Village of BELLWOOD
Your Family Is Our Future

JUNE 2023

UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

The weather continues to warm up as we move closer to the calendar start of summer on June 21 so now is the time to focus on summertime topics.

For example, school is out for the summer, so I send my sincere congratulations to all the students who graduated from all grades in school, including elementary school through college and beyond. As a lifelong supporter of education, I continue to show my strong support and guidance to our youth on their educational journey. A solid education has and always will open doors to bright futures. An education is a proven way for our students to mature into valued contributing members of society.

Summer also means motorists should exercise caution as our students begin their summer break and will be outdoors even more in the coming months. I know our residents look forward to a summer full of activities and special events – including the Taste of Bellwood from Aug. 11-13 – and I remind you to always be safe when gathering with your family, friends and neighbors.

Finally, I invite you to join us for the Community Clean and Green Day on June 24 as we come together along with the local business community and others to beautify Bellwood.

Keeping the village clean means dog owners should always scoop your dog poop to help keep the village clean throughout the year.

Bellwood Welcomes First QuikTrip To Town

With a ceremonial cutting of a ribbon by Bellwood Mayor Andre F. Harvey and others, on May 18 Bellwood made history by welcoming the first Chicago-area location for fueling center and convenience retailer QuikTrip.

Located at 1040 25th Ave., the convenience retailer includes auto and semi-truck fueling stations as well as a store with a full-service kitchen. Like QuikTrip's other travel centers, the impressive business – the first to open in Northern Illinois – features a larger parking lot, 20 gas pumps, six diesel bays for trucks, and an expanded foodservice offering compared to traditional QuikTrip stores. Although this marks the sixth QuikTrip in Illinois, the Bellwood travel center is the retailer's first site near Chicago; the rest are located hundreds of miles south near the border of Missouri.

The mayor addressed the crowd of approximately 50 Bellwood residents

(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

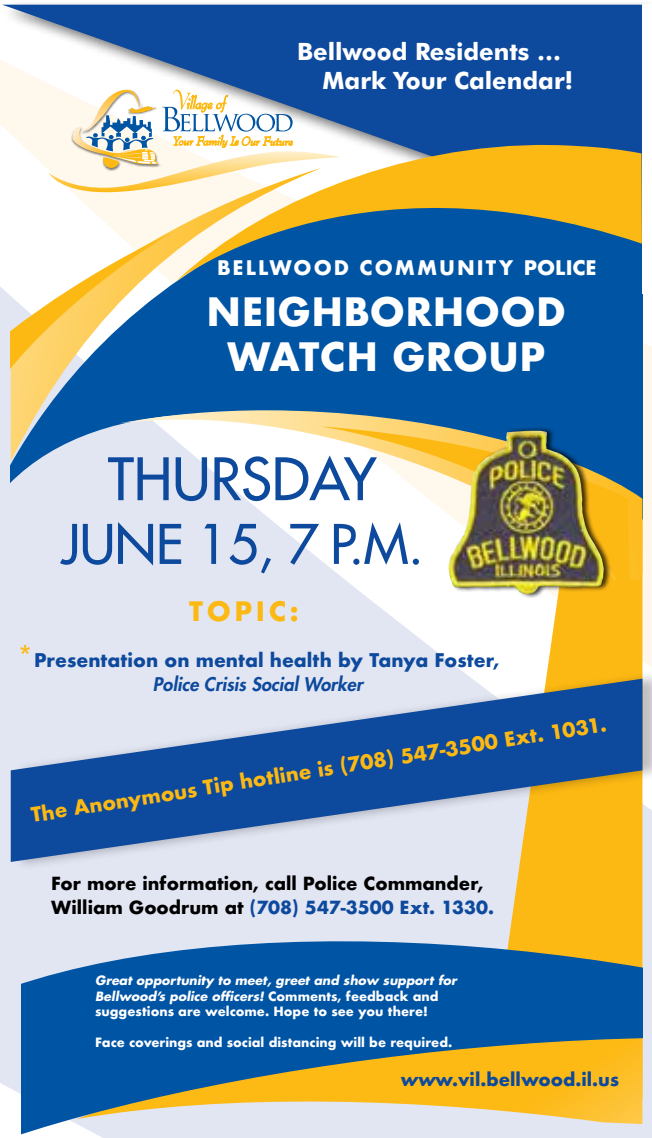
(Bellwood Welcomes First QuikTrip To Town continued)

and employees as well as the new location's staff and many of the construction workers who helped complete the project.

"We are excited to welcome a Fortune 100 company into Bellwood by way of this new history-making QuikTrip convenience retail location," said the mayor. "Given the village's convenient proximity to Chicago, O'Hare airport and other suburbs, as a business-friendly town Bellwood is a logical location for businesses in different industries."

Mayor Harvey also thanked the village trustees and those involved in bringing the project to completion, including Bellwood Director of Economic Development Peter Tsiolis and Assistant Director of Economic Development Aric Swaney.

QuikTrip debuted its travel center concept in 2020, and has since grown the format to more than 20 locations in various states, including Tennessee and Mississippi. The locations are specifically designed for highly traveled areas that are also within proximity to a QuikTrip distribution center for access to fresh food.



Recognition, Retirement and Swearing In At May 17 Village Board Meeting

Police Commander Rides Into Retirement

After 30 years of service, Commander Jack Bridson retired on April 30 from the Bellwood Police Department with countless memories of serving the village alongside his partners and peers in law enforcement. Bridson served in many capacities during his tenure, including as a patrol officer, evidence technician, detective, master sergeant and on the motorcycle and bicycle units.

