bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 15 No. 4

Apr. 1989

Special Meeting!
Joint Candidates Night
for Community School Board
Elections
Sponsored by BCCA and
PS 133 PTA

at PS133 Auditorium April 6, 1989 at 8:00 PM

We meet the first Thursday of each month at the House of Hope Church, corner 248th Street and 85th Avenue at 8:00PM

Fires - Part 1

by: Ross F. Fertitta N.Y.F.D., Ret. B.C.

The annual total of fire deaths is continuing at high level in spite of improvements in building construction, more widespread installations of automatic protection, more effective fire prevention campaigns and more efficient fire operations. While these factors have all had their effect in improving life safety from fire, there have been other

offsetting factors, particularly the widespread smoking habit and the general increase in the use of flammable liquids in the home. Defective heating equipment, careless smoking habits, children playing with matches and the misuse of flammable liquids and electricity are the four most common causes of fatal residential fires.

Probably the principle reason that gradual improvements

see Fires page 2

School Board Election

by: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

As mentioned last month, elections will be held on May 2 for Community School Board 26. This election is unusual in three ways: 1.) Of nine board positions being elected, only one incumbent is running. 2.) There are 22 candidates for the nine spots on the board, and 3.) There has been a tremendous amount of publicity about school boards in other parts of the city.

We are hoping that these issues will make voter interest and turnout in this election the heaviest ever. We believe the community school board is an effective way to ensure the continuation of the highly rated education in this district. We can be proud of the hard work of the last board, but we need to show determination in our vote, to continue the challenge of excellence in education.

Please make every effort to come to the joint candidates night sponsored by PS133Q's PTA and the BCCA at the school on April 6. This is a very important civic obligation.

Fires from page 1

in life safety have not resulted in a downward trend in the actual number of fire casualties is the continued rapid growth in population without an adequate increase in good, affordable housing.

Inadequate planning for a fire emergency is frequently responsible for fire deaths. A substantial percentage of the lives lost annually in dwelling fires occur because families have not taken the time to be sure that each member knows how to escape in case of fire. Escape plans include locating alternate escape routes, arranging for removal of infants and incapacitated persons, training in how to call the fire department, knowledge of nearest fire alarm box, instructing baby sitters and holding family fire drills.

There will be more next month on hazards to avoid and tips to keep your family safe from fire.

Roper Does it Again!

by: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

Alvin Bruce Roper, long a supporter of the BCCA and the Bellerose area, has recently been honored by Homequity, one of the nation's foremost relocation companies. Roper was one of only 37 appraisers in the sixteen eastern states selected, out of 1200 eligible firms, for a Certificate of Service Excellence. Roper's award was for best overall accuracy in Queens county.

Mr. Roper's firm holds many prestigious designations and we are most happy for his continued excellence and service to Bellerose.

BrokenGlass

E. Damore

This past December and January Bellerose residents and merchants were the victims of some vicious acts of vandalism. An individual or group of individuals broke the plate glass windows of some stores along Jericho Turnpike. They also shattered the windows of at least 10 cars on 87th Drive as well as 249th Street, apparently with a pellet gun. Damage was done to all the cars at curbside. If at all possible, carowners should try to park in their garages or driveways. Acts of vandalism of this nature cause insurance premiums to escalate for all of us. Insurance companies, who pay a lot for claims of this type, will tend to rate the area at high risk. Residents are urged to be aware of the situation and if they have any information about the vandals to report it to the 105th precinct.

Annual Dues

by: Jean Biancaniello

It has been brought to our attention that there are several blocks that have had no recent BCCA dues collections. We will make an effort to get members out to all blocks in the next several weeks to collect. If you wish to mail your dues, please make you check payable to the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association and sent to:

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

c/o Richard C. Hellenbrecht, Treasurer

> 246-72 86th Road Bellerose, NY 11426

Thank you for your cooperation an assistance.

ConGame

R. C. Hellenbrecht

There have been numerous complaints of burglaries in the Bellerose-Hillside area just to the west of us. The troublesome part of this is that the perpetrators knock on the door impersonating utilities people and perform their mischief immediately, or come back when no one is home.

The message is do not let anyone in to your house without first verifying their identification. This is just plain common-sense, but we tend to relax on things like this since we've been fortunate in having a low crime rate. Please remember to be vigilant and pay attention to any strange occurrences in the neighborhood.

Community Notes:

As this issue goes to press we note that construction has begun by New York City on installation of the traffic light on 86th Avenue at 249th Street. By April 6, I'm sure some of us will be getting caught at the light, but the control will cut down on speeding on that long stretch of road.

Long-awaited contract HW463, for the reconstruction of parts of 248th Street and all of Commonwealth Blvd., is finally going to bid this month and construction is expected to commence later this Spring.

The Fall of the Non-Solicitation Ban

by: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

In the early '70s block busting was a real problem that threatened the strength and stability of many neighborhoods in eastern Queens. A few disreputable real estate agents had been known to use scare tactics, door-to-door solicitations, advertisements and other methods to entice people to sell their homes at very low prices. In many areas of the City houses became vacant and were boarded up when new buyers couldn't

meet their obligations and abandoned the properties.

