



Village of  
**BELLWOOD**  
Your Family Is Our Future

APRIL 2017

# Update



## Thank You After 16 Years of Service and Teamwork

In my final newsletter message after 16 years as mayor, I offer a heartfelt "Thank You" to our residents and to every member, past and present, of my administration. You have shared my commitment to always put Bellwood first.

Since being elected in 2001, it has been an honor and privilege to lead Bellwood in making life better for our youth, adults and seniors. Together we have reached significant accomplishments that have enabled me to transition into retirement with a sense of "promises made, promises kept." Along with the professionalism and persistence from Clerk Lena Moreland, we improved every aspect of our wonderful village. My service to you was improved because of her service to Bellwood. I'm grateful that she was on my team and wish her the best as she joins me in her well-deserved retirement.

In the village's 2017 calendar, we highlighted many of the new and improved special events, youth initiatives, economic development and capital improvement projects that made Bellwood the place where "Your Family Is Our Future." My goals included developing a village that families can be proud of by paving every alley in town; installing new lighting; building new, modern housing; opening a facility just for our teens; carefully managing our budget and tax base; completing major infrastructure projects on time and within budget; improving police and fire services; and bringing new businesses to town.

I sincerely thank each of you for your active support, feedback and ideas over the years. You provided me with fond memories and we made real accomplishments through teamwork. I am humbled by the kind words and expressions of appreciation I've received since announcing my retirement. It was my honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Pasquale

## A Warm Farewell From Clerk Lena M. Moreland

I believe "service" best describes my 35-career working for Bellwood, including the last 16 years as village clerk. My focus was always to be of service to our residents and to treat people the way I want to be treated.



I'm proud of what we accomplished for our residents and I appreciate the support of the many people who have worked for and with me. Your support and volunteer efforts were always important and needed, and we couldn't have moved the village forward without you.

I have valued working closely with Mayor Pasquale, whose commitment to Bellwood matched mine. It was an honor to serve in his administration, and I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.

I'm proud of my role in managing and creating well-received special events and programs, including the Annual Family Day Picnic, Senior Valentine Ball, Summer Youth Work Program and the PACE bus program for seniors, among others. While I'm looking forward to retirement, I still plan to serve by lending my experience whenever it's needed.

My rewarding career as clerk and more has been so much more than serving as the official record keeper and historian. I trust that my service, professionalism and friendship will stand the test of time. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon because Bellwood will still be my home ... and a special place for my family.

Yours in Faith,

Lena M. Moreland

## Special Presentations Highlight Black History Month Celebration

In front of a packed gymnasium on Feb. 26 at the Eisenhower Community Center, Bellwood residents celebrated African-American history and witnessed special presentations to retiring Mayor Frank A. Pasquale and Clerk Lena M. Moreland.

In addition to musical, dance and spoken word performances, elected officials, including Cong. Danny Davis, Sen. Kimberly Lightford and Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown, congratulated and thanked the mayor and clerk with proclamations, plaques and other gifts. Letters of recognition from Sen. Dick Durbin also were presented along with a proclamation from Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough.

Rep. Chris Welch and Rep. Kathleen Willis surprised the mayor by announcing that the new 25th Avenue bridge will be renamed after him in recognition of bringing the project to reality.

Performances included those by students from Freedom Baptist Church; Proviso West Interpretive Praise Dancers; Lincoln, MECA Elementary, McKinley, Thurgood Marshall and Grant schools; the Roosevelt Middle School Combined Band and the Memorial Park Spartans Dance Team. A video presentation highlighted the history-making legacy of former President Barack Obama and the mayor and clerk.





## Meet Trustee MC Robinson

*Along with the mayor, the Board of Trustees acts as the village's corporate authorities and exercise municipal powers that have not been specifically delegated to another office or board. Bellwood's six trustees form the legislative body. They are elected from the village at large to four-year terms. Each of the current six trustees are being featured in the Update.*



**Trustee MC Robinson**

Arkansas native and 14-year Bellwood Trustee MC Robinson demonstrates the same passion today for the village as he did when first elected in 2003 as evident in his roles around the village. Robinson has served on various village committees, including previously chairing the Public Safety, Finance and Quality of Life committees; he currently chairs the Administration committee.

