

# action news

VOLUME 5 NO. 3

M A R C H

1978

## BELLEROSE LIBRARY TO OPEN AT LAST; LARGE COMMUNITY TURNOUT URGED

A three year community struggle for its own library ends -- hopefully, on a happy note -- on Monday, February 27.

At 1 PM, Milton S. Byam, director of the Queens Borough Public Library, will unceremoniously open the doors of the vandalized, graffiti-covered, Bellerose Branch Library building on Hillside Avenue and 250th Street.

The opening is a notable victory for the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association which together with its members, other community groups, individual local residents and elected representatives, who fought a long, hard battle.

They do not want the event to pass unnoticed despite the wish of some authorities to make this major community development a "non-event."

All residents of Bellerose are urged by the BCCA to be present in front of the Library on Monday, Feb. 27, at 1 PM, to show they personally welcome the newest cultural "jewel" in Bellerose.

Placards are being prepared for all storekeepers along Hillside Avenue welcoming their newest neighbor.

Ms. Jean Dickerson has been named librarian of the branch. She has already accepted an invitation from the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association to be the guest speaker at the next regular meeting of the Association on Thursday, March 2, at 8.30 PM, at the House of Hope, 248th Street and 85th Avenue.

The Library hours will be:

Monday - 1 PM to 8 PM

Tuesday - 1 PM to 5.30 PM

Wednesday - 10 AM to 5 PM

Thursday - 1 PM to 8 PM

Friday - 1 PM to 5.30 PM

Saturday - 12 Noon to 5.30 PM

The American flag will not fly from the mast at the opening because the control mechanism has been ripped off the pole by vandals. The Bellerose sign in front of the building has the letters BELL R. The letters E O S E are missing. The bicycle rack is twisted out of shape and broken windows are boarded up.

The building now is a sight but hopefully all the graffiti will be washed off and the outside of the building repaired. It's the treasure trove of books inside -- 25,000 of them -- that's important to Bellerose and its residents.

At the BCCA general membership meeting on Feb. 2 it was the consensus of the board of directors and the members that the long sought opening of the Library should not be allowed to pass unnoticed.

Unsubstantiated, vague fears expressed about possible protests from other communities were not accepted as a legitimate reason to quietly open the library.

"Lack of funds" and "budgetary cutbacks" were the excuses given when the library trustees decided in 1975 -- after the completion of the Bellerose building -- to refuse to open the library.

With such vague talk by authorities about possible "cutbacks", Bellerose residents cannot chance resting on their laurels after a three year battle.

We want to make sure the "war" is won permanently. We do not want the library to open for a short period and then close down for alleged "lack of funds" or supposed "lack of community interest" claimed by politicians or others who are insensitive to the needs of Bellerose residents.

## POLICE HEAD PLEDGES HOODLUM CRACKDOWN IF CONCILIATION FAILS

The Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association and the 105th Police Precinct have teamed up in a cooperative effort to end youthful hoodlumism and vandalism in Bellerose.

The approach was worked out in a conference with the commander of the 105th Police Precinct and leaders of the BCCA, and was unanimously approved at a general membership meeting.

The first step in the three pronged approach is to send a round robin letter to the parents of about two dozen boys who have been identified by police as having received summonses over the last few months for a variety of infractions.

Parents of other youths who police have identified as loitering in the darkened P.S. 133 park and other

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## NOTICE

### THE NEXT MEETING THURSDAY

March 2, 1978

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Jean Dickerson

librarian, Bellerose Branch

HOUSE OF HOPE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Corner of 248 ST. &  
85th Avenue

## LIBRARY SET TO OPEN FEB. 27; URGE TURNOUT

(continued from page 1)

One suggestion has been made that senior classes of P.S. 133 and other local schools be taken by their teachers to the Library on opening day at 1 PM so those who do not have library cards can register.

All community groups in the area have been asked to send as many of their members as possible to the opening day "unceremony."

Only a large turnout will demonstrate beyond any doubt that the entire community is excited and united in their interest in this welcome addition to Bellerose.

See you Monday, Feb. 27, at 1 PM, in front of Y O U R Library!

