

The Bellmawr Bulletin

A REGULAR PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF BELLMAWR



Summer 2023

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT

Police Chief William Walsh retired after 45 years of service to the residents of Bellmawr. Mayor Chuck Sauter said of Chief Walsh: "You have been a true leader that has always demonstrated confidence to make tough decisions while having compassion to listen to others. Through your commitment and leadership, you have shaped our police department into a model for all others to aspire to. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we recognize your service and commitment to your officers and our community. We wish you great health and happiness in your retirement."



*Ret. Chiefs Rich Dott and Bill Walsh
with Chief Bill Perna*



*Ret. Captain Mike Draham and Chief Bill Perna
with Ret. Chief Bill Walsh*

New Police Chief Sworn In

Police Chief Bill Perna, Jr. was sworn in as Bellmawr PD's sixth Chief of Police. Chief Perna expressed gratitude for everyone's support. "Thanks to Mayor and Council for having faith in me to lead this department. With Chief Walsh's retirement, I definitely have big shoes to fill," he said. Chief Perna recognized retired Chief Rich Dott who gave him his start in the department in 1998 until Chief Walsh took over in 2000.



CAPTAIN MIKE DRAHAM

Captain Mike Draham retired after 31 years of service. He worked his way up from Patrolman to Detective to Corporal then to Sergeant, then to Lieutenant, and retired as Captain after 31 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Bellmawr. Councilman Craig Wilhelm (and retired Captain) said of Captain Draham: "He was one of my best street sergeants. He was phenomenal at his job. We appreciate all the hard work that you've done, and I wish you nothing but the best in your retirement."

CELEBRATING 98 YEARS YOUNG!

Retired Bellmawr Police Officer, Ted Jeffers, celebrated his 98th birthday on July 9, 2023. He served with Bellmawr Police from 1952 to 1977, retiring as a Sergeant. He was Badge #3.

Prior to serving as a Bellmawr Police officer, Sgt. Jeffers served in the US Navy during WWII on the USS Paul Hamilton (DD-590). He is the oldest living retired Bellmawr Police officer and is also believed to be the Bellmawr's oldest living veteran. Sgt. Jeffers was a founding member of VFW 7410 and Bellmawr Fire Department, where he served as Chief.



Fourth of July

Mayor and Council would like to thank our parade judges. It was no easy task! Special thanks to William Cook, Pastor of Bellmawr Baptist Church, Barrington Councilman Mike Drumm, and MaryAnn Hackett of VFW 7410.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Baby Parade:

Youngest Prince: Marcus Mangini

Youngest Princess: Marie Alaina

Best Decorated: Riverleigh McDonnell

Most Original:

1st Place: Vienna Tenuto

2nd Place: Coree Cross

Most Patriotic:

1st Place: Vivanna Bartoletti

2nd Place: Jaylee & Jordan Severino

3rd Place: John & Julian Severino

Baby Queens:

Makayla & McKenzie Tinsley

Bike Parade:

Most Patriotic: Knox McDonald

Most Decorative: Callie Cross

Most Original: Quinn Davey

MAIN PARADE:

Unit or Organization (Large Float)

1st Place: Bellmawr Girls Softball

2nd Place: Knights of Columbus –
St. Jude's Council 12092

3rd Place: Bellmawr Purple Eagles
Cheerleaders

Unit or Organization (Small Float)

1st Place: V.F.W. Post #7410

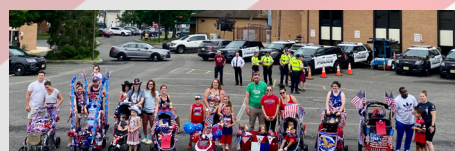
2nd Place: V.F.W. Post #9563

Individual or Small Non-Organization Float

1st Place: Coree Cross – Little Miss
Firecracker

2nd Place: Marcus Mangini - Youngest
Prince

3rd Place: 13th Child Jeep Club



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2023: OCTOBER 8TH TO 14TH

This year's Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking.

