

bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 15 No. 7

Sept. 1989

SPECIAL MEETING NYC Charter Review Commission

Representative

discusses the Charter revision

Thursday September 7, 1989

House of Hope Church

8:00 pm

Corner 248th Street & 85th Ave.

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: Jean Biancaniello

Welcome back after a long summer. Its been a hot one, but the BCCA has continued to work for Bellerose. You'll note elsewhere an article about the famous Bellerose Zoning Plan which made major advances this summer towards adoption and a final resolution on the St. Gregory's Senior Proposal. Under our sponsorship the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation held two dates during the summer at Bellerose Playground. Many neighborhood children participated in the Arts-N-Crafts mobile on July 26 and on August 3, enjoyed the Parks' Fun-For-All program here in Bellerose. My special thanks to Ross Fertitta and Bernie Wechsler of the BCCA Board and Jackie Budds for representing the BCCA at these events. NYC P&R Department also participated in block parties this summer by providing bands and other

see PRES page 3

Zoning Plan Advances

Richard C. Hellenbrecht

The City Planning Commissioner met earlier this summer with BCCA representatives, as well as from Community Board 13Q and other local area Civics to discuss the proposals made by the Department of City Planning. The Chair recognized the serious concerns about DCP's proposal to exclude portions of Bellerose east of the Cross Is-

land Parkway currently zoned R4 from change to a more restrictive new R3A zone and promised to urgently pursue an alternative proposal to protect the area south of 88 Drive known as Queens Colony.

Also discussed were so proposals to loosen zoning restrictions along certain parts of Braddock Avenue which would allow larger, bulkier construction than is currently allowed in the area. CPC refused to cancel their call for restrictive zoning

along Braddock due to a large amount of pre-existing construction, which exceeds the old zoning code in these areas. However, the entire area west of the CIP was rezoned to the more restrictive and appropriate R3A zoning and much of the area east of the CIP is also expected to be changed to R3A.

The final step to full adoption of these zoning plans will occur later in September as the

see ZONING page 3

Meetings

By: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

The recently released draft charter review proposals from the Charter Review Commission reflect some of the most significant changes ever proposed to the basic methods of city operations. As of now the reforms will be submitted to the public for approval on the November ballot.

The BCCA has arranged for a very knowledgeable speaker from the Commission to attend our September meeting on Sep-

tember 7 to give us a detailed briefing on the final proposals. It is imperative for each of you to hear and thoroughly understand these proposals and be prepared to make an informed choice in November. The changes in this Charter will be in effect for many decades.

This will probably be one of the most important presentations we'll give at BCCA, so please make every effort to attend. **MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT.**

Bellerose Quickies

By: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

Well, they said it couldn't be done! The 86th Avenue traffic light was finally turned on two days before the end of the school year last June and we've all had to live with a little inconvenience since. The bugs are now out of it and our children we be a lot safer traveling along busy 86th Avenue now that school is open once again.

Commonwealth Boulevard Project - I know I said last June (in a front page article, no less) that this construction would start any minute, but some unexpected contract problems popped up. There are now physical signs that construction is beginning as **action news** goes to press. Pretty soon we'll be hearing from homeowners who won't be able to park in their driveways, those who lost favorite trees or complaints about sidewalk replacement horrors. I hope you all followed our earlier advice about photos and keep close tabs on the

work as it progresses. This too shall pass.

Many of you might have noticed that some milling was done earlier this summer on 88th Drive in preparation for a major resurfacing. Well it turns out that the road was so bad it broke the milling machine and that was the only one in the city. I hear the problem was finally resolved and paving will commence shortly.

The corner of 248th Street and 85th Avenue is also marked for some reconstruction work. The BCCA has been complaining about the condition of this sinking roadway for a long time.

Articles

by: Mary Ann Hellenbrecht

We are always looking for good articles on Bellerose and the issues affecting our community. We will accept handwritten or typed copy.

