

Election of Officers

**December 3, 1998
8:00 PM**

Refreshments
House of Hope Church
Cor. 248th St. & 85th Ave.

Bellerose Commonwealth
Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 260225
Bellerose, NY 11426



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

Use our clip out coupon inside

bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 24 No. 10

DECEMBER 1998

The Gavel

We had an excellent meeting on November 5. Deputy Inspector William Morris came down and spent nearly an hour with us. We spoke to the DI about crime in our area, holiday safety tips, basketball hoops and numerous police related issues. Inspector Morris was very open and helpful. Morris was joined by our community affairs officer and community patrol officer.

We heard a complaint about one of our commercial advertisers, City Wide, whose

employees were disturbing neighbors. As a result of a letter to City Wide, we got immediate and strong response that such situations would be dealt with. We hope this will be the end of that problem and we salute City Wide's quick and decisive action.

Last month we sent dues lists to our Block Captains. We also mailed over 500 dues letters to families not covered by block captains. We have had a good, early response to our mailing. Please be sure to get those \$5 checks back to us. We also had three possible block captain

candidates respond.

In other correspondence, we received a letter from a member asking what we have done and what community services we provide for our \$5 dues. This letter caused us to reflect back on some of the issues we have been involved in over the past several years. I thought it would be valuable to reprint our response. Please see inside.

Please accept the best wishes of the Board of Directors and Officers for a healthy and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

From Page 2

etc. Late in 1997 we submitted a list of 74 such menaces (probably just scratched the surface), many of which have finally been fixed. Without this activity, they would never be fixed.

This is just a small part of the letter, but in the interest of space, we will print the rest next month. We will highlight nine separate community service activities we have done.

Holy Trinity Disaster Collection

In response to the disastrous hurricanes in the

**The House of Hope
Presbyterian Church
248th Street and 85th Ave.
David F. Schult, Minister
84-54 248th Street
Tel.: 718 347-3120
Sunday:
9:30 AM Church School
11:00 Morning Worship
A Nursery is Available**

Caribbean, Holy Trinity is seeking contributions of good used clothing and blankets and canned foods. These items can be brought to the church office at Commonwealth Boulevard and 87th Avenue on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Holy Trinity Holiday Schedule

We could all use a glimpse of "The Brightest Star" before Christmas arrives.

You are invited to join with your neighbors at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday School Department presentation on December 20 at 10:30 AM.

It all takes place in the warmth and comfort of the building so, come and bring a friend to Holy Trinity at 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Boulevard.

Holy Trinity Christmas Eve services will be at 7:30 PM.

Patronize Our Advertisers

We rely on our advertisers to help pay for the costs of printing and mailing Action News. They rely on you to help them stay in business. Please use our advertisers for your daily and regular needs. Their presence strengthens our neighborhood and their participation in Action News strengthens our civic association.

Girl Scout Holiday Craft Sale

Come shop for some great holiday items made by the 300 Girl Scouts in our area. Beautiful hand-made crafts is where Christmas started. December 5 at Trinity Lutheran Church 9 AM to 1 PM.

BCCA Board of Directors

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BCCA Feedback Form

December 1998

To the BCCA:

I suggest the following article for Action News, or issue to pursue, or general comment:

_____.

I suggest the following speaker topic: _____.

I suggest the following newsletter topic: _____.

We encourage you to leave your name and address: _____.

action news

Address items to:

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 260225
Bellerose, NY 11426

In Response

The B.C.C.A. was established in 1935 and after a brief suspension, we have operated continually since 1971. You ask "What have we been fighting for?" Well, I will try to list for you a few of the neighborhood issues that this organization has been involved in over the years.

1. Buses on Commonwealth Boulevard-the city wanted to use Commonwealth Boulevard to speed buses back to the Queens Village Depot. Our quick response and the demonstrations we organized resulted in a safer and faster route to the bus garage that does not impact any community.
2. The hill on Little Neck Parkway - The intersection at Little Neck Parkway and Jericho Turnpike used to have an incline of approximately 45 degrees which resulted in numerous accidents as well as abandoned cars during winter storms. The B.C.C.A. organized demonstrations that eventually lowered the hill and Little Neck Parkway was completely reconstructed.
3. Reconstructed Commonwealth Boulevard - Years ago, Commonwealth Boulevard was extremely dangerous with bumps and hills all over the place and railroad tracks from the old Creedmoor spur broke up the surface near 87th Drive. The B.C.C.A. demanded and eventually won a complete reconstruction of the boulevard, and served as community adviser throughout the construction.
4. Traffic Controls on 86th Avenue, at P.S. 133 and at Little Neck Parkway - these extremely dangerous intersections had no proper traffic controls. We had asked for many years for a four way stop sign at the school and a traffic light at Little Neck Parkway. Demonstrations at both locations resulted in traffic lights and significantly fewer accidents.
5. Reconstructed Bellerose Playground (P.S. 133) - following our continued demands, the city finally reconstructed Bellerose Playground, rehabilitated the park house and now provides a parkie during the summer.
6. Removed the "Pigeon Tunnel" - after the Creedmoor railroad spur was removed many years ago, an underpass under the Cross Island Parkway was blocked up. However, this became easy prey for vandals and vagrants. After many years of working with our local elected officials at the state level, the B.C.C.A. was successful in permanently removing the tunnel by a multi-million dollar state project that reconstructed the Cross Island Parkway. This project removed a very dangerous hill and provided a safer entrance/exit configurations on the northbound and southbound Cross Island Parkway.
7. Illegal Apartments - The B.C.C.A. is extremely active, borough-wide and city-wide, in attacking the problem of people illegally converting apartments. We testified in front of the City Council in support of the Borough President's and Mayors 1996 initiative to strengthen anti-conversion laws. Locally, we identify and report illegal conversions to help protect and preserve our neighborhood.
8. Blockbusting - The B.C.C.A. was instrumental in identifying the problem of unscrupulous real-estate brokers attempting to bust up neighborhoods by "steering" local residents into prematurely selling their houses, often below market rates. Our action and involvement with other civic groups resulted in the Secretary of State establishing a non-solicitation order that covers our area and most of eastern Queens to this day and continues to protect our area. The B.C.C.A. has reported numerous blockbusters and has testified at the hearings on behalf of residents.
9. Potholes & Trees - You may think the City routinely fixes potholes and prunes or removes trees. Not so. The B.C.C.A. periodically surveys Bellerose streets for dead or overgrown trees, graffiti'd stop signs, potholes,



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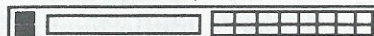
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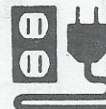
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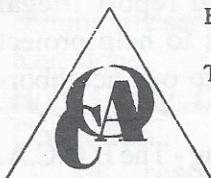
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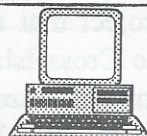
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