

The Bellmawr Bulletin

A REGULAR PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF BELLMAWR



Summer 2022

Easter Egg Hunt

Our popular Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 16, 2022. The Easter Bunny came to assist with the event, visit with children, and take pictures. There was a large turnout, and a great time was had by all.



Opening Day

Opening Day for Bellmawr Baseball and Bellmawr Girls Softball was April 2, 2022. The day kicked off with a parade, followed by Opening Day Ceremonies, and of course, the games.



POLICE OFFICERS PROMOTED

During the April monthly meeting of Mayor and Council, the following officers were sworn into their new positions within the Police Department.

- **Sergeant John Marrone** promoted to Lieutenant
- **Corporal Anthony Franklin** promoted to Sergeant
- **Detective Kevin Lokaj** promoted to Corporal
- **Patrolman Dean Cooney** promoted to Corporal
- **Officer Kevin Bucceroni Jr.** promoted to Patrolman

We would like to congratulate and wish them success in their new positions and to keep safe while protecting and serving our community.



EMS DIVISION

At the February monthly meeting of Mayor and Council, Robert Ridgway and Michael Cox Jr. were promoted as Lieutenants of Bellmawr EMS. Congratulations!



Michael Cox Jr.



Robert Ridgway

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Curtis Wood, Driver for the Highway Division, was hired on April 7, 2002 as a Laborer at the Bellmawr Ecological Center. Curtis is a dependable and conscientious employee with a great attitude. Curtis is usually driving a sanitation truck on a regularly assigned route. He is often commended for his snow plowing abilities. His hobbies include camping, hunting, and spending time with his family. Congratulations on 20 years, Curtis Wood.



Joseph Polanski, Helper 1 for the Recreation Division, was hired on July 16, 2002 as Helper 4. Joe is a jack-of-all-trades with extensive knowledge in the automobile field. He takes pride in every project assigned and has been busy operating a zero-turn mower this spring. Joe enjoys working on cars and trucks in his garage and loves spending time with his niece and nephew. Congratulations on 20 years, Joe Polanski.



Congratulations Peter Sauter, Helper 3 Highway Division, on being named Champion of the First Annual Equipment Rodeo in the Mini Excavator Skills Competition held by the American Public Works Association.



Peter shows amazing ability in the operation of heavy equipment and is an up-and-coming employee within the Highway Division.

Joe Conboy, Electrical Inspector in the Construction Office, has retired after 37 years of service to the Borough. Congratulations, Joe! Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Bellmawr Industrial Park

Bellmawr's commitment to roadway improvements continues with the recently completed Benigno Boulevard project. The project consisted of roadway reconstruction, addition of sidewalks, and stormwater upgrades and was funded through the NJDOT Local Freight Impact Fund for years 2019 and 2020.

Bellmawr was selected to receive funding from the NJDOT Local Freight Impact Fund for year 2021 for the reconstruction of Hall Avenue & Heller Road Project. The project should begin late summer 2022 and includes roadway reconstruction and sidewalk installation.

Local Roadways

- **Victory Drive** will be resurfaced early summer of 2022. The project was awarded through Camden County Development Block Grant Funding in 2021.
- **Devenney Drive** will be resurfaced in the fall of 2022. The project was awarded in 2021 under the NJDOT and will be completed in two phases.
- **Oakland Avenue/St. Francis Court** will be resurfaced spring of 2022 as a Capital Improvement Project to be completed utilizing in-house Highway Division employees.
- **Chester Avenue** will be resurfaced summer of 2022 as a Capital Improvement Project to be completed utilizing in-house Highway Division employees.
- **Hendrickson Avenue** will be reconstructed with an anticipated summer/fall 2022 start date as a Capital Improvement Project to be completed utilizing in-house Highway Division employees.
- **Sixth Avenue** will be resurfaced in the summer of 2022 as a Capital Improvement Project to be completed utilizing in-house Highway Division employees.

Please be aware of active work zones in the areas listed.

BELLMAWR FIRE DEPARTMENT ANSWERS THE CALL

On Wednesday night September 1, 2021, the remnants of Hurricane Ida that struck the United States as a Category 4 hurricane ripped through the northeast region collapsing structures and creating major flooding causing life-threatening conditions. Numerous requests for swift water rescue assistance from Camden County were received from the State of New Jersey's Regional Operations Intelligence Center as well as from Chester County's Office of Emergency Management.

The requests were received and fulfilled by the Camden County Office of Emergency Management's ESF#9 Coordinator by utilizing the Camden County Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Task Force resources, which consist of the Bellmawr Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team as well as several other county and municipal departments.

