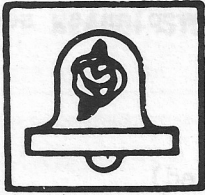


action news



bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

VOLUME 3 NO. 13

MARCH

1977

LIBRARIES AGAIN

The headline of the L.I. Press for February 2 read "FREE LIBRARIES IN JEOPARDY?". We in the B.C.C.A. know from sad experience that library service in this area is fast disappearing. The bookmobile is gone. The Glen Oaks branch was paired with the Windsor Park branch last year, and both branches were put on half schedule.

New schedules expected to go into effect on Feb. 25 call for the Glen Oaks branch to open five days every TWO weeks.

The B.C.C.A. has fought for the past two years to get the Bellerose branch of the Q.B.P.L. opened as a library because we believe in a library, and the residents at the October 20 meeting said that they wanted a library.

It is difficult to understand the priorities of the City of New York. Budget Director Kummerfeld has suggested that residents may consider paying a fee to use the libraries. We may as well pay the fire department to put out a blaze in our house. What he fails to take into account is that WE ARE PAYING FOR LIBRARY SERVICE THAT WE ARE NOT RECEIVING. We are

paying through taxation, and we would be asked to pay again for service already paid for.

In a letter to the Press, Councilman Muratori calls for library volunteers, citing that many small towns depend on volunteers.

It would seem elementary to point out that there are libraries and then there are LIBRARIES. We should also make clear whether we are talking of librarians or student or clerical help that perform the house-keeping activities of shelving books. To some people a library is no more than a leisure reading room.

Well-intentioned volunteer ladies would not be capable of serving a student through the maze of bibliographies, abstracts, indexes, best sources and approaches to a topic.

It may be surprising, but today's libraries are the libraries of databanks, microfilm, microfiche, ultrafiche, and the latest or most up-to-date data.

Citizens do donate books to libraries. But a library must have well selected books. A donation of Readers Digest condensations, old National Geographics, out-dated law books do not make a library. Actually, they create a disposal problem and alienate

the donor.

Libraries are a national asset, just as gas and oil are an asset. Civilization has not been propelled forward by the illiterate or non-inquiring mind. Advances in science are not made by those denied access to the accumulated record of previous researchers. The problems of society cannot be solved if we are denied access to information. And closing libraries is denying the public access to information.

It can not be refuted that those who are better informed are more likely to succeed. That those who are better educated earn more, therefore pay higher taxes which in turn support the city's programs. Libraries enrich the cultural life of the city and give it pre-eminence in the arts.

That the city is cutting back in those very areas where the salvation of the city actually lies --- its schools, the City University, the libraries is short-sighted to say the least.

We hear that ignorance is bliss. If we do not speak out against cuts in those areas that could be most helpful to the city, we may very well slip into the state of bliss and into oblivion.

NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING

MARCH 3, 1977
8:30 P.M.

GUEST

TAX EXPERT
FROM
H&R BLOCK

HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of 248th St.
& 85th Avenue
Bellerose

OUR GUEST

We are all required to pay taxes. But we are allowed to minimize our taxes. To do so requires understanding the tax laws which have just undergone the most extensive revision in decades.

To help us through the maze of new tax laws, R&H Block will send to our next meeting a tax expert who will speak to us and answer questions. Please come. It will be worth your while.

ACTION NEWS

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"Green around the corner"

For those who were not present at our February meeting, we give Bernie Wechsler's special "B" formula planting mixture for all plantings, house plants, seeds, seedlings, or cuttings.

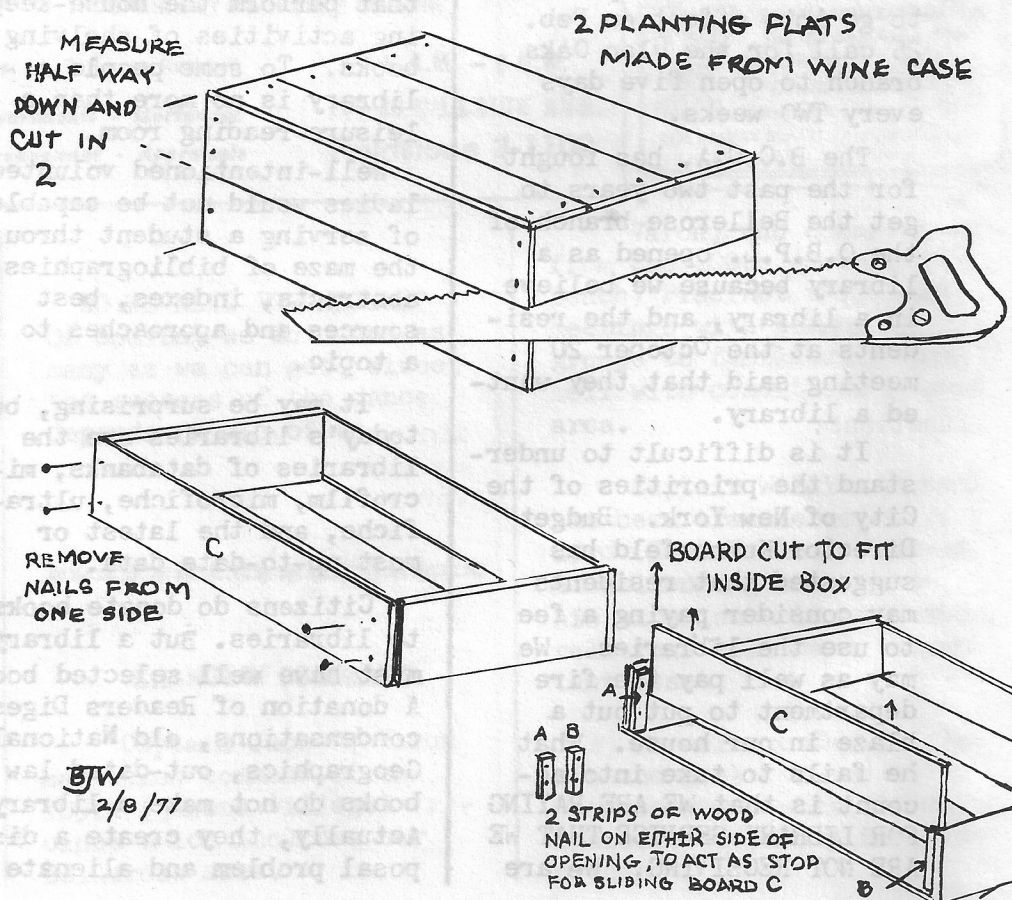
The formula: 1 part planting soil
1 part vermiculite
1 part peat moss (shredded)

