



UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

Now that we are beginning another year full of opportunities and possibilities, I want to again wish our Bellwood residents and business owners and their employees a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

For nearly the past two years, the ongoing global pandemic has limited our ability to safely host indoor events – as just one example of the impact of COVID-19 – but I am nevertheless proud of and energized by what we achieved as an administration. None of those accomplishments would have been possible without a cooperative and resolute Bellwood staff that continues to work hard and smart to provide professional services, resources and information. In the face of the pandemic, Bellwood did not slow down as new and exciting projects were completed with others in the process of coming to town to spur economic growth.

As shown in the official 2022 Bellwood calendar with the theme “Investing In Bellwood ... Building For the Future,” exciting new



(Mayor's Message continued on next page)

Special Internship Program Provides Opportunity and Exposure



A group of young men and women who visited the Village of Bellwood for career exploration exposure on Nov. 19 were a part of the special internship program known as Sector Driven Internships.

SDI is funded by the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and the City of Chicago as a special project focusing on communities in Chicago that are highly affected by violence.

Modeled after the Opportunity WORKS Program, SDI serves individuals 18-24 years old who are living in the selected communities and who are out of school and not working. Interns go through a week of Foundational Skills Training that covers basic job readiness, job-keeping skills, life skills and general professional and career development. Interns are then matched with partner companies to complete a five-week internship to learn technical skills in information technology, manufacturing, or transportation distribution and logistics. The program provides transportation support, uniform clothing, childcare assistance, career mentoring and career exploration.

Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA), which serves the Austin and Humboldt Park communities through its PLCCA West I location, offers its appreciation to Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey and the Village of Bellwood for organizing the first career exploration event and serving as role models for the interns.

IMPORTANT BELLWOOD NUMBERS

Village Hall
(708) 547-3500

Police/Fire/Ambulance
Emergency
911

Police (non emergency)
(708) 547-3528

Police Anonymous Hotline
(708) 547-3500
Ext 1301

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

TDD (hearing impaired)
(708) 547-0011

(Mayor's Message continued)

economic development and capital improvement projects and new business are opening around town, including the Bellwood U-Haul Complex; Randolph Court Homes; new businesses Mama Rose Butcher Market, Slice Factory, DF Tire Shop and Auto Repair; street resurfacing; street sign replacement; and detention pond construction. Coming soon will be a new restaurant and bar, Quik Trip and the Evergreen Senior Building, among other assets.

This new year also presents a new chance for those who are not vaccinated to get vaccinated, which is easier than ever before, including getting vaccinated in Bellwood (see the story on the back page). Simply stated, vaccines save lives.

As we plan for and look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2022, my entire administration and I will continue to work in the best interest of moving Bellwood forward and maintain the momentum that we have created.

Brother 2 Brother Partners With Bellwood

On Nov. 6, Brother 2 Brother partnered with the village to host the Legit Individuals Fully Expressing (L.I.F.E.) event for teens ages 13-18. The youth connect with their peers and adult male mentors to share life experiences.



Cassandra "Cassie" Campbell is the brainchild of the program that was derived from a conversation she had with her son and other young men who stressed that they had no one to connect with. Campbell solicited the help of Maywood minister and activist Ray Williams and Mayor André F. Harvey for a meeting that was attended by 40 people at the Bellwood Village Hall. She wants the program to expand to monthly workshops starting in January 2022 with young ladies eventually invited to participate.



It's a Small World After All

When former Bellwood residents Laurette Harmon and Kate Walsh met at a Farmer's Market in Dublin, Ireland, they never thought the chance meeting would bring back childhood memories from Bellwood.

Harmon grew up at 149 Marshall Ave., and Walsh, an artist, grew up at 109 48th Ave. in Bellwood and moved back to Ireland at 10 years old. Harmon, who is a flight attendant, returned to Bellwood to visit her old neighborhood and met Mayor André F. Harvey's neighbor, which led to her meeting the mayor. Harmon and the mayor shared memories and she presented a painting and other gifts that were sent by Walsh during a gift exchange with Mayor Harvey.



Western Suburban Mayors Quarterly Dinner With Clerk Yarbrough



Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough was honored to be recognized for her public service by the Western Suburban Mayors of Cook County at a dinner on Nov. 17 at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall in Hillside.

Yarbrough, who serves as the chief election authority for suburban Cook County, discussed improvements that have been made in the voting process, including the implementation of a new voter registration and election management system. Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey (who is president of West Suburban Mayors), along with Hillside Mayor Joseph Tamburino (secretary) and Forest Park Mayor Rory Hoskins (vice president) presented the clerk with a plaque in recognition of the services she continues to provide to the villages and cities in Proviso Township and Cook County.

