

Bellbrook

Community Events

- April 2—Good Friday (City Offices closed)
- April 4—Easter Sunday
- April 23-25—Jim “Pee Wee” Martin’s 100th Birthday Jump Fest
- May 31—Memorial Day (City Offices closed)
- July 5—City offices closed in observance of July 4th
- August 21—Brook Mills 10k and Be Well Bellbrook

City of Bellbrook Newsletter

April 2021

City Goals Established

At the January 25th City Council meeting, the 2021 City Goals were established. The Council as a whole discussed over the course of two meetings various goals related to a number of initiatives including the downtown, infrastructure, zoning, walkability, fire department future needs and more. The discussions finalized a list of 5 goal categories associated with the 4 council committees and also general items. City Council goals for 2021 include:



1. General—monitoring the ongoing pandemic, updates to zoning code and property maintenance code, and code enforcement plan
2. Financial—Look at opportunity for a Community Improvement Corporation and understand future levy needs
3. Safety—Reassess tornado sirens and fire department needs and future options for operations
4. Service—Further study of Little Sugarcreek Road and walkability improvements
5. Community Affairs—Downtown improvements and reinstitute quarterly community leaders meetings

Covid-19 and City Services

All City Buildings will reopen to the public for regular business Monday April 5, 2021. We still encourage folks to continue to conduct business remotely when possible.

Downtown Streetscape Plan

As part of the Comprehensive Plan’s goal to “reshape downtown into a vibrant, pedestrian friendly destination”, the City is looking to engage a firm to create a downtown plan that will do just that. A Request for Proposals was issued in February and responses due back by March 19. The plan will focus on Franklin and Main Streets. The goal is to identify improvements and enhancements while preserving the character and history of the City. Firms are being asked to identify public spaces which could be enhanced, suggest sidewalk and walkway improvements, recommend upgrades to branding and wayfinding signage, look at street light upgrades, landscaping improvements and more. The selected firm will have six months to prepare the plan for presentation to Council. Part of the plan will be to phase in the improvements over the course of three years. Investing The hope is that updating the infrastructure downtown will create a welcoming environment for all and attract new businesses which will enhance the downtown experience. We will keep the community updated as this exciting project progresses.



“Make Downtown a place where people want to live.”

2021 Capital Improvements Approved

At their February 8th meeting, City Council approved the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan. This includes a number of projects that will be completed throughout the year. Below is a listing of some of the notable projects included in the \$575,000 budget approved:

Project	Cost	Project	Cost
Annual Paving	\$200,000	Crescent Ct. Culvert Relining	\$30,000
2 new Police cruisers & all associated equipment	\$99,000	Bledsoe Drive water tower painting	\$165,000
Crosswalk Installations	\$25,000	Workstations	\$7,000

Banner photo by courtesy of Alaina Fitzner

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

Recently Adopted Legislative Items

	LEGISLATION TITLE	REASON
2020-13	An Ordinance Approving the Appropriations for the City of Bellbrook for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021	2021 Annual Budget
2020-14,15	Ordinances to Adjust the City of Bellbrook Appropriations for 2020	Year end budget adjustments—2 separate ordinances
2021-1	An Ordinance Amending Zoning Code Section 20.08 “Proceedings of the Board of Zoning Appeals	Changed oath to be administered by board chair versus a notary
2021-2	An Ordinance Repealing and Enacting Chapter 1244 “Zoning Permits and Certificates”	Updated permit fees
2021-3	Ordinance to Adjust the City of Bellbrook Appropriations for 2021	Approved capital projects incorporated into 2021 budget
2021-A	Resolution to Execute a 3 Year Agreement with the Intl’ Assoc. of Fire Fighters	New 3 year contract with Fire union
2021-C	Resolution Approving the Amended Solid Waste Management Plan for Greene County	City approving the updated waste management plan of the Greene County Solid Waste Management District
2021-H	Resolution to Enter into an Agreement to Install new traffic signal at 725 & Lakeman	ODOT will be paying 100% of the costs to install an updated signal and lighting on 725 at Lakeman

Message from the Mayor



I hope this message finds each of you well as we are entering what we all hope is the light at the end of the pandemic. We have been anxious to put 2020 behind us and move forward into 2021 with renewed hope and optimism. For 2021, City Council, along with the City Manager, have established a number of goals to work toward this year. These goals can be found on the City website under City Council - 2021 City Goals at http://www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/council_city_goals.