In order to avert this problem in eastern Queens, the New York State Secretary of State issued an executive order banning such solicitations for almost all of Community Board 13 and other similar areas throught the state. This order made it illegal for any real estate broker or agent to solicit for the sale of any house that was not otherwise up for sale. The Secretary of State, our State Senator and local civics were successful in stopping many actions in violation of the order and several agencies were fined and issued cease and desist orders. The non-solicitation ban was very successful in protecting our community and many other areas throughout the State.

This year a challenge in the State courts has overturned this order. While appeals are in process, the ban on solicitation is no longer in effect.

State law does provide a way you can protect yourself for such actions and we urge all of you to complete and mail the below form to State Senator Frank Padavan, 224-50 Braddock Ave., Queens Village, NY 11428.

Connectory of State	For many people, particu-
Secretary of State State of New York	
I (we) the undersigned own	er(s) of property located at
Onloren	
of the Real Property Law to I	virtue of the power vested in you as Secretary of State, pursuant to Article 12/ see a Cease and Desist Order to all licensed brokers and salespersons from , until such time as I (we) notify you to the contrary in writing.
Zip Code	Signed:Signed:
Dated:	Print name(s)

Attention! Town Hall Meeting Protest the Proposed 30% Increase in Real Estate TAXES!! Thursday April 27, 1989 8:00 PM at Martin Van Buren High School Sponsored by: Eastern Queens Civic Council

Special Meeting Real Estate Taxes

by: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

A Town Hall meeting has been scheduled by the Eastern Queens Civic Council to protest the possible implementation of recent State of New York legislation which will have the effect of raising homeowners real estate taxes by approximately 30%.

State law S.7000A is an attempt by legislators to redistribute the city's tax burden over the different property classes based on market value trends. While the law will not result in any additional revenue to the City, it will result in increasing the property tax rate for homeowners from \$9.45 per thousand

dollars of assessed valuation to \$12.08.

For many people, particularly those on fixed income, this substantial increase combined with elevated inflation rates recently, may mean the difference between maintaining their property or selling it and leaving for warmer, cheaper climes.

Additional legislation has been proposed for a two year moratorium to delay implementation to allow State and City legislatures to explore more equitable long-term solutions. We need to show unity and strength to defeat this outrageous tax increase now and forever!

Please come to Martin Van Buren High School on April 27 at 8 P.M. to show our legislators how much of a menace this plan is. Let's show them we mean business.

Antique Auto Show

by: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

The 11th annual antique auto show will be held at the Queens Farm Museum on Sunday April 23 from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Members of the NY Antique Auto Club will exhibit their cars on the lawn. There will be vendors of auto memorabilia, refreshments, house tours and entertainment. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children. The Farm is located on Littleneck Parkway north of Union Turnpike.

Foster Care Programs

by: Schula Abrams

St. Vincent's Services, Inc. a multi-functional voluntary child care agency, founded 120 years ago is presently recruiting Foster and Adoptive Parents for our Special Needs and Minority Children.

Due to the significant increase in the number of children entering Foster Care, St. Vincent's needs new families. Their children need loving, caring and strong individuals to ensure them a good quality of life. The organization provides board payments, medical treatment and clothing allowance for the children. The family supplies care, attention and love.

St. Vincent's can be reached at (718)522-3700 for additional information. As time permits we may invite St. Vincent's to a future meeting to talk to the community.

Bellerose Library News

by: Library Staff
ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Discussions: Thursday, Apr. 27 at 10:30 AM Kate Vaideni by Reynolds Price is an intense and powerful novel of a woman's search for the son she abandoned when she was seventeen.

Once-a-month Book Sale: Monday, April 24th from 1 to 7:30 PM. Adult, Young Adult and Juvenile hardcover and paperbacks available.

Income Tax Counseling - for older adults is provided FREE. Counselors trained by the IRS will assist you in completing you 1988 personal income tax return on Thursdays from 1 to 5 PM until

April 15.

<u>Camera Club:</u> Meets on Saturday April 1, 15th from 10 AM to 1 PM.

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS Chess Club meets Thursday nights Apr. 6,13,20 and 27 from 6 to 8 PM. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. No entry fee. Round Robin and Swiss-Quads are available. Bring your own clock and board/pieces. New members must play in the round robin first. For information call: Mike Fricano, Monday to Friday 8 to 10 PM at 718-224-8004. CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Picture Book Hours: 3 1/2 to 5 year olds, Tuesdays, Apr. 4, 11,18,25 at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Pre-registration required. Toddlers Fun Time: for 2-3 year

olds. Wednesdays Apr. 5,12,19 and 26 at 10:30 A.M. Pre-registration is required.

Arts & Crafts: For school-age children will be Friday Apr. 14 at 3:30 PM. Pre-registration required.

Dinosaur Program: Friday Apr. 28th at 3:30 P.M. Program consists of slide show, magic and drawing for children ages 5 to 10. Admission is free. Pre-registration is required.



Sunday, April 9,1989

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