263. They ensure the libraries are in good working order and stocked with new selections!



The libraries are located at the following public places:

**Bellbrook Fire Station #2** on West Franklin Street  
**Bellbrook Park** near East Walnut Street  
**Petrikis Park** on Hillrise Circle  
**State Farm Insurance & Floral V** on South Main Street

## City Facebook Page

Did you know that the City has its own official Facebook page? To stay up to date on all things happening around the city, be sure to head over and "like" our page at

<https://www.facebook.com/BellbrookCity/>



# From the City Manager



Although I try to keep things upbeat and positive and talk about all of the great things that are happening in the community, at the time of publishing, COVID-19 had begun to really impact the nation and the State of Ohio.

There are a lot of community events on the calendar and the city is working with organizers and public health and emergency management officials to make the best decisions to keep the community as safe as possible. As much as I personally would like to see things go on as planned and the community continue to march on, we have to keep everyone's best interests at the forefront. With that being said, please exercise your best judgement at this time when you are out in public and carrying out your daily lives. Please stay informed from credible sources. Visit websites such as the CDC's and the Ohio Department of Health on a regular basis for any important updates.

Rest assured that the City is keeping a close watch on the situation as it continues to develop.

Please stay safe out there! *Melissa Dodd*

## Solution for Little Sugarcreek Road Still Being Explored

During the February 10th meeting of City Council, a presentation was made on a possible solution to help stabilize Little Sugarcreek Road. Information was presented on stream restoration techniques that could help to clean out fallen trees that have created log jams and caused additional erosion at the creek level. Those natural materials could then be used to help redirect the stream away from the bank at the base of the road to prevent further damage.



This solution has the potential to save the City from spending more than its annual budget on building a wall to stabilize the road that was previously proposed. City staff continues to meet with experts in this area to help determine if this solution could help alleviate the issues with the road up above the creek level. Staff is also looking at various grants that could assist in the funding for such a solution. As we learn more we will be sure to share with residents and community members.

## City Seeks to be part of "Age Friendly Community Network"

City Council approved membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. This was done by resolution at the February 21st meeting.



Membership in this network is free and will provide the city with a number of resources to help enable change that benefits people of all ages with a specific focus on our older population. As part of the membership, the City will commit to a three year process which will create open communication with our older population in the community and use that information to conduct a needs assessment and develop an action plan. This process will allow the City to intentionally engage those 50 and up in Bellbrook to better understand their needs and find ways to meet those needs as we continue to move the community forward in our planning processes. We are hopeful that connecting with this population of residents will allow them to be heard and their needs met.

We are in the process of building a webpage on our website to distribute a survey and more information. Keep checking back as we build out this information. We will also put more information in future newsletters as well.

## Greene County Increases Grant Award

For the second year in a row Greene County Commissioners distributed money to each township, village and city. This year they revised their formula which resulted in Bellbrook receiving an additional \$19,000 for a total of \$30,000 received.



This money will be used on a project yet to be identified and reported back to the county. Last year's grant was used to secure other grants for two pedestrian projects. Staff is working to find a project that will be of benefit to the entire community. Stay tuned for more information on how this grant will be used!

# City Council

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

The Bellbrook City Council invites you to attend its regular meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

- Mike Schweller Mayor
- Nick Edwards, Deputy Mayor
- Elaine Middlestetter, Council Member
- Forrest Greenwood, Council Member
- Dr. David Van Veldhuizen, Council Member
- Ernie Havens, Council Member
- Vacant as of publishing

## Public Records—Did you Know?

Did you know that the City has a wealth of information available online? All City Council meeting minutes, legislation and meeting videos are all housed on the City’s website. We strive to be as transparent as possible and update the website on a weekly basis with new information. The same information, with the exception of video, is also available for all of the City boards and commissions. All of the above information can be found here: [http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/council\\_documents](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/council_documents)

