

Important Reminders About Your Personal Safety and Security



Bellwood residents should stay alert and always take precautions to protect yourself whether at home, work, shopping or enjoying leisure time.

Carjackings and car burglaries can happen everywhere. Never leave your car running with the keys in the ignition. If someone demands your car keys, don't resist. Nothing is more valuable than your life.

Do NOT leave your keys in your car while it is warming up in the driveway, in front of your home or anywhere else.
Do NOT leave your keys inside while at the gas pumping fuel.
Do NOT make it easier to become a victim of a crime that could also cause injury to you or your family.

Here are some important tips:

Theft Prevention

- Vehicles parked along city streets can be targeted for "smash and grab" thefts.
- Valuables left in plain view also may motivate criminals to quickly break a window and grab them.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Have your keys ready when approaching your vehicle. Do a quick scan of your rear seat before getting in.
- Be alert to any activity near your vehicle. Be aware of people who may be following you to your vehicle.

Be Alert To Potential Dangers

- Exercise caution when people approach your vehicle requesting directions, change or passing out flyers.
- When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you so you can pull away quickly if needed.

Avoidance

- Don't get out of your vehicle if you witness suspicious circumstances. Drive away and call the police if necessary.
- Avoid using an ATM at night, especially if you see people loitering nearby.
- When having your vehicle serviced or cleaned, remove your house keys from the key ring.

Actions

- Try to keep a cell phone accessible when driving.
- Keep a pen and notebook accessible in your car to write down important information about suspicious circumstances.

Scholarship Fund Thanks Bellwood Community



Last April, the Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund hosted its annual walk-a-thon fundraiser and awarded eight scholarships for the 2018-19 school year.

A hearty thanks to the community for continued donations from businesses and residents that sustain the fund and event including Celar Chiropractic, Chicago Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association and PanAm Bank. Jimmy Johns, Target and Home Run Inn donated items for the raffles. The 2019 walk-a-thon is set for April 27 at The Center in Stevenson Park. Mark your calendars and plan to participate.

Santa Visits The Early Childhood Center

On Dec. 21, the Bellwood Early Childhood Center hosted its annual literacy/family engagement event, which featured guest presenter Sophia Brown from the Bellwood Public Library and a special appearance by Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey dressed as St. Nick.



The event was designed to promote and support the development of early literacy skills and to ignite an early love of reading in Bellwood Early Childhood Center students. Each student and family also received books donated by Barney's Books.

Village Website Features Online Job Application

Residents and others can now apply for jobs in Bellwood by using the new online job application on the village's website.

Visit vil.bellwood.il.us; click Government and then Employment Opportunities to read about open positions.



Details About Gift Cards For A's Program

Gift cards will be distributed for the second quarter marking period in the village's Gift Cards For A's Program on Feb. 26 and 28 from 3-5 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room.

Bellwood is partnering with Target stores to provide encouragement to students in 3rd - 8th grades who earn A's for academic excellence on their report card in the second and fourth grading periods ONLY. For each A a student earns in English, math, reading, science and social studies classes ONLY, they will receive a \$5 Target gift card.

Bellwood students who attend a school in Districts 87 or 88, or a school outside of the village can be rewarded for their excellence. Gift cards are presented when the student and a parent or guardian presents a qualifying report card with proof of residency. Report cards can only be presented once per grading period.

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PROUDLY PRESENTS THE
2019
Annual BLACK HISTORY Celebration
Sunday, February 24, 2019 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Eisenhower Community Center, 700 Speechley Boulevard, Hillside, IL
Performances by local schools, community organizations and Pastor Darius Brooks

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear



The Bellwood Fire Department is asking for your help to keep fire hydrants clear of snow. When clearing driveways, sidewalks and parking lots don't bury fire hydrants under piles of snow. It is best to keep an area of 3' clear in every direction around a hydrant. If residents are unable to clear a buried hydrant, contact the Fire department at (708) 547-3525 for assistance.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 4 Eisenhower Adult Fitness Free Open House, 6:20 p.m.
- 11 Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Seniors Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball, Drury Lane Theater, 6 p.m.

