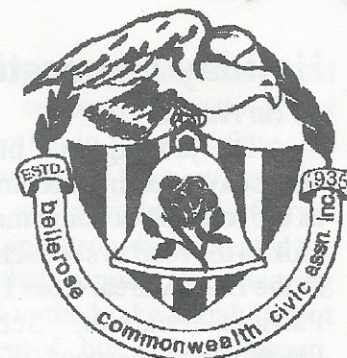


bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 17 No. 1

January 1991

SPECIAL DATE

January 10, 1991

8:00 PM at House of Hope
corner 248 Street &
86th Avenue
Induction of
Officers

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

President's Gavel

I would like to extend best wishes to those BCCA officers that were elected at the December meeting. We will have our annual induction on January 10. Please make a special note of that date because it is not our usual meeting date. We will have a special guest perform the ceremony.

Particular best wishes go to Pat Pearson, who joined the Board as Vice President. Pat started off with a bang by suggesting that we take a look at all of the houses decorated for the holidays and pick out the best ones. Please see Pat's article inside for the "don't miss" list of Bellerose houses. Learning from past mistakes, there will be no first or second places - see them all. My thanks to the Committee.

Also, special appreciation to Frank Olton, who has heeded our call (read plea) and will take over with me as co-president. (I told him it wasn't too much work!) I'm confident he'll do great.

R. C. Hellenbrecht

Auto Crimes

by R. Hellenbrecht

The most recent meeting of the 105th Precinct Community Council featured a special presentation by the City's deputy inspector in charge of auto theft crimes. I wanted to share some of his discussion with you since we have experienced a heavy auto theft rate in this area.

Last year 134,000 autos are stolen in the city, that's an increase of 12%. In the 105th

Pct. 3,200 cars will be stolen during 1990, valued at \$16 million. The inspector emphasized that the average claim on a car theft is \$5,200, which is paid by insurance companies, but ultimately paid by insurance consumers in higher insurance premiums.

Inspector said there are basically three types of theft: for parts - where chop shops take quick moving and very expensive major parts, joy rides - taken for a show-off ride or transporta-

tion, usually recovered with little loss, and; theft on order, usually high demand cars - either domestic sale or for export. Off the road vehicles are in very high demand for export. Huge freight containers are used to move these high priced cars out of the country, with no chance of recovery. A separate category is insurance fraud, often by middle-class owners needing quick cash or tired of paying high repair bills. 25% of all claims are in frauds, costing the rest of us a bundle.

see *AUTO THEFT*, page 3

Holiday Decorations

by: Pat Pearson

The judging took place on Thursday evening December 20 as the four Association members took to the road to see each house in the BCCA area. Ross Fertitta, Patricia Pearson, Sebastian Platania and Bernard Wechsler formed the committee. The BCCA, at its December meeting approved five \$25 gift certificates for the most artistically decorated houses.

It was indeed difficult to select the five most artistically

and tastefully decorated homes; there were many deserving of prizes or honorable mention. However, after much deliberation, the following were deemed winners for 1990:

Monica and Dominick Cecala of 251-15 86th Avenue

Linda Paul and Veronica Willant of 253-06 85th Road
Sara Rainone of 87-14 248th Street

Linda Schwab of 85-33 249th Street - Ms. Schwab did the design, and credit for stringing lights goes to friend Steve Allen
Jacqueline and John Swiatocha

of 85-19 251st Street.

Our readers will be relieved to know that the aforementioned judging was done - and the decisions reached BEFORE the wrap-up wine & cheese gathering at the home of Mrs. Pearson.

Note from the President:

I think this was a great idea, and it sounds like fun, too! I'm sure this will be added to the BCCA smorgasbord of community services.

Congratulations to the winners and others who came close. I particularly thank Pat Pearson for the great idea and careful execution - bravo!