The Camden County Swiftwater Rescue Taskforce was assembled and briefed at the Bellmawr Fire Department. The task force was then assigned and operated in Chester County, PA.

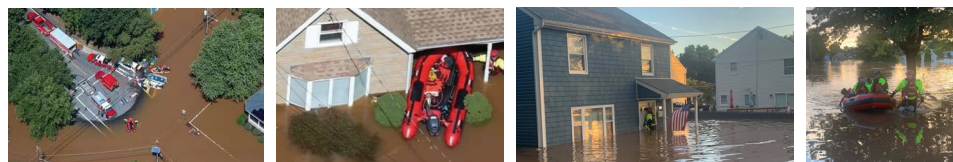
While the team was deployed, a secondary team and highwater vehicle was staffed to handle incidents within Bellmawr. Upon completion of their initial mission assignment, the team was re-assigned and

deployed by the ROIC to Somerset County, NJ where they were the first team that was able to reach and engage in rescue operations in the Borough of Manville, which was one of the hardest-hit areas of New Jersey due to significant river flooding exceeding historic flood stage limits.

The team operated for over 21 hours under austere conditions with limited commodities, rising flood levels, and numerous house explosions affecting over 300+ rescues and evacuations of trapped victims out of structures, stranded on street signs, in trees, on top of rooftops, and vehicles with the use of rescue boats, high-water vehicles, ladders, rope systems, and helicopters.

Only through proper credentialing, training, and experience could this team have succeeded in completing these coordinated rescue operations under such extraordinary conditions.

The Bellmawr Fire Department Swiftwater Rescue Technicians that operated during this incident response include Chief Dan DiRenzo, Battalion Chief Tom Fowler, Captain Harold Scriber, Lieutenant Zach Gianone, Firefighter Ryan Barner, Firefighter Kim Rickerd, Firefighter Dan Ritz and Firefighter Jacob Greener.





WILDFLOWER PLANTING



In celebration of Earth Day, wildflower seeds were recently planted in several spots around town, including the Sauter Park and near the hockey rinks. Mayor Chuck Sauter, Councilman Bill Evans, Borough Clerk Frani Wright, Mike "Juice" Williams, Gary Sauter, Kim Gallagher, and Pat Gallagher joined seventh and eighth-grade students from the Science Club led by Mrs. Brady and Mrs. Plotts to assist with the planting.



Bellmawr Seniors Enjoy Lunch

Our Bellmawr Seniors Group recently enjoyed a luncheon at the Bud Mullen Community Center.



Mayor Chuck Sauter, Councilwoman Johann Fina, and Borough Clerk Frani Wright help to serve the food.



Father Bernard Gannon says a blessing before the meal.



Mayor Chuck Sauter greets the attendees.



Fire Chief Dan DiRenzo speaks to the group.

LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

Did you know that Bellmawr has Little Free Pantries at five locations around town?



Little Free Pantries are like Little Free Libraries, but instead of being filled with books, Little Free Pantries contain non-perishable food items.

Donations to our Little Free Pantries are always appreciated and anyone is welcome to take what they need.

We are grateful that the Knights of Columbus Saint Jude Council #12092 recently "adopted" our Little Free Pantries and will be assisting with replenishing the boxes to make sure they never run low.

Bellmawr's Little Free Pantries are located on the side of Borough Hall (by the Bud Mullen Community Center), at Bellmawr Park School, Ethel Burke School, Bell Oaks School, and in front of St. Joachim's Parish Office.

BELLMAWR BUSINESS ALLIANCE

We are pleased to announce that the Bellmawr Business Alliance is back! Invitations were sent to all businesses in town for a Meet and Greet on March 22, 2022 and there was a nice turnout.

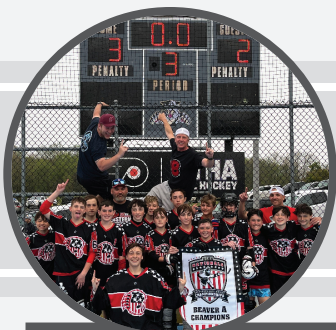
Business owners were able to meet one another and hear from Mayor Chuck Sauter, Borough Clerk Frani Wright, Police Chief William Walsh, Councilwoman Johann Fina, and Superintendent of Public Works, Joe Ciano.

