



action news

Volume 27, Issue 7

September 2001

Next Meeting

Con Edison
Speaker

Fred Williams

September 6, 2001

8:00 pm

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

We meet the first Thursday of each month at the House of Hope Church, corner 248th Street and 85th Avenue at 8:00 PM

2002
Dues will be distributed to Block Captains, In July.
Please pay as soon as possible.

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Worried about our Gas Mains?

By: Rich Hellenbrecht

Just about every block in Bellerose seems to be continuously attacked by Con Edison crews punching holes in the tarmac and leaving piles of dirt for days. Later, they refill the holes and after a few days place several layers of sub-strata and finally pave over. But you can see the patch for years to come.

Quite often this work seems to be done as a

result of complaints of gas odors. Did you every wonder about how safe our area is? Did you ever wonder if it might be cheaper and smarter if this work was done to the entire area on a planned basis?

Well, now is your chance to ask. While you're at it, its time to ask about other energy-related things, like the cost of gas and electricity, deregulation, conservation measures for your home, the recent re-

placement of gas regulators, etc.

Most importantly, find out about how our area may be affected by energy shortages such as California is going through. Will we be subject to rolling brown-outs, or even blackouts? What is the best way to prepare our homes and families? How can we conserve to reduce the problem?

Please come down to this meeting to learn this and more.

Hellenbrecht Elected Community Board Chair

In July, BCCA President Richard Hellenbrecht was elected by Queens Community Board 13 as Chairman of the Board. Rich has been President of BCCA since approximately 1985 with the exception of a few years when Richard Brown and Joseph Byrne took over in the mid-1990s.

As Chairman, Rich will be responsible for the delivery of city services throughout the CB13 area, which runs from

the Grand Central Parkway to Kennedy airport and consists of over 177,000 residents. The Board acts on all major land use proposals, advises the City on capital and expense budget items for the district and handles community complaints. CB13 is strengthening complaint processing and follow up. Please notify CB13 at 464-9700 of any complaints with city agencies or utilities. Staff at the office will notify the agency, copy you on the complaint and fol-

low up in a reasonable period.

Rich Hellenbrecht also represents the BCCA on the **Queens Civic Congress**, where he is a Vice President. Queens Civic Congress is a borough-wide cooperative of over 100 civic organizations. The Congress has made great strides in borough-wide and local issues. For example, the Congress wrote a plan for the Creed-

(continued on page 2)

Hellenbrecht

(Continued from page 1)

moor property, which was adopted by Governor Pataki. In addition, QCC has been fighting the MTA's ridiculous plans to divert the F train to 63rd Street and to close dozens of token booths throughout the City.

Rich is also Corporate Secretary of the **Bellerose Business District**, which has implemented many pro-

jects to improve the Jamaica Avenue/ Jericho Turnpike shopping strip.

We wish Rich well in this busy and important new job. But Rich will need to reduce his activities here in the BCCA by the end of the year and other organizations. Our annual election of officers is at the December meeting. We urge new people to come down and join the board

QCC Mayoral Debate—Sept. 6

The Queens Civic Congress is sponsoring a debate of the mayoral candidates, one of the last major debates before the Primaries on September 11. The debate will take place at the Flushing Library, 41-17 Main Street, near Kissena Blvd.

BCCA Feedback Form

September 2001

To the B.C.C.A.:

I suggest the following article for action news, issue to pursue or general comment: _____

☐ Enclosed is my \$5 Dues payment for 2001 or a donation

I suggest the following speaker topic: _____

I suggest the following newsletter topic: _____

B.C.C.A. requests that you leave your _____
name and address _____

Non-Solicitation Overturned

We regret to mention that the State's non-solicitation, or cease and desist, order that has protected us from unwanted solicitation by real estate brokers, has been overturned by a state court. I have already received numerous calls asking if I wished to sell my home. Unfortunately, we can no longer say—"I'm listed on the C&D list, you can't call me."

However, Senator Padavan has requested an appeal through the State Attorney General. Hopefully we can renew this powerful order soon.