There are a lot of important topics out there and your neighbors would really like to hear

Farewell to Mr. Berman

By: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

In late June I attended the Final Assembly of the sixth grade class of PS133 - the Class of 1989. It was a well orchestrated and moving event, particularly due to the departure of long-term Principal Felix Berman. During my association with PS133 for the past 10 years or so as a part of the BCCA and particularly since my children have attended for the past 7 years, I have come to know Mr. Berman closely.

PS133 is a school to be proud of. It is constantly spotless, its children are, for the most part, well mannered and orderly, both in the school and outside. We think PS133 is among the best schools in the academically highly rated Community School District 26.

Mr. Berman commanded the respect and admiration of the student body, parents and civic leaders with whom he came in contact. He will be sorely missed as he leaves to become Deputy Superintendent of CSD 28. We wish the best of luck to his successor, Acting Principal Josephine Messina and offer our continued cooperation and assistance in keeping PS133 great.

your point of view. In addition, we're happy to announce community events, anniversaries, etc.

I frequently get calls about houses or apartments for sale or rent, so pass any good leads along to:

Mary Ann Hellenbrecht
246-72 86th Road
Bellerose, NY 11426

Holy Trinity Lutheran News

The ordination of Lois Allison Best, a daughter of the congregation, will take place on September 9 at 5 pm at Holy Trinity. This is a very special occasion and we wish the best to Lois and her family - congratulations!

Sunday School resumes September 10 at 9 am. All children, age three and up are welcome.

House of Hope

By: Walter M. Gramlich

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, continuing its 50th anniversary celebration, will open the fall season with a barbecue on the Church grounds, at 12 noon on Saturday, Sept. 9th.

Donation will be \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children up to 12 years. All come and enjoy a nice time.

Also, a Hallowe'en Party and Dance will be held on October 28th at 8 pm. More information later.

Action News Circulation

By: Richard C. Hellenbrecht

At the suggestion of Jack Lotto we are investigating the possibility of circulating the Action News by Penny Saver. Although this is much more expensive, we can save lots of wear and tear on our block captains while ensuring delivery to everyone. We may start this on a pilot basis as early as next month so please be sure to watch your Penny Saver.

ZONING from page 1

NYC Board of Estimate votes on CPC's proposal.

In a related subject Catholic Charities of Brooklyn has notified Community Board 13Q that it no longer intends to pursue a senior citizen apartment building on the railroad spur and playground adjacent to St. Gregory's Rectory. Instead they will continue design development at the community suggested site on

Hillside Avenue opposite the Cross Island YMCA. The Senior Citizens Building proposal has been the subject of serious debate in the community and we are glad that it is resolved.

Catholic Charities, however, has clearly stated that there will be some development eventually planned for the playground site and they to seek community input on the plans.

PRES from page 1

entertainment.

Please note the addition this month of the Spotlight article by Harry Stavridis. Harry is a student living in Bellerose. He thought up the idea for a monthly review of new or recent businesses in the area and volunteered to take on the task.

Note also the extra important speaker topic at this month's BCCA meeting.

S.N.A.P. Update

Sun W. Wong, Advisory Committee Member

This Senior Center has been in full operation since June of 1987 located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church - 263rd Street and Union Turnpike. The hours are from 9 am to 3 pm five days a week. We have our own kitchen and staff which serves lunch daily at noon. The meals are cooked under the guidelines of the NYC Department of Aging to the nutritional value for our seniors.

The schedule of activities in short are for example: Monday -

crafts, knitting and crochet, bingo and creative writing; Tuesday - Mah Jong, bridge, needlepoint and photography; Wednesday - line dancing and exercise; Thursday - Arts and crafts, canasta, french class, bingo and social dancing; Friday - discussion group, Spanish, sing along and line dancing.

In addition there are trips to such places as Atlantic City, Montauk Point and Pomona.

