



Village of
BELLWOOD
Your Family Is Our Future

JULY
2020

UPDATE

Gov. Pritzker Joins Elected Officials On Day of Action For Residents

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

In light of the current and future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with very mixed emotions, our residents and business owners should know we have cancelled the Taste of Bellwood scheduled for Aug. 14-16.

On the advice of health professionals, it is not advisable and safe to bring together the large crowd that has made the event the place to be for the past few summers. However, our planning team, vendors and entertainers look forward to presenting the Taste in summer 2021 – when it will be even bigger and better.

The food- and fun-filled Taste has always featured affordable food, entertainment and carnival rides. Our theme of “Unity in the Community” is as important now as it has ever been. We look forward to better, healthier times next summer when we unite our residents, friends and neighbors from nearby communities in the spirit of togetherness and love.

On another note, I want to congratulate the graduating students and those moving on to the next grade, who in spite of having to change from classroom learning to virtual and e-learning, have kept the faith, finished the course and deserve to be commended for their efforts. We will continue encouraging you on your path to greatness.

Finally, as you will read in this issue, the village’s celebration and recognition of Juneteenth on June 19 was meaningful and motivational. As Bellwood’s first African-American mayor, I recognize and respect the sacrifices made by my ancestors and the atrocities they faced, all of which was a catalyst for change that opened the doors of opportunity for me and others who look like me.

I am firmly committed to the principle that Black Lives Matter and will do my best to live up to that noble proposition in Bellwood and in all facets of my personal and professional lives.



On June 7, during the four-day Illinois Legislative Black Caucus days of action, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker was joined by local elected officials, including Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, as the governor called for a moment of silence to honor African Americans who have lost their lives at the hands of the police.

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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) 544-5961

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

(Gov. Pritzker Joins Elected Officials On Day of Action continued)

Participating elected officials also included Sen. Kimberly Lightford, Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Illinois Legislative Black Caucus members Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough, Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson, Bellwood Trustee Jophelia Boston and other local mayors and elected officials.

They discussed steps to build unity and provide equitable resources for black communities. The caucus is demanding an emergency session of the Illinois General assembly to approve social and economic reform legislation.

“So I am just pleading at this point to my colleagues in the legislature, when you see that black agenda gets put on the table we need you to embrace our black agenda, we need you to get behind our black agenda,” Sen. Lightford said.

“Our demand is for a billion-dollar investment in every black community because black lives matter,” said Rep. Welch.

There was also a push for residents to complete the 2020 Census to bring more federal funding into communities. If you haven’t done so, complete the questionnaire online at 2020Census.gov.

Details About Gift Card 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 July 21 and 23 from 3-5 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. Bellwood partners 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.



Bellwood Shines Spotlight On Juneteenth



Bellwood marked Juneteenth on June 19 with a spirited march and rally as Mayor Andre F. Harvey joined Sen. Kimberly Lightford, Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson and Forest Park Mayor Rory Hoskins, along with residents from the surrounding communities, in commemorating the federal order that freed enslaved people in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 — two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared all enslaved people in Confederate states as free.

Peace March Marked by Unity and Passion



Mayors André F. Harvey (Bellwood), Katrina Thompson (Broadview), Edwenna Perkins (Maywood), Rory Hoskins (Forest Park) and Catherine Aducci (River Forest) joined more than 400 people who marched on June 14 in the Black Lives Matter Peace March from Christian Unity Church in Bellwood to Grant-White Elementary School in Forest Park.

Joining the spirited event was Bellwood Village Clerk Janel Moreland and trustees from Bellwood, Maywood and River Forest who participated with organizer Isaiah Brandon, Pastor Annette Barker, elected officials, members of the faith-based community and citizens in support of African Americans and racial justice during the 2.6-mile march titled “All Love, No Hate.”

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Pink Divas & Gents Host Mask Giveaway



On June 6, Bellwood Village Clerk Janel Moreland, founder of the Pink Divas & Gents Breast Cancer organization, hosted a PPE Drive-Thru Giveaway. Face masks, hand sanitizer and gloves were distributed to citizens who arrived by car or walked. Census material was also distributed. The event was held in partnership with Memorial Park District, Bellwood VFW Post 5081, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Skeptic Distillery.