## Recently Adopted Legislative Items

NUMBER	EXPLANATION OF THE ORDINANCE/ RESOLUTION	REASON
Ordinance 2020-1	Amends “Parades and Assemblages” to include that any gathering that will block off a road or sidewalk requires a Special Event Permit	Aligns Section 412.06 with the regulations for Special Events.
Ordinance 2020-2	Amends the application process for those wishing to obtain a Solicitor’s License. There is now a maximum number of 5 people per application.	Previously there was no limit to the number of people who could be licensed on 1 permit regardless of the cost to administer the license.
Resolution 2020-A	Authorized the City Manager to file a request for the Greene County Auditor to advance property taxes as they are received versus semi-annually	This resolution is enacted annually to allow the City to access money more often than twice a year. Since Bellbrook has no income tax, property tax money is what the City uses to run.
Resolution 2020-B	Amended the City Manager’s employment agreement and including the change in salary following the performance review conducted on December 9 <sup>th</sup> .	The Municipal Attorney suggested changes to some of the wording of the contract to be more aligned with a continuing contract versus a new hire contract.
Resolution 2020-C	Authorized the City Manager to purchase Finance and Utility Billing software.	The cost of new software was included in the 2020 budget.
Resolution 2020-D	This resolution authorized the disposal of equipment that the City no longer needs.	The Service Department replaced two vehicles and got rid of an unused trailer.
Resolution 2020-E	Membership in the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities.	The City wished to join this free group to promote communication and inclusion of the City’s older residents.
Resolution 2020-F	Amends the fees charged per mile for emergency medical transport services. The rate was changed from \$13 to \$16 per mile.	The City’s EMS billing company recommended raising the fee per mile to be more in line with costs.

## New Council Positions and Board Seats

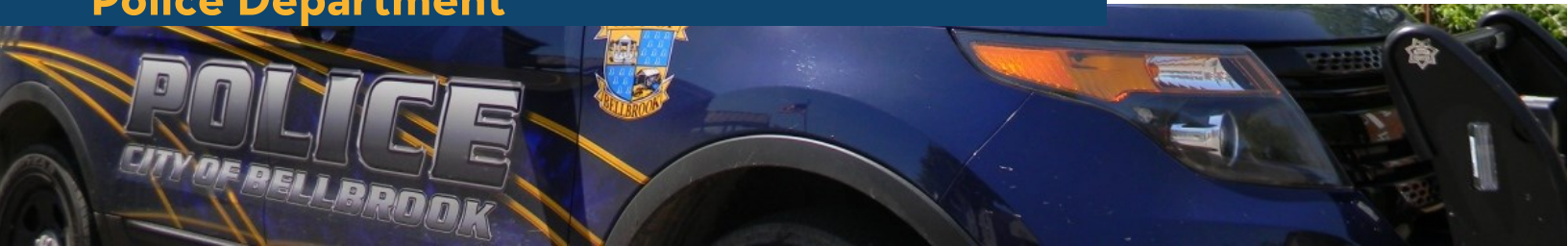
The City has sworn in a number of people into Council positions and Board seats since January 1<sup>st</sup>. Complete list below:

- Nick Edwards, Deputy Mayor
- Ernie Havens, City Council
- Janis Stratis, Historical Museum Trustee
- Peter Wixted, Historical Museum Trustee
- David Cassier, Historical Museum Trustee

As of print time, there were seven citizens interested and interviewing in one position on the Board of Zoning Appeals/Property Review Commission and seven residents interested and interviewing for the seat on City Council vacated by Councilman Tim Taylor. Please check the city’s website for the announcements of those positions once they are filled.



# Police Department



The Bellbrook Police Department is proud to announce the dates for the "Neighborhood Walks"! This is a great time to meet the Chief of Police while he is walking in your neighborhood! If you have any concerns or compliments, please be sure to share with him any of your issues. In the past, residents have spoken about quality of life issues that often times can be addressed immediately. Last year a resident complained of speeding cars on a neighborhood street. The Chief contacted the Patrol Lieutenant that night and they immediately placed an "extra patrol" onto the in-car computers for officers to address that complaint during that shift. The walks will be from 6pm-7:30pm. Please see the first page for the scheduled walk areas.

## Long time officer Tony Vetter is now Sergeant



Veteran Bellbrook Police Officer Tony Vetter received a well deserved promotion to Police Sergeant earlier this year. He took his oath of office for the position of Police Sergeant on January 13 in front of the Mayor, City Council and a room full of family, friends and fellow officers. Tony started as part time dispatcher in 1997 and

then became a full time police officer in 2001. His dedication and service to the Bellbrook community has been much appreciated and his leadership will be a welcome asset to the department.