This exercise proved very productive for Council and took into account many different perspectives. A recurring theme was infrastructure improvements and downtown Bellbrook. We intend to pursue these goals with a strong focus on fiscal responsibility coupled with providing the greatest benefit to our citizens.

Infrastructure improvements and the necessary upgrades have always been among our top priorities. Council has also expressed interest in identifying ways to enhance our downtown through a number of different initiatives. The downtown area is an important asset to our community and one that we wish to preserve as we continue to seek ways to improve it and make it the heart of future activity.

I am proud of the contributions of our Councilmembers in creating these goals. Each of our councilmembers, including myself, are extremely committed and passionate when it comes to the advancement of Bellbrook, with all community members in mind. Bellbrook is a town full of many great assets that we intend to preserve and strengthen as we move forward toward implementation of our 2021 City goals.

Updates on our progress will follow in future newsletters.

Stay healthy and I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter.

Mayor Mike Schweller

Bellbrook Historical Museum

In January 2021, Bruce and Joann Shadrach donated an old horse-drawn wagon to the Bellbrook Museum. The wagon is a relic of the past with a personal tie to Bellbrook. This wagon was previously owned by the late John Kemp, a long-time resident of Bellbrook. The wagon was his pride and joy. It was reported that he treated the wagon like others might treat a treasured sports car. For example, he never took it out in the rain and stored it under cover. Mr. Kemp's prized Belgium horses, similar to the famous Budweiser Clydesdales, pulled the wagon. The team appeared in various town events, such as the Sugar Maple Parade.



Dwight Bartlett, President of the Bellbrook Museum Board of Trustees, stated, "We greatly appreciate the Shadrachs' donation of this special piece of Bellbrook history. We plan to restore the wagon to its former glory and bring it back for community events." Dwight praised the City Maintenance Crew for completing the difficult task of hauling the wagon to the Museum warehouse. Said Dwight, "Many thanks to Jerry Burgan, Alex Fabrick, Brett Woeste, Jon Dalton, Matt Sanderman, and Josh Burns for the safe delivery of the wagon. They handled the task with professionalism, and the wagon was delivered without incident."



The Kemp wagon is in reasonably good condition. The green paint, fancy lettering, and John Kemp's name painted on the sides appear to be in excellent condition, defying its real age. According to Dwight Barlett, "The wagon is in far better shape than I imagined, but it still needs some work. Once the pandemic is over, we hope to enlist support from the community to rehabilitate the wagon." The work likely entails replacing worn/broken wood pieces and repainting parts of the wagon. Dwight envisions folks from the community volunteering their time to help with this effort. It would be an excellent opportunity to learn about this piece of history and to give back to Bellbrook.

Judy Carr, the Museum Curator, summed up the excitement surrounding the acquisition of this new artifact, "I was thrilled when the Shadrachs' decided to donate the wagon to the museum. I look forward to showcasing the wagon at various events." How nice that this piece of Bellbrook history found a new home at the museum. Restoring the wagon to its former glory will be a noteworthy achievement and honor Bellbrook's history!



Thank you, Lions Club!

The Bellbrook Fire Department would like to thank the Bellbrook Lions Club for their generous donation to the Department. With their support, the Fire Department can continue to carry out the mission to enhance the quality of life in our City and to provide a healthy and safe environment to those we serve. Once again, Thank You to the Bellbrook Lions!