- 18* Presidents' Day
- 20 Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 24 Annual Black History Month Celebration, Eisenhower Community Center, 4 p.m.

*Village Hall will be closed.



MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

February is always a busy time in Bellwood and this year will be no different as our calendar of special events offers fun times, a time to reflect and honor our past, and a time for our seniors to enjoy good food, dancing and fellowship.

My fondness for our community's elders is why I always look forward to the Seniors Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball, and this year we will get together on Feb. 16 at the Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook Terrace for a great evening of conversation and camaraderie.

For residents of all ages, remember to mark your calendar and plan to join us at our annual Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 24 at the Eisenhower Community Center at 4 p.m. It is always a wonderful time to support our students as they entertain and educate us about the rich African-American history and salute the legends whose contributions and sacrifices paved the way for all Americans regardless of your background or beliefs.

Finally, it is always rewarding for me to present gift cards to our students who are excelling in school as part of the village's Gift Card For A's program. We will congratulate students who "made the A grade" in the second quarter during gift card presentations on Feb. 26 and 28 from 3-5 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. I look forward to seeing and congratulating our high-achieving students.



FEBRUARY
2019

UPDATE

New Cement Mason's Training Center Draws Rave Reviews



Local officials, including Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, and school superintendents recently toured the new 20,000-square foot Cement Masons training center on at 25th Avenue and Madison Street in Bellwood.

Pat LaCassa, president of Local 502, and Larry Picardi, Local 502's secretary-treasurer, led the tour for District 88 Superintendent Mark Holder

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IMPORTANT BELLWOOD NUMBERS

Village Hall
(708) 547-3500

Police/Fire/Ambulance
Emergency
911

Police (non emergency)
(708) 547-3528

Police Anonymous Hotline
(708) 544-5861

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) 648-3060

Human Resources
(708) 547-3500

(New Cement Mason's Training Center Draws Rave Reviews continued)

and District 209 Superintendent Jesse Rodriguez to highlight the center's offerings, including state-of-the-art classrooms that encourage elementary and high school students to consider the trade. The Local's first-ever training center also provides union members with a campus-like environment.



Bellwood Native Wins Canadian Football Title, Signs With Bears

Bellwood native and Proviso West alumni Jameer Thurman recently signed with the Chicago Bears.



A 2016 graduate of Indiana State, where he also played football, Thurman saw action in 48 games for the Sycamores before finishing his career with 340 tackles, 11th most in school history. He earned Second Team All-MVFC recognition in his final season before joining the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League in 2017.

Thurman earned a starting linebacker spot during his rookie season and helped Calgary to a Grey Cup Championship the following year. In 35 regular-season games for Calgary, he made 134 defensive tackles, 29 special team tackles, recorded three sacks, three interceptions and three forced fumbles. Thurman, who started his love for football at age 5, played for the Memorial Park Spartans and then at Proviso West High School where he graduated in 2013.

Village Gifts Seniors at Bellwood Senior Suites



Bellwood was front and center in promoting holiday cheer last December by providing turkeys and holiday trimmings to the residents at the Bellwood Senior Suites.



The seniors were grateful for the support and good wishes. They thanked Mayor André F. Harvey, Village Clerk Janel Moreland and the generous donors for their kindness during the yuletide season.



Celebrating The Holidays With Seniors



West Suburban Senior Services invited Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey and Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson to a Christmas luncheon on Dec. 20 to celebrate the holidays and highlight the importance of spending time with family during that special time of the year.

Students Gain Law Enforcement Tips At Movie Screening



The nonprofit organization Best of Proviso Township and other local co-sponsors hosted a free screening of the movie "The Hate U Give," which focuses on a police-involved shooting based on the 2017 novel of the same name.