Special thanks to Tom Whitman of Carmen's Deli/DelBuono's for hosting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Bud Mullen Community Center. Reminders will be sent out shortly.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPORTS TEAMS



*Bellmawr Hockey
Beaver A National
Champions*



*Bellmawr Hockey Beaver C
Champions West Deptford Tournament*



*Bellmawr Hockey Beaver A
Champions West Deptford Tournament*



*Bellmawr Purple Eagles Cheerleaders Quest
Champions at ESPN's World of Sports*



*Bellmawr Purple Eagles
100 Pound Champions*

BELLMAWR PURPLE EAGLES CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY



The Bellmawr Purple Eagles were recognized by Mayor and Council during the March monthly meeting for 60 years of youth football and cheerleading. Mayor and Council congratulate the Purple Eagles on this momentous occasion. A commemorative plaque was presented to the organization that reads: "This great organization has been such an important group dedicated to the sports of football and cheerleading for the children of Bellmawr."

Welcome to Bellmawr!

We are excited to welcome Grand Master Kutz, Virtual Tax Prep, and Grab 'N Go to Bellmawr.



Grant Master Kutz



Virtual Tax Prep



On March 18, 2022, Mayor Chuck Sauter was at the ribbon-cutting for the new Grab 'N Go. Owner Jaswinder "Sunny" Singh is pictured with his family along with Mayor Sauter.

MAYOR & COUNCIL CONGRATULATE PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS

At the March 22, 2022 Bellmawr Board of Education meeting, Mayor Chuck Sauter and Councilman Ray Bider were in attendance to celebrate eighth grade Bell Oaks students Hayden Straub, Ethan Shelling, and Gianna Loftis for their winning essays in the 2021-2022 Patriot's Pen Essay Writing Competition.

Hayden placed second in the State with her essay.

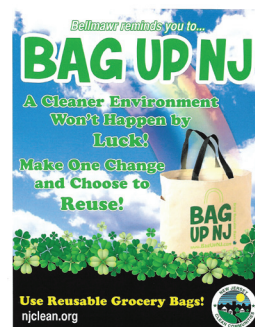
Great job Hayden, Ethan, and Gianna!

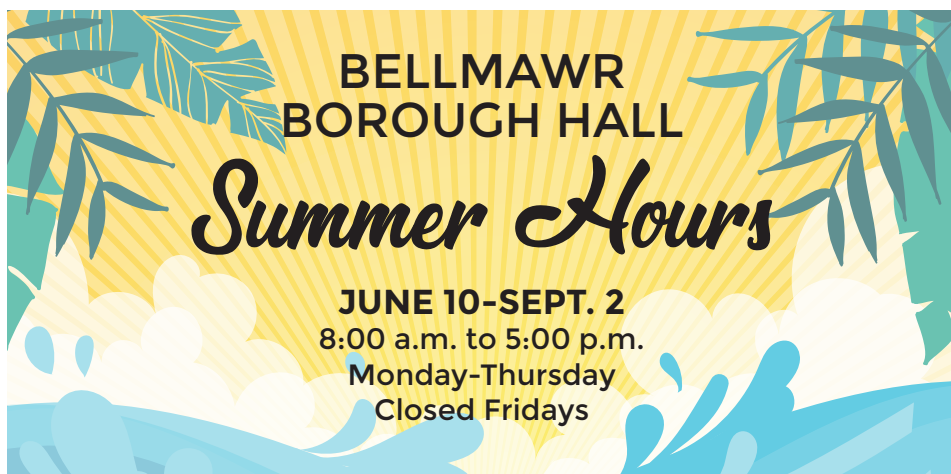


Pictured from front left: Ethan Shelling, Hayden Straub, and Gianna Loftis are pictured with Councilman Ray Bider, Bell Oaks Principal, Anthony Farinelli, School Superintendent, Danielle Sochor, Teacher Ed Beail, Mike Hackett of Bellmawr VFW #7410, and Mayor Chuck Sauter.

PLASTIC BAG BAN

New Jersey's Plastic Bag Ban went into effect on May 4, 2022. Borough workers recently delivered new, reusable cloth bags to all residents in town to help everyone remember to "Bag Up" when shopping.





INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE: MONDAY, JULY 4

- **Baby Parade:** 9:00 a.m. rear lot of Municipal building
- **Bike Parade:** 10:00 a.m. St. Joachim parking lot
- **Main Parade:** Kicks off at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joachim




New this year: Help make our parade bigger and better than ever before. We are looking for more organizations and floats to participate in our Main Parade. We would love to see more decorated cars, trucks, and floats. Businesses and families are welcome to join our parade! Visit Bellmawr.com for more information.



SAVE THE DATES



- **National Night Out:**
Tuesday, August 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bellmawr Recreation Center
- **12th Annual Octoberfest:** 
Saturday, October 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. We are excited to announce that this year, there will be FIREWORKS following the Octoberfest! More details will be announced soon.

MISS BELLMAWR UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to lack of participation, the Miss Bellmawr Pageant has been postponed until Fall. The guidelines to compete in the pageant are going to be restructured. Thank you for your understanding.



