



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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76 Years

2011

March 2011

Thursday, March 3, 2011, 8:00 pm

Halal Market Community Discussion Panel with Senator Tony Avella, Councilman Weprin, Assemblywoman Clark

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

Next meeting April 7, 2011

The Gavel

Our guest speaker in January from the American Cancer Society provided a lot of interesting and useful information for anyone who is a cancer victim, survivor, family member or friend of a cancer victim or is interested in issues related to cancer. Suzanne Isbell of the American Cancer Society spoke of numerous services available to cancer patients and their families through their offices. Counseling, transportation for patients, etc. are available and funded through ACS's efforts including fundraising.

Ms Isbell specifically spoke about and showed a brief video on Relay For Life. Relay is a fun and entertaining overnight fundraising program that attracts thousands of participants from all walks of life: victims, survivors, doctors, neighbors, friends, etc. The funds support the services and are very important especially in this tough economy. The next Relay in our area is June 11 to June 12, starting at 3:30pm, ending 7:00am at Alley Pond Park. For detailed information please visit www.relayforlife.org/alleypondny and plan to join in the fun!

Our March meeting will be a very special meeting. Over the past few BCCA meetings we have had extensive discussions concerning the new Super Halal Market on Hillside Avenue at 253rd Street. After working with city agencies, the community board and elected officials for resolution, many of the problems remain, destroying the quality of life for residents on the block. After experiencing the futility of getting any lasting improvement, the BCCA has invited the local and state elected officials representing our area to join us at our March 3rd meeting, as a panel, to hear first hand many of the problems residents on the block face. Please see additional information on Halal starting on page 2. Store representatives have been invited.

For you "greenies" out there, please see inside for information on Going Green in Queens, coming up this month on March 26, sponsored by several organizations BCCA supports. Its free!

Finally, our advertisers help pay for Action News. Please shop Bellerose and especially visit our advertisers. A new advertiser joins us this month. Welcome to Little Star Learning Center, see their business card ad, page 3.

Please be sure to see ***Holy Trinity Youth Club Needs Your Help*** on page 2 and prepare to help out with a contribution by May 6th. Read the details.

Holy Trinity News

Join us for any of our great opportunities for fellowship!

Ash Wednesday Services, March 9, at noon and 8:00 pm

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am continue. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us!

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 10 am and 7:30 pm. All are welcome for some interesting discussions on God in everyday life and stories.

Upcoming Events:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, March 8th at 5pm. Please get tickets in advance.

Get your tickets for **An Evening of Comedy**, a fabulous fundraiser at the Plattdeutsche Park hosted by Holy Trinity on Saturday, April 2nd at 7pm. Full course dinner includes beer and wine, great show featuring 3 top comedians. Limited seating - \$75 /person. For tickets or more information contact Carol Robinson at 718-470-1756 or holytrinityinfo@verizon.net.

Young at Heart meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm. Enjoy lunch and some social time.

Yoga continues Fridays at 7pm in the Holy Trinity School - all levels are welcome!

Youth Club for Middle and High Schoolers meeting the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7-9pm 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

The Holy Trinity Youth Club needs your help. They will provide a Breakfast Run for the homeless on May 7th. They will provide the homeless with a hot breakfast as well as much needed items. For this run we are concentrating on light and medium weight jackets, sweaters, sweatpants, new underwear and socks as well as small sized toiletries. Please drop all donations at the church by May 6th.

Call: 718-347-0278 or visit www.Holytrinitybellerose.org or send an e-mail to holytrinitybellerose@verizon.net for more information on anything.

Halal Market

Please come and meet Senator Tony Avella, Assemblywoman Barbara Clark and Councilman Mark Weprin here to listen to our problems and frustrations about the Super Halal and hopefully propose some solutions.

In January we reported on a number of meetings and a demonstration by the BCCA calling attention to the Super Halal Market at Hillside Avenue and 253rd Street, which opened last fall. There had been serious impacts on the quality of life of neighbors on 253rd Street, including significant traffic problems and dangerous conditions caused by parking modification made by the new market, excessive garbage, noise, bright lights and unsanitary conditions. Many Buildings Department complaints had been filed due to the parking reconfiguration, enlargements to the building, awnings, and noisy air conditioning equipment installations. A multi-agency inspected the site on November 12 and BCCA held a rally on November 13. Finally, on December 16, Community Board 13 Chair Bryan Block and BCCA held a meeting with neighbors on 253rd Street and representatives of Super Halal Market. Residents of the block also said that they have met with the owners and managers on several occasions seeking some relief. While we hoped to have "cleared the air" on the issues, by our January meeting many residents still had serious complaints and they were becoming quite frustrated. Employee's attitude was identified as a major problem. One worker reportedly told a 253rd Street neighbor "You might as well sell your house and move." A Halal Cart was added to the parking area, which removes a much needed parking space, attracts more traffic and adds to the serious refuse problem.

