



UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

Thanksgiving is just around the corner later this month, and as mayor and as a husband and father, the holiday is yet another opportunity for me to share my sincere thanks to the people who continue to share their time, treasure and talent with me and everyone in my administration.

As mayor and a long-time resident, I want to share my heartfelt wishes to all of our residents for a happy and safe Thanksgiving. Although we certainly give thanks throughout the year, every fall season represents a particularly appropriate time for us all to express our thanks for the blessings that have come our way both personally and professionally.

I remain thankful for each Bellwood employee who provides services, resources, events and programs for our residents. I appreciate our youth and seniors for the thoughtfulness and advice they give to Bellwood's energy. The police, fire and public safety teams earn our thanks for their selflessness and commitment to serve and protect every corner of the village.

My thanks also go to the village's business owners, community groups, educators, clergy, parents, volunteers and veterans who contribute so much to make Bellwood a place where families are our future. Speaking of veterans, we honor and thank them for their service on Veterans Day – and every day.

Finally, in the spirit of the season, we are excited to announce Bellwood's 1st Christmas Parade and Festival of Lights Ceremony that is set for Saturday, Nov. 25 from 5 - 7 p.m. The parade will kick off at 25th Ave. & Washington Blvd. All of Bellwood is invited, and I hope to see you there.

Highlights: C4 Community Engagement Listening Session



Bellwood's Sustainability Team – Chairwoman Tonita S. LeShore, Arnie Brown, John Reitz, Aric Swaney, Dr. Victoria Hansen, Mark Flores, Amy Crump, Luke Chirayil and Peter Cozzi – in partnership with Urban Efficiency Group held a Listening Session on Sept. 27 as a follow up to Bellwood's kickoff meeting on May 22 where residents and others were introduced to Bellwood's Commitment to Climate Change and its Partnership with the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4).

The meeting included recruiting residents for one of the eight priority areas: Connectivity, Green Generation, Health and Well-Being, Infrastructure, Place, Prosperity, Resource Regeneration and Support.

(Continued on next page)



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

(Highlights: C4 Community Engagement Listening Session continued)

Using feedback from both sessions, along with selecting a table representative to vote on their behalf and a point system, important ideas and suggestions were made. Wynton Jones, M.B.A., director of Sustainability for Urban Efficiency Group, one of the C4 partners, helped facilitate the meeting. The next steps in the Roadmap Development Process for the village include:

- Continuing to Part B, which is the Qualitative Analysis
- Recruiting Subcommittee members for each priority
- Connecting with the Chicago Wilderness Alliance to discuss and plan for a community-engaged asset mapping session
- Creating a survey to continuously drive community feedback and to further socialize the work

If you want to volunteer for one of the teams, contact Tonita S. LeShore, Bellwood Sustainability chair, at (708) 202-0312.



Recapping The Hispanic Heritage Festival

On Oct. 14, Bellwood School District 88 and the Village of Bellwood co-hosted the annual Hispanic Heritage Festival at Roosevelt Middle School, which welcomed more than 300 people in an impressive display of community diversity.



The event opened with the Roosevelt Middle School Band performing “De Colores.” District 88 Superintendent Dr. Victoria Hansen thanked the attendees and Board of Education President Linsley Griffin and Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey shared welcomes. Local elementary and primary schools performed songs, dances and musical pieces. Artwork created by District 88 students adorned the hallways of the school, including houses, floral designs, portraits and Barbie dolls.

Families played Hispanic Bingo, known as “Lotería,” for sponsored prizes and enjoyed cuisine from local restaurants Los Comales, Cilantro and El Mirador. Characters from the movie “Encanto and the Festival” closed out with a live music and dance performance by La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón.

(More images on back page)

Surviving Warriors Breast Cancer Balloon Release



The Surviving Warriors Breast Cancer Support Group held its 5th Annual Balloon Release and Candlelight Vigil on Oct. 6 to celebrate the “warriors” who have won their battle against

breast cancer. The event also honored those who have earned their wings during the fight.

In partnership with the Village of Bellwood and Memorial Park District, the event featured journey stories from survivors and caregivers, and ended with the release of pink balloons with blinking lights.

If you or someone you know needs support, call Jophelia Boston at (708) 601-9921.





Mayor André F. Harvey
Hosts Annual Christmas

Breakfast WITH Santa

Saturday, December 2, 2023
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Best Western Plus Chicago Hillside,
4400 Frontage Road, Hillside, IL

\$15 General (13 yrs. & Older)
*** \$7.50 (Children 3 – 12 yrs.)**
*** \$10 Seniors (65 yrs. & Older)**

Tickets must be presented
at the door to enter.
Children **MUST** be
accompanied by
an adult. Please
arrive at
8:30 a.m.

