



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

# action news

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October 2014

## Thursday, October 2, 2014, 8:00 pm Health Services Provider has been invited to discuss new health plan concepts

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

*Next Meeting: November 6, 2014 at 8:00pm*

*Visit Our Website: [www.bccaqueens.org](http://www.bccaqueens.org)*

### The Gavel

Dear Bellerose Neighbors,  
The September meeting was a joint meeting with Queens Colony and our attendance was nearly a record breaker. There were actually some standees. The featured speaker was Councilman Mark Weprin and his staff talking about the 2016 Participatory Budgeting (PB) Program, but Mark had a really great surprise. Despite the fact that this years PB proposal for a reading garden in Bellerose Playground did not get selected, Mark has designated \$500,000 from his district's capital budget to upgrade the park. Mark was certain that this amount can make a significant difference, but it will take at least two years for design and construction. BCCA can take credit for both the reading garden and the formation by BCCA of Friends of Bellerose Playground for bringing the condition of the playground to the Councilman's attention. Over the summer, Senator Tony Avella also announced a \$250,000 fund for the reading garden. Mark took many questions from the group. One complaint dealt with speeding and danger on our narrow avenues and roads, he and

BCCA will again work on that in light of the mayor's Vision Zero initiative. Mark discussed the ICCC and an airplane noise rally (see inside for both), and pre-K education. He will have his office look into the construction on Jericho Turnpike near Little Neck Parkway as well as the continued expansion of food carts in our area, recently at Staples. We are very pleased to note that BCCA President Lourdes Hartrick has been awarded a Queens Fellowship. This program is designed to make Queens a better place through the talents and work of local leaders. Lourdes will have a lot of opportunities to network with other civic and educational leaders and work on broad-based borough issues over the next year. Congratulations, Lourdes. The BCCA 50/50 program is growing. The winner this month shared \$136, the largest pot yet, so bring your dollars.

Richard Hellenbrecht, Editor

#### **Congratulations—Centenarians!**

BCCA would like to congratulate two Bellerose residents who have or will shortly celebrated their 100th birthday. Ann Hennies was 100 on June 10 and Frieda Plostins will be 100 on October 27.

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## Holy Trinity News

Join Us Sundays 9 and 10:30 am (Children will be dismissed to Sunday school from the 9am service). Not too late for children to join Sunday school.

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](mailto:holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com). Diane could use a few parents to occasionally help, think about helping.

October 4 the Youth Club heads to Great Adventure. Contact us for details.

Oktoberfest - Join us on the 18th for good German wursts, salads, beer and music. Free admission. Also our famous can auction, always great prizes.

Yoga continues on Fridays at 6:30pm - all levels. \$15 per class

### **October Calendar:**

October 4 - Youth Club trip to Great Adventure

October 18 - OktoberFest

October 25 - Beer Tasting

## ICCC Continued Hearing

We have been updating you over the years about the efforts of the Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) organization's efforts to develop a piece of property they purchased from New York State on the Creedmoor Campus. They obtained the property in 2007 after five years of lobbying local elected representatives and civic leaders promising to build a community center. Years later we learned their plans were actually to build apartments buildings, instead, on land that is zoned commercial only, precluding residential. Last year ICCC presented a plan for two nine story towers with 124 apartments. After this was rejected by the Bellerose community and the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) ICCC returned early this year with a plan for two six story buildings for ninety-some apartments and this too was not acceptable to local civics and the BSA. In February BSA's Chair asked ICCC to return by May with a plan that was consistent with the adjacent homes in North Bellerose—one and two story detached homes.

Many months and several deferrals went by, when finally last week ICCC returned with a single boxy four story building with 57 apartments. The BSA hearing date only gave community groups a few days to go into great detail reviewing ICCC's technical proposal with over one hundred pages of narrative, drawings and charts. Since a four story building does not meet the Chair's directive, eight civics have signed off on a six page letter to the BSA objecting to the new proposal on a point by point basis according to findings the BSA must consider.

The latest BSA hearing was held this week (Tuesday 9/23) with Senator Tony Avella along with BCCA's Rich Hellenbrecht and several other Bellerose civic leaders presenting testimony. A busload of ICCC members were present in support and a few testified in favor.

After hearing over an hour of testimony from both sides the Chair once again asked the ICCC to return with an alternative plan to see if town houses, more compatible with the North Bellerose ranches, capes and colonials, would be financially feasible and provide a comparable number of units. The new submission is in late October with a hearing in late November. It is possible the BSA could approve the four story plan if ICCC can prove town houses will not satisfy their programmatic needs. BCCA will continue to be actively involved in review and response to future proposals.

## Airport Noise Rally

You may have noticed that airplane noise seemed to increase in the past year or so as planes seem to arrive more frequently at JFK Airport. Our neighbors to the north in communities like Whitestone and Bayside have experienced dramatic increases in both the frequency of planes approaching and taking off at LaGuardia Airport as the FAA and

Port Authority implement new approaches and emerging technologies allowing more planes, more often.

Our neighbors to the south, such as Rosedale and Laurelton have for years been subjected to unbearable noise from approach and departures from JFK.

As these new technologies and practices, generally referred to as NextGen and Airspace Redesign, get implemented, Bellerose could experience dramatic noise increases as planes approach JFK on a lower path and more frequently on our flight path.

In response to current noise and in anticipation of additional flight noise, an anti-noise group called Queens Quiet Skies coordinated a rally on September 14 in nearby Cunningham Park. Two dozen local, state and federal officials spoke passionately in opposition to noise, pollution and health effects of aircraft operations. BCCA was represented on the dais and we were pleased to see BCCA members in the crowd.



*BCCA's Richard Hellenbrecht addresses Rally Participants*

## Solar Energy Advancing in Bellerose

Look up while driving around Bellerose and you will probably start to see solar cell arrays on roofs in our town. These systems may seem quite exotic, but recent changes in financing home solar energy systems are beginning to make solar energy available and affordable to the average homeowner. Different solar companies have partnered with Home Depot and Lowes and several independently providers are promoting solar panels. NRG, SolarCity, Sungevity and others are promoting in New York. Depending on your roof direction and shading from trees or other obstacles, energy generated from your system could offset your entire Con Ed bill. You do not have to lay out a bunch of cash for the system, current lease plans, may get you a full system with zero cash down. Some government tax rebates may help keep costs down and other abatements may still be available to you. Your monthly lease payment may be guaranteed for the life of the lease.

### **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

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There are some restrictions to be aware of. Your roof must pass their inspection—generally be within ten years old and very few layers, most systems do not store energy on site—your energy goes to the grid and if the grid goes down the panels shut down. Access to your electrical panel and some available space is required.

The company will apply for all necessary NYC permits and arrange inspections before switch-on. The whole process can take from three months to six months. Installation takes only two to four days depending on number of panels.

The initial inspection and preliminary design may actually be done by satellite.

It is highly recommended that your provider has presence in NY and can visit you to explain the details, handle paperwork and answer your questions in person. Feel comfortable with your provider. Check Google, TV and newsletter ads, ask friends.