

action news



Volume 20 No. 10

DECEMBER 1994

Election of Officers
Thursday, Dec. 1, 1994
at 8:00 pm
House of Hope Church
Cor. 248 St. and 85th Ave.
Refreshments

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

President's Gavel

by: Joseph W. Byrne

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday. We should all take a moment to count our blessings now and again.

The October meeting was well attended and especially informative. Mr. John Stegnari of the Department of Environmental Protection was an abundance of information regarding the installation of water meters. The installation should be very simple for most residents. The only concerns some folks should have is the age and condition of the water main shut off valve. Some are probably quite old, as was mine and therefore need to be replaced. This would be an opportune time. Mr. Stegnari said that the meters are a fair and equitable way to cover the city's cost of providing water. Naturally, if you have a pool,

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Holiday Decor!

Don't forget our annual holiday decoration contest. Each year we pick out several homes that are particularly well decorated, for a special award and, more importantly, a savings bond. We have been very pleased that each holiday season the BCCA area looks better and better. Our focus in the judging is simplicity and artistry. Typical winners in the past have used few colors and

natural "props", like real lighted trees, shrubs or rope garland or log wood reindeer.

Volunteers will be driving around Bellerose a week or two before the Christmas/Chanukah holiday to identify the best homes. The award ceremony will be at the January meeting.

From the BCCA Board and all its members, we wish all Bellerose residents a very happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Water Meter Info

by: Ronald E. Schmidt [edited for length]

On November 3 John Stegnari explained the reason for DEP's change in water billing philosophy. Basically, by permitting homeowners to monitor their own water usage through metering, the City can lower the flow of sewage to overburdened treatment plants and reduce the need for addi-

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take many showers, wash your car and water your lawn often, this could be costly. You can control your own bill.

Mr. Kenneth Kearns was present and informed everyone about the toilet replacement program. The cost can be directly paid to an authorized plumber if you choose that option. The big catch in this program as it now stands is the plumber. You must use a licensed plumber for the installation.

I recently received some correspondence from Senator Padavan's office. In 1978 Sena-

tor Padavan was the chief sponsor of a law recognizing the need for a uniform method of site selection with community input, of group homes. The "Padavan Law" has since been in without threat. The 1988 Fair Housing Amendments Act may now challenge our input in New York State. Congress has expanded the definition of disabled persons to include drug addicts, alcoholics and aids/HIV-positive as a "protected class" of people. Therefore, failing to rent or sell to such persons is discrimination. The arguments are lengthy, but in order to "ensure future public

input into group home siting, and to preserve the rights of handicapped individuals: Senator Padavan feels that the fair housing amendment act of 1988 must be changed. New York State and City residents should encourage their congress person to make the changes.

The other day I noticed two sanitation supervisors in a small car stop to pick up garbage and place it in their auto. I thought this was very commendable. I then looked around and thought what a great job that sanitation workers do in Bellerose and wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks.

tional reservoirs or water treatment plants.

With reference to a DEP letter we all received last summer, Mr. Stegnari explained that a second letter will come soon from the DEP regarding installation of meters. The letter will identify the selected contractor for our area and ensure that authorized personnel will be uniformed and show photo IDs. Once the condition of home's existing water supply has been determined, either a basement installation or external "pit" installation will be done. In either case, periodic readings will be completed without need to enter your home. Note that the location of the external electronic readout device is entirely the homeowner's decision - you may insist on your desired location, so long as it is accessible.

Prior to the metering, DEP relies on formulas consisting of

frontage, external bibs and water fixtures. Upon installation of the meters, these formulas will stop and all charges will relate to meter readings. Charges to those billed on a flat rate formula during 1994 will be given prorated credit for their 1994 annual water bill. This will be applied against the new water bill until the credit disappears.

Mr. Ken Kearns (718 595-6630) then spoke of the following free services that are available that may help homeowners reduce their bills and help reduce the need for waste and fresh water treatment:

Residential Water Survey Program - Competent personnel will examine your entire house for existing or potential leaks, detail their findings and suggest workable remedies. In addition, free low flow shower heads and water restrictors will be provided.

Toilet Rebate Program - This program reimburses

homeowners for much of the cost of replacing older toilets, which consume up to 7 gallons of water per flush, with modern low-flow water closets. These new toilets use only about 1.5 gallons. Currently the installation must be done by a licensed plumber listed by the Department. In our area, a house up to three families may receive \$250 for the first toilet replacement and \$150 for each additional toilet. Listings of eligible plumbers and toilet models are available at the above number.

Assuming these two programs are implemented in your home, you may be eligible for either or both of the following:

\$750/year cap - A metered home which is in compliance with both the above programs may qualify for this cap - meaning that they will not have a water charge in excess of \$750 per year.

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Forgiving Program - A compliant, metered house which suffers an accidental, catastrophic water loss, such as ruptured water lines, burst boiler water tubes, etc., will receive a credit for water usage beyond the usual based on DEP's calculations.

[Editor's note - I will be glad to mail a full copy of Mr. Schmidt's report to anyone sending a note to our P.O. box.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Schmidt for reporting on this important meeting.]

GIRL SCOUT CRAFT FAIR -

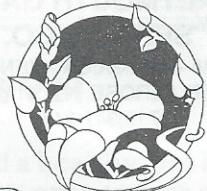
Day:: Thursday, December 8

Time: 2-5PM

Place: Trinity Lutheran

Commonwealth & 86th Road

Girls Scouts of this area have been busy for weeks making beautiful crafts. Please come and show the Girl Scouts of Bellerose that your support their efforts. The troops are trying to raise money for their individual programs. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



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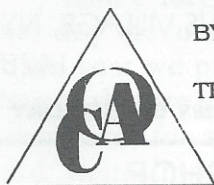
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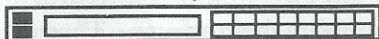
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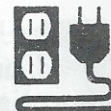
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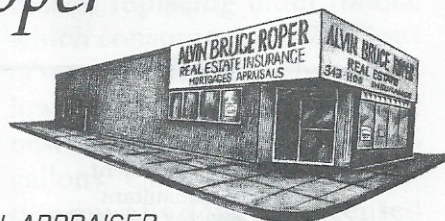
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