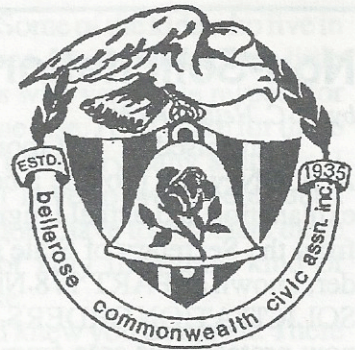


bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 17 No. 9

NOVEMBER 1991

**Department of
Sanitation
Representative
will discuss pick-up
policies, rules and
regulations**

**House of Hope Church
November 7, 1991
8:00 PM - Refreshments
will be served**

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: R. C. Hellenbrecht

I commend Mr. Mazer, Principal of PS133 for his rousing and interesting talk at October's BCCA meeting. I think most of us who heard Mr. Mazer would feel very good about our greatest assets here in Bellerose - our people. Mr. Mazer was very clear that the interest in the school and community of Bellerose makes this town stand out from any of the other schools he's worked in. We also heard many compliments from our members about the physical appearance of the school - it SPARKLES - all the time. Go see!

This week marks the first convention of civic associations in the borough of Queens in over a decade. Our page 3 article reports on the proceedings. Civics are far from dead in this borough.

Please come to our November meeting on 11/7. One of our critical city services - Sanitation - will explain their policies and regulations.

Holiday Decorations

by: R. C. Hellenbrecht

I'd like to congratulate many of the home owners of Bellerose for the incredible Halloween decorations they have put up. I can't remember when there were such thoughtful - and scary - decorations around.

That brings up the Second Annual Holiday Decorations contest sponsored by the BCCA. Last year it was a very difficult choice

among the many beautiful arrangements. We hope this year's decision will be even more difficult. Anyone interested in being on the judging committee should come to the November or December meeting and see committee chairperson Pat Pearson.

We hope this year to provide cash prizes to the winners in categories to be determined. Let's make Bellerose memorable this holiday season. See this column next month for more details on judging categories.

Scams

We've heard complaints of many scams making the rounds of our area. These are both by telephone and in person. Frequently the victim is the elderly person living alone. Please be careful. Make sure you see valid IDs for workers like Con Ed readers. Don't give anyone your credit card numbers. Contract work only to people referred to you by friends. Call the police or Consumer Affairs if you suspect foul play.

Non-Solicitation

by: R. C. Hellenbrecht

I promised in last month's Action News to provide a better explanation and actual language from the Secretary of State's order, known as PART 178 NON-SOLICITATION ORDERS, that now protects our area from unscrupulous real estate practices.

Following are some highlights of the new Part 178, which became effective April 15, 1991:

A nonsolicitation order prohibits any and all types of solicitation directed at home owners in

the designated geographic area, including, but not limited to, letters, postcards, telephone calls, door-to-door calls, handbills and postings in public areas.

No real estate broker shall establish or relocate a principal office or branch office within a nonsolicitation area without the Secretary's prior approval. No real estate broker or salesperson shall engage in any form of solicitation aimed at directly or indirectly obtaining a listing of residential property for sale.

Please notify the New York

State Secretary of State if you become aware of any violations of this order. I understand from some of our local real estate brokers that they may not be aware of this order yet, but they are governed by it nonetheless.

Please be aware that most real estate brokers are extremely civic minded and would not do anything to jeopardize the community, or customers they depend upon. If you are in need of real estate services, please feel free to consult your neighbors, or this civic for recommendations.

OTB Scare

Several neighbors reported over the past month that they have heard that a new office of Off Track Betting was under consideration at the site of Swank Dry Cleaning on Hillside Avenue. The BCCA, the North Bellerose Civic Association and our elected officials wrote at our suggestion to the president of OTB to make sure this consideration is quickly dispelled. We have received evidence that confirms the rumors, but OTB has written to responded that they are no longer considering this location.

We have also heard unconfirmed rumors that the offices on the northeast corner of Hillside Avenue at Little Neck Parkway will be a Walgreens Drug store. We'll have to watch this closely. We hope there will be a good economic stimulus for maintaining and improving the stretch of stores on Hillside Avenue.

Exxon Station Variance

The Community Board once again reminds us that the Exxon Station at the southwest corner of Hillside Avenue and Little Neck Parkway is due for a variance. If anyone has any complaints to report about this station - relating to environmental issues, noise, inappropriate parking, dangerous or obnoxious practices, etc. - now is your time to bring it to our attention.

