

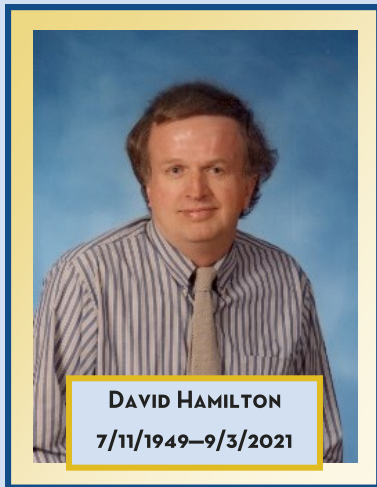


# Bellbrook

## City of Bellbrook Newsletter

December 2021

### Remembering David Hamilton

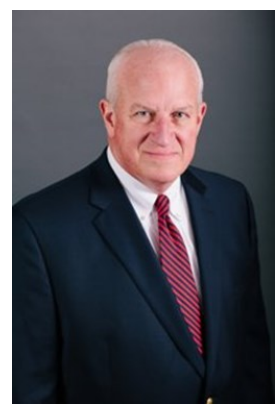


DAVID HAMILTON  
7/11/1949—9/3/2021

On September 3, 2021, Dave Hamilton passed away at Hospice of Dayton, surrounded by his family. Dave Hamilton was the first City Manager in Bellbrook, starting in 1977 to 2008. Dave oversaw a dramatic change in City services due to the population growth of the 1980s and 1990s. Some of Dave's significant accomplishments included managing the City's development, establishing the Bellbrook Fire Department, expanding the water system, improving the stormwater drainage system, and fiscally sound management. His dedication and commitment helped transform Bellbrook into a full-service city. In 2006, Dave was chosen as City Manager of the year. In 2009, he was

elected to the Wall of Honor by the City for his commitment to excellent public service. The City would like to extend great appreciation for Mr. Hamilton, along with deepest sympathies and comfort for his family and friends.

### A Message from Mayor Schweller



Greetings, friends and neighbors, and I hope this message finds everyone well. It's hard to believe we are welcoming the holiday season already, but what a great time of year to reflect and be thankful for all we have. We recently celebrated Veterans Day, where we honored and thanked our veterans and their families for the service and sacrifices they have made to provide the freedoms we all enjoy. We also had Thanksgiving Day, where I hope everyone found ways to celebrate and be thankful for their blessings over this past year. Too often in today's times, we hear about nothing but obstacles and troubles and don't hear enough about celebrating

gratitude for the things we have and our accomplishments. I want to thank all the residents of Bellbrook for having confidence in me to continue serving as Mayor.

I am honored to work with all of the Council and staff as we enter into a new year with some new faces which will bring bright, new ideas. Our community should be thankful for the many ways this past year showed we were able to grow out of covid and continue to restore and strengthen as a City. Bellbrook has some exciting opportunities for the coming year that have been made possible through involvement and engagement by the community, helping to shape our future.

We look forward to improvements in Downtown, exciting new community events, improvements to our important infrastructure, and new ways to enhance the quality of life for all of Bellbrook.

I look forward to working with and being available to everyone in Bellbrook, and I want to personally wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Christmas Eve (city offices closed).....	Dec. 24
Christmas Day.....	Dec 25
New Years Eve (city offices closed).....	Dec. 31
New Years Day.....	Jan. 1, 2022

### Issue 5

On November 2, Bellbrook voters chose to maintain the current Safety and City Services and passed a 1.3 mil renewal levy. This is not a new tax or an increase in current taxes. The renewal will provide \$225,000 toward Safety and City Services to include funding for:

- Stormwater Management
- Interior Street Paving Program
- Fire and Police Department subsidy

The residents of Bellbrook can rest assured the City will be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars to provide for and enhance the services you have prioritized. Thank you for your trust, and we will keep the promises made to the community.

### Bellbrook Garden Club: Fun Facts & Care for Holiday Plants



Germany developed the Christmas tree in the 1500s. Supposedly, a German theologian was uplifted and inspired by stars shining through evergreen trees during a winter's night. He brought a fir tree into his home and covered it with candles. German Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, brought Christmas trees to England. By 1900 these trees had become popular in the U.S.

**Poinsettias** were brought to the U.S. in 1828 by Joel Robert Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. The colored leaves are not the flowers. The small yellow buds in the center are the flower. Poinsettias prefer bright but indirect light for six hours a day. Keep the soil damp (not soaked); maintain them in rooms of 65-70 degrees. You can plant them outdoors in warm weather.

