

bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 21 No. 3

MARCH 1995

Community Meeting March 2, 1995 8:00 P.M.

House of Hope Church
Cor. 248 St & 85th Ave.

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: Joseph W. Byrne

We are almost through a very mild winter and I haven't heard any complaints. Just two weeks ago we had our first real snow storm and I was impressed with the quick removal of snow from roadways and sidewalks. Keep up the good work. At our last meeting I was happy to report that Senator Padavan was able to get a response and result from our complaints regarding an illegal conversion of a one family home on 249th Street. The letter from the Senator's office states that the premises was inspected and the owner was sent a notice of violation. I want to thank the Senator and the building department for their efforts. We must keep on top of these conversions if we are to preserve Bellerose. If you ever have any information please drop a postcard to our post

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Q36, Q43 & Q76 Request Stops

A service enhancement has been implemented by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for nighttime riders on our local bus services and most "Q" buses in the borough. Riders between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. may now request the bus driver to stop at different points along the route. This is designed to offer riders a

shorter, safer walk from their stops. This service already exists in several cities and is now being implemented in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx.

House of Hope Lenten Videos

House of Hope Church announces a video series designed to help grow in relationship with God during Lent. Celebrate Lent with your

neighbors at House of Hope Church 84-54 248th Street (& 18 347-3120).

1. An Underground Railroad to New Life - March 5 at 9:30 a.m. and March 7 at 8 p.m.

2. The Birth of Hope - March 12 at 9:30 a.m. and March 14th at 8 p.m.

3. A step Toward Real Peace - March 19 at 9:30 a.m. and March 21st at 8 a.m.

4. The Loner's Nightmare - March 26 at 9:30 a.m. and

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office box and we will follow up: the card does not have to be signed.

While we are discussing real estate, thank you for getting your Cease & Desist notices back to us. Over two hundred cards were returned to us and delivered to the State Attorney General by the mid-February deadline. That's pretty good, but still only about one-sixth of our homes. This is such an important issue for the preservation of Bellerose, I wish every family would have gotten back to us. With regard to illegal conversions I have spoken to Mr. Tom McKenzie of

the Newton Civic Association in Elmhurst. His group is taking an interesting approach in filing suit against the Buildings Department for failing to enforce the building codes. I do not think we are at this point yet, but I am going to keep in touch with him and his progress.

I want to thank the representatives of the Jamaica and Bellerose Post Offices for their informative presentation at the last meeting. They fielded questions and naturally took some complaints with a promise of a response. Please let me know if your complaints were answered.

I hope to see more people in attendance as the better

weather approaches. We certainly could use the help of some of our newer neighbors in supporting the efforts of the association. We desperately need Block Captains and an increase in attendance. Come on down to a meeting with a friend and bring a new friend.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT WE ARE IN OUR 60TH YEAR WITH AN EVENT PLANNED FOR OCTOBER. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!! For info on the event or on Block Captain openings, please drop a quick note to our P.O. box. Someone will get back to you in a week or so.

Girl Scout Project

Hello, my name is Melissa Hellenbrecht. I am a 12 year Girl Scout in this community. I am working on my Gold Award project and I need the help of my community.

My project is to make layettes for babies with AIDS. I am asking donations of the following new baby items:

- clothes
- disposable diapers
- baby wipes
- rattles
- pacifiers
- blankets
- crib sheets

The donation drop off will be from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 246-7286th Road (corner 247th Street) on the following dates: March 7, March 9, March 14, March 16

Thank you for your support. Please see what you can do to help these unfortunate and innocent children!

St. Greg's Plans Expansion

St. Gregory's Church has recently announced plans to expand its church building located just west of the Cross Island Parkway. A model and several charts were available for inspection following Mass the past two weeks. The proposal would move the main altar closer to the current entrance, extend where the current altar is north, connect the building to the rectory and provide an elevator for handicapped access to both the Church and the expanded Oak Room downstairs. Since the main entrance will move to 88th Avenue, a new parking area will be provided opposite the rectory in the old girls softball field.

