

Bellbrook

Small Town Friendly

SPRING 2026

Greetings Bellbrook!



Spring has been flirting with us lately, and I know many of you are just as ready as I am to get outside and enjoy everything our community has to offer. There's something about this time of year that brings a fresh sense of excitement to Bellbrook.

Last November, our residents voted in favor of the Public Safety Levy, and I want to thank you once again for your trust. Your support allows us to continue providing the strong, reliable public safety services that keep Bellbrook the safe and welcoming place we all love to call home.

As we move into the warmer months, I encourage you to stay involved and continue helping shape our community's future.

The men and women who serve Bellbrook every day truly appreciate your partnership and support.

We have plenty of ways for you to stay connected — through our City website, email, and phone contacts — and I hope you'll reach out to me, any Council member, or City Administration whenever you have questions, ideas, or concerns.

As the weather warms up, I look forward to seeing many of you around town enjoying our Sugar Maple Festival, our parks, and our local businesses.

Wishing you a successful and meaningful Spring season, Bellbrook.

MAYOR MIKE SCHWELLER

Celebrate Spring at the 46th



SUGAR MAPLE FESTIVAL

It's finally time for one of Bellbrook's most beloved traditions! Join us for the 46th Annual Sugar Maple Festival, April 24–26, 2026. There's truly something for everyone, including a parade, a 5K run/walk, free children's activities, and of course, maple syrup! Families can enjoy crafts, carnival games, and delicious food from vendors like Schmidt's Sausage Truck and Cousins Maine Lobster.

This year's festival promises even more fun with a community-wide Lego build with The Dayton Brick Shop, an expanded entertainment tent, extended beer garden hours, and two nights of live music from local favorites Spungewurthy and Stranger. Don't forget about the 19th Annual Dog Show, sap boil demonstrations, and the comedy variety show for a full weekend of fun.

Shuttles run Saturday and Sunday from Bell Creek Intermediate to Bellbrook Park for easy access. Mark your calendars, bring your family and friends, and celebrate spring with us!





Crime Awareness and Vacation House Checks: Keeping Our Community Safe

As spring and summer approach, many residents are making travel plans or spending more time away from home. Taking a few simple steps to secure your home can give you peace of mind while you're on vacation, allowing you to truly unwind knowing your property is protected.

One of the most common opportunities for theft occurs when homes appear unoccupied. Simple precautions, such as stopping mail and newspaper delivery, setting interior lights on timers, and asking a trusted neighbor to watch your property, can significantly deter potential intruders. Remember to lock doors and windows, close garage doors, and secure vehicles.

Residents are also encouraged to stay alert for unusual or suspicious activity, especially when neighbors are away from home. Unfamiliar vehicles, individuals checking doors, or anything that seems out of place should be reported immediately. Prompt reporting allows officers to respond quickly and can help prevent criminal activity. In the event of any unusual activity, the Bellbrook Police Department can be reached at (937) 848-8484.

Our community is safest when neighbors look out for one another. By staying aware, reporting suspicious activity, and taking advantage of services like vacation house checks, we can all help keep Bellbrook a safe and welcoming place to call home.



Steve Carmin
Police Chief



Vacation House Check Program

Did you know that the Bellbrook Police Department offers a Vacation House Check Program for residents who will be away from home?

Registered homes are periodically checked by officers while owners are out of town, providing an extra layer of protection and peace of mind. Officers will check for signs of forced entry, unfamiliar vehicles, or unsecured windows and doors. To register for this free service, visit: bellbrook.gov/page/police_vacation_house_check.





A Message from the Fire Chief

As we welcome warmer weather and the signs of spring throughout our community, I want to take a moment to thank the residents of Bellbrook for your continued support of your Fire Department. We look forward to serving and connecting with you throughout the season!