## HANDY LIST OF EMERGENCY NUMBERS

<b>POLICE</b>	<b>911</b>
105th Police Precinct	740 - 0600
<b>Ambulance</b>	<b>911</b>
	464-2424
L.I. Jewish Hospital	343 - 6700
Sanitation Dept.	539 - 7600
Potholes	964-2110
Sewers	966 - 7500
Electricity [Con Ed]	896 - 5800
Doctor Emergency Svc	268 - 7300
community School Bd. 26	454 - 8600
Community Planning Bd 13	464-9700
Cncilmn Sheldon Leffler	343-3308
Sen. Frank Padavan	468-9516
Water complaints	966-7500
Tow Away	757 - 1533
Traffic	361 - 8000
Highways Dept.	566 - 3406
Consumer Affairs	261 - 2922
Parks Dept.	755 - 4100

## BCCA IS PLANNING JUNE WALK NOW

The snow may be piled five feet high in some parts of Bellerose, but the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association is thinking and planning ahead.

Plans are being made for the annual -- and popular -- **June Walk**. The date has been picked: June 10. (rain date June 17).

John Reh of 248-13 87th Avenue has been elected this year's chairman.

He's already at work planning to make this year's Walk bigger and better than ever.

Canvassing has already begun to gather up nice goodies for the children and prizes galore are being projected for the best costumes, floats, etc.

John needs volunteers to help in this endeavor. Please phone him at 347-5756 to offer your assistance. It won't take too much of your time and it will contribute greatly to making the Walk a giant success.

## BCCA ACTION SUMMARY

In other moves to help make Bellerose the finest community in the city, the BCCA also took the following steps last month:

- It contacted Planning Board 13 to see why the Sanitation Department does not make pickups of litter baskets left untouched for weeks in front of P.S. 133 playground on 248th Street and 249th Street.

- It contacted the Parks Department to ascertain why the P.S. 133 playground is not maintained. It wants a park attendant to clean up broken glass from beer bottles scattered throughout the park, and particularly in the sand box. This favorite play spot for the pre-kindergarden children is totally dangerous and unusable by the neighborhood youngsters.

## GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE

Cookie time is here again! The Girl Scout Cookie Sale will be on from Feb. 18 through March 6. Support your local Girl Scouts. Buy those delicious little treats you've been waiting for all year when your front bell rings.

## COOPERATIVE BLOCK EFFORT GETS SNOW CLEARED AWAY

After living in Bellerose for over 13 years, only once have I seen a snow plow on our Street (251st, between 87th Avenue and 87th Drive), and then a week after the big snow of 1969, I might add.

Prompted by this, a fellow neighbor had a very ambitious idea after our recent storm struck. He suggested that since we all had to get to work on Monday, why not all shovel our way to 87th Drive on Sunday?

Well, after about three hours of shovelling, involving almost every able-bodied man, woman and child of the block, we managed to clear 90 per cent of the way.

At that point, a strange sound was heard. Lo and behold, we saw a giant behemoth with an orange grin heading our way. A City snowplow! What irony to think it appeared when we had just about completed our job.

Oh well, in the long run it was a lot of fun, not to mention the exercise, and a lesson in community unity. **WE HAVE A GREAT BLOCK!**  
Al Zahner

**Editor's note:** As most of you know, Bellerose streets were a disgrace for days after the Big Storm of 1978. And, it doesn't look as if the condition is going to improve with age. The BCCA has asked Mike Giordano, borough commander of the Queens North Sanitation Department, what arrangements or plans the Department has for plowing our streets, particularly around schools and churches after the primary streets and roads such as Hillside Avenue, JAMAICA Avenue, Commonwealth Blvd., and Little Neck Parkway are plowed. Virtually everytime it snows, as residents in the area know full well, the Sanitation plows for some reason ignore the school streets for three to four days. The last storm was no exception. We know they claim a shortage of equipment and the need for priority attention to main business streets, but we also know we cannot afford to be marooned without any services whatsoever anytime the white stuff hits the ground.

## POLICE HEAD PLEDGES CRACKDOWN ON HOODLUMS (continued from page 1)

troublesome areas, will also be sent letters.

The first purpose of the initial approach is to make certain the parents are aware of the activities of their children at night. The second is to invite the parents -- and their children -- to a private meeting with a committee of BCCA leaders and the local police command. The hope is to solve in a friendly, cooperative manner the problem of how to stop the widespread damage and destruction being inflicted on public and private property by youths 16 to 21.

At the general membership meeting on Feb. 2, the commander of the precinct, Capt. Frederick J. Kavanagh attended along with Sgt. James Doherty and sector patrolmen Bob Ploetz and E.S. Cohen. Kavanagh told the group assembled in the House of Hope Presbyterian Church:

"Let's try bringing in the people causing the problem and see if we can solve it together." He said if the conciliatory gesture fails then he is prepared to order "strict and strong enforcement" of the law.

He said he will order his men to arrest offenders and take them to the station house and go through the entire criminal justice procedure. In the past, offenders were given summonses on the spot and released.

