



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association/Queens Colony Civic Association

Special Date: Thursday April 8, 2010, 8:00 pm

Sanitation Supervisor Iggy Terranova Discuss Snow Plowing, Garbage Pick-up

**At Holy Trinity Church Basement Corner Commonwealth Blvd and 87th Ave
*Next Meeting May 6, 2010 (Watch for possible change)***

The Gavel

Thank goodness it is finally spring. I think we've had enough of snow, ice and cold weather. Just a reminder—we will meet on a special date this month due to Holy Thursday observations at Holy Trinity. Queens Colony Civic Association was kind enough to offer to host us at their customary second Thursday meeting. There's always a large crowd when we get together and there are sure to be lots of refreshments, door prizes and raffles.

While the cleanup was pretty good in the last snowstorm—the big one—there were lots of complaints about the storm before that. Streets were not properly cleared and we went into a deep freeze, leaving ice and snow mounds everywhere frozen solid for weeks. As a result, we invited Ignazio "Iggy" Terranova from the Department of Sanitation to speak at this meeting. Iggy spoke at our December 2007 meeting and left with a long list of complaints to check. This is your opportunity to ring in about the plowing over of driveways and cars parked on the street, the skipped garbage and recycling pick ups, and in at least one case the very rude treatment of a neighbor by a Sanitation supervisor. We know DOS guys work really hard in a thankless job and we support them. We remember

the snowstorm in 1968 when the plows never came. Safety and access are paramount. Ambulances and firetrucks must get through, but it's hard to rationalize that when your digging the same car or driveway out for the third time with rock solid snow and ice compressed by the plow. We think some discussion is deserved about how to minimize this inconvenience. Slower, or reverse direction plowing, for example, may reduce the problem. For our part, more cars off the street would allow an easier, faster clean up.

In addition, I received several complaints of homeowners who did not shovel their sidewalks. The law calls for clean sidewalks four hours after snow stops, or reasonable time if the storm stops overnight. Some people did not shovel at all and walking was dangerous if not impossible for many days. If you will be away, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to maintain your property. Next fall we'll try to have a number to call for emergency help.

It is certainly understandable that some pick-ups were missed in an effort to open the streets, but we wish there was some way to let the neighborhood know if and when to put out the garbage and recycling. January/February was a real problem for pickups due to several Monday holidays coupled with the severe snowstorms.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church www.Holytrinitybellerose.org

Commonwealth Blvd & 87th Ave. Regular Sunday Services at 9:00am and 10:30am.

Easter Week - Palm Sunday, March 28— services at 9:00 and 10:30 each followed by a french toast breakfast for \$5 a person Maundy Thursday, April 1 - Agape Meal, 6:00 pm. Good Friday, April 2 - services at noon and 8:00 pm. .

Easter Sunday, April 4- services at 9:00 and 10:30 am.

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday April 3 - Join us for fun and games. We have crafts and prizes, a movie and candy for all. So if you are a kid or a kid at heart, come and join us. The cost for this morning of fun is \$5.00 and includes a spaghetti lunch. To register your child call the church at 718-347-0278.

Adult Bible Study continues Wednesdays 10 am and 7 pm. Join us any day.

Young at Heart meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm. Enjoy lunch and some social time.

Youth Club for Middle and High Schoolers meeting the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7-9pm - no charge. Attendees decide on activities which include games, movies, talent events - chaperoned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? call the church or send an e-mail holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com.

Keep an eye out for some exciting events coming up! Mark your Calendars:

May 1st - Maifest at 6pm

June 12th - Holy Trinity Yard Sale - donate items for sale or rent a table for \$25 and sell for yourself.

Contact Carol Robinson to rent a table at carol.robinson@holytrinitybellerose.org.

July 12th - Vacation Bible School starts—two weeks. Call: 718-347-0278 or visit www.Holytrinitybellerose.org

Queens County Farm Museum Events

We often forget how lucky we are to have the Farm museum right in our back yard at 73-50 Little Neck Parkway. As we transition into spring there are several events that may tweak your interest. Please visit www.queensfarm.org for complete details. There are year-round activities and events, great for the whole family and its so close you could even walk there. The farm dates back to 1697 and is the longest continually operating farm site in New York State. Take a hayride around the farm, pet or feed the animals, visit the working vineyard, tour the centuries-old house and sit in on a lecture on colonial farming. Volunteers work hard to keep the site going. During the summer and fall watch for motorcycle shows, Native American Pow-Wow, corn maze. Sign up on line for the museum's newsletter and keep up to date. Meanwhile, check the following:

Barnyard Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, April 3 from noon to 4pm, \$5. Whiskers the Bunny meets and entertains the kids. Dance the Bunny Hop, join in the egg toss and egg rolling contests. Egg hunts throughout the afternoon.

Children's Carnival—April 10, 11 and 17,18 from 11am to 6pm, \$9 per person, all ages—includes carnival rides. Join us for a carnival in the apple orchard! Carnival rides, midway games food, hayrides, petting zoo and a Magic Show (show times: 2,3,4 & 5 in the barn).

31st Annual Antique Car Show—April 25 from 11am to 4pm. \$5 adults, \$2 children—Members of the New York Antique Auto Club will exhibit their cars on the farmhouse grounds. Automobile memorabilia, historic house tours, hayrides, and food will be available.

