



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 37 Number 4

1935

76 Years

2011

May 2011

Thursday, May 5, 2011, 8:00 pm

Community Evening—general discussion, Bellerose Issues

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

Next meeting June 9, 2011—Joint Meeting—U.S. Congressman Gregory Meeks

Important—Town Hall Meeting—City Councilman Mark Weprin—May 10, 2011

Important—Town Hall Meeting—State Senator Tony Avella—May 12, 2011

See inside for details

The Gavel

We would like to thank 105th Precinct's Community Affairs Officer Jovoda Cooper for spending the evening with us on April 7. We heard a lot from Det. Cooper—and she heard a lot from us! The detective was originally invited to shed some light on the scams that have affected seniors and ranged into a lot of local security issues. I'll try to cover a few here.

Utility Scam—it has been reported that senior citizens have been targeted by scams such as a utility worker asking about switching gas, water or electrical service or threatening service suspension if they can't enter and check the cellar service. Once downstairs with the homeowner, an accomplice enters and takes money, jewelry, etc. The advice was do NOT let anyone in that you do not know or expect. If a utility representative identifies him/herself, refuse entry, get your bill, call the service number and confirm if they sent someone. If so, make a scheduled appointment. If not, provide info to the utility or call 911.

Auto Theft (GLA) - Detective Cooper said the area's statistics on the seven crime reporting

categories has generally fallen, but auto theft has been rising. Targeted are recent model Honda Accords, Infinitis and Nissan Maximas. Advice: never leave keys, wallets, brief cases, presents or anything valuable in plain sight in the car. Never, ever leave your keys in the car with the car running. Leaving your car running with the keys in may now result in a ticket since so much theft has been due to this practice. Wheels and tires have been taken, 105 advises to call 911 if you see anyone you don't know working on car tires on street. Parking and traffic problems at Halal Market were discussed. Det. Cooper said that summonses have been issued for various infractions at and near 253rd Street. Complaints also include u-turns in driveways or using the handicapped sidewalk ramp. We asked for additional security riding the Q43 near Martin Van Buren H.S. when school gets out. You are discouraged from using Wendy's, McDonalds and other stores near Springfield and Hillside Ave. in late afternoon.

Beware of turn rules at intersections. The exit from Bellerose Commons (Staples) is not a legal right turn on red intersection—so don't do it. Where turns on red are allowed—be SURE to make an exaggerated full stop on red before turning—not a rolling stop. Tickets are being issued. Residents planning block parties, be sure to contact CB13, 718-464-9700 soon because a long lead time is required. Block party cut off time is 9pm.

Holy Trinity News

You know you are thinking about it so why not just do it! Join us for any of our great opportunities for fellowship!

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

Sunday, May 15th at 10:00 am service is our Confirmation Sunday - Congratulations. Join them as they confirm their faith.

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.

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 - all levels are welcome! Only \$15.

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. Contact Carol Robinson if you want to help!

Events:

MaiFest is May 1st at 6:30 pm

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

May 2011—A Very Busy Civic Month

Bellerose is really getting a lot of attention and I really hope our residents can free up their schedules to attend at least one of these important meetings. You will recall the Senator Tony Avella, Assemblywoman Barbara Clark and Councilman Mark Weprin attended our March meeting to discuss Halal and other issues (more on that on page 3). The meeting was spirited and very informative. I think it triggered our elected officials to learn more. Through some strange dint of fate, two meetings were scheduled in the same week. Also, our U.S. Congressman, Gregory Meeks has reached out and asked to meet Bellerose residents on June 2. Please mark these dates on your calendar and try to get to them, send your spouse or older children. We need to show them we are serious about addressing our problems—come down and be heard:

Tuesday, May 10—Councilman Mark Weprin Town Hall Meeting from 7pm to 9pm at Queens High School for Teaching, the Padavan Campus, 74-20 Commonwealth Blvd—Enter on Union Turnpike west of Commonwealth Blvd. Numerous heads of city agencies have been invited. These agencies provide city services here in Bellerose, such as: Buildings, Transportation, Fire, Police, etc.