The Bellbrook Police Department would graciously like to thank the members of the Lion's Club for their generous donation! The Bellbrook Police Department humbly asked for and received funds towards vest carriers for the patrol officers. A vest carrier is exactly what it sounds like, a carrier for our ballistic panels. The carrier looks like a vest in a uniform shirt fashion where the officer places his ballistic panels and is worn over a uniform shirt. This allows officers to remove this outer carrier when they come to the building to complete paperwork on hot days. The vest carriers are very professional looking and maintain the safety standard we need for this officer safety tool. This great idea came from Officer Josh Warren.

Winters-Bellbrook Community Library



We have big news! Thanks to the City of Bellbrook and the Cares Act, we now have several new features at the library including new outside seating and stronger Wi-Fi. The benches and tables plus the Wi-Fi will allow you to work outside on your own devices, homeschool, job hunt, or just enjoy the outside at your library.

Coupling this with our new capability to print directly to the library printer from your personal device enhances our services further!

In addition, we now have a permanent collection spot inside for donations to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Center. Drop of pantry items while you pick up your materials and during our normal business hours. The bin is small, so we also only for food donations at this time. We will make sure to pass them along to our community partner. The need is greater than ever.

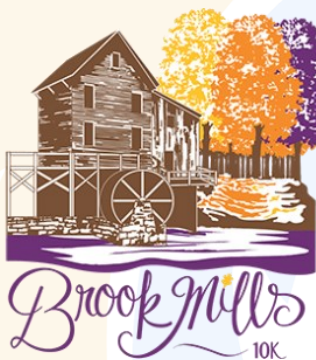
We hope to see you out and about soon, enjoying the springtime and your Winters Bellbrook Community Library!

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District

The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District would like to send heartfelt thanks to all our community members for their continued support over the past year. Our staff loves nothing better than to bring our community together and have missed doing so during these times. We are looking forward to the warmer months and the opportunity to offer more recreational and educational programs for our community! Please keep your eyes open for updates to our social media and website for program registrations to open up for new rounds of fitness classes, family programs, and summer camps.

While our traditional, program-centered newsletter has been postponed for the time being, watch your mailboxes for a parks-centered version arriving soon that will help you learn more about the park district's past and future. As the temperatures warm and the flowers bloom, we can't wait to see you out in the parks!

Brook Mills 10k Race Scheduled



We are excited to announce that a date has been set for the next Brook Mills 10k race. Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 21. This will be the second Brook Mills Race in downtown Bellbrook with the first being in 2019 which was a sold out event. The 2020 race had to be cancelled due to the pandemic but we are excited to

bring this event back to Bellbrook! Registration opens April 5. Information including registration can be found by visiting www.BrookMills10k.com.

Be Well Bellbrook Scheduled

In hopes that health department orders will be lifted, we plan to bring back "Be Well Bellbrook", a health and wellness event. This event is in conjunction with the Brook Mills 10k and will be held from 8am to noon on August 21st. Vendors providing a variety of products and services geared toward health and wellness will be in attendance. Also be sure to check out our many fitness demos to get moving! More details will be on our website as we continue to plan.



COVID 19 Vaccination Information

Wondering if you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine? The Ohio Department of Health has created a website for you to check your eligibility and book your appointment if you are. The website can be accessed at:

www.gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov



Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center: Garden of Hope

Want to spread some joy and cheer?

Want to help support your community?

You can do both by participating in the Garden of Hope Fundraiser!

For \$20, you can send a garden of colorful spinning daisies to anyone within 10 miles of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek to brighten their day!

To get more details on sending a Garden of Hope, go to our website: www.bscsc.org/fundraisers



Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club



The Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist invites you to participate in our patriotic community service program and fundraiser 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. We display the

flags for five holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, Labor Day, and Veteran's Day. Subscriptions are available at the BellHop Café, at our website: Bellbrook-SugarcreekOptimist.com, or call us at 937-469-7644. Thank you for your support.