Commonwealth Boulevard (Railroad Spur) Houses

We were asked at the March meeting about the status of the new houses recently built on the west side of Commonwealth Blvd. on the site of the old Creedmoor Spur (see story, photo page 3). There has been a dispute for a couple of years over the property line separating St. Gregory's property immediately to the north. The building was built using an erroneous site survey resulting in a serious breach of zoning regulations which require four feet to the property line in the side of the house. With the error there was only 2 1/2 feet next to the house. The builder has removed the building's north wall and rebuilt it four feet from the line. However, they left the foundation wall where it was, still in violation of zoning. Based on complaints by Queens Colony and BCCA, the Buildings Department conducted a complete audit. We were told in the last week that the builder has been notified that the foundation wall will have to be brought back to four feet and no Certificate of Occupancy will be issued until. We've asked Buildings to monitor that this change does not violate the zoning requirement: two parking spaces for a two family house. The width and capacity of the garage below may be insufficient for a car when the foundation is moved. Meanwhile the construction fences have been removed and the building is apparently for sale. We should all know that a building can be sold without a C of O, provided the buyer is made aware of it and obtains a C of O before occupancy. Let the buyer (and neighbors) beware!

A Bellerose Story

In observation of this the seventy-fifth anniversary year of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, we will go back into the archives and present a couple of articles from the past. "A Bellerose Story" was submitted by former Board Member and very active BCCA participant, Sebastian Platania, in 1975, on the occasion of our 40th anniversary.

The history of Bellerose Queens is a rather sketchy one. More has been written of the area located in Nassau, known as the Incorporated Village of Bellerose. It is known, however, that around the turn of the century some of the land presently known as Bellerose was owned by a family named Rose. Their farm was located on the south side of the railroad tracks where a private wooden station or loading platform stood, west of the present Long Island Rail Road station. The name written on the structure was Bellerose and it was learned that in the Rose family was a daughter named Belle. Thus it was assumed that Poppa Joseph Rose could do no better than name his station Belle Rose, also in keeping with the already existing custom in Floral Park of naming streets after flowers.

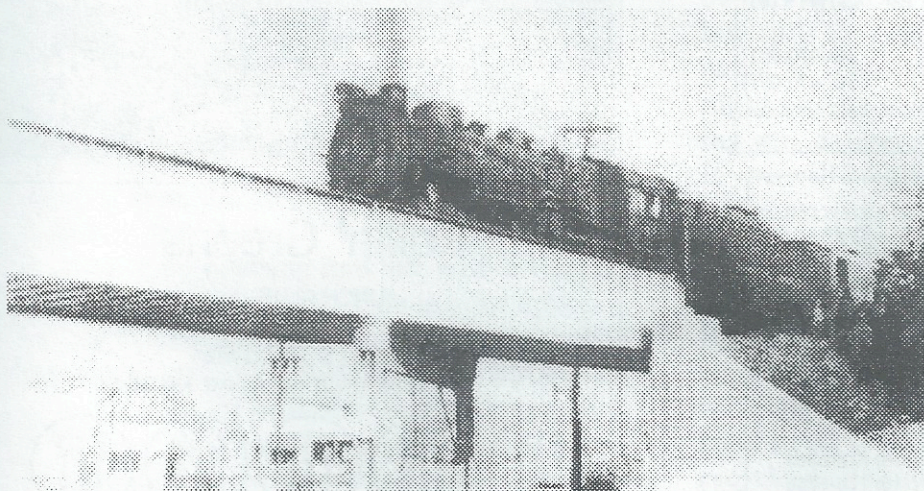
In 1906 the United Holding Company was formed to purchase and develop 77 acres of property, with Helen Marsh of Lynn Mass. as General Manager. The total acreage was operated as a gladiola field. The first house was erected in 1910 and it became Mrs. Marsh's custom to live in each house constructed until she found the right family to rent or sell to --each being permitted to settle down. In all, she lived in 22 of the houses in the village. When the L.I.R.R. agreed to provide service to the community, Mrs. Marsh named the station Bellerose, expecting the property owners to choose a permanent name at a later date. In 1917, however, they unanimously ratified her choice.

Today there are many people who believe that Bellerose is confined to the incorporated village and, of course, we in the Queens area are in no way part of them. According to Mr. Herbert Ricard, Historian for the Borough of Queens, the name is "...suitable for a high class development. The reason it has been used from one end of the county and the City of Queens, is because it is a unique development and so different from most places." Records defining boundaries are again quite sketchy, but a general breakdown indicates the following: to the East: up to but excluding Little Neck Parkway. To the North: up to but not crossing Grand Central Parkway. To the west: an irregular line running through the 236 numbers, including Gettysburg Street and Braddock Avenue. To the South: again an irregular line to L.I.R.R. station in part, difficult to present in a general manner. (Information supplied by the manager of the Bellerose Post Office.)

The Borough of Queens seems to be very indefinite and disinterested in boundaries at our east end, and in a 1948 speech by then Borough President Burke, he said, "I hope some day that you will forget about your own individual communities like Bellerose, etc., and become one united County of Queens."

We hope that this will never be, as we believe we have one of the finest communities in Queens and builders in the past have tried to conform to the beauty of the Incorporated Village of Bellerose.

We hope you enjoyed this look back to the early 20th Century. If you have any early Bellerose stories or photos, we'd love to get copies and post them over the next several months. Please mail copies only to our BCCA, P.O. Box 260225, Bellerose, NY 11426.



Does Anyone Remember this?

This is part of the old Creedmoor Spur freight line that ran from the LIRR tracks to Creedmoor Psychiatric Hospital to deliver coal to the old silos near Pontiac Street. The trestle, shown here running over Jericho Turnpike (State Route 25) at Little Neck Parkway was built in 1936 and demolished in the 1980's when the line was no longer necessary.

The small hill on Little Neck Parkway used to be much steeper and quite exciting in the snow or even rain. The hill was lowered somewhat after the tracks were gone.



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