



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Volume 40 Number 3



April 2014

Thursday, April 3, 2014, 8:00 pm

Community Evening

Holy Trinity Church Basement, Corner 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2014 at 8:00pm

Visit Our Website: www.bccaqueens.org

The Gavel

Dear Bellerose Neighbors,
The March meeting featured a terrific display of several proposals on the ballot this month for the Participatory Budgeting vote throughout Councilman Mark Weprin’s district. In this program \$1 million of Mark’s discretionary capital budget is set aside for selection of projects by popular vote. If you are over 16 (photo ID required) and live in CD23, you may vote. The top projects totaling to \$1million will be budgeted. Last year was the first PB process in this district and we got smart boards for schools, parks improvements, emergency generators, etc.

The displays at our meeting were introduced by the groups sponsoring them and included our own “Reading Garden” at P.S. 133 (Bellerose Playground—see page 3) and other parks improvements, school technology upgrades, etc. The presenters were enthusiastic about their respective projects. We ask all Bellerose residents to watch for a convenient time and date and go to a local voting place. We will publish the full ballot and locations once again by email. You may select up to five

items on the ballot. We hope you will consider Bellerose projects and items that are important to you. Our special thanks go to Roseann Reinhart and the other presenters for their time and effort over several months in pulling these projects together. Good luck to all.

As always, we invite all Bellerose residents to check in often at our website www.bccaqueens.org to see what’s new in the area. Our webmaster keeps the site up to date with interesting and historical items, photos and scans of BCCA Action News from decades ago.

We look forward to seeing you at our April meeting, bring your ideas, questions and thoughts for discussion of community issues.

Contact info@bccaqueens.org to sign up for email blasts.

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Holy Trinity News

Holy Trinity has 2 services on Sunday at 9am and 10:30am. We would love to have you join us. Sunday School classes continue and the children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Children have a great time Join us!

Holy Trinity is celebrating "Pay It Forward", we have bracelets to remind us to pay it forward and then to forward that bracelet for reminders to others... join us Sunday to learn more.

Join our Lenten Services at noon on Wednesdays! Learn about "Grace Notes", those things in life that are not necessary but add value to our everyday lives!

We continue to collect food for the All Saints Food Pantry to help those in our community in need. - Drop off non-perishables or we can shop for you. (checks payable to Holy Trinity or All Saints Food Pantry)

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 meet the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7-9:30pm. 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. Diane could use a few parents to occasionally help, think about helping.

Yoga continues on Fridays at 6:30pm - all levels. \$15 per class (we usually meet in the school)

April Calendar:

April 13 - Palm Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 am

April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service at 6pm

April 18 - Good Friday

Lenten Services - Wednesdays at noon

April 20 - Easter Sunday services at 9 and 10:30

May Calendar:

May 5 - Maifest

For any questions please contact Carol Robinson at holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com or at 718-470-1756.

ICCC—Board of Standards & Appeals and BP Hear Sides

As was reported last month, the Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) has refiled with the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) to construct a slightly smaller 6 story, two tower project on the grounds of Creedmoor. This new 84 apartment project replaces the two 9 story towers previously rejected by the local Community Board and the BSA. The hearing was held February 25 and the BSA again rejected the plan as being too large and inconsistent with the size and scale of the surrounding community. ICCC must resubmit a smaller scale plan by late April and another hearing is scheduled May 20. Your civic will again work with our neighboring groups to review and comment on the revised plan before May 20.

New Borough President Melinda Katz had not heard of this project before, so she scheduled a hearing on March 6. Several civic members from BCCA and Bellerose Hillside Civic Association spoke as did numerous ICCC members. The BP cautioned the ICCC that their proposed "affordable housing" would require sale by lottery and their group could possibly not win any apartments despite significant personal investments.

BP Katz deferred an opinion on the project until the next submission in April, especially since the BSA had already rejected the plan.

