

action news

VOLUME 5 NO. 4

A P R I L

1978

VICTORY!

BELLEROSE LIBRARY OPENS

With the sun shining and an American flag flying from a pole repaired less than an hour earlier, over 250 residents, civic leaders and public officials were present as the Bellerose Library finally opened on February 27th, after a long, hard community fight.

Despite long lines and only one machine to check out books, over 1,500 books were borrowed and almost 350 new library cards were issued the first day. Another 200 signed up for cards the next day.

The Bellerose Commonwealth/Civic Association had requested that appropriate ceremonies be held to commemorate this important community event. However, Milton Byam, director of the Queens Borough Library system, insisted that he "will have no ceremonies on opening day but you can have several community leaders there before 1 P.M. and serve coffee and cake."

The BCCA, which was in the forefront of the battle for the new Library would have none of that, nor would the community residents. The BCCA invited to the opening neighborhood school officials and representatives of the neighboring civic associations.

To handle the large turnout, the Library doors were opened before 1 P.M., and residents were able to enter, enjoy the refreshments.

Borough President Donald Manes, State Senator Frank Padavan, City Councilman Sheldon Leffler, Community Board 13 chairman, Susan Noreika, and Byam were among those present.

Despite his earlier prohibition of ceremonies, the presence of a large number of news photographers and officials and community residents brought a change of heart by Byam. He agreed to pose with the elected

officials for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the Library doors.. but even then he didn't want the ribbon cut. He said he wanted to save it for another occasion. But one of the officials who was posing with scissors decided to cut the ribbon. Byam gathered up the blue ribbon pieces and stuck them in his pocket.

So, after years of struggle, Bellerose residents saw their Library officially opened.

(continued on page 2)

RECORD BCCA MEMBERSHIP

The Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, long in the forefront of the fight for community improvement and safety, has a new record to be proud of.

The group announced that 654 Bellerose families have paid their 1978 dues, the highest ever since the founding of the Association.

If you aren't already a member, you should join. Its only \$2 a year -- less than four cents a day -- for the entire family. [You can get your money's worth just by attending meetings the first Thursday in each month by eating as many cookies as you can and drinking coffee after the sessions.] They usually run from 8.30 PM to 10 PM and feature a speaker on a topic of interest to the community.

To join this fighting organization, send your \$2 check made out to Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, care of Sebastian Platania, Treasurer, at 86-21 251st Street, Bellerose 11426. Get involved in the fight to keep your community safe and beautiful. Help us help you make and keep Bellerose the most beautiful community in New York.

WAR ON HOODLUMS: BRIGHTER LIGHTS POLICE CRACKDOWN

The war on hoodlums and vandals in and around P.S. 133 and other areas of Bellerose moved forward this month.

A six month effort for better lighting was rewarded with promised action on the part of the City.

State Senator Frank Padavan, who acted on behalf of local residents, had contacted the Department of General Services demanding, as a minimum, high intensity spotlights and brighter street lights, to help curtail vandalism and crime in the area.

A recent letter to Sen. Padavan said:

"We are pleased to inform you that the street lighting around Public School 133 will be changed to the brighter sodium type. This work is scheduled for 1978."

(continued on page 3)

NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING THURSDAY

April 6, 1978

Guest Speaker:

Alley Pond Environmental

Center spokesman

HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Corner of 248 ST. &
85th Avenue

DANGER: OPEN MANHOLES

A new and potentially dangerous "sport" by area youths has been reported by a long-time resident of Bellerose. And, she reports, police who responded to her call, acted indifferent to the danger.

The "event" is the lifting open of a manhole cover in the middle of busy 36th Avenue near 247th Street. "It happens all the time," the woman told the membership meeting of the BCCA. She reported about a dozen youths open the manhole cover, and sometimes climb into the sewer itself. She said the opening in the street is dangerous to passing cars.

She told how the teenagers have added another "gimmick" to their potentially dangerous "sport."

They replace the cover, while they are under it. When they hear a car coming, they lift the cover into the air, where it can be hit by an unsuspecting passing vehicle.

The resident brought an angry murmur from the assembled members when she reported how on a recent afternoon [just about school closing time -- 3 pm] she summoned police. Two young officers, she said, responded to the call. When they saw the manhole open, they told her, she said, to put the cover back on herself, because there was nothing they could do about it, since it wasn't a police matter. When she asked for their help in putting back the cover to eliminate the dangerous opening, she was refused assistance and they drove off.

