



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

# action news

Volume 32 Number 6

June 2006

## Next Meeting

### Block Captain Recognition & Community Discussion

**June 1, 2006**

**8:00 pm**

**Holy Trinity Church**

**Corner Commonwealth  
Blvd and 87th Ave**

**Free Refreshments**

We meet the first Thursday of each month, except February, July and August at the Holy Trinity Church, corner Commonwealth Blvd. and 87th Avenue at 8:00 PM

## Mark Your Calendar

The next meeting after June will be September 7, 2006

## The Gavel

As is our custom, June is our Block Captain Recognition meeting. We would like to offer our thanks to all the block captains who help us by dropping off the monthly newsletters on their block and serving as our eyes and ears to pass along complaints and other issues in their area. If we didn't have block captains we would have to pay for delivery or mailing and your dues would have to increase.

So this month we offer a special thanks to our block captains with a cake and other refreshments. We invite all block captains and members to share the evening.

## Meetings

May's meeting focused on questions that have come up over and over again throughout the past several years concerning the construction of oversized houses and the increase of illegal apartments in the area.

Richard Hellenbrecht, past BCCA President and current Chair of Community Board 13Q spoke about zoning in our area and handed out zoning maps and definitions. Hellenbrecht stated that zoning puts controls on building types, sizes and shapes. The Buildings Department is responsible for reviewing plans and monitoring actual construction to ensure conformance with the established zone.

Our area is zoned R2, limited

to single family detached residences with at least 40 foot lot frontages. Some loopholes have evolved over the years allowing larger homes. This accounts for some of the massive structures we see. A rezoning study is underway that will establish a more restrictive zone called R2A, which will allow improvements and expansions, but at a more consistent size.

Ronald Kim represented the Buildings Department and explained how they examine plans, inspect construction and respond to complaints. Queens has both the largest number of construction permits in the city and the most complaints, particularly on illegal apartments.

## Community Briefs

**Holy Trinity Church—** Holy Trinity will host a **Chinese Dinner and Auction** on June 10 at the Church, 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd. from 5pm to 8pm. Dinner is \$10 per person or \$25 per family in advance. Entry for the auction only is \$3. Contact Carol Robinson at 718-470-1756 for info. Holy Trinity is also running its **Fiesta Bible School** "where kids are fired up about Jesus." The bible school is from July 10 to July 28, 9am to 3pm.

**St. Gregory The Great Church—** St. Gregory's says "welcome to summer" with its annual **Summer Festival** with rides, games of chance, ethnic food and live music and fun for all. The Festival starts June 15 to June 25 from 6pm. See story page 2. St. Gregory's is also sponsoring a **Vacation Bible School** for children from July 17 to July 28. Contact Jennifer at the rectory for details, call 718-347-7754. The Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association,

St. Gregory's and other local civic associations are sponsoring a **VIN Etching** day at St. Gregory's on Saturday June 3 from 10am to 2pm at 87th Avenue and the Cross Island Parkway service road. Officers and explorer scouts from the 105th Precinct etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) discretely on each window as a theft deterrent, which qualifies for a discount from most auto insurance companies. Bicycles can also be registered with the precinct at this event. See story page 3.

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## **BCCA/St. Gregs VIN Etch**

### **VIN Etching June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

BCCA is again sponsoring a free auto theft program provided through the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Crime Prevention program. Co-sponsors include St. Gregory's Church, Queens Colony Civic Association, North Bellerose Civic Association, and Creedmoor Civic Association.

Your vehicle identification number is etched into your car's windows using a stencil and glass etching solution. This makes your car less attractive to thieves who have to replace the glass before selling a stolen vehicle. Good also for leased vehicles.

You can also obtain free official Anti-Theft decals and a personalized insurance certificate for your insurance company. Many insurance companies offer a premium discount when your windows have been etched.

Bicycle registration will also be available. A police serial number is etched onto your bicycle and registered with the 105 Precinct. This deters theft of bikes and enables officers to identify a stolen bicycle.

This program will take place adjacent to Gregorian Hall, on 87th Drive at the Cross Island Pkwy northbound service road, on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M., weather permitting.

## **Computers In Civics**

Last month we introduced you to several interesting websites to view your home, your neighborhood or your homeland overseas through satellite photos. We also looked at family safety with a free service to look up sexual predators in or near the neighborhood. We did a brief review of an earlier article on the City's great buildings information system. If you missed anything email me at [rch.brecht@verizon.net](mailto:rch.brecht@verizon.net).