Anthony Bizzarro
Fire Chief

Severe Weather Awareness

As many of us like to say in Bellbrook, if you don't like the weather, just wait 24 hours and it will change! Those quick changes can often include thunderstorms, high winds, heavy rain, and even tornadoes.

This time of year, it's especially important for residents to stay alert, and we encourage everyone to have multiple ways to receive severe weather updates, such as smartphone weather apps, local news channels, or a NOAA weather radio.

If a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Warning is issued for our area, seek shelter immediately. The safest place during severe weather is a basement or the lowest level of your home, away from windows, in an interior room such as a bathroom, closet, or hallway.

Taking just a few minutes now to review your family's severe weather plan can make a significant difference during an actual event. It's important to take time now to identify safe spaces, review emergency contacts, and prepare a small emergency kit. Staying prepared not only protects your family but also helps our community respond quickly and safely when storms strike.



Home Safety Reminder

As part of your annual spring cleaning, now is the perfect time to review your home's safety systems. Being proactive ensures you won't discover too late that a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector isn't working. Confirming that all alarms are fully operational can make a critical difference in protecting your family during an emergency.

- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- Replace batteries if needed
- Monitor weather forecasts during spring storms
- Have multiple ways to receive alerts
- Never leave outdoor fires unattended
- Keep fire pits and debris away from structures

A few simple precautions can go a long way in keeping your family and our community safe this spring.

Connecting with the Community

You'll often see our crews out and about in Bellbrook, whether we're conducting training exercises, visiting schools, or hosting public safety programs. These activities help us stay prepared for any emergency while giving us a chance to connect with our community and share important safety information.

We always enjoy meeting residents, so be sure to stop by our Fire Dog booth during the annual Sugar Maple Festival, April 24–26, to say hello and learn more about what we do throughout the year.

Serving Bellbrook is a privilege, and we take pride in doing so with professionalism, care, and compassion. Your support, whether it's a friendly wave, joining us at community events, or following safety tips at home, truly strengthens the safety and spirit of our community.

Outdoor Burning Safety

With spring cleanups, landscaping projects, and outdoor activities underway, it's important to take a few simple safety precautions. If you plan to burn yard debris, always follow Bellbrook's Open Burning Guidelines and never leave a fire unattended. Even a small spark can quickly become dangerous, especially when conditions are dry or windy.

Remember, you must contact the City of Bellbrook Fire Department before conducting any type of open burn.

Access Bellbrook's Burning Guidelines online by visiting: bellbrook.gov/page/fire_open_burning



About the Bellbrook Service Department Storm Drains & Water Protection: Keep Our Water Clean

The Bellbrook Service Department plays a vital role in keeping our community running smoothly. Proudly serving over 9,200 residents in Bellbrook and parts of Sugarcreek Township, the department operates and maintains the city's water system.

In addition to water system operations, the Service Department maintains city streets, storm sewers, and public buildings, ensuring Bellbrook remains safe, clean, and accessible for everyone.

Currently, the team includes one employee with a Class 2 Operator's License and four employees with a Class 1 Operator's License. The Ohio EPA requires at least one Class 1 Operator.

Storm drains are designed to carry rainwater away, not to treat chemicals or other substances that enter the system. While the Service Department manages Bellbrook's storm drain network, keeping it clean relies on all of us.

Residents can help by watching for and reporting anything unusual going into storm drains or local creeks. Signs that something harmful may be in the water include strange odors, unusual colors, or dead fish.

Through our Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program, we ask citizens to report any suspected illegal dumping. Even if you're not sure something is wrong, letting us know allows our team to investigate and take action to protect Bellbrook's water and environment. Together, we can keep our streams, creeks, and storm drains safe and clean for everyone.

