



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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77 Years

2012

April 2012

*****Special Date—Thursday, April 12, 2012, 8:00 pm*****

Joint Meeting with Queens Colony Civic Assn.

FDNY Speaker—Fire Safety

Refreshments will be served

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

Next Meeting May 3, 2012 at 8:00pm

The Gavel

Hello Bellerose Residents.

I hope we are all enjoying the wonderful spring weather. Spring is always a time for renewal. New buds on the trees and the flowers that sprout year after year with their beautiful colors and the wonderful sounds of the birds. I hope everyone enjoys their Passover and Easter holidays and the real meaning of these holy days with their families.

This April we will not be able to meet the first Thursday of the month since the church is having services for Holy Thursday. The April meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday which is April 12th and it will be combined with Queens Colony Civic Association. I hope you can join us at the meeting which starts at 8pm.

I want to thank Suzanne Windland from SNAP and Richard Hellenbrecht for speaking to us last month.

I was very impressed with the services SNAP provides. In the 14 years I have lived in Bellerose I was completely oblivious to the wonderful programs they provide the Seniors. I think we all know they provide Meals on Wheels, but they also offer fitness class (Tai Chi, Zumba, yoga). Today I was given a tour of SNAP with other members of surrounding civics and we were all very impressed with how nice the facilities are. The outside appearance within the Creedmoor campus may keep many people away and that is unfortunate, but the facility is

keep well. SNAP provides lunch in their cafeteria which is very good (they fed us and it was delicious). They have a computer room and they provide classes on various software and SNAP has a library. The seniors go on trips and they can be taken to their doctors for appointments and to local supermarkets for food shopping. Tax preparations and many other services are provided free to the seniors. Please call SNAP at 718-454-2100 if you have any questions or to join up.

Richard spoke about a wonderful program many people are unaware of that can make the great sport of sailing very affordable. Richard spoke of The American Small Craft Association, a sailing school operating at Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. TASCAs teaches basic sailing as well as more advanced sailing topics. Richard is one of the school's instructors. The all volunteer, non-profit operation keeps the cost of the Basic Sailing course at only \$300. This includes two lectures and seven on-the-water sessions in fourteen foot sloop sailboats. All graduates are offered membership (\$35) which includes advanced sailing courses and seminars, free use of the lake boats and the use of the organization's 22 foot and 28 foot sloops on Long Island Sound, for a minimal fee. It sounds great and if you have any interest in knowing more call Rich at 646-732-5784.

We will hear this month from the New York City Fire Department with some critical information on fire safety. Learn about smoke detectors, emergency escape procedures, family safety and more. It is very important for you to come! Fires happen and you only have seconds to evacuate. Find out how. Hope to see you at our April meeting—and bring a friend!

Lourdes Villanueva Hartrick, President

Holy Trinity News

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us!

Lenten Services every Wednesday beginning February 29th at Noon followed by a soup luncheon.

Services continue uninterrupted during Past Schulz' convalescence. He continues to do well after recent triple by-pass surgery. He appreciates everyone's prayers and well wishes. We look forward to his return.

Bible Study and Confirmation classes are on hold until Pastor's return.

Young at Heart continues to meet 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

Events: Mark your calendars:

Maifest - May 5th

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

Redistricting

Following the census conducted in 2010, the state legislature has recently released a series of maps showing the State Senate and Representative's districts and federal congress districts. The number of residents and the distribution of the population is measured every ten years and lines are redrawn to ensure that each district is approximately equal. Many people believe that the Queens census, which showed only a small gain since 2000, was terribly defective. Since the small gain was much smaller than the gains in other parts of the country, Queens lost a federal congress seat, requiring changes to all Queens congressional districts. State Senate and Assembly lines also changed due to population distribution. Unfortunately there is an unlimited amount of combinations of district boundaries that could be developed and the lines are determined by elected representatives, usually to their own benefit. Despite many legislators signing a pledge early on to use independent consultants for the lines, the legislators drew their own lines. The result is politically influenced lines and changes to many districts that can cut apart neighborhoods, even cut civic associations into multiple districts. Governor Andrew Cuomo repeatedly promised to veto any lines that were drawn with political motivation, but he finally caved in and approved these lines.

