



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 37 Number 3

1935

76 Years

2011

April 2011

Thursday, April 7, 2011, 8:00 pm

105th Precinct Community Affairs Officer Detective Jovoda Cooper Discusses "Con Ed" Scam, 105 Crime Stats and other precinct issues

At Holy Trinity Church Basement Corner Commonwealth Blvd and 87th Ave.

Next meeting May 5, 2011

The Gavel

Wow, what a meeting! The March meeting was the first full-house meeting since the fiasco of buses on Commonwealth Blvd. many years ago. The topic of the night was the situation our members at 253rd Street south of Hillside Avenue are facing every day due to the Super Halal Market. We had invited all three of our state and city elected representatives and all three reported for duty. Unfortunately, none of the managers of Halal responded to our invitation to participate.

Our new state Senator, Tony Avella came first, joined by City Councilman Mark Weprin and Assemblywoman Barbara Clark. All three stayed the whole night and got an ear full of problems, issues and dilemmas.

The electeds each spoke briefly of the status of their position with respect to state and city budget, problems in the district, etc. We quickly got down to the issue that over 100 people came out on a cold night for. We heard first hand reports of all sorts of disrespect and inconsideration by Halal owner/managers and workers. Every conceivable problem came up, from empty food boxes and refuse blowing down the street, to noise and

lights, to delivery people urinating on the street. In a previous meeting the managers said they want to work and cooperate with the community. Well it surely didn't seem like they've been cooperating. Since then, we've seen at least one occasion when the buffer zone in front of the plexiglass partitions to the bollards had produce. They promised the community board meeting on December 16 that the vegetables have been removed. We'll be watching to see if the outside produce returns.

Our electeds closed by saying that they would coordinate two meetings. One among themselves, the owners, CB13 chair and BCCA representative. A second meeting would be set up among the three of them and all New York City enforcement agencies with responsibility for health, sanitation, buildings and traffic to see why they are unable to enforce existing law in light of such unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Assemblywoman Clark has been tasked with organizing the first meeting. A meeting was scheduled, but aborted due to a conflict. It is being rescheduled and may happen before our April 7th Meeting. Meanwhile, the Buildings Department has deferred Halal's response to several violations until May or June.

See inside for articles on the Con Ed Scam, Free Rainbarrels, Education and so much more.

Holy Trinity News

Join us for any of our great opportunities for fellowship!

Lenten Services at noon every Wednesday

Palm Sunday, April 17th services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Passover Maundy Thursday Service, April 21st at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 10:30, April 24th.

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am continue. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us!

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 10 am and 7:30 pm. All are welcome for some interesting discussions on God in everyday life and stories.

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

Yoga continues Fridays at 7pm - all levels are welcome! Only \$15.

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

The Holy Trinity Youth Club needs your help. They will provide a Breakfast Run for the homeless on May 7th. They will provide the homeless with a hot breakfast as well as much needed items. For this run we are concentrating on light and medium weight jackets, sweaters, sweatpants, new underwear and socks as well as small sized toiletries. Please drop all donations at the church by May 6th.

Events:

Easter Egg Hunter, April 23rd at 10 am

MaiFest is May 1st at 5:30 pm

Call: 718-347-0278 or visit www.Holytrinitybellerose.org or send an e-mail to holytrinitybellerose@verizon.net for more information on anything.

Scams and Other Crimes

At this month's Community Board 13 meeting, the 105th Precinct reported that a Bellerose home was scammed recently by a person posing as a utility worker. The way it works is an apparent Con Ed or Keyspan inspector rings the bell, usually targeting a senior citizen. He identifies himself as an inspector and says he has to check the boiler or gas main. When they go together to the basement an accomplice comes in and steals anything he can. Detective Jovoda Cooper, our precinct Community Affairs Officer will be at the April meeting to further explain this scam and discuss other crime and precinct issues. A former Con Ed inspector said that they work solo, so you should beware of any other person hanging around. If so you should refuse entry and call the police. You can also state that you will call the utility and arrange an appointment through them. Do contact the utility, but if the "inspector" offers you a card with a number, take it, but verify that it is the utility before arranging a visit. We will invite AARP to speak as well. They have a trained team of volunteer fraud fighters who can speak on the subject of scams and other crime against seniors.

We also received notice that an attempted break in by two youths, a seventeen year old and a younger male, was thwarted by an observant neighbor who noticed the older teen trying to open a window, then the side door. She contacted the 105 and the pair was caught at the location. Both were charged with attempted burglary. It is a good thing they were stopped because the homeowner was home and it could have resulted in injury.

The Community Board was told Monday night that crime is down overall by 3.5% compared to last year. In general Grand Larceny Auto (GLA—auto theft) is still a major problem in the precinct. Residents are advised to take several steps to avoid losing their cars. Do not leave your car running while you are away from it—not even for a minute. This seems to be a repeated crime. Do not leave keys, wallets, money or anything of value visible in your parked car. Always lock your car when not in use.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown also addressed the community board. The "Judge" briefed us on the activities of the 300 assistant DA's, the office's NYPD squad, State Police unit and 24x7 hotline. This is a very busy unit. The DA oversees an Airport unit, economic crimes unit, second chance program for youth, etc.

Education Forum

Queens Civic Congress sponsored an Education Forum in March in anticipation of announced school closings and teacher layoffs, as well as further expected city and state budget reductions. We hosted a three member panel with parent, community and teacher's union representatives. The Department of Education could not find a panelist since there was a retreat out of town for department executives (hmmm.)

