

The Bellmawr Bulletin

A REGULAR PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF BELLMAWR

Summer 2025



Congratulations Miss Bellmawr 2025-2026

Mayor Chuck Sauter, who served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies, said: "Although only one contestant can be crowned Miss Bellmawr, all of these ladies are winners."

Congratulations to **Gracie Sokoloff**, who was crowned **Miss Bellmawr 2025-2026**.

First Runner-Up: Bianca Rodriguez

Second Runner-Up: Marley Iannuzzi

Miss Congeniality: Julianna Bartoletti

We also thanked Miss Bellmawr 2024-2025, Kelsey Kulik, who shared how much she appreciated the many experiences her title has brought her, including participating in events such as the Community Clean-Up, Fall Festival, Memorial Day Observance, and town parades. Kelsey wore a green gown in memory of Jake Stefano, who passed away earlier this year after bravely battling Metastatic Neuroblastoma.

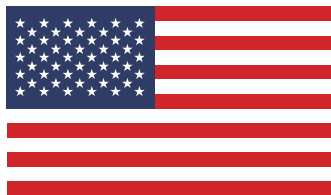


Contestants were: Annabelle Bartoletti, Julianna Bartoletti, Lilly Boyle, Maxie Cooper, Marley Iannuzzi, Bianca Rodriguez, Gianna Sochanchak, and Gracie Sokoloff.

Memorial Day Observation

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May. This Memorial Day, we reflected and honored the military personnel who gave their lives in service to our country by placing flags and wreaths at several locations throughout town.

Students from Bell Oaks School also paid tribute to our veterans by helping to place more than 2,000 flags at St. Mary's Cemetery.



From left to right: Chris Concannon, Ray Bider, Pat Marioni, John Mawhinney, and Mike Regan



Group photo of the Bell Oaks students at St. Mary's Cemetery

Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt took place on Saturday, April 19th.
The event was a success, and everyone had fun.



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

We held our annual employee appreciation luncheon on Friday, May 23rd at the Community Center as a way to show our appreciation for our Borough employees. VFW 9563 Men's Auxiliary sponsored the luncheon.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

Our Community Clean Up Day was held on Saturday, May 14th. Three new Crepe Myrtle trees and flowers were planted.

A special thanks goes out to Allison Ferris for planting flowers and also to the Tregear family.

Another Community Clean-Up Day will be scheduled for the fall. The date and time will be announced shortly.



From left to right: Jake Hoban, Eric Hoban, Mayor Chuck Sauter, Councilman Bill Evans, and Miss Bellmawr, Kelsey Kulik.



BOROUGH HALL SUMMER HOURS



During the summer months, Borough Hall will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Fridays. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, September 2nd, after Labor Day.

Congratulations Class of 2025

Mayor and Members of Council
congratulate all of the 2025 graduates!
Best of luck in the future!



OPENING DAY

Opening Day ceremonies for Bellmawr Girls Softball and Bellmawr Baseball were held on April 5th.

Bill Hagerty, John Smith, Len Landi, and Rich Allen were inducted into the Bellmawr Baseball Hall of Fame.



From left are: Rich Allen, John Smith, and Bill Hagerty. Not pictured is Len Landi.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

We invite you to celebrate the Fourth of July with us on Friday, July 4th.

Here's the full schedule of events:

- 9 a.m. - Baby Parade behind Borough Hall
- 10 a.m. - Bike Parade & Pet Parade at Sauter Park
- 11 a.m. - Main Parade starting at St. Joachim and traveling down Browning Road to Borough Hall

If you would like to enter a float or walk in the parade, please contact Lisa at
(856) 933-1313 ext. 1219.



Shamrock Search

Our Shamrock Search was a success! Thank you to everyone who participated, and congratulations to all the winners.



COMMUNITY CAT CLUB

At the March 27th monthly meeting of Mayor and Council, a Proclamation was issued to Sara Sharp for her dedication to the Community Cat Club.

Sara founded the non-profit Community Cat Club, whose mission is to assist with the overpopulation of our community's cats through targeted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts, public education, and assistance. Her organization has discovered many ways to make a positive impact and difference in the lives and welfare of animals in need. Through her volunteer efforts as president of the Community Cat Club, Sara demonstrates a proven passion for public service.