Generally Bellerose has been kept pretty whole with the rezoning, but there are some unusual changes affecting us. We remain in the Senate district of Senator Tony Avella and the Assembly district of Barbara Clark. However, our federal congress district has been moved from Gregory Meeks district to Congressman Steve Israel. Israel's district is based in Suffolk County in Hauppauge. Congressman Israel's number is 631-951-2210. His office has already reached out to talk to civic associations in the very small part of Queens he will represent when the lines take affect later this year.

The other major change affecting Bellerose is a change to Senator Avella's district line to our west. Before the change, Senator Avella represented all of Creedmoor campus property. This change moved the Creedmoor campus south of Union Turnpike to Senator Malcolm Smith's district. Members will recall that the Indian Cultural and Community Center has proposed to build two nine-story buildings on the south campus, but they were blocked by Senator Avella when he discovered a number of discrepancies in the State's sale of the land. He requested state investigations into the situation. Lines are often changed politically to add or exclude voters, however, the Creedmoor campus has very few voters, so this doesn't make sense.

Take Pride in Your Neighborhood

As the nicer weather of spring time arrives and we are walking our dogs longer and more often, we have noticed that many people are not picking up the waste from their dogs...not only is it the law, but it is disrespectful to our neighborhood and our neighbors. In the upcoming summer season the humidity will give off an offensive odor— PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

The other item that stands out is that people are not properly securing their recyclables, neighbors are especially not securely tying all their cardboard and newspapers. We have noticed on many blocks that newspapers, cereal boxes and other loose cardboard is blowing around on windy days, ending up on neighbors' lawns. Not only is this considered littering but it is also disrespectful to your neighbors and to our precious neighborhood.

Each one of us has an obligation as good neighbors to maintain the integrity and the beauty of Belle-rose. We share a common interest that is - - to keep our neighborhood clean and safe! By: Bill Turis

[Editor Note] We have had NYC Department of Sanitation Community Relations Manager Iggy Terranova discuss recycling. It is OK to put papers and cardboard in secure, clear plastic bags, as well as tying.

Get Involved in Your Neighborhood

As the years go by new families move into our wonderful neighborhood. These families need to exercise their civic duty and get involved in the civic matters of their neighborhood. "Involvement" includes attending civic association meetings, ceremonies, press conferences, etc. The best way we know of to make city regulators, agency heads and elected officials aware of problems and concerns of the community is to come to meetings. The Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association (BCCA) often has these officials come to our meetings and in most months we at least have a representative of Councilman Mark Weprin and Senator Tony Avella.

BCCA meets on the first Thursday of every month (except February, July and August) at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church basement at Commonwealth Boulevard and 87th Avenue at 8:00pm. We welcome our new neighbors. This is a great opportunity to come, hear and discuss community problems, meet neighbors and elected officials, meet officers from the 105th precinct and other interesting guest speakers.

For the preservation of our beautiful Bellerose neighborhood it would be in your best interest to attend the meetings and GET INVOLVED! By: Bill Turis

I hope to see you at the BCCA meeting on April

Bellerose Zoning Update

We are pleased to report at this time that after many years of study and delay the Bellerose rezoning plan by the City Planning Department is finally taking shape. You may recall that Bellerose has joined with all of our local civics to request a more protective zoning to preserve the style and size of our housing and businesses forever. If the plan is adopted as currently envisioned, the changes affecting the BCCA area will be subtle, but important. Once the plan is finalized there will be several meetings to explain all the aspects of the changes and we hope everyone comes out to see and hear how the proposals will affect you. Generally, all of BCCA will be zoned to R2A, which provides for single family detached residences as most of us currently have. There will be some new height restrictions and several loopholes will be eliminated that have allowed excessive lot coverage and oversized houses. Of course, the few legal two family houses will continue to be grandfathered. For commercial properties, the only change will be reducing the depth of commercial property from 150 feet to 100 feet, although in the BCCA area there is no current commercial use in the rear fifty feet. This change will prevent businesses from buying an adjacent home and expanding there.

Have a Happy and Blessed Passover and Easter. Please patronize our Advertisers

Long Island Tomahawks

Are you interested in having your child play FOOTBALL? Well now you can! Tomahawks is a team that is recruiting kids in the community who want to play and learn how to be a good football player. You can go to the website to learn how to Register for this program. The website is www.ETEAMZ.COM/LITOMAHAWKS

Registration is April 14, 2012 more information on the website. Please tell your friends about this program. We need many kids to make this program work. You can also email coach Steve at LTomahawks@yahoo.com. Hope to see you on the field.

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Keep it in Bellerose!!!

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