

Get The Facts

ISSUE 3

Public Safety Levy

✓ Vote Nov 4

The City of Bellbrook is at a crossroads: increase funding to maintain current public safety services or reduce public safety services.

Over the past few years, City officials have communicated the need to increase revenue to maintain public safety service levels. During that time, the fund balances for police and fire have been depleted and can no longer support current public safety operations, absent a significant subsidy from the General Fund. Currently, Public Safety operations require a \$600,000 subsidy to meet service levels. A proposed 2.2 mill levy on the ballot November 4 would establish a Public Safety Fund generating needed funds to maintain current public safety service levels. The funds would be restricted to public safety only, meaning police, fire, and EMS.

The proposed levy of 2.2 mills amounts to \$77 annually for every \$100,000 of appraised value. The levy would provide \$610,000 for Public Safety Services funding only. The funding is not for any expansion or added services; it is only status-quo to maintain the current levels of public safety services.



The City is committed to being open, honest, and transparent. In addition to the Financial Transparency Center, the City will be holding public discussion forums to provide voters with the information they need to make an informed decision. All information provided is intended to be specific, enabling voters to determine what level of public safety services they expect from the City of Bellbrook.

We are committed to putting the ultimate decision in the hands of the voters by providing accurate and concise facts and information regarding the finances and operations of Bellbrook. For additional information about the proposed November 4 ballot issue for a 2.2 mill Public Safety levy, please contact City Hall at **937-848-4666** or visit www.bellbrook.gov/page/GetTheFacts.

Utility Billing Information

Important Notice

As of January, the City no longer had access to a PO Box to receive utility bill payments. If you use auto-pay or a check through your bank, you will need to confirm with your bank that the address is correct to avoid non-delivery of your payment.

The City cannot be responsible for payments not received on time due to being sent to the wrong address or not sent early enough for on time mail delivery. We also encourage everyone to register your account online by using www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh. By registering, you will have access to your bill online and it will be emailed to you. In addition, you still have the option to pay online, by mail, or drop off payment.

For more information, call our Utility Billing office at (937) 848-4638, 15 E. Franklin St, Bellbrook, OH 45305, or visit our website.



The Bellbrook City Council serves as the City's legislative and policy-making body. It consists of a mayor and six council members who are elected at large on a non-partisan basis. The Council invites you to attend its regular meetings, which are held each month on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). For more information about the Bellbrook City Council, past meetings, or current issues, please contact the City Administration Department at **937-848-4666** or visit the City Council page on our website at www.bellbrook.gov/page/council_home.

The City of Bellbrook offers a variety of opportunities for community involvement through its various boards and commissions, including the Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Property Review Commission, Village Review Board, Records Commission, Historical Museum Trustees, and the Charter Advisory Commission. Vacancies on these boards and commissions occur regularly, and we encourage citizens interested in becoming more engaged in their community to reach out to the City Administration Department. All applicants must be registered voters.

Message from the Mayor



Greetings Bellbrook! Our community has seen another great summer come to an end. We had a record Bellbrook Sugar Maple Festival which continues to grow into a regional event. We also experienced a new event, celebrating the 200th Year Anniversary of our Historical Museum log cabin. The sense of community in Bellbrook is strong and the City continues to work hard to create opportunities for the community to thrive.

Maintaining a high level of safety in our community is one of our critical objectives. As we continue working to increase the quality of life in Bellbrook, we rely on engagement with the community to hear what is important, and public safety is always a top element. The City has worked hard to identify other solutions to cover the cost of maintaining public safety service levels in the community. We are now faced with two options to consider, either increase revenues or reduce expenses. The City continues adjusting and containing as many costs as possible, but in order to maintain the same level of services we have today, we must increase revenue. Considering Public Safety is a top priority, the City has introduced a levy of 2.2 mills for the November general election. This will allow voters to speak and decide what level of public safety service will continue. Sustaining the high level of service our community deserves is critical to the future success of Bellbrook. We are focused on creating plans to ensure Bellbrook remains the best community in the region to live, work, and play.

I encourage you to reach out through one of our many methods of contact to obtain additional information about the City and to provide any feedback, suggestions or concerns you have. We are an open, honest, and transparent organization. We continue to work hard to provide the information you need to be armed to make decisions for the community. We will be working with the community to provide additional information. We appreciate your participation.

I look forward to enjoying the activities and improvements that are happening in Bellbrook with each of you. This is an exciting time for Bellbrook, and we count on you to help shape our future. As always, please contact me, members of council or City Hall, and let us know how we can continue providing excellent services to the community.

Mayor Mike Schweller

Boards and Commissions Welcome New Members

The Board of Zoning Appeals / Property Review Commission welcomed Randy Bridge and the Historical Museum Board of Trustees welcomed Justin Mays. We welcome them and their contributions to the City. They will play an essential role in helping shape and grow our community!





