Village of BELLWOOD
Your Family Is Our Future

FEBRUARY 2023

UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

As mayor and as a husband and father, every year I look forward to Black History Month when we honor and celebrate the richness of African-American history and our undeniable contributions to every facet of this country.

Historian Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week in 1925 to raise awareness of African-Americans contributions that was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 and encompassed the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming and since that time what is now known as Black History Month is one of the most significant celebrations that the nation acknowledges.

As you know, in Bellwood, we too, celebrate and I encourage you to join us on Feb. 26 at Roosevelt Middle School for an uplifting and joyous event that highlights our youth who deliver moving songs, spoken word and dance performances. Bellwood and School District 88 are partnering to host the celebration.

What is also inspiring in another important area is the ongoing economic development taking place around town. Case in point: the first Quick Trip gas station and convenience store in Northern Illinois is scheduled to open in late March/early April at 25th Avenue just off of the Eisenhower Expressway.

We are looking forward to partnering with

(Mayor's Message continued on next page)

Amazon Fresh Event A Bonus During Holidays

The Village of Bellwood and Mayor André F. Harvey helped to make the holiday season bright as a part of the Christmas in the Wards event last December.

Latoyia Huggins, executive director of Christmas in the Wards, lead the effort to collaborate with community organizations, school districts and others to identify 100 families across Proviso Township who received $150 each in free groceries from the Amazon Fresh store in North Riverside. Christmas in the Wards has spread holiday cheer to underserved communities for 26 years. Bellwood supported 30 families in this effort to help brighten their holiday season.

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)

this new business that will provide another fueling option for residents and others while delivering revenue to Bellwood from property, sales and motor fuel taxes.

Our economic development progress also includes the Bellwood Senior Apartments building scheduled to open late August/early September at 25th Avenue and Washington Boulevard. The development will be a four-story building with 80 units (76 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom independent living apartments) for seniors. The developer will debut a website in the near future to provide more information and to allow seniors to apply.

Students To Receive Gift Cards for A's

Highlighting and acknowledging students' outstanding academic achievements will again be front and center on March 21 and 23 from 3-5 p.m. at the Village Hall when when Bellwood presents the Gift Card for A's program for students who earned A's on their report card for the second quarter. Students will receive a $5 Target gift card for each A they received in English, reading, math, science and social studies from Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey who enjoys congratulating and motivating the students for their hard work and diligence in school during the ongoing pandemic. Students, who must be a Bellwood resident, must bring a physical copy of the report card (progress reports will not be accepted).

Highlights From Christmas in Proviso

More than 100 families – including 12 who were supported by the Village of Bellwood – received an array of food products for the holidays courtesy of the Christmas in Proviso event on Dec. 17 at Proviso West High School that was supported by a number of sponsors.

Mayor Harvey shared his gratitude for the volunteers who contributed, including Gay Chase, as well as the village's department heads, and the Bellwood Street Department. The event was spearheaded by Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch in partnership with Sen. Kimberly Lightford, Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson, along with the Villages of Bellwood, Broadview, Hillside, Melrose Park, North Riverside, Westchester and PLCCA and Black Men United.

Mayor Harvey said, "This is the second year for Christmas in Proviso and helping families less fortunate is needed as we celebrate the holiday season. The holidays are for giving and seeing the smiles on the children's faces is priceless."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

STRENGTH BEHIND US...GREATNESS AHEAD OF US

ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
2500 OAK ST. BELLWOOD, IL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

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FEMA Offers More Equitable Flood Insurance Rates

Many Bellwood residents will benefit now that the Federal Emergency Management Association's National Flood Insurance Program offers more equitable and risk informed rates. The new premiums are the result of the program's new pricing methodology delivering rates that are actuarily sound, equitable, easier to understand and better reflect an individual property's flood risk.

New policies are being sold using the new methodology, and some existing policyholders may be eligible for immediate premium decreases when their policy renews. This federal action, coupled with the upcoming completion of the village's detention pond and redrawn maps by FEMA, will remove some Bellwood residents from the floodplain. That will further decrease residents' insurance rates.

Potential and existing policyholders can learn their specific rates with a call to their insurance company or agent.

Also known as Risk Rating 2.0, the new methodology uses increased technological and mapping capabilities to determine and communicate a property's full flood risk. The new rating methodology exposed inequities in pricing whereby some policyholders have been unjustly subsidizing other policyholders. The new methodology considers the cost to rebuild along with several other flood variables to determine a property's true flood risk.

Under the legacy pricing system, every policyholder would have seen rate increases now and into the future. Beginning in October 2022, about 23% -- or more than 1 million -- policyholders nationwide saw a decrease in their premium at the time of their policy's renewal. Bellwood residents who have questions about their new rate should contact their insurance company or agent. For more information, visit FEMA.gov.

100 Blessed Years And Counting....

Bellwood residents Catherine Wiley-Johnson and Glida Bidar recently celebrated milestone 100 year birthdays, and Mayor André F. Harvey and the entire village send warm wishes of love and support on their centennial trips around the earth, as the saying goes.

Wiley-Johnson, who celebrated last Dec. 15, is a 50-plus year Bellwood resident. Bidar, who has lived in Bellwood for 44 years, celebrated her 100th birthday on Jan. 23. The mayor wishes both residents health and peace in all the days to come.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2	Groundhog Day
11	Senior Mardi Gras Dance, Drury Lane Theater, 6 p.m.
13	Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.
14	Valentine's Day
15	Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
20*	Presidents' Day
26	Black History Month Celebration, Roosevelt Middle School, 11 a.m.

Village Hall will be closed.

PLEASE RECYCLE!

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Mayor, André F. Harvey, **Clerk,** Janel Moreland, **Trustees:** Jophelia Boston, Michael J. Ciavattone, Annie N. Delgado, Gloria Holman, Ronald Nightengale, M.C. Robinson, **Editor,** Tonita S. LeShore, **Editor,** Derrick K. Baker, **Graphic Design,** Mazique Design Services, **Photography,** Johnny Boston Sr. © 2023 Village of Bellwood