## Officer Biographies Continued Officer Gregory Williams



My career in law enforcement started January 2016 with Sugarcreek Township Police Department. Summer of 2019, I was hired by the Bellbrook Police Department. My interest in law enforcement began after growing up in the west side of Dayton. As an adolescent, I never understood why cops engaged in pursuits, kicked open doors, or other enforcement tactics. On the flip side, there was a side of law enforcement that captured my heart from seeing the quality of those in the police force.

As I continue to serve my time at the BPD, I seek innovative methods of crime prevention in policing that pertain to the community and department needs. As a patrolman, my specialized skills are in reflection of Drug Interdiction, Recognizing Impaired Driving, and Investigations. As a supporter of established communities that are against drunk/impaired driving my goals during each Tour of Duty is to apprehend individuals who are found to be under the influence while behind the wheel.

## Officer Biographies

### Officer Stephanie Bennington



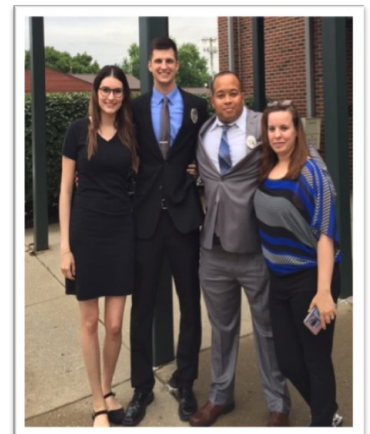
I have been a police officer for six and a half years. I wanted to become a police officer because of the positive interaction I had with law enforcement when I was younger. I wanted to be able to provide that same positive interaction with the youth of the community I am serving. I have always found being a police officer is a meaningful and honorable profes-

sion. I also wanted to find a way to be able to commit acts of kindness and service and I felt the best way I would be able to do that was to be a police officer. I have training in Crisis Intervention Team, Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing - to help with the interviewing of victims of traumatic events, Field Training Officer certification, Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training for active shooter, Police bicycle patrol certification, I was able to be the Youth and Police Together Coordinator/SRO for the previous department I worked for. As a police officer for the City of Bellbrook I want to be able to build and foster positive relationships with the community and the youth that live and work here.

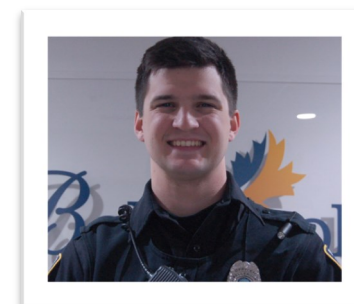
***"There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits to the human capacity for intelligence, imagination and wonder." – Ronald Reagan***



***"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moment of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." – Martin Luther King, Jr.***



### Officer Ryan Johnston



I have been an officer for three years and have been with the Bellbrook Police Department since July of 2019. As a Bellbrook Police officer, my goals are to promote safety and serve the community to the best of my abilities. I wanted to be an officer because I have always wanted to help people. My parents would say I have a "servant's heart" because no matter the task being big or small, I enjoy seeing other people's needs met. Being a police officer provides me with opportunities every day to serve

my community. I am proficient in air guitar, fishing, and I am always up for dessert.

***"Do or do not. There is no try..." – Master Yoda***

# Fire Department



The Bellbrook Fire Department is a combination department with 8 full-time employees, 12 part-time employees, and 3 resource members. The fire services provided to the citizens of Bellbrook has 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, 11 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 1 medical director.

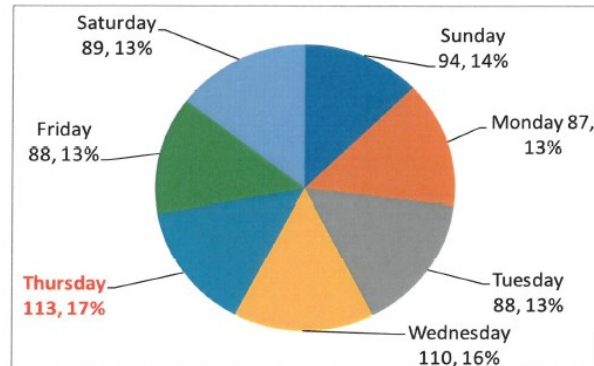
## Safety Programs

The Bellbrook Fire Department offers CPR, First Aid, and Car Seat inspections on an as-needed basis! If you are interested, please visit: [http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/fire\\_safety\\_programs](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/fire_safety_programs) or call (937) 848-3272 for more information.



