



Community Events & Important Dates

December 12 – A Christmas Concert
(Winters-Bellbrook Community Library & The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church)

December 12 – Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce Meet and Greet

December 14 – Light Up Bellbrook Parade
(City of Bellbrook) & Christmas in the Park
(Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District)

December 17 – Winters Wonderland
(Winters-Bellbrook Community Library)

December 24 – Christmas Eve (City Offices closed)

December 25 – Christmas Day (City Offices closed)

December 31 – New Year's Eve

January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day (City Offices closed)

Holiday Waste Collection

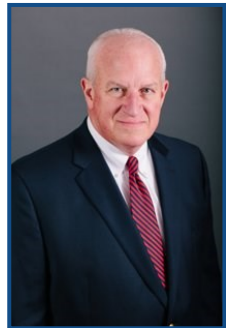
For Bellbrook residents and businesses with waste collection services provided by Rumpke, service will be delayed by one day for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. During these weeks, trash and recycling collection will occur on Saturday, December 28, 2024 and Saturday, January 4, 2025.

Rumpke will pick up trees during January. Trees over six feet in length must be cut and bundled. If you have any questions, call the City of Bellbrook Utility Billing Office at (937) 848-4638 or Rumpke at (800) 828-8171.



City of Bellbrook Newsletter December 2024

Message from the Mayor



Season's Greetings, fellow Bellbrook residents! As we begin the holiday season, I am reminded of how lucky we are to live in such a great community. I am proud to serve as the Mayor of a City that remains focused on responding to the needs of the community and a government that is respectful of the concerns of its residents. We have a chance to celebrate the success of our City and demonstrate our commitment to listening and responding to what is important to Bellbrook residents.

In addition, it is the time of year to celebrate and give thanks to our families, friends, neighbors and all that is important in our lives. There are always challenges, but I truly hope everyone has been able to be thankful for something good this year.

The residents of Bellbrook can look back through the year and see a number of successful projects and events that improve the delivery of service and continue to expand the sense of community within the City. We continue to pursue projects and initiatives that are important to Bellbrook residents and improve the quality of life for the City.

The Main and Franklin Street project has brought about better walkability, safer pedestrian access to Downtown and improved streetscape and curb appeal to the center of Bellbrook. As we continue with initiatives to meet the goals of improved pedestrian safety and walkability in our Downtown, we have reduced large truck traffic in Downtown and residential areas.

The City also focused on infrastructure this past year with improvements to other major roadways outside of Downtown, including Little Sugarcreek Road and Wilmington Pike. We will continue to seek input from Bellbrook residents to identify projects and services needed to improve the public safety, livability and quality of life in Bellbrook.

I look forward to celebrating our 2024 successes and continuing our momentum and good fortune into 2025. As we shape our priorities and budget, there will be challenges ahead; however, with our continued engagement and input from Bellbrook residents, we will continue to prosper as a City.

We will continue with our focus on maintaining a high quality of life and safety in the City of Bellbrook. I am committed to being available and engaged with all residents to work together to keep Bellbrook the great community that it is. I want to personally wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Mayor Mike Schweller



Bellbrook Light Fight & Light Up Bellbrook Parade

The City of Bellbrook is excited to announce its second annual winter events: the Bellbrook Light Fight and the Light Up Bellbrook Parade! If you missed it last year, the Bellbrook Light Fight invites homeowners and businesses to decorate their exteriors with festive lights. A panel of judges will evaluate the entries and select a winner. The contest winner will be announced during Christmas in the Park on Saturday, December 14, and will receive a custom brick that will be installed on the Bellbrook Historical Museum's Yellow Brick Road. Last year's winner was The Barton Family at 4101 Amy Brooke Circle, pictured below.



