

# The Bellmawr Bulletin

A REGULAR PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF BELLMAWR



Fall 2022

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE: GREAT NEWS FOR BELLMAWR RESIDENTS

Mayor and Council are excited to provide you with great news that your 2022-2023 property tax bill reflects a reduction. No, this is not a typo. The Borough of Bellmawr is receiving a tax reduction as we continue to push through the many hardships over the past two years with out-of-control inflation. The average assessed home of \$167,483 will see a decrease of \$106.78 with respective decreases on a \$200,000 home at \$150 and \$250,000 home at \$187.50. While this is certainly great news, even better news is that the local municipal tax rate in Bellmawr has not increased in the past two years.

We anticipate an even larger decrease with the acquisition of the recreational cannabis income. All of the tax revenue will be applied to the 2023 bottom line tax bills. We are very proud of this accomplishment. The Finance Committee achieved this through countless hours of meetings and by sharing budgeting and cost-cutting measures, including shared services with surrounding towns. Additionally, we are pleased to have been the recipient of multiple grants, including:

- \$1,100,000 - American Rescue Plan
- \$980,000 - New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Awards
- \$25,000 - Recreation Enhancement
- \$24,366 - Clean Community
- \$15,545 - Recycling Tonnage
- \$11,070 - Safe & Secure
- \$3,379 - Bullet Proof Vest and Body Armor

All of these grant funds support our community services and budget. We will endeavor to continue budgeting measures while never short-changing you, the residents, with those services that you expect, while we constantly evaluate, improve, and add to our community services.

Finance Chair - Ray Bider  
Committee - Craig Wilhelm &  
Jamie Casey

## SUMMER SEND OFF

Join us on Friday, September 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Sauter Park on Park Drive as we say goodbye to Summer and welcome Fall.

There will be popcorn, hotdogs, refreshments, games, and cornhole for everyone to enjoy. Goodfellas will be performing.

## FLU SHOTS

The Camden County Board of Commissioners and Department of Health and Human Services will be holding a Flu Shot Clinic on Monday, October 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Bellmawr Community Center, 29 E. Browning Road.

## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BACK TO SCHOOL

Bellmawr Schools started back on Thursday, September 8th. We want to remind our residents that children will be walking and riding their bikes back and forth to school. Please be extra careful, especially in the mornings and during after-school dismissal. Parents, please obey parking restrictions at the schools as we receive numerous complaints every year about vehicles being parked in no-parking areas. We want to thank our crossing guards as they do a great job making sure the children cross safely in all types of weather. Please obey the commands of the crossing guards as they are there for your child's safety. The Police Department has increased patrols around the schools and will continue to visit the schools unannounced during the day and will interact with the children when possible to foster a good relationship with them. We hope everyone has a great school year!

## 12TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Bellmawr's Annual Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 15th from 2:00-8:00 p.m. at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. Plan to spend a fun day at the festival and be sure to stay for the fabulous fireworks display that will be held at dusk. There will be live music, food trucks, a corn hole tournament, craft vendors, beer garden, amusement rides, pony rides, and much more.

Vendor space is still available.

Call 856-933-1313.

Rain date is Sunday, October 16th.



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 9-15

Please stop by the Fire Department table and displays at the Fall Festival on October 15th. If anyone needs assistance with installing or obtaining a smoke detector, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 856-933-1239.

**Fire won't wait.**  
Plan your escape  
at [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).



**FIRE  
PREVENTION  
WEEK™**

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Bellmawr PBA Local 375, along with the Bellmawr Recreation Department, will be hosting Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 28th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. Gates open at 3:30 p.m. for cars to start lining up and decorating. The concession stand will be open.

The Lions Club will sponsor the costume parade. Parade registration begins at 5:00 p.m. and starts at 5:30 p.m. Bands are \$5 and will be sold at the gate. Proceeds benefit Bellmawr Believes.



## TRICK-OR-TREATING HOURS

Halloween is on Monday, October 31st and Trick-or-Treating hours will be from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Trick-or-treaters are invited to stop by the Municipal Building to receive a treat (or two) from our Leader of the Pack, Mayor Chuck, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Also, the Borough will be providing door hangers for residents to place on their doors to let trick-or-treaters know if they can stop at your house for a treat.



## HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

The Halloween House decorating contest, sponsored by the Borough of Bellmawr, is back again this year. Beginning on October 3rd, registration will be live on the Borough website. On October 20th registration will close, all registered addresses will be posted, and voting links will be live. Voting starts on October 21st and ends at noon on October 27th. Everyone is encouraged to drive around town, look at the houses, and vote for their favorite decorated house. Once all the votes are tabulated, Visa gift cards will be awarded for first, second, and third place. (1st Place: \$200, 2nd Place: \$150, and 3rd Place: \$100) Winners will be announced at noon on October 31st.