Examples of prohibited discharges include:

- "Gray water" such as laundry, shower, or kitchen wastewater
- Paints, solvents, cleaning products, and other toxic household chemicals
- Motor oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, and other automotive fluids
- Septic waste or other human or animal waste
- Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other agricultural products
- Leaves, grass clippings, or yard waste of any kind

Visible signs of an illicit discharge may include:

- Unnatural water colors, such as red, white, or brown
- Oil sheen floating on the water
- Floatable items like toilet paper or suds
- Foul or unusual odors
- Dead fish or other aquatic life

The Bellbrook Service Department is committed to protecting our waterways and keeping storm drains clear. To report a suspected illegal discharge, call **937.848.8415** Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM–4:00 PM. After hours, please call **937.848.8484**.

Remember: only rain goes down the drain! By staying alert and reporting suspicious activity, residents play a vital role in keeping Bellbrook's waterways clean, safe, and healthy for everyone.

2024 Annual Water Quality Report

The 2024 Annual Water Quality Report is now available online at bellbrook.gov/page/utilities_water_quality. The report, required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

To request a paper copy, contact the Utility Billing Office at **937.848.4638**.

Waste Collection Updates

Please note that waste and recycling collection will be delayed by 1 day on Memorial Day and Independence Day. Collection schedules for these weeks are adjusted accordingly.

Winter Weather Review (2025–2026)

This winter was a wild one as our crews worked hard to keep our streets clear and our citizens safe. Snowfall totals were more than 14 inches above last year's, and our plows traveled nearly double the miles!

Here's a look at the department's winter operations:

- Total snowfall: 34 inches
- Total miles driven: 4,252 miles
- Total tons of salt used: 293 tons

Yard Restorations

The Service Department will soon begin restoring yards affected by water system repairs, snow plowing, and other city operations.

To report any yard damage, please call **937.848.8415**.

Annual Street Paving Program 2025:

Pavillion Lane	Bledsoe Drive
S. West Street	Brewsters Run Court



Bellbrook Advances Age-Friendly Initiative

The United States is experiencing a significant demographic shift. By 2034, adults age 65 and older are projected to outnumber those under 18 for the first time in the nation's history. This change presents both opportunities and challenges for communities like Bellbrook.

In response, the City has launched Age-Friendly Bellbrook, an initiative focused on enhancing livability for older adults while benefiting residents of all ages. Introduced in February 2025, the Age-Friendly Action Plan was developed through public input and addresses key community priorities, including housing, walkability, and access to activities for older residents.

As a member of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, Bellbrook is committed to fostering an inclusive, accessible environment. With an AARP Livability Score of 58, the city ranks in the top half of communities nationwide—demonstrating strong performance while also identifying opportunities for continued improvement.

The Action Plan is guided by AARP's Eight Domains of Livability, which include outdoor spaces, transportation, housing, social participation, and health services. In total, the plan outlines 13 overarching goals and 22 specific action steps, all detailed in the full report.

As part of this ongoing commitment, Bellbrook successfully secured a \$5,000 2025 Livable & Age-Friendly Community Grant. Funding from this grant will support a Senior Health Resource Fair and a Senior Walk Series, both scheduled for October 5–11 in celebration of Active Aging Week.

Residents are encouraged to watch for additional details in the coming months or visit www.bellbrook.gov for updates.

Thank You!

For passing ISSUE 3 Public Safety Levy on November 4th.



**Together we
will keep
Bellbrook Safe!**



HELP ELIMINATE MAIL DELAYS - REGISTER ONLINE



We STRONGLY SUGGEST
 Water and Utility Customers register for online
 billing and accounts at:
www.invoicecloud.com/bellbrookoh
 This helps accommodate the unanticipated
 delays in U.S. Postal Service delivery

This helps accommodate the unanticipated delays in U.S. Postal Service delivery of bills in the mail. By registering, you have access to your bill online and it will be emailed to you. In addition, you still have the option to pay online, mail, or drop off payment.



As of January, the City no longer has 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.

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

Upcoming Dates/Events:

Monday, May 25 - City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Friday, June 19 - City Offices Closed for Juneteenth

Friday, July 3 - Closed for Independence Day

City Council meetings are the second and fourth Monday each month.

