

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

February is upon us and like every year, we are proud to celebrate Black History Month as the annual celebration of achievements and contributions in all walks of life by African Americans. This month is a time for reflecting and recognizing the history, current and enduring impact African Americans have in the community and in the United States and beyond.

Black History Month grew out of what was first called “Negro History Week” as the brainchild of historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every president has officially designated February as Black History Month. Even further, other countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom, devote a month to celebrate black history.

This month is particularly historic as 2026 marks 100 years since the first national observance so I am especially energized to invite you to join us at the village’s annual Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 28 at Roosevelt Middle School/ We will also honor Cong. Danny K. Davis and show our gratitude for his long-time, consistent and important advocacy for and with our village.

On another note, due to its continued popularity, the Annual Senior Valentine’s Gala sold out three weeks after tickets went on sale. I look forward to spending a spectacular night with our seniors on Feb. 14 at the Drake Oak Brook hotel.

Lastly, remember to check on your elderly neighbors. During the winter, remember to shovel and salt your sidewalk and walkway to prevent ice buildup that leads to slips and falls. Also sign up to receive the monthly *Update* e-newsletter by visiting the village’s website at vil.bellwood.il.us. Click the sign-up link under the “Recent Newsletters” content.

Village Supports Operation Uplift Awards Gala



In honor of Operation Uplift, Inc. celebrating 58 years in January this year of providing community service to the Proviso Township area, the organization proudly celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and honored black excellence at its 37th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Community Awards black-tie gala.

Titled “Reclaiming The Dream in a Perilous Time,” the Jan. 17 event at the Marriott Chicago-Oakbrook focused on fostering human rights and generational empowerment in communities. Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, village trustees and other elected officials were in attendance. Operation Uplift and its West Town Museum of Cultural History has provided 58 years of job training and historic preservation services to low- and medium-income, unemployed and untrained youth and adults in Proviso Township. The evening also featured a special tribute to Cong. Danny K. Davis for nearly five decades of public service.

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

Breakfast Honors Legacy of Dr. King

Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey and the village's board of trustees and staff recently joined the Village of Hillside at its 24th Annual Breakfast honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 73 Hall.



With the theme "Standing Tall ... Walking Proud!" the event featured keynote speaker James Turner Brewer, retired NBA player, Olympic silver medalist and community leader. The event celebrated Dr. King's legacy and inspired future leaders to carry his vision forward.

Village Supports Delta Sigma Theta's Founders Day

As the service-focused Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. (DST) hosted its Illinois Statewide Founders Day Celebration from Jan. 23-25, Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, village trustees and other elected officials attended the community forum to help the members celebrate sisterhood.

This year's theme was "We Are One: One State, One Sorority, One Sisterhood" and the festive celebration highlighted deepening connections, honored shared legacy and strengthened the bonds that unite DST members statewide.



Meet Bellwood Fire Chief Ross Harris

The thrill and excitement of fighting fires and saving lives were key elements in Ross Harris' decision to become a first responder, which eventually led to him being hired as a firefighter and emergency medical technician by Bellwood Fire Department in 2001.



Ross, who served as a trustee for the Bellwood Firefighters Pension Fund, rose through the ranks of lieutenant and captain and last year on September 17 was appointed fire chief for Bellwood.

Harris shares, "The Bellwood Fire Department is one of the most aggressive and proud fire departments in the Chicagoland area whose top priority has always been the residents with a team of firefighters who are experienced and loyal to our community."

One of the most memorable experiences Ross had on the job is delivering a baby who he met 20 years later and shared the experience with her. It is also while performing his duties as a Bellwood firefighter and on assignment in a Bellwood ambulance that he met his wife Christina of 20 years. At the time, she was employed at the Westlake Hospital Emergency Room as an emergency room technician. Chief Harris and Christina have three daughters: Marisa, 25; Kayla 18; and Aleah 14.

Fire Department Adds Ambulance To Fleet



The Bellwood Fire Department added a new emergency medical service vehicle to its fleet: a 2025 Braun CHXL Ambulance (ambulance 600) that is fully equipped on a 2025 Ford E450 Chassis with modern emission standards and a Stryker Power Load Stretcher.

Purchasing a unit with high performance and reliability was a significant improvement for the department's responsiveness and reliability and, based on enthusiastic staff feedback, another asset to help meet the community's needs.

In Her Words: Bellwood Detective Alyssa Griffin

Why did you become a police officer?

I became a police officer because I wanted a career where I could make a direct, positive impact on people's lives. I was drawn to public service and the responsibility of protecting others, especially during moments when they need help the most. Being able to serve the Village of Bellwood is something I take great pride in.



What aspect of this job are you most passionate about?

