



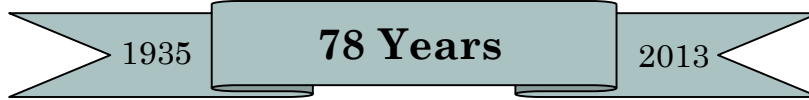
Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Volume 39 Number 9



December 2013

Thursday, December 5, 2013, 8:00 pm

Election of Officers

**We will have a large Hero Sandwich, Bring a dessert to share!
Special Raffle to Benefit the Lawyer's Fund, plus 50-50 drawing
Holy Trinity Church Basement, Corner 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd.
Next Meeting: January 9, 2014 at 8:00pm
Visit Our Website: www.bccaqueens.org**

The Gavel

Hello Bellerose,
You will be receiving the newsletter right after Thanksgiving, so we hope that everyone has had a great Thanksgiving and Hanukkah and we wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.
The November meeting was very well attended. There were a number of reports on seasonal activities, such as St. Gregory's Craft Fair (concluded last weekend) and St. Gregory's Counseling Center Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast to be held December 1 at Holy Trinity. Also see the following article on the BCCA Toy Drive. We hope you can help out with a new unwrapped toy for children who really need it.
We heard a report on community groups fighting the ICCC towers proposal. A motion was made and accepted to participate equally with four other civics by contributing \$1,000 to hire an attorney to investigate and fight to proposal. The attorney is experienced at land use issues and is working partially pro bono and at half his rate for hours charged. He has the expertise to argue technical issues civic leaders cannot argue.
We also heard a report on a proposed co-location of a P-Tech high school at Martin Van Buren. Civics initially opposed a proposal for a normal co-location, but many have changed to support this new concept school. The P-Tech is supported by SAP, a major international data firm and participating stu-

dents may receive a Associates Degree at no cost. We are very pleased that the nominating committee has submitted a slate with a new Vice President and a new director. Great job nominating committee!
For the second consecutive month our 50-50 netted a member over \$40. You may end up with extra \$\$.
Toy Drive in Bellerose
We are having a Toy Drive this year to benefit children living in shelters.
We have donated toys in the past to the shelter in Far Rockaway. The toys will be collected at 87-05 253 Street, since PS 133 already has a toy drive of their own. A box will be in the driveway. The toys should be unwrapped and should not exceed \$15. The kids ages range from newborn to 15 years old.
You can also bring toys to our December 5th meeting. If you want someone to pick up the toy at your home please call 646-752-1323 and it will be picked up. We will be collecting from November 11 to December 16th.

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Holy Trinity News

Holy Trinity was once again host to the Annual Pancake Breakfast on December 1st to raise funds, support and awareness of the Counseling Center.

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!

Young at Heart meets the 2nd and 4th 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

December Calendar:

December 21 - Christmas Caroling for Shut-Ins - all welcome. Speak with Pastor or Carol for details

December 22 - Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:30 am service

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 8 and 10 pm

December 29 - Lessons and Carols - One service at 10 am.

Future Events:

January 25 - Annual Pasta Dinner - this year additionally join us for our first Shuffleboard tournament - no experience or partners needed

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

Scams Going Around Bellerose

The 105th Precinct recently sent out a notice warning residents about a telephone scam in which someone calls claiming they are a family member who needs money to bail them out of jail or to get out of some kind of scrape. Just as that notice come out we got a call from a neighbor whose "grandson" called her saying he left a party, got in an accident, failed a Breathalyzer and was arrested, needing \$1,000 wired immediately to bail him out. Amazing scam!

A second scam happened here in Bellerose, too. Someone unexpectedly rings your doorbell with wine and flowers, supposedly as a gift. But the deliverer asked to see a credit card as proof of identity or they were not allowed to leave the wine. During the holidays it is possible to receive a gift you don't expect from a friend or loved one, but don't fall for showing anyone your credit card under such ridiculous pretense. These thieves are usually targeting senior citizens. Please be careful and don't fall for accepting anything you haven't ordered.

We have gotten numerous messages on a third item. A letter from Homeserve or some such organization comes saying that you are not covered for water line damage. Such repairs are the homeowner's responsibility out to the street main connections. The letter is soliciting homeowners for a repair program similar to the American Water Resources (AWR) offered through NYC DEP. Most of the people we've heard from actually have the AWR coverage. We do not know what exactly Homeserve is offering, whether it offers the same level of coverage or at what price. But we urge you to make sure you are not covered by AWR and if you want to get covered carefully evaluate both services in light of AWR. For further info go to www.nyc.gov/dep and search for American Water Resources. Please be careful, there are a lot of people out there who would love to part you with your money.