## 2019 Calls for Assistance

Calls for assistance by Day of the Week



## Tornado Safety

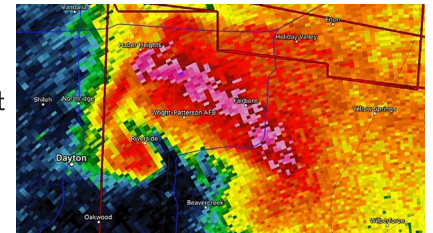
Spring typically marks the beginning of tornado season in Ohio (even though they can occur at any time of the year). We want to remind citizens of the basic precautions to take if there is threat of any type of severe weather in our area.

It is important to have a family plan in place and to practice it. Knowing where to go if you are indoors or outdoors is important. If outdoors, try to safely head to the nearest sturdy shelter. If indoors, move to a pre-designated shelter such as a basement or lowest level. Do not worry about opening windows first, heading to the safest place possible is the most important.

Items that you should have handy in your home include a battery operated NOAA weather radio and a paper map of the area around your home. The radio will be the most effective as it will not require internet or electricity to operate (but be sure to regularly check the batteries or keep a spare set near the radio). The map will also come in handy to look up storm movements and better determine if you are threatened.

You may also sign up for Hyper-Reach alerts that are pushed out to those in areas directly affected by different emergencies including tornadoes. You can choose to receive a text message, phone call or email. The Hyper-Reach sign up is on the City of Bellbrook's homepage—[www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org).

The website can also be accessed by the QR Code on this page. To use the QR Code simply open your phone's camera and it will immediately direct you to the website.





# Service Department

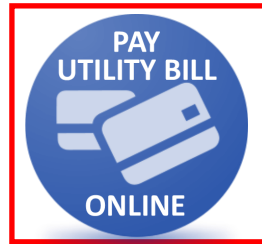


## About the Service Department

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 Operators 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.

## Limit Germ Exposure!

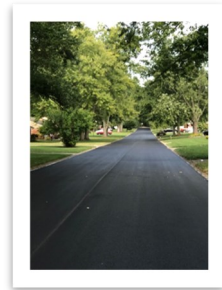
You can limit your exposure to potential illness by paying your utility bill ONLINE! Visit <http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/utilities-online-payments> Many other merchants also offer online payment options, so please consider utilizing them!



## 2020 Street Paving Program

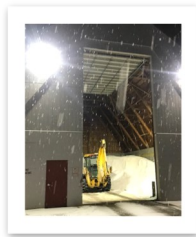
The Service Department has been busy patching potholes. Please call (937) 848-8415 to report any potholes you may find. The streets being considered for the 2020 paving program:

- Fowler Drive
- Lynlee Drive
- Justin Court
- Bellemeade Drive
- Small portion of Possum Run



## Winter 2019/2020 Statistics

- 14 snow and ice events
- 4,725 miles driven by our snow plows
- 448 tons of road salt used
- 1,138 gallons of fuel



## Water System Maintenance & Repairs

- 14 water main repairs
- 2 major hydrant repairs
- 13 hydrant replacements
- 13 replacements planned for 2020



- Nearly 600 hydrants flushed in October, 2019

## Pedestrian Improvement Projects

Staff met to finalize plans for the North West Street sidewalk addition and pedestrian improvements. This project is being funded in part by a Greene County Community Development Block Grant. The project will add curb, sidewalk and ADA



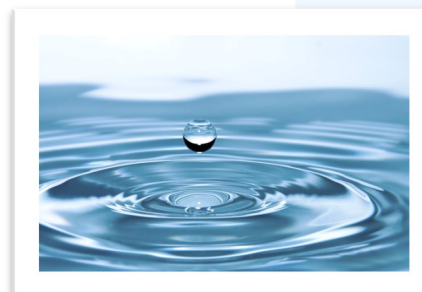
compliant ramps to connect Franklin Street to the east side of North West Street back to Bellbrook Plaza. This project will be completed this summer.

The Franklin Street bridge project will add sidewalk along the south side of the street over the Little Sugarcreek has been moved up from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2022. This important project will also add a mid block crosswalk just east of Dot's.

