

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

As we celebrate Black History Month, we salute our firefighters, law enforcement professionals, and men and women in the military who risk their lives to ensure our freedom and provide a safe and stable community.

Let us remember the heroes and heroines who passed on in 2009, including retired University of Chicago professor and groundbreaking African-American historian John Hope Franklin; Chicago Public Schools President Michael Scott; Koko Taylor, Grammy-winning blues singer; "The King of Pop" Michael Jackson, and countless others.

Blacks have made substantial strides in the post-civil rights era. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who ran for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, brought unprecedented support and leverage to blacks in politics and as a pioneer the way was paved for our sitting

Black History
Month




President, Barack Obama, Douglas Wilder, who became the first African-American elected governor in U.S. history, and Carol Moseley-Braun, who became the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

Bellwood is proud to join with schools, businesses and citizens in remembering the struggles, sacrifices and successes as we celebrate Black History Month, which is important for all Americans. It is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of those who have come before us, and to renew our resolve to fight for freedom, justice and equality for all.


We look forward to seeing you at the Village's 6th Annual Senior Valentine Ball on Feb. 6 at the Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park. To purchase tickets, call (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1600. Don't forget to join us on Feb. 28 as the Village hosts its annual Black History Program at the Eisenhower Community Center in Hillside from 4 - 6 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month

West Suburban Senior Services will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of programs and activities at the Senior Citizen Center in Bellwood:




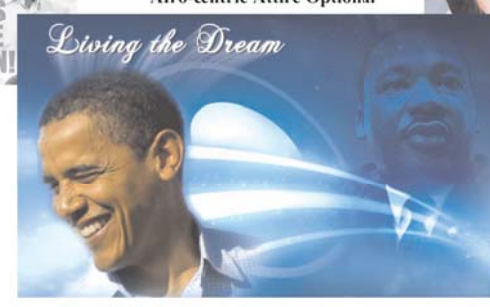


Proudly Presents its
Annual Black History Program
"REALIZING THE DREAM"



When: Sunday, February 28, 2010
Where: Eisenhower Community Center
700 Speechley Boulevard
Hillside, Illinois 60162
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Performances by
Proviso West Marching & Jazz Band,
Living Word Christian Academy,
MECA Elementary Christian School,
Bellwood School District 88 and 87
Afro-centric Attire Optional

- *Black Enterprise*, Feb. 8 at 10:30 - 11 a.m. - Mary McCroy will share how her cooking passion has expanded from her kitchen into a successful family-run business.

- *Local Civil Rights Pioneers*, Feb. 22 at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Geri Stenson of the West Town Museum of Cultural History in Maywood will introduce participants to individuals who were active in the civil rights movement in Proviso Township during the 1930s and '40s.

- *Movie Days*, The series begins Feb. 2 at 12:30 p.m. with "Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story," which chronicles the history of one of the largest and most successful black-owned companies in the country between 1959

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

Bellwood *Update* is published monthly by the Village of Bellwood, 3200 Washington Blvd. Bellwood, IL 60104
www.vil.bellwood.il.us

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and 1975. The label's artists included Otis Redding, Booker T and the MG's and Isaac Hayes. Laurence Fishburne stars in the second feature, "The Tuskegee Airmen," on Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m. The film is an exciting and accurate historical account of America's first black military airmen. The third selection is Tyler Perry's "I Can Do Bad by Myself" on Feb. 23 at 12:30 p.m.

- *Soul Food and Steppers Party*, Feb. 19 at 4:30 - 6 p.m. Catered by Southern Exposure Restaurant and Catering, the menu features two pieces of chicken (leg and thigh), spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, cornbread, pound cake and coffee. Cost: \$5.

25th Avenue Grade Separation Open House

Bellwood residents can express their opinion about the proposed construction of a grade separation on 25th Avenue at the Union Pacific/Metra railroad tracks. The West Cook Railroad Relocation and Redevelopment Authority will host a community open house on March 4 at the Hillside Best Western, 4400 Frontage Rd. in Hillside. Residents can view the proposed alternatives for the 25th Avenue grade separation and offer comments on how to proceed.

