

To: BZA/PRC

From: Cathi Spaugy, Community Development Administrator

Date: December 9, 2025

Subject: Staff Report -BZA Case -2025-BZA-04: 3777 Upper Bellbrook Rd.

Summary of the Request

The applicant, Golden Rule Signs/Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District (Bell Creek Intermediate School) is proposing the installation of a new permanent freestanding ground sign. The sign is aluminum and polycarbonate construction with an ID cabinet and electronic message board. The sign dimensions are 96" H x 96" W, total square feet = 64. The sign height from ground to the top of the sign is 8'.

The Zoning Code 18.20A - (d) (1) Signs for Institutional Usage states one detached ground sign, not to exceed thirty-six square feet per side or seventy-two (72) square feet total sign area, or six (6) feet in height. Such signs may be illuminated. The proposed sign meets the square footage requirement but exceeds the height requirement.

The BZA/PR should consider the recommendation for the installation of a new permanent free-standing sign.

Applicant Information

Golden Rule Signs/Bellbrook Sugarcreek School District

Current Zoning District

R-1A One Family Residential

Parcel Identification

L35-0001-0004-0-0001-00

Additional Actions or Next Steps to be taken by the City

Upon approval by the BZA/PRC, the City will issue the Certificate of Zoning.

Applicant's Reason for the Request

The applicant wishes to install a new permanent freestanding ground sign that exceeds the requirements of the Zoning Code.

Surrounding Land Use within 1,000 Feet

Single-family residential. Planned Residential, Agricultural

Previous Related Development Decisions in the Immediate Area (3-5 Years)

N/A

Comprehensive Plan Applied to the Geographical Area

The Comprehensive plan encourages design that improves physical appearance.

Existing Public Utilities

Water, Gas, Electric, Sanitary Sewer

Soil Survey Data

N/A

Classification of Streets, Traffic Volumes & Direction, Planned Improvements

N/A

Flood Plain Information

N/A

Comments from City and County Agencies

The Community Development Administrator has reviewed the permit application and has no concerns.

Supporting Maps & Graphics

See attached

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the BZA/PRC consider the project.



Notice of Public Hearing

The Bellbrook Board of Zoning Appeals
will conduct a public hearing on
Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers (second floor)
15 East Franklin Street, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305.

BZA Case #25-04: 3777 Upper Bellbrook Rd.

The Bellbrook Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on a variance request for 3777 Upper Bellbrook Rd. The variance request of the Bellbrook Zoning Code Section 18.20A(Permitted Signs - General) is for the installation of a new permanent ground sign for Bell Creek Intermediate School that will exceed the maximum square foot total sign area and maximum height requirement.

If you have questions, please contact the City of Bellbrook Community Development