Well, you've heard from us, but we would like to give you some words (paraphrased) directly from some of the residents. One neighbor states: When the workers were asked to pick up the garbage they refused, but when the manager was spoken to around 10:30 PM and came out a few minutes later they were busy picking up the garbage. Apparently if the manager does not stay on top of them they won't do what is expected. On February 18 several neighbors took garbage bags and went down the street picking up garbage from the store. We showed the bags to the manager and he promised they would do a better job cleaning. Around midnight just

Halal, continued

days ago there were loud banging noises. They were pulling the bins out of the back banging into the tin walls. They piled whole boxes and loose garbage on the sidewalks. The wind was high and we watched boxes fly down the street. Around 1:30 AM the garbage truck came. The noise of the truck and the banging against the tin wall was horrendous. Neighbors constantly ask the meat truck drivers not to unload groceries in front of our houses...we don't want bloodstains on our concrete sidewalks. The parking lot situation is terrible, we take our lives in our hands when we walk by because of patrons backing across the sidewalk to exit the premises. People backing out have no room for error and the food cart makes matters worse.

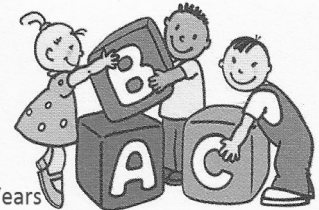
And from another neighbor, writing to our City Councilman: "the lot is not large enough or configured correctly for the amount of traffic entering and leaving. Vehicles have no choice but to exit via the sidewalk cutout (handicapped curbcut). It is very easy to enter the parking area, but exiting is much more difficult and dangerous. The parking area is an accident waiting to happen. Children and adults are unable to walk on the sidewalk without fear of being hit by a vehicle driving blindly backwards."

Regrettably, we have been hearing these complaints about such problems for many months now and while the situation is a little better there are still conditions that are very unfair for the neighbors and affect our quiet community's quality of life. Unfortunately similar circumstances persist as well at Patel Brothers just west of this site. Parking on the side streets, double parking on Hillside Avenue, and trucks loading and unloading all over the place are very disruptive and dangerous. Please come to our meeting on March 3 to show your support for the neighbors and try to get some resolution to these problems.

Little Star Learning Center

We offer great care & comfort for you and your child

Ask for Preeya 6AM to 9PM
85-32 253rd Street
Bellerose, NY 11426
718-347-0053
gangananda215@aol.com



Children Ages 6 Months to 12 Years

Going Green in Queens—2011

Going Green in Queens 2011-A Greening, Educational and Networking conference will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the AI Oerter Rec Center, 131-40 Fowler Avenue from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. All free and open to the public—including workshops on tree care and pruning, alternative energy sources, a mini-film festival and many exhibitors from groups such as the Queens Zoo, Urban Park Rangers, RecycleQueens, ioby.org, Citizens Committee for NYC, local high schools showing off their environmental know-how. Sponsors include Queens Civic Congress, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy, Delta Air Lines and NYC DEP, NYC DEC, US Natural Energy Resources, NY METS, Con Edison, and many more. Please pre-register at www.goinggreeninqueens2011.eventbrite.com or 718-341-1395 or to GGIQ2011@yahoo.com. Free workshops and giveaways, food and fun for all. Free ample parking and easily accessible by mass transit—#7 Train to Shea Stadium/ Willets Point station or the Q58 bus to corner of College Pt Blvd and Fowler Avenue.

This is an annual event getting better and better each year. All food and giveaways on a first come, first served basis.

Shop & Celebrate Life in Bellerose

We've recently heard that the Bellerose Hardware Store at 247-39 Jericho Turnpike may be closing. As we all know, these are tough times and a start up business is very difficult to get going and ride over the rough spots. I have been to the store many times and always walk out with something useful. Next time you think of driving miles to a big box store for some nuts and bolts, light bulbs, ice melt or shovel, etc. - save the gas and help a neighbor. If you need some lumber or sheetrock, try Marks Lumber at 248-15, grab a coffee at Bellerose Deli or get something stronger at Rollin' Greens—by the way, try dinner at Rollin's—great! Visit our advertisers!

SHOP AND ENJOY BELLEROSE!!!!