



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 39 Number 3

1935

78 Years

2013

April 2013

Thursday, April 4, 2013, 8:00 pm

Invited to Speak

John McCoy, 105th Pct. Crime Prevention Officer

Bring your iPads and iPhones, etc. for free registration!

Refreshments will be served

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

Next Meeting: April 4, 2013 at 8:00pm

New: Raffles and 50/50 at BCCA Meetings

The Gavel

Hope everyone is well and looking forward to spring time. I love spring time, it's when everything comes alive again. It's also when we get to see our neighbors again. We all come out of hibernation and get to interact with our neighbors.

I want to give some information on a couple of websites that I have used and find useful for me and my family. Goupon.com and Livingsocial.com these 2 websites offer many different discounts. I have been able to get discounts for restaurants, paintball and other services. These websites offer many different discounts for travel, restaurants, services, museums and many other items. I thought I would pass it along and hopefully you can enjoy some of there discounts.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Lourdes V. Hartrick, President

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Tax Season

**Don't forget, taxes are due
April 15!**

**Check out our accountants
and tax prep advertisers
on page 4.**

**Don't procrastinate!
Keep it in Bellerose**

Borough President Candidates Forum

Borough President is one of the most critical elective positions for Queens residents. Please see page 3 to see where to all six candidates.

Holy Trinity News

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am.

Sunday School Classes continue. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. It is not too late to Join us!

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 - chap-eroned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? call the church or send an e-mail holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com.

The Big Event is almost here - Don't miss it - We only do this interactive show every 5 or 6 years and seating is limited:

April 20th - Murder at the Movie Premier - Holy Trinity will sponsor a special interactive dinner theater show fundraiser at the Plattduetsche Park Restaurant. \$75 per person include a great inter-active show, full course dinner and included beer, wine and soda. Reserve your tickets now - Reserve a table.

Future Events: Maifest—May 4 **Wine Tasting**—TBA.

Contact Carol Robinson holytrinityinfo@verizon.net or 718-470-1756.

Borough President's Candidate Forum

The Queens Civic Congress, of which BCCA is a member, is hosting a candidates' forum for all six democratic candidates for the position of Borough President. The meeting will be on April 10 at 7pm in central Queens, about 20 minutes away at the beautiful:

Maple Grove Center
127-15 Kew Gardens Road
Kew Gardens

Borough President Helen Marshall is term-limited and six politicians have decided to run for this position this November. The borough president has powers and capital funds that can be critical for Queens communities, particularly low density areas like ours. We need a strong, community oriented borough president to fight to maintain city services, improve our quality of life, save our parks, enhance our schools and fight the many influences that are challenging the quality of our water, air, increasing noise and congestion in our area.

This is a great opportunity to meet and question our candidates for this important position. Please grab a couple of friends and come out April 10 at 7pm. Free off street parking.

Little Neck Parkway/Jericho Turnpike Turn Signal

Drivers beware - when driving south on Little Neck Parkway as you come to the hill at Jericho and the light, the right lane is **only for a right turns**. This lane was marked fairly recently with a right turn only sign and a arrow on the pavement. But it has been observed that drivers are unaware or aren't observing this law. They turn left from the right lane, which is very dangerous and has caused accidents. Please respect this right turn only lane. We have asked DOT to improve the lane marking and several improvements in the inter-section are planned along with the reconstruction of Jericho Turnpike.

Million Dollar Decision!

All 51 City Council members throughout New York City are allocated a certain amount of money to be used in their district at their discretion for capital projects. Citizens do not usually have any direct input to the expenditures, but normally must file requests with the member's office and hope to get the funding. Many cities in U.S. and abroad have begun a process called Participatory Budgeting, which designates a large fund for community members to directly identify projects. Now our councilman, Mark Weprin, has been one of the first in New York City to signed onto Participatory Budgeting (PB) pilot program, with an allocation of one million dollars from his discretionary capital funds budget. PB is a lengthy process with a lot of public input and involvement. Over the past several months community members have held many meetings throughout the council district, brainstormed over one hundred potential projects and narrowed the list down into thirteen projects under the broad topics: Schools & Libraries, Transportation & Public Safety, Parks and Community Facilities.

The final step is happening the first week of April when all Council District 23 residents (16 years and up) are invited to come to convenient locations to vote for up to five of the projects. The projects receiving the most votes, totaling up to \$1 million, will be put in the City's 2014 budget that begins July 1, 2013.

Bellerose area voting location and dates/times—(other times are available—call 718-468-0137 for info):

Bellerose Library
250-06 Hillside Ave.
April 2—2:30pm to 6:30pm
April 4—2:30pm to 6:30pm

Projects in our area—Queens H.S. of Teaching classroom computers; PS/IS 266Q laptop/desktop computers and printers; Martin Van Buren classroom “smart boards”; portable security cameras; Cunningham Park reconstruction of picnic area and construct musical stage; Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps emergency generating equipment; Queens Farm Museum new roof, wall and window repairs.

BCCA Meetings

The March meeting was exceptionally well attended. We had a large and attentive audience for the presentation on the rezoning that is moving forward in the Bellerose area to reduce the amount of future overdevelopment and out of character construction.

We held our first 50/50 style raffle in March and one lucky member walked out with an extra \$38 in his wallet and BCCA's checking account is a little fatter. It was announced that beginning at the April meeting we will also have door prize raffles for various products.

We were impressed with the great questions that were asked at the zoning presentation and it was obvious that there is overwhelming support in the Bellerose community for the revised zoning. Several BCCA members attended the Community Board 13Q public hearing a few days later and expressed our support. We think that the new zoning will get approvals at Community Board, Borough President, City Planning and City Council and become effective some time in June. UPDATE—On March 18, Community Board 13 unanimously approved the rezoning plan. Next stop—Borough Hall on April 4 at 10:30am.

BCCA Officers:

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

Directors:

Lorraine Anzalone	Neal Beekman
Van DaSilva	James Delaney
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**Service is Sunday 11:00am (July-August
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