



UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

Spring is in the air – but so, too, is the COVID-19 virus and that is precisely why we must still take steps to remain safe as we move toward warmer weather and more outside activities. Although the spread of the virus has dropped dramatically, and some restrictions have been eliminated or lessened, it is still safe and smart to follow all guidelines from our medical professionals.

The spring season and better weather also will shine a brighter light on the new homes that have recently been built and sold in Bellwood. Our successful strategy to improve the housing stock in town recently was highlighted in a feature article in *Crain's Chicago Business*. We know that families who want to remain in Bellwood benefit from more housing options, which also adds to the village's vitality.

You can read more about the program in this newsletter and how it is one step in our multi-step plan to grow the village in a smart, strategic way that benefits our residents and attracts new businesses as well.

The beginning of spring also means an opportunity for spring cleaning around your home; we are sharing several useful tips in this issue to help make your efforts complete and productive.

Crain's Chicago's Business
Highlights Bellwood's Housing Strategy



“How one town created its own building boom.”

That’s how *Crain's Chicago Business* titled a feature article in its March 7 issue that highlighted the ongoing success of Bellwood’s “do-it-yourself development strategy” to boost the village’s housing stock by building new residential homes around town. Here’s an excerpt from the article:

“Mayor André Harvey has only recently been able to smile when he passes the corner of 49th Street and St. Charles Road in Bellwood,

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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) 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

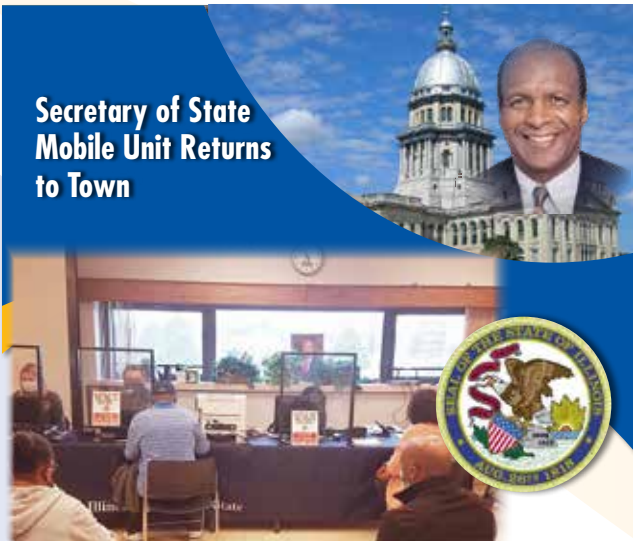
(Crain's Chicago's Business Highlights Bellwood's Housing Strategy continued)

where he's lived for 52 years and has been the mayor for five. The corner lot where an old gas station was demolished had stood empty for at least 30 years, but now two new homes are nearing completion on the site.

"Oh my goodness, am I happy to see that," says Harvey. It's gratifying, he says, not only to see a sore spot revitalized, but to know that "we're building bigger, better homes in Bellwood. By "we," Harvey means his administration at Bellwood Village Hall, which is the developer of the two houses under an unusual program he inherited from the previous mayor, Frank Pasquale. Bellwood, a near western suburb of about 19,000 people, is the rare municipality that on its own develops new homes in town. It has built 25 and, so far, sold 23 since Pasquale launched the innovative program a decade ago.

"Bellwood has an unusual program, with enough success in its first 10 years that it could serve as a model for other towns whose housing stock needs a refresh but whose demographics aren't high enough to attract private builders. Ten years in, Bellwood's program has turned an important corner, attracting a commercial homebuilder to work in the town."

Crain's coverage of the village's strategy also extended to a March 10 podcast in which Crain's residential real estate reporter Dennis Rodkin, who authored the feature story, talked with host Amy Guth about "how one town created its own building boom with a DIY development strategy."



Secretary of State Mobile Unit Returns to Town

The Secretary of State Mobile Unit returns to Bellwood at the Village Hall on April 22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to allow residents to renew vehicle stickers, obtain a renewal, replacement or correction of a driver's license or state ID card, complete a motor voter registration with a renewal of a driver's license or state ID card, and/or complete an organ donor registration with renewal of a driver's license or state ID card. Proper identification is required for all services. If you have any questions, call Tonita S. LeShore at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1512.

Final Push Proviso Connected Officials and Voters



A festive event titled "Final Push Proviso" on March 6 in Hillside allowed Bellwood residents and residents from other villages in Proviso Township to meet Gov. JB Pritzker, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and other local elected officials who encouraged residents to vote and remain active in their community.



The attendees were served dinner and received political signage and T-shirts in advance of the upcoming election. The event was well attended, and the attendees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to speak with their elected officials. Ill. Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford addressed the gathering and Hillside Mayor Joseph Tamburino welcomed all to the village as did representatives of Sheet Metal Workers, Local 73 Hall.

Bellwood mayor André F. Harvey spoke on behalf of the Proviso Township mayors and Cook County Clerk and Proviso Committeeman Karen Yarbrough directed the program and welcomed candidates in various June elections to speak with the attendees.

Bellwood Neighborhood Watch Scholarship Fund Corp.



SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The deadline has been **EXTENDED** to May 15, 2022

To apply for a scholarship, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be a resident of the Village of Bellwood in the State of Illinois
- Be a high school graduate
- This must be your first time attending college
- You must be accepted and enrolled as a full or part time student at a two (2) year college or a four (4) year university of your choice, which offers a degree program.

