Village of BELLWOOD
Your Family Is Our Future

OCTOBER 2026

UPDATE

MESSAGE From Mayor André F. Harvey

This year we lost Bishop Claude Porter. He founded the Bridging the Gap Parade, and it was his vision to bring our young people, our families and our communities together at the start of the school year. We are keeping that vision alive. On Sept. 12, we held the third annual Bridging the Gap Parade in his honor. It traveled through Bellwood and Maywood, from 25th and Madison to Proviso East High School.

Participants came from all over, and at the end of the route we held a resource fair for families. Bishop Porter's family remains in our thoughts, and we are thankful for what he gave this community. Read more inside this issue of the Update.

To every student in District 87, District 88, District 209 and the Proviso Township schools: welcome back. I hope you had a great summer. Teachers, bus drivers, principals, coaches and staff, thank you for what you do for our young people.

This month let's focus on grades. Gift Cards for A's is available for students in 3rd through 8th grades. Earn an A in reading, math, language arts/English or science, and you earn a $10 gift card for every A. Gift cards are awarded for the 2nd and 4th grading periods.

October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On Saturday, Oct. 10, the Surviving Warriors Breast Cancer Support Group, along with the Memorial Park District and the Village of Bellwood, presents Kicks for a Cure, a line dancing event, from 7 - 11 p.m. at 3101 Washington Blvd. Dress to impress. Best sneakers win a prize. Tickets are $35 in advance and $40 at the door. The event is for ages 21 and older, and vendor booths are $75. Call Jophelia Boston at (708) 601-9921 for more information.

That same day, from 2-5 p.m., Rep. Norma Hernandez and I will host the Hispanic Cultural Celebration and Resource Expo at Roosevelt Junior High School. Come and enjoy food and drinks from Latin America along with vendors, face painting and balloon sculpting.

Bridging The Gap Parade Honors Founder, Unites Villages

Known as the largest multicultural parade and community event in the western suburbs of Chicago, on Sept. 12 the Bridging the Gap Parade & Community Resource Fair united the villages of Maywood, Bellwood, Broadview, Hillside, Forest Park, Westchester, North Riverside, and Melrose Park to honor the legacy of founder Bishop Dr. Claude Porter.

Produced by PLCCA Inc., the popular, multifaceted event celebrates a shared heritage and builds bridges between diverse communities through music, dance, education, and civic engagement. Featured appearances included those by the Jesse White Tumblers, iAmDLOW, celebrity DJs, marching bands, and local dancers. Free dental checks, children's haircuts, gaming trucks and more than 80 health, food and community resource vendors also highlighted the event.

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 Residents ...
Mark Your Calendar!

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BELLWOOD COMMUNITY POLICE

POLICE
BELLWOOD
ILLINOIS

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 15, 7 P.M.

TOPIC:

- Presentation from Bellwood Departments on Services and Resources

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

New Emergency Backup Generators Strengthen Bellwood's Resilience

The Village of Bellwood has completed the installation of three emergency backup generators at critical infrastructure locations throughout the community, including at the UP Railroad stormwater pump station, Hyde Park sanitary lift station and Eastern and St. Charles drinking water distribution station.

The generators will provide reliable backup power during outages, helping Bellwood maintain drinking water, stormwater and sewer system functionality when electrical service is disrupted. By keeping these essential systems operating, the generators will help prevent sewage backups and overflows while strengthening the Village's preparedness for severe weather and other emergency events.

Completed through Cook County's Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities Program, the project represents an important investment in Bellwood's infrastructure and long-term resilience. Through improvements like these, the Village is better equipped to protect critical services and serve residents when extreme weather and power outages occur.

Early Voting: What You Should Know

The early voting period for the Nov. 3 gubernatorial general election will run 7 days a week from Monday Oct. 19 until Monday, Nov. 2.

First week: Monday, Oct. 19 – 25

- **Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
- **Sunday (Oct. 25): 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Second week: Monday, Oct. 26 – Nov. 2

- **Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
- **Saturday: (Oct. 31): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
- **Sunday: (Nov. 1): 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Final Monday: (Nov. 2): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Bellwood residents ... remember to exercise your right to vote.

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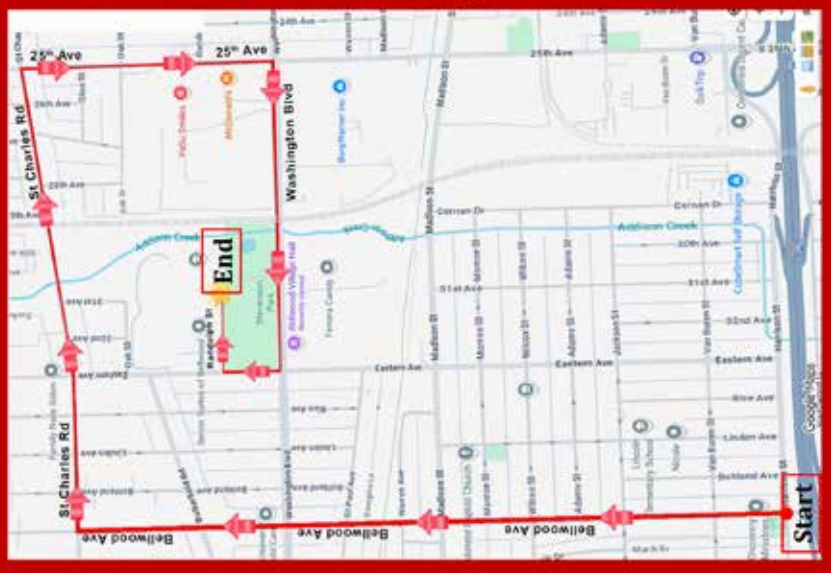
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO BELLWOOD'S

4TH Christmas FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2026

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

Christmas Festival of Lights Parade Route



Parade kicks off at 5 p.m.!

Interested in participating in the parade? Contact Takiyah Lane at (708) 547-3500 Ext. 1401 or Rev. Rodney L. Smith at (630) 926-8529.

The monthly Bellwood ***Update*** newsletter and village website (www.vil.bellwood.il.us) deliver important – and sometimes fun – information to and about the village's residents and business owners … and we always want to hear from you! Send us stories about your family's accomplishments at work, in the community and in school to Bellwood Human Resources Director Tonita S. LeShore at tleshore@vil.bellwood.il.us for consideration for the newsletter. Don't forget to attach a high-quality picture, if appropriate, that we can also consider.

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Mayor André F. Harvey Hosts
2026 Annual
Christmas Food Giveaway

Saturday, December 12, 2026
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 9 – 13 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

4	Fire Prevention Week
10	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, 2-5 p.m.
12	Committee of the Whole, 3:30 p.m. Columbus Day
15	Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 7 p.m.
21	Village Board Meeting
31	Halloween (Trick or Treat Hours, 3-7 p.m.)

PLEASE RECYCLE!

Bellwood *Update* is published monthly by the Village of Bellwood, 3200 Washington Blvd., Bellwood, IL 60104 • www.vil.bellwood.il.us
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