

2008 A YEAR OF Accomplishments...

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008 | BRISK | 38° 22°

Boost for Bellwood

GROWTH OFF I-290 | Big-box stores, new housing eyed in once-faded suburb

BY TAMARA GUY
A Wal-Mart supercenter is a possible anchor store at a 40-acre retail center planned just north of the Eisenhower Expressway at 29th Avenue in west suburban Bellwood.



BY THE NUMBER

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December 10, 2008 • By DAVID POLLARD dpollard@pioneerlocal.com



A train approaches the current Bellwood Metro station.

and retail and commercial development for both villages because of the easy access to public transportation. "Gas is down now, but it will go up," he said.

It will be about a year before construction of the new Bellwood/Metrose Park Metra Train Station will begin. The Metra train route local commuters use runs east out of Kane County to downtown Chicago and back.

Metrose Park Mayor Ron Soroka said his village is excited about the new station.

everybody has one. Neighbors

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A+ for Effort Bellwood continues to earn high marks with help from Best Buy and Triton College

When Bellwood opened its first Community Resource Center last year, Frank A. Pasquale had a long chat with astronaut Col. Lee S. Smith, a son of Bellwood who is proud to be a Bellwood resident. Smith's boyfriend, Gene Cernan, was the first to conduct live video chats between the Mayor and Houston, as well as from NASA to the students who are now in the community center.



the students and adults who have made the facility almost standing room only since it opened. Jesse Williams, a retired Bellwood Police Commissioner, manages the facility. "This place is a miracle factory," explains Williams, who is in charge of the village's community center.

night. We've got people preparing resumes and filling out job applications. Our classes are full of people looking to improve their knowledge of technology—people of every age group," he adds.

"We've expanded our hours and added some stations. We're still filled up. There are people waiting at the front door to get in most mornings. We can't cover our need center soon enough."

Chicago Tribune

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2008 | SECTION 1

Community plugged in

Bellwood unveils second computer resource center

By Joseph Ruzich
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

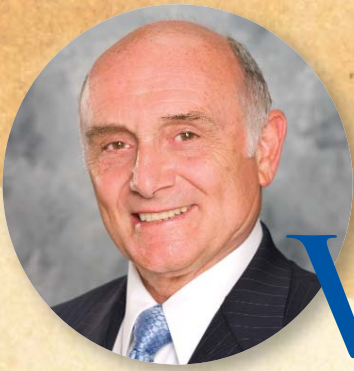
Bellwood just made it even easier for people without access to the Internet to get connected.

The near west suburb opened a 3,500-square-foot resource center Friday that has more than two dozen computers, several classrooms and quiet areas where students can study. Villagers, regardless of where they live, can use the resource center as



Diana Guzman (left) and Tamara Hillery, both 9, browse the Internet in Bellwood's new resource center. canovic.c.oss@tribune.com

Shonice James, 18, is taking a free computer course taught by Triton College.



ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS.

Vivid examples of that saying were evident last year in Bellwood. As a team, we worked together to make sure our well-thought-out plans led to the Village reaching a number of accomplishments, advancements and improvements that kept our town moving forward.

Moving forward means that our employees must continue to work separately and together to get the job done. With the economy still struggling to recover, our residents, the business community, parents, educators, religious institutions and Village trustees must also work toward our common interests. The weak economy that is affecting everyone, including individuals, corporations, nonprofits and cities, means we have to work harder and smarter, which we did in 2008. Last year, among the many accomplishments highlighted in this report, we:

Advancements &

- partnered with Triton College and Best Buy to provide technology opportunities within our borders
- continued to address flooding issues around Addison Creek
- assembled various agencies and individuals to gain approval for the new Metra station that will serve Bellwood and Melrose Park
- provided food and support services to over 300 needy families
- introduced a new rental policy designed to protect landlords and tenants

Our plans to make life better for everyone in Bellwood means we will continue moving forward. The list of accomplishments, advancements and improvements that await us is long and well within our reach. That's why I encourage you to spend a few minutes with this 2008 review to stay in-the-know – and proud – about the Village we all call home.

Frank A. Pasquale
Mayor

Bellwood Office of Emergency Management (BOEM)

- Personnel received 20 turnout fire coats donated by Loyola Hospital
- Prepared communications vehicle for installation of communications equipment

Building Department

- Revised homeowner's form
- Amended permit applications
- Introduced a new rental policy designed to protect landlords and tenants

Community Development Department

- Co-hosted outreach events with the Secretary of State, Cook County Sheriff's Office, and Proviso Township Tax Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review
- Partnered with Illinois Rep. Karen Yarbrough to host Homeowner's Outreach Day
- Partnered with Center for Neighborhood Technology to host two Bellwood "Green Days"
- Hosted medical screening events with Heartland Blood Drive and Life Line Screening; Back-to-School screenings with Ronald McDonald; and Heath Fair with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.
- Partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation to employ 20 students in the Summer Youth Work Program
- Employed five students in the summer internship program