The City continues to identify pedestrian improvements downtown and seek grant funding for those important projects to maximize how City dollars are spent.



## Water Quality Report



The 2019 Water Quality Report is available for residents on our website at <http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/open/2229/O/Water%20Quality%20Report%202020>

For more information, contact the Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638 or visit the Utility Billing page on our website.

# City Boards

The City has three volunteer boards that help create and enforce the various regulations that relate to zoning and property maintenance. These three boards contribute significantly to the City and help ensure that citizen's voices are heard.

The City would like to thank each of our volunteer board members for the important work that they do on a regular basis. Their dedication and commitment to public service is very much appreciated!



## Planning Board

*Appointed to a limit of two five-year terms*

Chair– Mitchell Thompson

Member– Denny Bennett

Member– Brady Harding

Member– Ed Stangel

Member– Timothy Tuttle

## Board of Zoning Appeals/ Property Review Commission

*Appointed to a limit of two five-year terms*

Chair– Meredith Glick Brinegar

Member– Aaron Burke

Member– Philip Ogrod

Member– Sharon Schroder

Member– currently vacant

## Village Review Board

*Appointed to three-year terms*

Chair– Jeff Owens

Member– Jennifer Bowersock

Member–Thad Camp

Member–Jacqueline Greenwood

Member– Karen McGill

Architect Advisor– Brady Harding

# Planning and Zoning

## Planning & Zoning Department Welcomes Jessica Hansen

The City welcomed new Planning and Zoning Assistant Jessica Hansen in late December of 2019. Jessica came from Greene County Regional Planning where she served as their GIS Planner. Jessica holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Geography from Wright State University with a focus on GIS. Jessica will be responsible for all planning and zoning functions including permitting, property maintenance, and will serve as the staff representative on Planning Board, BZA/PRC and the Village Review Board.

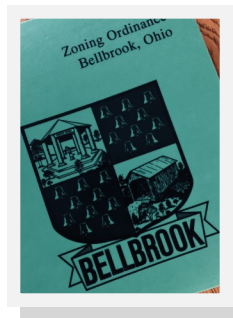
## Share the Road

As the weather warms up, cyclists are going to be out much more enjoying the weather. Please remember to be mindful of cyclists and give them a 3 foot buffer as required by state law.



## Zoning Code Updates

Since the adoption of the City's updated Comprehensive Plan, much attention has turned to making necessary updates to our Zoning Code. The Planning Board is charged with making recommendations to City Council on changes to the Zoning Code.



The Planning Board has met several times to prioritize the sections of code that they would like to make revisions to. The first section of code is the sign ordinance that relates to the downtown area which is found in section 18.20. The second section of code that staff has been charged with revising is Article 14 which regulates "The Old Village District". This section will be presented to the Planning Board for their input. Citizens will also be notified who live and own property in this area so that they may give their input as well.

All Planning Board agendas are located on the City's website so that you can follow the important work that they are doing.

# Bellbrook—A Look Back in History

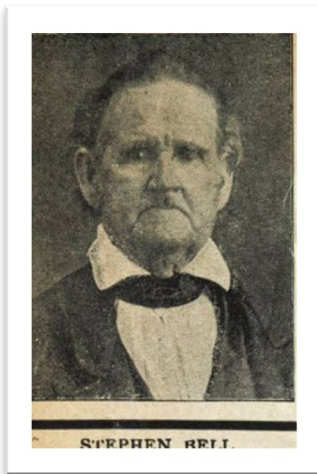
This page is a continuation of dedicating a page in the newsletter to the City's history. All information came from a document titled "Outline Early History of Bellbrook" Compiled by Robert Gooding. The information was condensed from newspaper articles, the 1966 Bellbrook Sesqui-centennial Book and Bellbrook Historical Society Book. We hope you find this timeline fun and informative!

## 1797

Joseph Vance, Sr. built a small, one room log cabin which was the first building on the site of Bellbrook, located on the Pickney Road. Joseph Vance, Sr. eventually moved and became the director of the county seat in 1803 and soon afterwards laid out the town of Xenia and a few years later, Urbana. Vance's cabin passed into the hands of James Clancy who built a two story log building in front of Vance's cabin. The log building was used as a tavern and the cabin was used as a kitchen.