What I'm most passionate about is helping people during some of the most stressful moments of their lives. Whether it's solving a case, calming a tense situation, or simply taking the time to listen, I enjoy being someone the community can rely on. Building trust and doing the job with integrity means a lot to me.

What has been the most memorable experience you have had on the job?

The most memorable moments on the job are when you can see that your actions truly made a difference; helping a victim feel safe again, resolving a problem that's been affecting a family, or getting a simple "thank you" from a resident. Those moments stick with you and remind you why the work matters. I have also made countless memories with fellow officers, both serious and lighthearted, that have strengthened our bond and will stay with me for a lifetime.

Det. Griffin, who joined the department in January 2020, shared a final message:

Thank you for your continued support and trust. It's an honor to serve this community, and I'm committed to keeping our village safe while treating everyone with fairness, respect and professionalism. If you see one of us while we're out in the community, please feel free to wave or say hello. We truly value those small connections.

Rewarding Students With Gift Cards for A's

Highlighting students' outstanding academic achievements will be the focus on March 3 and 5 from 3-5 p.m. when Bellwood presents the Gift Cards for A's program for the second quarter of the school year for students in 3rd – 8th grades.

Presented by Mayor André F. Harvey, students who earned A's on their report card for the second quarter in English, reading, math, science and social studies will a \$10 Target gift card for each A in those subjects only. Students must bring a physical copy of their report card (progress reports will not be accepted).



Village of
BELLWOOD
Your Family Is Our Future

**MAYOR ANDRÉ F. HARVEY
INVITES YOU!**

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

**SATURDAY
FEB 28, 2026**
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Roosevelt Middle School
2500 Oak St., Bellwood

CELEBRATION

**"A CENTURY OF
BLACK HISTORY
COMMEMORATIONS"**

Join us as we mark 100 years since the first Black History Week in 1926 and explore the significance of this national observance. We will celebrate the legacy of recognizing Black history and its impact on American culture and beyond.

**SHOPPING
NETWORKING
ENTERTAINMENT
& FOOD**

Mayor Harvey and the Board of Trustees celebrate small businesses and youth entrepreneurs by providing vendor and pop-up opportunities throughout the year.



**AWARD PRESENTATION
TO LIVING LEGEND
CONG. DANNY K. DAVIS
(7TH DISTRICT)**

"Mama Rose" Reaches Milestone Birthday

Bellwood mainstay Rosabell Thomas, widely and affectionately known as "Mama Rose," is now a proud centenarian who has lived in Bellwood for 50 plus years. She reached the milestone of 100 years on Nov. 11 last year and recently celebrated the occasion with Bellwood Mayor André F. Harvey, granddaughter Regina Greene and neighbor Thomas Wells.



Her secret to longevity and good health is "The Good Lord! Also the love of family and friends," shared Mama Rose. "The most important lesson of her 100 years? "Mind your business and take care of yourself."

What advice would you give to the younger generation? "Love and take care of each other, do not misuse your body." What brings you the most joy today? "Family and family gatherings!" she emphatically shared, and added, "I've had 13 children and over 100 grandchildren and too many great and great, great (grandchildren) to count."



Proviso Handyman Department

February 2026

Do you know that ceiling fans help distribute heat evenly to your rooms. Are yours in good working order? When was the last time you changed the filters in your furnace?
Give our Handyman office a call to schedule an appointment or to register for our program.

Call 708-547-4001

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled homeowners who are residents of Proviso Township



Bellwood · Berkeley · Broadview · Brookfield · Forest Park · Hillside · LaGrange Park · Maywood · Melrose Park · North Riverside · Northlake · Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs

+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township+

Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor

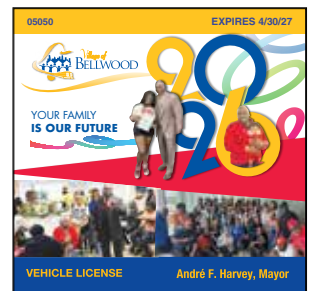
Anthony "Tony" Williams
Clerk

Steven J. Zawaski
Assessor

Gay F. Chase · Evelyn Chavez · Joseph Christopher · Tommy Olson
Trustees

Village Sticker Information You Should Know

Effective January 31, 2026, vehicle stickers, business licenses and cat and dog tags are on sale in the village's finance and police departments. All stickers, licenses and tags must be displayed by May 1, 2026 to avoid a penalty and/or fine.



Proper display consists of applying the sticker to the passenger side front window at least 6" from the bottom of the window. New residents must purchase a sticker within 30 days of moving into Bellwood.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

14 Seniors Valentine's Day Gala,
Drake Oak Brook, 6 p.m.
Valentine's Day

16* Presidents' Day

18 Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

28 Black History Month Celebration,
Roosevelt Middle School, 1 p.m.

**Village Hall will be closed.*

