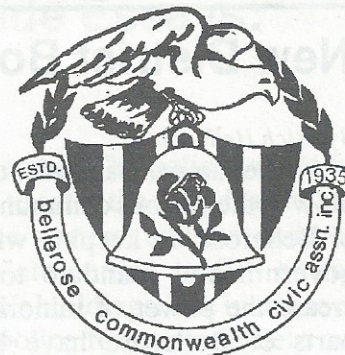


bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

# action news



Volume 18 No. 7

SEPTEMBER 1992

**Discussion of New District  
Boundaries  
This is a Crucial Meeting in  
Light of Upcoming Elections  
Also  
Final Update on Cross Island  
Parkway**

September 10, 1992 at 8PM  
House of Hope Church  
248th Street and 85th Avenue  
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

## Mayor of Bellerose

By: Frank T. Olton

Last May we had the pleasure of reading essays, titled "If I were Mayor of Bellerose...", submitted by the graduating classes of St. Gregory's (8th grade) and P.S. 133Q (5th grade), in a competition sponsored by the BCCA. We were delighted to see that young students have given serious thought to issues that effect Bellerose and the entire City; crime, graffiti, city services, parks

and recreation, homelessness and the problems of the elderly, among others. It was an extremely difficult task, but we selected four winners - one boy and one girl from each school. The winning essays from St. Gregory's were written by Beth Mitchell and Michael Ardini and from P.S. 133 by Jenna Reinhardt and Finny George. Our congratulations to them and to all who submitted their ideas. The thoughts were excellent and hopefully our organization and neighborhood can

benefit from them.

This month we are printing the essays submitted by Beth and Michael from St. Gregory's. Next month we will print those from Jenna and Finny. Please read and enjoy them.

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## President's Gavel

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

As the summer winds to a close we at the BCCA begin to get back to business as usual, both at work and at the civic association. One thing we all must wake up to is our new legislative districts. The September meeting will focus on what the new lines are and how they will affect us in Bellerose. Be sure to attend this important session.

Please keep an eye out for next month's Action News because we hope to be announcing a special date and location for our October meeting. As is our custom we intend to join with the Queens Colony Civic Association to host a Candidates Night for Assembly and other elections.

I hope everyone has noticed that we have survived the Summer without the return of the graffiti. You will recall that in the Spring several volunteers cleaned up lamp posts and some storefronts. Many store owners also pitched in and cleaned their gates. They still look good.



# New District Boundaries

By: Rich Hellenrecht

The summer has dealt a cruel blow to the various communities of Bellerose. In keeping with a governmental mandate to increase the power of minorities, parts of Bellerose have been carved up and added to different district. Our area was added to District 33, anchored on the south side of eastern Queens and represented by incumbent Barbara Clarke, a Democrat from Cambria Heights.

Our previous assembly district and incumbent Assemblyman Doug Prescott are now miles from here in Flushing. Our Senatorial District changed slightly, but Senator Padavan still represents our area. On the Federal front, Congressman Ackerman, who represented us for several years is no longer in our district. We will now be part of Congressman Floyd Flake's 6th district.

In this very busy election season, all three positions are up for election. While Senator Padavan's strong hold in this area will easily carry him through, there will be tough battles for

Assembly and Congress.

The State legislators in gerrymandering this area butchered parts of Bellerose, going so far as to cut a neighboring civic association (Bellerose Hillside C.A.) in half. All of our civics argued vehemently earlier this year against breaking up our north central Queens area by making Jamaica Avenue the southern boundary. But politics won out. Casting our neighborhood into an area that is heavily weighted miles south of us will substantially weaken our access to political power and influence and may affect our quality of life.

It is very hard to keep any discussion from sounding racist, but in fact, the State's redistricting committee clearly speaks of its mandate to empower minority communities, voters and candidates. In this case, the empowerment clearly disenfranchises this area. Our new district is 65 percent black and 85 percent minority in total. Its current incumbent, who is black, represents a solidly black area and is not concerned about Bellerose. It is unlikely

that our town will ever be a major political interest for an official with a such a solid majority.

October's Candidates Night will be critically important to ensure that we have a voice in our new district. We will need an **INCREDIBLE** turnout to make a serious impression. I understand that a local civic president, Richard Cannon of the Bellerose Hillside C.A. is running for the Assembly seat. Please pay close attention to this election, and by all means **VOTE**.

## Register to Vote

It is more important than ever for everyone in our area to vote in this Primary and general election.

I will have voters registration cards at the September and October meetings. Please try to get every relative and friend who is eligible to register and vote in the September 15 Primary and on November 3.