Address articles/items to: Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 260225
Bellerose, NY 11426

action news

Attn: Richard C. Hellenbrecht, Editor

Help Wanted

With Rich stepping down as President of the BCCA at the end of the year, we need newer residents with new ideas and a little time on their hands to get involved with the BCCA. As we've said many times before, it is critical to have a civic organization in place watching what's going on and ready to organize a demonstration or motivate our elected officials when a problem arises. You can never tell when a new issue is going to pop up. Without an organization it can take months to get people together, explore ideas and react to the problem.

We recognize that most families are dealing with two working parents and working long hours, sometimes two jobs. Relaxing in the evening is very attractive, and "the other guy" will always do it. Well, we're running out of other guys in Belle-rose. Our Board is now short several members and no one is available to take the presidency.

We must build up the board to full strength and bring new ideas into the association.

The board positions are not difficult and require no prior experience. We just need some dedicated, interested people who can give as little as two nights a month. Unfortunately the pay is a bit disappointing, but the psychic rewards are wonderful and the fellow board members are great people.

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Richard C. Hellenbrecht

Patricia Pearson

John Reh

vacant

vacant

Directors:

Lorraine Anzalone

Neal Beekman

James Delaney

Sebastian Platania

George Wolf

Director positions and the two Secretary positions are available. We are seeking to fill these positions and attract residents to join the Board and become active. No experience is necessary and we don't ask too much effort. Anyone interested, please see any board member at any meeting.

Illegal Conversions & Other Building

The most serious problem facing Bellerose is the proliferation of illegally converting one-family houses to two or more families or to single occupancy units. On most blocks there are at least a few converted houses, affecting parking, crowding schools, increasing garbage, etc.

As we've stated over and over again, our part of Bellerose is zoned exclusively for one family houses. You MAY NOT LEGALLY CONVERT YOUR HOME to two families or "mother/daughter" use in this zone NO MATTER WHAT YOUR REAL ESTATE BROKER MAY TELL YOU. Note that some two-family buildings pre-existed the 1961 zoning resolution and are legally grandfathered.

Many houses are now being expanded to raise the second floor, particularly cape cods. Any proposed expansion will require a

building permit. Furthermore, any major interior work—removing walls, moving stairways, major changes to window openings—also require building permits. Ideally, the building permit review will identify violations of the zoning code. But many times they let things through and a minor change after inspections results in a two family building.

Legally expanded houses are greatly improve our area and increase the value of your home. We support legal expansions. But conversions cause irreparable damage to our community. If you are thinking about it—please don't. If you know of any, please respond to our P.O. box with an exact address and some evidence (what you see). We would like your name for our confirmation, but we can withhold your name if you want.

Holy Trinity - 75th Anniversary

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bellerose is celebrating their 75th anniversary this month.

You are cordially invited to join the congregation in its celebration on Sunday September 23, 2001 at a Festival Service of Holy Communion, 11:30 am at the Church at Commonwealth Boulevard and 87th Avenue. The service will be by The Rev. Gary Schulz, Presiding Pastor and The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman, Guest Preacher, Bishop, New York Metropolitan Synod, ELCA.

Following this service, you are invited to join a dinner-dance in celebration at The New Hyde Park Inn, 214 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park. The cost of the dinner-dance is \$40 per adult and \$20 per child. For additional information, please call 718-347-0278.

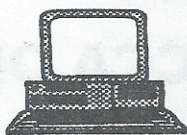
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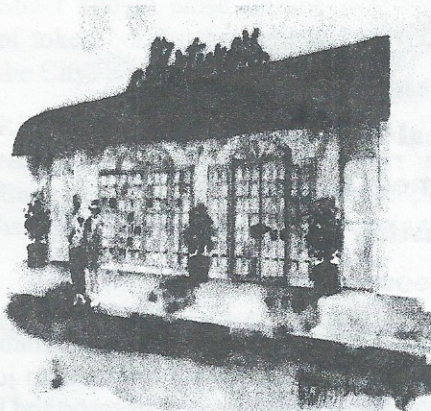
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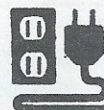


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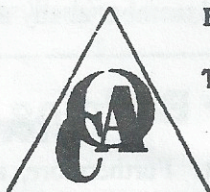
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