

bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

# action news



Volume 19 No. 1

JANUARY 1993

## **Assemblywoman Barbara Clark will Inaugurate BCCA Officers and Directors**

### **\*Holiday Decoration Awards\***

**Thursday January 7, 1993  
at 8:00 PM**

**House of Hope Church  
Corner 248th Street and 85th Ave.  
Refreshments & Door Prizes**

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: Richard Hellenbrecht*

On behalf of Frank Olton and myself, I would like to thank all of Bellerose for your support during our last two years as Co Presidents of the BCCA. I especially thank the Board of Directors and Officers for their efforts. It is gratifying to see the neighborhood maintain its strength and stability even while many areas are having great difficulty. Your response to our calls for help on removing graffiti, park cleanups and other special events like them, is a sign that we can count on Bellerose to stay strong and vital.

It is very disturbing, that we were not able to persuade someone to step up and take over as Frank and I move on to tend to various professional and personal endeavors. I cannot foresee exactly what we will be able to accomplish over the next year without a president, but for the sake of Bellerose, I hope everyone will be patient and pitch-in and help out when needed.

## **Holiday Decorations**

*By: Richard Hellenbrecht*

For the third straight year, your civic association has travelled the streets, roads and avenues (and yes, boulevards and drives, too) to choose the best holiday decorations in the neighborhood. As in the past two years we have seen an increase in the amount and quality of decorations and choosing winners is more difficult each year..

At the January meeting we will be presenting four cash

awards (\$25) for the best decorations and six Honorable Mention certificates for the next tier of particularly well decorated homes. All ten families are listed on page 3, please be sure to check and see if you made it!

Since there are so many different styles involved I wanted to share with you some of the things that influence the judges the most. Hand made items, like santas and deers are much more effective than lit plastic figures; smaller lights, usually of one color, or two or three groupings of colors,

look better than large multicolor lights; houses that balance decorations side to side and bottom to top grabbed our attention; window displays are very attractive too. Be sure to spot light features that do not show up well. Many homes had beautiful ribbons on bushes or door wreaths that couldn't be seen at night. Don't feel you need to bathe your house with thousands of bright lights. One of our winners this year features traditional decorations with no lights except one spot light. It got my vote for best of the year.



## Bellerose Victory on Q43

By Rich Hellenbrecht

Community residents who must commute to Manhattan have always been at a double disadvantage. First, they have been relinquished to pay for two different modes of transportation; second, they must endure an interminable bus ride making stops picking up and discharging passengers every two blocks of the five-mile trip to the 179th Street Terminal.

While nothing can make the hour-and-a-half trip to work a pleasant experience, at least we felt it could be expedited a little by skipping some the stops that are served by numerous bus lines. The BCCA introduced the idea of skip-stop service two years ago in response to New York City's request for a community strategic plan. Thanks to this initiative and support from City Councilman Sheldon Leffler, Speaker Saul Weprin, Assem-

blyman Prescott and Senator Padavan, skip-stop service will be introduced in January 1993.

According to a letter received recently from Alan F. Kiepper, President of the NYC Transit Authority:

"The TA will begin to operate a weekday limited-stop service on the Q43 route along Hillside Avenue between 6:30 AM and 8:00 AM traveling westbound, and between 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM traveling eastbound. During these times, all Q43 buses will operate on a limited-stop basis between 179th Street and Springfield Boulevard, stopping only at 188th Street, 197th Street, Francis Lewis Boulevard and 212th Street. This will reduce travel time for the vast majority of Q43 rush hour passengers. Transfers will be available between the Q43 and other bus lines that operate in the Hillside Av-

enue corridor (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q36, Q75, Q76, Q77) for stops within the express zone to maintain access within the eastern segment of Hillside Avenue."

It is fair to say that there was substantial resistance to this initiative from the areas in the limited service zone, but the TA ultimately recognized the inconvenience endured for many years by numerous passengers in the easternmost reaches of central Queens.

Unfortunately we can't say anything yet about the financial aspects of the commute, but we are pushing to eliminate the two-fare zone, which will become even more onerous with the increased fare next month. Given financial hardships of the City, we will have a long wait for that one. Meanwhile, we are happy to chime in the New Year with a slightly faster trip to Manhattan.

