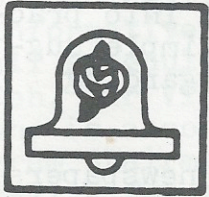


# action news



bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

VOLUME 3 NO. 6

JUNE

1976

## HAIL TO OUR CAPTAINS

Our Block Captains are the Civic Association's liason with our community. Through them, this Newsletter is distributed and the annual dues collected. They keep our neighbors informed of the latest happenings in Bellerose. Without them, our Association might very well disintegrate.

Their dedicated service will be recognized at our June 3 meeting when the 50 Block Captains will be honored and receive our official thanks at a special hour complete with refreshments.

Our honored guests are:

Eileen Ahern  
Judy Andrejeski  
Margaret Burnett  
Maryann Blaine  
Connie Brekke  
Molly Caruso  
G. Cerise  
Carol Chrusz  
Adele Cipriano  
James Delaney  
John Ferguson  
Eileen Fillinger  
Charles Freas  
Frances Gallagher  
Vincent Gazzo

Janet Gramlick  
Anette Hansen  
Carol Harley  
Thomas J. Hayes  
Marie Helfrick  
Richard Hellenbrecht  
Joan Hoffelder  
Anette Kalin  
Dorothea Kerswill  
Margaret Kritz  
Kathy & Bob Lucas  
Georgia Mc Guire  
Laurette Matthews  
James Morgan  
Irma Muller  
Nick Murza  
Melody Ngai  
Betty Platania  
Alvina Regalbuto  
Catherine Reh  
Elaine Robinson  
Alice Santa Maria  
Helga Schmidt  
Grace Seller  
George Sharp  
Gus Spitzhoff  
Virginia Slaney  
Eugene Sprenger  
Betty Vogel  
Bernie Wechsler  
Ruth Weikert  
Donald West  
George Wolf  
Howard York  
Carol Zahner

### THE FACTS FROM ONE WHO KNOWS

We've read about it.  
We've seen it discussed on T.V.  
We've heard it on the radio. Our neighbors

have bent our ears about it. Our co-workers have complained or offered their version of why it happened and what should be done about it. What is it? It is the financial crisis of the City of New York.

City Councilman Matthew J. Troy, Jr., Chairman of the Finance Committee and Councilman from our area will be our special guest at the June meeting. Formulate your questions on the financial crisis so that you will get an official answer from our guest speaker.

## NOTICE

### THE NEXT MEETING THURSDAY

JUNE 3, 1976 8:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER  
COUNCILMAN

MATTHEW J. TROY

\*\*\*\*\*

BLOCK CAPTAIN  
RECOGNITION NIGHT  
HOUSE OF HOPE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Corner of 248 ST. &  
85th Avenue



## HISTORICAL LONG ISLAND

History is all around us, and for those who move about this area with eyes open, the rewards are many. From Time to time Betty Platania will feature some interesting or important event, personality, or landmark. The first item in this category is the King Mansion, the subject of "Echoes of the past."

\*\*\*\*\*

## Echoes of the Past

Perhaps in your travels you have noticed a large white house enclosed by a wrought-iron fence on Jamaica Avenue between 150-153 Streets. You might even know this to be the King Mansion, but have you ever ventured inside? What a charming adventure awaits you.

Rufus King was a member of the Continental Congress and instrumental in framing the Constitution. He was a member of the U. S. Senate from New York 1789-1796 and also served as Minister to England under President Washington. In 1816, he was Federalist candidate for President against Madison. He purchased 90 acres of land in Jamaica where the original house, erected prior to 1750 stood. To this he made further additions to give the mansion its present appearance.

The outside of the house and the grounds

are maintained by the NYC Dep't of Parks, while the inside has been assembled and cared for by the King Manor Association organized in 1900, which has collected therein articles and books of historical interest. The bedroom of the Hon. Rufus King contains a beautiful sleigh bed of the Empire period. The front parlor has twin harpsichords and a completely finished four-sided curio cabinet rare to find. Upstairs a bedroom for children with small scaled furniture and old toys is another treat. You will see a bedwarmer, original pony cart used for the children and a rare mechanical cradle over 100 yearsold. Mr. King's original rocking chair stands silent in the downstairs Library which has unusual glass enclosed, built in bookcases. Young and old alike will be thrilled to see the back or servants staircase, used solely by the household staff to perform their daily chores.

After the death of the Honorable Rufus King, the house was occupied by his son, John A. King, Governor of New York from 1856-1858.

Why not see for yourself the treasures of the past so close at hand when the King Mansion is open to the public on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00. You'll be glad you did.

