



# UPDATE

## MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

In light of the current events taking place nationwide concerning immigration, it is especially a point of pride that the village will proudly co-host the annual Hispanic Cultural Celebration and Resource Expo on Oct. 18 at Roosevelt Middle School. Along with Rep. Norma Hernandez, we will highlight the community's rich culture and lasting contributions to communities far and wide, including Bellwood and our neighbors in Proviso Township and beyond. We look forward to seeing you for what is always a joyous event.

Fall is a time of the year that brings with it a range of special events and celebrations in and around our village; events and activities that are open to and enjoyed by people of all ages and interests. And that includes the Bridging the Gap and Resource Fair, which is a wonderful back-to-school celebration sponsored by Bishop Claude Porter and Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action. Read more about the event in this issue of the *Update*.

October also means Halloween is coming up on Oct. 31. Trick or treat hours in Bellwood are 3-7 p.m. and we ask parents to exercise great caution when escorting your children around town. Remember to check the candy before they eat it.

## Bridging the Gap Parade Unites Proviso Township



Bellwood was front and center as Proviso Township recently hosted the second annual Bridging the Gap Parade and Resource Fair, the second annual back-to-school celebration sponsored by Bishop Claude Porter and Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA).

The community resource hub focuses on education, student success and neighborly support to bring together towns and school districts in Proviso Township. Along with other active supporters including elected officials, Bellwood Mayor Andre F. Harvey collaborated with PLCCA to plan offerings to invest in students' success.



(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

***Criminal records can create barriers to employment, education and housing opportunities. Westside Justice Center staff will explain the expungement and record sealing process in Cook County.***



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

**BELLWOOD COMMUNITY POLICE**

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
WATCH MEETING**

Bellwood Village Hall, Community Room, 2nd Floor

**THURSDAY**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**

**TOPIC:**

- Clinic presented by Westside Justice Center on Estate Planning, Expungement and Fingerprinting

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

For more information, call Police Commander, Keith Chilson (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1335.

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

[www.vil.bellwood.il.us](http://www.vil.bellwood.il.us)

## 6th Celebration and Counting for Surviving Warriors Group

On Oct. 3, the Surviving Warriors Breast Cancer Support Group, in partnership with the Village of Bellwood and Memorial Park District, hosted

its 6th Annual Balloon Release and Candlelight Vigil to honor breast cancer survivors, those currently fighting the disease, and to remember individuals who earned their wings during their battle.



This year marks the 40th anniversary of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the anniversary includes the encouraging news that the death rate has decreased by 44% with respect to the campaign and other advances.

*(More images on the back page)*

*(Bridging the Gap Parade Unites Proviso Township continued)*

Beyond the parade route, the fair provided residents with an array of services from state and county agencies, local nonprofits and community organizations, including healthcare, wellness screenings, resources for food insecurity, and connections to housing, mental health and family support programs.

Bridging the Gap also featured volunteers and partners who shared back-to-school information and study tips, while connecting families to tutoring, enrichment and after-school opportunities that will last beyond the first day of class.

## Residents Learn At Property After Death Forum

An impressive number of Bellwood residents gained valuable insight about estate planning alternatives and the importance of having a plan to transfer their wealth to their loved ones or beneficiaries during a session presented by the Cook County clerk's office.

Representatives from the clerk's office shared information about the Cook County Transfer on Death Instrument and explained how to transfer property, a car and bank accounts to loved ones, how to protect property from fraud and theft through the Clerk's Office Property Fraud Alert Registration. Residents talked to licensed estate planning attorneys and legal professionals from the clerk's office.

A panel of volunteer attorneys with expertise in estate planning also dispensed knowledge at the standing-room only event hosted by Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey and village staff.





## Board of Review Hosts Tax Appeal Outreach

Dana Pointer from the Cook County Board of Review's office held an educational session that provided information on understanding property tax notices, and the appeals process on Sept. 25 at the Bellwood Village Hall.