**Holly and Ivy.** Because holly endures with little water, it was thought to bring luck, especially to men. Ivy was associated with the feminine and symbolized new growth. Thus, the source of the English carol, "The Holly and the Ivy." Ancient Greeks and Romans were the first to decorate with holly and other evergreens. They sent holly wreaths as good wishes. However, holly is toxic, so keep it away from small children and pets.

**The yew, one of Earth's oldest evergreens,** was symbolic of everlasting life and often used in decorating homes along with fir and spruce. In addition, yews were planted in European churchyards to symbolize a long life.

**If you are using evergreen wreaths and cuttings indoors,** keep them misted daily with cold water or periodically soak them in cold water. Outdoor porch pots with cuttings can last well into the new year due to rain and cold temperatures.

Visit [www.bellbrookgardenclub.org](http://www.bellbrookgardenclub.org) of the club's Facebook page for more club information!

## 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.

## Office of the City Manager

### The City of Bellbrook Welcomes City Manager Rob Schommer



I am honored to have been chosen as the fourth City Manager for this great community. I follow the works of three previous professionals who have created a solid foundation and great opportunities. I am excited to work with Council and the community to build great things upon that foundation. It has been exhilarating to hit the ground running and become immersed into the community in a variety of ways, and I am humbled by the warm welcome and relationships encountered so far.

The team of employees does commendable work each day which is demonstrated by their commitment to a high level of community service, and it is a true privilege to work with them. I have a strong focus on being open, honest, and transparent, making sure to administer the direction and policy set by City Council to deliver the most impactful and efficient service possible to the community. Having a bias toward action, this is a great time to be part of building Bellbrook's future and the opportunity to serve such a vibrant and cohesive community.

I invite and encourage your participation in shaping the future of your community through engagement, questions, challenges, and comments. I look forward to all the opportunities to sustain and improve the delivery of services to the community.

## Employee Recognition

At the November 22nd City Council Meeting, five employees were recognized for reaching milestone years of service with the City. The City is grateful for all of our employees and volunteers who work to provide excellent services to our residents and businesses. The City provides police, fire, street, water, and other services. Thank you to each of these employees for their hard work and dedication!

Jerry Burgan, Service Department – 35 years of service

Ryan Pasley, Service Department – 25 years of service

Jason Harris, Fire Department – 15 years of service

Brett Woeste, Service Department – 15 years of service

Stephen Lawrence, Fire Department – 5 years



## Thank You to Dr. Dave Van Veldhuizen



The Mayor and City Council wish to thank Dr. Dave Van Veldhuizen for his dedicated service as a City Council Member. Dr. Van Veldhuizen was appointed to City Council in August 2019 to fill a vacated office. During his term, "Dr. Dave" has been instrumental in the review and facilitation of many subjects within the Council that have brought a heightened level of discussion and information to help make the best decisions for the community.

Dr. Dave's service didn't start with City Council, as he served several years on the Planning Board, helping to bring forward great decisions for the future development of Bellbrook. Although Dr. Dave chose not to continue his service on City Council, he will remain a dedicated servant leader to Bellbrook, and we all look forward to continue working with him.



## Thank You to Bellbrook Businesses

*We would like to extend a big thank-you to all Bellbrook businesses for their hard work and resilience during these unprecedented times. Your role in the community is invaluable and greatly appreciated.*

## Winters-Bellbrook Library

The Winters-Bellbrook library is continually responding to the needs of the community. This year we have distributed over 4000 Covid-19 rapid test kits for the Ohio Department of Health. This summer, we distributed over 900 meals for children in cooperation with the Fairborn City Schools to combat the growing food insecurity in our county. We will continue to offer after-school snacks throughout the school year in collaboration with the Children's Hunger Alliance. And there's even more good news for our community! Greene County Public Library recently received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to offer after-school tutoring to children who still struggle with learning gaps due to Covid-19. For more information on these programs and more, see our website [www.greenelibrary.info](http://www.greenelibrary.info).



## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is approaching our one-year anniversary under new leadership and direction! Pictured below are Executive Director Jodi Martin and Administrative Assistant Christine Florea. There have been many exciting changes in the last year for the Chamber, including:

- In January, we launched a new website and new logo with the help and support from Spiffy IT (Chamber member)
- Moved locations, saving the Chamber over \$500 a month
- We implemented a scholarship fund program for advertising. Because of the success of this program, the Chamber was able to present TWO \$1,000 scholarships to Bellbrook High School seniors pursuing a degree in business!
- Transferred from Mail Chimp to Constant Contact for our Newsletter, which is sent out electronically twice a month
- Created and implemented a tiered membership program, so our members have options

Moving forward, our goal is to increase our membership base and continue promoting our members, and connect our businesses with our community. When we started, our Chamber membership was approximately 140 members. Currently, we have almost 200 members and are growing! We are moving to an annual billing cycle so we can focus on member growth and networking opportunities in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters of the year. In 2022, we will be publishing a new member directory that will be available both in print and online. If you aren't a current member and would like to be part of the directory, please email us or join online by visiting <https://bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com/join-now/>.



## Bellbrook Open Arms Health Clinic

In the spirit of the season of things we are thankful for, read on!

Bellbrook Open Arms Clinic offers free, basic healthcare to those who are uninsured and underinsured. More details are available at [BellbrookOpenArmsClinic.org](http://BellbrookOpenArmsClinic.org) or call the clinic at 937-848-2939.

With a grateful welcome, we say hello to Amy Stone (daughter of founder, Mary Ann Stone, RN), who has recently joined in planning efforts, outreach, and projects related to various clinic needs. Thank you once again for your time and talents, Amy.

She steps in as representative for her father, Fred Stone, who recently passed into eternal life since our last newsletter note. His generous and faithful service as an advisor for the clinic's direction and his quiet, kind presence will truly be missed.

On the clinic side, the capacity for drawing blood for basic testing is expanding. In addition, pop-up clinics continue with process improvements, offering basic testing for blood sugar, blood pressure checks, and healthy lifestyle screenings.

Please follow the website above for details on the Christmas Open House in early December, and until next time, stay well, Bellbrook!

Please visit our website at [www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org](http://www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org) or call (937) 848-2939 for more specific information.

Please take our survey—your feedback is vital to our success!



## Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club



Here at the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Optimist Club, things are happening. We completed another successful year with the Avenue of Flags with almost 500 subscribers. We look forward to our renewing and new subscribers in 2022. Please see our website, [www.bellbrooksugarcreekoptiminst.com](http://www.bellbrooksugarcreekoptiminst.com), or call (937) 469-7644 for subscription information. In other news, we have started an informal gathering of optimistic friends on the first Wednesday of each month. We meet at 5:30 pm at the El Toro Café. Besides fellowship and food, our guest speakers have provided some local insights for our enjoyment. Everyone is welcome at the Wednesday Evening Optimist Club. Of course, our monthly meetings on the third Thursday at noon continue at the BellHop Café. Please join us in 2022.

## Bellbrook Museum

### Holiday Celebration at the Bellbrook Historical Museum

Come and celebrate the holiday season with us at **your** Museum. Take a stroll to the past and relive happy memories. See Snowmen, past and present, in the Rotating Exhibit Room and glimpse the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Kids, please help us finish decorating the tree with Museum provided Candy Canes and even take one home. Next step into the Artifact Room and experience a taste of the 1950s. Don't miss the silver Christmas tree decorated with vintage glass ornaments from the past. As a special treat this year, take your picture on the original **Historical Red Rambler toboggan**. Enjoy free hot cocoa and cookies during December. The Museum's newest artifact will be sitting outside decorated and glowing with Festive Holiday Lights. This is the original horse-drawn Farm Wagon that was used in many of the early parades in Bellbrook.



The Museum will be closed during January and February. The March 2022 reopening will reveal a theme featured in the rotating exhibit room.

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. Group tours are welcome. Museum staff can be reached for more information at (937) 848-2415 or visit the Museum page at [www.cityofbellbrook.org](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org). The Museum is easy to find at 42 N. Main Street.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2022.

## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Parks District

Don't miss out on all of the upcoming program and event FUN at Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District!

### Ornament Decorating Craft Time | Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

Here's your chance to craft your very own ornament to enter in our annual Ornament Decorating Contest at Christmas in the Park! Bring your own supplies, use some of ours or do a combination of both. One winner from each age category will be awarded a prize. What a great way to enjoy some crafting and spreading holiday cheer at the same time!

### Christmas in the Park | Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Christmas in the Park is a Bellbrook tradition that makes cookies seem a little sweeter and lights in the park a little more sparkly. Kick off the evening with a park lighting ceremony and welcome Santa to the park with Bellbrook hospitality!

