



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

# *action news*

Volume 36 Number 2

1935

**75 Years**

2010

March 2010

## ***Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association***

**Thursday March 4, 2010, 8:00 pm**

## **Community Update**

**At Holy Trinity Church Basement Corner Commonwealth Blvd and 87th Ave**

***Next Meeting April 1, 2010***

**Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday March 14 at 2:00a.m.**

### **The Gavel**

Welcome back. We had our usual February break and we had an opportunity to do a whole lot of shoveling. We hope that by our meeting the snow will be over for the year. There have been quite a few plow complaints, especially with the most recent snowstorm, because many streets were not plowed. We have filed complaints with Sanitation through our community board and hope that the future will be better.

As you can see from the masthead above, this year the BCCA celebrates its 75th anniversary. We are in the process of planning an anniversary dinner later this year. We hope that we can set up a mailing list of people who are interested in participating. If you are interested please contact Richard Hellenbrecht at telephone number 646-732-5784. The dinner would be in the late September or early October preferably at Holy Trinity Church and we will try to keep the price under \$40 per person for a wonderful catered meal and some entertainment. We have been there for other events and they do a wonderful job. We are very pleased that Holy Trinity has hosted our regular monthly meetings. Please let us know if you're interested in attending and we will keep in touch.

This month we will focus on information from the 105th Precinct regarding safety, security and other police issues. As mentioned before we are represented every month at the 105th Precinct Community Council meeting on the last Wednesday of every month at 8 PM. This meeting is open to the public. We encourage members of the community to attend a meeting if they have particular complaints or concerns and would like to speak directly to the commanding officer. We will continue to bring relevant information to our general meetings which usually occur within a week of the precinct meeting.

We are pleased to report that our secretary/ treasurer Richard Hellenbrecht has recently become executive vice president of the Queens Civic Congress. The QCC is an umbrella group representing 116 civic associations throughout Queens. In addition, Richard will be honored in April at QCC's bi-annual civic convention as civic person of the year. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Rich.

Please note advertisers on the back page. We have several new advertisers and we strongly encourage you to patronize these stores and services and thank them for their support. These advertisements help pay for the printing of this newsletter and keep the BCCA dues as low as possible.

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** [www.Holytrinitybellerose.org](http://www.Holytrinitybellerose.org)

Commonwealth Blvd & 87<sup>th</sup> Ave. Regular Sunday Services at 9:00am and 10:30am. Lenten services at noon. Palm Sunday—March 28—services 9:00 and 10:30am, each followed by French toast breakfast for \$5 per person. Maundy Thursday—April 1—Agape Meal—6:00pm, Good Friday—April 2—Services at noon and 8:00pm. Easter Sunday—April 4—services at 9:00 and 10:30am.

**Young at Heart** meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:30 PM. Enjoy lunch and some social time. **Adult Bible Study** Wednesdays at 10 AM and 7 PM. (Join us at 6:30 for a light supper), join us anytime.

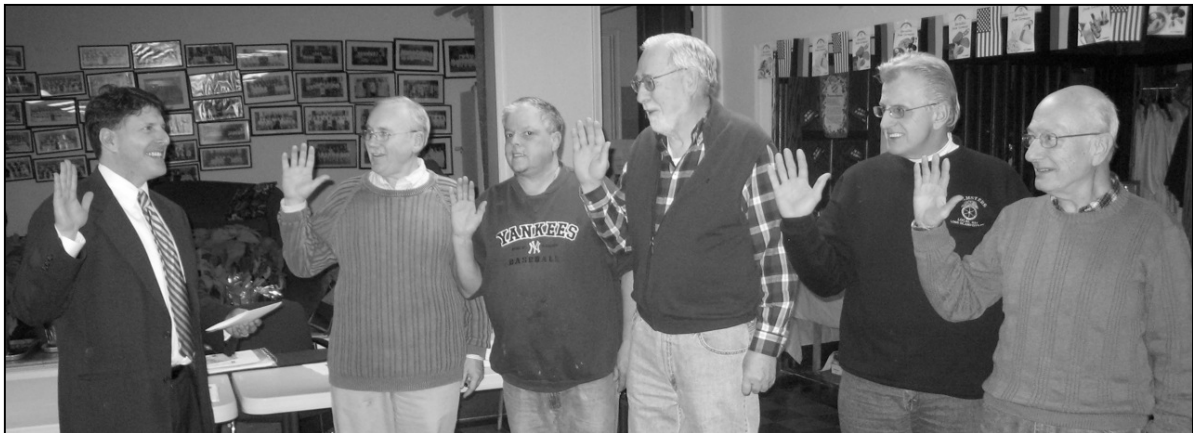
**Youth Club** for middle and high schoolers meet the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 7 to 9 PM, no charge. Attendees decide on activities which include games, movies, talent events — chaperoned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? Call the church or send an e-mail [holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com](mailto:holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com).

**Easter Egg Hunt** — Saturday, April 3 — join us for fun and games. We have crafts and prizes, a movie and candy for all. So if you are a kid or a kid at heart, come and join us. The cost for this morning of fun is \$5 and includes a spaghetti lunch. To register your child or other information call the church at 718-347-0278.

**Mark your calendar:** May 1—Maifest; June 13—Annual Ducks Game picnic; July 12—Vacation Bible school

### **Swearing In Ceremony—2010 Officers**

In January newly installed City Councilman Mark Weprin (below left) swore in BCCA officials for the year. Pictured from left to right are Richard Hellenbrecht, Secretary Treasurer, Ruben Gonzales Vice President, and directors George Wolf, Bill Turis and John Reh. Not pictured: Lorraine Anzalone and Patricia Pearson.