The directors were ordered by the membership to notify the local police command of the practice/ and to ask an investigation of the conduct of the officers involved.

FREE GARDENING BOOKS

A limited number of free books on gardening are available by writing to Rep. Lester L. Wolff at 2463 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

The publication, which can be requested from our local Congressman, is the Department of Agriculture yearbook entitled "Gardening for Food and Fun."

As we understand it from a local resident who is raving about the free hardcoverd book, the request can only be filled while the small supply lasts.

BELLEROSE LIBRARY OPENED

(continued from page 1)

The BCCA wishes to thank all of its members, neighboring civic associations and public officials who, through their concerted efforts, made this opening day possible.

Felix Berman, principal of P.S. 133, wrote to James Delaney, president of the BCCA:

"please accept our most sincere thanks for your successful efforts in opening the Bellerose Library. We pledge the school to work hand-in-hand with the Library staff. Even at this early date, some of our classes and many of our children, on their own, have visited the Library. We have submitted to Ms. Dickerson a copy of our social studies curriculum to help coordinate school-Library materials.

In addition, I appreciate and support BCCA efforts in urging improved police patrol and the development of adequate sodium lighting."

LIBRARIAN TALKS AT MEETING

At the March BCCA general membership meeting, three days after the Bellerose Library opened, branch librarian Ms. Jean Dickerson appeared as guest speaker.

Bellerose is fortunate in having this 15 year veteran of the library system to head up its Library.

According to Ms. Dickerson, our branch is unique in that besides having only a few books published since 1975, it has no card catalogue. Microfiche equipment, which holds information about books in the branch, will be installed in June. The Library's new computerized charge system may be in service at our branch in April.

This will involve a new type of library card and use of the "zebra code," or special line markings, on books to expedite the check-out system. With the new computer system, the librarian will be able to ascertain if a particular book is available at any other branch in the system.

The Library has a main reading room, a children's reading room, and a small meeting room that can be used for library and community programs. Movies will be shown in

the meeting room after window blinds and a movie projector are received.

When questioned about the possibility of curtailed library hours in the future, Ms. Dickerson assured members that Bellerose hours would be cut only in the event of a drastic situation in which hours were cut at all branches.

The Library contains 18,000 volumes and has a capacity for 35,000 volumes. About 35 new titles are ordered each week. Ms. Dickerson has already received donations of some books. The Library can accept book donations only if the books are in good condition.

Ms. Dickerson has demonstrated a desire to cooperate with the community and local school principals. The BCCA welcomes her and her staff to the community and assures them of our continued cooperation.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR BATTLE TO BE RE-ENACTED HERE

The Colonial Farmhouse Restoration Society is sponsoring a re-enactment of a Revolutionary War Battle on the grounds of the 18th century Cornell Farm at 73-50 Little Neck Parkway. It will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16th.

This will be an important educational venture for the people of our community. Seldom are these battle re-creations performed in our neighborhoods, and the fact that we have an authentic natural site going back to colonial days makes the event all the more exciting. In order to make the event accessible to as many as possible, especially neighborhood school-age children, admission is free.

"Troops", gunpowder and volunteer "soldiers" will be coming from eastern Long Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut.

HOUSES FOR SALE

347 - 9479

347 - 5865

347 - 0603

WAR ON HOODLUMS:

(continued from page 1)

The darkened P.S. 133 park-playground has been used as the "headquarters" for a neighborhood gang of vandals who have been preying upon the area, ruthlessly destroying public and private property almost at will.

At the general membership meeting of the Bellerose Commonwealth/Civic Association on March 2, a virtually unanimous vote decided that **strong action against the troublemakers was needed now.**

The leadership of the BCCA had previously thought about the possibility of a conciliatory approach to halt the problem. This included a round-robin letter to parents of about two dozen boys identified by police as having received summonses for a variety of infractions, or loitering in and around the park after dark, inviting them to a joint meeting with the civic association and the police to discuss possible solutions.

The board of directors, after much soul-searching, a survey of the families involved and other areas faced with similar situations, came to the conclusion that such an approach would not work.

They informed the general membership of their findings in a long report and asked for guidance from the community as a whole. The **answer was virtually unanimous;** the time for talking had long passed.

They voted to instruct the leadership to request that the local police precinct "get tough" with the vandals and "strictly enforce" the applicable statutes.