Grocery Giveaway and Coat Drive Brightens Thanksgiving

On Nov. 20 Bellwood partnered with Dream Chasers and HOJO to host a Thanksgiving Food and Coat Drive Giveaway in which more than 100 residents received food for Thanksgiving and coats for the winter season; all of which was graciously provided by Dream Chasers and HOJO.



Donations Support Local Organizations

Longtime Bellwood resident Joy Wieska, a member of the now closed Grace Lutheran Church, recently presented donations to William Gorey, executive director of the West Cook County Youth Club, and to Bishop Dr. Claude Porter, president and CEO of the Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action Inc. Both organizations provide a safe place for youth and young adults to learn and grow.



Beginning in the January Update, each newsletter will feature the most frequently asked questions from residents and the public to staff in the village's

departments. The feature debuts with the Bellwood Fire Department:

Q: Where is the best place to put smoke detectors in a home?

A: Smoke detectors should be located outside of all sleeping areas and on each floor.

Q: Does the department offer CPR training?

A: The Fire department offers CPR training for residents on the first Saturday of even numbered months at 9 a.m. at the village's fire station. Call (708) 547-3525 to reserve a space.

Q: Can the Fire department help me install my child safety seat?

A: The Fire department employs several certified car seat technicians who would be happy to assist you with your car seat. Call (708) 547-3525 to arrange an appointment.

Carjacking Prevention Safety Tips

The Village of Bellwood Police Department reminds residents to review the following crime prevention tips to avoid being a carjacking victim:



- Carjacking offenses are crimes of opportunity. The offenders are always searching for the most vulnerable prey or highest value automobile. Race, sex, age, religion or lifestyle are not factors that these violent criminals consider prior to committing a crime.
- Always keep your doors locked and windows up whether you are inside or out of your car.
- When stopped, keep at least one car length between you and the car in front of you.
- Keep your purse, backpack, tablet, laptop and other valuables in the trunk or out of sight.
- Always be aware of your surroundings even in areas or places you feel safe.

(Continued on next page)

- Keep watch for individuals approaching your car asking for directions, handing out flyers, asking for money or asking for a ride.
- Stay vigilant in public garages, parking lots, gas stations, car washes, drive-up ATMs and at all stop lights or stop sign-controlled intersections.
- Look around to see if you are being followed prior to parking your car on a street or in your driveway. If you are not sure, pull around the block once or twice to make sure it is safe to park.
- Be aware of “Bump and Rob” style offenses where a car lightly rear-ends or bumps your car. Once you exit your car, an offender will exit and attempt to drive off with your car while you are evaluating the damage. Do not exit your vehicle immediately but cautiously determine if it is truly an accident or an intentional act. If you feel it was intentional, drive to the nearest police station or to a well-lit public area.
- Keep your cell phone charged and readily available but keep it out of your hand while driving. Offenders always look for potential victims that appear to be distracted. Always use a hands-free device.
- Keep your car keys and house keys on separate key rings.
- Invest in GPS car tracking services through your manufacturer or a product offered by an automotive professional.

- Subscribe to family mapping, lost phone tracking, and other cell phone GPS software or apps that can immediately assist law enforcement if your car is stolen with your phone in it.

- Do not leave your car running unattended for any reason.

If you are the victim of a carjacking, your safety and that of your passengers is the priority. Do not argue or fight with the carjacker. Immediately leave the car and your belongings and call 911 if your phone is on your person. If you can gather a description of the vehicle, offenders or suspects, relay that information to the 911 dispatcher.

Remember, your safety and the safety of your passengers comes first! Always call 911 to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

Finally, mark your calendar to attend the monthly Neighborhood Watch Meetings that begin on March 17 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall in the Community Room.

Proviso West and East Celebrate Homecoming



In a show of continued support for the mentoring and development of the youth and athletes in Proviso Township, on Oct. 9 Mayor André F. Harvey attended the Proviso West homecoming and attended the Proviso East homecoming on Oct 23. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted 2020 homecoming plans, making this year a new experience for sophomores and freshmen.



Bellwood Partners to Offer Free COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

Since Oct. 19, the Village of Bellwood and Free COVID Care have partnered to offer free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations to village employees and employees of Bellwood businesses. The COVID Care Mobile Unit provides testing in the village parking lot every Tuesday from 6:45 - 11:45 a.m. and vaccinations (including the booster) from 9 - 11 a.m.

Staff from the Bellwood Public Works department were the first to get tested and to receive the vaccines in October. Realizing the importance of both testing and the vaccine, Mayor André F. Harvey emphasized that staff and Bellwood employers continue to follow the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including testing asymptomatic people who may be spreading COVID-19 to others and not know it.

JANUARY CALENDAR

1 New Year's Day

9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

10 Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.

17* Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

19 Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

*Village Hall will be closed.

