



action news

VOLUME 5 NO. 2

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1978

NOW HEAR THIS

It seems a shame to have to spotlight a particular segment of our population in a negative fashion, but increasing vandalism and recklessness on the part of some youth in our neighborhood force us to pinpoint many of the problems they are causing our respectable neighborhood.

We encourage all youth to read us this month. We will gladly listen to any of them either through letters to the editor or by attending our montly meetings. We would welcome any constructive criticism they could offer us as we hate to have to resort to pushing the police to arrest the offenders. Frankly, that's the point we are reaching.

We really mean business when we say that we are proud of our neighborhood and intend to keep it a good neighborhood.

We have been hearing repeated reports of gangs of young men congregating on our avenues (85th to 87th) when the surfaces are icy and hitching a ride on the back of passing cars.

About twenty boys (some well over 6 ft. tall) were observed one recent stormy afternoon.

It was appalling to think that they were having such "fun". Some drivers stopped in an attempt to dislodge the boys. Others merely continued on swerving all over the road with eight to ten boys hanging on. One driver was even seen backing up in an attempt to free herself of the youths. Virtually nothing worked.

The harassment these youths are causing local drivers is not to be taken lightly-- some older people have been visibly shaken.

Do these youngsters really fail to see

how completely irresponsible and dangerous this "sport" is?! It would be so easy for someone's head to be crushed by a spinning tire! Must one of these boys be laid up in a coma before this "game" is stopped?!?!?

We are appealing to all who engage in this super-risky activity to give it up. Be a man and convince your friends that this is no game.

Walking around Bellerose seeing the tearing-up of the P.S. 133 park, the almost profane continuous vandalism of the library we sought so desperately, and hearing reports of youths unscrupulously vandalizing our local churches and schools, one is inclined to wonder where the parents of the offenders are.

It seems appropriate to borrow a quote from a recent "Dear Abby" column wherein a juvenile court judge admonished youths with the following message"

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NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 2, 1978
8:30 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER
BERNARD J. WECHSLER
"ORGANIC GARDENING"

HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Corner of 248 ST. &
85th Avenue

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"Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teenagers: 'What can we do? Where can we go? The answer is clear. Go home! Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves, mow the lawn, wash the car, learn to cook, scrub the floors, repair the sink, build a boat, get a job. Help the minister, priest or rabbi. Help the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Visit the sick, assist the poor, study your lessons, and when you're through, and not too tired, read a book.

"Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your community does not owe you recreational facilities. The world does not owe you a living. You owe the world something. You owe the world your time and your energy and your talents so that no one will be at war, in poverty, or sick or lonely, again

"In plain, simple words: Grow up! Quit being a crybaby. Get out of your dream world and develop a backbone, not a wishbone. Start acting like a man or woman.

"You're supposed to be mature enough to accept some of the responsibility your parents have carried for years.

"They have nursed, protected, helped, appealed, begged, excused, tolerated and denied themselves needed comfort so that you could have every benefit. You have no right to expect them to bow to your every whim and fancy.

"In heaven's name, grow up and go home!"

LIBRARY TO OPEN

The new Bellerose branch of the Queens Boro Public Library will open its doors at 1 P.M. on February 27th.

The library, a graffiti-covered eyesore since its erection in 1975, is now a welcome addition to our community. Let's give it the welcome it deserves by making full use of its services.

LEFFLER OFFICE

At our January meeting, Councilman Leffler installed the BCCA officers and directors for 1978.

Our new Councilman has opened a district office at 254-03 Union Turnpike, Glen Oaks. The office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. His staff will include Mrs. Terrie Moran, a Queens

Colony Civic Association member who has fought side by side with BCCA residents on local problems. Councilman Leffler has already become involved with our local issues, including the P.S. 133 park. We wish him and his staff the best of luck.

CAR TIPS-FREE

MEMBERS -- COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING AND PICK UP YOUR FREE COPIES OF CAR TIPS. NO OBLIGATION ON YOUR PART,

Sebastion
Platania

DO IT TODAY

How long has it been since you went to the wake of a dear friend, neighbor or relative and listened to the words of praise from those around you for the recently deceased? Nonsense! Who needs it then? Why weren't these words spoken before, to bring the warmth of love to the living? And what about all those beautiful flowers your friend can't smell? Is it so hard for us to reveal our true feelings for each other now? Remember the days of courtship and how often "love" and flowers were a part of daily life? And the frequent phone calls lest we forget.

We all need to be needed, to be loved, to be accepted, to bloom and grow at any age of life. It is in our power to bring this gift to those around us -- a warm smile, a kind word of praise or encouragement, a single flower to a shut-in. What a beautiful world this would be if we could:

"Look to this day!---
For yesterday is already a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision;
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

(from the Sanskrit)
Betty Platania

HELP WANTED

No Experience Necessary. Unlimited Opportunity. No Age Requirement; M/F Training Program Available. Work Near Home; Ideal Hours. Call 347-6093; Alice Santa Maria

Surely you could answer this ad. Bellerose District Girl Scouts is urgently in need of leaders and co-leaders on all age levels of scouting.

Happily our ranks of girls are full and anxious to be part of a worthwhile national organization, but we are desperately in need of adults to

assume charge of the troops.

The work is rewarding and advice and assistance readily available. Won't you volunteer today? Be a good scout?

Betty Platania

POLICE, BUREAUCRATS FIDDLE WHILE BELLEROSE BURNS

While most families in Bellerose relaxed and enjoyed the Christmas holiday, young hoodlums infesting the area were busy, as usual, in a destructive way.

On Christmas day, they smashed their way into the locked building of the P.S. 133 playground, tore the wooden barriers off the windows and set fire to the women's room.

Only the prompt response of two Fire Department trucks saved the entire building from being gutted, a la J.H.S. 172. The bathroom was completely burned off the roof of the structure, which houses supplies and games used by youngsters in the community.

The audacious daylight arson of the community playground was just another example of the continuing, stepped up, burning, destruction and criminal mischief.

The trouble makers are a group of young hoodlums who have made the darkened

playground-park their "headquarters" for rampages against the park property and the homes and property of residents around the Bellerose area.

Reasons cited by Bellerose residents for the continuing attacks are the dimly lit area and apparent "don't give a damn" police attitude, especially their failure to patrol the area either on foot or in police cars -- despite many unfulfilled promises to do so.

The head of the 105th police precinct, Capt. Frederick J. Kavanagh, in a letter to Sen. Frank Padavan, dated Nov. 14, 1977, wrote in part, in answer to complaints, "special attention will be given to the area, and police action will be taken if and when violations are observed."

Neighbors report a patrol car showed up two nights in a row around 6 p.m. in the two days immediately following a meeting on Nov. 3, 1977 of the membership of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, at which Sgt. James Doherty, representing Capt. Kavanagh, attended. He pledged "special attention" would be given to the area around P.S. 133 and urged that the Parks Department be asked to put up "Park Closes at Dusk" signs so violators could be arrested.

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Think about this:
As an active member of
this community, we're ready
and willing to help
in any way that we can.
European-American Bank
Think about it.

A committee of representatives of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association and the neighborhood has requested a face-to-face meeting with Capt. Kavanagh to demand vigorous police action and an end to police stalling and excuses.

The heads of the PTA, school community board, local community board, churches and other groups, including our area representatives, are all backing our campaign for better policing and lighting.

HOUSE FOR SALE
CALL: 347-4240