Photo by Nicole Barton

The Light Up Bellbrook Parade will also take place during Christmas in the Park on December 14. The parade will feature various vehicles, including cars, tractors, ATVs, golf carts, horses, and pedestrians, all decorated with lights. The parade is scheduled to begin between 5:15 and 5:30 p.m., depending on sunset. The route will run from East South Street to South Main Street, then to East Walnut Street, and conclude at the former Sugar Creek Elementary School (51 South East Street).

We hope to see you there!



Light Up Bellbrook Parade 2023 – Bellbrook City Council from left to right: Deputy Mayor Ernie Havens, former council member Elaine Middlestetter, Mayor Mike Schweller, council members Forrest Greenwald and Brady Harding

Open Arms Health Clinic

Bellbrook Open Arms Free Health Clinic provides interim care for the uninsured and underinsured on Tuesday evenings and the first Saturday of each month. For more details, please visit the website at www.bellbrookopenarmsclinic.org or call 937-848-2939 for recorded information.



As the year comes to a close, we mourn the sudden loss of our Community Wellness Coalition Board President, Amy Stone, and offer sincere condolences to her family and our community. Her sudden passing leaves us with a great sense of loss. Her commitment to the continuation of the clinic's mission (started initially by her mother, Mary Ann Stone, RN) was unwavering and enthusiastic. We will miss her, yet continue to strive for a healthier community in honor of her family and her volunteer efforts.

We're pleased to continue offering the volunteer services of our new Medical Director, Gail Askew, MD and Founding Medical Director, A. Patrick Jonas, MD—now Executive Director—to respond to the individual needs of our patients. Over sixty WSU medical students also get volunteer training and serve at Open Arms Health Clinic each year, along with community nurses who work on our team with other local healthcare volunteers. Also, see our website for Board Members and ongoing volunteer opportunities and updates on our Christmas Open House, which is typically on the same date as the Community Tree Lighting. Everyone is welcome for refreshments and to learn more about the clinic's services.

Bellbrook Garden Club



The Bellbrook Garden Club holds an annual plant sale each May. Sale proceeds support club educational programs and operations, including tending gardens at the historical museum, library, and downtown urns.

While most of the plants sold come from the club's members, perennial plant donations are also accepted from area homeowners, who contact the club to dig up plants from their yards and are potted and added to the sale. If you have perennials you would like to donate to the club sale or have members dig from your yard in March or April, contact the Bellbrook Garden Club through the website at www.bellbrookgardenclub.org or email bellbrookgardenclub@gmail.com.

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District

History in Your Backyard

It's Friday night in Bellbrook in the 1970s - what do you do for fun? Head to the Sugarcreek Ski Hills, of course! Built in 1965, this small ski area was located on the site where the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District Headquarters now stands. It featured buildings, chair lifts, tow ropes and even boasted an award-winning ski patrol! Many of our residents have fond memories of skiing or working at the Ski Hills in years past. The ski hills had to close their doors in 1989 due to a string of warmer-than-normal Ohio winters. Following its closure, the area was donated to the park district in 1991 and was renovated into the structure that stands today.



The building that was once the old ski lodge now houses the park headquarters with administrative offices, a meeting room and 4 acres of land. The fireplace that once warmed cold, wet feet after a few runs in the powder still stands. Today you can come visit the headquarters and take a walk through history. You can view a variety of memorabilia from the ski hills and photos of the covered bridge that was once located in front of the headquarters building. One of the last covered bridges in the area, it burned down in 1968.

Are you excited to come and reminisce with us? The displays and photos are always available to view during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. We have park programs offered throughout the year inside and outside of the building. Come visit us at the Park Headquarters and meet our friendly staff, who are always ready to serve our residents!



Winters-Bellbrook Community Library

The Winters-Bellbrook Library Staff is so excited this time of year because we get to share our favorite events! On December 12, we present our fifth Christmas Concert at The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. This popular free event, with music provided by Beaver Creek Brass, is the perfect opportunity to hear live, festive holiday music. Then make sure to come to Winters Library on December 17 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm for our family-friendly Winters Wonderland. There will be crafts, stories, live music with Lafferty Pike, and even hot cocoa from Travellin' Tom's Coffee Truck for our first 50 guests. Fun for everyone!

