

bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 16 No. 3

Mar. 1990

Announcing

The April meeting will
feature Mr. Jeff Berger,
new Chief Librarian at
our branch library

Thursday, April 7, 1990
at 8:00 PM

House of Hope Church
85th Avenue & 248 Street

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

I'm quite pleased that in this edition of Action News we have several articles by guest writers. This shows an interest in the community and I deeply appreciate the effort and concern by Harry, Janet, Elsa and George.

There is a lot of other important civic news and I hope you will pay close attention to what's going on. We need even more activism in all of our neighborhoods and it starts with civic associations.

A special note this month is on the "Car-a-van Against Taxes." The Eastern Queens Civic Council is arranging a motorcade protest to make city officials aware of eastern Queens residents opposition to increased real estate taxes. We are getting hit with a double whammy, due to revaluation that has occurred over the last seven years, escalated further by increased tax rates. The Mayor and City Council are considering steeper increases which will affect

see President page 5

Meetings

By: Richard Hellenbrecht

At our March BCCA meeting we hosted H&R Block to discuss income tax tips and techniques. We are grateful to our local Block office to have someone available during their heaviest season. Among the many services Block has, they can now handle electronic filing of your federal income tax - even if you prepared it yourself. The electronic filing has some criteria

(for instance you must be receiving a refund to qualify) but, for a small fee, it ensures you will receive your refund within two weeks. In addition, you can apply for an instant return and get an equivalent loan within three days of filing for an additional handling fee. If you've prepared you taxes yourself, these processes validate your arithmetic before filing. These systems will be standard practice in a few years and definitely worth a try.

For our April 7 meeting, we have invited our new Librarian, Mr. Berger to speak to the civic association about activities he will have under his new administration at the Bellerose Branch of the Library. If you would like to suggest something new at the Library, this is your chance.

Cross Island Parkway

By: Richard Hellenbrecht

The Community Board has concluded its review of the Cross Island Parkway project to remove the bridge and widen the entrance and exit ramps. The Board committee reported that the bridge structure has suffered some damage and represents a potential safety hazard for motorists and the community if it is left in place with out major rehabilitation. The final decision, however, about the project rests with

the City's Parks Department - it is their determination whether the 22 trees they deemed valuable can be removed.

The full Community Board voted last week to ask the Parks Department to lift the ban on tree removal issued by former Commissioner Stern. The Board recognized that the project threatened two years of inconvenience to the area while the parkway is under construction, but it promoted some actions to ensure neighborhood input throughout the project. As a result of the community meeting held in Feb-

ruary, three committees will be established: one to evaluate environmental issues, one to suggest traffic changes and one to make sure that the pedestrian tunnel remains available whenever necessary or that adequate alternatives are available.

Final word will come from the Department of Parks in a few weeks. Meanwhile, the Board invites anyone with interests in the three committees to call the Board at (718)464-9700. This is one way to participate in the project and ensure adequate controls are in place.

Earth Care

By: Janet Tanke

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Air and water pollution have reached serious levels, and our already overloaded garbage landfills are almost exhausted-our country is supposed to be "America the Beautiful!"

1990 has been declared Earth Year, and on April 22-Earth Day-we're all called to pay tribute to our world by helping our ailing environment recover from the damage that's been done. Here are ten earth-care steps your family can take on Earth Day and every other day to help nurse the environment back to health.

1. You can stop contributing to our waste disposal/landfill problem by recycling everything you possibly can: glass bottles and jars, newspapers, aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil, motor oil, etc.

2. Reuse whatever items you can't recycle, especially plastic and polystyrene products. For

example, wash out and reuse bread bags, plastic butter tubs, etc., and instead of plastic liners, reuse brown paper bags from the grocery store to line your trash can.

3. Recycle plastic shopping bags by reusing them whenever you go shopping. Or take along cotton string bags or canvas bags for groceries.

4. The plastic rings that are used for six-packs of canned drinks are fatal to birds, marine life and wildlife. Snip the rings open before you discard them so they won't strangle or entrap our animal friends.

5. Plant a tree - its an effective way to help combat the greenhouse effect. Trees use up carbon dioxide, which is harmful to the environment, and give off the oxygen we need to survive.

6. Start a compost pile, so you can compost kitchen waste and yard debris such as grass clippings to reduce worsening the landfill situation.

7. Return plastic pots to the

nursery so they can be used again.