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR TNR PROGRAM

In May, 2021 the Borough of Bellmawr adopted Ordinance #2:05-21, which implemented a Trap, Neuter & Return (TNR) Program for the Borough's feral cats. Feral cats are also called "community cats."

The TNR Ordinance established guidelines for the program, regulates the trapping of cats, and establishes the responsibilities of the cats' caregivers.

We are seeking donations of wet and dry cat food to help feed the community cats, which are taken care of by volunteer caregivers.

If you would like to help, please place donations in the bin that is located at the main entrance of Borough Hall.

BELLMAWR BULLETIN ONLINE

To view the current and past two editions of the Bellmawr Bulletin online, go to Bellmawr.com, navigate to "News and Calendar" and select "The Bellmawr Bulletin."

Bellmawr.com 

TRIVIA QUESTION – HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TOWN?

In the last newsletter, we asked: "How many streets are there in Bellmawr?" The answer is only one – Market Street! All other street names in Bellmawr are either Court, Place, Avenue, Drive, Boulevard, or Road.

This month's question is: There is one street in Bellmawr that has only one house on it. Do you know which one it is? Hint: It is a "Place."

BELLMAWR WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE - MAY 2022

We are pleased to report to you on further progress that has been achieved at the Bellmawr Waterfront Development Site.

As many of you may recall, the Project Site is the location of three former landfills -- landfills that accepted residential waste from Bellmawr residents and other towns back in the 1960s and 1970s.



After the landfills ceased operations, they were never properly capped and closed. This resulted in trash being exposed to the elements and contamination leaching into the adjacent Big Timber Creek.

Fortunately, Mayor Sauter, Borough Council, and the Bellmawr Redevelopment Agency have all worked tirelessly for years to ensure that the landfills are finally properly remediated to modern standards established by the NJDEP.

We are pleased to report that since December 2021, the landfills have been capped and remediated, and there is no longer any leachate contamination in Big Timber Creek.

Final rough grading work at the Site is being completed this month. This is a tremendous achievement, given where we started fifteen years ago.

With remediation accomplished, the Borough will now focus on the second part of the master plan first laid out fifteen years ago by BRA Chairman Filipek – the creation of a Waterfront Park and nature trail along the whole length of the Big Timber Creek, between Rt. 295 and the New Jersey Turnpike.

Construction of the Park and Trail is expected to start later this year and will

include parking, trails, gazebos, exercise stations, benches, and water access points, for fishing and kayak launching.

Neighboring Runnemede has established a waterfront park system on the opposite side of the Turnpike, and Bellmawr will work cooperatively with Runnemede to see if the trail systems could be connected in some way (by path or by water).

This waterfront park will be the most significant new park and recreation asset created in Camden County within the last 50 years.

Mayor Sauter, Bellmawr Council, as well as former Mayor and current BRA Chairman Filipek, prior Council Members, and Bellmawr's former longtime Solicitor, the late Bob Messick, have all played crucial parts in bringing this project to fruition.

Many other parties have played crucial roles in helping Bellmawr achieve this great success - including Deptford Mayor Paul

been “friends of Bellmawr” over the years.

Bellmawr is a small town, and it took the collective efforts of all of these elected officials.

One significant example of the achievements of your elected officials was convincing the NJDOT to invest millions of dollars in local roadway improvements, to hopefully alleviate some of the horrible congestion that currently exists along Creek Road and Harding Ave., which congestion is caused primarily by “Thru Traffic” traveling between Exit 3 of the Turnpike, and Route 42.

In addition to the remediation project and the Waterfront Park, the third goal of Bellmawr's master plan for this Site was to create tax ratables, jobs, and economic development.

Much progress has been made on this part of the plan as well. For example, after years of work and at a cost of over \$1 million, the



Medany (a portion of the Project Site lies in Deptford), Camden County Commissioner Director Lou Cappelli, Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Assemblyman Bill Moen, Assemblyman Bill Spearman, as well as Congressman Donald Norcross, have all truly

Redeveloper has recently obtained a crucial Tidelands Grant from the State of New Jersey. The Redeveloper is also actively working on preparing the site for future beneficial re-use, which will create significant new tax revenues for Bellmawr, and many good-paying construction and permanent job opportunities for our local citizens.

The NJDEP considers the Bellmawr Project a prime example of “how to successfully remediate a former landfill.”

Neighboring Deptford has called the Project an “example of redevelopment done the right way.” We agree — and we could not have gotten this far without the strong and continuing support of the citizens of Bellmawr.

We will provide further updates as this phase of the project advances this year.

Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

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