Bellbrook Open Arms Health Clinic



As spring arrives, and we learn more about the long-term effects of enduring a year-long pandemic, our healthcare professionals and medical student volunteers are preparing to serve those who are experiencing ongoing, lingering effects of the Covid-19 illness, in addition to our usual services. We are still located in the Bellbrook Medical Building at 4403 (Suite E) on West Franklin Street, about 1 mile to the east of Wilmington Pike.

If you are looking for a part-time Volunteer opportunity, the clinic is actively filling 2 positions - **Event Coordinator** and **Executive Director**. The Event Coordinator oversees about 6 community events annually that are easy and fun to organize. The Executive Director is responsible for monitoring, guiding and fulfilling some administrative duties, along with planning in collaboration with the Medical Director. To inquire, please give us a call at (937) 848-2939 or send an email via the website: BellbrookOpenArmsClinic.org.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

The chamber has been undergoing many changes to better serve the members, businesses and the community. We are looking to grow our memberships. In January 2021, the board approved tiered options for you! We now have a Bellbrook High School Scholarship advertisement option available to you. In addition, we successfully launched a new website to better serve you.

On our new site under Business Resources check out our online training opportunities or go to https://abetterwayto.teachable.com/?afcode=414270_rmnrtqiyi.

The weekend of April 23, 24, and 25 Sugarcreek Township resident Jim "Pee Wee" Martin will be celebrating his 100th birthday at SkyDive Greene County in Xenia: "WWII Paratrooper Jim "Pee Wee" Martin's 100th Birthday Jump Fest." This event is free and open to the public. All attendees must comply with the event's COVID protocols.

Please visit www.bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com to check out the changes and updates. We are here to serve you! Please email us at info@bellbrook-sugarcreekchamber.com for your input, ideas, etc. We look forward to hearing from you and serving you.

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.

Sidewalk and Crosswalk Upgrades Identified

Creating a more walkable downtown area has come into more focus in recent years. In 2017 there was a Downtown Walkable Community Workshop which identified areas that needed improvements. That information was incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan document to guide future planning. Several specific locations are outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and are going to be assessed by our contracted civil engineering firm. At the March 8th City Council meeting, authorization was given to go ahead with developing the preliminary engineering and assigning cost estimates to various sidewalk additions and crosswalk upgrades in the downtown area. The areas to be engineered as part of this project include:

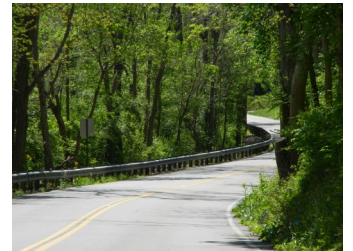
- Crosswalk at Dairy Shed and Library
- Crosswalks at North Main and Walnut and Ridgeway
- Crosswalk at Franklin and Washington Mill
- Sidewalk additions on Washington Mill, North East Street

Also included in this engineering study and estimate is an upgrade for the Main and Franklin traffic signal which we hope to be able to apply for a Safety Grant to upgrade.



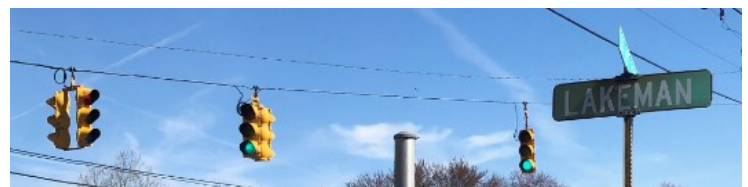
Little Sugarcreek Continuing to be Studied

As part of the continued effort to understand the geology of Little Sugarcreek Road, the City has engaged an area geotechnical engineer to complete borings along the stretch of Little Sugarcreek Road from Franklin up to Magee Park. These borings will help us to understand the geological composition underneath the roadway. This information will allow us to be able to determine what an appropriate long term solution to stabilizing the road would be. The borings will be completed this spring and will require a brief one lane closure of Little Sugarcreek Road while the work occurs. Once the borings are complete, the data will then be incorporated into a report and presented to the City.