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire. Be sure to stop by the Fire Department Table and visit the displays at the Octoberfest. If anyone needs help installing or obtaining a smoke detector, call the Fire Marshal's Office at 856-933-1239.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. Stand by your pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the burner.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Bellmawr Schools will re-open on Thursday, September 7th. Please be mindful in the mornings and during after-school dismissal that children will be walking and riding their bikes back and forth to school. Remember to adhere to parking restrictions at our schools. We appreciate our crossing guards and count on them to make sure children cross safely. The Police Department regularly patrols our schools and officers continue to visit the schools unannounced during the day. When time allows, our officers look forward to interacting with the kids. We hope everyone has a great school year!

Congratulations!

Mayor and Council honored the 105-pound team as the West Jersey Youth Football League Undefeated Champions. The 65-pound Purple Eagles Football Team was recognized as the West Jersey Youth Football League Undefeated Champions. The Bellmawr Purple Eagles Cheerleaders also received recognition for winning Nationals.



FROM THE BELLMAWR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Thunderstorms can occur any time of year in New Jersey. However, severe thunderstorms generally occur during the warmer months of March through October. Here are a couple of tips for our residents to keep in preparation for impending storms.

Know the warning signs: Look for darkening skies, dark and towering clouds, flashes of light, or increasing wind. Listen for thunder. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning and should go to a safe shelter immediately.

The National Weather Service issues a Severe Thunderstorm Watch when a severe thunderstorm is likely to develop soon. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to the radio or TV for more information.

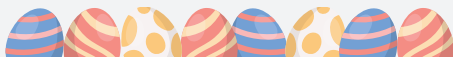
A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when a severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. At this point, the danger is very serious. Everyone should go to a safe place, turn on a battery-operated radio or TV and wait for the "all clear" from the authorities.

Stay away from storm-damaged areas. Avoid putting yourself at risk from the residual effects of thunderstorms. Watch out for fallen power lines and report them immediately. Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny returned to Bellmawr to lead our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We always have a huge turnout, and everyone enjoyed the day!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Mayor and Council congratulate all of 2023 graduates! We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day was observed with the placing of wreaths at various locations around town.



COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

Our semi-annual Community Clean-Up Day was held on May 6th. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to beautify our community by planting flowers and removing trash at the Bellmawr War Memorial.



HONORING OFFICER ROBERT "BOBBY" SHISLER

On May 17, 2023, officers from the Bellmawr Police Department honorably attended the funeral service for their fallen brother Deptford Police Officer Robert "Bobby" Shisler. Officer Shisler was shot in the line of duty on March 10, 2023 and succumbed to his injuries on May 7, 2023.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

The Borough of Bellmawr has proudly hosted Student Government Day for over 30 years. Students are chosen to participate by Bell Oaks teachers and each student is assigned a counterpart in Borough Government. The students spend time touring borough facilities, providing hands-on experience.

Mayor – Grace Cook

Members of Council – Emma Gaskill,
Claire Groves, Charmi Kalva, Samir Kham
Layla Luciano, Shrey Modi

Borough Clerk – Karime Macao Cedillo

Police Chief – Shane Sunderland

Fire Chief – Jessica Gonzalez-Morales

Chief Financial Officer – Gerami Harris

Tax Collector – Gianna Borgesi

Superintendent of Water – Francesca Coco

Superintendent of Sewer – Pranay Tiwari

Superintendent of Highway – Annaleigh Reid

Superintendent of Recreation – Royal Tomeo

Court Administrator – Jackson Beecher

Borough Attorney – Olivia Allen

Borough Engineer – Alexa Jones



BOROUGH HALL SUMMER HOURS

During the Summer months, Borough Hall is open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays. Regular hours resume after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 4th.



FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED GRANT FUNDING

Over the last couple of months, the fire department has been awarded numerous grants to sustain project funding. These grants will be utilized to offset capital expenditures for the borough all while enhancing the operational abilities of the fire department. These grants include an American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant of \$34,000 for Personal Protective (PPE), a \$25,000 grant for Firefighter Personal Harnesses & Escape Systems from FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, and \$75,000 for the purchase of a dive rescue truck from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

In June, Mayor and Council hosted an Employee Appreciation Luncheon at the Bud Mullen Community Center for all Borough employees. Thank you for all that you do!



Bellmawr Fire, EMS & Police Receive Unit Citation for Machine Rescue

On October 22, 2022, Bellmawr Fire, EMS, and Police, along with additional automatic aid rescue resources from Camden County, were called to 370 Benigno Boulevard for a male with his arm trapped in an industrial paper machine. Crews worked for over an hour to disentangle the male's extremity from the machine, and they were successful in not just saving his life, but also his arm.

