

Bellbrook

City Holiday Observances

- Christmas Eve (city offices closed)....Dec. 24
- Christmas Day (city offices closed).....Dec 25
- New Years Eve.....Dec. 31
- New Years Day.....Jan. 1, 2021

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

December 2020

Message from the Mayor



I hope this newsletter finds you well during this challenging time of navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Rest assured that while our City buildings remain closed to the public, our City services have continued without interruption.

While the holidays present some unique challenges under our new “normal” protocols, I hope everyone was able to enjoy a safe and happy Thanksgiving. As I look back on the year 2020, it clearly was like no other, and I look forward to the New Year.

While the pandemic has greatly impacted our year, we did have a major bright spot regarding the repair of the bridge on North Belleview. More on this can be found later in this newsletter, but

suffice it to say, the City was very fortunate to have secured the Ohio Public Works Emergency Program Funding. Our City Manager tracked the due date for submission and not only made sure our application was one of the first submissions, but also made certain that ours was complete and accurate to allow for an early funding determination. This is but one example of how well our City staff operates to provide our citizens with the services they have learned to expect in Bellbrook. If you have the opportunity to thank them in person, please do so as they are greatly appreciated.

Since this will be our last newsletter for 2020, I want to personally wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. I look forward to sharing more with you again in our 2021 newsletter.

Covid-19 and City Services

The City continues to operate remotely as much as possible. Public buildings are still closed to the public and open by appointment only until further notice for the health and safety of staff and visitors.

Fire Chief Jim Neidhard Retiring



In October, Fire Chief Jim Neidhard announced his retirement as of December 31, 2020. This marks the end of a 35-year career. Chief Neidhard began his career in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter at Washington Township in 1985. He began his full-time career in 1990 as a Firefighter/Paramedic at Miamisburg before returning to Washington Township in 1993. He served in various roles during his 21-year tenure at Washington Township and ultimately served as their Deputy Chief. Jim was hired by the City of Bellbrook as the City’s second full-time Fire Chief in January of 2014. During his tenure in Bellbrook, the department obtained an ISO rating of 2, which put the department in the top 3% of the nation. He digitized the department’s reporting technology, updated all department policies to be in line with best practices, and secured a grant for the department’s CPR LUCAS devices. Chief Neidhard also saw the passage of a new levy in 2018, which allowed the increase of staffing to safer numbers. He has overseen numerous equipment and apparatus purchases to provide the department with the tools necessary to provide excellent service to the community. Chief Neidhard has served

Bellbrook well over the last seven years and has forever left his mark on the department and the community, and for that, we thank him and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement!

City Received \$445,571 in Coronavirus Relief Funds

In March of this year, the US Department of Treasury awarded funds to the State of Ohio as part of the CARES Act. The state then funneled monies to Ohio counties, which in turn funneled monies to local governments. There were three total awards given over the last several months. The total received by the City of Bellbrook was \$445,571. Spending was bound by ever-changing guidance from the state and federal level. Any unused funds by November 20 were to be returned to the distributing county. The City worked hard to identify projects to spend the funding to protect staff and the community from the pandemic. Here are the major spending categories the funds were used for:

Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Local Government Assistance Program



\$20k granted to Family Resource Center to assist families	\$28k in remote work expenses for employees	\$35k in touchless facilities and safety measure installation	\$9k for library outdoor seating for social distancing
\$67k in police and fire safety	\$140k in Police wages	\$127k in Fire wages	\$18k in misc. PPE and leave

Bellbrook Historical Museum

Yes, we are open and ready to celebrate the holiday season. The rotating exhibit room will have a beautifully decorated Christmas tree with toys of the past under the tree. Come in and help us finish decorating the tree with Candy Canes. Next, step into our artifact room and relive a little of the 1950s. You do not want to miss seeing our retro Silver Tree of the '50s with the vintage glass ornaments.

2020 will be a year that will go down in history and one we will all remember. We were fortunate to reopen in June at limited capacity. We could not have our third graders tours nor our other special walking tour of Historical Bellbrook. We look forward to doing these special tours and receptions again in 2021.

We will be closed in January and February. We will open in March 2021 with a special exhibit celebrating and honoring the Berryhill Family. The Berryhill's have been part of the community since 1813 when Alexander Berryhill settled south of Bellbrook on 640 acres at Centerville -Waynesville corner. This family probably has the most descendants in the area and has contributed much to the community.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2021.

