

Mayor Schweller Remembers Deputy Mayor Nick Edwards

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of our good friend and Deputy Mayor Nick Edwards. Nick passed away on Wednesday June 30. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Nick's wife Linda and their family. During Nick's battle with cancer, he was always in contact with the City and continued as a great advocate for Bellbrook.

Deputy Mayor Edwards was a great council man and even stronger Deputy Mayor. He knew his role and executed it flawlessly. His contributions to the City are numerous. Those of us in the City who worked with him, knew his focus as a councilman was to support the citizens of Bellbrook and continue to make it an even better place for our citizens to call home.

Nick has served the City for the past 24 years in various capacities. He began his city service on our Planning Board for 9 years from 1997 until 2006, leaving that board to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Property Review Commission for 6 years from 2007 to 2013. He then ran for City Council. Nick was first elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. Nick became Deputy Mayor in January 2020.

Nick brought experience from his professional career as a Senior Vice President at Key Bank. He was also on several major community boards and brought that Big Board experience to Bellbrook. He was always an independent thinker, open and transparent in his remarks. He was direct and always focused on the best result for our citizens.

Deputy Mayor Edwards will be greatly missed, but not forgotten. His contributions to the City will always be there for our citizens.

Mayor Michael Schweller



NICHOLAS EDWARDS

1/3/61–6/30/21

YEARS OF SERVICE:

PLANNING BOARD:

1997–2006

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS & PROPERTY REVIEW COMMISSION:

2007–2013

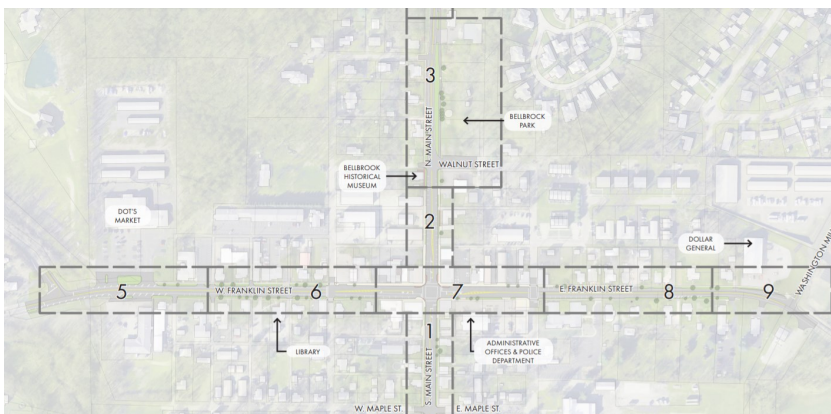
CITY COUNCIL (MEMBER):

2013–2020

CITY COUNCIL (DEPUTY MAYOR):

2020–2021

Downtown Streetscape Master Plan Underway



The City of Bellbrook has contracted with the Kleingers Group to create a downtown streetscape master plan. This selection came after an RFP was put out and responded to by a number of firms. Kleingers was selected and the process to create the plan began in April. The plan will cover Franklin Street from Little Sugar Creek Road to Washington Mill Road and Main Street from Pavilion Lane to Maple Street. It will include suggestions to make the area safer for pedestrians, increased parking visibility, lighting improvements, landscaping and greenspace enhancements and more. The plan will serve as a guide for the future vision of the downtown area. 75% of the plan was funded by a Greene County Municipal Grant from the County Commissioners. The plan will be complete near the end of September and there will be opportunities for the public to give input on the plan. You can follow the city's website for updates—<https://tinyurl.com/bmsxwyk>



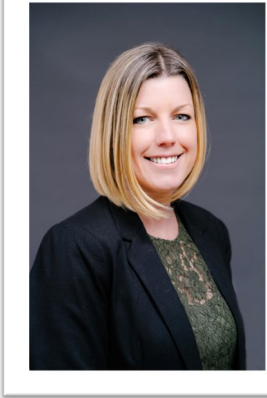
City Council

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. 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.



Office of the City Manager

Departure of Melissa Dodd



Melissa has accomplished a diverse range of transformative projects and initiatives in her three years with Bellbrook. As both City Manager and Finance Director, Melissa efficiently and effectively managed city operations with expertise and positivity. She also enacted beneficial changes beyond the sectors of management and finance and into community development, planning & zoning, policy & legislation, grant writing, health & wellness, and other aspects of governance.

