



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Volume 40 Number 1

1935

79 Years

2014

January 2014

**** SPECIAL DATE Thursday, January 9, 2014, 8:00 pm**

Induction of Officers Swearing in Officer To Be Determined

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

Next Meeting: March 6, 2014 at 8:00pm

Visit Our Website: www.bccaqueens.org

The Gavel

Hello Bellerose,
Happy New Year to all. In December we had a wonderful pot luck meeting with six foot heroes picked up, beautiful deserts and a surprise delivery of Palermos pasta. It was our fortune that someone else ordered two delicious trays of pasta for the wrong night. Yum! We would like to thank all of you who donated some food, soda or plates, Also a tremendous thank you to Bill Turis and other board members and friends who worked hard to set up and clean up after our party.

We would like to welcome our newest board members new Vice President Juan and Director Gulen Zubizarreta. It is great to have new talent and a fresh perspective on issues in Bellerose. As has been mentioned previously Juan is also responsible for our newly renamed and refreshed website, www.bccaqueens.org.

Please see the article inside this special edition, recounting the first decade of BCCA Action News newsletters that now appear in the Newsletter Archive at the website. Great stuff, fantastic memories and a true testament to the reason for civic associations like the BCCA to exist. If this article is well received we will continue next month with recapping the next decade, from 1983– to 1992.

As you know we have been collecting funds to replenish our treasury of the \$1,000 participation

BCCA made along with four other civics to oppose the ICCC towers on Creedmoor. Through additional donations in dues envelopes and through the generosity of members at our monthly meetings, we have been successful in collecting over half, \$560, of this expenditure. Special thanks to donors of special items for a raffle at our December meeting, which was responsible for \$236 towards the fund.

We are also pleased to report an exceptional response to our toy drive, with over 42 toys collected by December 18.

Our January meeting would normally fall on the day after new years and we thought the turn out would be weak, so we have scheduled a special meeting date of January 9 at the usual 8pm timeslot. We have reached out for an installing officer and will be sure to have an interesting official to do the installation. Please mark your calendars.

As is our custom we will not have a February meeting due to to potential of bad weather. Our next meeting after January will be March 6.

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Holy Trinity News

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

January Calendar:

January 5 - Pastor's Annual Open House - noon

January 25 - Annual Pasta Dinner - this year additionally join us for our first Shuffleboard tournament - no experience or partners needed. 5 pm - dinner is \$15 per person/ \$45 per family

Future Events:

February 9 - Choir Appreciation Concert - come and listen to the choir we are blessed with every Sunday. 5pm - Join us for the dinner that will follow.

March 4 - Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Dinner

March 16 - St. Paddy's Dinner of Ruebens

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

An Unbelievable Walk through Bellerose History!

At the beginning of a new year, what better time is there to be reading and writing Bellerose information? I started reading some of the very old Action News newsletters that have been patiently preserved by Jim Delaney and others and then carefully scanned by BCCA webmaster/Vice President Juan Zubizarreta on www.bccaqueens.org and knew they had to be shared. This has been an incredible walk through "our town's" history. I have picked out a few of the many facts that jumped out at me, but there is a treasure trove of civic actions (and inactions) that is well worth spending a lot of time with. School children should be required to poke through these old documents and write a paper on some aspect of BCCA and Bellerose history. I hope that this will encourage many BCCA members to read and comment on the numerous articles. Early years' newspapers are missing (1935 to ??) —if you have them please let us know, we'd be happy to pick them up. It has been a daunting task to scan these newsletters and Juan deserves a huge amount of credit for conceiving and following through on this terrific project.

Here are a few interesting items uncovered in our Newsletter Archive, just bouncing through the various editions of Action News—enjoy!:

1935—[BCCA was initially formed in 1935 and suspended in later years.]

May 1972—Reorganization efforts begin by a group of stalwart residents—some still on the BCCA Board!

November 1973—First post-reactivation newsletter appeared, announcing a first meeting on November 1, 1973 with Senator Frank Padavan

September '74—The "Spur Property" [former LIRR tracks south of 87th Drive] is mentioned, CB13 opposed OTB site proposal at Union Tpk and 260th Street Telephone numbers are listed as "Fieldstone", the old "exchange", now 343 and 347—remember that? Area codes (718) are not yet listed.

September 1975—the emergency number 911 is listed for the first time, although a brief Google search shows the NYPD initiated 911 July 1, 1968 and added FDNY and EMS in October 1973. Ironically, Action News in May 1976 still says to call the precinct number for emergencies.

November 1975—Sibbie Platania penned "The Bellerose Story" - a must read, which we have reproduced several times over the years. The article ended quoting then Borough President Burke "I hope some day that you will forget about your individual communities like Bellerose, etc. and become one United County of Queens." Our response was "we hope this will never be."

