



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Volume 41 Number 9

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80 Years

2015

December 2015

Thursday, December 3, 2015, 8:00 pm

Community Meeting *Special Holiday Refreshments*

Next Meeting: January 7, 2016 at 8:00pm

Refreshments will be served

The Gavel - Juan Zubizarreta, Pres.

Hello all. I am still amazed with the warm weather we have been experiencing. I enjoy it and it saves on heating costs as well!

I would like to thank all who came out to celebrate our civic's 80th anniversary celebration luncheon. The luncheon was held at Nancy's Fireside Restaurant. Honoring us with their presence and helping us celebrate were various neighboring civic leaders as well as Council Member-Elect Barry Grodenchik. We also had a great turnout from the community. Many in attendance won free door prizes. Thank you all for making this celebration a success. I was asked if we will be holding similar functions soon and I believe we will be planning similar events in the near future.

As always, please let us know at the above email address of any community issues and/or events. We hope to see you at our December meeting. On behalf of the BCCA Board and its directors, we wish you and your family a happy thanksgiving!
Juan Zubizarreta

Block Captains Needed—We need block captains to help deliver newsletters, collect dues and keep us up to date on issues. Contact us for more information.

Student Deliverers needed to deliver approximately 100 Action News newsletters nine months each year. Community Service letter available and/or a stipend for each delivery month. Must be dependable and responsible.

BCCA wishes **Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas** and a healthy and **Happy New Year** to all.

Councilman Grodenchik

The primary season has finished and Election Day is a becoming a memory. Our district had one of the most visible elections in the city during this off-year election due to the exit of Mark Weprin from our Council seat. After a tough election battle with Joseph Concannon, Barry Grodenchik won. BCCA wishes Councilman Grodenchik a very successful term.

Barry came to BCCA's 80th Anniversary Luncheon (see photos inside) to congratulate us and to assure us of his support in dealing with city agencies and getting budget funds, particularly for the Bellerose Playground.

Barry said "my new favorite project is PS133" playground. One of his first stops was to PS133 but was unimpressed. He said it is "a sad looking park, very dated." He had already spoken to the School Construction Authority, which is responsible for the reconstruction, and learned that an additional \$800,000 is necessary on top of already available funds, but he promised "not to let the children of this district be hostage to budget." Barry is scheduling a meeting with the borough Parks commissioner soon and promised that the playground's "final result will be spectacular." BCCA will follow this very closely and keep you posted.

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Important Community Resources

Community Board 13—Community Boards are important resources throughout the city for all of our residents and neighborhoods. Our area is in Queens Community Board 13, which has its office at 219-41 Jamaica Avenue and can be reached at 718-464-9700. The 59 community boards, including 14 in Queens are each comprised of up to fifty citizens who advise city government on issues and budgets in their areas. Each has an office staffed by full time city employees who can take questions and complaints and contact agencies, officials and council members to resolve local problems.

CB offices are under the leadership of the board and direct supervision of its hired district manager. CB13 recently hired Mark McMillan as District Manager. Mark is an attorney and has many years of high level experience at the Queens Borough President's office. You are encouraged to contact Mark at the above number if you have questions or problems with city services.

105th Precinct Community Council—Our precinct has a very active council that meets monthly at the precinct on the fourth Wednesday at 8pm. The commanding officer, community affairs and crime prevention officers are there to take crime complaints and update trends and stats. Open to all.

Beware—Speed Cameras Nearby

Some local folks have learned by experience that the City has recently followed through on its Vision Zero with a speed limit reduction on local streets and installation of speed cameras. The speed limit throughout the city is now 25 miles per hour (MPH), a significant reduction. Cameras are now located and prominently marked on Hillside Avenue near Martin Van Buren and on Union Turnpike. Friends have reported that they have been shocked to receive tickets in the mail for speeds as low as 32 MPH.

Driving at 25 MPH seems like walking speed, especially while other drivers beep and change lanes to pass you. We suggest you “stand your ground,” avoid temptation and avoid a ticket! Maintain the 25 MPH rule. Nassau County speed limit has not changed, so you can speed up at the border.

Assemblyman Weprin Annual Holiday Toy Drive

Assemblyman David Weprin has asked us to let you know about his annual toy drive to benefit charitable organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens. David requested that new or gently used, unwrapped toys, books or games suitable for children ages 12 and under, be dropped off at his office located at 185-05 Union Turnpike. Donations must be received by December 18.

Although we are not in David's assembly district, this is a good cause and if you have no further use for such gently used products, please take a short 25 MPH drive and drop them off on Union Turnpike.

BCCA and Friends at 80th Anniversary Luncheon



From left: Mike and Angela Augugliaro, Jerry Wind, Mike O'Keeffe and Frank Toner, CM Grodenchik (center), BCCA Board Members (right)

BCCA 80th Anniversary Luncheon

In celebration of our eighty years of service to the Bellerose community, BCCA President Juan Zubizarreta arranged with Nancy's restaurant to host a luncheon open to all residents. We were pleased to have 39 people come and help us with the celebration. Everyone raved about the delicious buffet lunch, which consisted of blackened tilapia, roasted potatoes, penne ala vodka, sweet potatoes, and chicken. Dessert was also served buffet style with ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate and butter-scotch syrup and sprinkles. Yum.



Councilman elect Barry Grodenchik with President Juan Zubizarreta

President Zubizarreta welcomed every one and spoke about Bellerose, all the good things BCCA has going on now and recognized the civic leaders, block captains, newsletter editors and everyone who has worked over the years to make and keep Bellerose great.

As mentioned elsewhere, Councilman Elect Grodenchik came, had lunch and spoke about his plans for addressing the problems and issues of his large eastern Queens district. See page 1 for his plans for the Bellerose Playground.

Special thanks to several restaurants and businesses that donated door prizes. Bellerose Deli, Nancy's, Vaccaros Pizza and Palermos Pizza, Heart of the Party, Mary Ann Hellenbrecht, the Weisbords and Lourdes Hartrick also donated. We were pleased that five of our neighboring civic leaders also joined the celebration.

Everyone enjoyed the friendship and great food.

Bellerose Briefs

Bellerose Library Branch—Effective as of November 21 Bellerose branch and all Queens library branches are open once again on Saturdays. Our branch renewed Saturday operations with several ceremonies on November 21. BCCA was happy to be represented by Mike and Ruth Weisbord, who welcomed neighborhood visitors and introduced BCCA inviting them to come to BCCA meetings.

BCCA Officers:

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

Directors:

<u>Elect Dec. 2015</u>	<u>Elect Dec. 2016</u>
Lorraine Anzalone	James Delaney
John Reh	Gulen Zubizarreta
Bill Turis	Van DaSilva
George Wolf	Michael Weisbord
Ron DeMaria	

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BCCA Anniversary Luncheon at Nancy's—And a Great Time was had by all!!