

**Mr. Frank Toner  
Financial Planning  
Seminar**

**Induction of Officers**

**January 6, 2000  
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



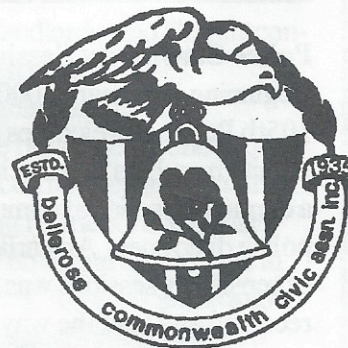
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bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

# *action news*



Volume 26 No. 01

January 2000

## **President's Gavel**

by: *Richard Hellenbrecht*

The December meeting was absolutely spectacular. We were pleased to have Mr. Ken Brecher, Principal of P.S. 133. Mr. Brecher was very well prepared to talk about the new activities at 133, but particularly about his reaction to the feeling of togetherness and sense of community at 133. He spoke at length about how dedicated the teachers and building staff were. He was delighted with the involvement of the PTA in the school. See the article on page 2.

In January, we will invite one of our elected officials to swear in our officers for the year 2000. We have two major vacancies. We urgently need a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary as well as director positions. The work is minimal, but important to us. Anyone with a couple of hours a month please come to the meeting and see an officer.

We will also host a financial adviser from a neighboring civic association. He spoke at thier meeting recently and I've heard very positive feed-back. I recom-

mend that everyone spend some time considering their financial health and planning for their individual goals - whether they are for children's college fund, wedding plans, retirement or estate planning. You really owe it to yourself to come down and get some good advice. Read the short article on page two.

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### **Financial Planning Seminar**

by: Frank Toner  
During this educational seminar, Frank Toner, a financial planner with The Prudential Insurance Company of America will discuss how Prudential can help people achieve their financial objectives. This is an educational seminar, no specific products or services will be discussed.

Attendees will also learn about key financial management strategies they can use to help control their finances, cope with unexpected events and emergencies, and prepare for retirement. Mr. Toner will address six key areas of financial planning: cash

management, risk management, investment planning, tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning.

Neither Prudential nor its representative render tax or legal advice. Please consult with your attorney, accountant and/or tax advisor concerning your particular circumstances.

Investment advisory services offered through Prudential Financial Planning Services. Security products offered through Pruco Securities Corporation. Prudential

### **Holiday Decorations**

Thanks once again to our holiday decorations committee, we have selected four winners of \$50 cash prizes for 1999. As always, the decisions are very difficult since so many houses are so beautifully decorated. It is quite noticable that each year there are more and more houses getting all decked out for the holidays.

Thanks to Pat Pearson, who has served for nine years as committee chair, coordinating the judging and notifying the winners. In addition, this year were George Wolf, Rich Hellenbrecht and Bernie Wechsler. Congratulations to the winners.

### **Police Sensitivity Sessions**

Beginning in January 2000 the 105th Precinct welcomes community members to participate in a continuing series of community/police dialogues. An earlier series of sensitivity sessions was well received and lead the way to this new round of sessions.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the precinct Community Affairs office at 718 776-9173. The meeting for our area will be Feb. 9 at 8:00 pm at Holy Trinity Church.

### **P.S. 133**

Mr. Brecher told us about many programs in P.S.133, funded by both private and government funds. Programs even include ballet, which is taught by a contract group brought into the school. Their annual talent show is spirited and well done.

P.S.133 currently has 637 children and classes for kindergarten students run in the low 20s and in the mid-20s for first grade.

P.S.133 is also maintained in spectacular condition.

### **1999 Winners:**

Joan & Robert McCabe  
247th Street

Jerry Eng  
249th Street

Kim and Charles Harms  
251st Street

Tim and MariAnne Quinn  
252 Street

### **New Advertisers**

We recently got several new advertisers. Please welcome Roslyn Savings Bank, Mr. Ribbon and Arturos Restaurant. We deeply appreciate all of our advertisers for helping to defray the cost of printing and distributing Action News throughout the year.

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### **Library Expansion Declined**

After receiving several complaints at our meetings of overcrowding at the Bellerose Branch Library, the BCCA formally requested that the branch be included in the capital budget for an expansion. We had suggested adding a second level or extending into an adjacent store.

In response, I received a letter from the Queens Library that says based on the standard life expectancy of the building the current timetable for replacement of the branch is 2038, and it can't be accelerated.

I don't consider this to be responsive. In the new year we will start a campaign to advance this.



## Burglaries on the Rise

by: Richard Hellenbrecht

We learned at the December meeting there has been a spike in burglaries in Floral Park Queens. The police suspect that it is mostly youths because they are breaking in the front door or back door or breaking a rear window to get in. They also take only small items like cash and jewelry which is easy to carry and easy to "fence."

Since breaking into a door is the most frequent entry, Police suggest that the single best protection is to replace the screws in your door lock strike plate with 2-1/2 to 3 inch screws. Also, cut wooden blocks to fit



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snuggly on the top part of a double-hung window between the mullion and the top to prevent the window from being "jimmied."

Meanwhile, the police have a very large presence of plain clothes officers watching the area and are hoping to arrest or move the group to a different area.

## Illegal Conversions

by: Richard Hellenbrecht

All homeowners should know that the City Council is about to vote on a major bill, sponsored by Mayor Giuliani and Borough President Shulman. Introduction 363A is a multifaceted bill that would increase financial and operational penalties for developers, contractors and landlords who illegally convert or sell illegal houses.

Some highlights are:

The buyer, seller and broker in a sale certify they are aware of the zoning restrictions and that there are no illegal apartments in the building. Vehicles and equipment of builders violating "stop work" orders can be seized. New building permits may be prohibited for builders with outstanding prior fines and penalties.

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### BCCA Feedback Form

January 2000

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**

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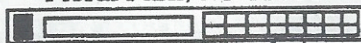
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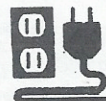
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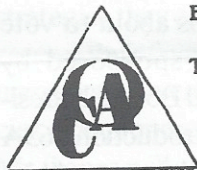


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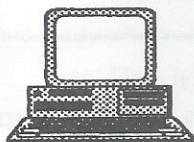
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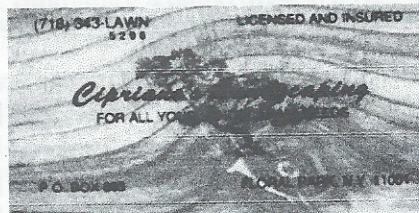
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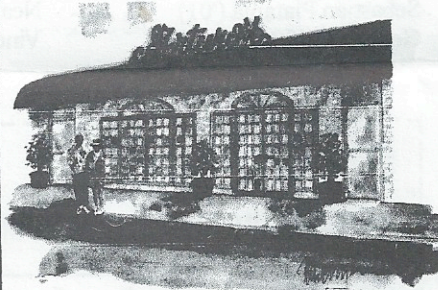
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