8. Reuse junk mail as scrap paper or recycle it.

9. Try to keep your car from being an enemy of the environment. You can: recycle your car's motor oil or patronize a mechanic who participates in a motor oil recycling program; keep tires properly inflated to save gas and reduce wear and tear on your tires; and especially, recycle your battery, which is classified as hazardous waste.

10. Last, but not least: Spread the word to your friends, neighbors, family. Teach your children to respect nature and the environment. Most of all, set an example, because if we all pitch in and "clean up our act" we can help leave a healthier and cleaner environment to our children and grandchildren that they can be proud of.

Strategic Statement

By: Richard Hellenbrecht

The recently adopted City Charter created a new form of planning for each borough, called the Strategic Policy Statement. This is a ten year plan which is intended to get a maximum of community input into a document that will establish policy for future development in the communities. Civic Associations and Community Boards are the "least common denominators" of this new system. Now is the time to document needs for zoning changes, sites for future parks, demands for new facilities - like

a new police precinct - and other such restrictions.

Once the borough plan is adopted, any later proposal that conflicts with the strategy must undergo serious consideration before it can be implemented. This is an important opportunity for communities to have a real voice in future development: but it is being pulled together on an accelerated and aggressive schedule as provided in the charter.

A public hearing will be held at the Community Board on May 7. Civic leaders and residents will have an opportunity to suggest strategies for these eastern Queens neighborhoods.

Please think about facilities, or the lack of needed facilities - parks, industrial properties, economic development or revitalization, schools, bus routes, etc.

We will be preparing a statement on Bellerose during April for presentation to the Community Board before May 7. You are urged to make your thoughts known, either to me at our April 7 meeting, by dropping me a line through the editor - see address on page 5, - or by testifying at the May 7 Community Board meeting. This opportunity will not happen again for another ten years to have some input into what can happen in Queens — don't waste it!

PAL Reopened

By: Richard Hellenbrecht

We have all heard children complain that there's nothing to do: and we see teenagers hanging out in the street or park because "they're bored." Well, their excuse is gone because we have recently heard that the Police Athletic League at Creedmore Center has opened again.

The center offers some great, supervised activities for children from 8 to 18. The center is located in Building 51, just off Union Turnpike on Commonwealth Blvd. Some of the features at the center are Bowling, Billiards, Ping-Pong, Basketball and Volleyball. A special attraction at the PAL is supervised swimming and instructions in their heated pool.

Monday nights activities include arts and crafts and a video workshop. Hours on Monday

and Friday evenings are from 5PM to 10PM. On Wednesday nights, the center is opened from 7:30PM to 10PM. Call the center Director, Rich Olownia during the above hours at (718)464-7500, ext. 5117.

We encourage participation in this program to give children a chance to get off the streets, have some good supervised fun and learn some new skills. We adults complain often enough that the City never does anything for our kids - the ball's in your court!

Spotlite on Bellerose

By: Harry Stavridis

The "All for You" beauty salon has opened on the corner of Hillside Avenue and 252nd Street.

As implied by its name, the "world of beauty under one roof" offers a wide selection of serv-

ices, including manicures (Liquidwrap, Silkwrap and Acrylic), pedicures, face-lifts, makeovers, hairstyling and perms. Hotwax treatments for hair removal are also available.

The salon offers specials every Tuesday and Wednesday, including 25% off on their Hair Salon prices and a \$25 discount off the price of their acrylic, silk or linen tips.

[Editor's Note: Harry is a high school student who has offered to do interviews of places of interest in Bellerose. We have done several of these now and I think it is a great public service. We are anxious to hear from you if you have a favorite place of business for Harry to look into. Please drop a note to the editor - see page 5 for address.]

Bellerose Library

By: Library Staff

ADULT PROGRAMS

Exercise for fitness: Wednesday, April 4 and 11 from 1:30-3PM. Second and third parts of the three-part series conducted by Shirley Kaden.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Night of 1,000 Stars: Wednesday April 25 at 3PM. Come and share your love of books by reading aloud from your favorite works.

Book Discussion: Thursday April 19 at 10:30AM. The Proud Tower

by Barbara W. Tuckman, Ms. Tuckman's in-depth study of the pre-World War I is considered by many to be a classic.

AARP Tax Counseling: Thursday April 5 and April 12, 1-5PM. Services provided free for older adults.