TRICK OR TREAT IS OCTOBER 31 FROM 6:00 PM—8:00 PM



Winters-Bellbrook Community Library Events

For kids and small ones:

Music and Movement Storytime

Mondays 10:30 AM-11:00 AM

Homeschool Meetup

Second Mondays 12:30 PM-1:30 PM

Kids Mystery Dinner

Saturday, October 11, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Pumpkin Painting

Friday, October 17, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving Etiquette Class @ BPC

Saturday, November 24, 2025 2:00 PM-3:30 PM

Nailed It or Failed It

Monday, November 24 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Teens:

Switch Saturdays

Last Saturdays, 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Throw Throw Burrito

Friday, September 12, 4:30 PM-4:50 PM

Snackitecture

Friday, September 19, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Teen Mystery Theater

Friday, October 3, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Penny Pinchers

Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wicked Party

Friday, November 21 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Adults:

Boos & Brews at Bellbrook Brewing Company

First Wednesday of the Month (Sept 3, Oct 1, Nov 5)

6:30 PM-7:30 PM—Horror Book Club

Adult Book Club and Game Night

Friday, September 26, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Escape Room with Puzzles Plus

Friday, October 10, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Charting Your Ancestry Online

Thursday, October 16, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Winter Wellness Prep

Saturday, November 8, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Introduction to Wood Carving

Tuesday, November 11, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Holiday Tree Luminaries with Carmen

Saturday, November 15, 3:00-4:30 PM

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District

Fall Night Hike

Morris Reserve

Friday, September 26

7:30 PM-9:00 PM

Fall Puzzle Exchange

Park District Headquarters

Saturday, October 4

10:00-11:00 AM

Halloween in the Park

Bellbrook Park

Friday, October 24

5:30 PM-8:00 PM

Adult Trivia Night

Park District Headquarters

Thursday, November 6

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Wobble Gobble Fun Run/Walk

Morris Reserve

Saturday, November 22

9:00 AM

Christmas in the Park

Bellbrook Park

Saturday, December 13

5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Community Calendar



Thad Camp State Farm

Pictures with Santa
Saturday, December 6
11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Bellbrook Lions Club

Blood Drive at St. Pierre Center
Saturday, November 1
8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Bellbrook Historical Museum



Bellbrook Ghost Tours

The Bellbrook Ghost Tours return for a haunting journey through downtown, starting at the Bellbrook Museum and winding through the heart of our historic community.

Tours are from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM on October 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 29, 30.

Bring your courage, a flashlight, and wear comfortable shoes—because these streets hold more than just history.

Space is limited, so don't wait to secure your spot.

This is a night of eerie fun for families, friends, and anyone ready to discover the darker side of Bellbrook's past.

The Bellbrook Museum will be open during Halloween at Bellbrook Park and Spookybrook.

Tickets are available now through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bellbrook-ghost-tours-tickets->



Museum Book Club

For the month of October, the Museum Book Club will be reading *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving. Please join us for a very spooky evening on Sunday, October 26, at 7:00 PM, at the Bellbrook Historical Museum. Contact allison@bellbrook.gov with questions.



Clocks “fall back” on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

Remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors!



Age-Friendly
Bellbrook

Fire Department



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.

[Bellbrook Fire Department to Host Annual Open House – October 5th](#)

Mark your calendars! The Bellbrook Fire Department is excited to welcome the community to its **Annual Open House on Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Station #2, located at 4254 West Franklin Street.**

This family-friendly event offers a unique opportunity to meet your local firefighters, tour the station, explore emergency vehicles, and enjoy a variety of educational and interactive activities. It's a great chance for residents of all ages to learn more about fire safety and the important work our department does every day.

This year's event aligns with **Fire Prevention Week 2025**, themed **"Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."** The focus is on raising awareness about the safe use, charging, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries—commonly found in phones, laptops, e-bikes, and other everyday devices. With these batteries becoming more prevalent, understanding how to handle them properly is more important than ever.



Whether you're coming to learn, explore, or just have fun, we hope to see you there. Join us in promoting safety, supporting your local fire department, and enjoying a great afternoon with the community!

[Fall Fire Safety Tips from the Bellbrook Fire Department](#)

As cooler weather sets in, the Bellbrook Fire Department encourages everyone to take a few simple steps to stay safe this fall:

1. Inspect Heating Equipment

Have your furnace or space heaters inspected and cleaned. Keep anything flammable at least 3 feet away from heat sources.

2. Use Fireplaces Safely

Get your chimney cleaned and inspected. Always use a sturdy screen and never leave a fire unattended.

3. Test Alarms

Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries if needed. Alarms should be on every level and outside all sleeping areas.

4. Be Candle-Careful

Keep candles away from flammable materials. Consider flameless candles as a safer option.

5. Leaf Disposal

Don't burn leaves! Bagging or Bundling: Leaves and yard waste can be disposed of in bags or tied into bundles (no larger than four feet long and two feet wide) and set out for pick-up by Rumpke during regular trash and recycling pick-up on Fridays. Stay safe and enjoy the season!



[Promotion Announcement](#)

Please join us in congratulating Renee Simmons on her promotion to Lieutenant with the Bellbrook Fire Department!