A variance is permission granted by the city to operate a use that outside the approved zoning of a site. The city Board of Standards and Appeals looks to the local community board to investigate and recommend an action. The community board's recommendation is not binding, but influential. We will see that your comments are considered in the community board's action. Bring your comments to the BCCA on 11/7 or send to the Editor.

Houses for Sale

by: R. C. Hellenbrecht

Following last month's newsletter, I've received information on two houses that are for sale in Bellerose. Please give me a call (343-5397) if you are interested in having your house listed. Remember we are not offering any services, or recommendations whatsoever, just making a contact for those who may be seeking to sell.

There has been no better time to buy a house than now. Prices are down to unheard of levels and the interest rate is most favorable for the buyer.

Following are two houses that are very interesting:

Tudor House - \$215,000

Call 347-7276. On 87th Drive. 40 x 133 (railroad spur) Three bedrooms/one bath. Slate roof. Most windows are new.

Semi-Detached - \$160,000

Call 343-1656. On 87th Drive, 25 x 130+ (spur) two bedrooms, finished basement - move in condition.

Complaints, Complaints

We try to always print the letters of complaint and compliment we get. While we must edit letters for space reasons, we try to get the meaning across.

I received the following letter from one of our postmen who is a Hicksville resident. I hope you enjoy:

"As a letter carrier for the past 25 years, and in Bellerose for 8 years, I for one am not impressed with the many busy body, cry baby, lack of respect I

and other civil servants have been given over the years. There are individuals who think because they pay taxes, we are their own private servants. I have news for you, we civil servants pay taxes also.

There are about 95% of those I deliver to who think they are special because they may have been a cop or fireman or other hard working individual - nothing could be further from the truth. I as a combat veteran of Vietnam don't dig the "I don't give a damn" attitude or the loud mouth phoney who thinks the world owes them a living.

Some of the kids who live in the area are spoiled rotten little punks with very little respect for anyone else. I don't care for these busy body, cry baby attitudes. I might have to work here, but I sure don't have to associate these sort of holy than thou kind of people."

I knew you'd enjoy it. There is a point though. Obviously this man is upset about something someone here did. Let's remember to respect all of our civil servants. Everyone's job is important and no one deserves to be treated with any less respect than they themselves offer.

Civic Movement

by: R. C. Hellenbrecht

On October 27 a convention was held of many civic groups in various areas of Queens. Associations like the BCCA are part of umbrella groups like our Eastern Queens Civic Council, who in turn belong to the Queens Federation of Civic Councils. The Federation sponsored this convention which featured a keynote speech by Borough President Claire Shulman, followed by a talk by Frank Padavan.

The Convention adopted the following platform:

- o **Criminal Justice** - Improve training, increase minimum age, increase street patrols and have insurance company surcharges pay for special auto theft patrols.
- o **Land Use** - Strictly enforce residential zoning, preserve single-family areas, control community facilities and community homes in residential areas.

- o **Taxes, Fees and Tolls** - Freeze real estate taxes on Owner-occupied housing, oppose any increase in city, state or federal gasoline taxes, release federal highway trust fund for highway and bridge upkeep, oppose tolls on east river bridges and seek free transfer between buses and subways
- o **Economic Development** - Make it easier for firms to do business, reduce permits and lower fees, limit business taxes and use abatements judiciously.
- o **Education** - Reduce administration and apply savings to classrooms, teach basic skills and student character-building, decentralize administration to the county level and emphasize parental involvement in the child's educational process.
- o **Infrastructure** - Pay for all capital improvements by taxes rather than bonds - reducing interest charges, accelerate rebuilding of capital plant, de-

- centralize maintenance to county level, improve transit.
- o **Social Welfare & Health** - Dispense social service through community based organizations, accelerate state takeover of Medicaid expenses, improve municipal hospitals, emergency rooms and EMS, emphasize preventive services, use funds from reduction of HHC overhead to establish neighborhood-based community care centers.
- o **Environment** - increase recycling over incinerators, market recycled materials to produce income, restrict transfer stations to M3 zones, restrict development in watershed area and shut Jamaica Water.
- o **Parks & Cultural** - Protect parks and nature areas, maintain museums and cultural facilities.
- o **Government Structure** - Seek to form a Secession Study Commission.

Please note that the BCCA has not yet taken a formal position on this platform.

