



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

MAY 2017

# Update



## Inaugural Message From Mayor Andre F. Harvey

I first want to thank the residents of Bellwood who cast their vote for me and all of the candidates in the Bellwood First Party: Village Clerk Janel Moreland and our re-elected trustees: Michael Ciavattone, Annie Delgado and Ron Nightengale. We

are grateful that voters have placed their confidence in us to lead the village to the brightest future possible.

I am proud and appreciative to have been elected the first African-American mayor of Bellwood, which has been my home for 48 years. My commitment to serve you is strengthened because of that important accomplishment. It's important to me to set an example to young African-American men that hard work and persistence will pay off if you set goals and stay focused.

Among the many areas I will focus on in my agenda are:

- continuing to produce a balanced budget and working to address the village's debt
- limiting village tax increases
- developing new residential housing
- promoting economic development on Mannheim Road, 25th Avenue and St. Charles Road
- addressing flooding issues
- upgrading our fire and police departments with the latest technology

For the past 29 years, I have worked in different capacities in Bellwood, including as the first African-American firefighter and fire chief, and as an emergency medical technician, public education specialist, fire investigator, peace officer and arson investigator. I always made decisions in the best interest of Bellwood. I often had a seat at the table when many important decisions were made about our village; decisions that directly affected our residents. Now as mayor, I will put Bellwood first by continuing the successful programs and services we now offer and the new initiatives we will introduce with an eye toward the future.

Like Mayor Frank A. Pasquale, whose leadership and mentorship I greatly value, I will keep open the lines of communication with



*Bellwood's new mayor was sworn in on April 26 by Judge Cheryl D. Ingram, presiding judge of the 4th Municipal District, as Mayor Harvey's wife, Naida, looked on.*

residents and business owners. For 16 years Mayor Pasquale was a passionate advocate for Bellwood and a committed leader who put the residents first. He set a standard that I am committed to maintaining with your input and participation.

Whether it's the mentoring program I created for troubled young men, the formation of the Lady Dribblers girls basketball/mentoring program to motivate youth or the Bellwood Teen Zone for youth to study and socialize under adult supervision, my commitment to our youth is one of my many priorities.

I'm energized and ready to work with and for our residents and business owners. With your support, and the encouragement of my wife, Naida, and our children, family and friends, I am more than prepared to work hard and smart to ensure that your family is our future in Bellwood.

## New Village Clerk Janel Moreland Shares Plans

Elected Bellwood village clerk in the April 4 consolidated election, 36-year Bellwood resident Janel Moreland is former assistant vice president and manager of Pan American Bank's branch on St. Charles Rd. – and no stranger to the village. Here she shares several plans for the clerk's office:

*(Continued on next page)*



**What are among your most significant priorities since being elected village clerk?**

I have had an opportunity to review ongoing initiatives and consider the following programs that I would like to focus on:

*Millennials* – I ran because I care about Bellwood and I will represent the youth and engage them in civic and public service life so that they see themselves as an important part of the decision making and want to get involved.

*Seniors and Veterans* – I will continue to advocate and provide the services and resources to ensure our seniors enjoy the quality life they deserve. My commitment is not only professional but personal, having been closely associated with many of them.

*Effective Communication* – Listening and addressing the concerns of all residents and business owners will ensure everyone’s voice is heard and appreciated. Taxpayers are paying for the public services that we provide. It is important for us to not only listen, but also to act on their concerns and suggestions.

**How can residents and business owners share their ideas and concerns with you?**

Residents and business owners must know their ideas and concerns are critically important, as the success and sustainability of the village depends on a collaborative approach. They can contact me at [jmoreland@vil.bellwood.il.us](mailto:jmoreland@vil.bellwood.il.us); at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1103; or through the village website: [www.vil.bellwood.il.us](http://www.vil.bellwood.il.us). They also can make an appointment to see me in person.

**What else would you like for residents and business owners to know?**

I don’t want my age as the defining aspect of my leadership qualities because being an effective village clerk is the same regardless of age. Having resided in the village for my entire life, I am not only vested but also passionate about the development, growth, sustainability and quality of life of the entire community. I will be the voice of the people and work diligently with the trustees and administrators to ensure that the residents and business owners’ concerns and suggestions are always at the forefront of the decision-making process. We are in this together, and together we can make a difference.



Recently retired Bellwood Mayor Frank A. Pasquale was honored by the Cook County Board of Commissioners for his service and accomplishments during 16 years in office. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle acknowledged the mayor’s success and outreach throughout the county, and was joined by the board, Bellwood Mayor Andre Harvey and others in congratulating the former mayor.

**Mayor Harvey Addresses Maywood Proviso Rotary**



The Maywood-Proviso chapter of Rotary International welcomed Mayor Andre Harvey as the luncheon keynote speaker at the club’s April 23 meeting. The mayor discussed the power of mentorship and how it saved his life. His remarks embodied Rotary’s motto “Service Above Self.” The mayor was welcomed by the club’s members and President Chief Val Talley and President-Elect Talei Thompson.

