



# UPDATE

## MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

As we move into February and continue to take safe and smart steps to protect ourselves against the COVID-19, we cannot forget the importance of Black History Month, especially in these times of political controversy and social and racial unrest. In other words, Black History is America's history.

As most people know, the precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be known as "Negro History Week." And while the pandemic will prevent us from gathering for our always festive and educational annual Black History Month Celebration at the Eisenhower Community Center, please remember to honor and lift up the many brave, adventurous, innovative trailblazers from today and yesterday who contributed so much to the fabric of our society.

On another note, as the spate of carjackings in the Chicagoland area unfortunately continues, remember to take steps to always protect yourself wherever you are. Read and share the flyer in this issue of the *Update* as our Police Department shares important advice to help you stay safe in and around your car.

It is important that our residents protect themselves from the threats, risks and hazards that we all must navigate in every aspect of our personal and professional lives.

## Annual Food Giveaway Goes Drive-Through



More than 300 Bellwood families received a blessing on Dec. 19 as a part of the village's Annual Food Giveaway when Mayor André F. Harvey, Clerk Janel Moreland, village trustees, and staff braved the wintery weather to distribute the food.

Residents, who registered in advance, lined up, wore a face mask and practiced social distancing as they went through the Bellwood Fire Department to receive food.

"These are very trying times and rather than cancel the event, we wanted to help our residents," said Mayor Harvey.



### 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

## Bellwood Delivers Food Baskets to Georgina Lane and Senior Suites



Last Dec. 18, Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, Clerk Janel Moreland and village staff delivered holiday cheer and food baskets with all the trimmings to seniors at Georgina Lane and Senior Suites of Bellwood for the holiday.

The village's outreach was especially important for seniors because so many spent the holiday isolated due to the pandemic. The generous donations and personal delivery by elected officials, staff and others proved to be a safe, uplifting and unifying activity for everyone involved.



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

#### THE BLACK FAMILY:

REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

#### Memorial Park District Presents: The Black History Month Theme Essay Contest

Write a 1-2 page essay about what "family representation, identity and diversity" means to you and your family. Submit your essay before 4:00 pm February 26, 2021 to [mempark@msn.com](mailto:mempark@msn.com). Each submission MUST include the writer's name, grade level, and guardian's contact information.

#### Essay Groups

3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade

(One winner from each group will be announced on Monday March 8, 2021 and receive a \$50 gift card.)



All participants MUST be residents of the Memorial Park District:  
Bellwood, Berkeley, Hillside, Melrose Park, Northlake and Stone Park

For more information call (708) 547-3900



Visit our website: [www.mempark.org](http://www.mempark.org)

Visit us on Facebook

## Meet The *Bellwood Trustees*



### *Michael J. Ciavattone*

Bellwood Trustee Michael J. Ciavattone is a former United States Army Vietnam veteran and a Bronze Star recipient. The tenants of true faith and allegiance he learned while serving in the Army continue to guide him today. He serves the village with that same diligence, integrity and dedication.

During Ciavattone's tenure as a Bellwood trustee, he has seen many improvements, including increased housing stock, the return of retail to the village and economic growth. His goal has always been to put the needs of all residents first and foremost. He looks forward to the future, working with Mayor Harvey and the administrative staff, for continued improvements in the village where people want to live, learn, work and play.

Ciavattone has been married to his wife Jeanie for 40 awesome years. She has been a resident in the village since 1956 and Ciavattone since 1978. Ciavattone believes in giving back to the community that has given so much to him and his family.

Ciavattone has 20 years of managerial experience with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Previously, he ran a successful automotive repair business. His work experience provides him with the knowledge to perform the duties of a village trustee. He understands that it takes a cohesive team to work together to successfully meet goals and works diligently with Mayor Harvey, the administrative staff, residents and businesses in Bellwood.

Ciavattone has a strong commitment to his community and faith and is involved in many organizations. He is a member of the Proviso/Leyden West Suburban NAACP, VFW Post 5081, American Legion Post 0626, Vietnam Veterans of America and Bellwood Neighborhood Watch. He is currently an active member of St. Domitila Parish after transferring his membership from St. Simeon Parish due to its closure. He is a knight in the Knights of Peter Claver Court #365.

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### *Annie Delgado*

Trustee Annie Delgado moved to Bellwood nearly four decades ago and has been committed to improving the community in every aspect. 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.



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### *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 as a trustee in 2005.

Nightengale 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.

Nightengale 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," he said.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## ABOUT RECENT CARJACKING INCIDENTS IN THE CHICAGO AREA

From Mayor André F. Harvey and the Bellwood Police Department

### Bellwood Residents,

As you know, recently there has been a rash of carjacking incidents across the Chicagoland area, *including the suburbs*. It is highly important for your personal safety that you stay alert and always take precautions to protect yourself whether you are at home, work, shopping or enjoying leisure time. Carjackings and car burglaries can – and are – happening *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 station pumping fuel.

Here are a number of other **important tips** that you should remember and practice all the time no matter where you are or what you are doing:

### 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.
- Store items under seats or in the trunk. Take valuables with you.

### 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

- Never leave small children unattended in your vehicle.
- Avoid parking in secluded, poorly lit areas.
- When having your vehicle serviced or cleaned, remove your house keys from the key ring.

### 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 aware of people who may be following you to your vehicle.
- Lock your doors when inside the car.
- Refrain from sitting in your car listening to music, talking on a cell phone or conversing.

### 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 activities.
- In case of a vehicle breakdown, call the police for help.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 8 Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15\* Presidents' Day
- 17 Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 23 Consolidated Primary Election

\*Village Hall will be closed.



PLEASE  
RECYCLE!