Acting on instructions from the membership, board members were to ask Capt. Frederick J. Kavanagh, commander of the 105th Police Precinct, to order his men to arrest, not merely give summonses, to youths who violate the posted dusk curfew of the Parks Department at the P.S. 133 park.

The only proviso was that a warning should first be printed in this newspaper, which is distributed throughout the entire Bellerose area, to alert parents and troublemakers of the tough police action to follow.

PARENTS THUS ARE WARNED THEY SHOULD KNOW WHERE THEIR CHILDREN ARE AT NIGHT.

Arrests mean those taken into custody will not merely be given a summons and released on the spot. It means they will undergo "total criminal justice procedures" following police arrest.

Capt. Kavanagh, at the previous membership meeting, also pledged more "police presence" in the form of patrol cars passing the P.S. 133 park more regularly at night. He pledged "continuing attention" to this problem area.

After dozens and dozens of incidents against Bellerose public and private property, especially the massive destruction within the P.S. 133 park-playground, the community and the police are telling the neighborhood punks: **NO MORE!**

SAYS PARENTS DON'T CARE

The following anonymous letter came to the editor:

I am a 21-year old law-abiding citizen and I am writing this letter in response to the February issue of "Action News" concerning youth in regard to vandalism, skitching on the back of cars in the snow, etc.

I fully agree that something should be done. I seemed to find that your main focus was on the youth themselves and forgot the parents.

But many of these kids participating in these actions are doing it in front of their own homes on 87th Avenue. Imagine, in front of their own homes!

But where are the parents? Of particular people I'm speaking, and unfortunately cannot mention their names. These parents are at St. Gregory's at meetings and on committees, and at civic association meetings, etc.

Maybe if they spent more time at home, they would be doing more good for the community. I wonder whose needs they really have in mind when they join these groups.

Is it for popularity? I do not feel this applies to all by any means, nor do I criticize or discourage community participation. If any parents become defensive of this note, all I can say is the truth hurts, doesn't it?

[Editor's note: Any other opinions?]

ALL RESIDENTS URGED TO REPORT POTHOLES

Any Bellerose resident has merely to step outside his door to know the area has an overabundance of something it doesn't need: **POTHOLES!** These openings in the streets are not only unsightly, they are dangerous, both to pedestrians and motorists, especially when filled with water.

Get the approximate size and locations of potholes in your area. Then call these pothole numbers, hopefully, for action: 964-2110 or 530-3311.

If you get no results from the phone calls, then drop a note to our "pothole editor," Jim Delaney, at 84-20 252nd Street, Bellerose 11426, so we can send the batch to the Department of Highways for action.

IN THE WORKS:

**JUNE WALK
FALL DANCE**

Plans are underway for the June Walk and a possible Fall Dance.

John Reh is chairman of the June Walk, which is scheduled for June 10 (rain date June 17). Letters are being prepared to be sent to companies asking for donations of candy, cookies, toys, etc. The route is also being laid out for the annual parade and the band has already been contracted for.

John needs volunteers, particularly women, to help prepare the festivities being planned to make this year's Walk the biggest and best in Bellerose history. Particularly needed are volunteers to be judges in the costumes contest. John can be reached at 248-13 87th Avenue (347-5756).

Dennis McGann, meanwhile, is chairman of a group investigating various possibilities for a Fall Dance of the BCCA.

Among the choices, depending on the price, which the Association is trying to keep as low as possible, to assure its success, is a dance with no food, except perhaps pretzels and peanuts, for \$7.50 per person. Another possibility is a full dinner-dance, at perhaps \$15 per person.

After he makes the survey, Dennis will report to the next membership meeting on April 6. If you have any suggestions or ideas, or just want to help, contact Dennis at 247-15 87th Avenue (343-3971).



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Think about this:
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BROTHERHOOD WINNERS
Winners of Awards in the Brotherhood Poster Contest, sponsored by B'Nai Brith at P.S. 133 are
Hope Feldman - Class 6-301
87-11 251st St.
Susan Kelly - Class 6-301
81-39 247 Street

Q.V.-HOLLIS-BELLEROSE VOL. AMBULANCE CORPS DANCE
The Queens Village, Hollis, Bellerose Volunteer Ambulance Corps will hold their annual Dinner-dance and Installation of Officers on Saturday evening, April 8, at the Regency House in Jamaica.
For further information and tickets before April 1, contact Mrs. Marie Dalia, Social Committee Chairlady at Corps headquarters, 235-01 Braddock Avenue, Queens Village, 11428, or 776-6272. Donation will be \$20 per person.