### **Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, Ideas and Planning—Any Volunteers?**

The BCCA was founded in 1935, which makes this our 75th anniversary. Apparently there's no gemstone for a 75th anniversary, but platinum jewelry is listed. I'll take all you can find. As mentioned in the front page we would like to consider a nice party to celebrate this significant anniversary. As one of the oldest civic associations still operating in the area we are very proud to continue to represent Bellerose and to work with all of our neighboring civic associations to maintain and improve the quality of life in our lovely area. We recognize that there are many things to be done and many areas of improvement, but it is only with the constant activity and involvement of civic associations like ours that things get done and we get our fair share of services. We will not stop fighting for additional services and better conditions in our area.

We would like to get about 125 people to attend a catered dinner at Holy Trinity Church in late September. A recent event was catered with exceptional food and sit-down tablecloth service. We will have some music for dancing, and hope to have a really good time. We would like to get an idea of how many people would be interested in doing this for about \$40 per person. If we have more interest we will consider a larger venue. Please contact Richard Hellenbrecht by e-mail at [rch.brecht@verizon.net](mailto:rch.brecht@verizon.net) or by phone at 646-732-5784.

The BCCA has been continuously active since 1972 and we represent the community on the Queens Civic Congress, 105 Precinct Community Council, Community Board 13, and the Bellerose Business District.

## ***Safety And Security***

**Personal Safety Tips** — in order to increase your personal safety you should: avoid being a target; increase your awareness; trust your instincts; and be prepared for your day with safety in mind. In particular, always keep your purse, wallet or briefcase securely near your body. Walk in well lit areas avoid deserted blocks and seek a safe location if you feel threatened. While driving keep your windows rolled up and doors locked, check the car for flats, make sure you have enough gas and be watchful. Head for the nearest police station or fire house if necessary. Always park in well lit areas, close and lock the windows and doors and don't leave any valuables visible. When you arrive home have your keys ready, be sure your entry area is well lit and immediately close and lock the door behind you. While at home keep your doors and windows locked, and don't let any strangers in the house. If a stranger has an emergency keep him or her out of the House and dial 911 for them.

**Safeguard Your Car**— Always use your theft deterrent devices, keep doors and windows locked and park in well lighted areas. Visit the precinct for a free window etching, or CAT ( Combat Auto Theft) or similar sticker available at the precinct. Car and house alarms are very effective but make sure they are well-maintained.

**Prevent Identity Theft** — Shred all your bills, credit card receipts, credit applications, bank statements, and expired charge cards, etc. Do not carry your Social Security card or give out your number to anyone. Order a free credit report each year (watch out for scams). Immediately sign all new credit cards, do not carry unnecessary credit cards. When you are on-line always be very cautious giving out credit card information and look for the lock icon at the bottom of the screen. Avoid "phishing" e-mails and offers that seem too good to be true.

**Safeguard Your House**—The police department offers many useful suggestions for securing your house. It is very important is to use secure doors with dead bolt locks with the one inch bolt and pick resistant locks. It is strongly suggested to use a licensed locksmith. Strike plates should use 3 inch wood screws. On windows NYPD recommends using additional locks than the normal Crescent lock, particularly "pinning" the top of the lower sash through to the upper with 5/16" eye bolts. Sliding doors have similar problems that should be addressed. Perimeter lighting is suggested and use timers inside when you are away. Burglar alarms are helpful, but get estimates and understand their operation before selecting.

**Support at the precinct**—The 105 has a crime prevention officer who has been to many of our meetings. Brochures are available with much more detail on each of these topics. In addition, they offer a free security audit of your home. Call 718-776-9207 for info, brochures, CAT decals, scheduling etching or home audits.

## ***Miscellaneous***

**Going Green in Queens**—This third annual event will be held on March 27 from 8:30am to 1:00pm in Al Oerter Recreation Center at 131-40 Fowler Avenue in Flushing (<http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/recreationcenters>). This is a City run health and fitness center and it is magnificent. A year's registration of \$50 gets access to all facilities, or for \$75 you get access also to the spectacular indoor pool across the street. Seniors over 55 get the center and pool for only \$10 per year. **Going Green in Queens** is hosted by Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces and several other parks and environmental groups. There will be lectures, presentations, information kiosks and demonstrations. Anyone interested in environmental issues or finding out what's going on in our Queens parks should take advantage of this free event. Over 800 people are expected. Parking is free. Check the above website for directions to the Oerter Center.

**dotNeighborhoods**—In about a year there should be something new on the Internet. Thanks to civic activists in Queens, a new Top Level Domain (TLD, like com, org, edu, etc.) will soon be authorized for New York City— .nyc. This will allow almost unlimited web addresses. In our area, for example, we can expect [www.bellerose.nyc](http://www.bellerose.nyc) as a domain, which would include information on where we are, how to get here, store directories, demographics, houses of worship, etc. Links to civic groups, churches and business will also be sub-domains. To access the BCCA website, a shortcut might be [bcc.bellerose.nyc](http://bcc.bellerose.nyc). Besides great convenience, there would be great revenue opportunities for the City, or perhaps to an organization operating each domain.

**Sailing, anyone?**—Is anyone interested in learning how to sail, but not knowing where to go or what cost. The American Small Craft Association, or TASCA ([www.sailtasca.org](http://www.sailtasca.org)) is an all volunteer organization teaching basic sailing in Flushing Meadows Park for only \$275, with membership and access to free advanced training and our 28' and 31' boats on Long Island Sound. Space is available for 7 on the water classes on our 14.5' sloops starting around June 1. Over 200 active members, from 16 to 80, enjoy this great sport affordably.

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Standard Business Card ad \$10 per month. Double size available.