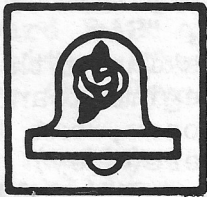


action news



bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

VOLUME 3 NO. 7

SEPTEMBER

1976

WELCOME BACK, NEIGHBORS

Vacations have gone by too quickly and we hope that yours was a fun-filled and safe one.

With September, we begin our membership drive. Bob Costagliola, our Treasurer, will be preparing membership cards. In the next few weeks our block captains will call on each household in our area to receive membership dues (still \$2) for the 1976/77 year.

Last year our membership read 675 paid-up members out of some 1,250 families within our boundaries -- from Commonwealth Blvd. east to Little Neck Parkway and from Hillside Avenue south to the old railroad spur. This is a very creditable number.

Our goal is to enroll each family in the B.C.C.A. area. We need the support of every family to support those programs and activities that benefit the community. We can achieve this goal if we could count on a "block captain" for each block. The tasks of the block

captains are few and not difficult--distribute the newsletter once a month (September to June) and to collect dues once a year from your neighbors. What better way is there to get to know your neighbors and to participate in the affairs of Bellerose?

As we start this year, a few blocks are without block captains. If you live on one of the blocks listed below, call John Reh at 347-5756 and say, "I volunteer." You'll find it an interesting experience.

84-12 - 44 Little Neck Parkway

85-02 - 62 "

251-02/28 87th Drive

244-15/244-29 86 Ave.

246-23/246-20 "

253-25/254-23 "

85-03/85-45 Common. Blv.

87-57/87-89 254 St.

84-08/84-68 253 St.

86-03/86-44 252 St.

85-03/85-51 "

85-05/85-45 249 St.

85-04/85-36 248 St.

84-03/84-57 247 St.

STATUS REPORT

Since the inclusion of the complaint report form in the Action

News last spring, more than 30 have been completed and returned to the Association. The information has been reported to the appropriate agencies with varying results.

The most common requests were for stop signs and for tree pruning. The Traffic Department deserves a good rating from the B.C.C.A. Prompt with its correspondence and traffic surveys, it has investigated and complied with all our requests. Twenty-eight new traffic signs at ten intersections have already been installed.

NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING THURSDAY

September 9, 1976
8:30 p.m.

First meeting of
1976/77

HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Corner of 248 ST. &
85th Avenue

OUT OF STEP - ONE METER

The Traffic Department sign on the north east corner of Hillside Avenue at 257th Street reads "2 hour parking 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 10¢ per hour." Five of the six parking meters on the north side of Hillside between 257th and 258th Street read "10¢ one hour - 20¢ two hours."

However, the meter directly in front of the Richmond Hill Savings Bank is set for "10¢ ½ hour - 20¢ 1 hour." Please note the time limit for each meter since they may not correspond with the posted signs.

Also keep in mind that according to the New York City Traffic regulations, parking at a jammed or inoperable meter is not a justifiable plea should you receive a parking ticket. Regulations prohibit parking at inoperable meters.



ECHOES OF THE PAST

Recently the Ridgewood Savings Bank, Hollis Branch, was the scene of a very interesting Bicentennial presentation completely pertinent to our area. It was prepared in the spirit of National Bicentennial Celebration, sponsored by Queensborough Community College and the

friends of QCC, with contributions by Flushing High School, Jamaica High School, Martin Van Buren High School and Queensborough Community College, specifically dealing with Queens during the Revolutionary Period. It was most interesting to learn of the "Revolutionary Military Action in Queens" as researched by the aforementioned groups.

The only military action within our area in the American Revolution involved the Colonial troops under the command of General Nathaniel Woodhull, less than 200 in all, whose task was to destroy crops and drive off cattle in the face of the British advance in August 1776. After collecting about 1500 head of cattle from farms in the New Lots district of Queens County, Woodhull and his men, on the night of August 26th, took up a position on the John Polhemus farm on Eldert's Lane near Woodhaven Blvd. Unaware or unwilling to interfere, Woodhull kept this position while 10,600 British regulars less than two miles away, completed the night march that left Washington surrounded and facing certain defeat at the Battle of Long Island on the 27th. General Woodhull remained at Eldert's Lane only a short time. He fell back to Jamaica the same day while frantic efforts were made to get reinforcements. His men con-

cerned for their families, drifted away.