Community Liaison

- Awarded scholarships to 21 college students
- Provided food and support services to over 300 needy families
- Coordinated Annual Christmas Food Basket Giveaway
- Held first-ever outdoors community policing meeting
- Trained office staff as deputy voter registrars and registered 40 citizens



Computer Resource Centers

- Hosted three Best Buy Job Fairs for customer service and technician positions
- Conducted four 12-hour Basic Computer Training classes
- Assisted citizens in acquiring employment through the Basic Computer Training class
- Partnered with Best Buy to host digital TV transition training for citizens

Economic Development

- Spearheaded the Village's computer rebate program with Best Buy
- Hosted mortgage foreclosure seminar for residents



- Installed wireless connections to NorComm for monitoring of fire alarms
- Hosted fire station tours and conducted fire safety talks with 250 students and teachers
- Performed 1,645 fire inspections on commercial businesses, multi-family buildings, daycare centers and homes

& Improvements

- Completed property acquisitions and demolition in 1100 block of Bellwood Avenue
- Assisted in executing the A+ Certification Program with Best Buy and Triton College
- Managed acquisition of properties on Grant and Eastern avenues for development
- Completed the St. Charles Road corridor study
- Finalized the retail development agreement for South tax increment financing (TIF) district; commenced land acquisition

Finance Department

- Continued to improve the collections of past due balances resulting in increased cash flow
- Streamlined the business license application process
- Notified customers of irregularity in water usage and provided technical assistance to identify and solve the problem
- Complied with all financial regulations per the annual audit

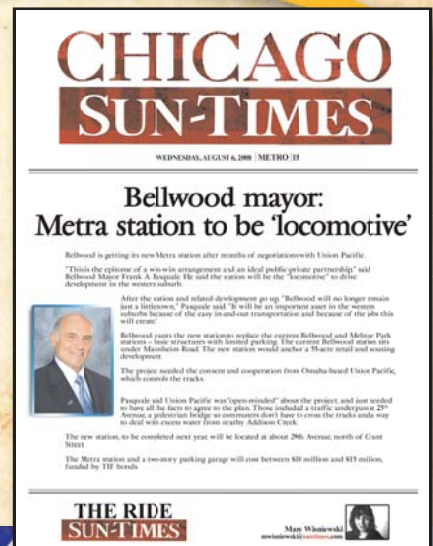
Fire Department

- Offered CPR classes to employees and residents; certified 70 citizens
- Conducted fire safety talks with 2,400 students

- Sponsored a Fire Safety Essay Contest for 3rd graders; awarded bicycles to winners
- Mentored 100 participants on life skills and college registration; provided recreational activities, tutoring and field trips

Grant Funding

- **\$131,000** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to plant rain gardens in partnership with Center for Neighborhood and Technology
- Public Safety Buildings Lighting Upgrade – **\$24,340** from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to install energy-efficient lighting in the Fire, Police and BOEM facilities
- Edward Byrne Memorial – **\$16,188** from the Department of Justice to install mobile data terminals in squad cars
- Bullying Prevention Program – **\$15,000** from the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority to establish a bullying prevention program in local schools
- Judicial Advisory Grant – **\$9,160** to equip squad cars with mobile data terminals





- Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program – **\$3,649** from the Department of Justice to purchase night vision kit for law enforcement
- Bulletproof Vest Partnership – **\$2,885** to purchase bulletproof vests for police officers
- Tobacco Enforcement Program – **\$2,310** from Illinois Liquor Commission to enforce state and local tobacco and liquor laws

Paramedic Program

- Continued training in pediatric, geriatric, neonatal and hazmat life support
- Provided training to surrounding fire departments and Good Samaritan Hospital's Paramedic Program
- Upgraded digital capnography to enhance safety of intubated patients
- Improved rapid infusers for fluid administration
- Received the 2008 Harman Award (presented annually to paramedics who demonstrate exceptional care in challenging situations)

Police Department

- Introduced Project Connect to facilitate better relationship between officers and residents
- Added four police officers to staff
- Opened a Criminal Investigations Division on the south side of Bellwood
- Reduced the number of guns on the streets through innovative technology
- Hosted a "Night Out Against Crime"

Public Employment Department

- Increased number of employees to handle lawn and property maintenance services
- Added two vehicles to fleet
- Trained four summer employees from Cong. Danny Davis' office
- Added 20 seniors to lawn care program
- Maintained 40-50 vacant properties

Public Works Department

- Resurfaced 26,103 feet of streets
- Repaired storm sewer lines
- Purchased pickup truck

Water Department

- Installed 1,523 feet of new water main
- Exceeded the water quality sampling standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Hired two new employees to meet workload

Zoning Department

- Hosted training seminars for Zoning and Plan Commissions
- Updated flood zone map
- Added legal counsel to Zoning Administration department
- Moved offices adjacent to Building department to provide better service



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