



UPDATE



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK by Frank A. Pasquale

Thanks to all of you who called, and sent cards, flowers and well wishes during my recent but brief illness. The love that you displayed helped to make my recovery a quicker and smoother process.

Now, back to Bellwood's business. First, we hosted our annual 9/11 ceremony in front of the Village Hall and nearly 250 people attended the successful and moving event. In commemoration of the tragedy, the Village joined other cities around the nation to applaud the selfless heroism demonstrated that day and from firefighters, police officers, rescue workers, members of the National Guard, public servants and volunteers across the country.

Next, mark your calendar for Halloween on Oct. 31 as the Village will permit trick or treating from 3-7 p.m. For those of you who celebrate Halloween and host parties or take the children trick or

treating, exercise extreme care and caution. Children should be accompanied by parents, wear well-lit costumes and have all treats inspected before eating.

Finally, we are devoted to providing our residents and visitors with resources, services and information, which is why we encourage you to use Bellwood's official website at www.vil.bellwood.il.us. The site is a valuable gateway to the services we offer, including paying your water bill and traffic tickets. It also is a source of information about what's going on in Bellwood and makes communication easier between residents and Village staff.



Village Announces New Phase of "Computers For Bellwood" Program

More than 700 households in Bellwood can attest to the success of the Village's recently ended "Computers for Bellwood" program that offered residents rebates of up to \$200 after they bought a computer and certain computer accessories. The program contributed to children's ability to do homework and conduct research at home, among other things.

The program, which ended on June 30, also featured Bellwood supporting Best Buy's Melrose Park store as it managed the company's "Gift Card For A's" program in which Bellwood students in kindergarten through 6th grade received a \$5 gift card for each A they earned on their report card. Last school year, Best Buy issued nearly \$20,000 in gift cards to Bellwood students through the program.

To continue motivating youth to excel in school and to encourage the continued expansion of computer technology in the Village, Bellwood Mayor Frank A. Pasquale, Clerk Lena M. Moreland and the Village's trustees have approved a new program for youth who live in Bellwood or attend a school in the Village. Best Buy will continue the company's "Gift Card for A's" program and Bellwood will also offer another \$5 for each A on a student's report card, bringing the total award to \$10 for each A earned.

The program has been expanded and students in kindergarten through 8th grade can participate.

(Continued on the back)

IMPORTANT BELLWOOD PHONE NUMBERS

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) 547-3509

TDD (hearing impaired)
(708) 547-0011

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Gift cards will be issued for each A earned in one of the following subjects: art, computer technology, English, foreign language, health, math, music, physical education, reading, science, social studies and writing.

With the gift card from Bellwood, students can purchase educational products from Best Buy to help further their studies, including desktop computers, laptops, net books, printers, calculators, educational software, voice recorders and services offered by Best Buy's Geek Squad. A full list of eligible products is available by calling the Bellwood Resource Center at (708) 547-3631.

"We couldn't be more excited to continue offering this wonderful program to our students," said Mayor Pasquale. "We thought creatively and outside the box on ways to continue exposing our students to computer technology and how to motivate them to do their best in school. Based on the success of last year's program, we have high hopes that many more students will become even better performers in school."

In order to receive a gift card, each student, accompanied by a parent or guardian, must present the report card and an ID to prove residency to the Customer Service Desk at Best Buy in Melrose Park. Gift cards will be issued for the current grading period only and can only be presented once during each grading period.

Like last year, Best Buy representatives will visit the schools in Bellwood to announce the program and provide take-home materials for students. For more information about the program, call (708) 547-3631.

New 911 Service Protects The Disabled

The new Illinois Premise Alert Program allows families to contact their local police or fire department and provide information about a person who may need special attention in an emergency, for example a person with a developmental disability or special needs (e.g., a person who is deaf).

The program was signed into law on Aug. 28 and requires that if a 911 call center has the proper technology, it must accept information on people with disabilities and share that information with police, firefighters and paramedics in an emergency. Therefore, police will know in advance when they come upon a deaf person who won't hear their sirens and commands. In case of a fire, firefighters will know beforehand if a burning home contains a person who is disabled.

Bellwood's Fire and Police departments already accept and record this type of information from residents. To pick up a form or for more information, call Marty Anderson at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1515.

Update On Advancements For New Metra Station



Representatives from Bellwood met with representatives from the Union Pacific Railroad and Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad on Sept. 22 to discuss the status of the new consolidated Metra Station planned for the Village as well as discuss supportive regional rail projects.

The discussion included an on-site viewing of the Indiana Harbor Belt bridge that went into service on Sept. 12, and is the first piece of many of rail improvement projects. The completion of this project, which included a new rail line and bridge, represents tremendous strides toward the improvement to freight traffic through Chicagoland. More importantly, the improvements represent progress to Bellwood residents as the first of several improvements required to make the new Metra station a reality.

UP representatives also pointed out the completed bridge over Addison Creek, which is another important piece of the puzzle. The Village expects other important projects to be constructed by the end of 2009 and into 2010, including rail re-alignments, access roads, bridges and detention basin improvements, among others. Only when these projects are complete can the Metra station move forward as planned.

Since the approval of the new Metra station, workers from Union Pacific have been busy realigning the tracks. The new pedestrian-friendly station will feature retail stores, more spaces to park cars, a vehicle drop-off zone, dedicated cycle parking and added wheelchair access for people with disabilities.

Bellwood Mayor Frank A. Pasquale said: "An effective transportation system is essential to building a successful regional economy and this station will improve access to Bellwood, the region and beyond."

ComEd Recommends Bellwood As Pilot Community For Smart Meters

Bellwood's continued evolution as a hotbed of technology will get a shot in the arm when ComEd receives approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission to install "Smart Meters." ComEd has identified Bellwood as a community in which the meters would be introduced.

The new technology would allow consumers to monitor their electricity usage daily on the Internet rather than waiting until the end of the month billing cycle. The Smart Meter uses secure two-way communication to transfer the data. It will also help verify power outages and restoration. The meter is a building block in the effort to build a Smart Grid that is designed to enhance reliability, reduce costs and reduce carbon emissions.

As part of the pilot program, a select group of customers will be invited to test additional features that include alternative pricing plans for electricity, in-home energy displays and other energy management tools. The actual conversion to new meters requires no inconvenience to customers and would take place in November pending approval from the ICC. In very rare cases where the electric meter may be inside a home, ComEd will contact the customer to make an appointment for the conversion.

This pilot program will be the first step in a system-wide modernization of energy delivery and management. For more details visit www.ComEd.com. Bellwood is planning to host community meetings to provide residents with more information. Visit the Community Calendar on the Village's website at www.vil.bellwood.il.us and also look for information in the quarterly *Bellwood Community News* newsletter.

OCTOBER CALENDER

3	Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Eisenhower Community Center, 4-6 p.m.
4-10	National Fire Prevention Week
5-26	Annual Fire Safety Essay Contest (for 3rd graders)
12	Columbus Day
14	Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
15	Community Beat/Policing, Board Room, 7 p.m.
28	Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
31	Halloween



RECYCLING DATES
Oct. 14 & 28