He is a member of the Advisory Council of Age Options and since 1992 has served on the board of the Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund. He is a strong supporter of the Police department and the Community Policing program, and has been a block watch captain since 1985.

The certified tool and die maker was elected for 20 consecutive years by his co-workers as chairman of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Union. Commonly known as the "people's trustee," Robinson is a familiar face around town and connects with residents at village and Memorial Park District events.

## Fire Department Welcomes Two New Firefighters

Wade Overton's drive to become a Bellwood firefighter came from his love of helping people. He enjoys solving problems, working with his hands and being a part of team. Overton loves football and traveling, and in his spare time enjoys quality time with his significant other and his dogs.

At a young age, Eric Jahnke wanted a job in public service because

it would allow him to advocate for others. He enjoys the spontaneity of fire service and knowing that each day brings new experiences. His ultimate goal was to pursue a career that he could be proud of and be held to a high standard by his community and peers. Jahnke enjoys spending time with his family and friends, and watching and playing football and basketball. He likes adventurous activities like skydiving and white water rafting.



*New Bellwood firefighters recently sworn in (from left) Eric Jahnke, Wade Overton and James Holloway.*

## Support The Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund

Since 1992, through donations from businesses and individuals, the Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund has provided more than \$350,000 in scholarships to 100 plus college students. On April 22 the volunteer board members will present the second annual walkathon at The Center at Stevenson Park to raise funds to support deserving students.

"I have been a Bellwood Scholarship recipient for three years and consider it a blessing to have my community support my educational endeavor. I use the money from the scholarship to pay for my books and school supplies. I am truly grateful and humble to receive the Bellwood Scholarship," said Chanel T. Brown, a biology major at Missouri Baptist University and current scholarship recipient.

"As a resident of Bellwood, I am grateful for the support it gives its college-bound students to help advance their education. A major in engineering requires a higher tuition than most other majors. Receiving financial assistance from the scholarship fund allowed me to attain my career goal to be an engineer," said Joslyn Matt, past scholarship recipient and now a software engineer at Vail Systems.

## Attend Informative Reverse Mortgages Seminar

Bellwood residents can learn about reverse mortgage loans at a presentation on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bellwood Village Hall. Homeowners who may be considering a reverse mortgage loan will get:

- A detailed explanation of the mechanics of a reverse mortgage loan
- A review of the 2015 Illinois Reverse Mortgage Act
- A comparison of pros and cons of reverse mortgages versus the advantages and disadvantages of various financial alternatives

## april calendar

|    |  |     |                                   |
|----|--|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 3  | Yard Waste/Branch Pickup Begins                  | 14* | Good Friday                       |
| 4  | Election Day                                     | 16  | Easter                            |
| 9  | Palm Sunday                                      | 20  | Neighborhood Watch Meeting 7 p.m. |
| 10 | Secretary of State Mobile Unit, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | 26  | Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.     |

\*Village Hall closed



# 2017

## Summer Youth Work Program

Applications will be distributed **ONLY** on:

**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2017  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Village Hall Community Room – Room 211



To apply you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a **BELLWOOD** resident
- You must be 14 – 16 years of age

To be considered you must return the **completed** application along with the following items:

- A **copy** of your Birth Certificate
- A **copy** of your Social Security Card
- A **current** Water Bill with your mother/father/legal guardian's name on the bill
- A **signed** Work Permit by the student/parent/legal guardian and an authorized official

Work permits for students 14-15 years old should be taken by the student and/or parent/legal guardian to be processed by an authorized official at Proviso West High School Office (main office) between April 24 – 27 and May 1 - 4 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All completed applications and the required documents must be returned to the Village Clerk's Office no later than Friday, May 5th by 5:00 p.m.

**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### IMPORTANT BELLWOOD CONTACTS

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Village Hall                    | (708) 547-3500 |
| Police/Fire/Ambulance Emergency | 911            |
| Police (non emergency)          | (708) 547-3528 |
| Police Anonymous Hotline        | (708) 544-5961 |
| Fire (non emergency)            | (708) 547-3525 |
| Water Bill (Billing Questions)  | (708) 547-3520 |
| Building Department             | (708) 547-3545 |
| Public Works Department         | (708) 547-3540 |
| Community Service               | (708) 649-3060 |
| Human Resources                 | (708) 547-3500 |
| TDD (hearing impaired)          | (708) 547-0011 |