Lt. Simmons has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and a strong commitment to both the department and the Bellbrook community.

Congratulations, Lt. Simmons!

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.

Fire Hydrant Flushing

During the week of October 6-10 (Monday through Friday), the Bellbrook Service Department will be flushing fire hydrants between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.



The purpose of water system flushing is to verify the safe operation of hydrants and valves, remove accumulated sediment and mineral buildup in the bottom of our water mains, flush stale water from dead-end streets, restore and help maintain a chlorine residual throughout the water system, and continue maintaining a clean water supply.

The water flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water and a possible reduction in water pressure. Water discoloration is not a health risk. The Service Department recommends that residents consider restricting water usage and setting water softeners to bypass. The discolored water may stain your laundry, especially white materials, and possibly plumbing fixtures. Therefore, please avoid doing laundry during the noted flushing period.

Please check the cold water for possible discoloration before washing clothes, including times after the hours stated in this notice. If the water is discolored, let the cold water run for a minute (or two) and see if it begins clearing. If the water does not clear at that time, try again later. Unfortunately, the City cannot guarantee the possibility of discoloration even during the evenings and other times of the day as the water system has been disturbed.

The City also cannot guarantee when a specific neighborhood's hydrants will be flushed. Therefore, please check your water carefully before doing laundry and inspect the laundry before it is dried. If discoloration of laundry occurs, a special detergent is available from the City Administration Department at 15 East Franklin Street.

For more information, call the City of Bellbrook Utility Billing Office at (937) 848-4638. We thank you for your patience during this process!

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.

What is an illegal discharge?

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 storm drains or directly into our local creeks are important parts 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. 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.

What are some examples of illicit discharges?

Proper disposal of common household chemicals and products is important to prevent pollution of our local waterways. NEVER dispose of the following by pouring or placing in a storm drain:

- "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.

Remember: Only rain goes down the drain!

Police Department



In Bellbrook, we are fortunate to have low auto theft rates, but they still happen. The tips below can help you avoid the costly inconvenience of having your car stolen.

- Lock your doors! Even if you are away for only a few minutes.
- Never leave keys or fobs inside your vehicle.
- Don't leave valuables in your car. But if you must, don't leave them in plain sight!
- Close all windows and sunroofs completely.
- Don't leave your car running to warm up in colder temperatures.

Thieves prefer darkness and isolation. If you park in your driveway, consider leaving the outside lights on overnight. Thieves also seldom break window glass as it creates too much noise and the risk of being seen.

Upcoming City Events



Get ready for a festive evening as Christmas in Bellbrook kicks off with the beloved Light Up Bellbrook Parade, starting right at dusk! Gather your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the season with sparkling lights, holiday cheer, and community fun.

Parade Sign-Ups:

Participants can register at [Bellbrook.gov](https://bellbrook.gov). For more details, contact Melissa Jones at 937-848-4666.

Holiday Festivities for All Ages

The Park District and other community organizations will be hosting plenty of activities, from the magical Christmas Tree Lighting to a special visit with Santa in the Park.

Don't miss this chance to celebrate the season with your community—mark your calendars and help us make this Christmas in Bellbrook unforgettable!

Bellbrook Light Fight Returns!

We're excited to announce the return of the Bellbrook Light Fight, open to residents in both Bellbrook and Sugar Creek Township. Show off your best holiday light display for a chance to win a free engraved brick at the Bellbrook Museum! The winner will be announced during the Christmas in Bellbrook festivities. All entry fees go directly to support the museum.

Community & Business Participation

Local organizations and businesses are invited to give back to the community by joining in the fun! You can:

- Sponsor a game or activity during the event
- Host a holiday giveaway or raffle
- Set up a booth with treats, crafts, or family fun
- Partner with us on a creative idea to spread holiday cheer

Please contact Heather Ficke, Program Manager Bellbrook Sugar Creek Park District 937-848-3535, or Melissa Jones, Central Services Manager, City of Bellbrook 937-848-4666.

This is a wonderful way to support the community while being part of the magic of Christmas in Bellbrook. Don't miss this chance to celebrate the season with your community—mark your calendars and help us make this Christmas in Bellbrook unforgettable!



15 East Franklin Street
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



www.facebook.com/BellbrookCity

Property Maintenance Standards

As fall arrives, here are some common property maintenance issues to keep in mind:



Overgrowth: Tall grass and other vegetation higher than eight inches



Inoperable or unlicensed vehicles: Vehicles or trailers that are inoperable or unlicensed in residential areas



Parking: Vehicles and/or recreational vehicles parked on the grass, sidewalk, or non-parking designated areas



Garbage and debris: Dilapidated furniture, construction materials, junk items, etc.



House maintenance: Broken windows, roof and gutter issues,



Accessory structures: Improperly maintained garages, sheds, fences, swimming pools, etc.

If you notice any violations, please report them by calling **937-848-4666** or visiting www.bellbrook.gov/page/zoning_property_complaints.