It was a real learning experience. According to one speaker there have been six major overhauls to school management in the past few years, leaving no one certain how the system of 1.1 million students actually works. Teacher layoffs or threats of layoffs with changing criteria makes everyone uncertain who will stay and who will be in charge. The office of the District Superintendents, which used to be a center of power, has been reduced to only three staff and little responsibility. Out of School time activities have been cut so students have no where to go after school. Also, parent involvement has dropped precipitously to the point many report cards go unclaimed.

There is a movement to have community members without students in the school participate in PTAs. School Leadership teams should include Community PTA reps and prepare comprehensive school plans. Kids often feel like they're made out to be bad, but want to say "we're not bad kids." The teacher and UFT rep was very moving. New principals don't get any training. Politically appointed commissioners have no experience and get no respect. Corporate "networks" get money that should be in the classroom.

Little Star Learning Center

We offer great care & comfort for you and your child

Ask for Preeya 6AM to 9PM

85-32 253rd Street

Bellerose, NY 11426

718-347-0053

gangananda215@aol.com

Children Ages 6 Months to 12 Years



Rain Barrel Give Away Program


The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) last year sponsored a program that gave single family home-owners rain barrels that would capture rain from roof leaders and store the water in sealed barrels for use in gardens and lawns. This helps conserve water, reduce your water charges and avoid waste water entering expensive water treatment facilities. DEP has been funded to renew this pilot program. Last year several Bellerose homeowners took advantage and installed the barrels. The feedback has been good. But please note there is some user installation and some maintenance required. Complete instructions will be provided. These units are environmentally friendly. If significant numbers could be installed great advantages would result to the environment. DEP will give the barrels away on Saturday April 16 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at Marine Park parking lot on Avenue U in Brooklyn. The offer is limited to single family and attached two family homes. Units will be distributed one per household on a first come, first served basis.

National Children's Health Study

Two years ago we told you about a broad new study that would track children's health from conception to age 21 to identify factors that affect the health of the child. Factors would include environment, nutrition, physical activity, schooling, doctor's attention, prescription use, smoking and alcohol use, etc. Women of a child bearing age planning to get pregnant were recruited to volunteer in a Queens pilot program that would identify potential program changes for implementation of the full program. Nationwide over 100,000 children are expected to participate in this unprecedented study.

While Queens pilot recruitment went well, the program has been modified due to federal budget changes. However, the study has taken a different turn with an emphasis on education for parents on the subject of bringing up children. You are encouraged to check the program website at www.queenschildren.org and sign up for a newsletter by email to newsletter@queenschildren.org.



Lourdes Villanueva Hartrick 
Licensed Sales Associate

Amiable-Beltair Realty Corp.


244-06 Jericho Turnpike
Floral Park, New York 11001

Business (516) 437-8080

Fax (516) 437-8074

Cell (646) 752-1323

E-Mail lourdeshartrickrealtor@gmail.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated 



JAMAICA MASON MATERIALS, INC.

Building Materials

204-26 Jamaica Ave.
Hollis, NY 11423

Tel: 718-479-0246
Fax: 718-479-2933



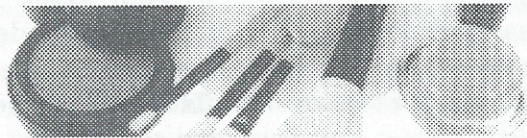
LAFFEY ASSOCIATES
FINE HOMES & ESTATES

NEW YORK'S FINEST HOMES ARE AT ONE ADDRESS WWW.LAFFEY.COM

249-02 Hillside Avenue
Bellerose, NY 11426
Phone (718) 347-3202 Ext. 62
Fax (718) 343-6202
Cell (917) 297-5947
smitchell@laffey.com
www.laffey.net



Scott Mitchell
Licensed Sales Associate



Avon

Buy or Sell Avon

Lillian Ciaravino

Executive Unit Leader
Independent Sales Rep

87-09 253rd St.
Bellerose, NY 11426

866-470-0511
718-470-0511
lcicaravino@gmail.com

HILLSIDE FAMILY DENTAL, P.C.

Complete Family/Cosmetic Dentistry

SEEMA MALIK, DDS

205-07 Hillside Avenue
Suite 1
Hollis, NY 11423

Tel: (718) 776-5363
Fax: (718) 776-5365

718-831-1959

AA TAX SERVICE

107 South Tyson Ext.
Floral Park, NY 11001

Located in M.P. Reilly Inc.

Annette Leprine

Andy Anzalone

(718) 347-2023

BELLEROSE DELICATESSEN

*Catering For All Occasions
Hot and Cold*

247-73 JAMAICA AVENUE

NEAR COMMONWEALTH BLVD.

BELLEROSE, L.I.



MALTA ELECTRIC INC.

Licensed Electrical Contractor
221-19 Jamaica Avenue
Queens Village, NY 11428

MICHAEL TABONE
GREGORY GRIMA

718-347-7187
Fax: 718-347-2419

Rollin' Greens

Sports Bar & Restaurant

247-77 Jericho Turnpike
Bellerose NY 11426

Also Private Parties or off premises catering

Roland or Greenie 718 343-3313

Rollin' Greens

LUNCH CLUB

Buy 5 GET 1 Free
Free lunch not to exceed \$8.95