Beware of Solicitors By Bellwood Fire Chief Andre Harvey

My office has recently received several inquiries regarding an organization soliciting donations over the telephone. The caller gives the impression that he is seeking funds for the Bellwood Fire Department.

I want all Bellwood residents to know that the Bellwood Fire Department is not associated with the "Firefighters Charitable Foundation" of the "West Suburban Firefighters Association." This is not to say that these are not legitimate organizations; however, we do not endorse their solicitation efforts on behalf of our department.

Should any Bellwood resident be contacted by one of these organizations or any "fire department fund-raising organization," be advised that they are not authorized to solicit funds on behalf of the Bellwood Fire Department. Should you wish to donate to them, ask them to send you their literature so you can make an informed decision on whether you want to make a donation. Keep in mind that the money they raise is not used for any Bellwood Fire Department programs.

Feel free to call my office at (708) 547-3525 if you have questions or concerns.

Attention Parents

Has your child spent hours on a reading assignment and not been able to tell you what they read? Reading is a learning process. Many students are just reading words and not concentrating on learning the message or lesson. Comprehensive reading is essential to education. Reading fills their mind with lifelong materials of knowledge. Basically, we have four types of reading.

Improve Your Memory:

1. **Skimming** – skim the entire chapter to get the general idea of the lesson
2. **Rapid** – this is to review the main idea of the lesson
3. **Normal** – you are now looking for details and taking notes
4. **Careful** – this is done for evaluating and memorizing

Improve Your Reading Ability

1. **Begin by skimming the entire chapter** – get an overview of what to expect.
2. **Pay attention to the headlines, titles and chapter summary statements** – gives them a better understanding of the entire lesson.
3. **Ask them what they expect to learn from this assignment** – be positive.
4. **Schedule reading breaks to avoid losing concentration** – no marathons.
5. **Visualize what you are reading** – imagine pictures and be creative.
6. **Read out loud; therefore you hear the sound of the subject. This will slow down your reading for better comprehension.**
7. **Sit up straight or stand up when reading. Do not read in bed. Need I say more?**
8. **Underline or highlight words or ideas. This will create signals for reviewing and test taking.**
9. **After they read each page, stop and give a speech on what they read. Become a teacher and explain it.**

The next lesson will be on "Concentration In Class."

By Dr. Frank A. Pasquale, who each month will offer advice and ideas to parents and guardians to help your child achieve success in school.

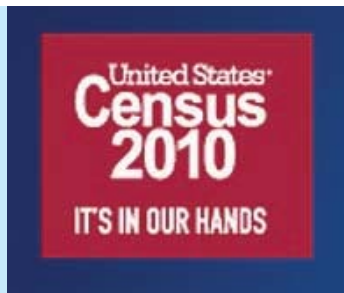
Be Counted in 2010!

Next month, Census questionnaires will be delivered to or mailed to households nationwide. As a partner with the U.S. Census Bureau, West Suburban Senior Services is reminding seniors to complete the 10-question form. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.

Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census-takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

Everyone residing in the United States – citizens and non-citizens – must be counted in the 2010 Census. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's Census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement agencies.

In addition to determining the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, Census numbers are used in a variety of other ways. For example, when hurricanes, tornados, snowstorms, fires and other disasters strike, emergency preparedness agencies use Census Bureau data to determine how many people will be affected, and to plan for their safety and security. Also, community planners and governments rely on Census data to receive federal dollars and to foster community development.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 6 5th Annual Senior Valentine Ball, Villa Brunetti Banquets, 6 p.m. - midnight
- 10 Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 First-Time Homebuyers Seminar, 7-9 p.m., Village Hall
- 24 Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 Black History Program, Eisenhower Community Center, 4-6 p.m.



RECYCLING DATES
February 3 & 17