Today, I'd like to introduce two additional sites: [www.forgotten-n-y.com](http://www.forgotten-n-y.com) and [www.queenspix.com](http://www.queenspix.com). Forgotten has great historical and just plain interesting shots from throughout the City, with a recently introduced Bellerose section and Queenspix speaks for itself. Check 'em out.

## **Civic Medals**

A long-standing activity of the BCCA has been to award civic medals and savings bonds to several students in the graduating classes of P.S. 133 and St. Gregory the Great grammar schools. The winners are selected by the graduating class teachers and are presented with the medals and bond forms at graduation.

As a citizenship award, we encourage the teachers to select the students on their classroom activities rather than academics. Children that help the teachers, serve as stair monitors or help with talent shows and other special events are not usually recognized. We are pleased to provide this recognition and hope the winners stay interested and active in their groups and communities.

We'll list the winners in our September newsletter. Best wishes for future success to our winners and all the graduates of the Class of 2006.

## **Flag Day**

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act. It was to be made of thirteen alternating red and white stripes. The union would have thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have been originated in 1885 by a school teacher in Wisconsin.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an

Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

During the 1970s, our civic association celebrated Flag Day with a children's costume parade throughout the neighborhood. This year we will again be awarding two American flag kits as door prizes at our June 1st meeting.

If you don't fly your flag on a regular basis, remember to display it on our upcoming holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Fourth of July.





## Dues

As you know the BCCA and all civics survive only on dues from members and with thanks to our advertisers. We provide vital advocacy services for our neighborhoods, which would be overlooked without civics. There are many expenses, including publishing and circulating our newsletter, copies and mailings and support for other organizations such as the Bellerose Business District and Queens Civic Congress.

The BCCA has maintained our dues at only \$5. For several months we solicited dues through the newsletter, but we are far behind our usual subscriptions. We will, therefore be mailing dues requests in the next few weeks to those who have not paid already. The 2007 membership drive will start in October/November this year still at \$5.

## Festival—Mark Your Calendar

The 27th Annual Gregorian Summer Festival runs from June 15 through June 25, 2006, kicking off with the traditional parade through Bellerose on Thursday, June 15 beginning at the school. There will be nightly live music and different menus of ethnic foods: Irish, Polish, Italian and German. Join the fun with music and dancing.

As always there will be amusement park rides, games of chance and skill and a great party atmosphere. This is a critical fund raiser for the school and parish. The excitement will take place at St. Gregory's School yard and ball field located at 87th Avenue and the Cross Island Parkway service road. Come and have fun. Parking is always a challenge. We do request you respect driveways of nearby homes and hold all litter till you get home.

## Cease and Desist

Homeowners in all of Queens and portions of Nassau County can register with the NYS Department of State to avoid unwanted solicitation by real estate brokers and salespersons.

Under the Cease and Desist Program, it is a violation of licensing laws for a licensed real estate professional to solicit a property listing from any owner whose name and address appear on the list. Solicitation includes the use of telephone, mail and personal contact, including door knob hangers and other flyers at your door. The next semi-annual update for this list is in July. If you wish to register, clip and complete the form below or obtain a pre-addressed postcard request form by calling 212-417-5752 or get a form from Senator Frank Padavan. You can also register on-line and review the list at: [www.dos.state.ny.us/lens/cdrealest.html](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lens/cdrealest.html)



Secretary of State  
State of New York

(I) (we), the undersigned owner(s) of property located at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, New York County of \_\_\_\_\_, are not desirous of selling such property and hereby revoke my (our) implied invitation to solicit for the sale or purchase of such property in any manner whatsoever and do not wish to receive any communication of whatever nature relating to such sale or purchase from any real estate broker or salesperson.

(I) (we) hereby request you, by virtue of the power vested in you as Secretary of State pursuant to Article 12A of the Real Property Law, to issue a Cease and Desist Order to all licensed brokers and salespersons from solicitation of the undersigned, until such time as (I) (we) notify you to the contrary in writing.

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Print name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Completion of this form and the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order do not prevent an owner from selling or listing his or her home for sale with a real estate broker.

DOS-996 (Rev. 12/00)



The Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the following Bellerose business for becoming 2005 Advertising Members or renewing their Advertising membership for 2005. Together, we make our community stronger. Be sure to visit these businesses to show your appreciation for their involvement in our community!

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Pick up and drop off service is available.

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