Purchase tickets for a prize raffle and enter to win fabulous items from local businesses. All proceeds go directly to the **Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Support Center**, benefitting local families in need this winter.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off | Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Do you have what it takes to become the next "Chili Champ"? We dare you to put your recipe to the test by entering in our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off. There will be a \$1 fee for each tasting, with all proceeds going directly to the **Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Support Center**.

We are also in need of volunteers for these and other upcoming programs and events! To sign up or read more about all programs and activities, visit our website [bellbrook-sugarcreek-parks.org](http://bellbrook-sugarcreek-parks.org)!



## Little Miami Watershed Network

### Little Miami Watershed Network Says--Always Pick Up the Poop

Did you know that picking up after your dog is not just about being a courtesy neighbor?

Dog poop left on the ground can be washed into your storm drainage systems by rain and melting snow. This water is not treated; thus, it ends up as pollution in our rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

When dog waste gets into the water, it breaks down and releases nitrogen and phosphorous. These nutrients encourage increased algae growth, which can make the water murky, green, and smelly. Decomposing waste also uses oxygen, leaving less oxygen for fish and other aquatic animals. Dog waste in our water is also a public health problem. It contains bacteria and other organisms like viruses and parasites that can make humans and other animals sick.

Should I pick up the poop in my own yard? Isn't dog poop good fertilizer?

Yes, you should clean up the piles in your own yard. As mentioned above, dog waste contains bacteria and other harmful organisms that can make people sick. Children playing in the yard and gardeners are at particular risk.

No, dog waste is not good fertilizer. It is highly acidic and will leave brown spots on your lawn.

What to do with the poop?

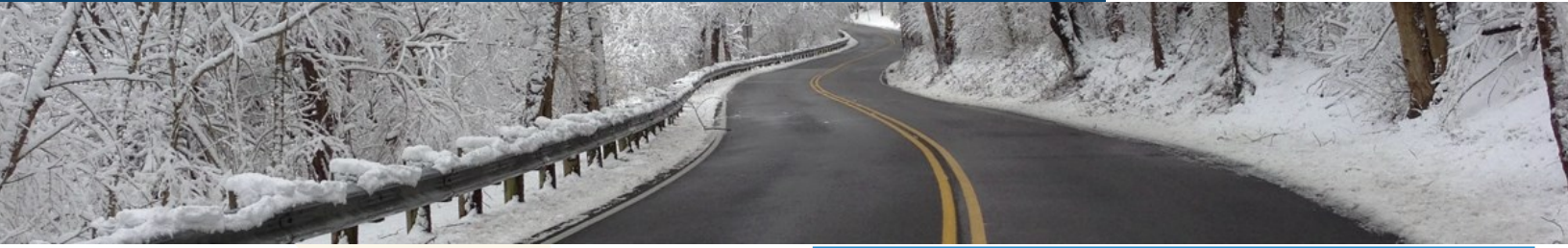
Pick it up and throw it in the garbage. Do not put it in your home compost pile.



LITTLE MIAMI WATERSHED NETWORK



# Service Department



## About the Service Department

The Service Department operates and maintains the water system serving the city and part of Sugar Creek 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.

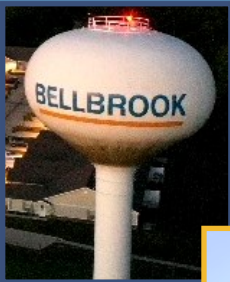
## 2021 Paving Program

Street paving for 2021 has been completed. The streets in this year's program included Cedar Court, Glenberry Circle, Kensington Drive, North Field Drive, Plantation Trail, and Sable Ridge Drive.

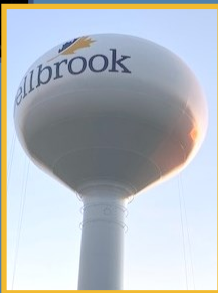


## Painting Water Tower #1

Over this summer and fall, Bellbrook's Water Tower #1 on Bledsoe Drive was painted. This was a planned Capital project for 2021. This project was completed by L&T Painting and included inspection of the water tower, repairs, and painting two coats inside and three coats outside the tower.



Before



After

## Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

There are NO CHANGES in pick-up for Christmas or New Year's Day:

- Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (NO CHANGE)
- Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 (NO CHANGE)



## Christmas Tree Disposal



Rumpke will pick up trees during the month of January.

Trees over 6 feet in length must be cut and bundled.

