

UPDATE

Highlights & Previews: Bellwood Counts Census Campaign



MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

Before spring officially arrives on March 20, I first want to thank our youth and adults who attended two of our winter-time events: the fantastic Seniors Mardi Gras Dance and inspirational Black History Month Celebration, both of which will be featured in the April Update newsletter.

As we continue with our very important Census outreach initiative with our neighbors in Proviso Township, I cannot stress enough the importance of residents learning as much as they can about their participation in the Census. We will continue to have a visible presence around town to reach residents of all ages, and with a focus on traditionally hard-to-count populations. Remember to participate in the various census activities that will be fun and informative; details are available in this issue.

Regarding another important topic, many if not all Bellwood homeowners should have already received their tax bill. Bellwood files an annual tax levy with Cook County. The levy is the method that allows the village and all other taxing bodies to collect their respective shares of the real estate taxes collected by the county. Since 2010, the village has made an effort to not increase our levy. In fact, we have submitted the same \$16,164,000 (our levy amount) for every tax year, including our 2019 levy. In other words, the village has not increased our property taxes since the 2011 levy. We will be responsible, savings-focused stewards of our residents' tax money while providing a high level of services that residents and business owners alike expect and deserve.

Finally, mark your calendar to benefit from the Illinois Secretary of State's Mobile Unit on April 17 to benefit from several on-site services.



Bellwood and the village's municipal partners continue to educate residents about the importance of participating in the upcoming 2020 census count on April 1, Census Day, which is a key reference date for the census.

When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1.

With a particular emphasis on the hard-to-count populations of senior citizens, Hispanics and young African-American men, Bellwood's Complete Count Committee is presenting a number of informative and lively community events, meetings and resources. The village is making information

(More images 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) 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) 648-3060

Human Resources
(708) 547-3500

Girls Gain At The King Daughters Prayer Breakfast



The King Daughters Ministry held its 17th annual "If I Could Help Somebody Scholarship Brunch" on Jan. 25 at the Diplomat West Banquet Hall in Elmhurst.

Rev. Annette Barker, the ministry's founder and co-pastor of Christian Unity Baptist Church, noted that 80 percent of the proceeds go to the scholarship and the remaining amount benefits the newly formed Girl Succeed Academy.

The event was attended by community leaders, including Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, Bellwood Clerk Janel Moreland, Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson, Maywood Mayor Edwenna Perkins, Proviso West High School Principal Nia Abdullah, The Answer Inc. Founder Debra Vines and former judge Gay Chase, all of whom sat on a panel and/or were award recipients.

The King Daughters Ministry presented Tonita LeShore, Bellwood's human resources director, with the 2020 Community Spirit of Excellence Award. Three students received a scholarship that ranged from \$500 to \$2,500.

The scholarship program emerged through the legacy of Rev. Barker's mother, Katherine Dugan, who despite not graduating from college, wanted to ensure those around her had access to higher education. Rev. Barker estimated that the organization has presented more than \$40,000 in scholarships over the years.



MARCH CALENDAR

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 2 | Early Voting at Village Hall (Ends March 16) | 13 | 2020 Census Outreach Presentation, 10 a.m., Village Hall |
| 8 | Daylight Savings Time Begins | 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| 9 | Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m. | 18 | Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m. |
| 13 | 2020 Census Outreach Presentation, 10 a.m., Village Hall | 19 | Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 7 p.m. |



Scholarship Fund Thanks Residents and Businesses

Members of the Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund thank everyone who supported the 2019 Walk-a-thon as donations from residents and businesses enable the fund to promote scholarships and education.

Local support of the walk-a-thon continues to fund scholarships for three returning recipients, and for three new recipients who are beginning their college journey.

Special thanks to Jimmy Johns, Target, Sha-Popin and Home Run Inn for donating items for the raffle held during the walk-a-thon, which is set for April 18 this year at The Center in Stevenson Park. Mark your calendars and plan to support the 5th annual event that supports local students.