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Bellmawr Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 2nd at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. Even with the extreme heat, we still had a great turnout. The event was sponsored by Bellmawr Municipal Alliance and the Bellmawr Police Department. We would like to thank all of the organizations and businesses that attended the event.

A big thank you to Bellmawr Recreation Department for setting up, taking down, and cleaning up after the event. And a special thanks to Mayor Sauter, Terry Nilsen, and Steve Nilsen for handling the barbecue.

### Businesses & Organizations In Attendance:

Bellmawr Fire Department & EMS  
Bellmawr Public Works  
Bellmawr Police Department  
Bellmawr School District  
Mr. Softee Ice Cream  
Cooper Hospital Medical Helicopter  
Runnemed, Bellmawr, Glendora Rotary Club  
Fulton Bank  
United Health  
Community Cat Club  
Homeward Bound Animal Shelter  
Gardner Funeral Home  
K-9 Training Unit  
Camden County Domestic Violence Unit  
Camden County Communications  
Camden County Prosecutor Fraud Unit

### Activities:

Gaming truck  
Trackless train  
Paw Patrol characters  
Horse and pony rides  
Balloon animals  
Music disc jockey  
Water, soda, and hot dogs





## VOTING INFORMATION

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th.

### Register to Vote:

If you aren't registered to vote, you can stop at the Borough Hall for an application or you can register online at <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>

### Voting Options

How can I vote in the 2022 General Election? Apply for a vote-by-mail ballot and return it one of the following ways:

**Mail:** Vote-by-mail ballots sent through the mail must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the county Board of Elections on or before the sixth day after the close of the polls.

**Drop box:** A secure drop box is located at Borough Hall for your convenience.

**Deliver in person:** You can deliver it in person to the county's Board of Elections Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Early voting locations will be open from 10 am to 8 pm on Monday through Saturday, and from 10 am to 6 pm on Sunday. Go to [Vote.NJ.Gov](http://Vote.NJ.Gov) for early voting sites. General Election: October 29, 2022 – November 6, 2022

In-Person voting on Election Day, at your polling place, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Accommodations will be made for voters with disabilities.



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS FOR 2022

Borough Attorney - Danyelle Venafar  
Borough Clerk - Delilah Doolin  
Borough Engineer - Mackenzie Davis  
Chief Financial Officer - Granth Patel  
Court Administrator - Gianna Loftis  
Director of Communications - Cameron Richmond  
Director of Finance - Ava Vrancken  
Director of Personnel – Marina Eckmeyer  
Director of Public Safety- Hayden Straub  
Director of Highway – Erick Medina  
Director of Recreation - Taylor Valderama  
Fire Chief - Ava Stover

Mayor - Tirth Patel  
Police Chief- Milanna Marrone  
Superintendent of Highway - Bianca Rodriguez  
Superintendent of Recreation - Blake Sauter  
Director of Public Works – Caitlynn Whittles  
Superintendent of Sewer - Gavin Simonelli  
Superintendent of Water - Lilianna Skaggs  
Tax Collector - Abigail Brown



## COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

The Community Clean Up Day will be Saturday, October 8th. Volunteers are needed. Meet at the Bellmawr Recreation Center beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Any questions, please call 856-931-1111

## BECOME A POLL WORKER

New Jersey's counties, in partnership with the Department of State, Division of Elections, are actively seeking residents to serve as poll workers for the upcoming General Election.

Your community needs you. For more information, go to [PollWorker.NJ.Gov](http://PollWorker.NJ.Gov) or call (856) 401-8683.



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

Student Government Day took place on May 26th. Eighth-grade students from Bell Oaks were administered the oath of office by Mayor Sauter and they spent the day visiting several locations around town learning from each of the Department Heads how the Borough operates every day.

In the evening, the students took over the monthly Mayor and Council meeting.



## BELLMAWR NAMED TOP TEN CAMDEN COUNTY TOWN

Bellmawr was recently named a Top Ten Camden County Town by South Jersey Magazine. Using a weighted formula, average property values and taxes were combined along with crime incidents reported per 1,000 residents and high school performance numbers consisting of average SAT scores, graduation rates, and more. We agree that Bellmawr is definitely a great place to live and raise a family.

## VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day will be observed on Friday, November 11th at the Bellmawr War Memorial. More information will be posted on Bellmawr.com as the date gets closer.



## MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, observations took place at ten monuments throughout town. Ceremonies were held and wreaths were placed at each location.