Thursday, May 12—Senator Tony Avella Town Hall Meeting from 7pm to 9pm at MS172, 81-14 257th Street. Bellerose civic associations, including BCCA, will co-host this event with the senator and ten city and state agency heads have been invited.

Thursday, June 9—U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks. Congressman Meeks met with Bellerose civic leaders several months ago and decided to schedule a Bellerose meeting. There will be NO BCCA meeting on June 2nd. We expect a large crowd at this joint BCCA/QCCA meeting. Watch next month's Action News for any changes.

Halal Market Meeting

Our three elected officials announced at the March meeting that they would call for a joint meeting with the owner/managers of Halal Market to try to get the store owners to improve their relations with nearby homeowners. A long series of complaints came up at our March meeting and Councilman Mark Weprin, Assemblywoman Barbara Clark and Senator Tony Avella promised to arrange a meeting with Halal. The meeting took place on April 21, attended by Clark and Avella and a representative of Mark Weprin's office came, two representatives of Halal, Rich Hellenbrecht from BCCA and a Community Board 13 representative. Rich Hellenbrecht was asked to discuss the history of the site and list some of the problems that have affected the community since the store opened last October. In short, the store has at times made life on 253rd Street almost unbearable and a For Sale sign is up. You can barely list a quality of life factor that is not negatively affected by the store. There are complaints of persistent noise from refrigeration equipment, discarded food boxes, parking problems, litter and shopping carts left all over the block and nasty and intimidating attitudes by employees to neighbors and passersby.

In addition, there are numerous outstanding building violations, several very serious, and the shortened parking lot creates walking and driving hazards as drivers back out onto high speed Hillside Avenue. A fire hydrant and light post have already been wiped out. While our senator and assemblywoman were very concerned and helpful, little was accomplished. Insult to injury, the day after the meeting, Halal added a new awning, not mentioned at the meeting!

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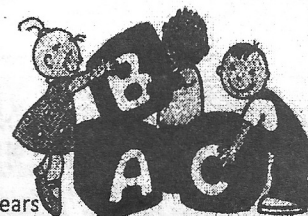
85-32 253rd Street

Bellerose, NY 11426

718-347-0053

gangananda215@aol.com

Children Ages 6 Months to 12 Years



Rain Barrel Give Away Program—Update, Queens Location April 30

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) last year sponsored a program that gave single family home-owners rain barrels that would capture rain from roof leaders and store the water in sealed barrels for use in gardens and lawns. This helps conserve water, reduce your water charges and avoid waste water entering expensive water treatment facilities. DEP has been funded to renew this pilot program. Last year several Bellerose homeowners took advantage and installed the barrels. The feedback has been great with over 750 distributed. There is some user installation and maintenance required. Complete instructions provided. These units are environmentally friendly. If significant numbers could be installed great advantages would result to the environment. DEP will give the barrels away on Saturday April 30 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at Cunningham Park, 196th Place & Union Turnpike. The offer is limited to single family and attached two family homes. Units will be distributed one per household on a first come, first served basis.


Misc. Issues from Community Board 13Q

Bicycle Safety—The 105th Precinct is holding a bike safety day on May 14, sponsored by CB13's Public Safety Committee, electeds, DOT and LIJ. The event will be at the precinct parking lot (92nd Ave and 222nd Street). Free bike etching, free bicycle helmets and safety instructions.

Parks Smoking Ban is on—Parks Department representatives announced that it is now illegal to smoke in parks. Violating the ban, enforced by Parks Enforcement, could get you a \$50 summons.

Susan Noreika Retires—A friend and neighbor of Bellerose retired from Community Board 13 after over thirty-six years of dedicated service. Susan was chair of the board for thirty-three straight years and she had a significant hand in many local capital projects and delivery of city services. The Community Board unanimously approved a resolution citing her dedication as a volunteer, manager and mentor to generations of civic leaders, BCCA leaders included, and elected officials. Best wishes Sue!



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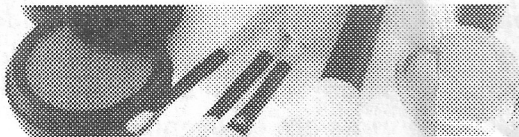
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