

Belmar Summer Rental News

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And the winners are . . .

[Sound of envelope being torn open . . .]

The first houses to be posted with Sheriff's Officers in the Summer of 2008 are: **116 18th Ave, 1002 B St, 109 12th Ave and 101 13th Ave.**

Congratulations to these tenants for managing to have Sheriff's Officers posted outside their rentals so early in the season. As we've written in the past, it is no easy feat to stand out among 300 other Belmar rentals, and these tenants deserve to be recognized for this achievement.

So, not only will the Borough be posting these properties with Sheriff's Officers over the 4th of July Weekend, our Code Enforcement staff will be checking them periodically to make sure that these properties are kept clean and neat.

After all, since it's going to be costing these tenants \$60 an hour to have a Sheriff's Officer standing outside their rentals this weekend, we'll want their properties to be looking their very best. Besides, as tenants of law-abiding rentals walk by and point and laugh at them, we'll want to make sure they're not also embarrassed by having litter on their lawn.

This is the least the Borough of Belmar can do to thank them for generating lots of fine money for us so early in the Summer of 2008, and helping make sure we have the revenue we need to keep providing the services our year-round taxpayers require.

We feel bad for the law-abiding tenants that live near these Animal Houses, because having a Sheriff's Officer close by can definitely be a buzz-kill for you and your friends. But it's a good lesson. The next time you see your neighboring tenants acting up, it might be a good idea to ask them to chill before they saddle *your* block with a Sheriff's Officer.

Weekend 6: Summer Renters Goose-Egg Belmar PD!!!

As usual for this time of summer, noise summonses have been on a steady decline. But no one expected what happened last weekend. The Belmar Police Department did not issue a single noise summons to a summer rental all weekend! The only noise summonses issued town-wide were one to a year-round rental and another to a loud late-night pedestrian.

So for all of you summer renters who kept the volume down last weekend (or who didn't come to Belmar because you were at a wedding or in rehab or something), the citizenry of Belmar thanks you for a particularly quiet weekend.

No, this is not the first time the Belmar PD has gone 0-for-the-weekend in the Noise Summons Department. But it's only happened once before in recorded history, on Weekend 14 at the end of the Summer of '07 (which followed a one-noise summons weekend on Weekend 13).

But what's amazing is that it happened so early this season! We get it when it happens at the end of the summer, when the AH renters (that stands for Animal House, of course) are so tapped out by all their fines and court appearances – not to mention stressed by the fact their landlord has told them their security deposit is going to pay for a Sheriff's Officer – that getting loud and stupid doesn't seem nearly as much fun as it did back on Memorial Day weekend. But before the 4th of July??? Wow!!!

No champagne corks are popping at Boro Hall just yet. We still had 14 noise complaint calls from residents last weekend, versus 7 over last year's goose-egg weekend. So, we'll be focusing on those problem areas this weekend, and watching to see what this weekend brings.

SI Girl Behaving Badly

In our never-ending quest to keep our summer renters informed and our wider readership amused, we have culled the Belmar police blotter for items of potential educational value to our readers.

Which brought us to a reported incident earlier this summer in which two women had a spat in (you'll never guess) D'Jais. Now, if that isn't shocking enough, hold on to your seat: One of the women was from Staten Island!! (Unbelievable, right? Only one of the women? We thought *all* of the women in D'Jais are from Staten Island.). The other woman was from, of all places, Boonton, NJ, which according to Google maps appears to be a suburb of either Towaco or Hibernia. (We're guessing the Boonton girl was either in D'Jais on some kind of sick bet, or was practicing for an audition on Survivor. Then again, maybe she just happened by, saw the people on the line out front, and thought, "Cool, a costume party!").

Anyway, the spat ended the way most fights with SI girls do. The SI woman grabbed the Boonton woman by the hair (we're told that in Staten Island, this is the female equivalent of a guy kicking another guy in the groin – only without the warm and friendly connotations) – and began punching her face in.

We realize, so far, this is not exactly newsworthy. Journalistically speaking, "SI woman punches other woman" is right up there with "Dog bites man." But here's the twist: As the Staten Island girl was pummeling the Boonton girl's face, *she used the hand she was still holding her drink glass in.* Now, we're not sure if the glass was stuck to her hand cause of all the hair spray or if this is a technique Staten Island girls learn in Brownies, but we are thankful she left her brass knuckles and straight razor in her other purse.