## SECURITY

Summer is just around the corner. Many of us will be going away on long week-ends and vacations. Now is the time to put into practice some simple suggestions regarding security.

Do not let newspapers or mail pile up. Have a neighbor check your home. Don't discuss vacation plans with strangers in public places. While away, valuables should be placed in a safety deposit box. Watch your neighbor's house for any suspicious activity. Use Your timer to put a light or two on and off in the house.

Also available through the Civic Association, we have portable alarm systems which may be used in your house for the small fee of \$2 per week or \$1 per week-end. This is a small investment in security and could certainly prevent an unfortunate occurrence while you are away.

I will have my registration book at the June 3 meeting or call me at 347-3027. The alarms are available on a first come, first serve basis.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and safe summer.

NOTE:  
new POLICE precinct  
number - 740-0600  
Central Queens FIRE  
dispatch - 847-6600

George Wolf



## A BACKWARD GLANCE, THEN ON TO A BUSY SUMMER

This June issue of ACTION NEWS is the last until the Fall. The year saw a full schedule of interesting and informative programs--all scheduled by John Reh, our Vice President who is also our Program Chairman. To recall a few programs is to remember James Trent of the Colonial Farmhouse; Dianne Hinchcliff of Con Edison; Robert Lutz of the local Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Bernie Wechsler, one of our directors and "organic gardeners".

This does not conclude our program for the year. The great event that many of us have been looking forward to is the annual June Walk which culminates the year's activities.

We expect the participants to gather at P.S.133 at 2 p.m. Then the Drum and Bugle Corps of Our Lady of the Snows, the twirlers from St. Gregory's the color guard, from the Girl Scouts, the decorated floats and marchers will parade through Bellerose in a true Bicentennial spirit. This, together with refreshments and prizes will combine to make the event a memorable one.

### WHO TAKES THE MINUTES?

In accordance with the By-laws of the B.C.C.A. the Board of Directors have asked Virgil Regalbuto to serve as Recording Secretary,

replacing Faith Walsh who resigned when she moved to Illinois.

### BICENTENNIAL HAPPENINGS

In connection with the Bicentennial celebrations being held throughout the country, our local Little Plains Bicentennial Committee of Bellerose, Bellaire, Hollis, and Queens Village has planned a series of events of wide interest.

May 31 - The VFW begins the festivities with a Memorial Day parade at 10:30 am. The route is Francis Lewis Boulevard, then east along Jamaica Avenue into Queens Village. The marchers will include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. After the parade, the YMCA will put on an exhibition of gymnastics at Veteran's Plaza.

June 5 - The Boy Scouts will present a demonstration on scouting at Veteran's Plaza, Springfield Avenue and Jamaica Avenue in Queens Village at 10:00 am.

June 12 - Soap Box Derby tentatively planned for Alley Pond Park.

PLEASE NOTE: This is also the day of the JUNE WALK.

June 13 - Flag Day Ceremony at Martin Van Buren High School Ball Field. Speaker will be Captain Richard Stratton, who was the longest held American POW in

Vietnam.

July 4 - a monster picnic to be held at the site of the Colonial Farm House at 73rd Ave. and Little Neck Pkwy. Planned are sports events, pony rides, guided tour of the Farmhouse. Tickets at \$5 will be exchanged for coupons to be used towards food and drink of your choice.

July 9 - A Bicentennial Ball to be held at Leonards of Great Neck. Cocktails at 8:00 pm, prime ribs of beef dinner at 9:00 p.m. all for, you guessed it, \$17.76 per person.

### **B.C.C.A OFFICERS**

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# June Walk Set for June 12

BCCA's annual Children's JUNE WALK will begin at P.S. 133 at 2PM on Saturday, June 12. The marchers, led by the drum and bugle corps of Our Lady of Snows, will proceed along 85th Avenue to 252nd Street, to 87th Drive to 249th Street, back to P.S. 133 Playground.

Encourage your children and relatives to participate. Please display your flag and keep cars

off the parade route on June 12. Put your garbage out early for a special pick up.  
 RAIN DATE: June 19

## ON THE SPUR PROPERTY

Nearly all the property owners eligible to acquire the railroad spur property adjoining their homes have completed all the necessary requirements. About six property owners have not yet taken the steps to acquire the

parcel abutting their property. Since the success of the entire endeavor rests on the compliance of all the property owners, we would urge that the handful who have not as yet taken steps to acquire the property at the very advantageous terms do so not because they may jeopardize the whole settlement of the spur property, but because it is an economically unique situation advantageously to all.