We also would like to congratulate Sara and the Community Cat Club on the acquisition of their first building, located at 115 N. Black Horse Pike in Mt. Ephraim.

You can donate to the Community Cat Club by searching for their wish list on Amazon. Be sure to follow the Community Cat Club on Facebook and Instagram.



DPW EMPLOYEES TO COMPETE IN 5TH ANNUAL APWA EQUIPMENT RODEO

Six Bellmawr employees competed in the 5th annual APWA Equipment Rodeo on June 10th at the Gloucester Township Community Park. Participants were tested on their operating ability while navigating through an obstacle course in zero turns. The competition included skills tests for backhoe, skid steer, and mini excavator.

Bellmawr prides itself on having some of the most talented employees in public works. These types of contests sharpen their skills, promote safety, and encourage advancement through the ranks.

Congratulations to the following Borough of Bellmawr employees who competed in the equipment rodeo:

Eric Beck, Foreman, Highway Division
 Peter Sauter, Driver, Highway Division
 Jon Reader, Mechanic 2, Highway Division
 Bob Wolfe, Mechanic 3, Highway Division
 Jimmy Hauser, Helper 3, Recreation Division
 Jeff Fultano, Helper 1, Recreation Division

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Night Out will be on Tuesday, August 5th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. There will be games, ice cream, food, and fun.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

100 YEAR CELEBRATION

In 2026, the Borough of Bellmawr will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. We have been holding meetings to get ideas for the celebration and activities. Thank you to everyone who came out to the meetings. Keep an eye on Bellmawr.com for the next meeting date. Everyone is welcome to attend.



MOMS DEMAND ACTION

At the May 22nd meeting of Mayor and Council, a Proclamation was issued to Moms Demand Action, a movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that aims to protect people from gun violence.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mayor and Council issued a Proclamation to Pamela Stalcup and Harvey Lermack recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Borough of Bellmawr. All citizens are urged to recognize the month by building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention.



EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Congratulations to Larry Bonacci on 30 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Bellmawr, and to Jay Capone on reaching 20 years.

Laurence (Larry) Bonacci, Sewer Superintendent and Sewer Operator, holds a C-2 wastewater collection license for the Borough of Bellmawr. Larry was hired on August 23, 1995, as a Helper 4 for the Sewer Division.

Larry's good nature and conscientious work ethic make him a favorite among residents and fellow employees. Larry is married to Mary Susan and enjoys spending time with their dog Marla and cruising in his Corvette.

James "Jay" Capone began his career with the Borough of Bellmawr as a Lube Person for the Highway Division on June 14, 2005.

Jay has held his current position of Highway Foreman since January 1, 2023. Jay's vast knowledge of all public works makes him a valuable contributor to not only the Highway Division but the entire borough workforce and community. Jay enjoys visiting Disney World and camping with his wife Karen and family.

We would also like to congratulate Captain John Marrone (#42), who retired in January 2025 from the Bellmawr Police Department.

Captain Marrone began his career in 1995 as a Patrolman with the Runnemede Police Department.

In 1997, he was hired as Patrolman with the Bellmawr Police Department. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In 2022, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and in 2024 he was promoted to his current rank.

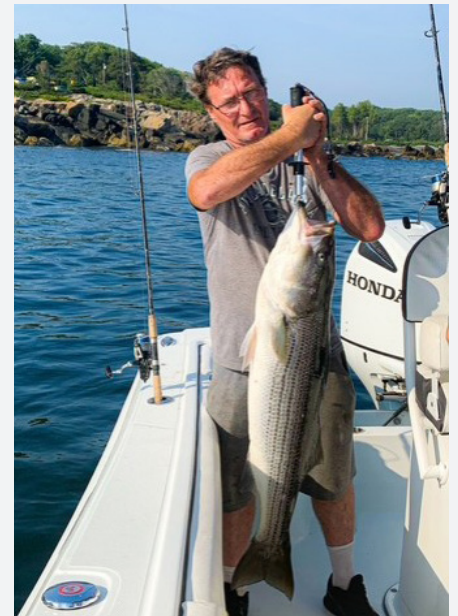
Through the years, Captain Marrone has been heavily involved with the community. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service!