Roosevelt Middle School Receives School Supplies



Roosevelt Middle School was selected by Enchanted Backpack to receive a donation on Feb. 11 of 25 core classroom supplies, athletic equipment, clothing (coats, socks, hats and gloves) and other incentives.

The donated items were received by a crew of volunteers, which included School District 88 Superintendent Mark Holder, Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, Bellwood Village Clerk Janel Moreland, Bellwood firemen and policemen, Bellwood Library President Dorothy Clark-Smith, Library Board Vice President Constance Riales, Pastor Annette Barker, and Arnetta Watkins, president of the Bellwood Chamber of Commerce.

Early Voting: What You Should Know



Early voting for the March 17 primary election is set for seven days a week from March 2 -16 at the Bellwood Village Hall:

March 2 - 8
Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. -4 p.m.

March 9-16
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. -4 p.m.

Recap: WCMC Annual Breakfast

The West Central Municipal Conference's annual Legislative Breakfast brings together congressmen, senators, representatives and commissioners from the federal, state and local levels.



This year the Feb. 8 breakfast at Elmcree Banquets in Elmwood Park provided a more open exchange of ideas and pertinent issues.

WCMC members met numerous regionally elected officials in an informal setting to address the conference's list of priorities for 2020, including restoring local government distributive fund revenue; continuing public safety pension reforms; consolidating, eliminating or reducing administrative fee for local sales taxes; increased funding for capital improvements, ending the federal pre-emption of small-cell wireless deployment; and enacting legislation that would define and clarify catastrophic injuries.

Home Depot Supports Resident With Remodeling Project

Forty-four year Bellwood resident Katie Ross, a veteran who served in the Women's Army Corp and earned the rank of Specialist 4th Class, was the grateful recipient of The Home Depot Foundation's Veteran Grant Program that provided for renovations to her home.



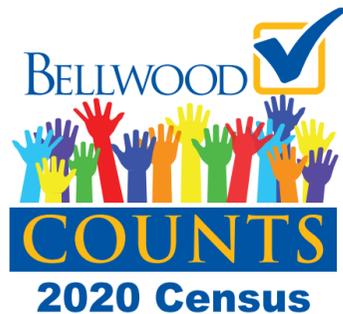
The project application, submitted by Bellwood Human Resources Director Tonita S. LeShore, requested remodeling of Ross' bathroom and other areas of her home. Ross, is a 34-year former Chicago Public School teacher who now sits on the Bellwood Zoning Board, a position left vacant by the passing of her late husband LT Ross who was active in the community until his untimely passing.



Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation and Team Depot - an associate-led volunteer force - has made an impact on more than 46,000 veteran homes and facilities across the country. THDF has provided more than \$300 million to veteran-related causes. Gratitude goes to Tim Lucas, manager of the Home Depot's store in Broadview, and Danny Kawanna, specialty assistant manager, who along with other team members graciously helped in providing the materials, labor and other project-related assistance.

Fire Department Presents Hiring Info Sessions

In advance of the firefighter candidate application period, the Bellwood Fire Department has scheduled three informational sessions for local citizens to receive information about a career in firefighting and the hiring process. Sessions will be held at the Bellwood Village Hall on March 28 and April 25 at 9 a.m. on both dates.



(Highlights & Previews: Bellwood Counts Census Campaign continued)

available on the Bellwood website (vil.bellwood.il.us), and the committee is distributing census material to residents who participate in the activities and around town..

For example, the Breakfast with the Mayor events for seniors at the Senior Suites of Bellwood and Georgina Lane provided more than 100 residents with details about completing and returning the Census survey. Other important details were explained by Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey and census representatives Drake D. Booker and Nathaniel Booker, who discussed how census data will be used over the coming decade. Census results will influence such decisions as where to build parks, roads and hospitals. It will also determine funding for community projects, including mass transit.