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

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

Bellerose History, *continued*

December '75 through April '76 a serial article "Where Bellerose Worships" is a history of our various Churches, including the need to move St. Gregory's due to the Cross Island Parkway reconstruction.

January '76—With CB13's help, BCCA defeats DOT plan to make Little Neck Parkway a truck route—it still isn't!

February '76—BCCA votes unanimously to oppose integrating Andrew Jackson High School (some might now say not our finest action.) Jim Trent speaks about efforts to save the historic Creed Farm on Creedmoor—now the most visited farm museum in New York State.

March '76—The BCCA wrote to NYC DOT to request a traffic control at 87th Ave and Commonwealth Blvd. since we lost our crossing guard—the light was (thankfully) declined. [but we still need traffic controls more then ever].

May '76—BCCA fights against porno movies coming to local theaters, like the Queens Village movie theater.

November '76—NYC Financial Crisis in full force. BCCA and PS133 protest the new Bellerose Library building being vacant and unused over a year (September '75). Even Glen Oaks Library is open only three days a week.

January '78—Queensborough Public Libraries announces Bellerose Library target to open in March. Increasing loitering in PS133 playground leads to BCCA call for installing additional lighting dusk to dawn.

March '78—BCCA protests lack of snow plows after the great Snow Storm of '78. BCCA and 105th Precinct strategize to crack down on "youthful hoodlumism and vandalism in Bellerose."

April '78—With wins on Library and new lighting at PS133 (thanks, Frank Padavan), BCCA hits record 654 members and growing, with \$2 annual dues. Creed Farm Museum holds Civic War Reenactment.

May '78—fight begins to "remove the hump in the road at the corner of Little Neck Parkway and Jamaica Avenue" (now Jericho Turnpike), BCCA begins push to have Bellerose through-streets plowed in snow storms next winter. BCCA Requests DOT study on dog leg curve at LNP and 86th Ave., site of many accidents.

October '78—New road markings appear at LNP and 86th Avenue to address BCCA concerns. CB13 hears proposed plans to reconstruct LNP generally from Jamaica Avenue to Grand Central Parkway, including reducing the LNP Hump. 105th Precinct publishes names of youthful violators.

November '78—Finally, we got a crossing Guard at 87th Ave and Commonwealth Blvd. Alice Stapleton is on the job.

December '78—Bellerose Library gets new technology, a microfiche catalogue. Bellerose Theater introduces 78 cent admission.

May '79—Floral Park Motor Lodge opens. BCCA holds Barn Dinner Dance at Creed Farm—for \$7.40 a head.

November '79—BCCA rallies to protest a 100% increase in tax assessments to bring average tax to \$1,975.

December '79—Local Real Estate Broker calls Bellerose "a plum in the real estate field because as a garden spot it has 'Pride of Ownership.'"

April '80—LNP reconstruction begins. 86th Avenue sewer inspected and in sound condition, but backfill problems causes roadway to sink.

October '80—Mayor Koch cuts school crossing guard budget and our guard is transferred away—BCCA votes to protest. Bellerose theater will close due to deteriorating condition. Floral Park theater to be refurbished and charge 80 cents admission.

April '81—City faced with severe drought proposes drastic conservation moves. Local youth blamed on increase in home breakins,

February '82—BCCA presents list of home addresses needing tree replacement to Community Board 13. DOT rejects community requests for a traffic light on LNP in our area but approves one a 83rd Ave and installs turn signals on LNP at Hillside Avenue to facilitate left and right turns.

May '82—Outside forces conspire to remove our efforts to "Dump the Hump" on LNP at Jamaica Avenue, so it will be considered only as a separate project. Those opposing groups claim reducing the dangerous hump will increase truck traffic. BCCA urges members to write to CB13 to demand reconsideration.

October '82—BCCA Dues jumps to \$3. BCCA hosts candidates' night for four local city and state representatives.

December '82— A new two-story building appears on Hillside Avenue next to the Library, set deep in the property. Building architect assures a BCCA board member it is not for parking, but will be seeded. BCCA votes, based on pedestrian and driver safety and fear for safety of seniors and students, to oppose a change in plans to provide parking.

That concludes a review of the first decade of BCCA Action News editions, which are posted at www.bccaqueens.org in our Newsletter Archives. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I did and you will take a few minutes to delve into some of the interesting Bellerose History. I look forward to digging further next month. I recall things like the reconstruction of the Cross Island Parkway and removal of the Pigeon Tunnel, protests against city buses using Commonwealth Blvd, reconstruction of Commonwealth Blvd., the installation of the traffic light at PS133 on 86th Avenue and 249th Street. One thing is most outstanding during this decade was the incredible contribution of Betty Platania in writing three quarters or more of each edition of Action News. Hats off to Betty! Rich Hellenbrecht