Planning Board meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Board of Zoning Appeals meets third Tuesday of each month.



PLEASE BE AWARE

With so much information on the internet, scammers are always looking for ways to communicate online using deception to trick people into revealing sensitive information...it's called phishing.

Email is a common method to target people, and the scammers are getting creative. There are a lot of imposter scams posing as a government entities like the IRS, State Government, and cities like Bellbrook. Take note of a couple important things to help awareness and hopefully prevent becoming a victim of a scam:

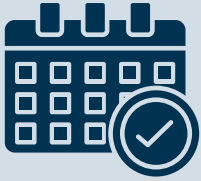
ANY COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY COMES FROM BELLBROOK.GOV

Check the sender's email address and domain...if it doesn't match the message or you don't recognize it, it's likely a scam!

NEVER OPEN ATTACHEMENTS ON ANY SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL TO VERIFY!

Visit our website for more info and resources for additional awareness



Mark Your Calendar

As the season approaches, the Bellbrook Historical Museum is preparing for a variety of engaging events and exhibits designed to bring the community together. Whether you're interested in local history, seasonal traditions, or unique experiences, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Upcoming Exhibits

Spring Exhibit

The museum will reopen to the public on Thursday, April 2. This season's exhibit will highlight the history of the Sugar Maple Festival, celebrating one of Bellbrook's most cherished traditions.

Fall Exhibit

In conjunction with our popular Ghost Tours, the fall exhibit will explore funeral practices in early America, along with the history of undertaking in Bellbrook.

Winter Exhibit

To complement Christmas in the Park, the museum will feature a winter exhibit focused on A Victorian Christmas and the art of the postcard, showcasing holiday traditions from the past.

Community Events

Sugar Maple Festival April 24 - 26

The Bellbrook Historical Museum will be open to visitors throughout all three days of the festival. Guests can also stop by our outdoor tent to purchase festival plates and museum-themed memorabilia, available for donation.



Tea Party – May 2 & May 3

Join us for a special tea party featuring maple-inspired treats. Guests will learn about the history and process of sugar maple tapping while enjoying tea in a welcoming, historic setting.

Bellbrook History Day 2026 - September 12, 2026.

Celebrate Bellbrook's rich history while commemorating America's 250th anniversary. This special event will bring the community together for a day of reflection and celebration.

Plan Ahead and Stay Connected

Be sure to check official event listings and updates as dates approach for the latest details, including times and any additional information.

In addition to these featured events, the museum will continue to host its annual favorites, including Bellbrook Ghost Tours, book clubs, and activities during Christmas in the Park. More events may be added throughout the season.

From educational exhibits to community celebrations, the Bellbrook Historical Museum offers a meaningful way to connect with local history and one another. We look forward to seeing you this season.



Bellbrook Historical Museum, built about 1825



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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

Property Maintenance Standards

As spring and summer arrive, it's a great time to check your property and make sure everything is in good shape. Maintaining your home and yard not only keeps your property looking its best, but it also helps keep our community safe and welcoming.

Here are some common issues to watch for:

- **Overgrowth:** Grass or other vegetation taller than eight inches
- **Inoperable or unlicensed vehicles:** Cars, trucks, or trailers that are not operable or properly licensed
- **Parking:** Vehicles or recreational equipment parked on the grass, sidewalks, or in areas not designated for parking
- **Garbage and debris:** Old furniture, construction materials, household items, or other junk
- **House maintenance:** Broken windows, damaged roofs or gutters, peeling paint, and other repairs
- **Accessory structures:** Garages, sheds, fences, pools, or other structures that are not properly maintained

If you notice any issues or potential violations in your neighborhood, please help us keep Bellbrook safe and beautiful by reporting them by calling **937.848.4666**, or submit a report online at bellbrook.gov/page/zoning_property_complaints.

bellbrook.gov

 facebook.com/BellbrookCity