## 1815

James Clancy, Stephen Bell and Henry Opdyke, all land-owners in the area, decided to plat a town. They had 84 lots surveyed. After much discussion, Bellbrook was the name they settled on after Stephen Bell and the brook from the small stream that flowed behind the tavern. A notice appeared in the Dayton and Xenia papers stating that "lots in said town will be sold to the highest bidder on Saturday, the 7th of October,



## 1820

The 1820 census listed 16 families in Bellbrook with a total population of 83.

## 1832

As Bellbrook continued to grow, discussion regarding incorporating the village began. Dr. William Frazier drafted a petition to the state legislature seeking to incorporate the village of Bellbrook. After many residents signed the petition, Bellbrook was duly incorporated February 13, 1832.

## 1844

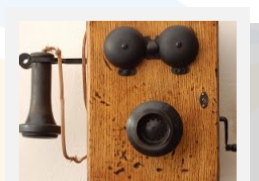
The Methodist Church was built at 55 East Franklin Street and the congregation still meets in the original sanctuary today.

## 1869

Council voted to put gravel on the streets in an attempt to try to control the dust and mud.

## 1883

Telephones came to Bellbrook.



## 1886

Bread was selling for 6 one pound loaves for \$0.25 at Buckles Bakery on North Main Street.

## 1891

Pearl fishing in the Little Miami River was a source of employment for many peoples. It would begin on the first of June and continue until the water became too cold in the fall. The largest pearl known weighed 2 and 5/8 carats and was sold for \$60 when the average price ran from \$5-\$20 for a pearl.

## 1900

The census was 375 people. A traction went into operation on the 23rd of April between Dayton and Spring Valley through Bellbrook. During the heyday of the magnetic springs, the citizens of Bellbrook wanted it to be easier for people to come to Bellbrook and finally decided on a traction line.

## 1915

On June 17, 1915, Council passed a motion to allow Dayton Power & Light to erect poles and wires and furnish electricity to the Village on August 30, 1915. DP&L was also granted a contract to install 12 street lights at a cost of \$36 a month.

## 1919

On the morning of April 30 flames destroyed a quarter of the business section of Bellbrook. It started by an overheated stove in the back of Schwartz Grocery Store on the northwest corner of Main and Franklin and destroyed 8 buildings before it was brought under control.



## 1950

The census recorded 400 people. A water system was installed in Bellbrook.

## 1972

Since Bellbrook had more than 5,000 people, it met state requirements to become a city. The City Council appointed a Charter Commission who drafted a home rule charter. It was voted in November 1971 to adopt the charter. On January 1, 1972, it became effective that Bellbrook was a city.

## 1999

The population in Bellbrook is 8,500 as of February of 1999.



**"Small town friendly"**

# Bellbrook

15 E. Franklin Street  
Bellbrook, OH 45305

## Departments

- Administration.....(937) 848-4666
- Clerk of Council.....(937) 848-4666
- Planning & Zoning.....(937) 848-4666
- Police.....(937) 848 3252
- Fire.....(937) 848-3272
- Service.....(937) 848-8415
- Utility Billing.....(937) 848-4638

[www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org)



## Sugar Maple Commemorative Plates

Did you know that the Sugar Maple Festival used to have a handcrafted plate designed each year for the festival? This started in 1979 with the original plates being created in the studio of local Doug Short who designed them. The images were decals with the first being designed by local artist Ed Berry. The images were applied by members of the festival committee and then fired onto the plates. Only 100 were made each year and were hand numbered by the festival committee. One plate was always given to the museum and one to the City.

Each year, after the first plate was created, people were asked to submit black and white drawings of their ideas for a plate and the festival committee then picked a winner to be used for that years plate. As the years went by, the plates were eventually created by a different company and artists were usually from Bellbrook but a few from outside the community. The plates remained limited to 100 produced. Each of the plates had writing on the back that told the story of that particular plate and information about the artist.

The City has framed and matted images of the plates from 1979 to 2003 that are housed in the City building. The images were all in a rarely used room of the building and were moved to the second floor lobby a few months ago to be more prominently displayed. If you find yourself in the City building for any reason, be sure to stop by the second floor lobby to see these wonderful pieces of history.

\*Special thanks to Mary Graves for the history of the plates provided for this article.