Department at (937) 848.4666 or cathi@bellbrook.gov

This publication was mailed December 1, 2025



DATE RECEIVED 11 / 20 / 2025

CITY OF BELLBROOK

APPLICATION FOR ZONING VARIANCE

15 EAST FRANKLIN STREET, BELLBROOK, OHIO 45305 (937) 848-4666 <u>WWW.CITYOFBELLBROOK.ORG</u>

APPLICATION #____

2025-252

| PROPERTY OWNER Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local School District PHONE NUMBER 937-848-3757 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| OWNER ADDRESS 3777 Uppe | r Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH | | | | |
| APPLICANT NAME Golden Ru | e Signs | PHONE NUMBER 502-416-1999 | | | |
| APPLICANT ADDRESS 1083 Brod | oks Industrial Rd. Shelbyville, KY 40 | 0065 | | | |
| APPLICANT EMAIL heather@go | Idenrulesigns.com | | | | |
| REQUEST INFORMAT | ON | | | | |
| PROPERTY ADDRESS 3777 Upp | er Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH | ZONING DISTRICT | | | |
| SUBDIVISION | Lot Numi | BER PARCEL ID | | | |
| DESCRIBE THE GENERAL NATUR | RE OF THE VARIANCE Bell Creek In | termediate School would like to install a new freestanding sign, | | | |
| with an ID cabinet and electron | nic message board, that is larger tha | an the regulations allow. | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| - | | | | | |
| SEE THE REVERSE OF THIS PA | GE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | N TO BE INCLUDED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR ZONING VARIANCE. | | | |
| VARIANCE, OR EXCEPTION FROM AI APPROVAL OF THIS APPLICATION DOE | NY OTHER CITY REGULATIONS WHICH AR S NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL OF A BUILD | UTE APPROVAL FOR ANY ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RE NOT SPECIFICALLY THE SUBJECT OF THIS APPLICATION. I UNDERSTAND THA DING OCCUPANCY PERMIT. I UNDERSTAND FURTHER THAT I REMAIN RESPONSIBL | | | |
| | NY PRIVATE RESTRICTIONS OR COVENANTS | | | | |
| AND BELIEF. I UNDERSTAND THAT TH REVOCATION OF THIS ZONING CERTIF | E CITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INACCURA ICATE AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY. I FURT | WITH THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDG ACIES IN INFORMATION PRESENTED, AND THAT INACCURACIES MAY RESULT IN TH THER CERTIFY THAT I AM THE OWNER OR PURCHASER (OR OPTION HOLDER) OF TH THORIZED BY THE OWNER TO MAKE THIS SUBMISSION. | | | |
| I CERTIFY THAT STATEMENTS MADE T ATTEMPTED TO REQUEST EVERYTHIN | O ME ABOUT THE TIME IT TAKES TO REVIEV G NECESSARY FOR AN ACCURATE AND COI | W AND PROCESS THIS APPLICATION ARE GENERAL. I AM AWARE THAT THE CITY HA IMPLETE REVIEW OF MY PROPOSAL; HOWEVER, AFTER MY APPLICATION HAS BEEI IY FOR THE CITY TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION. | | | |
| I HEREBY CERTIFY, UNDER PENALTY O | PERJURY, THAT ALL THE INFORMATION PF | ROVIDED ON THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT. | | | |
| | | DATE 11 / 20 / 2025 | | | |
| APPLICANT SIGNATURE | | | | | |
| APPLICANT SIGNATURE | OFFICE | USE ONLY | | | |
| APPLICATION FEE \$ 260 | OFFICE PAYMENT TYPE CASH CHECK # 6769 | | | | |

STAFF USE

AMENDING THE ZONING CODE

A. Procedures and Requirements for Variances (Zoning Code 20.13)

TO VARY THE STRICT APPLICATION OF ANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDINANCE IN THE CASE OF EXCEPTIONALLY IRREGULAR, NARROW, SHALLOW OR DEEP LOTS, OR OTHER EXCEPTIONAL PHYSICAL CONDITIONS, WHEREBY SUCH STRICT APPLICATION WOULD RESULT IN PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY OR UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP - NOT ECONOMIC IN NATURE — THAT WOULD DEPRIVE THE OWNER OF REASONABLE USE OF THE LAND OR BUILDING INVOLVED BUT IN NO OTHER CASE. THE FACT THAT ANOTHER USE WOULD BE MORE PROFITABLE IS NOT A VALID BASIS FOR LEGALLY GRANTING A VARIANCE. NO NONCONFORMING USE OF NEIGHBORING LANDS, STRUCTURES, OR BUILDINGS IN THE SAME DISTRICT, AND NO PERMITTED USE OF LANDS, STRUCTURES OR BUILDINGS IN OTHER DISTRICTS SHALL BE CONSIDERED GROUNDS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A VARIANCE. THE VARIANCE REQUESTED SHALL NOT ALTER THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF THE LOCALITY, NOR BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN. IN MAKING THIS DETERMINATION, THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS SHALL BE ADVISED BY THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD. IN CASES INVOLVING PROPERTIES SITUATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE DISTRICT, AS DEFINED BY ARTICLE 14, SECTION 14.02 OF THE BELLBROOK ZONING CODE, THE VILLAGE REVIEW BOARD SHALL, WHEN POSSIBLE, MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF THE VARIANCE REQUEST.

B. Application and Standards for Variances (Zoning Code 20.13.2)

A VARIANCE FROM THE TERMS OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL NOT BE GRANTED BY THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS UNLESS AND UNTIL A WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE IS SUBMITTED TO THE ZONING INSPECTOR AND THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS CONTAINING:

