



UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

Personally, and on behalf of the Harvey family, my administration and all of our staff that I consider my Bellwood family, I hope our residents enjoyed a safe and peaceful 2020 holiday. Welcome to 2021, which we all expect – and need – to be an improvement over the formidable challenges we faced in 2020.

I want to share my heartfelt thanks to all of the village employees who helped install the very impressive light and decoration display in front of the Village Hall. The beautiful exhibit not only took holiday decorations to the next level but the village received many compliments for having one of the best displays in all of Proviso Township.



While we cannot predict what this New Year will bring, we look forward to working with you to continue to make Bellwood a community where families, businesses and visitors can live, work, and play and with great pride

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Bellwood and Partners Deliver Baskets and Food for Thanksgiving



In the spirit of sharing and caring, Bellwood elected officials and staff supported residents in advance of Thanksgiving by hosting and participating in various charitable events to help ensure residents – and especially seniors – had food and other supplies on hand for the holiday.

These acts of kindness included Ed Libby, owner of Oakley Steel Products, helping families for Thanksgiving. His generosity was evident in his donation of turkeys for seniors. Donations were made to residents in collaboration with Bellwood Mayor



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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

(Mayor's Message continued)

and engagement. To do just that, it is important that we all continue to wear a face covering, wash our hands frequently and practice social distancing. The medical community continues to make progress with the introduction of new vaccines, but it is up to us to do our part to continue stopping the spread and impact of the virus.

I look forward to working with and for our wonderful residents in 2021 as together we bounce back from 2020. You will soon receive the official Bellwood 2021 calendar that will help you plan for this year's planned special events and programs. Our village clerk and trustees, along with all village employees, will again work closely together to provide our residents and business

owners with the attention, services and resources that they need, want and deserve.



(Bellwood and Partners Deliver Baskets and Food for Thanksgiving continued)

Harvey and assistance from Norcomm employees and Village staff who donated groceries.

Separately, on Nov. 21, community activist Connie Wade Riales helped organize Bellwood District 88's Roosevelt Middle School community service outing, which featured Bellwood Mayor Andre F. Harvey, Village Clerk Janel Moreland, Bellwood trustees, department heads and community members distributing laundry baskets stuffed with free clothing and other materials to local senior citizens at Bellwood Senior Suites. The baskets contained toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, face masks, wipes, snacks and coats.

The village also partnered with Dream Chasers and HOJO on Nov. 21 for a Thanksgiving Food and Coat Drive Giveaway. More than 200 residents, including seniors from Georgina Lane and Senior Suites, were provided with food for Thanksgiving and coats for the winter season.

And on Nov. 23, the West Cook County Youth Club in Bellwood served as the site of an annual turkey giveaway for the families of club members, which included Bellwood residents. Members of the International Brotherhood Electrical Workers Local 9 in Tinley Park donated the turkeys that were distributed in a safe, socially distanced manner. The event was one of many held in Proviso Township in the days leading up to Thanksgiving 2020.



Meet The *Bellwood Trustees*



Jophelia Boston

Three-year Bellwood Trustee Jophelia Boston moved to the village in 1998 and “my husband and I fell in love with the village and decided to call Bellwood home.” Boston, who served on the Bellwood Planning Board for 15 years before being appointed a trustee, chairs the Community Development Committee and is co-chair of the Quality of Life Committee.

She is passionate about making sure Bellwood remains a safe place to raise a family and to “spend our golden years. I am also committed to helping the village to grow in a positive direction so it is a place we can all be proud to call home. I take ownership of all the accomplishments made in the village during my time in office. I am proud of all of the new homes that have been built, the new businesses opening in the village, including Thornton’s Gas, Oak Street Health and the Cement Mason’s project,” she said. “Bellwood is in a forward motion and I look forward to pushing forward with it.”

A “hands on person,” Boston added, “You will normally see me working whenever there is a village event. I enjoy being a part of the positive things going on in Bellwood. I love Bellwood and only want the best for our community and its residents.”

Gloria J. Holman

Appointed a village trustee in 2014 and elected to office later that year, Gloria J. Holman continues to invite residents and business owners to share their ideas and concerns at virtually any point of contact with her, including during the Saturday morning meet and greet event for residents at the Village Hall.

Holman, whose family has lived in the village for 34 years, has served in various capacities in the village for 21 years, including on several committees and the Bellwood Planning Board. She has served as a Neighborhood Watch block captain, as a member of the family day picnic committee and on the Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund Corp.

Her priorities for the village remain consistent: provide great leadership and vision to continually move Bellwood forward in every area.



MC Robinson

Arkansas native and 17-year Bellwood Trustee MC Robinson demonstrates the same passion today for the village as he did when elected in 2003 as evident in his roles around the village. Robinson has served on various village committees, including previously chairing the Public Safety, Finance and Quality of Life committees; he currently chairs the Administration committee.

He is a member of the Advisory Council of Age Options and since 1992 has served on the board of the Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund. He is a strong supporter of the Police department and the Community Policing program, and a block watch captain since 1985.

The certified tool and die maker was elected for 21 consecutive years by his co-workers as chairman of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Union. Commonly known as the “people’s trustee,” Robinson is a familiar face around town and connects with residents at village and Memorial Park District events.



Details About Gift Cards For A's Distribution



Gift cards will be distributed for the second quarter marking period in the village's Gift Cards For A's Program on Feb. 2 and 4 from 3 – 5 p.m. in the Village Hall boardroom.

Bellwood is partnering 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 that 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, a private school 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.



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 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.

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.



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.

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.



JANUARY CALENDAR

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| 1* | New Year's Day |
| 9 | National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day |
| 11 | Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m. |

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| 18* | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| 20 | Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m. |

*Village Hall will be closed.



**PLEASE
RECYCLE!**