## BELLMAWR BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The Bellmawr Business Alliance met on June 22nd. Mayor Chuck Sauter and Council Members Craig Wilhelm, Johann Fina, and Bill Evans, along with the Borough's Department heads, met with business owners. The next meeting will be held on September 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Reminders will be sent out shortly.



## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On June 3rd, Mayor and Council showed their appreciation to all Borough employees by hosting a catered luncheon at the Bud Mullen Community Center.



## A MESSAGE FROM MISS BELLMAWR 2021

In July, Miss Bellmawr 2021, Lillie Valeriano, celebrated her graduation from Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. "I will always bleed Bellmawr," Lillie said. She has a special message for all future Miss Bellmawr contestants: "Anything is possible as long as you try your best." Way to go Lillie. We are so proud of you!





## CONGRATULATIONS!

On July 2nd, Mayor Sauter and Council members Jamie Casey and Johann Fina attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting for the Community Thrift Store located at 115 S. Black Horse Pike (Unit F). Mayor and Council welcomed owner Odessa Ingram Edmond to Bellmawr and wished her success with her new store.

On August 23rd, Mayor Sauter helped Raw Health Canine Food celebrate its one-year anniversary in Bellmawr with a ribbon-cutting. Raw Health Canine Food is owned by Basil and Madeline DiCerbo and was created to provide dogs (and cats) with high-quality food at an affordable price. They are located at 143 Harding Avenue.



## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE WINNERS

Mayor and Council would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the town's annual Fourth of July Parade. We also thank our parade judges: Barrington Councilman Mike Drumm, Pastor William Cook, Bellmawr Baptist Church Commander Howard Grant, VFW Post 9563, and Commander Jack Newcomb, VFW Post 7410, for volunteering their time to judge the parade.

### Baby Parade:

Youngest Prince: Gian Tomeo  
 Youngest Princess: Addison Kitchenman  
 Best Decorated: Knox and Riverleigh McDonnell  
 Most Original: Valentina Giannone

*Congratulations to  
all the winners.*



### Most Patriotic:

1st Place: Isabella Olsen  
 2nd Place: Elowin Farthin  
 3rd Place: Jaylee Severino  
 4th Place: Everly Seher  
 Baby Kings: Julian Rech and Bradley Hunt



### Bike Parade:

Most Patriotic: Eva Marino  
 Most Decorative: Quinn Davey  
 Most Original: Keegan Williams

### MAIN PARADE:

#### Unit or Organization (Large Float)

1st Place – Bellmawr Purple Eagles Football & Cheerleaders  
 2nd Place – VFW Post 7410  
 3rd Place – Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council 12092



#### Unit or Organization (Small Float)

1st Place – Bellmawr Girls Softball  
 2nd Place – Bellmawr Baseball  
 3rd Place – Bellmawr Hockey Association



#### Individual or Small Non-Organization Float

1st Place – Steve Cowgill Boat Float  
 2nd Place – James Moore Family & Neighbors  
 3rd Place – Michael Fright Mobile





## FROM THE CONSTRUCTION & ZONING OFFICE

All of the below actions will require prior approval from the Zoning Official and/or Construction Official. Permit applications are available at the Borough Hall in the Construction Office. Please remember to display all permits in a visible location while work is being completed. E-mail [constructionoffice@bellmawr.com](mailto:constructionoffice@bellmawr.com) or call 856-933-1286 should there be any questions or concerns with regards to permitting within the borough.

### Construction Permits are required for:

- Heaters/Air Conditioners
- Adding Electrical or Plumber
- Home Additions
- New Home Construction
- Swimming Pools
- (Above Ground or In-Ground)
- Water Heaters
- Solar Panels
- Sewer Lines
- Steps
- Railings
- Chimney Liners
- Sheds over 200 square feet
- Sprinkler Systems
- Demolition of Structures
- Roofs over Structures

- Kitchen/Bath Remodel if moving services
- Window Replacement if change in size
- Basement Finishing
- Signs
- Water Proofing



### Zoning Permits are required for:

- Fence
- Deck
- Swimming Pools
- Home Additions
- Sheds
- Concrete/Pavers Flatwork; Driveways, Patios, Sidewalks, etc.
- Increasing Size of Driveway or Adding a Driveway
- Covered Porch
- Signs
- Steps
- Deck
- Garage
- New Homes Construction
- New Business
- Change of Occupancy Use

## CODE ENFORCEMENT: PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS

Residents are reminded that in accordance with Municipal Code, it is their duty to keep their properties free of hazards, such as brush, weeds, broken glass, stumps, roots, overgrowth, filth, garbage, trash, refuse, and debris.