Anyway, after the blood was all mopped up and the Staten Island girl was carted off in handcuffs, the police got around to asking her why she tried to smash the Boonton woman's face in with the glass. Her answer was so obvious, the cops must have felt dumb for even asking: "... 'cause she got in my face."

No, *You're* Boring

We find ourselves taking some hits over the humor level in this year's BSRN, but it's hard to top last years Rental News. It was a journalistic dream. We could cherry pick the top three or four stories of the weekend from a laundry list of shame-worthy shenanigans. Each issue practically wrote itself.

Take for example the 14th Ave rental that racked up 14 summonses over the Memorial Day weekend, only to accumulate 4 more the following weekend. Or the time female renters woke up to find the sofa on their porch a charred pile of embers thanks to a pair of drunken firemen in the front house who had knocked over a tiki torch and nearly barbecued them while they slept. They managed to extinguish the blaze, but didn't tell the tenants or the police, apparently hoping the women wouldn't notice that their couch had been charbroiled during the night.

Then there was the time Code Enforcement condemned a 16th Ave rental, kicked the tenants to the curb, and closed it off with Caution tape. We had to create the category of "Major League Animal House" because it wouldn't have been fair to the other Animal House residents to lump them together with the pigs who lived there.

Plus our back and forth with BelmarBenny. We couldn't make that stuff up. There was more to cover in the Rental News' first issue last summer than we've been able to report through these first five weeks of Summer '08. And while that leads to hours twiddling our thumbs in front of a blank computer screen—the blinking cursor taunting us to write something, anything – this isn't such a bad thing. Maybe it means the efforts of our Police, Code Enforcement, and Sheriffs' Officers (and even the Rental News) are working, and the renters responsible for last year's mayhem have decided to go elsewhere this year.

It's too soon to say that Belmar's full and part-time residents have found a way to peacefully coexist. And with one or two stories trickling in every weekend, it would be a bit premature to shut our printing press down for good. So, we'll just have to get creative as we sleuth for new material.

Enter, Stage Left: the Internet

Torn from the pages NJGUIDO.com

For every summer renter that gets caught doing something stupid, there are probably a dozen that escape the watchful eye of the law and the shame tactics of the Rental News. This doesn't make those renters smart; just lucky. But all bets are off when they start recounting their escapades on the Internet.

The website NJGUIDO.com is an oeuvre to the tanned B & T set that flocks to D'Jais on the weekends. (Who are we kidding? They're there weekdays, too, except Mondays when the Geezers get to Rock!) Locals tend to lump everyone who lives north of the Driscoll Bridge under the broad category of "Benny," but it's not that simple. So we thank Moo, the founder of NJGUIDO, for taking the time to pen some truly enlightening essays on the way of life of that inimitable subspecies of Benny, the Guido.

The more time we spend on the NJGuido site, the more we think of Guidos as a kind of rare bird: they flock to our shore towns during the warm months, and are as welcome as, oh, Canada Geese. They're always tanned to the color of coconut shells, and easily identified by their plumage: satin shirts and short skirts on the females; Armani Exchange T-shirts and artfully distressed jeans on the males. The females favor bold hair styles and colorful make-up; the males tend to strut and flex their pumped up muscles. The call of the Guido is bellowing, and frequently slurred, invariably starting with the sound, "Yo," followed all too often by some creative variation on an expletive beginning with the letter, "F."

It can sometimes be an aggressive species (see: SI Girl Behaving Badly), but always fun to watch. Locals wanting to witness the Guido in his or her natural habitat can refer to the Hot Spots list Moo and his brethren have compiled in the 6 years NJGUIDO has been up and running. Or you can just go to D'Jais.

For the blissfully uninformed, NJGuido is to the Guido what Wikipedia is to the rest of us, except they tend to use pictures more than words. While trawling the site's message board, we stumbled upon a former Belmar renter who calls himself METAL

CLUBHEAD. While we don't doubt he's a clubhead, we think KNUCKLEHEAD is a more apt name.