Lakeman Traffic Light Upgrade

At the March 8th meeting of City Council, a resolution was adopted to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to install a new traffic signal at 725 and Lakeman. This new signal will include a mast arm pole and intersection lighting. This project will be 100% funded by ODOT. Work will be completed this year. This will be a great improvement to the safety of the intersection for motorists and pedestrians alike!



2020 Water Quality Report



The 2020 Water Quality Report is available for residents on our website at www.tinyurl.com/bellbrookwaterquality

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

Police Department

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



In my time as your Chief of Police, the Bellbrook Police Department has implemented a patrol philosophy that has served our community well. Our approach is to get away from traditional patrol tactics and craft a plan that encompasses more of a servant leadership purpose tailored to our specific community. While we still actively engage in proactive patrol efforts (writing tickets, serving warrants/summons), we have expanded our approach to a three-pronged effort or a “Service Trident” to assist citizens with calls for service as well as availing ourselves to the public in non-traditional methods.

The three tines of our “Trident of Care” consist of traditional patrol enforcement, Service, and Community Policing. While many of you see the police as “Enforcers” or the ones that enforce speed limits and investigate the breaking of laws, we wanted to introduce to you the other aspects we focus on as well. The Service part of our Trident is essential as we perform tasks that bigger, perhaps busier agencies do not have time to perform. We perform vehicle unlocks, check houses where the occupants are away on vacation, or respond to nuisance complaints. These efforts make you feel cared for and protected. The last part of our “Service Trident” is our community policing efforts. We spend a great deal of time opening ourselves up to you, the community, so we can better understand one another. Some of these efforts include: greeting children as they enter school, Neighborhood walks, National Night Out event, Shoe Program for children in need,

Coffee with a Cop, Challenge Coin initiative, Cops-Kids-N-Cones, having lunch with students, and passing water out to citizens during summer walks. These are just a few ideas that bring us all closer to one another.

As you can see, we are much more than an enforcement arm of the local courts. We care deeply for the Bellbrook community and her citizens. We are always ready to listen to you and address any issue you experience.

Planning & Zoning

New Permit Fees

In January, City Council amended permit fees to better reflect costs incurred by the City for processing. The following shows the permit fees which were changed:

Permit Type	Fee
Construction up to 1,000 sq ft	\$100
Each additional 500 sq ft	\$20
Additions up to 100 sq ft	\$50
Each additional 100 sq ft	\$5
Swimming pools and required fences	\$30
Detached garage/accessory building up to 100 sq ft	\$25
Certificate of zoning compliance	\$50
Application for variance	\$200
Application for conditional use	\$200
Petition for zoning code change	\$250

The Little Miami Watershed Network: Stormwater ponds

We all know Spring in Ohio means rain. So now is the time to pay attention to area stormwater ponds. Most neighborhoods have at least one detention pond or retention pond. The purpose of these ponds is to store water temporarily during heavy rains to minimize damage from pollution, erosion, and flooding of the rivers and streams storm into which the sewers flow. A detention pond drains at the bottom of the basin and does not have a permanent pool of water. A retention pond drains at a higher point and therefore retains a permanent pool of water. Maintenance of these ponds is usually the responsibility of the neighborhood Homeowner Association (HOA).

All ponds should be inspected after every storm event to ensure that both inlet and outgoing pipes are not clogged with trash or debris, such as branches or sediment. Clogged pipes can quickly cause flooding of streets and homes during heavy storms, not to mention damaging the river or stream into which it flows. Over time even partially blocked pipes will cause sediment layers to build up, which will cause the pond to lose volume and eventually need costly repairs.

If you ever notice any blockage, contact the neighborhood HOA right away, so they can get it cleared out. If you cannot identify the responsible HOA, contact your local government to arrange a clean-up. Spring is also when many HOA have their annual meetings. Please take the opportunity to discuss this subject at your neighborhood meeting so all your neighbors can be aware of this critical issue.