The well-attended Tax Appeal Outreach event was presented by the Board of Review and Bellwood Mayor Andre F. Harvey, in partnership with Proviso Township, Cook County Commissioner Tara Stamps, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Rep. Omar Williams. The Board of Review provided helpful information for residents interested in appealing their property taxes.

## Bellwood Committed to Village's Future Sustainability

The Cross-Community Climate Collaborative (C4) hosted its annual Mayors and Community Forum on Sept. 25 featuring mayors from the western suburbs who discussed sustainability priorities, shared challenges and learned from the successes of neighboring communities.

C4's "Sustainability Solidarity" mission ensures that both resourced and under-resourced communities can adopt sustainability best practices at a shared pace to promote regional equity in the pursuit of climate resiliency.

Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey is committed to the village's sustainable future and he actively leads within the C4 network to advance key sustainability priorities outlined in Bellwood's comprehensive sustainability plan, including: the Bellwood School District 88 Zero Waste Food Program; the Bellwood Community Composting Program; the Kaleidoscope Community Project; and Sustainable Affordable Housing.





Mayor André F. Harvey  
in partnership with  
Rep. Norma Hernandez

★ ★ ★ ★ PRESENTS ★ ★ ★ ★

# HISPANIC

## CULTURAL CELEBRATION & RESOURCE EXPO

Roosevelt Middle School, 2500 Oak Street, Bellwood  
**October 18, 2025, 1 – 5 p.m.**  
Food tastings from Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, Puerto Rico  
and the Dominican Republic



- Merchandise Vendors
- Informational Vendors
- Face Painting
- Balloon Sculpting

If you would like to be a vendor, contact Tonita S. LeShore at  
(708) 202-0312 or via email at [tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us](mailto:tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us)



Everyone is Invited!

Bellwood's **3rd**  
Christmas  
**FESTIVAL**  
of **LIGHTS**  
**PARADE**





**Saturday,  
November 22, 2025**

Christmas  
Bazaar Pop-Up  
Shops at  
Stevenson Center  
from 3 - 8 p.m.  
Come out  
& shop!

Parade kicks off at 5 p.m.!

Interested in participating in the parade? Contact Cynthia Eubanks  
at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1100 or Rev. Rodney L. Smith at (630) 926-8529.



**Village of BELLWOOD**  
Your Family Is Our Priority

Mayor André F. Harvey  
Hosts Annual Christmas

# Breakfast WITH Santa

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Best Western Plus Chicago Hillside,  
4400 Frontage Road, Hillside, IL

\$15 General (13 yrs. & Older)  
\* \$7.50 (Children 3 – 12 yrs.)  
\* \$10 Seniors (65 yrs. & Older)

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Tickets must be presented at the door to enter. Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. Please arrive at 8:30 a.m.

Purchase tickets in the Mayor's office at the Bellwood Village Hall from Monday, October 13 – Monday, November 17, or until tickets are sold out.

Breakfast will be served promptly at 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. **ONLY!**

(More images from the Surviving Warriors Event)



**Village of BELLWOOD**  
Your Family Is Our Priority

Mayor André F. Harvey Hosts  
2025 Annual

# Christmas

## Food Giveaway

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**  
10 a.m. – 12 noon

You must bring a photo ID, current water bill and proof of eligibility for SNAP, SSI or Medicaid benefits.

Bellwood residents must register from November 10 – 14 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day at the Village Hall, Human Resources Department, Room 206.

Food is limited to one bag per household • Phone-in registration is not allowed.

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

- |           |  |           |   |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| <b>5</b>  | Fire Prevention Week   | <b>16</b> | Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 6:30 p.m.   |
| <b>13</b> | Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m.<br>Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day | <b>18</b> | Hispanic Heritage Celebration<br>Month Celebration, Roosevelt Middle School, 1 p.m. |
| <b>15</b> | Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.  | <b>31</b> | Halloween (Trick or Treat Hours, 3-7 p.m.)  |