Camera Club: Meets on Saturday April 7 and 21 from 10AM-1PM.

Once-a-Month Book Sale: Monday April 30, 1-7:30PM.

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

Chess Club: Meets evenings from 5:30-7:45PM. Players of all ages and abilities welcome. No entry fee. Round Robin and Swiss

Quads are available. Bring your own clock and board pieces. New members must play in the round robin first. For more information call Mike Fricano, Monday through Friday 8-10PM at (718)224-8004.

CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Picture Book Hour: for 3-1/2 - 5 year olds, Tuesdays at 10:30AM and 1:30PM (see librarian for registration)

Toddler's Fun Time: For 2-3 year olds, Wednesdays at 10:30AM starting April 4 (see librarian for registration)

see Library page 5

Queens County Farm

By: Richard Hellenbrecht

There is really no reason to leave the Bellerose area this spring to find something for you and the kids to do. The Queens County Farm Museum is a real treasure and only two miles away. They have coordinated several interesting activities through April and May and for only minimal admission fees. See, there's no reason to spend thousands at Disney World!

This weekend there are two events at the farm that should make kids very happy. On Saturday April 11 at 11AM, 1PM and 3PM your children and you can enjoy Bruce Laird's "The Dino Show." Learn fun facts about dinosaurs, enjoy a sing-along, draw - and even leave with a gift. On Sunday April 12, see Craig Dickson, "The Magical Wizard." Come enjoy the amazing tricks and astonishing magic. Shows

are also \$3 and start at 11AM and 1:30PM.

April 22 is the 12th annual antique auto show from 11AM to 4PM. The admission to this show is only \$2.50 (\$1 for children under 12.) See antique cars, automobile memorabilia - even tours of the historic farm house.

May 20 is the farm's annual Rites of Spring and Maypole Frolic from noon to 5PM. This one's free and you enjoy hayrides, pony rides, performances.

Volunteer

By: Elsa & George Speh

Being a volunteer for Lutheran Braille Worker is such a worthwhile "occupation." Truly we are helping people far and near as we send the message of God's love to blind and visually impaired in places from Bellerose to the corners of the world.

Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc., (LBW) a southern California-based non-profit organiza-

tion has a far reaching effect on the world. It produces Christian Braille and large print materials in 41 languages for the blind and visually impaired in 110 countries. A small staff and 7,000 volunteers are able to produce these materials at 1/8th the commercial cost.

Last year over 1,100,000 books and pamphlets of braille and large print were given FREE upon request.

LBW started in southern California shortly after World War II to replace Braille Bibles in Germany. Today, the largest producers of Christian braille in the world is housed in its own 17,800 sq. ft. home office in Yucaipa, Ca. with 196 work centers throughout the U.S., Canada and Brazil.

For more information write Information Center #61, c/o Grace Lutheran Church and School, 100-05 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, NY 11429-1697, or call (718) 465-1010 or (718)347-4088.

President from page 1

homeowners, particularly those on fixed incomes.

Please plan to join the demonstration which will take place on Sunday, April 29 at 1 PM. Cars will form on Winchester Blvd. north of Union Turn-

pike near the Cunningham Park parking field. The parade should not last more than two hours, so please mark you calendar and prepare a poster for your car. We will post flyers on April 29 as a reminder.

Library from page 4

Special Program for the Spring Holidays: Flutes on Parade: Ages 4-10 Friday April 20 3:30PM. (see librarian for registration) Read Aloud Program for Kindergarten and 1st Graders: Stories, activities and crafts. Friday April 27 3:30PM.

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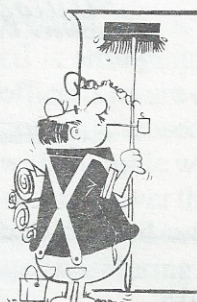
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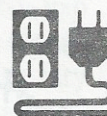
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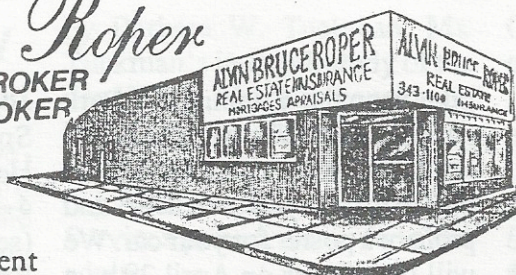
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