Larry Bonacci



John Marrone



Jay Capone

POLICE PROMOTIONS

On April 24th, Lieutenant Keith Williams was promoted to the rank of Captain. Sergeant Christopher Wilhelm was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Corporal Kevin Lokaj was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Patrolman Andrew Thomas was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

We also welcomed two new officers to our ranks: Matthew Hindman and Domenic Urzillo, who were sworn in as Patrolmen. **Congratulations!**



Captain Keith Williams



Lieutenant Christopher Wilhelm



Sergeant Kevin Lokaj



Corporal Andrew Thomas



Patrolman Matthew Hindman



Patrolman Domenic Urzillo

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Mayor Chuck Sauter and Police Chief Bill Perna happily celebrated Read Across America Day in March with their friends at Larc School.



Photos courtesy of Larc School

AROUND TOWN

Have you noticed?



There are new banners at the Bellmawr War Memorial. Shown in the photo left to right is Recreation Department employees Tyler Daisey, Joey Marianna, and Jason Jackson installing new banners. In addition, three new Crepe Myrtle trees were planted in honor of Arbor Day.



There is a new 20' x 40' pavilion at the Bellmawr Hockey Complex. Installation was performed by the Highway Division utilizing a \$25,000 Local Recreation Enhancement Grant awarded in December 2024, with the project completed in March 2025.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY 2025

Student Government Day took place on May 22nd. It is an educational event that gives students the opportunity to learn about the functions of local government by participating in simulated government roles. It encourages civic engagement, leadership, and a deeper understanding of how public decisions are made.

1. Mayor: Emily Patel
2. Member of Council: Bailey Swales
3. Member of Council: Michael Faragasso
4. Member of Council: Ava Bardsley
5. Member of Council: AJ Gonzales
6. Member of Council: Sarlo Brooks
7. Member of Council: Arya Patel
8. Borough Clerk: Erin Compton
9. Police Chief: Aaron Skaggs
10. Fire Director: Bradley Gable
11. Chief Financial Officer: Lilah Hesser
12. Tax Collector: Justin Perez-Medina
13. Superintendent of Water: Izabella Porter
14. Superintendent of Sewer: Bryson Cufaro
15. Superintendent of Highway: Maggie Hoban
16. Superintendent of Recreation: Milo Joyce
17. Court Administrator: Aastha Patel
18. Borough Attorney: Sofia Florelli
19. Borough Engineer: Brayden Hagan



GRAND OPENING

On Saturday, June 7th, Mayor Chuck Sauter and Councilman Ray Bider attended the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of Advanced Care Pharmacy located at 156 W. Browning Road (next to Aldi).

Advanced Care Pharmacy is committed to keeping you and your family healthy and happy. Whether you need prescriptions filled, over-the-counter medications, or wellness advice, they have you covered with easy prescription transfers, fast and friendly service, competitive prices, trusted health advice, and a wide range of over-the-counter products. All major insurances are accepted.



From left: Romil Patel with his family along with Mayor Chuck Sauter and Councilman Ray Bider



From left: Mayor Chuck Sauter, Romil Patel, and Councilman Ray Bider

STORMWATER POLLUTION WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- You may think littering is no big deal, but it is!
- You may think that whatever runs into the storm drains gets treated before it reaches local rivers and streams, but it doesn't!
- You may think that motor oil and other hazardous materials don't harm the water very much, but they do!

Pollution seeps into the ground, and it is carried by stormwater (rain and snow) directly into our drinking water, streams, lakes, and oceans. Contaminated stormwater is the number one cause of water pollution in New Jersey. Simple things like proper clean-up after oneself and careful use of chemicals in the home, office, and yard are helpful ways for businesses and residents to protect our water.

The Borough of Bellmawr has Ordinances aimed at reducing pollution from litter, fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, animal waste, grass clippings, and other debris. Thank you for doing your share!