The Camden County Hero Scholarship Association awarded the following emergency responders for their courageous and diligent work for this incident; Capt. Tom Fowler, Capt. Harold Scriber, FF John Scarborough, FF Anthony DiMarco, EMT Scott Irwin Sr., EMT Victoria Straub, Sgt. Artie Tessier, and Patrolman Daniel Schmittinger.





Bellmawr Water Department Improvements



Water Main/Service Replacements:

The following water system improvements, water mains, and service connections will be installed on the following roadways:

- Adams Avenue from Howard Avenue to 26 Adams Avenue.
- Colonial Road from Midway Lane to Bell Road.
- Warren Avenue from Carter Avenue to Center Avenue.

The scope of work comprises replacing the underground main water line, and individual utility service connections (water) and resurfacing the roadway. All residents will be notified in advance of work being performed by the contractor. Short delays in providing water are possible for residents in the area.

Please drive and walk cautiously near the construction zone while work is in progress.



Roadway Improvements



Bellmawr Industrial Park:

Bellmawr's commitment to roadway improvements continues with the reconstructions of the following roadways within the Bellmawr Industrial Park:

- Heller Place sidewalk installation, ADA ramps, and milling and paving of roadway.
- Heller Road sidewalk installation, ADA ramps, and milling and paving of roadway.
- Hall Avenue sidewalk installation, ADA ramps, milling, and paving of roadway.

The Borough received funding from the NJDOT Local Freight Impact Fund in 2021 and 2022 for these roadways and anticipates completion of the projects by the end of August 2023. Contractor: Lexa Concrete. Engineer: Bach Associates.

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 that are 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.



LOCAL ROADWAYS

McClelland Avenue from Creek Road to Logan Avenue reconstruction scheduled for June has been delayed by PSE&G due to the replacement of bare metal gas services. Funding has been obtained through a 2022 Community Development Block Grant administered by Camden County. We anticipate a September 2023 completion. Contractor: Earle Asphalt Company. Engineer: Bach Associates.

Devenney Drive Phase II from Princeton Avenue to Murray Avenue will be reconstructed in late summer 2023. The roadway will have ADA ramp installations, select curb, sidewalk, and apron construction along with milling and paving. This project has been funded through the FY 2023 NJDOT Trust Fund. Contractor: American Asphalt. Engineer: Bach Associates.

The 300 blocks of Union & Warren Avenues will be reconstructed in late Summer 2023. The roadways will have ADA ramp installations, along with select curb, sidewalk, and apron construction prior to milling and paving. The project has been funded through Bellmawr's 2023 Capital Improvement Fund. Contractor: American Asphalt. Engineer: Bach Associates.

East Maple Avenue reconstruction from Lewis Avenue to Braisington Avenue will begin in late Summer 2023. The roadway will have ADA ramp installations, along with select curb, sidewalk, and apron replacements followed by milling and paving. This project has been funded through Bellmawr's 2022 Capital Improvement Fund and will be completed utilizing Bellmawr Highway Division employees.

Maloney Court will be reconstructed in Fall 2023. The roadway will have ADA ramp installations, select curb, sidewalk, and apron replacements followed by milling and paving. This project has been funded through Bellmawr's 2022 Capital Improvement Fund and will be completed utilizing Bellmawr Highway Division employees.

Please be aware of active work zones in the areas listed. Residential and business notifications will be distributed by contractors or the Borough of Bellmawr.

Around Town



The newly created parking lot at Park Drive & Center Avenue.



Newly paved parking lot at the Florence Korostynski Memorial Dog Park at Market Street.



The newly installed water fountain at Sauter Park has a pet fountain feature at the bottom so our furry friends can also stay cool and hydrated. Please help keep our parks and equipment beautiful and enjoyable for everyone by watching and reporting vandalism if you see it.



Removal of temporary PFNA system from Warren Avenue Water Treatment Facility.



Have you noticed that the wildflowers that were planted around town last year are in full bloom this year? Not only are they beautiful, but they attract pollinators – such as bees and butterflies.