This will be the first expansion to the Church. It in-

cludes many features such as a central baptismal font, more legroom in the relocated seats, an expansion seating area, a Blessed Sacrament Chapel and a meditation area. The renderings and model are very attractive. If these plans can be implemented the Church promises to be much more functional and comfortable and a source of pride for the whole community.

In the next few weeks Father Cunningham, St. Gregory's pastor, will announce additional details regarding funding for the project.

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March 28 at 8 p.m.

5. A Basement Full of Dead Dogs - April 2 at 9:30 a.m. and April 4 at 8 p.m.

6. Just Telling All - No Way! - April 9 at 9:30 a.m. and April 11 at 8 p.m.

Come - bring a friend!

Community Care Service Center

A community care service center has been founded by Assemblywoman Barbara Clark and is available for residents of Bellerose, Queens Village and other surrounding communities. Care is here to assist with any problems you may present. You may call in, walk in or write in about your problems concerning health care, housing, substance abuse/prevention, social security, child care, geriatric care, education or immigration.

For information or assistance call (718) 465-7677, write or stop by the Community Care Development Project, Inc. 97-11 Springfield Boulevard, Queens Village, NY 11429.

Community Column

A lovely six piece bunk bed is available, in excellent condition for a reasonable price. The set is white with grey trim and includes two five drawer bureaus, a trundle drawer and a large closet. The set is ideal for any preteens/early teens. For information call (718)343-5397.

Articles, Please!

We would appreciate articles on any community events or personal news of any nature.

Send articles to our P.O. Box, below, no later than the fifteenth of each month for the following month's Action News.

D.A. Brown

District Attorney Richard Brown met with members of the Eastern Queens Civic Council on February 20 and conducted its swearing-in ceremony. "Judge" Brown spoke of the many efforts under way at the D.A.'s office to make this important group more proactive and more responsive to the changing civil and criminal problems of the county. Judge Brown indicated that in the past year crime overall in Queens is down eighteen percent, with reductions in every major crime category, except forcible rape. In the case of rape, Brown felt that this may be due more to increased reporting of rapes.

A significant step Brown discussed is the use of various civil remedies instead of strictly criminal charges. Civil charges require less rigorous proof requirements and can be enforced more efficiently. For example, Judge Brown pointed to the drag races that used to occur on Francis Lewis Blvd. and at the South Conduit. After years of failing to stop this crime using tickets, several people were arrested and their cars (worth in excess of \$40,000 each) were confiscated. This effectively stopped the problem in Queens.

The judge has prioritized graffiti and other quality of life crimes. The office was successful last year in sending one youth away for 1 to 3 years of state time. This was previously

unheard of. Additional anti-graffiti strategies are being developed in conjunction with local police precincts.

Another key area for the D.A. is car thefts. Brown, who lives in Queens, said he has lost five cars to theft and he knows how it feels. Arrests have already been made on a major ring that includes thieves, chop shoppers, distributors and others involved in the thefts. Car thefts statistics are already down, but he recognizes there's lots more to do.



Dues - \$5

As mentioned last month, the general membership meeting in January voted in favor of revising the BCCA dues to five dollars per family per year.

This month block captains will receive their dues sheets and dues cards for collection in the next few months. Residents not covered by a block captain will receive a letter soliciting dues. Please return your check for five dollars and retain the dues card included in your package.

action news

Address items to:

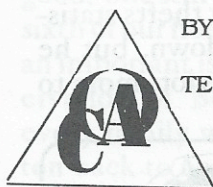
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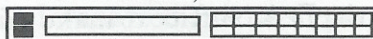
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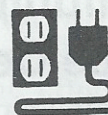
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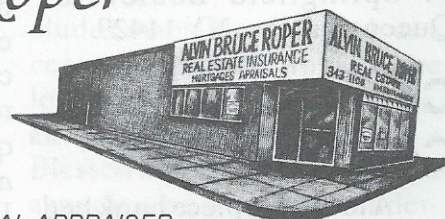
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