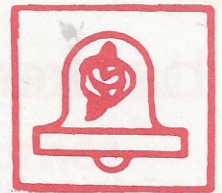


bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.



# action news

VOLUME 4 NO. 10



DECEMBER



1977

## NOMINATIONS

The nomminating committee has presented the following slate for consideration by the membership at the December meeting:

President - J. Delaney

Vice President-H. Slaney

Treas. - S. Platania

Recording Sec.-L. Gonzalez

Corresponding Sec.  
L. Anzalone

Board of Directors:

2 year term.

B. Wechsler

J. Reh

M. Copertino

G. Wolf

Board of Directors:

1 year term.

E. Holleran

A one year term on the board is open for nomination from the floor. Voting and electing the candidates of your choice to guide our association is an important function.

Be sure to attend our December meeting and show your support for a strong civic association.

## Left Out

In last month's Action News, a list of phone numbers was published for your convenience. One of our most important numbers, that of John A. Esposito, our State Representative was inadvertently omitted. We are truly sorry for this

omission. John Esposito's phone number is 465-1432.

## memories

Some of the Bellerose "old-timers" will remember Tom Begley, who lived on 87 Avenue. He was active in the Bellerose Civic Association for years, and edited the "Bellerose Commonwealth News". Many will recall he made the rounds with his Irish setter "Red". Tom died in Florida in the Spring of 1977. His wife, Claire, who was very active in Girl Scout work, died several years ago.

## Press Release

The GIRL SCOUTS of Bellerose District are having a Christmas Arts and Craft and Cake Sale on Tuesday, December 6, 1977 at the Holy Trinity Church 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd. Bellerose from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. All the troops of the district will be represented. Handmade items and homebaked cakes will be for sale. There will also be a snack bar. All are welcome, please come and support our troops.

## NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 1, 1977

8:30 P.M.

HOUSE OF HOPE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of 248th St.  
and 85th Avenue  
Bellerose



# basketball

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will have a Junior and a Senior Boys Basketball team in the Queens Basketball League for the 1977-78 Season. The Church also sponsors a Junior Girls Sports Group, which meets every Tuesday evening in the Church Gym. Many of the Men and Women of the Church bowl in the Lutheran Bowling League of Queens.

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## We Salute You

"Into each life a little rain must fall" and isn't it comforting to know that when the storm hits us there will be kind hearts and helping hands awaiting us? In my experience two instances leave us at a loss for words--times of sorrow and times of praise. And there truly do not seem to be enough words of praise for the Volunteer Ambulance Corps we are so fortunate in having in our midst.

Numberous are the accounts of the swift and efficient response to a call for help to these tireless people who so generously

give of their time to serve others selflessly. How are these people able to find the extra hours in a day to fit into this humanitarian task of serving others? "Ours not to question why"--only to know with confidence that when you dial 464-2424 an angel of mercy will answer and react instantly to a cry of help from a fellow human being desperately in need.

What words can thank these beautiful people for their devotion? Only a positive answer to their infrequent call for assistance and prayers for their continued strength in serving a truly grateful community. Bellerose salutes you?

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## Historical Footsteps

Throughout the pages of history we have read of the struggles of our forefathers, but if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit it all seems like a story far removed from our present day existence. But this need not be. In our own realm it is possible to walk in the footsteps of time and recreate the hardships suffered by the early settlers who laid the groundwork for us to live in the freedom we know today. Between Lawrence Street and Parsons Blvd. North and South of Northern Blvd. you will find many points of historical interest in an area known

as Flushing's "Freedom Mile."

The oldest house in Queens built in 1661 by John Bowne, a Dutch farmer, stands on its original site South of Northern Blvd. on Bowne Street. Here history was made when Quakers gathered for worship causing the arrest and imprisonment of the owner who was subsequently acquitted. Freedom of worship was thus obtained for inhabitants of the entire colony of New Netherlands in 1664.

An aura of charm surrounds Bowne House which was inhabited by ten generations until the time it was turned over by the family for public appreciation. Opened in 1947 by the Bowne House Historical Society, ten hostesses rotated on a voluntary basis to greet the first visitors. The present staff has expanded to more than seventy interested and interesting guides. We were fortunate in having a family member as one of our hostesses, lending a personal touch to the tour.