# Happy New Year, Bellerose

## Bellerose Victory on 85th Avenue

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

We have long been complaining about the totally inadequate safety provisions for students of PS133 and St. Gregory's who have to cross our local streets. The intersection of 85th Avenue and 249th has been of particular interest to us, especially since the volume of high speed traffic has increased dramatically.

We are very pleased and relieved that the City has stationed a crossing guard at this busy location. Mr. Henry Mazer,

Principal of PS133 has been a supporter of the BCCA since his assignment here three years ago. Mr. Mazer has fought hard for the protection of our youngsters with the permanent assignment of a crossing guard. He has also helped the BCCA pressure the NYC Department of Traffic for additional traffic controls near the school.

Based on last month's visit from Department of Transportation Borough Engineer John

Tipaldo it appears that our hopes for stop signs at various locations, including this one, are all but lost since motorists have not filed format reports on the numerous accidents. But at least we can rest easy that there will be some protection for school aged children going to and returning from school. Thank you Mr. Mazer and we're glad we could add something to the battle as well.



## BCCA Budget

At the January meeting we will seek your approval for our first budget. In the past we have entertained proposals and voted at regular membership meetings for routine association expenses. Without a budget members have not had an overview of the expenses and activities of the BCCA. It was recently suggested that the general member should adopt a specific annual budget authorizing various expenses. This would avoid the need to disrupt meetings with routine allotment votes.

The following budget is presented to give members a better understanding of the types of programs and expenditures your dues supports:

### Budget Highlights

The budget assumes membership of 604 members at our current \$4 annual rate. This is an average membership, but is frankly a little higher than most recent years. Ads are included at our current rate of \$4/mo. per small ad. Since we will send two dues mailings in '93, expenses are slightly overstated (\$150).

Expenses include: Dues for Eastern Queens Civic Council (\$25) and subsidy for members' attendance at annual convention (\$100), a con-

### Income:

Members' Dues	\$2,416
Ads	960
Contr, Interest and other	275
Total Income	\$3,651

### Expenses:

Newsletter Printing	\$960
Newsletter Delivery	240
Donations & Dues	450
Office Expenses	400
Postage & P.O. Box	744
Refreshments	138
Awards & Bonds	325
Board Contingency	183
Other Expenses	590
Total Expenses	\$4,030

The budget reflects a deficit of \$379. If contingencies are exercised deficits will be funded by BCCA savings which are approximately \$4,000 at year-end.

## Decoration Winners

### Prize Winners:

Elizabeth & Tom Finnerty  
84-44 248th Street  
Lorie & James McClain  
85-23 247th Street  
John & Claire Katinas  
84-30 246th Street  
Carol & Victor Liss  
86-35 250th Street

### Honorable Mention Certificates:

Eileen & Patrick Fox  
85-28 248th Street  
Rosemary Waibel  
84-33 249th Street  
ToniAnn & Michael Cannon  
87-11 252nd Street  
Camile & Harry LoGiudice  
251-11 86th Avenue  
Donna & Thomas Lindscog  
253-28 85th Road  
Jean & Jimmy Sullivan (& Chief)  
246-25 85th Road

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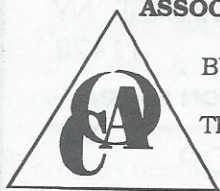
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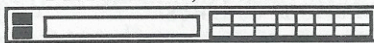
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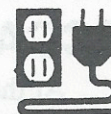
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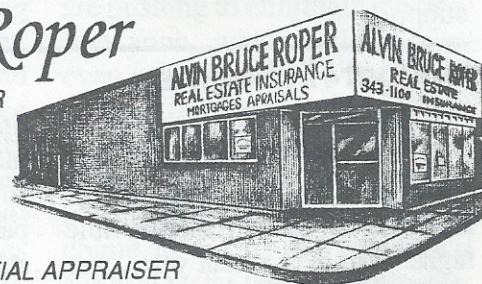
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