## Snow Removal



'Tis the season of snowfall!  
Please remember to:

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

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

# Fire Department

## Your Bellbrook Fire Department



The Bellbrook Fire Department is a combination department with 7 full-time employees and 13 part-time employees. The fire services provided to the citizens of Bellbrook have a Class 2 Public Protection Classification (PPS), placing the community in the top 3 percent of those evaluated throughout the nation. The department operates 2 engines, 1 ladder truck, 3 ambulances, and 3 staff/support vehicles. They also have 11 paramedics, 9 Emergency Medicals Technicians, and 1 medical director.

## Return of Bellbrook Fire Department's Open House

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Bellbrook Fire Department welcomed back its Open House after taking a break last year for COVID. The members of the fire department enjoy showing the public the services that we can provide to them. We could not get over the huge turnout and support from the community, with approximately 1,700 in attendance that evening. We had displays and demonstrations from the following groups: Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club, Batteries Plus & Bulbs, Bellbrook Police Department, Silco Fire Extinguishers, Children's Medical Center, Kettering Health, Premier Health, Careflight, and the Mobile Education Lab.



This year's fire prevention theme was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!" which works to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make—knowing what to do when an alarm sound will keep you and your family safe. When an alarm makes noises - a beeping sound or a chirping sound - you must take action.

## Winter Holiday Fire Facts: Christmas Trees

- Between 2014-2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of two deaths, 14 injuries, and \$10 million in direct property damage annually.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in almost half (45%) of home Christmas tree fires.
- More than one-fifth (22%) of the Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.
- Fifteen percent of Christmas tree fires were intentional.
- Roughly three-quarters of Christmas tree fires occurred in December or January.
- More than two of every five (42%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.

Source: NFPA's Applied Research

**Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires**

**Did you know?** As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!

**Half of all home heating fires** occur in December, January and February.

Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source.

Logos for U.S. Fire Administration, Fire Department, and NFPA.



# Police Department

## New Police Cruiser Look

The Bellbrook Police Department has updated the appearance of our newest cruisers. We have received our first cruiser today with our new striping. We will send this cruiser out to have most of our equipment from the “old cruiser” removed and placed into the new cruiser, such as the radio console, lightbar, prisoner partitions, and the storage trays in the rear compartment of the vehicle. The cruisers will have the same safety features as our previous cruisers:

- Reflective lettering to make us seen at night
- Lightbar and additional lights that we implement to keep us safe and those we encounter at night
- Push bumper

The new appearance was to make us easily identifiable to our citizens and other agencies. We kept the city crest on the front quarter panel as this is the same crest you have seen on our uniforms and is identifiable to the Bellbrook Police Department. In addition, the new appearance includes an American flag to demonstrate our dedication to our Country.

Members of the Bellbrook Police Department take great care of our vehicles and have trusted these vehicles to safely carry our officers to all types of service calls in all types of weather. The vehicles we are replacing have 7+ years of service to our community.

Although our cruisers will be updated to this new fresh appearance, you can expect the same level of service from our officers. We remain committed to assisting all of you and always providing you with the best service possible!



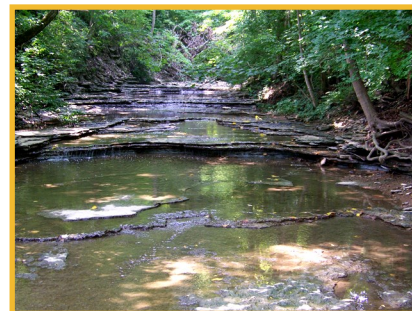
## Storm Drain Dumping & Stream Pollution



To report an illegal discharge, call the Bellbrook Service Department at (937) 848-8415 Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. After hours, call (937) 848-8484. Storm drains are designed to handle stormwater runoff **only** and do not provide treatment to water or other substances that enter the system. The Bellbrook Service Department manages the storm drain system in the city. Public education and participation in reporting sightings or evidence of suspicious substances being dumped down a storm drain or directly into our local creeks are an important part of preventing water pollution. Odors, unnatural colors, or dead

fish are signs that something harmful has entered the water.

As part of our Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program, we ask citizens who suspect that they have witnessed illegal dumping into a storm drain or water pollution to contact the Bellbrook Service Department at the numbers above. If you are not sure whether an illegal discharge has occurred, please report it, and we will determine whether action is required to protect the water supply and the environment.



KEEP CREEKS CLEAN, AND STORM DRAINS CLEAR



**"Small town friendly"**

# Bellbrook

15 E. Franklin Street  
Bellbrook, OH 45305

## City Council

Mayor Mike Schweller  
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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](http://www.cityofbellbrook.org)

 Bellbrook City Hall

 Spectrum - 99.2  
U-Verse - 99



## 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