Most notably, Melissa completed numerous projects aimed at downtown improvement. Melissa worked with Greene County Regional Planning and carried out the first complete Comprehensive Plan update since 1974, which provided much-needed guidance for downtown revitalization. This plan thoroughly outlines guiding principles for preserving Bellbrook's history while making meaningful decisions for the future. Melissa also saw the North West Street Sidewalk project to fruition, which included the installation of sidewalk, curb, and ADA compliant ramps along the east side of North West Street near the Marathon gas station, for which Melissa secured a Community Development Block Grant that awarded \$35,177 of the project total \$55,102, with the city share being \$19,925. She also obtained a grant from Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Transportation Alternatives which awarded Bellbrook \$342,965 for pedestrian improvements on State Route 725 across Little Sugarcreek and the addition of a mid-block crosswalk to Dot's and a protected sidewalk across bridge and walkway connections from the multiuse path to the west and the edge of Bellbrook Artists Collective. She also launched a Downtown Beautification project that raised \$14,100 to purchase custom bike racks and benches installed across downtown.

In engaging with Bellbrook businesses and community members, Melissa sparked the creation of the groups For Bellbrook By Bellbrook, which brings together local business owners, and Bellbrook By Design, which seeks to move the community forward. Melissa also produced multiple events for the community. She implemented regular Farmers Markets in downtown, created and hosted the first annual Be Well Bellbrook event, and collaborated to bring the first Brook Mills 10k, which sold out with 300 runners and raised \$700 for the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center.

While COVID-19 strained the global community, Melissa worked with city staff to ensure the safe continuation of normal city operations. In addition, she oversaw and managed \$467,000 from the CARES Act (The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act). Also during this time, the North Belleview bridge washed away due to heavy rains in March; Melissa secured \$325,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission Emergency Program funding for the North Belleview Drive culvert replacement project, which was completed under budget and on time in October 2020.

The entirety of these accomplishments continues to positively influence Bellbrook's residents, businesses, and staff. Throughout her time in Bellbrook, Melissa worked to realize numerous priorities with determination and zeal, the success of which has made Bellbrook a better place to work, live, and grow.

Renewal Levy on November 2 Ballot

On November 2, 2021, the voters of the City of Bellbrook will be asked to vote on a **Renewal 1.3 mill General Fund Levy**. This levy was originally approved in 1962 and has either been renewed or replaced every 5 years. This General Fund Levy generates approximately \$226,039 per year and represents 21% of the General Fund budget.

The General Fund is the city's only non-restricted fund that is able to provide funding toward a number of projects and services as well as other funds in need of support such as Fire and Police. Funding provides basic operational services and amenities such as City Council/ Administration, Planning and Zoning, Library maintenance and the Bellbrook Historical Museum.

Appraised Value of Property	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Current Taxes	\$32/year	\$47/year	\$63/year
	\$2.67/mo	\$3.92/mo	\$5.25/mo
Additional Taxes	\$0/year	\$0/year	\$0/year
	\$0.00/mo	\$0.00/mo	\$0.00/mo

The City of Bellbrook is one of the few remaining cities in the state of Ohio that does **not** levy an income tax on its residents. The City relies on property taxes to fund critical city services provided to residents.

The levy is a **Renewal** and, with voter approval, taxes will **not increase**.

The effective rate and cost for property owners is actually **18% less than the cost in 2017**.

Early voting begins on October 5.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce



The Chamber is a work in progress. Currently, we are transitioning our billing & invoices. In 2021, we moved to a first of the year billing cycle. This will allow us to know exactly how many members we have and focus on new memberships. Our annual golf outing is September 2, 2021, at Sugar Valley. You can find updates on our website. August 6, we are having a MEET N GREET from 4 to 7 pm in the Hot Springs Spa parking lot area. Our next in person meeting is August 5 from 12-1 pm at the Sugarcreek Township Building. This is a catered luncheon. Please RSVP to info@bellbrook-sugarcreekchamber.com

Bellbrook Boy Scout Troop 375

Bellbrook Boy Scout Troop 375 congratulates these 6 young men on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout:



- Alexander Crane
- Drue Cross
- Isaac Lefeld

Their Court of Honor ceremony was held on April 18, 2021. Alex cleared the main creek crossing of the Bellbrook High School cross country course, took down dead trees, and rebuilt the current bridge. Drue cleared honeysuckle and other brush from the side of Hope Church. Isaac built and refurbished bird houses and made barn owl houses at Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District.