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



Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Parks District

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District is committed to offering residents as much variety in programming as possible at this time. Due to COVID19 restrictions, we are currently planning programs on a monthly basis. Program offerings and registration will be made available at the end of the previous month. To learn more about our monthly programming, please visit our website: www.bellbrooksugarcreekparks.org or visit us on Facebook or Instagram @BellbrookSugarcreekParks.

Don't forget, the parks are OPEN from dawn until dusk - we encourage all residents to take a hike or two and soak up as much sunshine as possible!



Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center (formerly the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center) is here to help our community! We are busy running our Food Pantry (serving over 30 families per week) and gearing up for our Thanksgiving food and Christmas gift programs! We are now also offering educational classes and support groups. We are here for ALL community members -- visit us at www.bscsc.org or on Facebook to stay up to date on our current offerings and opportunities to get involved!

We're here to help!

Food Pantry
Social Services Assistance

Support Groups
Adult Classes

Emergency Clothing
Household Necessities

School Supplies
Birthday/Holiday Presents

Thanksgiving/Christmas Meals

51 S East St, Bellbrook
info@bscsc.org
937-848-3810
www.bscsc.org
facebook.com/BSCSC51



Formerly the B-S Family Resource Center. New name, same great team!

Winters-Bellbrook Community Library



The Winters Library staff cannot believe that December is here! We are still doing curbside during our regular hours! While you are welcome inside, this service dramatically benefits anyone who might be at risk for Coronavirus. Give us a call from a designated space, and we will run your requests out to your car. Not sure what you want? Check out our Home Collections form on our website at www.greenelibrary.info. We will curate a collection of books for the entire family or choose your next great read based on your likes.

Pair it with curbside for a safe option to using your library. This is not just for kids, as we love doing these collections for adults too.

We have moved requests out to our library's front and have installed a second self-check unit for patrons to have a fully self-service area. Of course, the librarians are still close by to help you find what you need or assist with the self-check machine.

Do you need to use our computers to check email, print, or send in a form? We are taking reservations for one-hour timeslots throughout the day and cleaning and sanitizing the computers for 30 minutes in between use. Call our reference desk at 937-709-6032 for a reservation.

Finally, our book clubs are back! We currently have two adult book clubs each month, which are held via Zoom. Sign up on our website under Events. You'll also find Teen and Children's programming online!

Remember, we are open during all regular hours except Sundays for the time being.

Thanks for all of your support. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Bellbrook Boy Scout Troop 375

Bellbrook Boy Scout Troop 375 congratulates the nine graduating Seniors on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout:

Mathew Billock
Caleb Brooks
Ryan Cross
Jorin Hanson
Collin Kepple
Kobe Kowal
John Malas
Cole McCrae
Brody Vaughn



Their Court of Honor ceremony was held on August 2nd, 2020. State Representative Rick Perales congratulated the boys and presented each of them with a commemorative certificate.



Eagle Scout Project: Little Free Library Bench

Eagle Scout hopeful Sam Reynolds of Boy Scout Troop 103 of Miamisburg and a crew installed a concrete pad and new bench next to the Little Free Library at Fire Station 2. Sam organized the crew who worked on the project over two different days to pour the concrete and then came back to assemble and install the bench on October 10th. The Lions Club provided Sam with a grant to fund the project. Thank you to Sam and his crew for your hard work!



Bellbrook Garden Club

Bellbrook Garden Club holds a plant sale of perennials one Saturday in May. While most of the plants come from members' gardens, some area homeowners contact the club to dig up plants from their yards, and these are potted and added to the sale. If you have perennials (some that the club does not take) you would like to give to the club sale or have members dig from your yard in March or April, please contact Bellbrook Garden Club. Email bellbrookgardenclub@gmail.com or call Lisa at 937-371-1066.

Proceeds support club educational programs and operations, including tending gardens at the library, museum, and the downtown urns. Funds also are donated by the club to local nonprofit organizations and for student scholarships. For more information about Bellbrook Garden Club, please visit bellbrookgardenclub.org.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club



Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist President Steve Young presents a ceremonial check to Heather Sabin that signifies the establishment of the Michael Sabin Memorial Scholarship at Sinclair Community College. The Club

will provide financial assistance for students in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek area enrolled at Sinclair Community College. The Club was able to provide these funds through the monies earned through the Avenue of Flags program. Please see our web site bellbrook-sugarcreek-optimist.com or call (937) 562-1740. Thanks for your support.