The nonprofit allocated 300 free tickets for students from schools across the township. Before the screening, the Best of Proviso convened a panel discussion about policing and social justice that was moderated by Rev. Teddy Matthews, pastor of Empowerment Church. The panel featured Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, Bellwood Police Chief Jimenez Allen, retired Maywood Police Officer Chris Brown and former Judge Gay Chase.

13th Positive Toy Drive Brightens Holidays



13th Positive collaborated with Bellwood and School District 88 in the organization's 4th Annual Holiday Toy Drive on Dec. 22 at Roosevelt Middle School to present clothes, toys, bikes and other items to more than 500 children and their families.



Over several weeks, community members donated items at drop-off points in Proviso Township. The drive also was supported by the Bellwood Chamber of Commerce and Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch. Established in brotherhood, 13th Positive aims to instill hope into the lives of children and their families through service, acts of goodwill and mentorship.

Former Pro Basketball Star Hosts Basketball Camp

For the first time in his home community, Proviso East graduate and former NBA player Steven Hunter recently hosted his Life Skills and Basketball Academy at Thurgood Marshall School.



Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, whose mentoring program supported Hunter as one of the first young males to participate, was invited by Hunter to share motivational remarks to the students.



Meet The Bellwood Trustees

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



Michael J. Ciavattone

Bellwood Trustee Michael J. Ciavattone remains active and visible around the village as the former Vietnam army veteran and holder of a Bronze Star supports a "cohesive board of trustees as an important way to get things done."

He is a 40-year Bellwood resident and has been a member of St. Simeon Church for more than 40 years and an usher for two decades plus. Ciavattone is chair of the Bellwood Public Safety, Communications, Public Works and Utilities committees, and continues as a block captain in the Neighborhood Watch program.

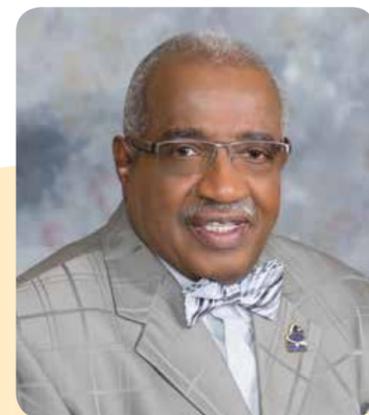
Prior to his election, he worked for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency before retiring. He operated a successful automotive repair business and is committed to giving back to the community. The trustee is a member of the NAACP and Moose Lodge 777, a life member of VFW Post 5081 and the Vietnam Veterans of America, among other civic and community affiliations.

Annie Delgado

Trustee Annie Delgado moved to Bellwood nearly four decades ago and has been committed to improving the community in every aspect since. Focused on representing the village's Hispanic population, she was elected in 2001. Before her election, while at Bellwood School District 88, she encouraged residents to use their power as a difference-maker.

She chairs the Quality of Life and Public Safety committees; attends Logos Church; and is a member of the Bellwood Hispanic Heritage Month committee. Delgado's vision includes new business development that leads to jobs for residents; redevelopment of St. Charles Road and 25th Avenue as downtown-like destinations; and continued growth in housing options.

The Puerto Rico native enjoys attending village's annual Christmas Basket Giveaway, Black History Month Celebration and Breakfast With Santa. Delgado, who graduated from Triton College and worked in the school's daycare facility, also served District 88 with her bilingual skills and education background in the school's parenting program.



Ronald Nightengale

Returning foreclosed homes to the market; attracting new, diverse businesses to town; and keeping the village safe and clean are among the priorities of Ron Nightengale, who was first elected in 2005.

Nightingale emphasizes quality education, jobs for youth and a better relationship between residents and the police. He chairs the village's Ad Hoc and Finance committees, and is an original member of the West Cook County Housing Collaborative. He was actively involved in the village's strategic planning process and previously served on the Community Development Committee.

Nightingale moved to Bellwood in 1977 and since has worked to "help make sure Bellwood was the community it was when I moved here in terms of good schools and quality transportation."

He enjoys talking to Bellwood youth about positive alternatives and school. He is committed to working with police and residents: "We all have a role to play."