Staff Recognized For Outstanding Service

Tom White And Elena Licavoli were presented with the Chief of Police Citizen Award for professionally maintaining the village kennel over the past few years. White constantly walked the animals and cleaned the kennel while treating the animals in a humane manner. Licavoli also maintained the kennel and assisted in finding foster homes for more than 40 stray dogs from the Bellwood community. She also generously provided supplies to the kennel as well as emergency medical care.

Police Officer Recognized For Life-Saving Action

Bellwood Police Officer Shawn Clark received a Life Saving Award for providing critical medical service on October 11, 2022, after responding to a medical emergency at a residence in Bellwood. Officer Clark calmed the family and started CPR until the Bellwood Fire Department arrived.

Recently Elected Bellwood Trustees Sworn In

Bellwood Trustees Jophelia Boston, Gloria Holman and MC Robinson were sworn in during the May 17 village board meeting. Trustee Robinson, the longest-serving trustee, was sworn in for his fifth term. Known as the "People's Trustee," he said his love for the residents of Bellwood is why he continues to serve.

Trustee Boston was elected to her second full term but completed her sixth year after being appointed in 2017. A 25-year resident, as a public servant she believes she makes the greatest impact by voicing the concerns of residents or representing the village in other communities.

Trustee Holman, a 40-year resident of Bellwood, was sworn into her fourth term, She loves to serve the constituents and residents and looks forward to continuing providing input on important village issues.

Highlights From Senior's Mother's Day Breakfast

Keeping the tradition alive, the Seniors' Mother's Day Breakfast on May 13 was well attended by community members and guests from far and near.

Entertainment by Dj Irv, musical artist KaRon Williams, violinist Windy Indie and comedian Stephon were among the many highlights of the music-filled, adults-only event at the Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 73 in Hillside.

The Answer Inc. Hosts Spirited Walk-A-Thon

Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey and Bellwood trustees and employees were among the people who participated in The Answer Inc.'s 16th Annual Autism and Developmental Needs Walk-A-Thon on May 6.

The Answer provides advocacy, education, recreation, resources and support services to persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Tyreese Alexander, who works for the Village of Bellwood as a part-time custodian, won a trophy for highest fundraiser and Bellwood won the trophy for most walkers represented by a team.

Debra Vines, CEO/founder of The Answer, said, "The event would not have been a success without the generosity of our wonderful sponsors. Their donations made it possible to host another great community event that included disability awareness, vendors, giveaways, music, food, entertainment and an overall fun experience at Proviso West High School."

If you know someone who needs services, resources and referrals due to a developmental and intellectual disability, call The Answer at (708) 296-5651.

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COMMUNITY CLEAN & GREEN DAY

Saturday, June 24, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Sign-in: 8:30 a.m. in front of the Bellwood Village Hall (Assignments for designated areas in Bellwood)

Let's beautify our town!

To volunteer, contact Tonita LeShore at tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us or at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1512.

Property Tax Saving Exemptions

Join us for a workshop to learn about the Cook County Assessor's Office and homeowner exemptions.

- Learn the basics of the property tax system.
- Find out which exemptions automatically renew.
- Learn how to check which exemptions were applied to your home last year.
- Participate in live Q&A session.

Thursday, June 29
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Bellwood Village Hall - Community Room
3200 Washington Blvd.
Bellwood, IL 60104

Homeowner Exemption
Senior Freeze Exemption
Senior Exemption
Persons with Disabilities Exemption
Veterans with Disabilities Exemption

Please note: Exemptions are reflected on 2nd property tax bill.

cookcountyassessor.com
Fritz Kaegi
Bellwood

Residents Gain At Home Weatherization Workshop

Representatives of the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program shared important information with nearly two dozen Bellwood residents on April 27 during an information session at the Village Hall.

Sponsored by CEDA, the program makes homes safer and more comfortable. The program helps clients save energy, as well as keeps homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Eligible clients may receive support to seal drafty areas; insulate attics, walls, basements and crawl spaces; repair or replace heating systems; and enhance indoor air quality and ventilation.

Bellwood/Oak Street Health Cinco De Mayo Celebration

In partnership with Bellwood, Oak Street Health celebrated Cinco De Mayo and promoted health with a Cinco De Mayo Celebration. Bellwood residents and others enjoyed tacos, dancing and learned about Medicare and how Oak Street Health serves the community.

Good Friday Features Cross of Christ Procession

World Deliverance Christian Center and the Village of Bellwood presented the annual Good Friday Cross of Christ Procession on April 7 that began at the intersection of Butterfield Road and Bohland Avenue.

The procession portrayed the final march of Jesus as he is led to be crucified. The reenactment ended in Stevenson Park with Jesus' seven last words while hanging on the cross that ended in his death. The powerful event culminated in celebration, singing and excitement as Jesus was shown alive after his resurrection.

Bishop Thomas Clark, pastor of World Deliverance Christian Center, said, "While other communities also have a similar Good Friday march, we are thankful that Mayor Harvey and the Village of Bellwood are helping us to offer and grow this procession to become a staple event in the western suburbs."

JUNE CALENDAR

1-30 Free Permits For One- and Two-Family Properties (Detached garage roofs, air conditioners, water heaters)

12 Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.

15 Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 7 p.m.

18 Father's Day

19* Juneteenth

21 Summer Begins
Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

24 Community Clean & Green Day, 9 a.m.

30 Hydrant Flushing Ends

Village Hall will be closed.

PLEASE RECYCLE!

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