BCCA Officers:

Lourdes Villanueva Hartrick, President
 Juan Zubizarreta, Vice President
 Ruth Mezistrano, Recording Secretary
 Richard Hellenbrecht, Corr. Sec'y /
 Treasurer

Directors:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lorraine Anzalone | James Delaney |
| Van DaSilva | Patricia Pearson |
| John Reh | Bill Turis |
| Michael Weisbord | George Wolf |
| | Gulen Zubizarreta |

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Assn.
 P.O. Box 260225

Bellerose Misc.

Doo Wop Concert

Those of you signed up for our Email Blast have received notice of a Doo Wop concert sponsored by St. Anne's Council Knights of Columbus. The concert will be May 3rd at 7:30pm at St. Hedwig's Hall. Tickets are \$45 per person including dinner and dessert. For more information or tickets call: John Harley at 718-343-9758 or Dennis Ruiz at 347-635-0141. Bring back old memories with great songs like "Till Then," P.S. I Love You," "It's My Party," etc.

TNT, Public Storage and other businesses

As reported last month, a self storage facility will be coming in the space between U-Haul and TNT Liquidator. The buildings will soon be demolished and replaced by a 41,000 s.f. CubeSmart storage facility. Community Board 13 is trying to schedule a meeting with the owners to determine their plans and give them some input, particularly about some serious traffic problems around here.

WTC Memorial Tour

As we announced last month the 105th Precinct and NYPD were arranging special tours of the World Trade Memorial in lower Manhattan. The most recent tour was March 15. One couple reported that they were escorted by bus directly to the memorial, greeted there by an officer with passes and escorted directly into the memorial, no waiting on line. At the conclusion the officer brought them right to the bus and back to the 105. The memorial is a terrific and very touching tour. The memorial fountain is a fitting monument to the 2,753 lives lost in the 9/11 attack. We are told that this tour is easily accessible for seniors. We understand another tour will be arranged next month. Please watch our Email Blast for information and be sure to contact Officer Epps at the 105 when it comes out.

Catalytic Converter Thefts

The 105th Precinct has been warning about thefts of catalytic converters. All modern cars, SUVs and trucks have catalytic converters in the exhaust system to convert carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide. The value of platinum used makes the converters attractive. Trucks in commercial lots have been targets before, but recently thieves have attacked SUVs on Bellerose streets. Another problem is theft of wheels and rims overnight. It can be really disturbing to go out in the morning and find your car on blocks with no wheels. Please be careful, park SUVs off street if possible and get proper wheel lug nut locks professionally installed on cars.

Dogs and Garbage

BCCA occasionally receives complaints from around the neighborhood. We recently heard from a few people about dogs being left out all day and frequent barking. In addition, complaints have come in about leaving garbage out without proper bagging or covers on containers.

If you have a dog, please be considerate and keep your dog in as much as possible. We all understand a dog is doing its duty to protect your property, but continuous barking can be annoying. The complainant wanted to try this outreach before contacting Animal Control with a formal complaint.

The complaint about garbage is concerned about loose papers flying around the neighborhood due to unsecured trash left out. Bags keep refuse contained, but left on the ground, loose dogs and cats can rip the bag. Please put garbage in a secure bag and in a trash can. Loose trash should only be put in a covered can.

Participatory Budgeting—Playground Reading Garden

Bellerose Playground Reading Garden

Bellerose Playground is the park behind PS133. On the east side there is a fenced off area that has been underused for decades and has attracted dog walkers and loiterers. A Bellerose resident has proposed fixing this area up for reading and quiet contemplation. We would hope to get the entire park upgraded, but with the limitation on the PB program, we can hope that this project gets approved. BCCA will continue to seek City and Borough funds to get the rest of the park improved. Presentations on the Reading Garden project and several other park and education projects took place at March's BCCA meeting. All these projects are deserving of our support.

Please watch for dates and times of the Participatory Budgeting voting in the last week of March and early April.

Please check our website at www.bccaqueens.org for the flyer on times and places and the full ballot. BCCA will send email blast reminders. Please register for our emails at info@bccaqueens.org if you are not receiving emails.