Please contact us at BNWSFC@gmail.com for more info.

Please join House Speaker and State Representative
Emanuel "Chris" Welch
and Bellwood Mayor **Andre F. Harvey**
for a

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

Saturday, May 21, 2022

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Bellwood Village Hall
3200 Washington Blvd. | Bellwood, IL 60104

Help protect yourself from identity theft! Bring documents that contain your personally identifiable information – such as old bank statements, tax returns, bills, receipts, credit card applications and outdated medical records – to be safely shredded.

Please remember to remove all paper clips, staples, and other bindings.

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

- Limit two boxes per car.
- Cardboard boxes cannot be left at the event.
- Residential shredding only (no commercial shredding).
- Shredding accepted until shred trucks reach capacity.

Emanuel "Chris"
WELCH
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
7th District
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



For more information, please contact Rep. Welch's constituent service office at 708-450-1000 or RepWelch@EmanuelChrisWelch.com

Mayor André F. Harvey
invites you to



SENIORS'

Mother's Day

BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 7, 2022

• 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Steel Metal Workers' Local Union 73
4550 Roosevelt Road, Hillside IL



Featuring live entertainment
Tickets: \$15

Seating is first come, first served. Purchase tickets from the Mayor's office before **April 29**. For any questions contact Cynthia Eubanks at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1100 or ceubanks@vil.bellwood.il.us.

Adults Only

FAQ

**Bellwood Finance Department:
Frequently Asked Questions
& Answers**

Q: Are you open on Saturdays?

A: Yes, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Q: Why was I charged for two garbage cans when I'm in a single-family?

A: We saw that you were in possession of two garbage cans. Call the Public Works Department so we can get the additional cans picked up and have the additional charge removed.

Q: I want an additional garbage can. How do I get one?

A: You or a representative will need to make a request in person. We will need a signature and to see government identification.

Q: Why was my water bill estimated?

A: We need to schedule a technician to come out and check our equipment or the gate was locked.

Q: Why is my water usage suddenly high?

A: It could be a leaky flapper or sticky handle on a toilet. Your faucets could be leaking. We can schedule a service order to check for issues with the toilets or leaking faucet. Toilets and leaks can cause a continuous flow of water that makes your meter run and creates a high bill.

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(Bellwood Finance Department: Frequently Asked Questions & Answers continued)

Q: I keep my gate locked. What can be done to still get an accurate reading?

A: Call the Finance Department at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1500 to set up a mutual time to move your touchpad from inside the yard.

Q: I would like the water bill taken out of someone's name who is deceased. Can this be done?

A: The water bill must stay in the person's or entity's name on the deed until it is legally transferred.

Q: I have a homeowner repair with water involved. How do I get my water shut off?

A: We will only shut your water off at the street if you need to make a repair to your property's shut-off valve. It must be scheduled by calling (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1500. If your shut-off valve is operable, then you would turn your water off from your property's shut-off valve to continue with your repair.

Q: I'm selling my home and need a final water reading and meter inspection. Do I need to be present?

A: Yes, you or a representative over age 18 must be present for entry.



1. Make a Schedule

Scope out your home: What areas need the most work? Where do you skip during routine cleaning?

2. De-clutter

Dust and organize your office; look through that dreaded junk drawer and desk drawers; and organize your closets.

3. Use a HEPA Vacuum

A high-quality HEPA vacuum catches tiny airborne particles you cannot see but can stir up allergy symptoms.

4. Think Green When You Spring Clean

A steam cleaner can be used to clean your microwave, tile, hard floors, kitchen appliances, bathrooms and outdoor areas.


5. Always Work from Top to Bottom

It is important to start from the ceiling down. This will force debris downward and keep you from having to re-dust or re-clean your space.

6. Walls and Windows Need Love too

Use a damp towel to wipe down walls and blinds (starting from the top).

**Bellwood Residents ...
Mark Your Calendar!**



**BELLWOOD COMMUNITY POLICE
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH GROUP
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 7 P.M.**

TOPIC:

* **Presentation on Preparing Your Business To Win ... Government Contracts, Grants and Corporate Contracts by Siri Hibbler, founder and CEO, Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce and Cook County Black Chamber of Commerce**

The Anonymous Tip hotline is (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1031.

For more information, call Police Commander, William Goodrum at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1330.

Great opportunity to meet, greet and show support for Bellwood's police officers! Comments, feedback and suggestions are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Face coverings and social distancing will be required.

www.vil.bellwood.il.us

7. Do not Be Scared of the Kitchen

Use a damp towel to wipe down walls and blinds (starting from the top).

8. Do not Forget About Your Air

Replacing a standard filter with a more robust one with a high MERV rating will help keep you healthier.

9. Have Severe Allergies? Protect Yourself

Cleaning will more than likely unsettle winter dust on furniture and fixtures. If you suffer from allergies or are using heavy-duty cleaners, be sure to read the labels.

10. Let Spring Cleaning Set a New Tone

Adding new colorful pillows or art change up your space. Replacing items like bedding, towels, table linens and even window treatments transform your rooms.

APRIL CALENDAR

<p>1 Hydrant Flushing Begins</p> <p>4 Yard Waste/Branch Pickup Begins</p> <p>10 Palm Sunday</p> <p>11 Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>15* Good Friday</p>	<p>17 Easter</p> <p>20 Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.</p> <p>22 Secretary of State Mobile Unit, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.</p> <p><i>*Village Hall will be closed.</i></p>
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