- Sam Grey
- Jared Duckro
- Gavin Weinstein



Their Court of Honor ceremony was held on May 2, 2021. Jared built a Gaga ball pit for Hope Church, Sam built a firepit and 3 benches for the First Baptist Church of Bellbrook, and Gavin updated the flooring in the Bellbrook Middle School storage shed.

Bellbrook Lions Club



The Bellbrook Lions Club will hold our annual "SummerFest" festival. The Bellbrook SummerFest runs **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday August 27, 28, and 29, 2021** at the old Sugarcreek School at 51 East Street, Bellbrook Ohio. The SummerFest begins Friday night at 5 pm with games, carnival rides, crafts, and lots of great

food! Lots of things to do for kids and adults alike. Don't miss the big parade through downtown Bellbrook at 4 pm on Saturday. Great food trailers for cotton candy, Italian sausages, chicken, and last but not least funnel cakes. And, of course, we will have awesome food in our big food tent each day. No one will go home hungry!! At the conclusion of the festival Sunday at 4 pm, we draw names of the 50/50 and other prize winners. For more information, please visit <http://bellbrooklions.org/festival.html>

Winters-Bellbrook Community Library



While the Winters-Bellbrook Library closed only briefly in March of 2020, we have remained steady in our commitment to serving the community in as many ways as the CDC and the local health department would allow. So now we can say we are starting to have in-person programming once again! Check our events at GreenLibrary.info for all of our story times, crafts, games, and book clubs beginning in August. Stop into the library

for some of our fun scavenger hunts or our take-and-make crafts for all ages. Maybe you will spot Ms. Amanda out on our Book Bike at one of the community events this month. We are so excited to be bringing you more programs than ever before, both virtually and in person. However comfortable you feel, the library is here for you!

Bellbrook Garden Club

On Wednesday evening, September 8th, the Bellbrook Garden Club will host an educational program at 7 pm at the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Middle School at 3600 Feedwire Road on gardening in the fall, including preparing for winter. The program is free and open to the public.

Bellbrook Open Arms Health Clinic

Please consider these essential, ongoing PART-TIME needs for:

Executive Director, who will monitor and guide clinic activities and fulfill some administrative duties.

Event Coordinator who will receive cross-training, then oversees approximately six easy community events per year, all according to your flexible scheduling needs!

The Women's clinic on Friday mornings has been temporarily suspended. Through various grants, we are improving our technology and telemedicine.

Thank you for sharing the news about this FREE community clinic for friends and neighbors who are uninsured and underinsured.

Phone: (937) 848-2939

Website: www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org



Bellbrook Museum

Win a Dairy Shed Gift Card!

Do you know your antiques? Now is your chance to put that knowledge to the test and win a Dairy Shed gift certificate.

The Bellbrook Historical Museum is hosting a contest, and the grand prize is a \$5.00 Dairy Shed gift card!

The first 20 guests who enter will receive a \$1.00 gift certificate for the Dairy Shed. A selected artifact is on display, and Museum guests can win the \$5.00 Dairy Shed gift card by correctly identifying the artifact. The contest begins August 4th, 2021, and ends August 28th, 2021. Visit the Museum at 42 North Main Street, Bellbrook, Ohio, 45305, on Wednesday (10 am to 2 pm) or Saturday (Noon to 4 pm) and submit your best guess. Admission to the Museum is free. Contest entries are only available at the Museum and must be submitted in person. A winner will be selected by a random drawing of correct entries. Museum employees and Museum Board Trustees are not eligible. There is only one entry per visit and person. The winner does not need to be present to win.



Below is a photograph of the artifact selected for the contest. It is metal and wears chainmail like a knight in shining armor, but I doubt it would be found at the round table. Do you know what it is? Visit the Bellbrook Museum, take a look at the item, and submit your best guess.