Pink Divas & Gents is a nonprofit that supports cancer patients and their families and friends. The organization provides education and advocacy to those afflicted and affected by cancer to support efforts in the global goal of eradicating the horrible disease.

Bellwood Celebrates Proviso Graduates



In response to the nationwide impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on graduation ceremonies, many schools have become creative in recognizing the Class of 2020 -- including the Proviso Township High School District 209 Board of Education. Consequently, on May 24 Bellwood Mayor Andre F. Harvey and Proviso West High School Principal Nia Abdullah hosted a parade to honor Proviso West's and Proviso Math and Science Academy's graduating class with a parade to celebrate the end of their academic career and new beginnings.

Graduates were met by family, friends and strangers who congratulated and wished them well along the parade route that began at Stevenson Park on Washington Boulevard in Bellwood and ended at Harrison Street and Wolf Road in Hillside.

(Peace March Marked by Unity and Passion continued)

Marchers were peaceful but passionate as they chanted "Black Lives Matter, Enough is Enough" and "No Justice, No Peace!" Many wore shirts that read "I Can't Breathe" and "He Still Can't Breathe" in reference to George Floyd, the African-American man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes.

Maryanne Fishman, a River Forest resident and nurse practitioner at Northwestern Memorial Hospital who recently participated in a White Coats for Black Lives protest, noted, "Everybody's the same. Everybody should be treated the same. I just don't like injustice."



Young Activist Hosts Black Lives Matter Peace Protest

When a young resident recently called Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey to ask if she and other youth could host a peaceful protest at Stevenson Park, the mayor not only agreed but joined the group in its quest to seek justice and stand against police brutality.



Complete The Census 3 Ways To Respond

- mail the survey
- my2020census.gov
- phone - (844) 330-2020
- Spanish: (844) 468-2020



Know any friends or family having trouble paying their energy bills?

Let them know help is available.

Financial assistance is available for eligible Nicor Gas customers through the Nicor Energy Aide Program.

Qualifications:

- Nicor Gas Residential customers who are at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Can be a Residential NON-HEAT Account
- Veterans, including retired and or disabled, who are at below 300% Federal Poverty Level
- Must be an active account or recently disconnected. For disconnected customers, the grant must be enough to have the services reconnected

COVID-19 Special Assistance Grant

Qualifications:

- Nicor Gas Residential customers who show proof of job loss or job elimination due to COVID-19
- Includes furloughed employees
- Must be at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Must be a residential heat account

Required Documents:

- Customer must meet income guidelines for the Nicor Gas Energy Aide Program
- Gas bill must be in applicants' name
- Proof of Household Income (check stub, Social Security letter or unemployment letter, etc.)
- Must have picture ID
- Customer must show military papers (if applicable)
- Customer must show an unemployment filing document or a letter from an employer to receive a COVID-19 Special Assistance Grant

For program questions, please contact PLCCA at 708-450-3500 Ext 225

Memorial Park District's New Hours

Memorial Park District has announced the follow adjusted reopening hours for its three sites:

Eisenhower Community Center, Hillside

Front Desk: (708) 547-3900 Ext. 4
 Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 No weekend hours

Sharp Community Center, Melrose Park

Front Desk: (708) 547-3900 Ext. 4
 Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 No weekend hours

The Center at Stevenson Park, Bellwood

Front Desk: (708) 547-5400 Ext. 4
 Monday – Thursday: 5 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
 Seniors + (55 & up)
 Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 Friday: Open (see Mon.-Thurs.)
 Closes at 5 p.m.
 Saturday: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sunday: Closed
 No weekend hours

JULY CALENDAR

- 1 Vehicle Sticker Must Be Displayed
- 3* Independence Day Observed
- 4* Independence Day.

- 13 Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.
- 15 Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 16 Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 7 p.m.

*Village Hall will be closed.



PLEASE RECYCLE!