## Roadwork Finishing

As we go to press, the reconstruction of the **Cross Island Parkway** northbound side has been completed and finalization of the southbound side is underway. I have asked Albert Wong, Project Engineer to come to the September meeting and brief us on what we can expect for the duration of the project.

It is already hard to remember the condition of the short

entry lane we lived with on the northbound entrance. The interim staging ramp was very dangerous and we are glad there were no serious accidents during construction.

At press time, the southbound reconstruction has caused the pedestrian underpass to be closed for removal of the retaining wall. We are advised that this has been timed to ensure that the underpass will be open

for the first day of school at St. Gregory's and P.S. 133.

Also at press time we were surprised to notice a major resurfacing on Little Neck Parkway. Although this roadway was recently reconstructed, a number of cracks opened up. Several local residents have written to our elected officials and gotten quick action to correct these problems. It pays to complain.



# St. Gregory the Great School - Eighth Grade Essays: If I Were Mayor of Bellerose...

By: Beth Mitchell

If I were the Mayor of Bellerose, I would work to make the town better.

One important issue that needs to be corrected is how to keep kids off the streets. There are many ways to solve this. A couple would be: building a dance club, a movie theater, or just anywhere kids could go and feel safe and are being supervised at the same time. By these things kids can stay off the streets and out of trouble. They would also be doing something constructive instead of just smoking, drinking or even doing drugs.

Another important issue that could be corrected is the vandalism and crime factor in our community. We could reduce these things by a neighborhood watch system. By this system neighbors, with the help of the police, could watch out for each other and the community. With everyone working together the vandalism in our community will come to a stop because there will always be someone watching. The same thing will happen with the crime factor. This system will also bring people in the community together because they will be working for each other's safety.

These are just two of the many issues I would help change and correct if I was the Mayor of Bellerose. By working together on difficult issues through out our community we can help keep some of the safety we already have and get back some of it we lost over the years to things that hurt our community.

By: Michael Ardini

If I were Mayor of Bellerose, I would establish a new, larger playground where children could play and teenagers could hang out. Then there wouldn't be so many kids hanging out on street corners and doing things that are against the law. This new playground would also eliminate the numbers of children getting hit by cars and other vehicles while they play sports in the middle of the road. The playground would provide a place for children to play sports and games without being in any danger of getting hit by a car. The playground would entertain the children by having swings, seesaws, monkey bars, a hockey section, a baseball field, and basketball courts. There also would be a snack shop on the playground's premises where food and drinks would be sold at an affordable price. I feel that a new, larger playground would be a good place where children could play or hang out and still have their parents know that their children are safe.

Another thing I would do as Mayor of Bellerose would be that I would create a larger police force. The police force we have now isn't large enough to control all the violence, graffiti and drug dealing that is present in our town today. These are very serious problems in our community. I feel that if I was Mayor of Bellerose, it would be my duty to solve these problems. A large police force would make it possible for police cars to go out patrolling at night and keep peace and order in

Bellerose. The police would be able to catch the drug dealers, the crime starters, and the children who are putting graffiti on the town's buildings. The increase of the police force would help cut down crime in Bellerose. This new plan would also provide jobs for those people in our town who are unemployed.. Therefore this plan would help those who have been affected by the recession.

If I were Mayor of Bellerose, I would try extremely hard to enforce these two ideas.

*Editor's Note:*

*You may recall that in June we printed a recap of many of the comments offered by the boys of PS133Q. It is important to note that very high on the list of all of these children is problems associated with boredom and hanging out. Kids are apparently desperate for places to play safely and things to do. We expect that this Fall, PS133 playground - The Bellerose Playground - will be totally rebuilt under a Parks Department program. These comments from our children should encourage those involved in St. Gregory's and other area churches and schools to keep recreational spaces high on their priority lists as they plan for the future.*

## Citizenship Awards

In addition to the essay awards, the BCCA once again presented Citizenship awards to graduating students as follows: PS133: Rudrabhishek Sahay and Marsha Thomas.

St. Gregory's: Nicholas Buglione and Bernadette O'Doherty.



## Queens Children's Theater

By: Ben Finn

This newest addition to the cultural climate of Eastern Queens has survived its maiden season rather nicely and is now gearing up for a new season of children's musicals. The success of **The Happiness Man**, the show that initiated the theater operation, has encouraged the company to bring it back. After all, not everyone in Bellerose has seen it. In addition, shortly after that show reopens, rehearsals will begin for a second production, **The Left-out Leprechaun**. Both of these musicals will run at the theater in alternating time slots.