It is also unlawful for any property owner to park or permit the parking of any vehicle on their lawn. Call 856-933-1286 with any questions or concerns.

### OVERSIZED TRASH CANS PROHIBITED

Oversized trash cans are prohibited in the Borough. When placing your trash out for collection, please remember to use the correct size trash can of 35 gallons or less.

### PICKLEBALL COURT

Renovations are underway at the former volleyball court at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. The court is being renovated into a new pickleball court. Pickleball is a game for all ages and skill levels. It is rising in popularity and is played on a level court with short-handled paddles and a plastic ball that is volleyed over a low net.



### SPORTS TEAMS HONORED

Mayor and Council honored the Bell Oaks Lady Owls for winning their sixth championship. The Bellmawr Hockey Beaver A team was also honored as "National Champions."





# Christmas in Bellmawr

## CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

The dates for Christmas in the Park will be December 9th, 10th, 16th, and 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bellmawr Recreation Center. Can you help to "Stuff the Bus" by donating a new unwrapped toy for Bellmawr Believes?

Bellmawr Believes works with Santa's elves to ensure that every child in Bellmawr can experience the magic of Christmas.

Donation boxes will also be placed around town and at Borough Hall.

You can also donate via Venmo @ Bellmawr\_Believes.

## CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING

The annual holiday and fire truck parade will be Sunday, December 4th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The parade begins at St. Joachim Church and will continue along Browning Road and concludes at Borough Hall.

## FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Congratulations to Eric Beck, Foreman 1 of the Highway Division, for being named Champion of the Second Annual Equipment Rodeo in the Mini Excavator Skills Competition held by the American Public Works Association.

Eric's skills are put to the test daily as he leads Bellmawr's in-house concrete/asphalt team and is a confident, calming, and skilled operator when emergencies such as snow, water/sewer main breaks, and construction projects occur.



## SANTA'S MAILBOX

From December 1st-15th, there will be a special mailbox outside of Borough for holiday letters to Santa Claus.



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Sons of Italy Vita Nuovo Lodge 2327 will be hosting Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Bellmawr Community Center, 29 E. Browning Road.

## HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

The Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest is back again this year. Details and registration information will be posted on Bellmawr.com.



## LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

Our Little Free Pantries could always use donations of shelf-stable food items to help keep them filled. Suggested donations include individual microwaveable macaroni and cheese cups, tuna fish, canned soups, pasta, or jarred sauce. Donations can be dropped off at Borough Hall.





## HYDRANT FLUSHING

Night-time hydrant flushing will begin on October 1st from  
10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

### Expanded 2022 Leaf Collection Schedule:

#### SECTION 1:

Brooklawn to Bell Road

Oct. 10 to Oct. 14

Oct. 24 to Oct. 28

Nov. 7 to Nov. 11

Nov. 21 to Nov. 25

Dec. 5 to Dec. 9

Dec. 19 to Dec. 23

#### SECTION 2:

Bell Road to Barrington

Oct. 17 to Oct. 21

Oct. 31 to Nov. 4

Nov. 14 to Nov. 18

Nov. 28 to Dec. 2

Dec. 12 to Dec. 16

Dec. 26 to Dec. 30

Leaf posters will be posted a week in advance in the section where the leaf collection will take place. Residents are asked to rake all leaves to the curb. Please do not mix any branches or trash with leaves. No plastic bags. Leaves must be kept 10 feet from storm drains.

## SPONSOR A BANNER

Borough of Bellmawr  
Business Alliance

P.O. Box 368  
21 East Browning Road  
Bellmawr, New Jersey 08099  
[www.Bellmawr.com](http://www.Bellmawr.com)

### "Drive Traffic to Your Business"

The Public Works Department is completing Phase II Beautification Project on West Browning Road. Display your business name on a light fixture banner on West Browning Road which has a high volume of local and commuter pass through traffic. The banners will be changed four times a year to reflect different seasons.



• Four Banners & Hardware Kit \$600.00

• Includes Installation & Maintenance of Banners

If you are interested in one of the sponsorships please contact Kim Gallagher, Public Works at 856-931-1111 or fax your request to 856-931-6586. Thank you for operating your business in Bellmawr.

## THIS EDITION'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

American Heritage Credit Union, located at 203 E. Browning Road, will soon be relocating to Glendora. Before this building was a credit union, there were several other businesses there. Do you remember any?



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TOWN? – TRIVIA QUESTION

In the last edition of the Bellmawr Bulletin, the Trivia Question was: There is one street in Bellmawr that has only one house on it. Hint: It is a "Place." Answer: Hampton Place.