Tickets can be purchased in the Mayor's
Office beginning Monday, Oct. 16th through
Monday, Nov. 20th. Tickets are limited.

Breakfast will be served promptly at 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. ONLY!

Residents: Provide Email Address To Stay In The Know



As part of Bellwood's ongoing, comprehensive Cross Community Climate Collaborative initiative and to facilitate more electronic communication, village residents are strongly encouraged to provide their email address on Bellwood's website: vil.bellwood.il.us

In 2024, the village will cease printing the monthly *Update* newsletter and begin distributing the newsletter electronically using residents' email

address. Going paperless will help to save the trees, which boosts the availability of oxygen in the atmosphere, which is a focus of the village's commitment to establishing an environmentally friendly Bellwood.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Focuses on Domestic Violence

The October Neighborhood Watch meeting featured a presentation on domestic violence from Liz and Julia of Sarah's Inn. Founded in 1980, Sarah's Inn has grown to be one of the most comprehensive domestic violence agencies serving Chicago and the western suburbs.



The agency's mission is to improve the lives of those affected by domestic violence and to break the cycle of violence for future generations. Sarah's Inn has three core program areas that serves more than 23,000 people annually:

- The Intervention Program provides supportive services for families affected by domestic violence to safely navigate crises, effectively process trauma and establish self-sufficiency.
- The Together Strong Project provides school-based violence prevention education programming for youth.
- The Training and Education Program maximizes reach by creating a network of skilled bystanders to appropriately intervene as first responders and community advocates.

If you or anyone you know is a victim of domestic violence and need help, call the 24-hour crisis line at (708) 386-4225; (708) 669-6149 (text).

This meeting was the final Neighborhood Watch of 2023; meetings will resume in March 2024. In the meantime, be safe. If you see something, say something.



*Everyone is
Invited!*

Bellwood's 1st Christmas Parade & FESTIVAL of LIGHTS

**Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023
@ 5 - 7 p.m.**

**Free hot beverages and treats
will be served.**

**Following the parade of lights, enjoy food
and drinks, and patronize pop-up vendors
at the Stevenson Center.**

**If you are interested in
participating in the parade, contact
Rev. Rodney L. Smith at (630) 926-8529
or Cynthia Eubanks at (708) 547-3500
Ext. 1100.**

**Parade kicks off at 25th Ave.
and travels down Washington Blvd.
to Eastern Ave. then north and turn east on
Randolph and ends at the parking lot
behind The Stevenson (Memorial Park).**



Mayor André F. Harvey Hosts
2023 Annual

Christmas Food Giveaway



Saturday, December 16, 2023
10 a.m. – 12 noon

You must bring a photo ID, current water bill and proof of eligibility for SNAP, SSI or Medicaid benefits.

Bellwood residents must register from Nov 13 - 17 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Village Hall, Human Resources Department, Room 206.

Food is limited to one bag per household
• Phone-in registration is not allowed.



Bellwood Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Volunteers We Need your Help!!

Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be willing to learn and participate in training (Monday nights 7 pm)
- Be willing, when available, to respond to emergency calls at all hours of the day and night
- Be willing to work at pre-planned public events in support of local community activities

Responsibilities include:

- Traffic control, scene lighting, and scene security at accidents, fire scenes, and other incidents
- Search and rescue operations
- Emergency Communications-Division 20 Calls
- Major emergency/ disaster preparedness, response, and recovery
- Proviso Township HS Parades

So much more!!!



We are looking for
someone like you.....

Calling all 18 years and
older

Active & retired law
enforcement

Class B (Non CDL)
Drivers

ROTC Students

Future Officers/ Firemen

Recruitment Team: Off. Ladarius Terrell Off. Isaac Blount

**We Want To
HEAR FROM YOU!**

The monthly Bellwood **Update** newsletter and village website (www.vil.bellwood.il.us) deliver important – and sometimes fun – information to and about the village's residents and business owners ... and we always want to hear from you! Send us stories about your family's accomplishments at work, in the community and in school to Bellwood Human Resources Director Tonita S. LeShore at tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us for consideration for the newsletter. Don't forget to attach a high-quality picture, if appropriate, that we can also consider.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

5	Daylight Savings Time Ends	15	Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
10*	Veterans Day Observed	23*	Thanksgiving
11	Veterans Day	25	Christmas Parade & Festival of Lights Ceremony, 5 p.m.
13	Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.	*Village Hall will be closed.	



**PLEASE
RECYCLE!**

