



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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September 2014

Thursday, September 4, 2014, 8:00 pm
Joint Meeting with Queens Colony Civic Association

Councilman Mark Weprin

Park Funding and Other District Issues

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

Next Meeting: October 2, 2014 at 8:00pm

Visit Our Website: www.bccaqueens.org

President's Gavel

Dear Bellerose Neighbors,
I hope you have all enjoyed your summer, with scrumptious BBQs and spending time with family and friends as well as your vacations. These past 2 months we have had 2 press conferences with Senator Avella. The first press conference was to bring awareness to the neglect of the Cross Island tunnel which residents use to walk across to the west side of Bellerose. The tunnel is full of graffiti and it's dirty, lights don't work and it's leaking. He called upon DOT to do their job and clean the tunnel. The 2nd press conference was to present a 250,000 check to Ms. Sheridan the principal of P.S. 133 for a new reading garden in the Bellerose playground. We want to thank Roseann Reinhardt a Bellerose resident and a paraprofessional at P.S. 133 who joined the Participatory Budget committee. She suggested the reading garden for the Bellerose Playground and it did not receive enough votes to win. Through her persistence of writing letters to the elected officials she was able to get the attention of Senator Avella. Senator Avella was able to get funds for us through the State and has provided \$250,000 to have the reading garden at the Bellerose Playground. We have also started the Friends of Bellerose Playground to get more atten-

tion and get our park completely renovated. That will take some time, in the meantime Bellerose residents came out to spruce up the playground by painting the benches and the jungle gym and fences. Senator Avella was present to help as well as other neighboring Civic presidents and Bellerose residents. If you want to see the pictures please visit our website www.bccaqueens.org and when you are there sign up for updates and important information about the community. We are meeting September 4th, and for our first meeting back we will have Councilman Mark Weprin will be our speaker. Please joins us and get involved in making Bellerose better. We will have a daffodil bulb planting day in October look out for the date in the next newsletter. These bulbs are donated to us in memory of 9/11. See you soon!
Lourdes Hartrick, Pres.

Congratulations—Civic Awards to Graduates

Each year BCCA recognizes graduates from our local schools with a medal, certificate and check for citizenship in school. Jeremiah Morales and Siya Sharma from PS133 and Eric Rossi and Shanavas Anil of St. Gregory's. A big welcome to Lynn Alaimo, the new principal at St. Gregory the Great School.

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Holy Trinity News

As summer ends many things are beginning again at Holy Trinity!

Rally Day on Sunday, September 14th is our annual celebration of a colorful autumn.

We celebrate each year with a fun worship service at 10 am followed by a BBQ. Additionally this year we are celebrating our community and ask you to join us in our celebration.

We would love for you to join our worship service at 10 am. If you can't make that join us after 11:30 for the BBQ and have a hamburger or hot dog on us. Feel free to bring your own dish to share, perhaps your favorite BBQ side or favorite ethnic dish.

We are thankful to be part of the Bellerose community with you. Please join us in that celebration.

Sunday September 21 we go back to 2 services - 9 and 10:30 am (Children will be dismissed to Sunday school from the 9am service).

Have something to sell? Join our **huge yard sale** on Saturday September 20th. Rent a space or donate items for Holy Trinity to sell. See website for details: www.holytrinitybellerose.org

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

September Calendar:

September 14 - Rally Day

September 20 - Yard Sale

September 21 - First day of Sunday School and 2 services

September 27 - Outreach food preparation for the underfed

Important Info for SSI Recipients

Dear Colleague,

I wish to inform you of an important change that will take place October 1, 2014 that may affect some of the people whom you serve who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in New York State.

SSI is a program based on need administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSI pays a monthly cash benefit to people age 65 and older or people who are blind or disabled, regardless of age, who meet certain basic program requirements. The SSI payment may be comprised of a federal cash benefit and a state supplement. In New York State, the state supplement is often combined with the federal payment and issued as a single payment.

Beginning October 1, 2014, New York State will issue its own State Supplement Payment (SSP) while SSA will pay the federal cash benefit that is due. This means that people who receive SSI in New York and who currently receive a combined federal and state supplement will receive two, separate payments – one from SSA and another from New York State. Their *total* payment amount will not change. If the individual only receives a SSP, that will be paid by the State.

While the payments will be separated beginning October 1, 2014, the SSI rules remain unchanged. If you or those you serve have questions about the New York State Supplement Payment, you must call the New York State SSP Customer Support Center by phone at 1 (855) 488-0541.

Nilsa Henriquez, Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration, ADO Area II

Bellerose Playground

Things are really moving on the Bellerose Playground after BCCA member Roseann Reinhardt and friends proposed to create a reading garden under Councilman Mark Weprin’s Participatory Budgeting with BCCA support. Unfortunately we lost, but BCCA formed Friends of Bellerose Playground to work on fixing up the whole playground and held its first meeting on June 16 to get things rolling. And they did—on August 5 Senator Avella called a press conference at Bellerose Playground and announced a \$250,000 grant to get the reading garden going. Principal Marianne Sheridan accepted the check and several members of BCCA and Friends of Bellerose Playground and Queens Colony Civic Association participated. In addition, Councilman Weprin has pledged his support and has requested funding.



On August 17, several BCCA members joined with Senator Avella to start a fixup of the play area. Parks Department district manager Joe Block brought paint, brushes and other materials (and brownies). A dozen BCCA and FOBP members attacked the jungle gym with brilliant red paint and green posts, green benches and freshened up of flagpole and fences. Workers continued for hours on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Some of the BCCA and PS133 workers gather around Senator Avella.

Bellerose Library Reopened

July 30 was the grand opening of the Queens Library Bellerose Branch. Our library opened in April 1978 as a “cookie cutter” type library popular at the time. Bellerose Branch has long been overused and short on investment. Technology has exploded over the decades and library science has moved along, leaving Bellerose Branch in the ’70s. The renovated branch now has modern technology, automated 24 hour check-in, new teen area with computers, self-service check-out, fresh paint, new lighting and bright décor throughout.



Official ribbon cutting Seth Urbinder {Sen. Avella’s Chief of Staff} is second from left; Bellerose Librarian Michelle Chan is in middle, and to her right, Queens Library CEO Thomas Galante, Council Member Mark Weprin, a Queens Library trustee, and Jim Delaney and Juan Zubizarreta of BCCA

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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BCCA past-president James Delaney made a presentation on BCCA fight for the library and renovation. Jim was interviewed by NY1.

For additional photos and videos of these and other Bellerose events, please go to BCCA website www.bellerosequeens.org.