Place the three materials in a plastic garbage bag, tie the top with a twist tie, and shake the bag until the contents are thoroughly mixed. Just shake; don't bake.

The mixture is placed in the containers which in turn are in the planting flat. The diagram (which is worth a thousand words) should be self-explanatory. But a few words may be in order.

Get a wooden wine case (available from any liquor dealer, and also ask for the top of the case. Replace the top of the case and nail it down. Measure half way down the side, mark it off with a dark pencil, then proceed to saw it in half to produce two flats.

A removable slat "C" in the diagram, is recommended. This will make it easier to slide out the containers for planting. When planting, place the seedling, container and all, in the soil.



HEALTH SYSTEMS

Mrs. Stephanie Rosenthal, a registered nurse, who was nominated by the B.C.C.A. to be its consumer representative on the Health Systems Agency has been appointed to the Agency.

The Health Systems Agency of New York City is mandated by the Federal government to develop a health system plan to make available to all citizens of New York the highest quality care accessible.

The agency, established under the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-641) is directed to study all aspects of the health system in New York --- programs, manpower, and facilities with a view towards expanding or contracting the various services to meet the needs of our citizens. Nationwide, some 200 similar agencies are performing the same functions.

This close study of the health services available in the United States is considered a forerunner of the establishment of National Health Insurance.

Each region has a Council of both consumers (a majority of the members, but not more than 60% of the total) and providers.

With so large an activity duplication of services and under-utilization of some facilities may be expected. In our area (we are in Section H) the group meets at the Long Island Geriatrics Center. Some of the area needs undergoing discussion are ambulatory care, environmental care, long term care, and mental health.

With one of our members on this important agency, not only do we have representation, but we will be kept up-to-date on developments that will affect all of us in this area.

RELAX

When homeowners along the L.I.R.R spur property received their deeds to the parcels abutting their property, it appeared that the long and arduous task of keeping the property out of commercial hands had been brought to a successful conclusion. And it was.

The legislation, successfully piloted by Mr. Esposito in the Assembly and Mr. Padavan in the State Senate required several extensions as eager buyers waited for the more reluctant buyers to make up their minds or obtain financing. We applaud both legislators for their efforts.

For some homeowners, the transfer of property has turned from satisfaction to dismay, if not outright anger, as they find that on seeking to register their deeds to the property, that previously undisclosed liens have to be cleared before they can get clear title.

We are assured by Senator Padavan and by Assemblyman Esposito that they are in correspondence with the Metropolitan Transit Authority and that the liens are in the process of being cleared up.

As we know, some problems do not have instant solutions, but, eventually do get solved. We would advise the homeowners affected to relax. The titles will be cleared.

COMPLAINTS ?

One of our important successes last year was the "Complaint" form distributed with the May issue of ACTION NEWS. Through it, dozens of traffic signs were installed and scores of complaints were corrected or brought to the attention of the proper agency.


With this unusually cold and snowy winter, it is inevitable that trees, sewers, curbs, catch-basins, pot-holes will have sustained damage and will need attention.

We include a revised form with this issue, rather than a later one so that they can be forwarded earlier to the city agencies.

In using the form, please read and follow the instructions. As always, please be as specific as possible in identifying the problem and its exact location.

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SPRING DANCE

Plans for the SPRING DANCE are being developed. Tentative date is May 7.

Like all the activities of the B.C.C.A. they are participatory activities, not spectator activities.

Details will be made known when they have been worked out. In the meantime, it is not too early to begin thinking in terms of which friends and neighbors will share your table at the dance, and of the number of tickets you will want.

DO WE NEED VOLUNTEERS?
 Of course, we do. And as many as we can get, since the success of the dance depends on all of us.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Captain Jack C. Varon has taken command of the 105th (Queens Village) Precinct which includes our Bellerose area.

Varon, who comes to us from the 100th (Rockaway Beach) Precinct will hold meetings with community groups to familiarize himself with conditions in our area.

Captain William Visser has been transferred to the 23rd (East Harlem) Command, a challenging area where his experience in community relations will be an important asset.

We welcome Captain Varon and look forward to changes which will add up to increased security in this precinct.