On August 28, 1776 while most of the British rested after their victory over Washington, "Sir William Erskine, with the 71st Regiment and Light Dragoons, went to Jamaica where (they) took a General Wodall prisoner." Wodhull was captured and fatally wounded two miles east of Jamaica at Increase Carpenter's House, which formerly stood on Jamaica Avenue in Hollis near 196th Street. A historical marker erected by the State Education Department on what are now the grounds of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Hollis indicates the original site.

Betty Platania

JUNE WALK 1976

The June Walk on June 12 was a fitting conclusion to the year's activities of the B.C.C.A. Led by the color guard of the Girl Scouts and inspired by the spirited Drum and Bugle Corps of Our Lady of the Snows, the excited participants stepped smartly up 249th St.

Colorful floats, decorated bicycles and scores of children in costumes characteristic of our past, made its way through the community and back to the playground of P.S. 133 where the formal part of the program took place.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and a short flag ceremony, the Reverend Howard Funk of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

The restless and excited children eagerly awaited the awarding of prizes in the three categories of floats, costumes and decorated bicycles.

Selecting the recipient for the 30 major prizes was no easy task for the three judges especially since much imagination and industry went into their efforts. All the youngsters deserved recognition.

Bennington Flags, ice-cream and cold drinks were available to all the participants.

The June Walk Committee co-chairmen Sebastian Platania and George Wolf co-ordinated the program, while they and other members and officers of the B.C.C.A. contacted local merchants for the donations which were instrumental in making the June Walk a success.

WHO'S THE NEW TENANT?

The Queens Borough Public Library branch building completed in the spring of 1975 may have a tenant soon. The Human Resources Agency is negotiating with the Department of Real Estate to occupy the building which has not been opened due to lack of staff to operate it.

At the risk of seeming paranoid about libraries, I would point out that not only has the Bellerose branch never opened, but the Glen Oaks branch on Union Turnpike which serves Bellerose is now paired with the Windsor Park branch and opened only three days a week; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. This is a reduction of 50% of its schedule. On top of this, the bookmobile which provided additional service has been discontinued.

One yardstick commonly used in evaluating the community's commitment to the betterment of its citizens is the attention it bestows on its schools, libraries, museums and other cultural institutions.

Studies show that libraries are patronized more during difficult times. This is not because people have more time on their hands, but because as times get worse, people "hit the books" either to better themselves in their current employment or to learn about new opportunities and to develop new skills. At a time when people find all kinds of questions facing them, the library is the one place where they can indeed find answers..

Curtailing or not providing additional places of information interferes with the people's right to know. It also is another instance where

we are paying more (check your real estate tax bill for 1976/77) and we are receiving less.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Margaret Brennan and Kevin Metzger of St. Gregory's School and John Romano and Linda Zahner of P.S.133 were awarded the B.C.C.A. Citizenship medal presented each year to members of the graduating class who by their participation in both school and community activities exemplify qualities of good citizenship.

The selection of the award-winning students is made by the faculty and staff of each school.

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The Forestry Division of the Parks Department, always far behind in tree pruning, has been hit hard by the budget crisis. Since pruning is done on an emergency basis, it may be some time before all the trees reported are pruned. We did get a quick response as a result of a mailgram to James Coyne, Parks Department horticulturist. The unusually wet summer

has caused a more luxuriant growth of trees, with the result that traffic signs become obscured by tree branches. The stop sign at the southwest corner of Little Neck Parkway and 86th Avenue had become obstructed. Within three days, the pruning crew removed the obstructing branches. If you are aware of a condition in the neighborhood that B.C.C.A.

can help correct, please send in the information or bring it to our attention at the next meeting of the B.C.C.A.

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