HUNGER FIGHTING HERO

In March, Bellmawr resident Rachel Ann Salerno was honored at the Zallies ShopRite of Laurel Springs as a “Hunger Fighting Hero.” Rachel and several colleagues had the distinction of having their pictures placed on special edition Cheerios boxes. Rachel is a front-end cashier who always has a smile on her face and goes the extra mile for customers.



Rachel Ann Salerno (right) is pictured with co-worker Tanaya Holmes (left), of Sicklerville, at the unveiling event.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

2023 COLLECTION EVENTS*

CAMDEN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

NO BUSINESSES OR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WILL BE ACCEPTED

HOURS: 8:30AM - 3:00PM - RAIN OR SHINE

***SEPTEMBER 23: PENNSAUKEN**

CAMDEN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 2311 EGG HARBOR ROAD

***OCTOBER 14: LINDENWOLD**

SANITARY LANDFILL 9600 N. RIVER ROAD

WHAT TO BRING

Automotive

Antifreeze
Brake Fluid
Car Batteries
Car Wax and Polish
Carburetor Cleaner
Degreasers
Diesel Fuel
Engine Starting Fluid
Gasoline
Grease
Lead-Acid Batteries
Motor Oil
Power Steering Fluid
Transmission Fluid

Paint-Related Products

Cresote
Driveway Sealer
Epoxies
Linseed Oil
Oil-Based Paint
Paint Strippers
Paint Thinners
Primers
Pruning Paint

Paint-Related Products cont.

Resins
Shellac
Solvent-Based Paint
Spray Paint
Stains
Turpentine
Varnish
Water Sealer

Household Cleaners

Aluminum Cleaners
Bleach
Cesspool Cleaners
Disinfectants
Drain Opener
Dry-Cleaning Solvents
Floor Wax
Furniture Polish
Lye
Metal Polish
Oven Cleaner
Rug & Upholstery Cleaner

Pesticides/Lawn Care

Baygon
Chlorodane
Diazinon
Dursban
DDT
Fertilizers
Flea Collars/Spray
Fungicides
Herbicides
Insecticides
Lindane
Malathion
Moth Balls/Crystals
Mouse & Rat Poison
Pyrethrins
Strychnine
Stump Killer
Weed Killer
Wood Preservatives

Fuels

Camping Fuel
Gasoline
Kerosene
Lighter Fluid

Personal Care

Fingernail Polish & Remover
Hair Coloring
Hydrogen Peroxide
Iodine
Mercury Thermometers

Home and Hobby

Chemistry Kits
Cutting Oil
Fluorescent Bulbs
Glues and Adhesives
Gun Cleaning Solvents
Mercury Thermostats
Pool Chemicals
Propane Tanks
(25 LB & under)

QUESTIONS?

Call (856) 858-5241
for more information

WHAT NOT TO BRING

ACETYLENE/CO₂ TANKS

AIR CONDITIONERS
CEMENT/CEMENT MIX
COOKING OIL

EMPTY CONTAINERS
FIBERGLASS INSULATION
HEATING OIL TANKS

HELIUM/OXYGEN TANKS
JOINT COMPOUND
LANDSCAPE TIMBERS

MEDICATIONS
SCRAP METAL
SMOKE DETECTORS

TIRES

* INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DAY(S) OF EVENT(S):

- All residents must show proof of residency.
- All residents must remain in their vehicles throughout the event.
- All materials to be dropped off should be placed in the rear cargo area of the vehicle (not in the passenger seating area).

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Making It Better, Together.



13TH ANNUAL OCTOBERFEST

Bellmawr's Annual Octoberfest will be Saturday, October 21st from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center. Bring your family and join your friends for a day of activities that include a car show, live music, food trucks, a corn hole tournament, beer garden, amusement rides, pony rides, and more! To cap off the night, there will be a dazzling firework display at dusk! Vendor space is available. Call 856-933-1313. Rain date is Sunday, October 22nd.

How Well Do You Know Your Town?

In the last edition, we asked if you remembered where the Anthony Infanti Bellmawr Branch of the Camden County Library used to be located before it moved to its present location.

Answer: It was formerly located in the lower level of Borough Hall, sharing space with the Bellmawr Police Department.

THIS EDITION'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

In 2018, a new street was added in Bellmawr. Do you know its name?

Hint: It is on the west side of town.