Bellbrook Open Arms Health Clinic



The Bellbrook Open Arms Health Clinic serves patients in Greene County and nearby uninsured or underinsured areas. This year, the 100% volunteer team has conducted over 370 patient visits through our Primary Care Clinic, Women's Health Clinic, Student-Run Free Clinic, and Paths to Wellness Clinic. We anticipate that our patient population will increase this year more

than in the past because of continuing gaps in healthcare access, new patient visits needed by individuals and families who have immigrated and live locally, and the closing of other nearby free clinics. Additionally, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health safety needs have encouraged us to successfully launch and offer Telemedicine services using Doxy.me. This increased offering was utilized fully by our Saturday (once monthly) Student-Run Free Clinic and Paths to Wellness programs. Please visit our website at www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org or call (937) 848-2939 for more specific information.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce



The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to introduce Jodi Martin, Executive Director, and Christine Florea, Administrative Assistant.

We are also looking for a treasurer as a volunteer position. Please email info@bellbrook-sugarcreek-chamber.com for more information and to apply.

The chamber is looking to grow! Please visit <https://bellbrook-sugarcreek-chamber.com/> to check out chamber benefits. Contact us with ideas, and let us know how we can support you.



Jodi Martin, Executive Director

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 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month virtually either by Zoom or live stream on YouTube. 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.



Find us on YouTube—live and recorded:

Bellbrook City Hall

Fire Station Consolidation Feasibility

In furtherance of our downtown revitalization efforts, the City has given consideration to the feasibility of combining our two fire stations.

The City currently operates two fire stations. Fire Station 1 is located on North West Street and houses the department's offices. Station 2 is located on West Franklin Street and houses typical department equipment and overnight staffing quarters.

Several years ago, the City explored the option of acquiring land to construct a new, combined station. This option did not warrant further consideration, and discussions were discontinued at that time.

As the revitalization effort brought this issue back for consideration, an architectural firm that specializes in fire station design was engaged to further evaluate the combination of stations by expanding Station 2.



Preliminary drawings were prepared for the purpose of cost estimation. The expansion is estimated to cost between \$2.5-\$3.0 million, plus inflation. The expansion of Station 2 costs roughly 30-40% less than a new build.

The expansion would not negatively impact response times or City services.

City Council has not had any additional in-depth discussions regarding the combination but plans to do so in early 2021. No formal decision is expected at that time; rather, the consideration at this time is directed toward future planning purposes.

Recently Adopted Legislative Items

	LEGISLATION TITLE	REASON
Resolution 2020-R	A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager Enter into an Extension of the Electric Generation Supply Agreement	Agreement which enables the City to purchase electricity in bulk and saves the City approximately \$2500 per year
Resolution 2020-T & U	A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a 3 Year Agreement with the FOP for Police Officers and Sergeants	Execution of two new three-year union contracts with officers and sergeants
Resolution 2020-V	A Resolution Recommending the Appointment of a Bellbrook Sugarcreek Parks District Commissioner	Recommending Mike Johnson as Parks Commissioner
Resolution 2020-X & Y	A Resolution Approving the Replat of Lots in Highview Terrace	Various replats as proposed by property owners and the developer
Resolution 2020-Z	A Resolution Ensuring Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in all City Actions	Commitment to keeping equity, diversity and inclusion at the forefront in all we do as a City
Ordinances 2020-5&10	An Ordinance to Adjust the Appropriations for 2020	Adjusting the 2020 budget
Ordinance 2020-7	An Ordinance Adding Chapter 260—Guidelines for Board & Commissions	Creating guidelines for installing board and commission members and outlining expectations
Ordinance 2020-8	An Ordinance Amending Sign Code Regulations	Removal of 10-day time limit to remove political signs

Reporting Our Police Practices to Our Community

As the Bellbrook Chief of Police, I wanted to communicate directly to you, our Bellbrook residents, policing practices that direct our behavior when performing our duties. The Bellbrook Police Department is committed to providing excellent customer service to the citizens of Bellbrook. It is my profound belief that we are here to serve you! We remain devoted to providing the highest level of law enforcement services to our community. This article will demonstrate some of our policies and procedures that govern our behavior and policing practices.