Little Miami Watershed Network

Bellbrook in the spring often seems to be a maze of flowing water. The power of nature is apparent everywhere: Roads are closed due to high water, fields are flooded, and in 2020 one of our bridges was destroyed by a single storm. Some of us even have parts of our yards suddenly become a stream during heavy rain, but when the rain stops, it disappears just as quickly (these are called ephemeral streams). Most of this water will flow from the creek in your neighborhood to Little Sugar Creek, which flows to Sugar Creek and then on to the Little Miami River, a state and nationally recognized scenic river.

Now that August has arrived, the Little Miami is usually just a trickle. Most of its tributaries are dry, and it can be difficult even to determine where the ephemeral streams are. However, these waterways are just as crucial to our ecosystem as they are the rest of the year. They are also still home to a variety of species.

If you live close to one of Bellbrook's many streams and creeks, please do your part not to pollute them. Never dump anything, including grass clipping, leaves, and other yard waste, into any stream or river. Never litter and pick up any litter you find. Use pesticides and fertilizers only as specified on the bottle. Pick up all dog waste.

The Little Miami Watershed Network is sponsoring a Tributary Clean-up in August. Contact ohiohoper@yahoo.com if your group is interested in getting involved.

Brook Mills 10K Race

On Saturday, August 21 the Brook Mills 10K race will return to downtown Bellbrook! This race will feature a beautiful, yet challenging course through the downtown and into some of the northern neighborhoods. Streets will be closed and open in a rolling fashion and traffic will be maintained as safely as possible. The race will start at 7:30 am and will conclude with the awards ceremony at 8:45 am. With such an early start, traffic impacts should be minimal. Please exercise caution if you live along the race route and exercise caution and patience as the race occurs.



If you are interested in participating in the race, you can run or walk the 10K! There will also be a kids 1k fun run prior to the big race! All are welcome and encouraged to participate!

If you would like to register, visit www.brookmills10k.com for more information and to register. Every finisher will receive a beautiful finisher's medal and shirt. A portion of each registration will also benefit the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center.



Your Bellbrook Fire Department



The mission of the Bellbrook Fire Department is to enhance the quality of life in our city and provide a healthy and safe environment. This is accomplished through the cultivation of community partnerships and promoting progressive public education and awareness.

Free Blood Pressure Checks

One in 3 American adults has high blood pressure. High blood pressure increases your risk for serious health problems, including stroke and heart attack. Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure. High blood pressure usually has no symptoms, so it is sometimes called a “silent killer.” The only way to know if you have high blood pressure is to get tested. That is why your Bellbrook Fire Department is offering FREE blood pressure checks every Friday 10 am to 11 am at Station 22 (4254 West Franklin St).



Severe Weather



Severe weather can happen anytime, 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 strong winds. Everyone needs to know what to do in the case of a weather emergency. In general, it is recommended that everyone be prepared to sustain themselves for a minimum of three days. The key to this advance planning is keeping an emergency kit, having an emergency plan, and staying informed. A great resource for implementing these three steps can be found at www.ready.gov. This site will provide you with details and suggestions to be prepared for the unpredictability of severe weather.

Open Burning

The summer is a popular time to cook out with friends and family. Your Bellbrook Fire Department has the following regulations to follow when having an outdoor fire:

- The only material that can be burned is clean, dry wood as a fuel source.
- No yard waste, rubbish materials, or prohibited materials (defined by the Ohio Administrative Code) may be burned at any time.
- If the fire is contained in an approved container, such as an outdoor fireplace, barbecue pit, etc., the fire must be at least 15 feet from a structure or combustible materials.
 - For an open fire not contained, the fire must be at least 20 feet from a structure, wood fence, neighboring structure, or combustible materials. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 20 feet of the fire must be eliminated prior to the ignition of a fire.
- The fire must be attended to while burning and must be extinguished if it is not attended to.
- A portable fire extinguisher, garden hose, bucket of sand, or other suitable means for extinguishing the fire must be provided.
- The fire must not create an offensive or objectionable condition that interferes with the neighboring residents' use and enjoyment of their property. If this occurs, the Fire Department is required to request the person responsible for the fire to extinguish the fire or extinguish it itself. The Fire Department is required to extinguish fires, which create hazardous or nuisance conditions. The most common complaint from neighbors is when recreational fires are not conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations or when the environmental conditions cause the smoke to migrate off the property into the residence of a neighboring property. Persons with chronic breathing problems can be affected by these conditions.

