



action news

Volume 27, Issue 4

April 2001

Next Meeting

Community Board 13Q District Manager

April 5, 2001

8:00 pm

House of Hope Church
Cor. 248th St./85th Ave.

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

2001 Dues are now due
Block Captains are requested to bring dues and lists to the April meeting

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Note—No May 3rd Meeting

How to Request City Services

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

The most frequent letters and phone call I receive from Bellerose residents are requests for some type of city service. My most frequent answer is to call our local community board—CB13Q. That's because the District Manager and Community Associates at the community board know the correct agency to call and they log and track every call. The community board workers are all local residents familiar with our area and they are professionals in dealing with the various city departments.

District Manager Sally Martino Fisher has been supervisor of the CB13Q

office for the past nine years. She has worked in city agencies and has served as a community board member in her home community. I am pleased that Sally accepted my invitation to speak at the April meeting of the BCCA.

Please come down to our meeting on April 5 and talk to Sally about your city service problems and how to get the best resolution. One of the most unusual things I've heard about are how to get rid of raccoons. Sally and her staff would know or find out the appropriate department without you making dozens of calls. You can follow up with them later, if necessary, to determine the status of your request.

Some of the more routine requests that come into the board are: missing or graffiti covered stop signs, illegal apartments, traffic lights or street lights out, catch basin maintenance, potholes, tree requests and tree removals, vehicle storage and ponding/flooding. If you want a permit for a block party, you MUST contact the community board office to start the process. Be warned that a block party permit application with fees must be filed with the community board 65 days prior to the party. There are no shortcuts.

Last year Board staff logged nearly 2,000 individual complaints and permit requests. The phone number is :

(718) 464-9700

BCCA Treasury Dilemma by Rich Hellenbrecht

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

Those of you who are regular readers of Action News or attend our monthly meetings probably know that the BCCA Treasury has depleted significantly over the past few years due to the need to mail nearly half of our

newsletters. To keep our organization functioning we have once again recruited some neighborhood youths to distribute the newsletters. Thanks to deliverers Paul Cividanes, Paul Chianciaruso, Ross Kruczowy and Timothy McGeever

We hope this will keep us afloat this summer. However, we urge all our neighbors who have not yet paid to return their dues to John Reh through our post office box (see coupon, page 2) or pay John at our upcoming meetings.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I would also like to thank those of you who sent in contributions. These will greatly help us develop a little buffer and permit us to continue some of the special programs we've enjoyed, particularly: savings bond awards for the annual school essay contests, annual citizenship awards and our holiday awards. Other regular expenses of the BCCA include mailing for the annual dues collections, printing this newsletter costs over \$100 per month, the annual stipend to House of Hope Church for hosting our monthly meetings, refreshments and dues for the Bellerose Business District and Queens Civic Congress. Eliminating the mailing will save over \$1,000 per year. Once we've replenished our treasury, we should maintain a comfortable cushion. So far we have resisted any consideration of increasing our \$5 dues as some other civics have.

By: Crime Prevention Specialist Don Barto
(718) 776-9207, 105th Precinct

Many people leave their vehicles running with the keys in the ignition while they are at home, at the gas station or convenience stores. While you are out of eyesight of your vehicle, this is an invitation to auto thieves, and accounts for many of the auto thefts during the cold months. If you must warm up your car, we suggest you have a remote controlled starter professionally installed. These devices do not require a key and if anyone attempts to drive the vehicle without the key in the ignition, the car will shut off automatically.

There are also steering wheel locking devices available that lock the steering wheel in place. It is made of case-hardened steel and is difficult to defeat. Traditional steering

wheel devices can be easily defeated by a car thief simply by cutting the steering wheel. The new types that lock onto the steering column also protect the airbag and take much more effort to remove.

A new trend of car thieves (especially on imported cars) is that they copy down your vehicle identification number and with that information they can have a key made to fit your vehicle doors and ignition. If you feel you are at risk to this type of theft, have a professional locksmith change your ignition and door locks.

Always park your car in a well lighted area at night. It is a good idea to garage your car or keep it inside a locked gate whenever possible.

Vin etching is available at the 105th Precinct, free of charge by appointment. It reduces the possibility of auto theft and may qualify for a discount on your auto insurance policy, if you have theft coverage. Many new car dealers offer vin etching, but they charge up \$100 to \$300 for the same thing we offer for free.

Editor's note:

The BCCA is considering sponsoring a vin etching program in May or June. Please watch next month's Action News. If your car isn't etched—get it done.

105th Precinct Reports—Auto Theft

BCCA Feedback Form

April 2001

To the B.C.C.A.:

I suggest the following article for action news, issue to pursue or general comment: _____

☐ Enclosed is my \$5 Dues payment for 2001 or a donation

I suggest the following speaker topic: _____

I suggest the following newsletter topic: _____

B.C.C.A. requests that you leave your _____
name and address _____

Address articles/items to: Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 260225
Bellerose, NY 11426

action news

Attn: Richard C. Hellenbrecht, Editor

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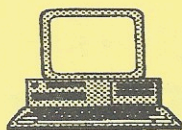
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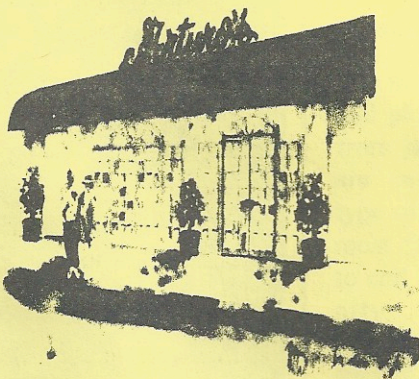
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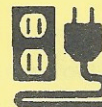
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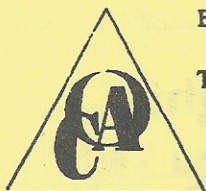
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Joint Candidates Nights

Boro Pres/Council - 5/15

Final arrangements have been made for a joint candidates night for Borough President Candidates and City Council candidates (for Sheldon Leffler's spot). This event will be held at the Bellerose Jewish Center 254th Street and Union Turnpike at 7:30pm and will be co-sponsored by Times/Ledger (Glen Oaks Ledger). Several neighboring civic associations will be hosting this candidates night. Please be sure to put it on your calendar and get there. It is very important to hear the views of our candidates for Council and Borough President and to ask questions.

We anticipate six candidates for Borough President and two Council candidates will participate. Write your questions down in advance.

There will be no May 3 meeting.

Mayoral - 6/19

We will host the candidates for Mayor on June 19 at 7:30 pm also at the Bellerose Jewish Center at 254th Street and Union Turnpike. There are many candidates to fill Mayor Giuliani's office and we have invited all of them. These candidates, have been very much in the news in recent weeks and a head-to-head confrontation promises to be quite exciting.

We will hold the normal June General Meeting/ Block Captain Recognition meeting on June 7 at the House of Hope Church as usual.

BCCA Website www.bcca-ny.com

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

I continue to be surprised by the activity on the BCCA website. According to statistics kept in the website's administrative tools, an average about 4 people view the site every day. On one day 20 people viewed the site. That is remarkable for a small site.

Unfortunately I've run out of ideas for new things that can be added to the site. Help me keep the site interesting, send me an article or idea.

Articles Welcome

I welcome articles either to the website or for Action News. If you have any suggestions, please email me at rch.brecht@verizon.net (note this is a new address.)