| These upcoming Census presentations are open to Bellwood residents: | | |
|---|---|--|
| MARCH | APRIL | MAY |
| <p>13 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Census Outreach Brunch for veterans at Bellwood Village Hall Community Room</p> <p>18 6 p.m. - presentation at the Bellwood Village Board meeting by the Cook County Complete Count Census Commission</p> <p>21 1-5 p.m. - Proviso 2020 Census Celebration, Melrose Park Civic Center, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park</p> <p>29 11 a.m. - outreach event for the low-income population at Christian Unity Church, 2140 Washington Blvd.</p> | <p>15 6 p.m. - presentation at the Bellwood Village Board meeting by the Cook County Complete Count Census Commission</p> <p>16 Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Census Presentation by Nathaniel Booker and Kevin McGrier, 7 p.m., Village Hall</p> | <p>20 6 p.m. - presentation at the Bellwood Village Board meeting by the Cook County Complete Count Census Commission</p> |

All Census activities are being funded through the Cook County Complete Count Census Commission. The census is much more than just a head count. It provides a picture of the nation that helps determine how federal funding is distributed and how congressional seats are apportioned. When communities, including Bellwood, are undercounted, critical resources, funds and even congressional representation could disappear.



Each resident born on or before April 1, 2020 represents \$1,535 per year for the next 10 years (\$15,350)

The Village of Bellwood had a 74% participation rate for Census 2010. That is a total of 6,701 residents missed.

We missed \$10,286,035 annually and \$102,860,350 over the past 10 years in potential funding for Education, Infrastructure, Healthcare, Housing, and Social Services.

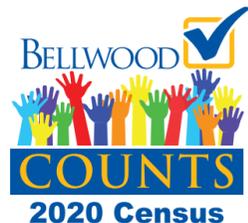
By April 1, every household will receive a notice to complete the 2020 Census and be counted.

www.provisocensus2020.com



Proviso 2020 Census Celebration

Presented by



Learn why the 2020 Census is important to EVERYONE in Proviso Township

Saturday, March 21, 1-5 p.m.
Melrose Park Civic Center
1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park

FREE & open to the public!

Event Funding Provided By:



Raffle draw. Food will be served.

Register Today: <https://tinyurl.com/tpm76ky>

To learn more, visit provisocensus2020.com.



Sorority Supports Toy Drive

Generous members of the Glen Ellen Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority held a "Jingle Mingle" fundraiser on Dec. 20 that generated an impressive number of toys and money for the 13 Positive Toy Drive. The sorority members also purchased 69 gift cards and donated 23 boxes of toys and four turkeys.

In addition, Sandra Hixson and her daughters donated 300 hot dogs for the event; 25 volunteers worked before and during the annual Toy Giveaway/Holiday Party for youth in Bellwood and throughout Proviso township.



Spring Cleaning Checklist

Get the most out of your spring cleaning by using our spring cleaning checklist. Tackle every room in your house from bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen to the living room.

Every Room

- Wash baseboards, door ceilings, window sills, doors, and walls
- Vacuum and wash vents
- Wash window treatments (drapes, etc.)
- Dust blinds
- Wash windows inside and out
- Dust and shine overhead lights
- Replace burnt light bulbs
- Dust and/or vacuum light fixtures and lamp shades

Kitchen

- Clean out pantry
- Wash kitchen cabinets
- Deep clean oven
- Move fridge; vacuum and mop behind it
- Vacuum coils on fridge; Deep clean fridge inside; wash outside

Living Room

- Dust and wash any and all mirrors, frames and decorative items
- Vacuum all upholstery
- Vacuum all lamp shades
- Dust furniture and fixtures
- Wash all throw pillows and blankets (use steam)
- Dust and polish furniture
- Vacuum and shampoo carpets; mop and wax if necessary

Bedroom

- Wash all bedding
- Wash all bed and throw pillows
- Flip mattress; if using pillow top, rotate mattress
- Purge anything stored under bed you don't want anymore

Other

- Discard old and expired makeup
- Update all your house first aid kits
- Toss expired medication
- Dry clean any necessary winter clothing or items; store all winter items for next year. Donate any unused clothes items local community organizations

SAVE THE DATE:

Summer Youth Work Program

Bellwood youth between the ages of 14-16 can pick up an application to participate in the village's Summer Youth Program on April 17 at the Village Hall. More information on the application process and job program will be available in the April Update newsletter.