Finally, always remember—Only Rain in the Drain!

Fire Department

New Fire Chief Anthony Bizzarro

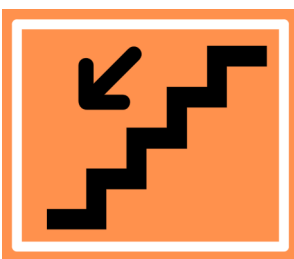
It is an honor and privilege to be the Fire Chief of one of the greatest fire departments. As the Fire Chief I have the great pleasure to work beside some of the most amazing and dedicated members of this department, who serve the great City of Bellbrook and its residents.

I have grown up in the community and graduated of Bellbrook High School. I am married to my wife Michelle and have 2 children, Dominik and Beatrice, that are in Bellbrook school system. I have been with the Bellbrook Fire Department since 1995, I have earned an associate degree in Fire Technology along with a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration. I look forward to continuing to serve the community members of Bellbrook.



Spring Fire Safety Tips

- Start to prepare for storm-related outages. Make sure your flashlights and portable radios have batteries and that other supplies, such as bottled water, are stocked and available.
- Remove all hazards. Address piles of rubbish, trash, and yard debris. Remove stacks of paper and magazines.
- Check for water leaks, especially near electrical appliances.
- Properly store flammable liquids and home chemicals. Ensure that gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and out of the reach of children and pets. Store in a cool, dry place outside the house.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches, or other work items away and out of any child's reach. Ensure that all chemicals are kept under lock and key and out of reach of children and pets.
- Check fire protection and safety equipment. Test your smoke alarms. Make sure all doors and windows open easily and are accessible for fast escapes.



- Make sure your street numbers are appropriately posted and are visible.
- Check and make sure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for the upcoming storm season.
- Plan your escape. Sit down with your family and make sure that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire by designing a home escape plan. Make sure you have two ways out of every room and that you have a meeting place outside the home for the whole family.
- Practice the escape plan. Even the best plan is no good if it's not practiced.

New Part-Time Employee

The City of Bellbrook Fire Department would like to welcome new part-time employee Nate Baldrige!

Severe Weather

Severe weather can happen any-time, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow, and strong winds.



Prepare Before the Storm

- Know your area's risk for thunder and lightning. Spring and summer are typical seasons for thunderstorms, but they can occur year-round and at any hour.
- Sign up for the Hyper-reach emergency notification system on the City homepage at www.cityofbellbrook.org or download a weather app. The Emergency Alert System

and NOAA Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

- Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling onto your home.
- Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances and electronic devices.
- If the weather forecast calls for thunderstorms, postpone your trip or activity.
- Remember: **When thunder roars, go indoors.** Find a safe, enclosed shelter.
- Don't forget the 30-30 rule. After seeing lightning, start counting to 30. If you hear thunder before you reach 30, go indoors. Suspend activities for at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.
- If no shelter is available, crouch low, with as little of your body touching the ground as possible. Lightning causes electric currents along the top of the ground that can be deadly up to, and exceeding, 100 feet away
- <https://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/ThunderstormsAndLightningSafety.aspx>



"Small town friendly"

Bellbrook

15 E. Franklin Street
Bellbrook, OH 45305

City Council

Mayor Mike Schweller
m.schweller@cityofbellbrook.org

Deputy Mayor Nick Edwards
n.edwards@cityofbellbrook.org

Elaine Middlestetter
e.middlestetter@cityofbellbrook.org

Forrest Greenwood
f.greenwood@cityofbellbrook.org

Dr. David Van Veldhuizen
d.vanveldhuizen@cityofbellbrook.org

Ernie Havens
e.havens@cityofbellbrook.org

T.J. Hoke
t.hoke@cityofbellbrook.org

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



CITY OF BELLBROOK FARMERS MARKET

Every second & fourth Saturday
June through September

10am to 1pm

15 East Franklin Street, Downtown Bellbrook