—Chief Doug Doherty



Use of Force - Officers receive Use of Force training annually that directs officers as to the appropriate level of force needed in varying situations and retraining on all of the tools and methods of their use. If we have a “use of force” incident, the shift supervisor, Patrol Captain, and Chief of Police will review the force used and ensure it falls within our policies/procedures and state-mandated guidelines. Officers are given annual refresher training that deals with handcuffing and the need to keep people in positions that do not restrict their ability to breathe properly. If we have a “use of force” incident, the shift supervisor, Patrol Captain, and Chief of Police will review the force used and ensure it falls within our policies/procedures and state-mandated guidelines. Officers are given annual refresher training that deals with handcuffing and the need to keep people in positions that do not restrict their ability to breathe properly.

Neck Restraints Policy - The usage of neck restraints or chokeholds are not taught at the Bellbrook Police Department. We do not teach or accept the use of force that deploys any type of neck restraint.

Training - Officers are required to meet any State of Ohio training standards in addition to annual firearms and Use of Force training. In 2020, Officers were required to complete training classes dealing with topics such as: “Dealing with Pressurized People,” “Implicit Bias Awareness,” and “Cultural Awareness.”

Crisis Intervention Training - The Bellbrook Police Department has always supported the need for our officers to attend Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). 75% of our officers have received this week-long training, and we will have two attend a class in 2021. CIT training focuses on responding to a multitude of emergency calls that deal with drug abuse or behavioral disorders and using the least amount of force necessary to achieve a positive outcome for all involved.

Body Cameras - The Bellbrook Police Department has worn body-worn cameras (BWC) since 2016. Captain Carmin was instrumental in our agency starting this program. It has become a popular tool to demonstrate emergency calls and the level of professionalism our officers use to defuse volatile situations. The Patrol Sergeants, Patrol Captain, and Chief of Police all have the ability to review the recordings. Often, we use these as positive examples to validate our responses and training practices.

Staffing - The Bellbrook Police Department has worked hard to create a modern workforce and work environment that is diverse, professional, and attentive to our community’s needs.

Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Advisory Committee (OCLEAC) -

The Ohio Collaborative, a 12-person panel of law enforcement experts and community leaders from throughout the state, established state standards - for the first time in Ohio’s history. The Collaborative works closely with partners, including the community and law enforcement agencies, to implement the new standards. All law enforcement agencies are expected to meet or exceed these new standards to develop policies and procedures to meet these new expectations. The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, communicated those new standards to Ohio’s nearly 960 law enforcement agencies. The Bellbrook Police Department has met past standards and is working to meet the new and on-going standards as they are released by the State of Ohio.



Complaint Process - The Bellbrook Police Department remains committed to providing community members several ways to contact the police department to advise us of a complaint or a compliment. All complaints will be given immediate attention and investigated thoroughly. Results will be given to the complainant upon completion of the investigation.

Community Outreach Programs - The Bellbrook Police Department offers a wide variety of Community Outreach Programs that allow community members and their police officers to develop positive contacts. Some of the programs we offer are Neighborhood Walks, Coffee with A Cop, Greet children at school every morning, Cones for Kids (which officers pass out a coupon to the Dairy Shed if we see children in the community), National Night Out, Bike Patrols, to name just a few. We are always looking for fresh ideas in this area. Please contact us if you have an idea for a community outreach program.



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 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.

North Main Parking Striping

This fall, during the annual street re-striping, the Bellbrook Service Department added parking lines on North Main Street to help indicate available parking spaces. With this addition, we hope to help emphasize the abundance of parking in our downtown area. Our goal is to continue to



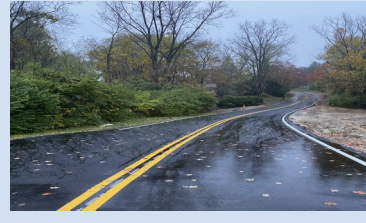
work towards creating small improvements such as this that complement our downtown. If you have suggestions, we are always open to hearing them. Please call 937-848-4638. In 2019, street striping along Franklin Street also emphasized parking in that area, which has been well received and utilized regularly.

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. The specific dates for trash and recycling pick-up are November 28th due to Thanksgiving, Saturday, December 26th due to Christmas, and Saturday, January 2nd, 2021, due to New Year.