In 2025, we bring back our 5th annual Tiny Art Show! Starting January 2, you can pick up an art kit for your entry into the tiniest art show you'll ever see. Of course, all of our events are free and can be found on our events calendar at www.greenelibrary.info We have over one hundred events planned just in December and January, so don't miss out on the fun at your Winters-Bellbrook Community Library!





Bellbrook's City Council is the City's legislative and policy-making body. The Council comprises a mayor and six council members elected at large on a non-partisan basis. The Bellbrook City Council invites you to attend its regular meetings held each month on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noticed). For information about Bellbrook's City Council, past meetings, or current issues, please call the City Administration Department at (937) 848-4666 or visit the City Council page on our website at www.cityofbellbrook.org/page/council_home.

The City of Bellbrook has a wide range of opportunities for community involvement through its various boards and commissions. These include the Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals & Property Review Commission, Village Review Board, Records Commission, Historical Museum Trustees, and the Charter Advisory Commission. Vacancies for these boards and commissions occur regularly, and we invite citizens interested in becoming more involved in their community to contact the City Administration Department at (937) 848-4666 to submit their names for future vacancies. Any applicant must be a registered voter.

Employee Recognition

During the City Council meeting on October 28, eleven employees were honored for achieving milestone years of service with the City. Mayor Schweller awarded the employees in attendance a certificate and detailed the highlights of their service. The City is deeply committed to delivering excellent services to our residents and businesses, and we sincerely appreciate all our employees and volunteers who make this possible.

Thank you to each of these employees for their hard work and dedication!

Paul Stroud, Service Department – 25 years of service

Michaela Grant, Administration Department – 5 years of service

Terri Hackley, Administration Department – 5 years of service

Joshua Warren, Police Department – 10 years of service

Stephanie Bennington, Police Department – 5 years of service

Ryan Johnston, Police Department – 5 years of service

Gregory Williams, Police Department – 5 years of service

Jon Nickerson, Fire Department – 15 years of service

Christopher Blanken, Fire Department – 5 years of service

Christopher Fain, Fire Department – 5 years of service

Renee Simmons, Fire Department – 5 years of service



Paul Stroud



Officer Ryan Johnston



Firefighter Paramedic
Renee Simmons



Lieutenant Jon
Nickerson



Officer Stephanie
Bennington



Firefighter/EMT
Christopher Fain





The Bellbrook Fire Department is a combination department with seven full-time employees and thirteen part-time employees. The fire services provided to the residents of Bellbrook have a Class 2 Public Protection Classification, placing the community in the top 3% of those evaluated nationwide. The Department operates two engines, one ladder truck, three ambulances, and three staff/support vehicles. They have eleven paramedics, nine emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and one medical director.

Holiday Safety: Keeping Your Christmas Safe and Merry

As the holiday season approaches, homes across the country will soon be filled with the warm glow of Christmas lights, the scent of pine trees, and the joy of celebrations with family and friends. While this is a magical time of year, it's important to keep safety top of mind. Christmas decorations, electrical lighting, and even the hustle of holiday preparations can lead to increased fire risks and accidents if proper precautions aren't taken. Here are some tips from the Bellbrook Fire Department to help ensure a safe and happy Christmas season.

Christmas Tree Safety – Whether you opt for a live tree or an artificial one, safety starts with tree selection and setup.

- **For real trees:** Make sure to choose a fresh tree with green needles that don't easily fall off. A dry tree can ignite quickly and burn much faster than one that is well-hydrated. Water your tree daily to prevent it from **drying out**.
- **For artificial trees:** Ensure it's labeled as fire-resistant. While they are generally safer than real trees, this extra precaution can provide added peace of mind.
- **Placement:** Keep your tree at least three feet away from any heat sources like radiators, fireplaces, or space heaters. Make sure it doesn't block any exits

Holiday Lights and Electrical Safety – Holiday lighting is beautiful, but it can pose a significant fire hazard if not handled properly.