Remember:

- Keep grass, leaves, and trash out of storm drains.
- Don't feed wildlife.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Properly handle hazardous products.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The final household hazardous waste collection events for 2025 will take place on:

- Saturday, September 27th at the Sanitary Landfill, 9600 N. River Road, Pennsauken.
- Saturday, October 18th at the Camden County Public Works Complex, 2311 Egg Harbor Road in Lindenwold.

These collection events are for Camden County residents only. No businesses or commercial vehicles will be accepted.

Residents can dispose of a variety of hazardous items, including:

- Automotive: Motor oil, car batteries, antifreeze.
- Paint-Related: Oil-based paint, paint thinners, spray paint.
- Household Cleaners: Bleach, disinfectants, drain openers.
- Pesticides and Lawn care: Weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers.
- Personal Care: Nail polish remover, iodine, hydrogen peroxide.
- Home and Hobby: Mercury thermometers, pool chemicals, propane tanks (under 25 lbs.)

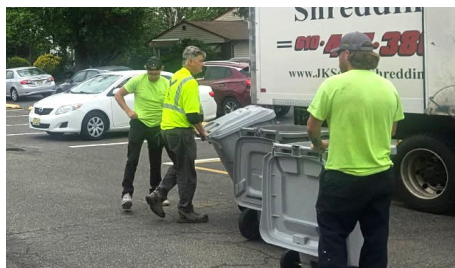
What NOT to Bring:

Items such as medications, tires, smoke detectors, and commercial waste will not be accepted.

For a full list of accepted and prohibited items, or if you have any questions, please call (856) 858-5241.

SHREDDING EVENT

Our shredding event took place on May 15th, and it was well-attended. Residents were very appreciative that this event was held, Mayor Sauter said.



ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Braisington Avenue

Bellmawr's commitment to roadway improvements continues. The Borough was selected to receive funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2024 for roadway improvements to Braisington Avenue.

The grant amount is \$417,255 for:

- Sidewalk installation on Braisington Avenue near the newly refurbished Joseph N. Petruzzzi Playground.
- Replacement of three stormwater pipes along with the resurfacing of asphalt on Braisington Avenue from Spruce Avenue to Brown Avenue.

The project was awarded to Earle Asphalt, design, and inspection by Bach Associates. The Borough anticipates a June/July 2025 construction completion.

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS

As part of Bellmawr's Water Quality Accountability Act (WQAA) program, the Borough contracted with Booth Mechanical to replace 2,750 feet of six-inch water main on several roadways. A summer 2025 paving schedule is anticipated.

The Bellmawr Highway Division will complete roadway reconstruction on the following streets:

- Thomas Avenue from W. Browning Road to Creek Road
- Meyner Drive from Thomas Avenue to Bell Road
- Princeton Avenue from Devenney Drive to Center Avenue
- Princeton Avenue from Carter Avenue to W. Browning Road

The roadway improvements include ADA ramp installation, select curb, apron, sidewalk replacement, and asphalt rehabilitation of roadway. Please be mindful of ALL construction workers, detours, and construction notices. Call (856) 931-1111 if you have any questions or concerns.

TRIVIA QUESTION:

Aldi is located at 156 W. Browning Road. What other businesses were once at this location?

In our last edition, we asked if you remembered what once-popular American retailer operated at the Bellmawr Shopping Center, located at 115 S. Black Horse Pike. **Answer: Robert Hall.**

Robert Hall was a prominent American retail chain that operated from around 1938 until 1977. In July 1977, its parent company, United Merchants and Manufacturers, filed for bankruptcy.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Do you believe it's been 10 years since the Wawa on Creek Road opened?

Here is a photo from the Grand Opening celebration following the hoagie-making contest between the Bellmawr Police Department and the Bellmawr Fire Department.

The contest ended in a tie, with both the police and fire departments producing 25 hoagies.

However, the police department was declared the ultimate victor after the Wawa judge stated that the police department did a better job of wrapping them.



In the next edition: Independence Day photos, fall and winter events, and more!

Don't forget: You can read current and past editions of the Bellmawr Bulletin (in color) on Bellmawr.com for you to share with friends and family.