- a) NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS;
- b) Legal description of property; and a site plan based on an accurate survey showing existing and/or future building locations and the locations of buildings on adjacent properties. This site plan should be prepared by a registered surveyor attesting to the accuracy of same;
- c) DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF VARIANCE REQUESTED;
- d) Variances from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance shall be granted only where the property owner shows that the application of a zoning requirement to the property is inequitable causing the property owner practical difficulties in the use of the property. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) WHETHER THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION WILL YIELD A REASONABLE RETURN OR WHETHER THERE CAN BE ANY BENEFICIAL USE OF THE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE VARIANCE;
 - 2) Whether the variance is substantial;
 - 3) WHETHER THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED OR WHETHER ADJOINING PROPERTIES WOULD SUFFER A SUBSTANTIAL DETRIMENT AS A RESULT OF THE VARIANCE;
 - 4) WHETHER THE VARIANCE WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES SUCH AS WATER, SANITARY SEWER OR GARBAGE REMOVAL;
 - 5) WHETHER THE PROPERTY OWNER PURCHASED THE PROPERTY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ZONING RESTRICTION;
 - 6) WHETHER THE PROPERTY OWNER'S PREDICAMENT FEASIBLY CAN BE OBVIATED THROUGH SOME METHOD OTHER THAN A VARIANCE; AND
 - 7) WHETHER THE SPIRIT AND INTENT BEHIND THE ZONING REQUIREMENT WOULD BE OBSERVED AND SUBSTANTIAL JUSTICE DONE BY GRANTING THE VARIANCE. THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE, AFTER AND WEIGHING THE FACTORS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND ANY OTHER FACTORS THE BOARD DEEMS RELEVANT, WHETHER THE PROPERTY OWNER HAS SHOWN PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES SO INEQUITABLE AS TO JUSTIFY GRANTING A VARIANCE TO THE PROPERTY OWNER.
- C. THE BOARD ASKS THE APPLICANT TO ANSWER ITEMS 1-7 ABOVE IN WRITING TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS APPLICATION.



CITY OF BELLBROOK

ZONING PERMIT - SIGNS

15 EAST FRANKLIN STREET, BELLBROOK, OHIO 45305 (937) 848-4666 <u>www.cityofbellbrook.org</u>

| DATE RECEIVED 11 12 | 0 1 2025 | STAFF USE | APPLICATION #_ | 2025-252 | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| APPLICANT INFORMA | ATION | | | of the second | | |
| PROPERTY ADDRESS 3777 | Upper Bellbrook | Rd., Bellbr | rook, OH | ZONING DISTRICT | | |
| PROPERTY OWNER Bellbroom | ok-Sugarcreek L | ocal Schoo | District PHONE NUM | MBER 937-848-3757 | | |
| APPLICANT NAME Golden | | | | MBER _502-416-1999 | | |
| APPLICANT EMAIL_heather | r@goldenrulesig | ns.com | | | | |
| REQUEST INFORMAT | ION | | | | | |
| BUSINESS NAME Bell Cre | ek Intermediate | School | | | | |
| BUSINESS MAILING ADDRESS 3777 Upper Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH | | | | | | |
| SIGN REQUEST NEW PERMANENT SIGN ☑ SIGN REFACE ☐ TEMPORARY ☐ OTHER ☐ | | | | | | |
| SIGN TYPE GROUND PROJECTING □ ROOF □ WALL □ SANDWICH BOARD □ BANNER □ OTHER □ | | | | | | |
| SIGN DIMENSIONS HEIGHT 8 ft WIDTH 6 ft AREA 48 SQUARE FEET BUILDING FRONTAGE 497 LINEAR FEET | | | | | | |
| SIGN LOCATION FRONT YARD ✓ SIDE YARD □ REAR YARD □ SIGN HEIGHT 11 ft FEET (FROM GROUND TO TOP OF SIGN) | | | | | | |
| SIGN MATERIALS aluminur | | | | | | |
| Additional Comments | | | 11 | 1/4- | | |
| · | | | | | | |
| PLEASE PROVIDE AN ILLUSTRATION Y | WHICH INCLUDES A COLOR | RENDERING OF THI | E SIGN AND THE LOCATION OF | F THE SIGN ON THE BUILDING AND/OR PROPERTY. | | |
| VARIANCE, OR EXCEPTION FROM A | NY OTHER CITY REGULATION ES NOT CONSTITUTE APPRO | ONS WHICH ARE N | NOT SPECIFICALLY THE SUBJE OG OCCUPANCY PERMIT. I UNI | NISTRATIVE REVIEW, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ECT OF THIS APPLICATION, I UNDERSTAND THAT DERSTAND FURTHER THAT I REMAIN RESPONSIBLE Y. | | |
| AND BELIEF. I UNDERSTAND THAT TH | HE CITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FICATE AS DETERMINED BY T | E FOR INACCURACIE THE CITY. I FURTHEI | ES IN INFORMATION PRESENT R CERTIFY THAT I AM THE OW | AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE ED, AND THAT INACCURACIES MAY RESULT IN THE INER OR PURCHASER (OR OPTION HOLDER) OF THE KE THIS SUBMISSION. | | |
| ATTEMPTED TO REQUEST EVERYTHIN | IG NECESSARY FOR AN ACC | URATE AND COMPI | LETE REVIEW OF MY PROPOS | ON ARE GENERAL. I AM AWARE THAT THE CITY HAS AL; HOWEVER, AFTER MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN ITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION. | | |
| I HEREBY CERTIFY, UNDER PENALTY O | F PERJURY, THAT ALL THE IN | NFORMATION PROV | /IDED ON THIS APPLICATION IS | TRUE AND CORRECT. | | |
| APPLICANT SIGNATURE | | | | DATE 11 / 20 / 2025 | | |
| The The Control of th | LILL DELF HERD E. | OFFICE US | SE ONLY | | | |
| PERMIT FEE | PAYMENT TYPE | | | EW AUTHORITY | | |
| \$ 50 | CASH CHECK | # 6768 | ADMINISTRATIV | VE BZA ■ VRB □ | | |
| APPROVED DENIED APPROVED-CONDITIONS | STAFF SIGNATURE_ | | | DATE/ | | |