- **Inspect lights:** Before hanging your Christmas lights, check them for any signs of wear, such as frayed wires or broken bulbs. Discard and replace any damaged lights.
- **Outdoor lights:** Ensure outdoor lights are specifically rated for exterior use. Always plug them into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets to prevent electrical shocks.
- **Avoid overloading outlets:** Too many strings of lights or other decorations plugged into a single outlet can overload circuits and cause a fire. Use extension cords safely, and always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving the house.

Candle Caution – Candles are often used to enhance the cozy atmosphere of the season, but they can also lead to fires if not properly monitored.

- **Keep candles away from flammable items:** Place them away from curtains, decorations, and other combustible materials.
- **Never leave candles unattended:** Always extinguish candles before leaving a room or going to sleep. Consider switching to battery-operated candles, which offer the same ambiance without the fire risk.

Fireplace Safety – A roaring fire adds charm to the holidays, but it's important to practice safety when using your fireplace.

- **Use a screen:** Always place a protective screen in front of your fireplace to keep sparks from escaping and igniting nearby objects.
- **Dispose of ashes properly:** Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container. Never use a paper bag or plastic container, which could catch fire.

Christmas is a time for celebration and togetherness, and taking these simple safety precautions ensures that your holidays are filled with joy—not unexpected accidents. By being proactive with tree care, electrical safety, and fire prevention, you can enjoy a festive season that is both merry and bright.

From the BFD wishing you a safe and happy Christmas season!





Employee News

Our newest Bellbrook Police Officer, Cameron Roark, was sworn in at the October 28 City Council meeting. Cameron is a local Bellbrook resident and will complete his field training assignment this November. Welcome, Cameron!

Sergeant Gregory Williams has completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT is a self-initiated community partnership that employs an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships. We are privileged to have Sgt. Williams in this role to help serve our Bellbrook Community.

Officer Ryan Johnston has completed his first year as a member of the Greene County SWAT Team. Through his involvement with the team, Ryan can bring back advanced training tactics to the department, furthering the skillsets of all our officers.



Vehicle Winter Safety

Cold weather is approaching. Is your vehicle ready for winter?

first snow
The first snow of the year can often cause major problems on the road as people adjust to the poor driving conditions.

safety tips

- Slow down
- Don't use cruise control
- Leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles

"Sneaky" Winter Hazards
The winter season brings many weather events that can "sneak" up on you. These are weather hazards that cause big impacts and make travel difficult without making big news.

weather.gov

Personal Item Security

As a reminder, be sure to lock your vehicle, and store items out of sight.

Don't Lose It

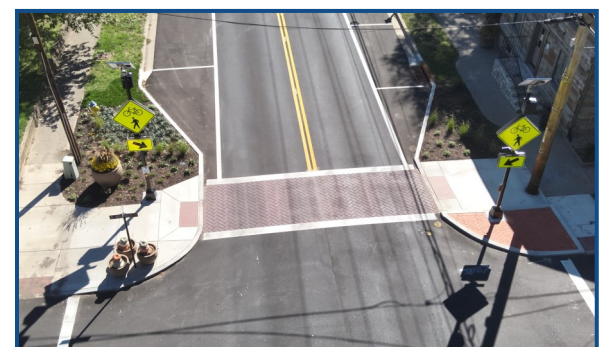
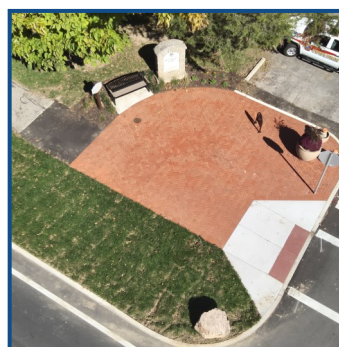
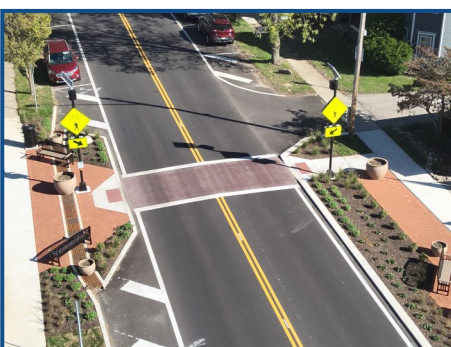


Be Smart. Stay Safe.