February Meeting

by: R. Hellenbrecht

HEAT/Consumer's Advantage Inc. has been invited to speak at the February meeting. HEAT is an oil consumers' cooperative that uses the massive purchasing power of 10,000 active clients to wrestle deep discounts on oil purchases.

Presently, HEAT customers are paying \$1.11 vs \$1.41

paid for the same oil, from the same dealers by other customers. HEAT clients are assigned to one of 26 independent oil dealers, probably including the one you deal with now. Most of your current services are available from HEAT. For example, HEAT strongly encourages computer scheduled automatic delivery to avoid scams. Budget payment, or even-payment pro-

grams many of us rely on are available for the asking as are maintenance plans.

There are similar programs affiliated with unions or credit unions and other groups with varying advantages. On February 7 Richard Carlin will talk about the cooperative and answer any questions you may have. This appears to be a real bargain with no down side. Hold the date.

Library News

by: Library Staff

Adult Discussion: Thursday, Jan. 17 at 10:30AM From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas Freedman, a study of the Middle East Present Day troubles.

Taking Care of Your Financial Future: By Mark B. Rose, Asst. Vice Pres., Prudential-Bache Securities. He will discuss The New Tax Law and its Effect on Medicare, How Safe are Government & Municipal

Bonds?, Real Estate & New York Marketplace, Preparing for Retirement. Call Bellerose Branch for details.

Check Smoke Detectors

New Year is a easy time to remember to check or replace batteries on all of your smoke detectors. There is no question that smoke detectors save lives, but they won't if the battery's dead. Take a few minutes NOW to push the button and check.

CPOP UPDATE

I told you two months ago that we would soon be assigned a CPOP police officer. I've recently been told that a female officer is preparing for her assignment and she will cover the entire BCCA area.

As you read last month the CPOP officer will be dedicated to this area, meet and know as many people as possible and participate in civic, PTA and other community groups. I hope to have a name at the February meeting.

AUTO THEFTS from page 1

The good news is that the city has only recently realized the lost value due to car thefts and the serious impact on the quality of life. The police have taken an entirely new attitude to this serious crime. Anyone who has experienced a car theft in NY City knows the lack of attention, or concern expressed by officers.

Under the new program, CPOP officers will be trained to investigate auto thefts. Victims should expect the same attention received by victims of more personal crimes like burglary. You will be asked for the particulars, CPOP and patrol officers will follow up on the complaint, seeking any and all arrests.

The Inspector suggested some successful methods of prevention in the meantime. He recommended the now standard alarm and ignition cut-off systems, and strongly suggested the bars that connect the steering wheel to the brake pedal. Its not fool-proof, but it is a deterrent. CAT decals are also helpful.

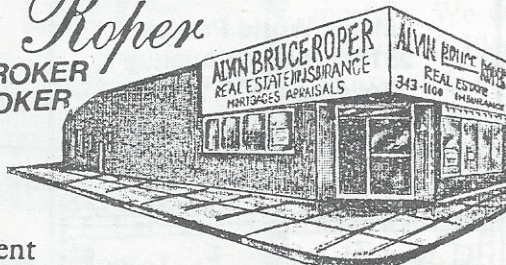
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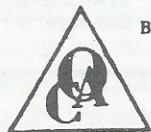


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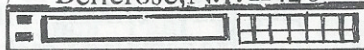
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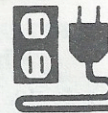
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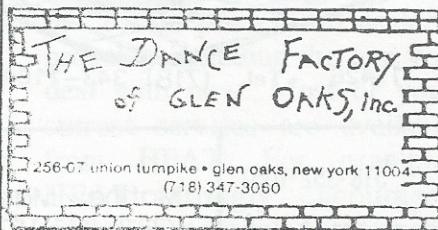
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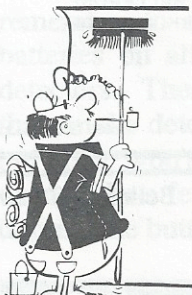
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