REGULATION OF SIGNS

A. PURPOSE

THE CITY'S SIGN REGULATIONS EXIST TO PROTECT EACH PERSON'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, CONVENIENCE, COMFORT, PROSPERITY, AND GENERAL WELFARE. THE CODE REGULATES THE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER IN WHICH SIGNS ARE DISPLAYED TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:

- a) PERMIT NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS ON ANY PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY.
- b) PERMIT SIGNS, WHICH DO NOT CREATE A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY.
- c) PERMIT COMMERCIAL SIGNS APPROPRIATE TO THE LAND USE AND/OR ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF EACH PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY.
- d) CREATE A MORE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING CITY.
- e) Eliminate visual clutter with the city.

B. PERMIT REQUIRED

NO BUILDING OR OTHER STRUCTURE SHALL BE ERECTED, MOVED, ADDED TO, STRUCTURALLY ALTERED, NOR SHALL ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE OR LAND BE ESTABLISHED OR CHANGED IN USE WITHOUT A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE ZONING INSPECTOR. ZONING PERMITS SHALL BE ISSUED ONLY IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE UNLESS THE ZONING INSPECTOR RECEIVED A WRITTEN ORDER FROM THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OR FROM THE CITY COUNCIL, AS PROVIDED BY THIS ORDINANCE.

C. PERMITTED SIGNS (ZONING CODE: 18.20 A)

- a) This section regulates signs in each zoning district of the City outside of the Old Village District.
- b) Sign requests that do not meet the standards of the code can be granted a variance. A variance must be requested by the applicant and would need approval by the Bellbrook Board of Zoning Appeals before a Zoning Permit can be issued.

D. PERMITTED SIGNS (OLD VILLAGE DISTRICT) (ZONING CODE: 18.20 B)

- a) This section regulates signs in the Old Village District.
- b) ALL SIGN REQUESTS FOR PROPERTIES IN THE OLD VILLAGE DISTRICT MUST BE APPROVED BY THE BELLBROOK VILLAGE REVIEW BOARD BEFORE A ZONING PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED.
- C) SIGN REQUESTS THAT DO NOT MEET THE STANDARDS OF THE CODE CAN BE GRANTED A VARIANCE. A VARIANCE MUST BE REQUESTED BY THE APPLICANT AND WOULD NEED A RECOMMENDATION BY THE BELLBROOK VILLAGE REVIEW BOARD AND APPROVAL BY THE BELLBROOK BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS BEFORE A ZONING PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED.

(3) Wall Sign:

Only one (1) wall sign shall be permitted on each dwelling unit and each sign shall not exceed one (1) square foot. The wall sign may bear any non-commercial message or a commercial message pertaining to a commercial activity lawfully conducted on the premises.

(d) Signs for Institutional Uses:

Any school, house of worship, recreation center or other institutional use, including the Old Village District, may have the same signage allowed for any other use in the same zoning district in which it is located or the signs listed in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), in this subsection:

- (1) One (1) detached ground sign, not to exceed thirtysix (36) square feet per side or seventy-two (72) square feet total sign area, or six (6) feet in height. Such signs may be illuminated;
- (2) The number of wall signs shall be limited to one per each wall of the building and the total combined area of all wall signs shall not exceed one (1) square foot of sign area per linear foot of building frontage; and
- (3) Signs conforming to the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and containing no commercial message are permitted in required off-street parking areas.