Graffiti

by: R. C. Hellenbrecht

At just about every recent BCCA meeting the subject of graffiti comes up. If you look around on Hillside Avenue and on Jamaica Avenue and the side streets, you'll see more and more graffiti. This is a cancer that takes root and slowly spreads. There is no excuse for this, there is no reason for it - its a disgrace.

We must watch for graffiti vandals and reporting them to the police. We think it is outside people doing it, but we don't know. Ask store owners to try to remove the graffiti as soon as possible.

Let us know if you have any ideas to help control graffiti.

A Glimpse of Light

One of our fellow residents provided the following article.

Last year the musical, A GLIMPSE OF LIGHT, in its tour of the metropolitan area, stopped off in our area with a performance at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Now this stirring musical, based on the events leading to the birth of Israel, has reached the Broadway theatre district. It has been selected as the inaugural show to launch the David's Harp Dinner Theatre. The kosher restaurant is located at 150 West 46th Street, between B'way and Sixth Ave. A full dinner, show and parking is \$49.50. For reservations call (212)768-3333.

Nowhere is it written that you have to be Jewish to enjoy this show - ask those who saw it at St. Paul's.

A GLIMPSE OF LIGHT was written by Bellerose resident Ben Finn.

Dues is Due

In the past few weeks we sent dues letters to all residents who do not have block captains and with this month's *ActionNews* our block captains will get their dues sheets. The dues this year is once again only \$3 per family.

Although there was much pressure to increase the dues, we ultimately felt we should keep it as low as possible and try to get as many paying members. We need our block captains to collect their entire block and we have asked our neighbors to join up.

The BCCA has been an extremely active civic association. We have successfully fought for traffic lights, street repairs, zoning controls, the library, improvements to our park and numerous other projects. We have been successful because of the strong support of the members. Elected officials and city officials recognize and respect the high member participation of civic groups and pay much more attention to these organized areas.

Please be sure to pay your dues promptly. If for some reason you have not been approached by your block captain, please mail your three dollar check, made payable to the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association to:

Mr. George Wolf, Treas.

BCCA

86-15 247th Street

Bellerose, NY 11426

Your BCCA identification card will be mailed to you as soon as possible. Feel free to include any suggestions you have for BCCA attention or topics and speakers for future meetings. Note also if you would like to be a block captain.

New Slate of Officers

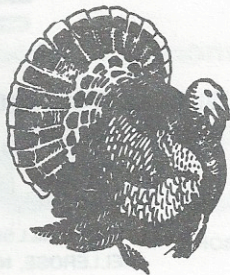
Each year at the November meeting the BCCA presents a slate of officers and directors for the coming year. The officer positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. There are also eight directors, four of which are elected each year.

Bernie Wechsler is our slate chairman, who is meeting now with a committee to propose next year's board positions. Nominations are also sought from the floor for the formal elections which are held at the December meeting. We will publish the proposed slate in the December *Action News*.

We have an opening this year for a corresponding secretary. Lorraine Anzalone, who has served in this position for many years now, has decided to serve as a director next year. We deeply appreciate the dedication and effort that Lorraine exerted in this important position, and worry about how to replace Lorraine. Board membership is not terribly time consuming and no experience is required. We just need your interest and best intentions and about 2 to 3 evenings a month to attend meetings.

Meeting Incentives

Starting in October we have been raffling off various incentives for members attending meetings. A beautiful floral arrangement was donated by Vice President Pat Pearson last month and she promised another for November. We will soon have BCCA baseball caps and other raffle goods.



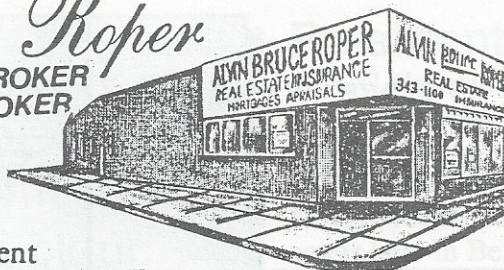
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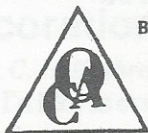


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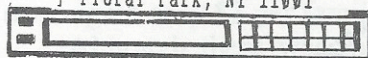
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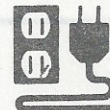
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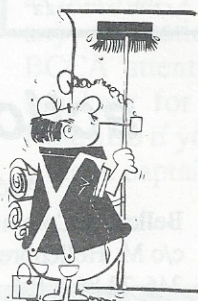
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