**Free Permits Available From The Building Department**

The Bellwood Building Department will offer free building permits for work performed in May, June and July. To receive a free permit, residents must not have any outstanding bills, tickets or fines with the Police, Finance or Building departments.



## Meet Bellwood Trustee Gloria Holman

*Bellwood Trustee Gloria Holman says, "My priorities are to continue to move our community forward so that we are financially responsible, present a balanced budget without tax increases, and attract residential developers to build new, larger homes so we can attract young families to raise their children in Bellwood as I have done."*



**Trustee Gloria Holman**

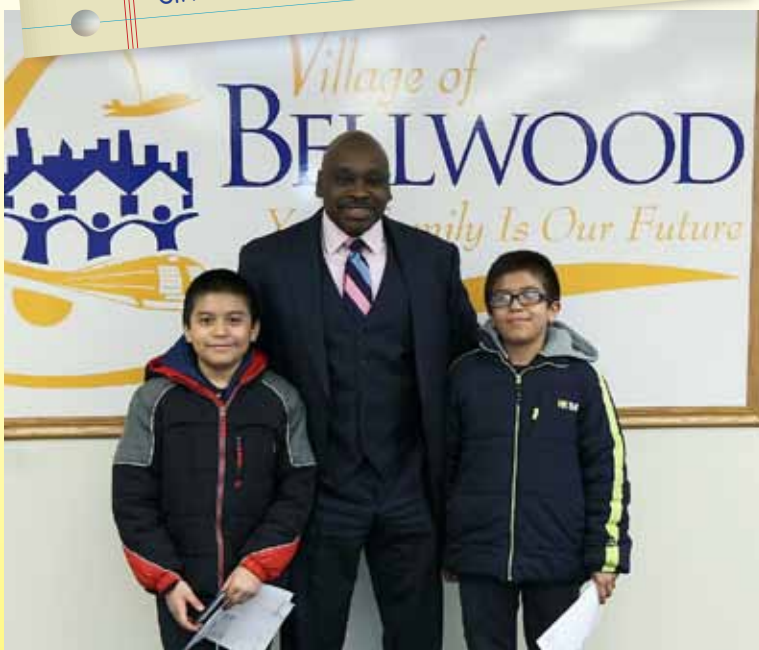
Her focus is on economic development on Mannheim Road, 25th Avenue and St. Charles Road as well as stemming flood issues. "I would like to see more intergovernmental partnerships with our surrounding villages, schools and park districts so we can share certain services and save tax dollars." Her agenda includes seeing that "our Police Department continues to educate residents and keeping the department equipped with the latest technology to keep us informed and safe."

She served on the Bellwood Planning Board for 10 years and contributed to developing the village's Comprehensive Plan. The trustee encourages residents to share their concerns with the trustees every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. - noon at the Village Hall.

A chairperson for the Annual Family Day Picnic's Entertainment Committee, the 32-year Bellwood resident has served on the Bellwood Scholarship Board and as an active block captain in the Neighborhood Watch program. Before taking early retirement to advocate for her son's education, Trustee Holman worked in the medical field for more than 19 years as a supervisor at Loyola University Medical Center. She has owned the Creative Mind Learning Center in Bellwood for the last 16 years.

### Gift Cards For A's Program

Bellwood Mayor Andre Harvey recently congratulated more than 40 Bellwood students who earned A's in English, math, reading, science and social studies in the first quarter during the Gift Card For A's program.



## Reverse Mortgage Workshop Presented By John Marshall Law School

Dennis Smith, adjunct professor and project manager of the John Marshall Law School's Fair Lending and Home Preservation Project, shared important information about reverse mortgages to Bellwood residents on March 23 at the Village Hall. Smith's presentation, funded by a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation, was titled "Reverse Mortgages: What the TV Ads Don't Tell You," and focused on how the loans for senior homeowners operate, and explained the pros and cons. He also described significant changes to the government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage reverse mortgage program that went into effect in 2015.



## We Want To Hear From You

The monthly Bellwood *Update* newsletter and village website ([www.vil.bellwood.il.us](http://www.vil.bellwood.il.us)) deliver important – and sometimes fun – information to and about the village's residents and business owners ... and we always want to hear from you! Send us stories about your family's accomplishments at work, in the community and in school to Bellwood Human Resources Director Tonita S. LeShore at [tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us](mailto:tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us) for consideration in the newsletter.

## may calendar

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|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Hydrant Flushing Begins<br>(Ends June 2)     | <b>8-12</b> Cleanup Week  |
| 2017-18 Vehicle Stickers Must<br>Be Displayed         | <b>14</b> Mother's Day  |
| <b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo                                | <b>17</b> Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.                           |
| <b>6</b> Memorial Park Youth Dance<br>Recital, 4 p.m. | <b>20</b> Memorial Park Community Garage Sale,<br>9 a.m. – 2 p.m. |
|   | <b>29*</b> Memorial Day   |
|   | *Village Hall closed  |



### 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