(e) Temporary Subdivision Signs:

As a temporary use accessory to the permitted activity of lawful subdivision development, one temporary sign per subdivision is permitted. There shall in no case be more than one (1) such sign for each fifty (50) lots in a proposed subdivision. Such sign shall not be illuminated and shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per side, or sixty-four (64) square feet total sign area. Such signs shall be removed upon the sale of ninety percent (90%) of the lots in the subdivision.

Pg: 1

Scope of Work:

Electronic Message Center (EMC):

- 15mm, 80 x 160, 4'-0" x 8'-0", Double Cellular with Lifetime Data
- (2) USMB-G3

Fabrication:

Standard ID Cabinet

Aluminum stick/extrusion frame, skin painted, 1.5" retainers, saddle mount

Pole Skirt

Stick-weld frame, aluminum skin .063", painted, removable panel

Vented Side Covers

(2) .063" aluminum, painted, routed holes for venting with VHB tape per plan

Faces

(2) Clear poly-carbonate face, 2nd surface digital print

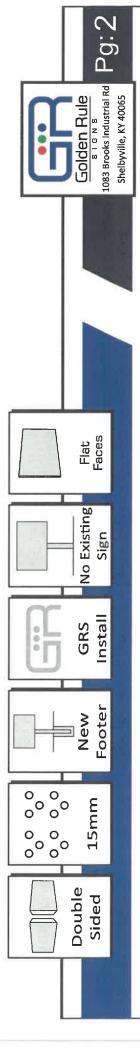
Structural:

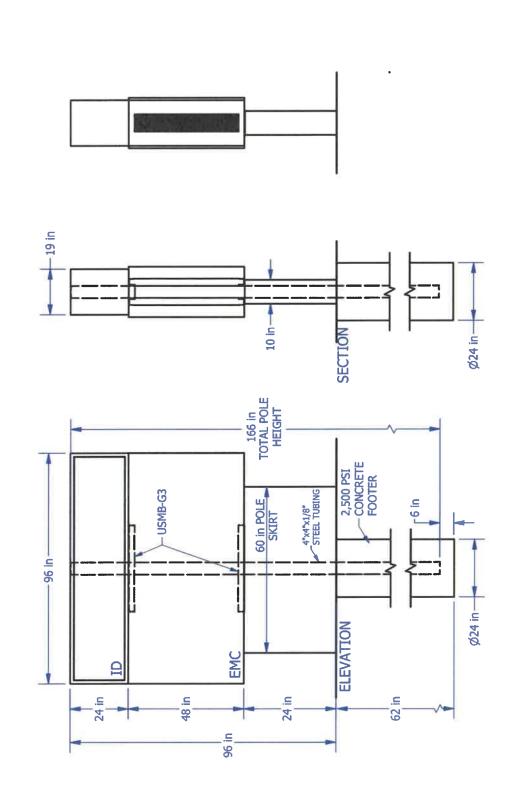
- Steel tube per drawings New Concrete Caisson, 2,500 PSI

- Receive and inspect sign from GRS
- Remove and dispose of existing signage
 - Dig footer, pour concrete, set pole
- Mount and attach sign per drawings
- Connect sign to existing power (to be ran by others)
 - Mount and connect Cellular antennas

** Take completion photos.**

** Remove and/or level out any excess spoils.** ** Leave a clean job site.**





Fabrication Paint Color



Cabinet PMS Color:
PANTONE 518 C
Powdercoat RAL 4007



240 volts

LIGHT SENSOR

& DISCONNECT

10 amps

Designated Circuit(s) National Electric Code requires that lines not exceed 80% load of any one circuit.

Attach Grounding Wires To Each Cabinet

Attach Grounding Wire To Cabinet

Attach Grounding Wire To Cabinet

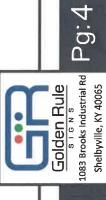






All ID Cabinet electrical components to be wide range power to serve up to 240 volts





ID CABINET POWER WHIP

SECONDARY EMC WHIP

CLIENT PROVIDED PRIMARY

PRIMARY EMC WHIP

Cellular 6GA. COPPER AND 1/2" ROD X6'