In the meantime, he also pledged that there will be more "police presence" in the form of patrol cars passing the P.S. 133 park more regularly at night.

In addition, Capt. Kavanagh urged the members and leaders of the BCCA to seriously consider giving widespread publicity in the area's community newspaper to the names and addresses of those arrested in the future. "I realize the proposal is controversial and that it would be embarrassing to those arrested to publicize them, but it does do some good. It has worked in other areas in similar circumstances."

It was agreed that the proposal would be held in abeyance while the first phase of the program -- face to face talks with parents -- are held. If that approach fails, then the police will move to vigorously enforce the

laws, as the community wishes. If phase two is found necessary, then the membership will vote at its next meeting about spotlighting those arrested.

The police compilation shows that most of the two dozen identifiable trouble-makers live north of Hillside Avenue, mostly in the area between 82nd Avenue and Union Turnpike. Less than a dozen live between Hillside Avenue and 87th Avenue bounded by 247th Street and 253rd Street.

In addition, Capt. Kavanagh said that in order to help police moves against young hoodlums and vandals, he has asked our local Councilman, Sheldon Leffler to introduce a bill in the City Council making public drinking illegal.

A previous "brown bag" bill was passed by the Council, but was vetoed by former Mayor Beame. Leffler has agreed to do so.

The Councilman also wrote to the Bureau of Gas and Electricity to demand that adequate sodium lighting be provided in and around the P.S. 133 park playground. The darkened park has become the "headquarters" for neighborhood vandals.

The cold weather, meanwhile, has not stopped the vandals. They continue to prey on the neighborhood. Their latest victims were the barber shop on Hillside Avenue near 252nd Street. They shattered two plate glass windows with a beebee gun. They also vandalized the pizza parlor next door to the barber shop.

### CAR TIPS - FREE

The second series of Car Tips -- how to care for your car under different emergency conditions -- will be distributed free to those who attend our next meeting. These are handy little books to have.

### SHE'S A WINNER!

Cathy Romano of Class 3-233 at P.S. 133 won second place in the 11th Dental District Limerick Contest. Cathy lives at 86-12 249th Street.

## LETTER TO EDITOR

The following excerpts are from a letter from Mrs. R. Fata of 84-06 249th Street:

I note with interest your article in the January publication concerning the Bellerose Library and the graffiti situation which "still remains despite our requests for its removal." May I point out that the above situation, which is certainly distressing, has resulted, in large part, due to the vacancy of the building.


However, other buildings in our community, which are tenanted with thriving businesses, are equally littered and neglected. I refer specifically to the real estate office of T. Fitzpatrick located at 249th Street and Hillside Avenue. The graffiti here is far worse than that of any other building in the community, has been there for a number of years and seems destined to become permanent.

In addition, the entire block on Hillside Avenue between 249th and 250th Street is comparable to a jungle in the warmer months when weeds as high as three feet grow through cracks in the cement. (I know because I exit the bus at the corner and I have had to walk through waist-high debris).

It is our responsibility to rectify any condition which is detrimental to our community. This is especially true as far as the businesses are concerned. They depend solely on our community for their livelihood. Hence, their responsibility to keep both the interior and exterior of their stores in the cleanest condition is essential. If this requires additional muscle on their part to remedy those conditions created by vandals, etc., then they must be forced to comply.

We, as a community, must strive and use whatever influence necessary to see that our neighborhood remains clean and safe.

[Editor's note: We agree 100 per cent with the sentiments of Mrs. Fata and will take all necessary steps to correct the conditions written about. In addition we are moving to force compliance with the City ordinances regarding the atrocious conditions permitted by many stores along Hillside Avenue after a snowstorm. Many just let the snow pile up and harden, in violation of the law, making it almost impossible to walk on the sidewalks.



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### ACTION NEWS

Published monthly  
except July and August

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### "WINTER SURVIVAL" BOOKLET

When the temperature gets below freezing, the wind blows, the snow and sleet come in, as they have, and the furnace goes out, humans are, in effect, in an alien environment.

Survival and even a degree of comfort is possible with a little knowledge and advance planning, according to a new Department of Energy booklet called "Winter Survival."

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this community, we're ready  
and willing to help  
in any way that we can.

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The free 18 page booklet gives tips on how to winterize your home before problems arise. It also tells what to do if the pipes freeze; if the lights go out; if the heat goes off, if you get trapped in your car in a snowstorm. Other sections cover how to dress for outdoor activities and first aid for those overcome from too strenuous shoveling, etc.

Single copies can be obtained free from the Department of Energy, Technical Information Center, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.