KNUCKLEHEAD tells the epic story of his first—and last—days as a summer renter in Belmar. He boasts of downing 25+ drinks per night and brags about the several notches he carved in his borrowed bedpost. While it's not our place to judge a grown man's sexcapades, we should note that most of the Guidettes on the message board stop just short of calling KNUCKLEHEAD a complete idiot. If you can't get anyone to like you on the Internet, how do you expect us to believe you're getting girls to come home from a club with you?

To top off his first Saturday night at the shore, KNUCKLEHEAD had an early morning shouting match when his brother (who obviously inherited a much larger share of the family brains), tried to get him to leave. The next morning, KNUCKLEHEAD's landlord decided he couldn't let someone "like that" live in his house, and cited Belmar's Animal House rules. So, before the weekend was even over, KNUCKLEHEAD was unceremoniously told to pack up and head back over the Driscoll Bridge. Leave it to KNUCKLEHEAD, though, to try to spin his expulsion from a Belmar summer rental in a positive light, claiming that now he would have more time to STUDY FOR THE BAR EXAM!!! We're hoping he meant that he's studying to be a bartender, because the last thing this world needs is another lawyer who's a Major League AH (and, this time, we don't mean Animal House).

The moral of this story is that if all of Belmar's landlords took responsibility for their tenants like Knucklehead's landlord did, there'd be a lot fewer knuckleheads in town, and no need for Sheriff's Officers.

\$100 Reward from the BSRN

For information leading to the issuance of a noise summons to the NJGUIDO poster who writes: "I am the a\$\$**** who wakes everyone up in the morning with a megaphone... yelling as I come home from D'Jais..."

Let us guess . . . they're Blonde

Belmar Code Enforcement inspectors paid a visit to **100 18th Ave** recently where there were mounds of garbage accumulated from the past several weeks. As our intrepid inspector approached the house, two young ladies identified themselves as tenants and asked him what he was doing there.

The inspector explained he was there about the mountain of garbage in the back yard and one of the women asked him, "How do I take out garbage?"

The inspector patiently explained, "You take your hand, grasp the bag, pick it up, walk to the curb and put it down!"

In response she asked, "And then the garbage men come and take it away?" Apparently seeing the look of complete astonishment on the Code Enforcement inspector's face, she explained, "We're all girls in this house, there's no guys. So we're not sure how to take out garbage."

The inspector then tried to explain to her about the need to put recycling in clear bags and how to affix bulk stickers so they'll be picked up on the regular Monday trash day. [*This information is all explained at BelmarRentals411.com*] But sensing that this might be too much information for the tenants to try to absorb all at once, our inspector contacted the man from Gunny's Pizza, who agreed to show his next door neighbors how to take their garbage out in the future.

In the meantime, the tenants were issued a summons for violating Belmar's trash ordinance. In addition, Department of Public Works personnel were called in with a sanitation truck to remove the mountain of trash and recyclables. In addition to the trash fine, they'll be invoiced \$92.50 for the cost of DPW overtime and the use of the sanitation truck

The Department of Code Enforcement also issued a summons to the tenants at **116 18th Ave** for illegal trash. They will also receive an invoice from the DPW for the costs of picking up their trash after hours. Maybe they can ask their Sheriff's Officer this weekend to show them how to take out their trash.

Summer Rentals That Have Received Quality of Life Summonses in 2008

2 Summonses in 2008

1002 B Street \$\$\$

506 11th Ave

109 12th Ave \$\$\$

101 13th Ave \$\$\$

215 14th Ave

207 15th Ave

1 Summons in 2008

(and one in 2007)

113 12th Ave

116 13th Ave

210 13th Ave

219 16th Ave

1 Summons in 2008

504 8th Ave

201 10th Ave

202 13th Ave

414 13th Ave

114 14th Ave

505 13th Ave

111 15th Ave

115 14th Ave

119 14th Ave

316 14th Ave

416 14th Ave

403 15th Ave

700 16th Ave

103 16th Ave

107 17th Ave

116 18th Ave \$\$\$

1807 Surf Ave

203 18th Ave

\$\$\$: Rentals posted with Sheriff's Officers

Bold: Category 1 Rentals that have already been adjudicated to be Animal Houses, and bonds have been posted, and may be eligible to have officers posted outside.