## Trinity News:

By: Phyllis Sternemann

On Saturday Sept. 12 at 10am Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will hold **Attic Treasures Sale**, a flea market type of sale with proceeds going to benefit the "Young at Hearts" Group. Come down and look for bargains.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran**

## Shots Again

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

Once again the peace and quiet of Bellerose was shattered at 11:30 pm on July 4. At that time a volley of nine semi-automatic shots rang out from the rear courtyard of PS133. Upon investigation the next morning, several of these shots went through one of the back doors and caused damage to the metal door and woodwork inside the school.

This event was very disturbing since it had been several months since the last gunshots were reported. We had hoped

The Happiness Man received an excellent review in the Queens Courier, calling the QCT "a must to see for families of all ages and inclinations...a charming, creative and thoroughly entertaining alternative for energizing your weekends. In addition, Newsday devoted an entire column in its Spotlight section to the new theater.

This is live professional theater, playing Saturdays and Sundays at The Marketplace Mall on Glen Oaks, where the management has generously provided the theater groups with a rent-free space on the lower level. Thanks are in order as well for the Manhattan Savings Bank, which provided the chairs as well as their

**Church** will have two worship services during the months of October and November: 9 am and 10:30 am. For the month of September, the worship service is at 10:15 am.

Sunday school begins on September 27 at 9 am, and a **Picnic** will be held after the worship service on Sept. 27.

**Adult Bible Study** begins on Wed. Sept. 30 at 10 am and 8

that whomever was responsible either left the area, got arrested.

Principal Mazer was very upset and contacted the 105th Precinct. Officers from the precinct came to inspect the damage to the school and got some leads from community members about the perpetrators. They will continue to monitor the park.

There were several people in the park at the time of the shooting. If anyone has any information please contact our C-POP officer: Russell Grurier at 740-1500.

piano "bar" for auditions. Also, Santoor Restaurant has graciously provided their downstairs party room for rehearsals, on those days when the Mall is closed.

For information call 343-1052.

*Editor's Note:*

*I accepted Ben Finn's offer to come over and see the final Spring show of The Happiness Man at the QCT in June. I was surprised and delighted by the fun and entertainment I experienced at the theater. The players got into their roles and had the audience thoroughly participate. The play changed as the children got more involved in the plot. I'd say no two shows could be exactly the same.*

*The QCT is the first cultural element I know of in this area - and I'm very pleased its here.*

pm. The topic is "Worship". The Church is located at 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Boulevard.

**The third annual Oktoberfest** will be on Sat. Oct. 3rd, with dinner seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Live music and dancing, wine, beer, full course meal. \$25 adult, \$12.50 child. Call (718)347-0278 for tickets.

## Potholes

*From a Times/Ledger Report 8/27/92*

Due to a backlog of 25,000 potholes throughout the city, City Hall allocated \$400,000 worth of overtime work for 60 crews on three Saturdays (August 22 to Sept. 5) to catch up. Sixteen crews, the largest contingent in the City, were sent to Queens.

This program is an attempt to be more responsive to pothole complaints. Thoroughfares in need of major resurfacing will be done at a later date.

Be prepared for a smoother ride if you venture into some of the more pockmarked areas of Queens and other boroughs.



## Sewer Bills

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

Our new Congressman, Floyd Flake, has notified me that many complaints have been received about exorbitant and unexplained sewer bills. Apparently the charges relate to conversion to metered billing, which has not yet affected our area. The City

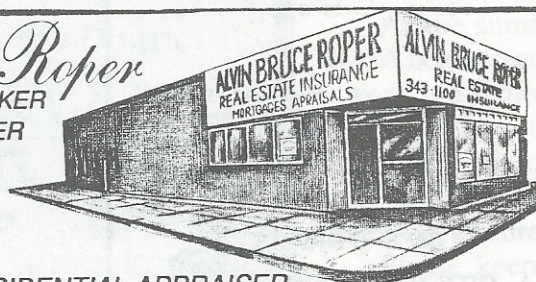
has sent large bills for the conversion to residents without explanation, and has added an 18% interest for the remaining balance until the entire amount is paid. Occasionally residents have been billed and paid sewer taxes continuously, but for prior periods. They are then billed for current balances.

Under a plan adopted as a

result of Rep. Flake's intervention, the delinquent charge has been cut to 9% and DEP devised a split-bill plan to reduce the impact of these increases. Tax payers billed at 50% more than the prior bill may request a split-bill. An initial payment will be made and the balance rebilled in three months with no interest.

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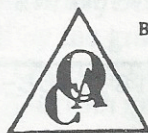


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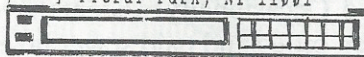
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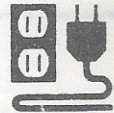
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