The true history buff will thrill to the sight of the original furnishings which belonged to the many generations of Bowne and Parsons families. It is hard to believe that such beautiful treasures remain intact where their owners had proudly placed them so long ago. You will see a mahogany secretary, one of the first to be built in New York in 1750; a



handsome, yet practical mahogany revolving top (lazy-susan fashion) table which could be tilted against a wall for easy storage. An old style Dutch Bible dating from 1690 rests silently in the parlor. In front of each fireplace you will find "Chill Chaser" foot stoves, indispensable in the wintery days prior to central heating. It is curious to note such a portable box with metal liner to carry burning embers was a luxury reserved for the female members of the family only. This could be taken to a distant corner of a room away from the open hearth, to Church services or on carriage rides. Wall cupboards display silver and antique china, such as a Wedding Band Tea set. Courting lamps stand on a desk in yet another room. These were filled when the beau arrived and the suitor was permitted to stay only as long as the flame burned.

Portraits of John Bowne and his wife Hannah Fiske (of "The Winthrop Woman") can be seen as well as one of George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends in England (1645) known also as Quakers. In 1672, Fox came to Flushing and preached across from the house at a spot now marked by a huge rock. The Bowne House itself has a tunnel for escaping slaves dug under the shed attached to the original section

of what was once a one room dwelling.

Early in the 19th century, Samuel B. Parsons, a nurseryman, married Mary Bowne and lived in this house. On a trip to Europe he purchased a shoot of a Weeping Beech tree which he brought to Flushing. All other beech trees in Flushing today are offshoots of the original tree now enclosed by an iron fence, set in a small neatly landscaped park nearby on 37th Avenue between Parsons Boulevard and Bowne Street.

Immediately adjoining Weeping Beech Tree Park stands Kingsland House, Flushing's second oldest house, built in 1774 and moved to its present site in 1968. Lectures, workshops and exhibitions of local history and decorative arts of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are held here. New exhibits may be enjoyed approximately four times a year.

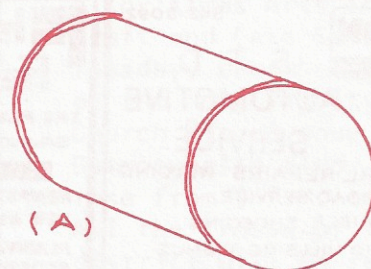
So much more could be said about this area, but why not explore it for yourself and enjoy the thrill of discovery as we did? Bowne House and Kingsland House may both be visited Saturdays and Sundays between 2:30 P.M. and 4:30 P.M.



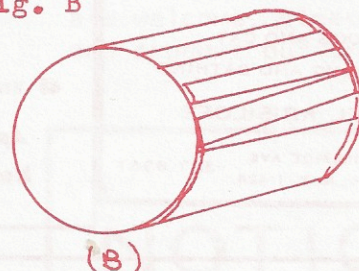
## "Green around the corner"

This months are for decoration made from material you might throw away as waste or garbage.

To make icicles for Christmas tree ornaments. Take a fruit or juice can (empty) and cut the bottom out with a can opener, so you then have an hollow cylinder: see Fig. A



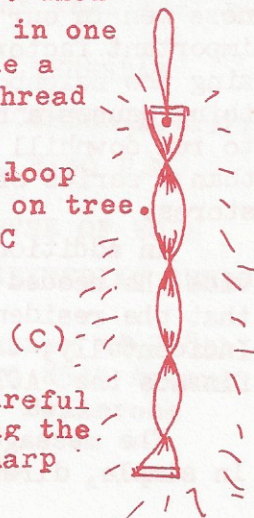
Then cut 1/2" strips from top to bottom see fig. B



Then twist strip so they spin to catch the lights of the tree. Punch small hole in one end and tie a piece of thread through it leaving a loop to hang it on tree.

See Fig. C

Caution! be very careful in handling the icicles sharp edges.





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### ACTION NEWS

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