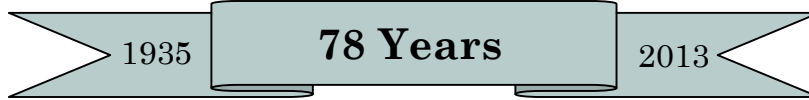




# action news



Thursday, May 2, 2013, 8:00 pm

## Community Night

Refreshments will be served

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

*Next Meeting: June 6, 2013 at 8:00pm*

*New: Raffles and 50/50 at BCCA Meetings*

### The Gavel

Hello Bellerose,

I am pleased to report that we had a very good turnout for the April meeting and we were happy to hear from 105th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer John McCoy with an update of police activity in the area. He discussed some of the services available at the precinct that could help our members avoid crime in and around their homes. Officer McCoy is available to do home security surveys by calling for an appointment to 718-776-9207. John also said that VIN etching is available most Saturday mornings at the precinct. Call the above number in advance to check.

Regarding the home surveys, Officer McCoy will come in an identify suggestions for your protection. Most importantly John recommends front porch lights and motion detector lights in the rear yard. Other frequent suggestions are deadbolt door locks, window locks and video/alarm systems. He also recorded some members' iPhone and tablet ID numbers to help in retrieving the device if lost or stolen.

John reported that two "crews" have been arrested that are suspected of robbing or burgling several houses in the area and they expect we will see fewer breakins. Identity theft remains a big problem throughout the area as well as the theft of cell phones and other personal electronic devices. Dis-

traction crimes are rising in the area. Several patterns are emerging, particularly one near ATM when someone takes out money. A guy will approach and say you have a flat tire. You may throw your coat or purse in the car and work on the tire while they take the item from the car. Another one deals with someone at the door saying they are with Con Ed or cable company and need to show you something in the back yard. While you are distracted the accomplice takes whatever they can grab in the house. Be careful.

Another thing discussed at the meeting was the new Water Protection Plan covering water mains and/or sewer connections out to the street. This seems to be a legitimate offer from a private firm representing the City. For a reasonable monthly charge on your water bill your mains and connections outside the house will be replaced and lawns filled and re-seeded. These repairs can cost many thousands of dollars. The service will also clear outside tree roots affecting your service. The repairs are done by licensed plumbers.

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## 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 - chaperoned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? call the church or send an e-mail [holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com](mailto:holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com).

Meets November 10th and 24th.

FOOD PANTRY collection - The food pantry at All Saints Church has lost some of its funding and still have many families in need of groceries. They have asked the Bellerose community to help. Please keep this in mind as you food shop and pick up an extra non-perishable item for those less fortunate. Holy Trinity is organizing a pick up in the next couple of weeks. You can put your item on your porch and some of our youth will pick it up from you on a designated date. Watch for flyers. If you want to participate, please contact Carol Robinson or the church office.

### Events:

May 4 at 6:00 pm is Holy Trinity's Annual Maifest. Join us for a traditional German Sauerbraten dinner \$15 per person, take a few chances on raffle baskets or our 50/50. Beverages also for purchase. Advance reservations preferred.

For any questions about anything contact Carol Robinson or at [holytrinityinfo@verizon.net](mailto:holytrinityinfo@verizon.net) or 718-470-1756.

## Bellerose Rezoning Moves Along

As we've been reporting, the rezoning is proceeding and is well more than 1/2 way to implementation. Over the past month Community Board 13Q unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the rezoning and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall held a public hearing and issued her favorable recommendation. There was one glitch when a group in the Rocky Hill area requested to retain their original zoning for seven houses. This should not cause a problem. And we look forward to the most important vote by the City Planning Commission after a public hearing in early May. Finally we expect a positive vote by the City Council within the next two months and its done.

You may recall that our entire area will be "downzoned" from R2 to R2A, which is a minor difference, but it will limit future redevelopment or new buildings throughout Bellerose to be a little smaller in an attempt to eliminate the McMansions. Houses can still be larger but a bit less high with less interior area than some recent expansions.

We believe the changes, which have been in place in nearby communities, will allow some growth and nice design—just a little more like the surrounding buildings.

### BCCA Officers:

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

### Directors:

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Van DaSilva	James Delaney
Chris Eichler	Patricia Pearson
John Reh	Bill Turis
Michael Weisbord	George Wolf

## Meeting With Congressman Israel

About a dozen Bellerose area civic leaders met this week with our new U.S. Representative Steve Israel here at the Triple Crown Diner. It was an excellent meeting and we gave the Congressman a very good view into our area and our needs. He left the meeting with several action plans for him and his staff to work on and report back. We apprised the congressman about our long-standing problem with having only one police precinct in the largest precinct area in Queens. After hearing about crime rates in various areas of the 105, the congressman promised to work with local councilmembers to pursue establishing a separate precinct in the southern area and to seek federal funds from relevant agencies in DC. In another action item, he promised to set up a meeting in Washington DC with some civic leaders and heads of non-profits, such as Queens Farm Museum, with various agencies in Washington that may advise on and assist with grants and other support. The congressman also promised to hold a Veteran's Benefits Forum in our area to ensure that vets, particularly Afghanistan and Iraq vets, know their rights and benefits. He will also look into the former St. Albans Naval Hospital to see if it can be returned to a full service hospital for all vets.

I am told that all the civic leaders were impressed with Mr. Israel's candor. We were shocked with facts about Congressional benefits. Contrary to frequent media statements, Congressman said he and the other Representatives pay full FICA and Medicare and he will retire with a very small pension "probably less than Social Security."

We asked how we can help him help us. He asked us to pass the word of his new regional office, which is located about 20 minutes away in Great Neck at One Barstow Road, just off S. Middle Neck Road, phone 516-505-1448, or 718-875-1675. His office would like to help out with Federal issues for constituents as well as assist with local issues. He says his staff are problem solvers and look forward to helping us. Congressman Israel offered to meet with the group every six months to track problem resolution and work on new issues.

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## BCCA Misc.

**Spring Cleanup**—Assemblywoman Barbara Clark's 19th annual spring clean-up/beautification day is scheduled for Saturday May 18. Volunteer teams or individuals can help beautify the community by planting and by cleaning streets. Merchants are encouraged to clean up around their stores. A form is available through the Assemblywoman's office to sign up as individuals or teams. Please call 718-479-2333 for more information or forms.

**SNAP CEO/President Retires**—Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc. chief, Linda Leest, Ph.D. is retiring from the agency after 28 years of excellent service. SNAP itself is celebrating 33 years serving seniors and the community. The combined celebration will be at Antun's on June 28, 2013 from 12:30 to 4:30pm. Contact SNAP for more info.

You may know that SNAP, who's main location is at Building 4 on Creedmoor, is preparing a new location on Union Turnpike near Little Neck Parkway for a move later this year.

**Bellerose Residents Pooped**—One of our board members brought to our attention an am-NewYork article that reminds us of an important responsibility of dog owners. The article says that getting around some parts of the city is like getting through an obstacle course, except the obstacles are organic and unpleasant. We remind all dog owners that it's the law to pick up after your dog or face a \$250 fine and the ire of any neighbor who steps in it.

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