We do not like to disrupt anyone's fun; however, we do have to follow the law. Therefore, if the Fire Department requests that you extinguish your fire due to non-compliance with the rules and regulations, or the fire causes an offensive or objectionable condition, you are bound by Ohio law to comply with the request. Failure to do so may result in you being charged with a violation of the open burning regulations. If you have any questions concerning the Ohio Open Burning Regulations, please contact the Bellbrook Fire Department at (937) 848-3272.

Police Department

Community Engagement

The Bellbrook Police Department has engaged with our residents to provide ongoing community outreach programs that allow residents and officers to communicate and learn from one another. Some of these programs include: Neighborhood walks, National Night Out, Greeting Children at Stephen Bell, Coffee with a Cop, giving cold water bottles to residents walking during the summer months, Cops-Kids-N-Cones, and the Annual Shoe Program. The latest community policing initiative is our Challenge Coin Campaign. The Bellbrook Police Department has recognized those individuals who significantly impact the lives of others and are strong supporters of the Bellbrook Police Department. Every month, Chief Doherty and Captain Carmin select an individual to receive a Bellbrook Police Department Challenge Coin.



**January 2021:
Dot's Market**



**February 2021:
Francis Kennels**



**March 2021:
Brian Koch**



**April 2021:
International Pro Bike Shop**

Challenge Coin Recipients



May 2021: Blue Berry Café



**June 2021:
Dairy Shed**



**July 2021:
Centerbrook Church—
Pastor Joe**

The Challenge Coin is a small token of our appreciation to those individuals who stand with the Bellbrook Police Department's mission and support the Bellbrook residents. This campaign will continue at least through 2021!



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 9,200 people in the city and township. The department also maintains city streets, storm sewers, and city buildings.

Hydrant Flushing 2021



The annual fire hydrant flushing will occur the week of **October 4 through October 8** from **8:30AM to 3:30PM** daily.

Fire hydrant flushing is necessary for the general maintenance of the City's water system. It is also important to check the hydrants and make sure

that they are working properly in case of an emergency.

Please avoid doing laundry during this time. If discoloration of laundry occurs, a special detergent is available from the City. If you use a water softener, please set it to "by-pass" during this week. Water may appear "rusty" during the process, but will return to normal when the process is complete. Please call 848-4638 with any questions.

Garbage Container Placement Protocol

It is important to remind residents that any garbage or recycling container must not be placed out for pick up more than 24 hours before Friday pick-up and must be removed from the curb/end of the driveway no later than 24 hours after Friday pick-up. In addition, Bellbrook's Property Maintenance Code states explicitly that::

"Trash containers shall be removed from the public right of way not later than twenty-four hours after trash pick-up. The containers shall be returned to the public right-of-way area not earlier than twenty-four hours before the next trash pick-up."



New Utility Billing Software

In early June, the Utility Billing office changed software. What does this mean for residents?

- Residents will use a new link to access online billing:
<https://www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh>
- Residents with previously established online accounts will need to RE-SIGN UP
- Residents with previously established AutoPay set-up will need to RE-SIGN UP and INPUT PAYMENT INFORMATION
- Residents now have access to Pay by Phone, Pay by Text, Email & Text reminders (optional) in addition to previous features such as AutoPay and Paperless Billing ("E-Billing")

For questions, concerns, or help signing up, please contact the Utility Billing office at 937-848-4638 or email m.grant@cityofbellbrook.org

Pay Your Bill!





"Small town friendly"



15 E. Franklin Street
Bellbrook, OH 45305

City Council

Mayor Mike Schweller
m.schweller@cityofbellbrook.org

Elaine Middlestetter
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Forrest Greenwood
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Dr. David Van Veldhuizen
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Ernie Havens
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T.J. Hoke
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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

 Bellbrook City Hall

 Spectrum - 99.2
U-Verse - 99

hyper-reach 

the power of instant communication

The City of Bellbrook has joined other Greene County communities in offering Hyper-Reach as an emergency notification service to all residents. This system allows public safety officials to telephone targeted geographical areas with important alerts.

To register your cell phone and/or email address, please go to the <https://www.hyper-reach.com/>.