The Center is the result of the continued work of a community group over a period of fif-

teen years which has finally culminated in this home away from home for many of our seniors.

For those in need of help the Center has a staff of trained social service workers ready to help those in need. Our area of Queens Village, Floral Park, Bellerose and Glen Oaks has now a high percentage of Asian Pacific ethnic group and we welcome their seniors both in our recreation area as well as the ones who have need of our help. So stop by, pick up one of our newsletters and registration forms.

Bellerose Library News

Library Staff

ADULT PROGRAMS

Once-a-month Book Sale: Monday, September 25th from 1 to 7:30 p.m. Adult, Young Adult and Juvenile hardcover and paperbacks available.

Camera Club: Meets Saturday September 16th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

Chess Club meets Thursday nights September 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. Players of all ages and abilities are 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 information call: Mike Fricano, Monday to Friday 8 to 10 p.m. at 718-224-8004.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Picture Book Hours: 3 1/2 to 5 year olds, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. beginning September 26. (Pre-registration required.)

Arts & Crafts: For school-age children will be Friday September 29 at 3:30 p.m. (Pre-registration required.)

We are asking members of the community to keep their Library attractive and free of graffiti and other forms of vandalism.

Spotlight on Bellerose

By: Harry Stavridis

Welcome to the newest column of the BCCA Action News. In each issue I'll review a new or recent addition to our town.

The Bellerose Video Store, located where Sew-N-Save used to be (on Hillside Avenue between 249th and 250 Streets) looks like what a video store

should look like. The usage of pop-out cardboard movie advertisements, a working popcorn machine, an assortment of candy bars and gum and neon lights to highlight coming attractions makes one feel as if he were in a movie theater. The store also features a computer check-out, has the largest number of tapes I've ever seen and it sells comic books and blank video tapes and Nintendo game cartridges are available for rent.

Its huge selection, unique design and free membership make Bellerose Video a rewarding and enjoyable video shopping experience. Their normal rental covers two days rather than the usual one, although this comes at a higher cost. Watch for their specially marked two-for-one specials and other deals. BV's a little slow at stocking new tapes, particularly comedies so be sure to ask for your favorites.

Non-solicitation

Richard C. Hellenbrecht

As reported previously, the ban on solicitation by real estate agents was lifted earlier this year by the New York State Supreme Court. This action has left Bellerose and numerous other communities throughout the State without protection against block busting tactics by unscrupulous agents. With surprisingly rapid action, the New York State Legislature, with the support of our

Senator Padavan and Assemblyman Doug Prescott, has passed a law providing authority for the Secretary of State to once again ban the acts in neighborhoods demonstrating evidence of actual block busting.

Bellerose is not at this time covered but it is critically important to notify the Community Board about potentially illegal or unscrupulous behavior by real estate brokers or agents. This evidence will be gathered so we

can apply for a non-solicitation order by the Secretary of State under the new law. Call the Board at 464-9700 to report activities soliciting the sale of your house, such as direct mail offers or personal solicitations at your door.

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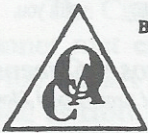
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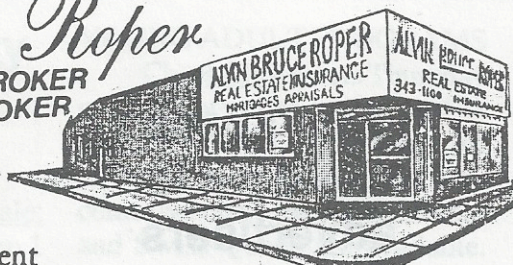
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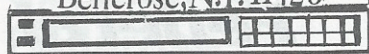
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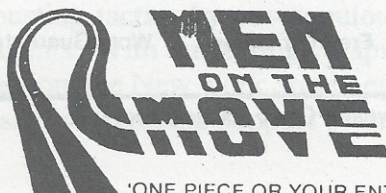
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