North Belleview Before-During-&After



On March 20th, 2020, a severe storm brought heavy rains that flooded the area and washed away the bridge on North Belleview Drive. Bids were accepted in late-June/July. On July 21, 2020, the City was notified of being awarded

\$325,000

in Ohio Public Works Commission Emergency Program funding. \$347,000 was requested to cover the construction and contingency costs associated with the North Belleview Drive project, which suffered a culvert collapse. This funding equates to 80% of the total project costs. The project was completed and open for traffic on October 19th, 2020, almost two weeks ahead of schedule.

Assistance Organizations

Below are several organizations that may be able to provide assistance with utility bills and other needs during the holiday season.

- ◆ Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center: 937-848-3810
- ◆ Greene County Job & Family Services: 937-562-6000
- ◆ Community Action Partnership: 937-376-7747
- ◆ United Way: 937-225-3001
- ◆ St. Brigid Parish: 937-372-3193
- ◆ Home Energy Assistance Program: 1-800-828-0880

Planning & Zoning

Tentatively in spring/summer of 2021, FEMA will be finalizing the Flood Plain maps changes, which is how insurance rates are determined for structures that reside in the Flood Plain. These maps are used by community officials, mortgage lenders, insurance developers, and builders. They are essential to be aware of when making any improvements on your property or when purchasing/selling a property. To view the updated map compared to the current map, please visit msc.fema.gov/portal.

Change in Risk

From: Moderate- to low-risk area (Zone B, C, or X) or Unknown (D)

To: High-risk area (Zone A or V)

From: High-risk area (Zone A or V)

To: Higher-risk area (Zone V)

Or: Increase in BFE

From: High-risk area (Zone A or V)

To: Moderate- to low-risk area (Zone X)

No change

Rate Impact

Flood insurance is mandatory in an SFHA. Flood insurance is required if you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender.

Rating options can offer savings. Buildings newly mapped into an SFHA may be eligible for a lower premium during the first 12 months after a map change. Rates will then go up no more than 18 percent each year. Buying a policy before the new flood map goes into effect will save more money. Your insurance agent can give you more information on how to save. If the building is sold, the policy can be transferred to the new owners, allowing them to keep the lower rate.

Flood insurance is mandatory. Flood insurance is required if you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender.

Grandfathering can offer savings. The NFIP grandfathering option lets policyholders who have built in compliance with the flood map in effect at the time of construction to use their previous zone to calculate their insurance rate. This could lead to large savings. A policy with a grandfathered rating can be transferred to new owners if the building is being sold. In most cases, your insurance agent will ask you to provide an Elevation Certificate for use in accurately rating the policy.

Flood insurance is optional, but recommended. This risk is lower, but there is still risk. More than 20 percent of NFIP claims come from buildings outside of SFHAs. You can save money by updating your policy. An existing policy can be changed to lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy, and as long as all PRP eligibility requirements are met you will get a refund for the price difference. Although flood insurance is no longer federally required, your mortgage lender can still require it

No change in insurance rates. This is still a good time to talk with your insurance agent to learn your specific risks and make sure you have enough flood insurance coverage, as well as discuss any mitigating steps you can take to reduce your risk

Source: FEMA & The National Flood Insurance Program

Fire Department

It is fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- ◆ More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.
- ◆ More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ◆ The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve.
- ◆ Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.
- ◆ A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.
- ◆ Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- ◆ Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles, or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.
- ◆ Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



Farewell to Ron Hearrell



Part-time FF/EMT Ron Hearrell has stepped down from protecting his community after 20 years. FF Hearrell started as a volunteer Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician for the Bellbrook Fire Department in 2000. In 2003, he migrated into the part-time program, where he was an apparatus operator. FF Hearrell was a member of the STAR (Special Tactics and Rescue) Team, served on numerous Association committees, and was a staple at the Sugar Maple Festival tending the grills as he served up the famous "Haz-Mat Dogs." Being one of the senior members in the part-time program, FF Hearrell would assist with training several of the newer members. FF Hearrell will be missed by the department, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!



"Small town friendly"



15 E. Franklin Street
Bellbrook, OH 45305

City Council

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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



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



Bellbrook City Hall



Spectrum - 99.2

U-Verse - 99



Why you should "Shop Small" this Holiday Season

Now more than ever, small businesses need your support. With the holiday shopping season upon us, here are reasons why you should Eat, Shop, Support Bellbrook small businesses:

- It keeps money in your community
- It's about preserving the community
- It lowers your carbon footprint
- You'll keep local businesses thriving
- You're helping real people - who you may know personally - do what they do better.
- You're going to feel good doing it!