Downtown Streetscape



The City is excited to share the latest updates on the Downtown Bellbrook Streetscape Plan, a project designed to enhance safety, improve walkability, and enrich the overall downtown experience for both the community and visitors. The first phase of the project has been successfully completed and included the installation of mid-block crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, benches, large planters, sidewalk improvements, and green spaces. These enhancements, located along North Main Street near Bellbrook Park and the Bellbrook Historical Museum, as well as on West Franklin Street across from the Winters-Bellbrook Community Library, have already begun to positively impact our community. We would like to extend our gratitude to the community for its ongoing support and patience as we continue to implement the downtown infrastructure and streetscape projects.



Photos courtesy of the Bellbrook Fire Department

Service Department



The Bellbrook 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.

Snow Removal: Residents Can Help

'Tis the season of snowfall! Residents can assist the Service Department during a snowstorm by heeding these suggestions:

- Remove all parked cars from City streets.
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
- Remain off the road during snowstorms unless necessary.
- Do not allow children to make snow forts at the edge of the road.
- Do not plow, blow, or throw snow back into the roadway.
- Before the final cleanup of your driveway, check the road. If it does not appear to be widened out, a plow will return to plow again and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Doing this might keep you from clearing your driveway entrance more than once.
- During plowing operations, some lawns will inadvertently be torn up. Remember, anything installed within the City's right-of-way is placed there at the owner's risk. Most City right-of-ways are ten to fifteen feet from the edge of the street.
- Finally, please have patience. Snow plowing is a time-consuming and arduous job - covering approximately 42 miles of road. Some residents will have their roads plowed first, and some will be last, but all City streets will be cleared. The Service Department is devoted to providing the residents with dependable snow removal in the shortest time possible.



If you have any questions concerning the snow removal policy, please call **(937) 848-8415**. The Service Department prioritizes keeping the streets clear of snow in the winter, and it is greatly appreciated when residents assist in the process. Your cooperation is invaluable, and we thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

Storm Drain Dumping & Stream Pollution: Keep Creeks Clean & Storm Drains Clear

To report an illegal discharge, call the Bellbrook Service Department at **(937) 848-8415** Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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 indicate 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 unsure 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.

What are some examples of illicit discharges?

- "Gray water" such as laundry, shower, or kitchen wastewater
- Paints, solvents, cleaning products, and other toxic household substances
- Gasoline, motor oil, brake fluid, engine coolant (antifreeze), and other toxic automotive products
- Septic tank pump-out and other types of human or animal waste.
- Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other agricultural products
- Leaves, grass clippings, or yard waste of any kind





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Bellbrook, OH 45305

City Council

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Departments

Administration.....(937) 848-4666
City Manager.....(937) 848-4666
Community
Development.....(937) 848-4666
Police.....(937) 848 3252
Fire.....(937) 848-3272
Service.....(937) 848-8415
Utility Billing.....(937) 848-4638

www.cityofbellbrook.org



www.facebook.com/BellbrookCity



www.x.com/BellbrookOhio



Spectrum—99.2 / U-Verse—99



Now more than ever, small businesses need your support. This holiday shopping season, consider the benefits of supporting small businesses in Bellbrook:

- Keeps money within your community
- Creates and preserves a strong sense of community
- Reduces your carbon footprint
- Helps local businesses thrive
- Supports individuals you may know personally in doing what they do best
- You'll feel good knowing you made a positive impact!