BCCA Officers:

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

Directors:

Lorraine Anzalone	James Delaney
Van DaSilva	Patricia Pearson
Chris Eichler	Bill Turis
John Reh	George Wolf
Michael Weisbord	

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Assn.
 P.O. Box 260225
 Bellerose, NY 11426

Nomination Committee Report

The Nominating Committee reported the following slate for elections at the December meeting. For the one year term position of:

President: Lourdes Hartrick, Vice President: Juan Zubizarreta, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer: Richard Hellenbrecht, Recording Secretary: Ruth Mezistrano.

For the two year term of Director: George Wolf, Lorraine Anzalone, John Reh, Bill Turis

For one year term of Director: Gulen Zubizarreta

Traffic Problem on Bellerose Avenues

The avenues between the Cross Island Parkway and Little Neck Parkway have always been problematic since they offer a traffic light-free by-pass to the ever increasing number of traffic lights that keep popping up on Hillside Avenue. Our avenues, 85th Avenue, 86th Avenue and particularly 87th Avenue and 87th Road, have become hazardous speedways for primarily Nassau County drivers heading home, hoping to avoid numerous traffic lights.

Robert Nicosia asked to speak at our November meeting to urge that something be done to increase the safety of our residents on these east/west avenues and roads in our area. Robert mentioned numerous accidents at intersections and many side-swiping accidents removing mirrors on parked cars. Robert also said it is almost impossible for residents to back out of driveways for fear of being hit by cars going up to 50 miles per hour on roads barely one lane wide. We fully agree that this is and has been a problem for decades.

BCCA has written dozens of letters over the years requesting stop signs or traffic lights, or even speed humps on these thoroughfares. Each Department of Transportation (DOT) study has determined we did not meet the federal warrants they require to implement special traffic controls. The warrants include a minimum of five reportable accidents at an intersection over a twelve month period. Once a location is denied, DOT will not conduct another study there for at least eighteen months.

Last year the City DOT instituted a Slow Zone initiative. BCCA unsuccessfully applied for a slow zone between Commonwealth Blvd and Little Neck Parkway. We renewed that application again this year, but have little hope they are paying attention to requests this far east. Slow Zones would establish special 20 mph speed restrictions, increase surveillance and set up some special roadway treatments intended to reduce speed and increase safety. So far we have not been successful in getting a Slow Zone in our area, but we will keep trying.

Meanwhile, in response to Mr. Nicosia's request BCCA wrote a letter to the Department of Transportation to implement Stop signs on our avenues and roads at 249th Street (except 86th Ave traffic light) and also near 252nd Street to address speeders trying to catch the changing light at Little Neck Parkway. We also sent a letter to the 105th Precinct requesting additional traffic monitoring in our area to try to reduce speeding.

Dues and Donations

We would like to express our thanks to Bellerose for responding quickly to 2014 Membership Drive. Dues envelopes were included in the November newsletter and the response has been encouraging. Some blocks were not delivered so we have ordered additional envelopes, so you may find an envelope in this newsletter. We neglected to note on the envelope that the dues this year is unchanged at \$7 per household. By the way we encourage you to use an address sticker or stamp on the envelope flap, but please be aware that we keep the completed flap as a record of your dues, so please do either fill it out or use a stamp/label sticker.

We are very pleased to report that many members have been very generous to include as much as \$50 contribution to the Lawyer's Fund to replenish BCCA's treasury for our \$1,000 participation in fighting to maintain the low-rise nature of Bellerose and opposing the proposed nine-story towers. The additional \$3, \$13 and more is adding up.

As of this writing Lawyer Fund donations amount to \$209. Thank you to all who have helped out.

Speaking of the ICCC towers, a hearing was scheduled in mid-November but ICCC did not meet a required submittal date in advance of the hearing and subsequently requested an adjournment until January, which was granted. The current hearing date is January 14. Our attorney will be at the hearing and we will discuss at our January meeting if we can make arrangements to get a van or bus to bring our residents to the hearing.

There will be a special drawing at the December meeting for a beautiful, extra warm fleece jacket. The jacket was donated to help raise funds for the Lawyers' Fund. We did not have additional tickets for the raffle, so we will do it this month. Please come and join this unique drawing. If you have something special to donate we can raffle off several items to benefit the fund.

Beautification Day in Bellerose!

The Daffodil Project was founded in 2001 as a living memorial to September 11. With nearly five million free bulbs planted citywide by more than 40,000 school kids, parks and gardening groups, civic organizations, corporate volunteers and other New Yorkers, it is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the city's history. BCCA announced it was coordinating a planting day for daffodil bulbs here in Bellerose on November 9th. We thank the family and friends that showed up and we hope more will think this event important next year.

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